

Meeting for Fisheries Community-Led Local Development Managing Authorities and National Networks

Online, 8-9th June 2020

Report

Participants	72 people from 18 Member States representing Managing Authorities (MAs) and National Networks responsible for community-led local development (CLLD) financed under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
Organiser	FARNET Support Unit (FSU) at the initiative of the European Commission

Impact of COVID-19 and messages from MARE

Following a short welcome by the FARNET Support Unit and DG MARE, DG MARE briefly presented the package of COVID-related support measures available to the fisheries sector, reiterating that cooperating between MAs and FLAGs is vital. FLAGs can be used as a front-line response in supporting fisheries areas through the crisis, but also more importantly, in stimulating recovery in the coming months and years. DG MARE also recapped on the possibility of amending national operational programmes (OPs), allowing MAs to reallocate funds where needed to combat the crisis; changes are also possible at FLAG strategy level. The COVID-19 situation highlights the need for flexibility in CLLD strategies in the next programming period.

Measures at national & regional level



Technical measures to continue CLLD-EMFF implementation

- FR-Region Nouvelle-Aquitaine: "We use electronic signature for contracts"
- Spanish MA/NN: "We maintained our regular meetings with the FLAGs by videoconference"
- Estonian MA: "Deadlines for approved operations have been extended"

Technical assistance and communication

- Italian MA/NN: "We consulted with all the FLAGs on several occasions in April to establish a list of pilot projects to face the crisis in a collective way."
- Latvian NN: "Fish products a national online food c better promote them"
- Spanish NN: "We provided technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture to help design collective action in response to Covid-19."
- Swedish MA: "We provided technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture to help design collective action in response to Covid-19."

Thematic & Territorial Coordinator
Coordinator for:
BULGARIA
CROATIA
GERMANY
PORTUGAL
ROMANIA

Info coming from MA meeting registration forms

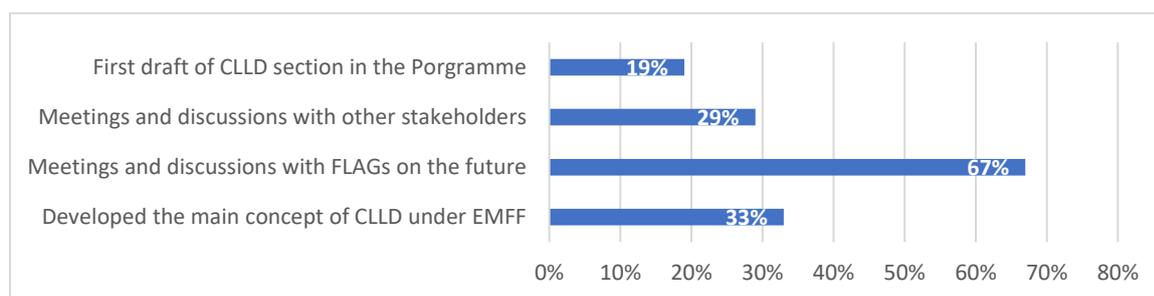
The FSU then presented the different measures undertaken by both MAs and FLAGs across the network to adapt to COVID-19, based on the replies to a survey conducted in April 2020. Short descriptions of these different initiatives are available on FARNET's [COVID-19 message board](#).

State of play of CLLD Implementation

With over 6 000 projects now approved, many MAs have committed a considerable share of their funding allocated to CLLD under the EMFF. 12 of the 18 Member States (MS) implementing fisheries CLLD have committed over 50% of their total budget for UP4. However, while 2019 saw a significant cumulative increase in the number of projects selected, certain MS have yet to select their first projects.

Preparing for the 2021-2027 programme

For many MAs, preparations for the next programming period began in early 2020. As such, the COVID-19 pandemic has stalled some of these initial efforts. However, many MAs have organised consultations with FLAGs online so that the process can continue. Most MAs are currently in the process of preparing their SWOT analyses, which will inform their future EMFF Programmes. In this session, MAs were asked to indicate which activities they have already carried out in preparing for the next period. 67% of participants indicated that they had held meetings and discussions with FLAGs on the future, with only 19% indicating that MA has developed a first draft of the CLLD section of the new Programme (see figure below).



MAs were also asked when they began their preparations for the new Programme. 52% of participants indicated that their MA started preparatory work in January 2020, with only 9% indicating that they are yet to start working on the next period.

Some of the MAs gave presentations on how they are preparing for the next programme, focusing on the following key lessons they have learned over the implementation of the current period:

Ireland

- There was a sizable increase in the total CLLD budget and number of projects between the last two programmes in Ireland. A key lesson moving into the new period is facilitating complementarity with other types of support available under EMFF, as well as ensuring the appropriate resources for implementation are available to avoid delays.
- Local nuance and knowledge are essential to developing more focused FLAG strategies, and strategies which complement and work in parallel with other support available under the EMFF. Ireland currently uses one service provider to assist FLAGs in writing their strategies. Moving into the new period, the MA acknowledges the importance for local specialisation in the strategy development process.

