

ELARD short survey on CLLD multi-funds implementation

Launched by ELARD on 16th of October

The aim of the survey was to provide evidence of the added value of different funds for the implementation of local development strategies. In order to improve CLLD implementation in member states concrete complications of CLLD multi-fund implementation were explored as well. ELARD asked members who's LAGs (in some regions or in entire country) use other ESI Funds than just EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) for their local development strategies implementation to answer to this survey. ELARD received **back responses from 10 countries** who use other ESI Funds for their local development strategies implementation.

ELARD members were asked to answer short online questionnaire that covered following:

- Main complications related to the CLLD multi-funds implementation;
- Added value of ERDF, ESF, EMFF support for implementing local development strategies in 2014-2020. Which projects are now possible to finance thanks to different funds support? Which focus areas these projects are related?
- Added value of different funds working together;
- Examples of ERDF, ESF and EMFF projects implemented through local development strategies.

1. Complications while implementing CLLD multi-funds and proposals for improvements

Country	Main complications related to the CLLD multi-funds
AUSTRIA	Plausibility is not working for LEADER, administrative burden on all levels as a result of EC regulations; administration is not able to be harmonised on the national level. It was 4 different funds the last 25 years with different administration and they will not give up their "job". Implementation of CLLD is discussed at the time of implementation only by the administration/managing authorities. They only see the difficulties and change of hierarchy and not the opportunities of the regions.
GERMANY	Too many "granting" authorities (3), many Guidelines (3) (EARDF/ESF: 1, ERDF (2).
GREECE	Different calls, different MAs, different progress in each different Fund.
LATVIA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LDS is more complicated, the same also criteria and goals, setting the priorities, the same time, when done it serves well; 2. Approval of LDS is much more longer as every stakeholder has interests and priorities, but LAG should see the influence and needs of territory as whole; 3. It is very high value that local development is not fragmented, but the same time as each fund has its' own criteria and time-frame, it makes uniting and implementation complicated; 4. LDS should be very targeted, as the interest is huge and there are a lot of needs, therefore as in Latvia ERDF and ESF were not available, needs include also those, so it is urgent to have them all.
LITHUANIA	Misunderstandings with different Ministries and strict requirements of Local Government, that sometimes not goes together with EU regulations.

