



Radio Community: Restoration of a community centre to celebrate fisheries heritage through music

Bulgaria



The project promotes the cultural and fishing heritage of Bulgarevo by establishing a recording studio, launching a weekly radio broadcast, and creating a museum collection and short film.

KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE

This community-led local development (CLLD) project is funded through the Shabla-Kavarna-Balchik FLAG, and aims to promote the social, cultural, natural, and marine heritage of Bulgarevo, a small village in the Dobrich Province in northeastern Bulgaria.

Using EMFF funding, the project supports the village's cultural heritage associated with traditional singing in the area, by establishing a unique recording studio in the village's local community centre.

A local signing group called 'Perunika' (the Bulgarian name for the iris flower) have begun using the recording studio for their activities.

The project has also developed a feature on a weekly 'Radio Chitalishte' (Radio Community) broadcast which goes out on Facebook, as well as a museum collection and a short film which celebrates and preserves the village's local fishing traditions.

OUTCOMES

- Established a unique recording studio in the community center to support cultural heritage, including the activities of the local singing group 'Perunika.'
- Launched a weekly 'Radio Chitalishte' broadcast on Facebook, promoting local traditions and engaging the community.
- Created a museum collection and short film to preserve and celebrate Bulgarevo's fishing heritage.

FUNDING

Total project cost:	€ 21,746
EMFF grant:	€ 18,484
Beneficiary contribution:	€ 3,262
Beneficiary:	Narodno chitalishte Naroden buditel 1940



FOR MORE INFORMATION



FAMENET



Removing ghost nets in Limfjorden, Denmark

Denmark

Aalborg municipality is systematically reducing marine litter through data collection, digital mapping of waste, and collection of ghost nets at sea.



CLEANING THE SEAS

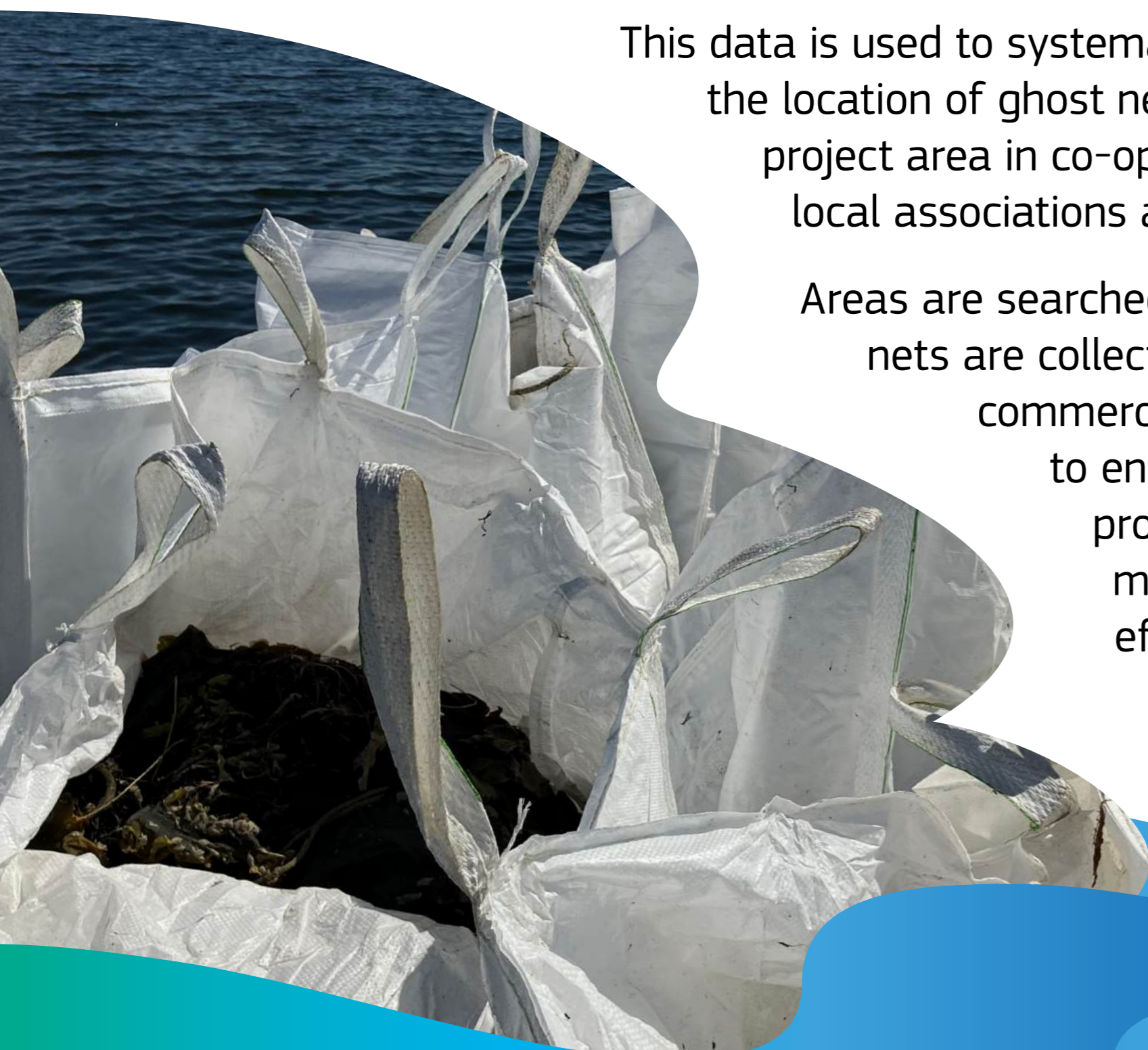
'Ghost nets' are a common occurrence for many fishers in Denmark, as nets lost at sea can be difficult to recover and are environmentally harmful.

