



# **FARNET** *Local development in EU fisheries areas*

**FARNET Support Unit**  
**Poole, 12/11//2014**



# What is FARNET

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## **The Fisheries Areas NETWORK (FARNET) is:**

- A community**
- Fisheries Local Action groups (FLAGs)
  - National Networks
  - Managing authorities and intermediate bodies (National and Regional governments, paying agencies)
  - FARNET Support Unit
  - European Commission

**A territory** composed of coastal and inland **fisheries areas** of **21 Member states**

**A philosophy** emphasizing **local decision making** and a **bottom up approach** in designing the future of EU fisheries areas

## **The FARNET Support Unit (FSU) is:**

- A team of 8 permanent staff based in Brussels
- 21 geographic experts
- 1 interdisciplinary advisory group, thinking ahead

### Challenges of the fisheries **SECTOR**

- ⑩ dwindling resources
- ⑩ low prices / lack of competitiveness
- ⑩ vulnerability of small scale fisheries
- ⑩ lack of organisation/coordination within the sector
- ⑩ rising costs (e.g. fuel...)
- ⑩ aging fishermen
- ⑩ low capacity to innovate

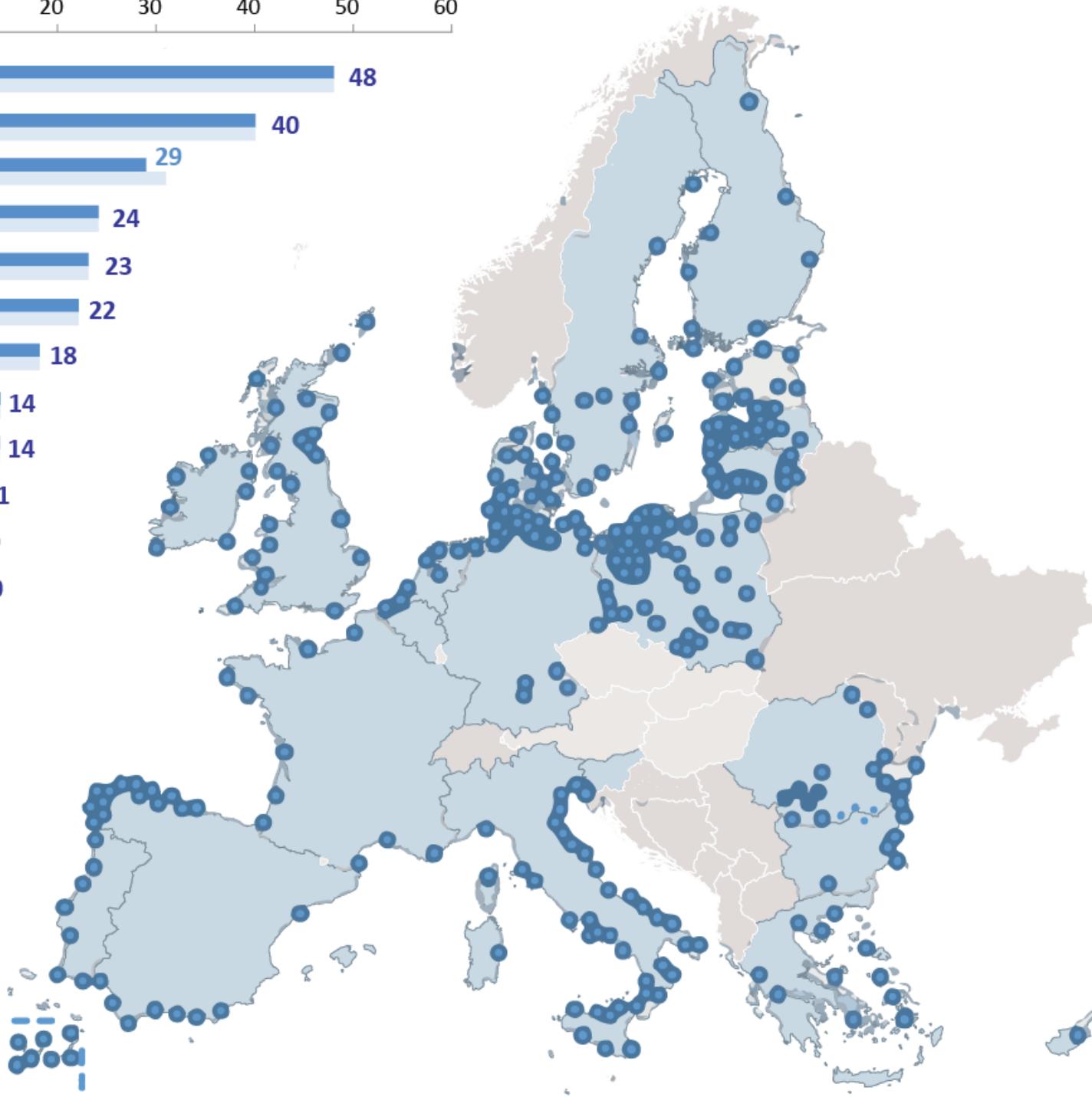
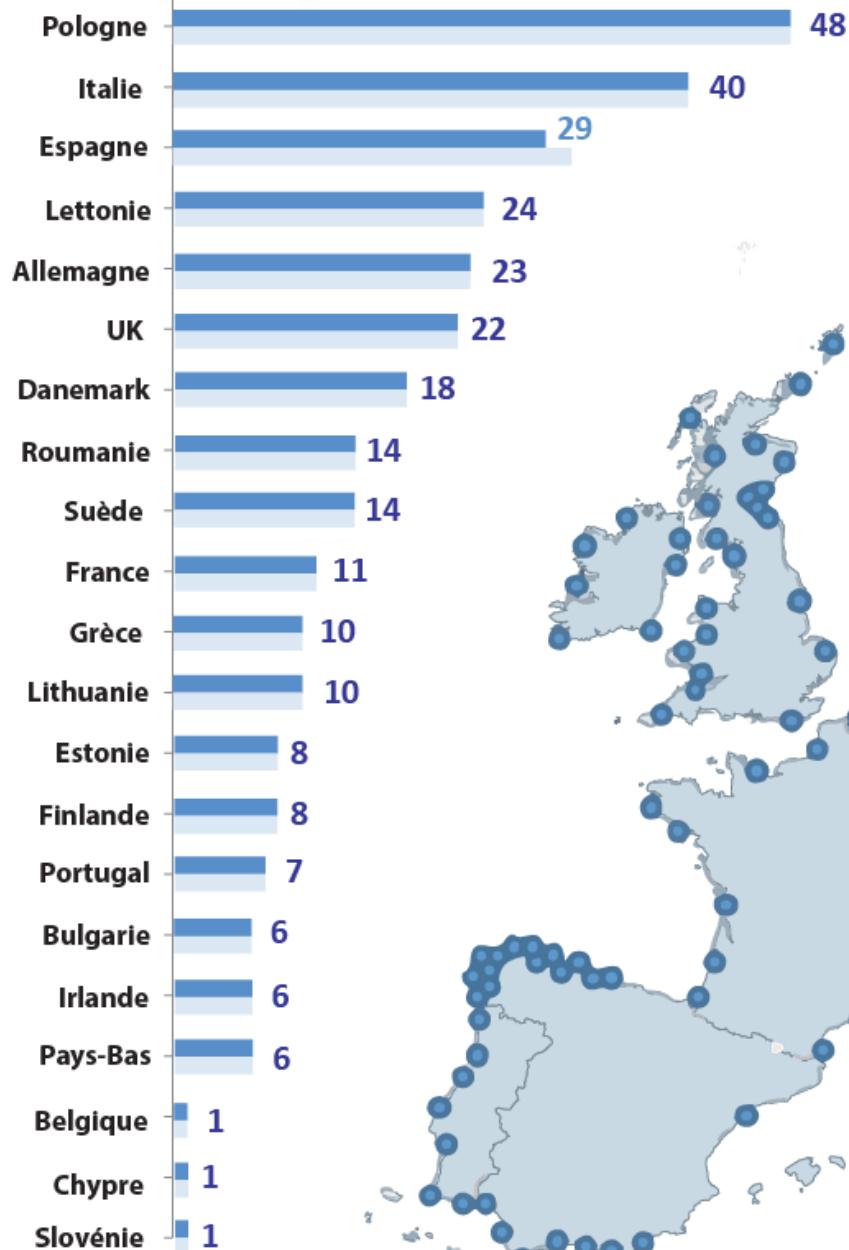
### Challenges of the fisheries **AREA**

