



FAMENET



CLLD seminar: Seahorse Working Group

COOPERATION

03 June, 2026

Pärnu, Estonia

FACILITATORS

- **Monica Veronesi** (FAMENET)
- **Ahto Oja** (Geographic Expert for Estonia)

COOPERATION

- Local level
- National / Regional level
- Transnational level

1st SPEAKER

- Manuela Antičević (HR)



Bridging islands through a food production HUB

A shared infrastructure and business support centre for small food producers in FLAG Škoji island area, based on partnership and facility revitalisation, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund – ITP for islands.

Who we are & our challenges

About us

- Island based LAG Škoji and FLAG Škoji (Hvar, Vis, Šolta)
- HNV territory, rich cultural heritage,
- UNESCO protection
- Island Hvar is Mediterranean diet representative for Croatia
- Small scale fisheries and agricultural households
- 2014–2020: 14 FLAG and 49 LAG projects, **no inter-island cooperation**

Key barriers

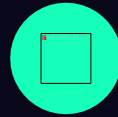
- Most production sold as bulk with low added value
- Geographic isolation, seasonality, high transport costs
- No shared development platform for cooperation
- Weak link between agriculture, fisheries and tourism
- Limited access to modern processing technologies





PURPOSE & SOLUTION

To strengthen food production in the FLAG Škoji island area by providing shared infrastructure, networking, knowledge and business support.



Shared Production Facility

Shared processing, packaging and storage equipment without individual capital investment.



Multifunctional Laboratory

Physico-chemical analyses for quality control, standardisation and certification.

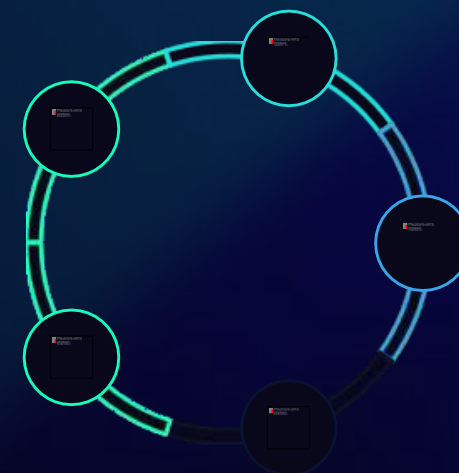







Advisory & Accelerator

Training, mentoring, business advisory and accelerator programmes to develop new products and brands.

A Heritage site will be reborn

'Stara vinarija' (Old Winery, 1952) in Stari Grad, island Hvar, devastated in process of privatization, will be revitalised as the HUB's physical home —transforming industrial cultural heritage into a living centre for food producers.



-  City of Stari Grad-Island Hvar
-  City of Komiza- Island Vis
-  Split-Dalmatia County
-  FLAG Škoji
-  Agency for Stari Grad Plan

FUNDING & SELECTION

Pre-selected: The only entrepreneurial infrastructure project in ITP for islands 2021-2027.

A Landmark Selection

This project was **pre-selected by the Island Partnership** in Split Dalmatian County for the ITP 2021–2027, making it the **only project dedicated to entrepreneurial infrastructure on Croatian islands** under this programme cycle.



€1,985,000

Total Project Value

Financed from the European Regional Development Fund within the Integrated Territorial Programme 2021–2027.

Call Alignment

"Investment in the development of entrepreneurial infrastructure on islands" —a highly competitive call targeting sustainable island economies.

JASPERS & EIB Support

The project benefits from technical advisory support by JASPERS and the European Investment Bank, ensuring rigorous project development standards.

Building a resilient island food economy

HUB becomes a central development platform connecting producers, research institutions, development agencies, NGOs and local authorities —fostering cooperation, innovation and knowledge transfer towards a competitive, sustainable food production, agricultural and fisheries sector on Hvar, Vis and Šolta.

How HUB operates

A professional operational manager runs day-to-day activities, service delivery, laboratory operations and the accelerator programme, supported by a participatory advisory body of producers.

Infrastructure & Beyond

While anchored in the reconstruction of 'Stara vinarija', the HUB's core value lies in knowledge transfer, product development and entrepreneurship —not infrastructure alone.

But...Infrastructure is the foundation.