Limfjordsrådets Sekretariat, Aalborg Municipality is using EU support to help solve this problem by mapping the location of ghost nets and other marine litter and having local fishers collect this waste at sea.

The project gathers information on the location of ghost nets from fishers and scientists using a reporting tool, oral reports from fishers and divers, and scientific reporting.

This data is used to systematically map the location of ghost nets in the entire project area in co-operation with local associations and local fishers.

Areas are searched and ghost nets are collected by local commercial fishers, to ensure that the project has the maximum efficiency, utilizing local knowledge.



OUTCOMES

- Through data collection efforts, beneficiaries calculate that there are approximately 5,000 ghost nets in the Limfjorden and Aalborg Bugt, an estimated 120 tons.
- Project coordinators locate and remove more than 1,400 ghost nets from the most western part of Limfjorden and Aalborg Bugt.
- An estimated 30-40 tons of ghost nets are removed from Limfjorden and Aalborg Bugt to date (project still ongoing).

FUNDING

Total project cost:	€ 533,139 (70% EMFAF, 30% national public funding)
Project period:	April 2023 – August 2025 (ongoing)

BENEFICIARY

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FOR MORE INFORMATION



FAMENET



Implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy through improved traceability, control systems, and information campaigns

Germany – Bavaria

Authorities in Germany are improving the implementation of the CFP through improved traceability, control systems, and information campaigns aimed at consumers.

IMPROVING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CFP

The CFP requires traceability to prevent illegal and unregulated fishing and to ensure that seafood consumers make well-informed decisions. This can be difficult due to inconsistencies in control systems, data availabilities, and IT networks among different regional and national authorities.

Through EMFF funding, the Institute of Food Economics and Markets (IEM) in Bavaria addressed this issue through the following activities:

- Re-structuring and standardising digital control systems.
- Improved digitalization of seafood market data.
- Informational campaigns aimed at consumers.
- Improved training of inspectors.
- Improved exchange between federal states and other EU member states through joint meetings of monitoring bodies.

