

## SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the STSM applicant to the STSM coordinator

**Action number: CA15217**

**STSM title: FARNET S.U. Short Term Scientific Mission**

**STSM start and end date: 01/03/2020 to 06/03/2020**

**Grantee name: Kristina SVELS**

### PURPOSE OF THE STSM:

This Short Term Scientific Mission has allowed two researchers: Luis Miret-Pastor from the UPV (Spain) and Kristina Svells, from LUKE (Finland) visiting the FARNET headquarters in Brussels. The FARNET Support Unit (FSU) is the technical assistance team established by the European Commission to assist in the implementation of CLLD under the EMFF through the European Fisheries Areas Network 2014-2020.

This scientific mission has allowed us to obtain the raw data necessary for a quantitative analysis that will allow us to study the use of UP4 funds from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in ten different EU countries.

On the other hand, other purposes of this short Scientific Mission were to be able to know the functioning of this European organization that is a key factor for our study, as well as to contrast the data and the results of the research with experts, both at European level and from some countries under study.

The final purpose of the Short Scientific Mission was to write a scientific article that would address this important topic, with the aim of publishing it in a reference journal in our field of study.

### DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

Though an analysis of the Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) projects funded by the EMFF, our study compares the projects of ten EU Member States, focusing on how the projects relate to the objectives set out by Union Priority 4 (UP4), one of six EU priorities, increasing employment and territorial cohesion in fisheries areas as its overarching objective. The aim of the study is to offer a comparative insight into the application of the EMFF in the 2014-2020 programming period across ten EU Member States, and thus offers guidance of next fisheries fund (currently in the design and discussion phase).

One of the first tasks of this Short Research Mission was to discuss the theoretical background of our research with European experts in the field. Another task was to obtain the necessary raw data for the research, to treat it statistically and to check the data obtained with the experts. Finally, it was necessary to carry out a work of analysis and discussion, both among the researchers involved and with the other experts present in FARNET, on the meaning and implications of our research.

In order to carry out all these tasks, during one week, we were at the FARNET headquarters and we share the schedule and workspace with the FARNET team. This allowed us to have several formal and informal interviews with Gilles van de Walle (team leader), Pedro Brosel (thematic and territorial coordinator), Urszula Budzich Tabor (thematic and territorial coordinator) and Arthur Rigaud (thematic and territorial

officer). We also had the technical help of Belgacem Guemida (IT manager) who helped us with the maps. In any case, during our short research mission, we worked closely with Richard Freeman (research officer), who has been an active part of our research and writing team. During this time, the FARNET team has made available to us different primary sources such as the Infosys database (2019), the FLAG factsheets or the national operational projects. Their support has been very useful to treat and interpret all these sources of information, as well as to integrate it into our research.

Along with the important work of obtaining quantitative and qualitative information, a writing work has been necessary to summarize and give academic format to the information collected. The objective and the research questions were the subject of intense debate and were rethought numerous times. Likewise, the methodology initially proposed was changed to introduce new sources of information, as well as valuable suggestions provided by the FARNET team.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED**

Regarding the main results of the work, we can point out that the specific objective of this scientific short mission was to obtain the necessary material and information for a scientific article in a high-impact journal, which would discuss and compare the use of the Union Priority 4 of the European Maritime and Fishing Fund.

As it was indicated in the previous section, the first task was about the theoretical perspective from which to support the research. Finally, it was decided not to make a simple description of the expenditure of each country, but it was considered more important to relate this expense to the concept of Community-Led Local Development from a theoretical perspective based on the neo-endogenous fisheries development.

Analysing Infosys database, the expenditure by project typology in 10 countries (selected according to various criteria, many of them based on interviews with experts) was analyzed in detail.

The global results allow us to point out that the most numerous projects and where more expenditure is made are those related to "Diversification" (32.2%), followed by socio-cultural (29.9%) and "Adding Value" (26.8%). However, environmental projects only reach 10.4% and those related to governance are hardly testimonial (0.6%). However, these total figures hide very different national realities, so a more detailed analysis was necessary.

Once the figures at European and national level were achieved, it was necessary to go beyond the description of what type of projects are being financed in each country. For this, it was decided to compare the results with the objectives expressed by each member state in its Operational Program, as well as those expressed by the FLAGs managers of each country, in a survey carried out by FARNET.

In this way some conclusions were reached. It seems that the Adding Value projects are the most desired by the FLAGs and the ones that appear most in the Operational Programs, but nevertheless in practice there are more diversification or even socio-cultural projects. Likewise, the small number of governance projects deserves reflection, since theoretically the FLAGs managers give it a greater importance than the one that can later be verified.

In the conclusions, we propose the need to change and expand the way projects are classified, since we detect that many of them fit into more than one category.

In any case, the same or more important than the conclusions of this work are the possibilities that it opens for future work. From the same COST a second work on this subject is being prepared but with a qualitative methodology. The results of this first work will serve for this new research based on in-depth interviews with the FLAGs managers that will serve to contrast or deepen issues that appeared in this first work.

Finally, we are aware that in three or four years we will have information on the entire fund spent by each of the countries.

### **FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)**

For us it has been a pleasure and very useful to work with FARNET support unit. We are open to future collaborations, we will undoubtedly seek its collaboration in future academic research, we are also willing to collaborate in publications or events with the FLAGs.