- ⑩ urban pressure on some coastal areas (especially in the Mediterranean)
- ⑩ remoteness of other areas
- ⑩ population loss/ aging population
- ⑩ high unemployment levels
- ⑩ environmental deterioration

***Integrated local development strategies for fisheries areas***

# Axis 4: state of play

FLAGS 0 10 20 30 40 50 60



▶ Over 300 FLAGs, in 21 countries

▶ 11.6 % of EFF budget

▶ Average budget /FLAG €2.3M

▶ Wide variety in areas, strategies, partnerships

▶ 8818 local projects approved (October 2014)



# UK FLAG Summary

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
Number of FLAGs	6	11	4	1
Year Axis 4 started	2011 - 2012	2012	2013	2013
Total Budget	£8m	£7.6m	£1.6m	£2.6m
Average budget/FLAG	£1,33m	£0,7m	£0,4m	£2,6m
Projects Approved	245	126	23	16
Formal links with LEADER	No	Yes	Yes	No
Co-financed at source	Yes	No	Yes	No

- ▶ **6 FLAGS launched between March 2011 and March 2012**
- ▶ **Budget allocation circa £8m**
- ▶ **No links with LEADER**
- ▶ **Approx. 245 projects approved**
- ▶ **Projects have focused on:**
  - Tourism (festivals, museums);
  - Port/harbour redevelopment; and
  - Education (training).
- ▶ **Focus of LDSs has been to**
  - Create Jobs;
  - Add Value to the Catch; and
  - Diversity through Tourism.



# FLAGS in Scotland 2007-2013

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- ▶ **11 FLAGS launched in January 2012**
- ▶ **Budget allocation circa £7.6m**
- ▶ **EFF funding was not co-financed by Scottish Government**
- ▶ **Strong links with LEADER**
- ▶ **126 projects approved**
- ▶ **Projects have focused on:**
  - Tourism;
  - Adding value to local fishing sector;
  - Minor local infrastructure;
  - Harbour redevelopments and;
  - Education (training)
- ▶ **Focus of LDSs has been on the fisheries sector.**



# FLAGS in Wales

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- ▶ **4 FLAGS launched in 2013**
- ▶ **Budget allocation £1.6m**
- ▶ **Strong links with LEADER**
- ▶ **23 projects approved**
- ▶ **Three of the FLAGS have Small Scale Grants schemes:**
  - Budget threshold of £5,000
- ▶ **Wales are the only Region still actively seeking Axis 4 projects**
- ▶ **Focus of strategies and projects has been on**
  - Improving small scale local infrastructure (e.g. ice machines)
  - Entering new markets – (e.g. attending Food Festivals)
  - Feasibility studies



# FLAG in Northern Ireland

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- ▶ **1 FLAG launched in early 2013**
- ▶ **Budget allocation circa £2.6m**
- ▶ **No links with LEADER**
- ▶ **16 projects approved**
- ▶ **Projects have been funded under themes of:**
  - Community development;
  - Tourism and leisure;
  - Business development and diversification; and
  - Technical development assistance;
- ▶ **Projects approved to date have had key focus of Business development and diversification, including:**
  - Creel bait store
  - Fishermen development training
  - Development to a restaurant and Engineering company expansion