2nd SPEAKER

Jaanika Kaljuvee (EE)



Sisevete Festival

(Inland Waters Festival, Estonia)

Connecting communities since 2021

Jaanika Kaljuvee

Lake Võrtsjärv Fisheries Development Agency



MTÜ Võrtsjärve Kalanduspiirkond




Project Overview

 Multi-location cultural and water-based festival

 Takes place on Lake Võrtsjärv, River Emajõgi and Lake Peipsi

 Duration: 10–20 days, moving from harbour to harbour

 Combines fisheries heritage, culture, tourism and community life

 **Key idea:**

One festival – many locations – shared identity of inland waters



Who is involved (Cooperation)

✓ Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs)

✓ Local NGOs and development

Organisations

✓ Harbour communities and

Municipalities

✓ Entrepreneurs (food, tourism, crafts)

✓ Cultural organisations and artists

✓ Active local people

↪ **Each harbour organises its own programme**

↪ **Central coordination ensures visibility and joint communication**

Cooperation model: decentralized but connected



Why we started the project


- Inland regions are less visible than coastal areas
- Small harbours lacked visitors and cooperation
- Need to strengthen regional identity and fisheries heritage
- Create economic opportunities for local businesses




Goal: bring life to harbours and connect regions through water




Challenges

 Cash flow issues – no pre-financing,
long reimbursement periods

 Complex coordination across many
partners and locations

 Weather conditions (wind, safety on
water)

 Different expectations and
management styles between partners

 Technical challenges

(communication, shared platforms,
access rights)



Key lesson: trust + clear agreements are critical

Key lessons & inspiration

- ✓ Decentralized model empowers local communities
- ✓ Strong storytelling increases visibility and impact
- ✓ Cooperation is the biggest strength – but also the biggest challenge
- ✓ Flexibility is essential (weather, logistics, people)

Not a perfect project – but a working model for rural cooperation



How to better manage shared ownership and decision-making in multi-partner projects?

Thank You for Listening



3rd SPEAKER

Astrid Hirsh (FR)



POULPE ACTION

A European cooperation project for sustainable octopus fishery management

COFINANCÉ PAR

UNION EUROPÉENNE



L'Europe s'engage
en Bretagne



PRÉFET
DE LA RÉGION
BRETAGNE

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



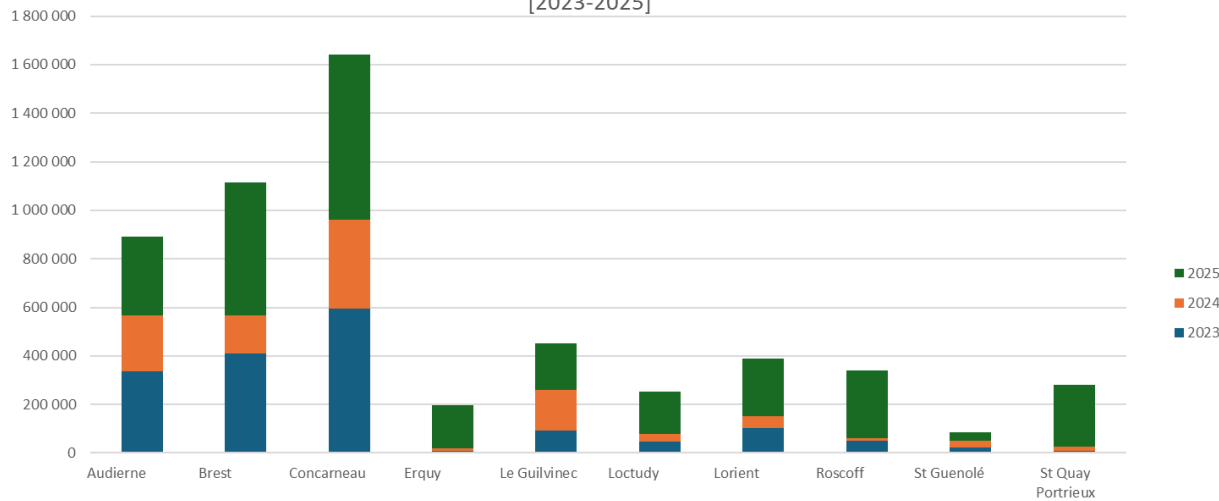
COMITÉ DÉPARTEMENTAL
DES PÊCHES MARITIMES ET DES ÉLEVAGES MARINS
DU FINISTÈRE

Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes
et des Elevages Marins de Bretagne



Context : a new fishery in Brittany

Débarquements totaux de poulpe sous les halles à marée
[2023-2025]



Since 2021, octopus populations have increased, especially in Southern Brittany.

Octopus has become a highly valuable species and now represents an important source of income for many fishing vessels.

