Opportunities of Community-Led Local Development in aquaculture areas

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Key features of Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)

Government (national / regional)

- Managing Authorities
- Paying Agencies

Project

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**Project**

- Project
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- Project

**FLAG**

- Partnership
- Local Development Strategy

*Fisheries Local Action Group*
FLAGs operate in...

**Aquaculture**
- Extensive (carp ponds, ...)
- Intensive (trout, eel, ...)
- Fishfarming (seabass, seabream, salmon, ...)
- Other cultures (shellfish, seaweed, ...)

**Fisheries**
- Inland fisheries areas
- Marine fisheries areas
- Few strong fisheries areas
- Very dispersed and often part time fisheries
- Strongly dependent areas (variety of fleet segments)
- Dispersed fisheries areas (mostly SSCF)

**Inland**
- Inland aquaculture areas
- Inland fisheries areas

**Marine**
- Marine aquaculture areas
- Marine fisheries areas
Key challenges faced by aquaculture producers in FLAG areas (from discussions at the FARNET seminar, November 2017):

No. of responses: 94

- Community acceptance: 66%
- Environmental concerns: 48%
- User conflict for space: 32%
- Limited market opportunities: 35%
- Legislation/licensing: 57%
- Diversifying sources of income: 31%

Other challenges identified in the discussion: protected predators (mainly cormorants), lack of adapted funding mechanisms.
What can FLAGs do to help?

• Promoting consumption of products coming from local (sustainable) aquaculture
• Facilitating linkages with other actors in the community (e.g. gastronomy & tourism) and with research
• Capacity building for producers to improve product quality and environmental impact
• Raising awareness about aquaculture products, starting with children and youth
• Help producers to influence decision-making (local & national levels)
Building the area’s identity around aquaculture

Tirschenreuth FLAG, Germany

- Valorising the 800 years heritage of carp ponds (fisheries museum, educational aquarium, viewing platform)
- Mobilising a large number of partners
- Support to fish farmers to gain extra income from sustainable tourism attracted by high natural value of ponds
- Promotion of fish consumption (training for chefs, recipes, events & festivals, promotional material)
Helping oyster farmers to detect toxic algae

Pyrénées-Méditerrannée FLAG (France)

- Oyster farmers struggling with toxic algae in high demand season
- Collaboration with a biotech company and local authorities
  - Cost-effective and easy to use testing methods
  - Help farmers anticipate toxic proliferation and decide for an early harvest to avoid economic losses
Organic certification of carp products

East Oberlausitz FLAG, Germany

• Overhaul of production methods (i.a. to address issues of diseases)
• Develop new range of fresh and smoked carp products
• Common branding, promotion and marketing
• Stimulated cooperation between producers, with retailers and consumers, created 1 job
Duckweed for fish feed

Kainuu-Koitismaa FLAG, Finland

- Capturing nutrients from a fish farm to produce local protein ingredients (*Lemna minor*)
- More environmentally-friendly and cost-effective fish farming
- Partners: fish farm, feed producer, LAG (funding) and FLAG (funding, expertise)
- Project in the pilot phase, feed recipes to be tested
Awareness raising, starting with the young

Opole Region FLAG, Poland
• Training on how to cook local fish (carp and trout)*
• Cookery classes for gastronomy school students (6 courses) and for chefs (10 courses)
• Strong role in the FLAG of the Polish Anglers’ Association, cooperation with the local LAG (rural development)

*Poland has one of the lowest fish consumption per capita in Europe, and highly seasonal
Facilitating access to qualified staff

Arcachon FLAG, France

• Strong seasonality of oyster demand, lack of qualified staff at peak season
• Complementarity with the fishing season
• FLAG helped set up an association of maritime employers to identify, attract and recruit young people to work on different marine activities during the year in line with different seasonal needs
Some common elements

- Several partners involved
- Wide range of objectives and activities
- Long-term perspective and impact (strategic)
- Facilitation and support (not only financial) by the FLAG
- Fisheries and aquaculture sectors at the core
The content and views expressed in this presentation are those of the FARNET Support Unit and not those of the European Commission.