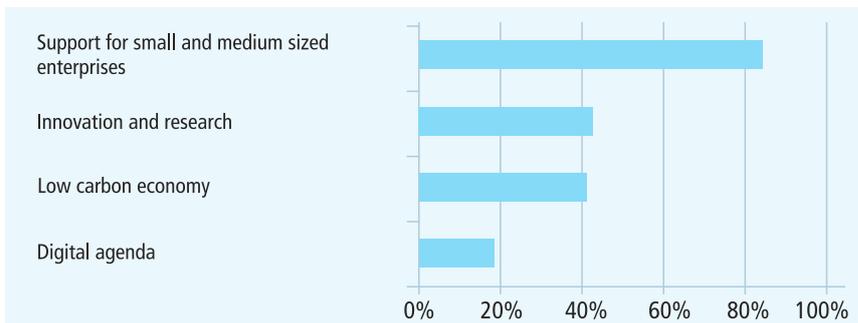
POLAND	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Long-term procedures (ie. almost 9 months for 3 000 euro donation). 2. Wrong implementation of CLLD as another step of administration. 3. Low interpretations area of i.e. cost and tools left for LAGs. 4. Weak position of LAG in confrontation with administration responsible for ERDF or ESF especially. 5. Very low flexibility of regional administration in changing local strategies during implementation. 6. Low unemployment level in Poland is causing that, there is no people who want to participate in projects. Realization of goals established a few years ago. Delays at the Marshals office in approving local revitalization programs without which the call of proposals cannot be announced. Frequent changes to the rules. Difficult requirements of ESF projects.
PORTUGAL	<p>Centralisation - loosing autonomy and flexibility to the necessary territorial adjustment of policies; increasing the amount of bureaucracy and paperwork, compromising the territorial animation, which was one of LEADER's distinctive characteristics; avoiding risk taking, which means reducing the innovative nature of the projects supported; pre-defined menu of measures to all LAGs. Portugal is one of those Member States, where LEADER became a delivery mechanism of earmarked financial resources within a pre-defined list of measures (both in EAFRD and in ERDF + ESF); the increasing complexity on dealing with several non-coordinated Management Authorities, several national or regional regulations and several IT systems; each measure in LAG LDS must be funded by a single fund, as well as each project has to be submitted to a mono-fund call for projects, so, in fact, this is not a real multi-fund approach; reduction of EAFRD allocation to LEADER (the minimum of 5% imposed by the EU regulation) with the justifications that the other funds would come to cover other domains of intervention.</p>
SLOVAKIA	<p>Everything is ready for the implementation, but LAGs still haven't been selected, so there is basically no implementation.</p>
SLOVENIA	<p>In any case, the procedures are too complicated and administratively demanding. By interlacing funds, the level of complexity is enhanced. So often, the effect of co-financing does not outweigh the work invested in the project, and therefore these funds for certain beneficiaries, which could contribute significantly to the development of the local environment, become uninteresting.</p>
SWEDEN	<p>Administration and complex application routines takes focus off the main goal - the development ideas and tragically scares potential applicants off before they even apply. The multi-funding is working great when you finally see the projects. Due to regulations and administrative difficulties it is also hard to focus on added value when the program is mainly evaluated by hard facts (jobs created or new businesses established). The budget is divided by fund, many of the projects include activities that could involve several funds, but there are rules for one fund project has to correspond. Again it is the local level that has to make the really broad project working with themes concerning all funds, possible.</p> <p>Different rules per fund in how to use the logotypes from EU – where, how and when - makes it very hard for the project-owners, these are small but very disturbing and costly facts;</p> <p>It is not clear at all today, and if a mistake is made, the project owner has to bear the cost. Also when reporting the projects, our MA does not use the same indicators and goals for different funds; they all differ, which makes it hard for the LAG-offices to work with.</p> <p>Also, even worse, our national MA is not interested in which indicators might be realized in one fund, that are not national target, which means that we do not actually measure the added value on a national level. Measuring the added value has to be taken care of at the local level. And probably summed up by the national leader organization.</p> <p>It is hard to make the budget for administration and animation sum up, there are so many more target groups but at the same time less money in total, which makes the budget for the office smaller even if it is a higher percentage.</p>

What has to be changed in order to simplify the implementation of CLLD multi-funds implementation?