OUTCOMES

- Development of common standards for traceability control and inspections among the German Bundesländer.
- New procedures and working methods for structuring and implementing controls.
- Improved generation of data for conducting controls.
- Creation of digital 'image databases' with species-specific data on catch limits and marketing standards.
- Development of DNA databases to identify fish species.
- Improved exchange of information and experience between different regional and national authorities.
- New methods and test protocols for on-site-inspections (e.g. new checklist and IT-solution for documenting inspection results).
- Improved information availability for consumers with through online brochures, restructured website, an explanatory film on fish labelling, and other materials.

FUNDING

Total project cost:	€ 364,283
EMFF/EMFAF grant:	€ 327,810
Beneficiary contribution:	€ 36,473
Beneficiary:	Bavarian State Research Centre for Agriculture (LfL), Institute for Food Economics and Markets

BENEFICIARY

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FOR MORE INFORMATION





Marine Challenge Programme

Ireland

The Marine Challenge Programme improved salmon health in Irish sea pens by using a bubble curtain to reduce plankton influx and mitigate related health issues.



INNOVATIONS FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

This project aimed to enhance the survivability of salmon in sea pens along Ireland's west coast by addressing health issues linked to increasing planktonic biomass in Irish waters.

Over the past 4-5 years, rising plankton levels have caused fish health problems and, in severe cases, mortality.

A collaboration between salmon producers, Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) and plankton identification experts, the project explored the use of a 'bubble curtain' or 'bubble screens' in salmon farms.

This innovative solution creates a virtual barrier around the fish pens, reducing the influx of planktonic species and thereby improving environmental conditions for the fish.

Despite concerns that such equipment might be ineffective due to Ireland's shallower sites, mixed water bodies, and strong tides, the project determined that the technology has benefits for salmon health.

The technology may be transferrable to other similar fish farming facilities throughout the EU, improving animal health in fish farming.

OUTCOMES

- Reduced plankton influx and improved fish health in Irish salmon farms.
- Mitigated health problems caused by rising plankton levels.
- Ascertained the effectiveness of using bubble curtains despite challenges posed by Ireland's shallower sites and strong tides.

FUNDING

Total project cost:	€ 524,000
EMFF grant:	€ 262,000
Beneficiary contribution:	€ 262,000

BENEFICIARY

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FOR MORE INFORMATION



FAMENET



The TOME aquaculture center: a leading hub for aquaculture innovation

Latvia

The TOME Aquaculture Centre in Latvia is bridging the gap between scientific research and the aquaculture sector by providing entrepreneurs with access to innovative technologies together with expert knowledge, comprehensive training, skill development, and advisory services.

AN INNOVATION STATION

Aquaculture entrepreneurs are often in search of innovative technologies for sustainably developing their businesses in an environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, and knowledge-based way thereby contributing to the growth of the entire sector as a whole.

Seeing the need and lack of opportunities, Latvia's Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment (BIOR) developed the 'TOME Centre' "[...] to develop and promote cooperation between the aquaculture sector and the scientific community, delivering the best available advice for the sector's development and innovation".

The center offers innovative infrastructure combined with expert training, skills development, and advisory services addressing practical challenges to entrepreneurs, promoting knowledge and innovation transfer and cross-sectoral cooperation, as well as research development using the most advanced technologies.

Research and trainings cover a broad spectrum of technologies in fish farming; fish health and feed; breeding research and implementation for various fish species; freshwater and saltwater RAS systems; and overall aquaculture sustainability.

By training the sector in environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, and knowledge-based aquaculture, the Centre aims to translate cutting-edge research into practical solutions.

OUTCOMES

- Organisation of training seminars, conferences and industry working groups, involving participants from aquaculture farms, international experts and in cooperation with local and international scientific and other organizations.
- Facilitation of exchange of knowledge and joint learning opportunities in an innovative environment.
- Organisation of biannual lecture cycles and exchanges of good practice for aquaculture farms and students from the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies and the University of Latvia.
- Development and implementation of innovations, improvement and streamlining of fish farming processes, increase of production, and diversified product offerings for Latvian aquaculture based on innovative technologies.