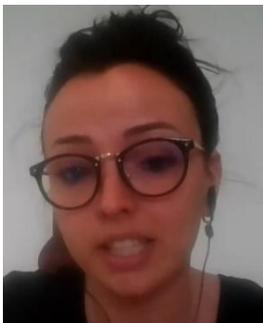
Estonia

- Participation of FLAGs and other local stakeholders in designing CLLD is essential. The MA has put in place a number of tools to ensure this, including a special working group on CLLD, seminars and round tables with FLAGs, site visits and a questionnaire on development needs related to fishing ports and landing sites.

- The need has been identified for increasing the competency of evaluation committees, improving national networking and communication between FLAGs and strengthening transnational cooperation.
- There is a need for a more results-oriented approach including the use of simplified cost options (SCOs), while decreasing administrative burden and the scope for legal interpretations of the regulation and national OP. Overcoming the financial and budgetary approval barriers between MS would be needed to facilitate transnational cooperation activities.

CLLD checklist for the future EMFF Programme

In this session, the FSU and DG MARE presented key elements for programming CLLD in the future EMFF Programme template. The MAs should describe the role of CLLD in the Programme strategy, carry out a SWOT analysis of coastal communities, and identify their needs on this basis.



The programme should describe implementation arrangements for CLLD (taking into account preparatory actions, strategy implementation, and animation and management), including multi-funding arrangements if relevant. Key areas and stakeholder groups targeted by CLLD as well as arrangements for inter-regional and transnational cooperation should also be set out.

MAs will also have to set milestones (2024) and targets (2029) for the output indicator for CLLD, i.e. the total number of operations to be funded. They will also have to choose results indicators and set 2029 targets for each indicator selected. The 10 results indicators most applicable to CLLD are outlined in the following section.

Developing CLLD result indicators

This session was introduced by the FAME Support Unit responsible for monitoring and evaluation under the EMFF, who gave a presentation and workshop on setting indicators and targets for future Programmes.

The objective of the workshop was to help MAs with setting relevant and realistic result indicators for CLLD under the 2021-2027 EMFF Programme.

FAME stressed the need for clearly establishing what MAs are trying to achieve with CLLD, and what will form the evidence-base for future targets. Based on this, MAs then need to identify which common results indicators are suitable for CLLD in their MS; and which common results indicators could (or should) be relevant to all FLAGs.



Link output and result indicators

- **Outputs** (projects) create **results**
- **Different** outputs create **different** results
- **Not all** outputs create results (failures are possible)
- The number of outputs, the budget and the type of projects define the result values (**assumptions**):
 - For example EUR needed to create one job or
 - Average number of participants per training project

Some common results indicators for the future EMFF, suitable for CLLD

- Jobs created
- Jobs maintained
- Businesses created
- Businesses with higher turnover
- Innovations enabled
- Cooperation activities between stakeholders
- Actions contributing to Good Environmental Status
- Persons benefiting
- Actions to improve governance capacity
- Entities increasing social sustainability

The ten indicators potentially applicable to CLLD are indicated in the adjacent box. MAs, FLAGs or individual beneficiaries can choose indicators most relevant for them, making sure that each operation uses at least one common indicator.

Participants were assigned to online working groups where they worked through a series of “prototype” strategic objectives, selecting the most appropriate indicators and setting targets. As well as setting the

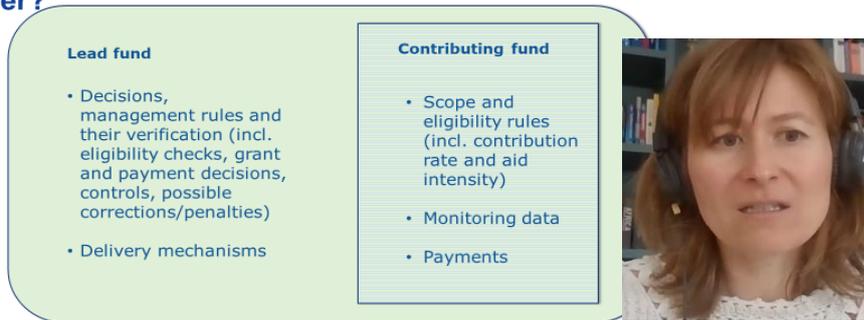
relevant indicators, participants defined the unit of measurement applicable (e.g. budget spent, increase in turnover, or number of jobs created), before estimating targets for each of the proposed objectives. The most popular indicators selected were **persons benefiting, jobs created, businesses with a higher turnover, cooperation between stakeholders, good environmental status, and innovation.**

Multi-funding and the lead fund option

In the final session, DG AGRI presented the main principle of the lead fund option which has been proposed for the new programming period. A lead fund is an option to MAs for simplifying their funding strategies by removing some of the administrative burdens of using multi-funding for fisheries CLLD. Under this option, all operations supported from a multi-

funded strategy follow a single set of implementation rules: those of the Fund selected as lead fund. MAs were presented with the current proposal concerning rules of the lead fund option, eligibility, and its scope using a series of examples, and tips on its implementation.

What do « the rules of the lead fund » (art. 25(5) CPR) cover?



LF authorities handle all matters with beneficiaries except for making payments.