Several management measures have already been introduced in Finistère :

- octopus fishing licences,
- seasonal closure in South Finistère,
- regulation of fishing gears,
- creation of a working group.



Context: octopus as a European management issue



- Octopus are short-lived species,
- Highly sensitive to environmental changes and fishing pressure.
- Octopus fisheries are often characterized by sudden periods of abundance followed by rapid stock decline if management is not adapted.

- Different dynamics are currently observed across Europe:
 - a recent massive arrival of octopus along the British coast,
 - decreasing catches in Spain, especially in Galicia.

This situation give rise to collective questions :

- stock monitoring,
- adaptive management,
- and sustainable exploitation.



Need to develop monitoring and decision-support tools.



Project



General objective

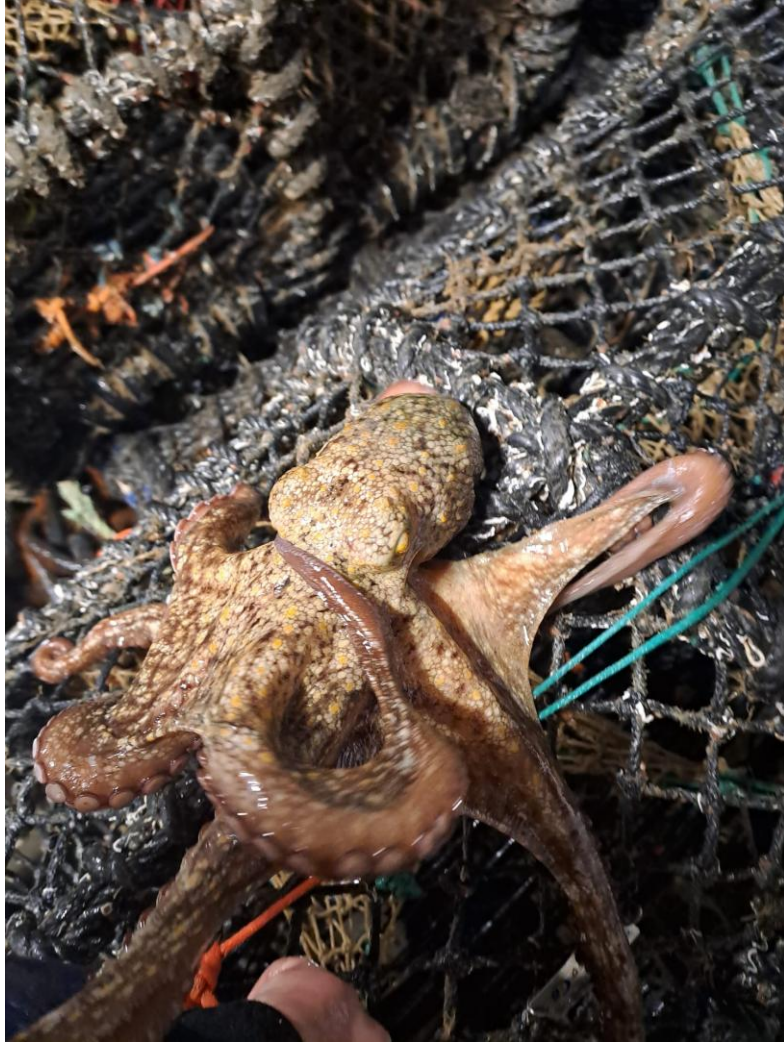
Develop monitoring indicators adapted to each territory in order to improve management strategy of the octopus fishery.

Specific objectives

- Improve local scientific knowledge to better assess octopus stocks;
- Compare stock assessment methods between Galicia, Britany and British Cornwall;
- Develop simple and operational monitoring indicators;
- Test the feasibility of territorial management scenarios.



A TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECT



French territories and stakeholders involved

- Pays de Cornouaille
- Pays de Morlaix
- CDPMEM 29
- CRPMEM de Bretagne

European scientific partners

- Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO), Vigo
- Marine Biological Association, Plymouth

Cooperation goals

- Share scientific data and field observations;
- Compare fishing practices and management systems;
- Exchange feedback on octopus stock evolution;
- Build common methodologies and transferable management tools.



Main challenges of the project



- **Scientific challenge**
Lack of long-term stock data in Brittany
- **Governance challenge**
Different fishing practices and local interests
- **International challenge**
Different situations in France, Spain and the UK
- **Operational challenge**
Turning scientific information into simple tools for fishermen





FAMENET

You know where to find us!

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