FUNDING

Total project cost: €4,993,282 (100% EMFF grant)

BENEFICIARY

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FOR MORE INFORMATION



FAMENET



Trout farming on Lake Oaşa

Romania



Enhancing rainbow trout production on Lake Oaşa through the installation of floating fish aquaculture tanks.

EXPANDING THE SECTOR IN ROMANIA

This project aims to produce up to 375 tonnes of rainbow trout annually at Lake Oaşa by setting up 32 floating fish tanks and investing in modern equipment, including fish pumps, sorters, and automated feeding systems.

The fish farm, situated on a 96-square-metre floating barge, will start with 70 tonnes of trout in the first year and gradually increase to 375 tonnes by the third year.

The initiative will create five new jobs and serve as a model for sustainable fish farming, combining high production with environmental protection.

It includes the acquisition of transport vehicles, such as a refrigerated lorry and a live fish transport van, to ensure efficient distribution.

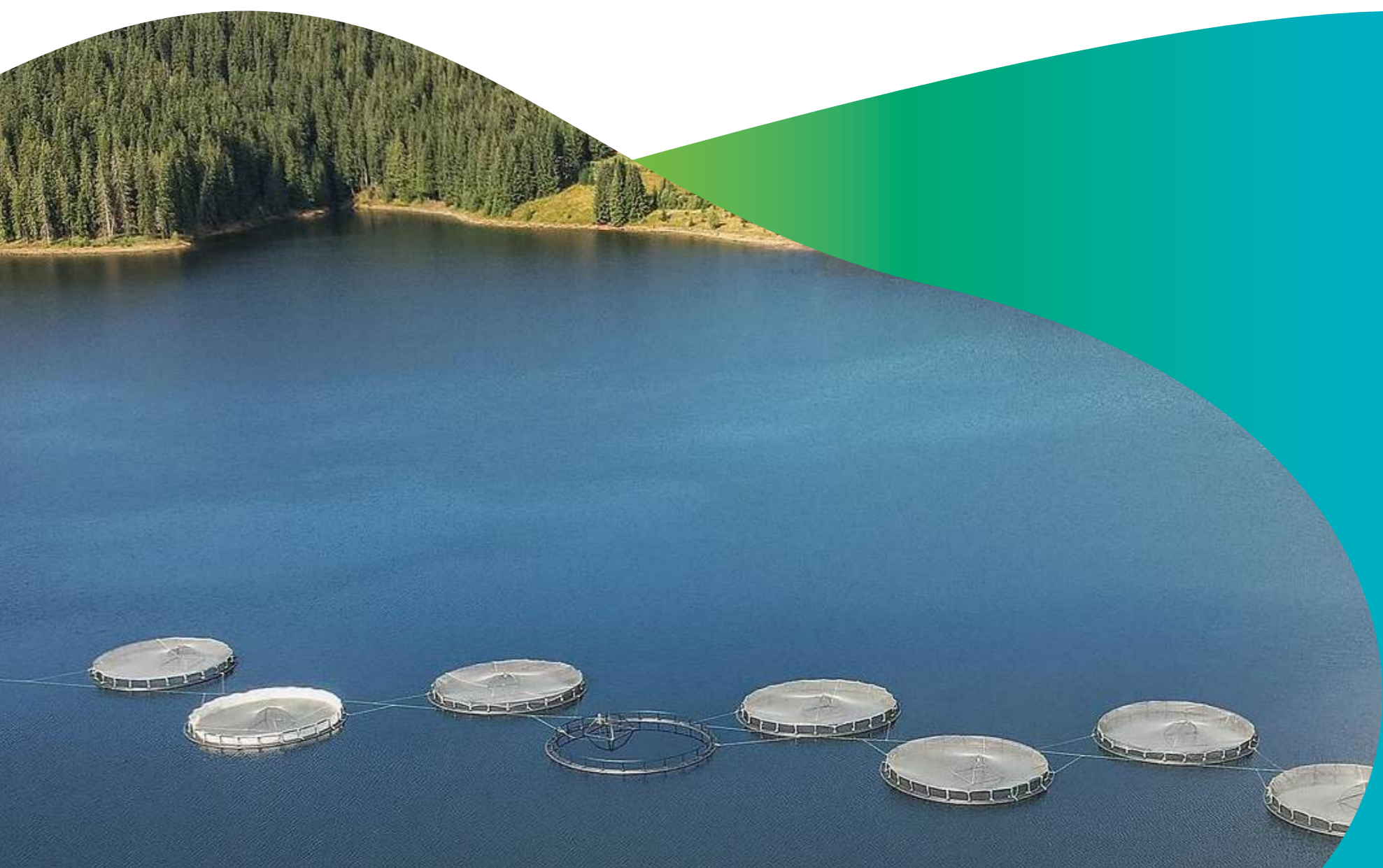
The project supports the local community by fostering economic growth, encouraging collaboration, and developing related businesses. It also promotes the tradition of consuming healthy, affordable trout in Romania and exemplifies best practices in sustainable aquaculture while boosting the local economy.