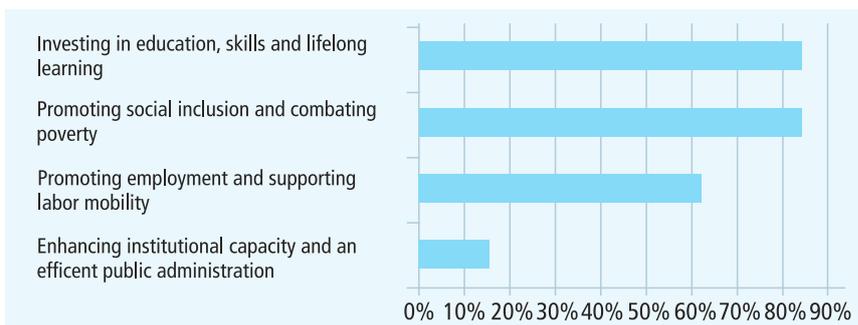
Country	What could be simplified?
AUSTRIA	Output orientation, only one control system, simplified costs, One CLLD programme covering all the funds (like LEADER II). Output orientation instead of is every cent spent correctly, only one control system more simplified cost options based on national empirical value one CLLD fund/OP covering all other funds (back to LEADER II) one set of rules with the needs of CLLD and not the requirements of all other funds.
GERMANY	Aim: only one funding Guidelines (CLLD-Implementation), only one authority.
GREECE	One call, common approval, same progress. One umbrella MA for CLLD.
LATVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One paying agency for all funds; - One application form for all funds; - One action plan. <p>Have it in this period - works great, so should be brought to the next period as well:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One administrative body in local level (for LAG/FLAG, urban LAG). It is already better in this period, when just time-tables are separate, but all the rest can be joined; - One LDS for all funds; - United selection of LDS and local bodies (LAGs, FLAGs); - One PA
LITHUANIA	National rules and restrictions.
POLAND	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LAGs should have more independence from public administration. 2. LAGs should be more like independent local development agencies focused on inspiring or networking than only financing development. 3. LAGs should more work on self-development as a social economy enterprise on rural area using CLLD.
PORTUGAL	<p>The European Commission prepared the Common Provisions Regulation (also approved by the Council and the European Parliament), supported the preparation of a set of guidelines for CLLD, which were not mandatory, but doesn't monitor the way Member States designed and implementing this new instrument;</p> <p>Implementing multi-funded CLLD needs strong coordination between the different Funds managing authorities, which so far didn't happen, and which hampers the potential of this tool;</p> <p>Budgetary constraints and a disproportionate administrative burden, undermine the capacity of LAGs for territorial animation. A wider use of Simplified Cost Options and simplification of procedures is mandatory;</p> <p>LAGs must be seen as partners in implementation of rural development policies with their own identity and autonomy. Rebuilding mutual trust is mandatory (but will be one of the most difficult tasks for the renewal of LEADER);</p> <p>Simple and harmonized rules: timely definition of simple rules, guidelines, evaluation and flexible IT systems aiming at maximum harmonization between the European Structural and Investment Funds, involving all stakeholders;</p> <p>one CLLD source of funding, coordination under one single MA and one unique set of rules at the EU level.</p>
SLOVAKIA	Possibility of lump sums could have less regulations, also less national level policy.
SLOVENIA	We believe that the funds in their rules should more closely take into account the needs of the local environment and adapt with their contents to these needs (and not vice versa). Also, pre-financing and several intermediate claims for an operation should be enabled, which in fact could also support smaller initiatives that lack initial and liquid capital.
SWEDEN	Put focus on benefits from development projects and lower the administrative demands in order to be able to achieve locally led development. Better written guide from the national level on how to use the logotypes (this is on the way). Better report system. A computer system developed for the purpose of CLLD. Clear communication. Leader cannot be fixed with a few simplifications here and there, the whole set-up needs a complete makeover - see the Tartu declaration of 2016. Simplify the plausibility assessment. The problems are not due to the multi-funding as we perceive it, but due to the fact that the control of reasonable costs have gone too far in all funds. If it was possible to do one application, but to be founded by more than one fund that would be great.

2. Added value of ERDF, ESF, EMFF for the implementation of local development strategies

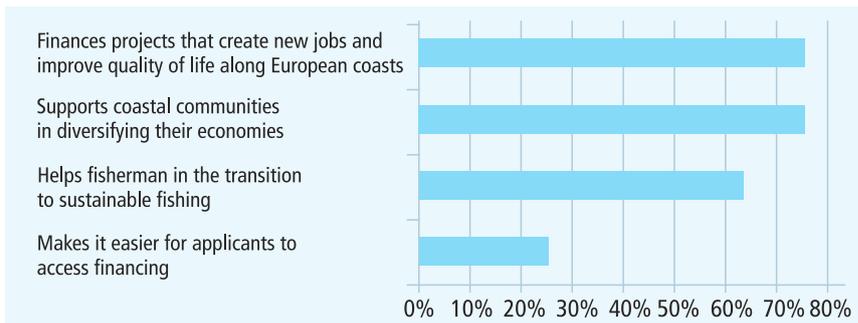
Added value of ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) support for implementing local development strategies in 2014-2020. Which activities/projects are now possible to finance thanks to ERDF support? Please select the ERDF focus area(s) these activities/projects are related. Analysis bases on 22 responses that were given under this question.



