



## DEVELOPING THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND TALENT OF YOUTH TO FURTHER FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

*The following case study was received as a result of a call issued by the Committee on World Food Security for case studies highlighting examples of initiatives aimed at 'Developing the knowledge, skills and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition'. The cases received provide the background for a discussion of lessons learned and potential policy implications at a special event on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 during CFS 42. Find out more at [www.fao.org/cfs/youth](http://www.fao.org/cfs/youth).*

### Getting young people into commercial sea fishing, UK.

#### Background

Training courses from Cornwall, UK, show how Fisheries Local Action Groups<sup>1</sup> can support skills acquisition and restore the attractiveness of the sector to young professionals. 19 young unemployed people have subsequently found work in fishing and fishing related sectors.

#### Challenges

Despite an aging workforce and limited appeal to many younger people, the fishing business is evolving, requiring new skills and offering new opportunities to the next generation of qualified fishermen and women. In cooperation with a charity dedicated to helping disadvantaged young people, the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly FLAG successfully funded a series of training courses aimed at attracting younger recruits into the fishing industry and seafood catering.

#### Approach Used

The commercial fishing course, accredited by Seafish, the UK's seafood authority, is a three-week introduction to commercial fishing, equipping candidates with the basic skills and knowledge to work at sea in a safe and efficient manner. The course consists of two weeks of shore-based training (covering safety, gear and catch handling, net mending, rope work, navigation, and boat handling) followed by a one-week mandatory basic safety course (sea survival, firefighting, first aid, health and safety), which includes the Seafish basic fishing vessel stability course. The seafood catering course was delivered by Padstow Seafood School to develop skills and learning for young people interested in the shore-based part of the industry and also seafood catering.

The project targets unemployed young people, working in partnership with local job and social centres. Starting with a "taster" session, the motivated candidates learn all about fisheries and also get the opportunity to develop interview skills and improve their CVs to help them find work. The commercial fishing course is led by qualified Seafish instructors, many of whom are active or retired

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<sup>1</sup> [Fisheries Local Action Groups](#) (FLAGs) are public private partnerships, funded by [Axis 4](#) of the European Fisheries Fund to support the sustainable development of fisheries areas.



fishermen, so the participants get a real insight into the lifestyle and social aspects of the industry, while direct contact with skippers also helps to boost job opportunities.

### **Outcome and Impact Achieved**

The fisheries course has been delivered twice in Newlyn, the hub of the fishing industry and the largest active fishing port in Cornwall, and a third session was organised in Looe, offering a total of 36 unemployed people between the ages of 16-25 the opportunity to take part. Nine students went on to find a job following the course: eight onboard local fishing vessels working as crew members and one on the fish market. A fourth session is currently in preparation in Newlyn.

The seafood catering course took place in Padstow, attracting twelve participants, of which ten have secured jobs as an outcome of the course.

### **Lessons Learned/Opportunities for Scaling-Up**

A lack of skills and an aging workforce are common complaints in many fisheries areas around Europe. FLAGs can facilitate training and skills acquisition by co-financing existing or innovative education programmes, either through partnerships with public education bodies (schools, universities) or non-profit organisations or charities.

Such projects can help fishing to remain an attractive and productive activity for coastal communities. However, it is crucial to adapt training and education opportunities to the specific circumstances and expectations of the target audience. In this case, a short but intensive training package allowed candidates to acquire motivation, knowledge and skills in a short timeframe.

### **Policy Implications**

Axis 4 of the EFF is a bottom-up approach to local development, inspired from the LEADER rural development programme. This kind of approach has been extended as a possibility under all European Structural and Investment funds for the 2014-2020 programming period under the name of Community-Led Local Development (CLLD).

CLLD has proved effective at supporting a broad range of socio-economic development in local communities, including enhancing the sustainability of local food production. Through innovation and improved food quality standards; better marketing of local products, including support for “KM 0” produce; and by ensuring that young people are better informed and connected with fishing and agriculture, including as a career option, CLLD offers strong potential to contribute to enhancing food security.