OUTCOMES

- Installation of 32 floating fish tanks and modern equipment.
- Production of over 375 tonnes of rainbow trout per year.
- Creation of 5 new jobs.
- Serves as a model for sustainable fish farming practices in Romania.
- The project boosts the local economy, supports related businesses, and promotes sustainable aquaculture while ensuring efficient distribution with specialised transport vehicles.

FUNDING

Total project cost:	€ 1,856,976
EMFF/EMFAR grant:	€ 1,392,732
Beneficiary contribution:	€ 464,244
Beneficiary:	Agricultural cooperative: Trout from your country





Monitoring of shag in the Slovenian sea 2020-2021

Slovenia



Slovenian Managing Authorities are using EMFF funds to monitor populations of European shag, a predatory cormorant species, to understand their impacts in Slovenian waters.

MONITORING SLOVENIAN SEAS

The European shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*) is a predatory cormorant that often eats into fishers' and aquaculture producers' profits.

To better understand their behavior and interactions with fish species, Slovenian Managing Authorities used EMFF funds to scientifically monitor the shag's population development and effects on prey species.

Researchers monitored three coastal N2000 shellfish farms, where the majority of the Slovenian shag population roosts.

Monthly boat trips were undertaken between July and September using ESAS (European Seabirds at Sea) methods, and shag bycatch information from the Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia was used for the assessment.