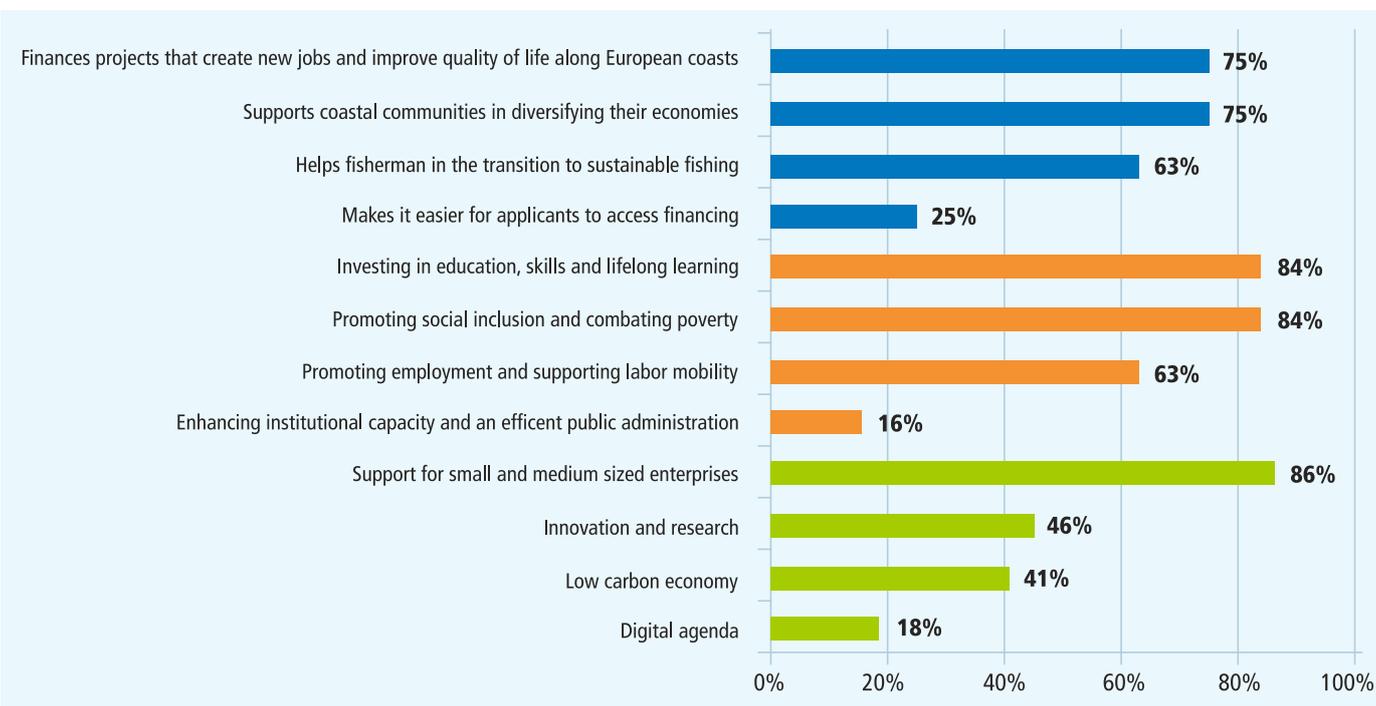
Added value of ESF support for implementing local development strategies in 2014-2020. Which activities/projects are now possible to finance thanks to ESF support? Please select the ESF objectives these activities/projects are related. Analysis bases on 19 responses that were given under this question.



Added value of EMFF support for implementing local development strategies. Which activities/projects are now possible to finance thanks to EMFF support? Please select the EMFF objectives these activities/projects are related. Analysis bases on 8 responses that were given under this question.



Conclusive diagram of different funds (EMFF, ESF, ERDF)