## UK Axis 4 specificities

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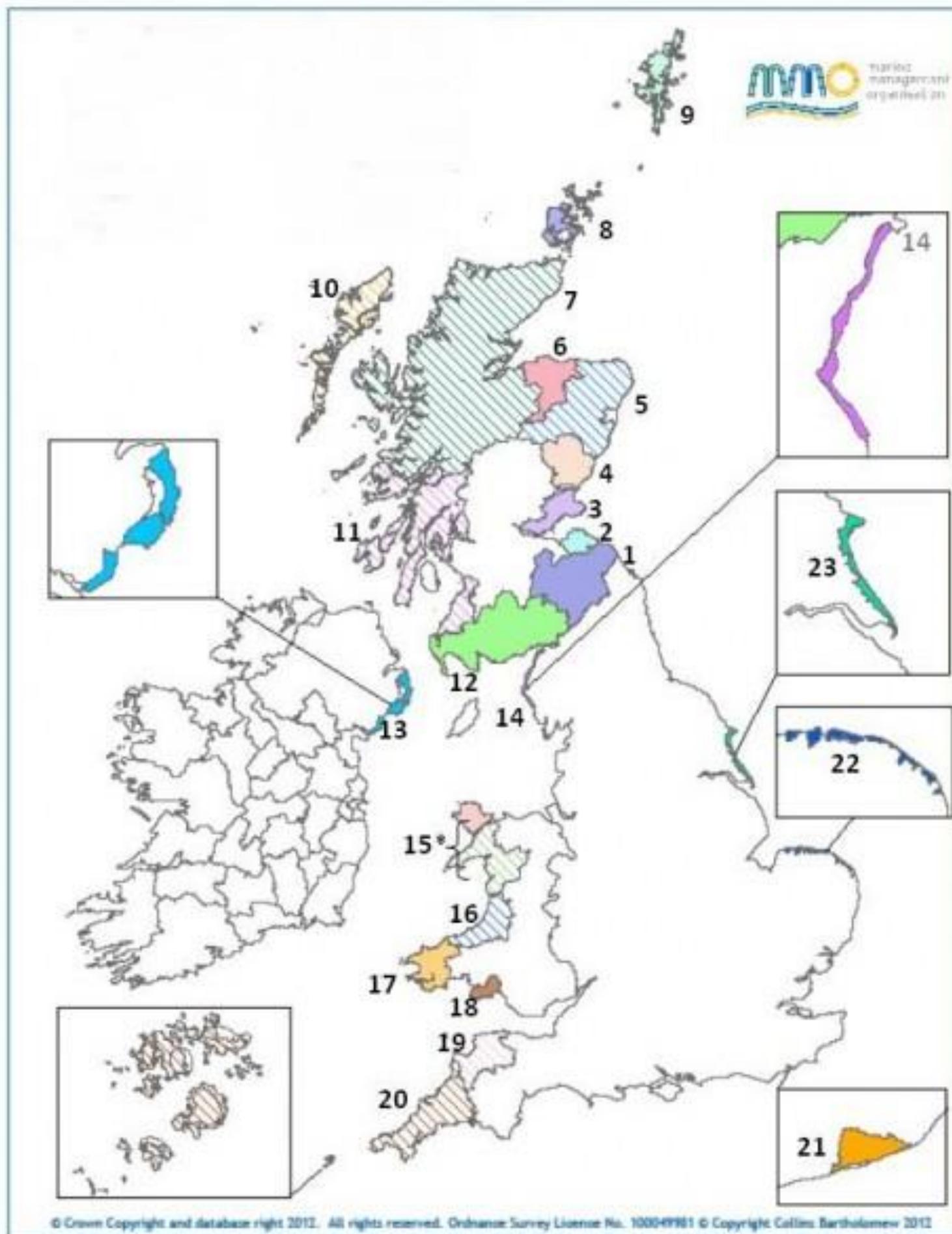
- ▶ **Axis 4 started very late in the UK;**
- ▶ **Average UK FLAG budgets on the low side**
- ▶ **Fisheries programmes are UK wide with one OP;**
- ▶ **England and Northern Ireland have a small number of FLAGs in targeted areas;**
- ▶ **Scotland and Wales FLAGs cover almost whole coastline;**
- ▶ **Scotland did not co-finance EFF at source;**