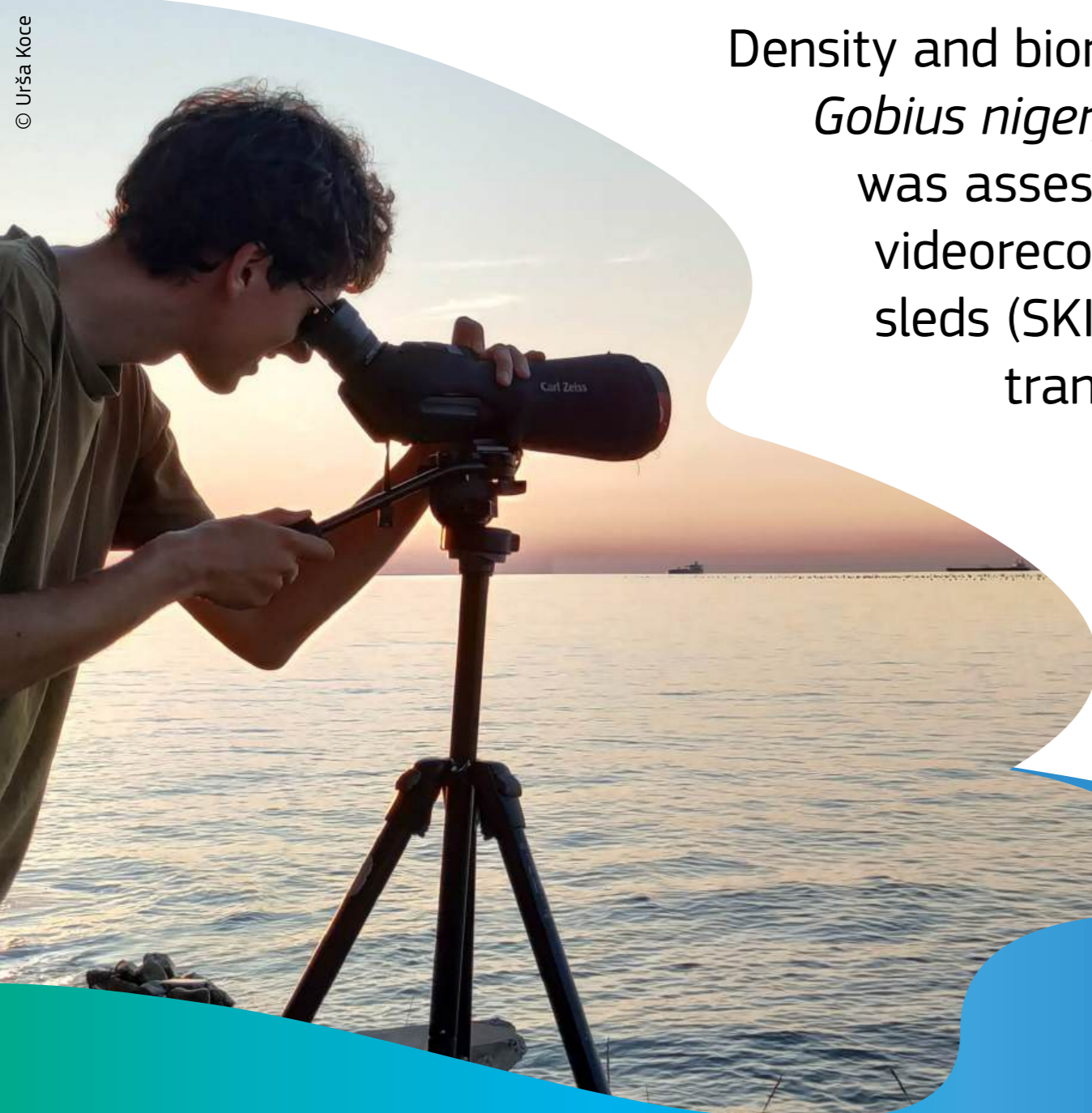
Density and biometric parameters of *Gobius niger*, the shag's main prey, was assessed by a diving team; videorecording with a camera on sleds (SKICAM) dragged along transects; analysis of *Gobius niger* bycatch data; and analysis of shag spew content.

OUTCOMES

- Assessed population of shag in Slovenian territorial waters in context of the population in the Gulf of Trieste.
- Identified a decline in Slovenian shag corresponding to a general decline of populations in the Gulf of Trieste and Northern Adriatic.
- Identified shag's feeding pattern and areas.
- Assessed density of population of *Gobius niger* – the main prey of shag in relation to sea depth and type of marine bottom.
- Analysed factors affecting population of *Gobius niger* and correlation with other species.

FUNDING

Total project cost:	€ 74,440
EMFF grant:	€ 55,830
Beneficiary contribution:	€ 18,610



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REDMAR III: Platform for the employment of women on board within the REDMAR Network

Spain

In Spain, EMFF funds were used to develop an employment platform to connect women with degrees in fishing with ship-owning companies and other entities in the fishing sector.

CREATING CONNECTIONS

Despite many initiatives, women continue to be under-represented in the fishing sector.

To promote equal access to employment opportunities for women on board fishing vessels, Spanish beneficiaries used EMFF funds to launch the first employment platform for women in the fishing sector.

