
Position Paper

2028-2034



MARITIME AFFAIRS
AND FISHERIES

Ensuring the Future of Community-
Led Local Development in European
Fisheries Areas

Key Messages

Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) has proven to be one of the most effective European policy instruments for promoting sustainable development in coastal and inland fisheries communities.

Across Europe, Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) operate in more than 300 coastal and inland fisheries areas and bring together **more than 5,000 public authorities, fisheries organisations, businesses and civil society organisations**, representing around 50 million citizens.

During the EMFF 2014–2020 period, European FLAGs promoted:

- **15,000 projects**
- **600 million in investment**
- **90 % fund implementation**

These results demonstrate:

The model's **capacity to create jobs, diversify the economy**, and strengthen territorial cohesion in coastal areas.

In the context of the debate on the next European Union **Multiannual Financial Framework (2028-2034)**, it is essential to ensure the continuity of this instrument

Why CLLD Is Key for Coastal Communities

Community-Led Local Development allows European policies to reach **territories directly**.

Through FLAGs, projects are promoted that contribute to:

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1. **Economic diversification** in fishing-dependent areas
 2. Creation of **local employment**
 3. Support for **small businesses** and **entrepreneurs**
 4. **Innovation** in the blue economy
 5. Sustainable coastal **development**
 6. **Social and territorial cohesion**
 7. **Generational renewal and youth engagement** in the fisheries sector
 8. **Promoting the energy transition**
 9. **Support for small-scale fisheries** and improved access to EU funding opportunities

Fisheries Local Action Groups represent a governance model that connects **European policies with the real needs of coastal and inland fisheries communities.**

Strengthening **Community-Led Local Development** means committing to:

- **resilient** coastal communities
- **sustainable** fisheries
- **innovation** in the blue economy
- **territorial cohesion** within the European Union

European FLAGs reiterate their **willingness to collaborate with European institutions** to strengthen this instrument in the next programming period.

Priorities for the Next European Financial Framework

To ensure that Community-Led Local Development continues to deliver results in coastal areas, European FLAGS request the support of European Members of the European Parliament, the European Council and the European Commission to defend the following priorities:

1. Guarantee the **continuity** of fisheries CLLD within the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework.
2. Ensure **sufficient funding** for FLAGS within the instrument that will replace the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.
3. Preserve the **specificity** of local development in fisheries areas recognising that coastal communities face challenges different from rural territories.
4. **Simplify** the management of European funds to facilitate access for small businesses, fishers' associations and local organisations.
5. Strengthen the **participation** of coastal territories in the design of European fisheries and blue economy policies.
6. Maintain and reinforce the differentiated status of the **Outermost Regions (ORs)** recognising their structural characteristics: remoteness, insularity, territorial fragmentation and dependence on the maritime-fisheries sector.

It is essential to strengthen Community-Led Local Development in the ORs by providing instruments and funding adapted to their territorial realities in order to reinforce the resilience of their coastal communities, promote economic diversification linked to the blue economy and guarantee territorial cohesion within the European Union.