Added value of different funds working together

Country	Added value of different funds working together for the implementation of local development strategies.
AUSTRIA	<p>One stop shop for local development. Streamlining the implementation of different funds towards the people at the ground</p> <p>Breaking down Europe 2020 to the local level. Involving new and more stakeholders towards local development. Fostering Governance due to the decision on local level - which means the regional and national level has to work together with the local level.</p>
GREECE	<p>Multi-funding offers the ability to globally approach the needs of the local communities, involving support to different areas and professionals and covering the needs of professionals and local Community related to Social and Educational subjects.</p>
LATVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Development Strategies (LDS) are allowing to set priorities for the territory as whole (not just sectorial); - LDS reduce overlapping of usage the funds; - Possibility to enrich and fulfil the goals implementing both funds; - Less administrative work as both funds in Latvia are administrated by the same organization - one LAG (which is also FLAG);
POLAND	<p>Focusing 3 different funds with their possibilities on not more than 3 targets for territory will give complex support to development. Pushing forward solutions of local problems in short and long term (by ESF or/and ERDF) is more effective than financing projects only from one fund. Connection with EAFRD it is like pulling solutions pushed by previous listed funds.</p>
PORTUGAL	<p>During the design of their LDS, LAGs expected to broaden the domains of their intervention at local level, to support more integrated projects responding to different needs: investment in infrastructure and services, training and capacity building to beneficiaries and to increase the amount of financial resources available for Local Development Strategies.</p>
SLOVAKIA	<p>The added value is that finally there is huge support for private sector and of course more money in total for LEADER/CLLD. However this to work properly, it is absolutely necessary to create one operational programme that can finance LAGs, because every operational programme has different goals and rules and then its very difficult to implement.</p>
SLOVENIA	<p>The advantage of the various funds is, in particular, in the greater range of available funds. Other benefits are also in the larger range of possible content (goals), a greater range of potential beneficiaries (including individuals, farmers), a greater set of eligible costs (for example: in non-financial contribution) and the possibility of applying for a higher percentage of co-financing (for example: certain measures in the EAFRD are also supported by only 40%, while the EFRD can be 80%).</p>
SWEDEN	<p>All funds working together makes more ideas come true in an inventive way. It opens new ways of adding value to one project and helps in any community led development project as we come together in collaborative projects. The multi-fund system allows us to work with specific themes with a broader approach. We don't need to turn down or thwart a project because the applicant wants some activities to be arranged in town. A clear example is that it is easier to work with facilitating development of new social enterprises (giving place for the ESF target groups) if we can fund these small companies than if we can just fund rural development in more general terms.</p> <p>It is easier to attract a wider group of important actors and hence a better possibility to make a positive difference at a territory level.</p> <p>The means to assist entrepreneurs and small companies more directly - in rural areas, towns/cities as well as links between the two.</p> <p>We can promote CLLD with a broader (development) perspective, reach new target groups and with ERDF we can now support SMEs in a much better way. Although, some LAGs find it more challenging than expected to actually work with the ESF since there are many other authorities involved and a lot of other initiatives going on with support from many other directions.</p> <p>Too early to evaluate, but huge value, we believe, to support business development with the support from ERDF funding.</p> <p>The whole strategy and the way we work has changed. There is a view of the geographical area as whole and not just the part that is rural. (We have four towns in our area that are big for Swedish point of view, from 30-70.000 inhabitants). Office and board consider all aspects when at work, i.e. when deciding on further steps in the strategy as well as when deciding on projects.</p>

SWEDEN

There is for example always the inclusion of unemployed present at the discussion, as well as how to make voluntary organizations more business-minded, how to make them less dependent on economic support. The discussion and work on cooperation urban-rural is very present in our area now. Also we have the possibility to promote synergies between rural actions-regional and fisheries which has before not been the case. For example that rural initiatives in rural communities connect with coastal communities, etc. These things we feedback to our projects, which makes a real difference, concretely in the way the projects are being conducted. It has changed who is elected in our LAG, and it has made LAG more attractive to work in.

Now when we can start with umbrella projects in Sweden, with start 2018, it will be easier to reach out to small enterprises. Some LAGs will have a project with smaller support (cheques) with start 2018 for small and medium-sized Enterprises. ERDF going to fit perfectly.

To connect projects within different funds, new opportunities can develop. As employed in leader we have an important role to connect projects that can be useful for each other.

We can use our strategies in a better way to achieve the goals we have set up. But the best model would have been that the money from all funds were located into one budget to work with.

3. Project examples from different funds

ELARD members were asked to bring forward at least one concrete project example where they have used ERDF, ESF or EMFF support. The project was asked to describe shortly with maximum 10 sentences (aims, activities, target group, results, budget).