Initiatives were undertaken to include women on the platform and to create a communication and information exchange network involving the public sector, shipowners, fishing associations, NGOs, and others.

The project developed workshops with Maritime-Fisheries Training Centers within the REDMAR network, using input and experience from women on-board vessels, to improve training on equality issues and introduce a gender perspective to maritime training programmes.

OUTCOMES

- Creation of an online platform to promote employment opportunities for female graduates, including the publication of job offers.
- Organisation of workshops on equality (for the education of the maritime sector), safety (prevention of occupational hazards) and the environment (marine waste).
- Organisation of workshops to integrate the gender perspective in maritime-fisheries education centers.
- Promotion of the sustainability of fishing activity through the analysis of specific problems (labor risks, waste management).

FUNDING

Total project cost:	€ 35,456
EMFF/EMFAF grant:	€ 19,944
Beneficiary contribution:	€ 8,864
Fundación Biodiversidad contribution:	€ 6,648
Beneficiary:	FUNDAMAR (Fundación para la Pesca y el Marisqueo)

BENEFICIARY

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FOR MORE INFORMATION



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European
Commission



Musselfeed

Sweden

Musselfeed – The sustainable choice

FEED FOR THE FUTURE

In Sweden, producers are finding innovative uses for mussel waste products.

In the mussel industry, some blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) don't make it to the consumer market because they are too small or are considered 'ugly' (lime on the shell, discolouring, etc.)

These mussels form the basis of the Musselfeed product line, which uses discarded mussel products to develop feed, food, and flavouring products.

The lowest-grade material is used as a nutrient-rich animal feed, for example as feed for hens to improve egg quality.

The mid-grade material is used to provide nutrients to foods, for example in burgers, bars and other products.

The higher-grade material is used as a flavouring agent, rich in umami, for seasoning.

The company uses an innovative method where the meat is separated from the shell so that it can be gently dried, preserving the nutrients and providing a healthier product.

OUTCOMES

- By replacing other protein sources such as red meat with mussel powder, the end products can have 30-160 times lower climate impact.
- The products can reduce the need for unsustainable feed sources such as fish and soymeal.
- Mussels improve coastal water quality through uptake of nitrogen and phosphorous. A large amount of nutrients in coastal waters have their origin in agriculture and other human operations, which causes eutrophication. Harvesting mussels can recycle nutrients back to land.

FUNDING

Total project cost: €21,000

EMFAF grant: €6,700

Beneficiary contribution: €14,300

Musselfeed has also received an EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) grant of €1,033,200

BENEFICIARY

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FOR MORE INFORMATION



FAMENET



FloMo

The Netherlands

The 'FloMo' is an innovative new fishing gear being tested in the Netherlands for better discard survival rates, improved fish condition, selective fishing, better on board catch processing and a reduction in fishnet waste.



A BETTER CATCH

The 'FloMo' is a Dutch variation on an innovative precision seafood harvesting concept from New Zealand, which aims to improve selectivity and increase the discards' survival rates.

This can be achieved by replacing the tunnel and cod-end of the net with a 'Modular Harvesting System' (MHS), better known as a 'kiwi cod-end' in the Netherlands.

The kiwi cod-end is a membrane-like tube of canvas with escape holes. Under water, the kiwi cod-end opens from water pressure and creates an environment where current speed gradually decreases until water in the rear part is completely still. This creates a non-turbulent environment in which the fish are much less exhausted and less damaged during the catch process.



This exciting technology can be adapted and applied to other European fisheries to improve the survival of discarded bycatch and improve fish quality across the EU.

OUTCOMES

- Improved survival rates of bycatch
- Better catch quality
- Selective fishing
- Reduction of fishnet waste

FUNDING

Total project cost:	~ € 173,887
EMFF grant:	75%
Beneficiary contribution:	25%

BENEFICIARIES

- Wageningen Marine Research
- Nederlandse Vissersbond
- VisNed

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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