Update on FARNET activities

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FARNET Support Unit
EMFF Expert Group meeting
Brussels, 12 June 2019
Smart Coastal Areas

2-4 April 2019 - Bantry, Ireland

- 140 participants, FLAGs, MAs, NNs, experts
- Co-organised with the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland’s Seafood Development Agency (BIM) and FLAG South

**Smart Partnerships**: FLAGs encouraged to think about complementary relationships to create win-win situations

**Smart Resource Use**: Maximising potential, revaluing waste to assets and improving the utilisation of undervalued species

**Smart Financing**: Special credit lines, micro-credit, crowdfunding as alternative/complementary to EMFF

**Smart Services**: FLAGs supporting innovation in rejuvenating services in coastal areas & repurposing fisheries facilities
Smart projects presented included:

- **Credit Unions** – getting fishermen microcredit to kickstart projects
- **Roach in Lapland** – from unwanted bycatch to marketable product
- **Blue Crab Control Plan** – dealing with an invasive species
- **T-FISH** – innovative system for the management of seafood product traceability
- **Schull Bait Bins** – provided through cooperation by harbour users
- **Emergency medical consultations for the fishing community**
- **Xesmar app** – simplifies work management and organization in the shellfish sector

**Courtmacsherry Community Shop Co-operative** – community-owned and operated shop

**Hästholmen harbour** – development through local cooperation

**Cuan Beo** – partnership to connect land and sea
“Walls of Ideas” displayed posters of 30 smart initiatives from participating FLAGs’ regions. Prizes awarded for best project in each smart category.

- The future of CLLD!
- A chance to “Meet the Practitioner”
- Field trip to fisheries projects in the Bantry area
FARNET MA and NN meeting

- Two meetings per year, usually in Brussels
- Involves persons in MA directly responsible for UP4 (CLLD) and National Networks for FLAGs
- 17-18 June 2019

Focus:
- Encouraging quality projects
- Improving CLLD delivery
- New tool: MA „twinning” sessions
- Update on implementation, stock-taking by MS, sea-basin exchange
FLAG survey on CLLD delivery

• **Questionnaire** to all FLAGs (Jan. 2019), asking for:
  • Time needed for each delivery step
  • Key barriers at each stage
  • Consequences of delivery issues for the FLAG area
  • Good (and bad) practices

• Responses from 198 FLAGs

• Complemented by in-depth case studies in 5 MS (EE, FR, GR, PL and SE)
FLAG time spent on different tasks

- Information and outreach activities with the local community: Real situation: 17%, Ideal situation: 22%
- Support to potential beneficiaries, including help in preparing applications: Real situation: 22%, Ideal situation: 24%
- Preparing the calls for projects and support of the process of project selection: Real situation: 17%, Ideal situation: 20%
- Financial and administrative management of the FLAG: Real situation: 14%, Ideal situation: 22%
- Monitoring and reviewing the LDS, preparing reports: Real situation: 11%, Ideal situation: 11%
- Working with other FLAGs, NN and FARNET: Real situation: 8%, Ideal situation: 12%

Real situation / Ideal situation
PROJECT DELIVERY: A LONG PROCESS

Average time length in [months]

For project:
- **SELECTON**
- **APPROVAL**
- **PAYMENT**
Most frequently mentioned delivery issues

- National/regional legislation limiting types of projects or beneficiaries: 44%
- Complicated application forms, a lot of information required: 35%
- Long time needed by MA/IB/PA to check and approve projects: 34%
- Beneficiaries' problems to complete documentation requirements: 31%
- Public procurement rules: 25%
- Finding match-funding (beneficiary's contribution): 25%
- Restrictive eligibility rules/interpretation, many projects rejected: 24%
- High level of detail in national rules: 24%
- Long decision process to release payment: 23%
- Administrative steps at MA/IB needed before FLAGs can launch calls: 22%
- Insufficient MA/IB capacity to deal with high number of applications: 21%
- Lack of advance payments: 21%
Negative consequences of delivery issues

- Potential beneficiaries not applying: 48%
- Loss of FLAG credibility in the area: 33%
- Shift towards 'easily spendable projects': 22%
- Bad image of the EU in the area: 20%
- Beneficiaries ‘abandon’ their project after selection: 20%
- FLAG is not able to spend the budget in time: 18%
- Low interest to become FLAG members: 18%
- No negative consequences: 19%
Key conclusions

• CLLD delivery is complex and time-consuming in most MS.

• Most significant barriers:
  • at application (additional rules in national legislation and complex application forms)
  • at approval (long checks carried out by the MA or IB and restrictive interpretation of eligibility).

• Negative consequences:
  • beneficiaries discouraged from applying
  • loss of credibility by the FLAG
  • negative impact on the image of the EU
  • divert EU funding to sub-optimal projects.

• Two thirds of the FLAGs not involved in the design of delivery systems or only involved on an ad-hoc basis.

• National systems considered helpful in delivering the local strategy when FLAGs have been involved in both design and review of the system.
FARNET CLLD Conference

• 3-4 December 2019

• General objectives
  • demonstrate added value of CLLD and a Europe closer to citizens,
  • kickstarting the transitions and
  • fostering cooperation between local action groups across the funds
## FARNET CLLD Conference: agenda
3-4 December 2019

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<th>Timing</th>
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| Day 1, am    | **Opening plenary for EMFF participants to include:**  
• Interactive introduction on “LDS of the future”  
• Presentation of the results of delivery system survey and the FARNET guide on efficient delivery systems  
**Parallel Working Groups focusing on:**  
• New strategies, new challenges (FLAGs)  
• Better systems (MAs) | EMFF  | 150  |
| Day 1, pm    | **Opening plenary for all funds to include:**  
• Screening of CLLD video  
• Panel interviews / discussions between decision-makers, EU actors and local people on what CLLD has and can achieve  
**Projects Exhibition**  
**Project Awards** | All ESIF | 450  |
| Day 2, am    | **Working Groups on a number of themes including:**  
Energy and climate transition, sustainable tourism and circular economy | All ESIF | 450  |
FARNET CLLD Conference: key features
3-4 December 2019

CLLD video:
- Highlighting the tangible results of CLLD, funded under the different ESI funds
- 5-6 minutes with shorter cuts for social media
- In line with EU’s ‘jobs & growth’ agenda in different types of areas > small-scale fisheries communities > remote rural villages > inner cities

Project exhibition:
- 40 stands (20 EMFF, 15 EAFRD, 5 ERDF/ESF)
- Fun method of voting
- Awards ceremony

Guide on better systems

Local development strategies of the future
Thank you! Any questions?

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