## Axis 4 specificities in the UK

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- ▶ **Wales split the budget evenly between FLAGs;**
- ▶ **Wales offers grants up to 100%;**
- ▶ **England looked for 40% private match funding;**
- ▶ **Wales made use of small grant schemes;**
- ▶ **Scotland and Wales have very close links between LEADER and FLAGs**
- ▶ **Scotland is the only region to be using multi-fund approach in new programme (EAFRD and EMFF)**



**Scotland\***

- 1. Scottish Borders
- 2. East Lothian
- 3. Fife
- 4. Angus
- 5. Aberdeenshire
- 6. Moray
- 7. Highland
- 9. Shetlands
- 10. Outer Hebrides
- 11. Argyll and Bute & South Ayrshire
- 12. Dumfries and Galloway

**Northern Ireland**

- 13. Southeast

\*In Scotland, the map represents the Leader LAG areas.  
Orkney (8) does not have a FLAG

**England**

- 14. North & West Cumbria
- 19. North Devon
- 20. Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- 21. Hastings
- 22. North Norfolk
- 23. Holderness Coast

**Wales**

- 15. Anglesey+ Gwynedd
- 16. Ceredigion
- 17. Pembrokeshire
- 18. Swansea

- ▶ A common regulation has been adopted for all structural and investment funds (ESIF) : the **Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)**
- ▶ CPR establishes common rules for Community Led Local Development (**CLLD**) under all funds (EAFRD, ESF, EFRD, EMFF)

***CLLD: Only EU wide programme where strategies are designed and projects selected by local people***

- ▶ **Puts local people in the driving seat**
- ▶ **No one partner controls (49% rule). Strengthened role for private and civil society (at least 50% votes)**
- ▶ **Minimum tasks of Local Action Groups – clarify level of delegation**
  - Preparing and publishing calls for proposals
  - Selecting projects and fixing the amount of support
- ▶ **Strengthen capacity building and project development (25% of budget to running costs and community animation)**
- ▶ **But this has to lead to clear results at local level**

- ▶ **“Maximise the participation of fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the sustainable development of fisheries areas”**
- ▶ **“Ensure that local communities fully exploit and benefit from the opportunities offered by maritime, coastal and inland development...”**

**Strategies may range from:**

- ▶ **“Those which focus on fisheries”**
- ▶ **“To broader strategies directed at the diversification of fisheries areas”.**

- ▶ **EMFF proposes 5 broad objectives for local strategies, leaving FLAGs to prioritize**
  - a) **adding value**, creating jobs, attracting young people and promoting **innovation** at all stages of the **supply chain** of fishery and aquaculture products;
  - (b) supporting **diversification** inside or outside commercial fisheries, lifelong learning and job creation in fisheries and aquaculture areas;
  - (c) enhancing and capitalising **on the environmental assets** of the fisheries and aquaculture areas, including operations to mitigate **climate change**;
  - (d) promoting **social well-being and cultural heritage** in fisheries and aquaculture areas, including fisheries, aquaculture and maritime cultural heritage;
  - (e) strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development and the **governance of local fisheries resources and maritime activities**.

- ▶ **The EC:** FLAGs are not just decentralised offices for delivering funds decided elsewhere. The added value comes from animating and developing better quality local projects.
- ▶ **CPR A34.3:** *“The tasks of the local action groups shall include:  
a) building the capacity of local actors to develop and implement operations including their project management capabilities”*
- ▶ **CPR A35.1.** *“Support from the ESI funds concerned for CLLD shall cover: a) the costs of preparatory support consisting of capacity building, training, and networking...”*
- ▶ **CPR A.35.2 . 25% for running costs and animation.** Ensure total budget is sufficient. If not piggy back.





# Thank you for your attention!



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