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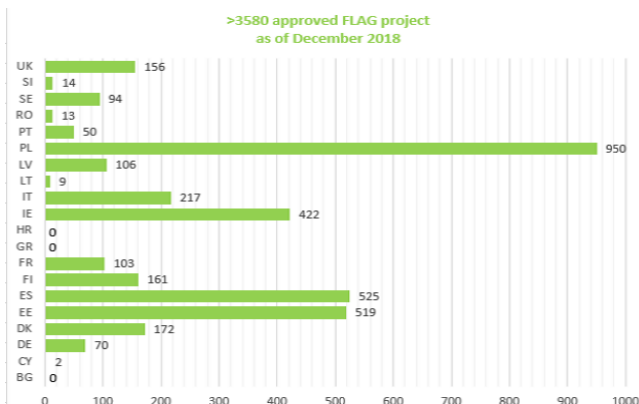


January 2019

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FLAGs State of Play

The end of 2018 saw the number of approved FLAG projects pass 3 500. That number represents an increase of 130% over three months and shows that FLAGs have picked up the pace. A number of cooperation projects got the green light between October and December, with six countries actively working on them. These numbers show that Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) continues to grow as all FLAGs become fully operational.

The [FARNET website](#) is a good resource for FLAGs and we recommend regularly taking a look as it is constantly updated with relevant information and continues to grow as FLAGs do.

To find examples of successful projects, which can be used as a learning tool or provide inspiration, approximately 80 [Good Practices](#) are available online and many have been translated into multiple languages. Almost 240 [FLAG Factsheets](#) are on the FARNET website to provide information about CLLD in each Member State. The [Cooperation section](#) contains details on the latest calls, ideas and projects.

**Project figures based on information provided voluntarily by Managing Authorities up to December 2018.*



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Cooperation project connects Northern and Southern Mediterranean shores

Local fisheries communities from France, Italy and Tunisia will be sharing ideas on sustainable economic diversification, thanks to a new cooperation project run by the Etruscan Coast FLAG in Tuscany (IT).

ENSAMBLE – which stands for Expertise and Networking to Sustain Actions in the Mediterranean through Blue and Local Economy – aims to create a network of fishing communities and companies across these countries and promote closer cooperation between public and private actors, which play a key role in coastal management, in the maritime sector and in environmental sustainability.

The project would see North Mediterranean fishing communities in Italy and France using their experience to help Tunisia's West Mediterranean communities in Tabarka, El Haouria and Bizerte to come up with sustainable ways to promote the blue economy linked to traditional fishing. This could include tourism, catering and fish processing, with new jobs created that might attract more women and young people to the sector. Initiatives to enhance the entrepreneurial skills of fisheries operators would add to local development and aid in diversification.

Working together with communities in Italy and France that already have an understanding CLLD (Community-Led Local Development), a local strategy to set up FLAG-type models in Tunisia would also be formed.

The Etruscan Coast FLAG is partnering with professional associations of fisheries, aquaculture SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises), municipalities and trade unions on this two-year cooperation project. ENSAMBLE has a budget of €390 154, of which 80% is funded by the EU (European Maritime and Fisheries Fund). Mediterranean-based cooperative, Petra Patrimonia Corsica, Italian environmental organization, Legambiente Toscana and WWF North Africa are project partners and the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries is supporting the programme.



Other news

› **French National Network holds first meeting for FLAGS**

Sixteen out of 23 FLAGS were represented at the gathering in Paris on 11 December 2018. The meeting was the first opportunity for French FLAGS, including new FLAG Managers, to meet each other and discuss their work. The French FLAG network was set up in 2018 with a mandate to foster thematic exchange between FLAGS and coordinate support and information needed by the FLAGS. 103 projects are approved in France, accounting for more than €2.1 million. However, a number of delivery challenges exist and the exchange helped explore solutions to making the implementation of CLLD smoother, including improved communication between FLAGS and other actors responsible for CLLD.

› **European Union's full 'discard ban' comes into effect**

As of 1 January, the practice of discarding unwanted fish at sea is no longer allowed. All seafood catches must now be retained and brought to port. Formally known as the "landing obligation", the EU ban was adopted by the EU Fisheries Ministers in February 2013 and has been gradually phased in for the last four years. The discard ban is part of a wider reform of the common fisheries policy (CFP) coming into force by 2020 that will set maximum sustainable yields for all fish stocks, and other environmental goals. The [FARNET Circular Economy Seminar](#) highlighted [various uses for unwanted fish](#).

› **New qualification in evaluating CLLD offered by Italian university**

FLAG managers, LAG managers and other stakeholders working in development agencies will be able to study on a [Masters course](#) designed to aid in the evaluation of Community-Led Local Development (CLLD). The course also aims to help with the effective monitoring of local development strategies. The Masters has been introduced by CLLD Lab – an open and wide community of learning and exchange between local development practitioners and professionals in Italy. Arco Centre, part of the University of Florence, and research institute Iris are partners in delivering the course.

› **Swedish FLAGS end the year on a positive note at annual meeting**

The thirteen Swedish FLAGS met in Stockholm on 17 January for their [annual meeting](#) organised and animated by the National Network. The meeting was an opportunity to share project examples, discuss the future of CLLD in the EMFF with a representative from DG MARE, and to get an update on the recent developments in FARNET. In addition to showcasing current projects, the FLAGS reflected on the ones presented at last year's meeting, following up on outcomes and successes. FLAGS and the Managing Authority are cooperating well with each other and this has been facilitated by good support coming from the National Network.

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Events

30 January

Brussels, Belgium

[Banking on the blue economy](#)

12-14 February

Alexandria, Egypt

[Coast to Ocean: Priority actions and investments](#)

12 March

Boulogne-sur-mer, France

[MARINA Final Conference](#)

19 March

Istanbul, Turkey

[Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea](#)

2-4 April 2019

Santiago de Compostella, Spain

[European Association of Fisheries Economists \(EAFE\) Conference 2019](#)

2-4 April

Bantry, Ireland

FARNET Seminar - Smart Coastal Areas

10-11 April

Reykjavic, Iceland

[Fish Waste for Profit](#)

7-9 May

Brussels, Belgium

[Seafood Expo Global](#)

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