Examples of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

1. Minimizing emissions (PM 2,5 and PM10) of household pollutants on rural area by assembling energy form the sun (Poland).
2. Fostering renewable energy combined with innovation and education of local actors. Main steps: strategy for the area regarding use of solar; installing a professional coordination office; training local SMEs; implementing renewable energy plants through public and private stakeholders mostly by local SMEs in the area (Austria).
3. Project title: Network of local suppliers of rural goodies; Project goal: To create a network of local providers in the LAG region Dolenjska and Bela Krajina, which will include at least 30 providers and at least 10 sales outlets for the sale of products from the countryside. With the help of this network, individuals will improve their cooperation in sales and purchasing marketing, thereby stabilizing their jobs directly linked to agricultural holdings. Target group: The grain group is a provider of food processing / processing products and the production of other products typical of the countryside and retail outlets offering short-chain products. Activities in the project: education and training of providers; setting up shelves with local products within existing retail outlets; development of mobile application, promotion and publicity. Project results: a well-formed network of providers (1); sales point s (10); spelled portal network of providers (1) M number of visitors portal (1000). Budget Project: 119,753.89 EUR, ERDF funds: 95,810.94 EUR (Slovenia).

Examples from Sweden:

4. A study on new ways for locally produced food to reach consumers while adding value to the non-profit sector.
5. Pre-study with a network of small businesses and NGO:s that together are investigating how it is possible to build small houses. They are doing technical drawings with types of housing, investigating the planning process and reasoning about choice of building materials. The members of the network are spread over 3 municipalities, and some are based in a town. The ERDF was possible to use since this is involving businesses in town AND countryside. It is not a commercial project at this stage, but since we now have goals in our Leader strategy that clearly indicates support for local businesses with ERDF, this is a completely non-controversial project in relation to funding rules.
6. Small investment support projects of around 9000 Euros for small enterprises to assist them in creating new products, that increases turnover and create new jobs.
7. Two different businesses with different target groups cooperate with the aim to create an innovative, new, product with new materials. Activities: Produce a prototype, test new materials and machines, find new working descriptions, marketing and create a joint web-shop. Target group: SMEs. Results: 8 new products and increased employment. Budget: 29 500 euro.
8. Broa över - more or less: "Bridging the gap" is a networking and education concept aimed at developing a positive collaboration culture and future spirit in the society. This by offering exclusive competence training on leadership and personal development for key people in the local business community. The project aims to create a network of

dedicated community builders. Hylte Municipality today consists of many successful small and medium-sized companies with great opportunities. These companies employ people of different backgrounds and make sure that there is good speed in society. At the same time, part of Hylte's problem is that the city's largest employer has given up a large part of his staff, which gave many residents and entrepreneurs the impression that the development of the municipality is heading in the wrong direction. Over the past year, Hylte's business and population development has been positive, yet many people, in and outside the municipality, speak about problems and difficulties rather than the opportunities Hylte has. In order to reverse the development, the Business Unit and the Entrepreneurs-organization in Hylte Municipality want to create a project that develops a better and more positive cooperation and development environment in the municipality. With the help of the Broa Over project, we want to get business people and engaged community builders to find new forms of cooperation. The Project works for two years, promoting and creating a network of app. 40 people per year. The budget is about 100.000 €. The people in the network meet physically 7-8 times per year.

9. We have supported a social cooperation near the city of Lidköping. In the project the organization are going to support small enterprises of vegetable farmers who wants to develop their businesses. They are also going to open their cooperative farm for school children. In that way, we can see that the links between urban and rural areas are going to strengthen.
10. Aims: To increase the number of visitors to Uddevalla in order to increase profitability for business within tourism sector. This will generate more jobs. Activities: package and coordinate events with several partners. Also a new way to work with a central and common marketing. Target group: Small and medium-sized enterprises in the municipality of Uddevalla. Results: Very high. Budget: 761 530 SEK.
11. A company that would like to widen their activities into nature tourism. They will invest in new equipments and use a great area in the mountains to use with activities within nature tourism. The aim is to add more income and get more guests into the area. Activities are investing in new equipment, marketing, making the area in the mountain welcoming with paths and info points and wind shelters. The target groups are persons that are interested in outdoor activities as fishing and hunting or just for having a resting time in the nature. So far we cannot see the result. Because the project is still running. The budget is about 500 000 SEK including their own work.

Examples of European Social Fund (ESF)

1. Organising soccer league for kids on rural area to include their parents for engaging them for roles (trainers, supporters, football referee) for activate them into society (**Poland**).

Examples from Sweden:

2. A social enterprise (ESF-funded project) working together with an EAFRD-funded project building a local heritage museum.
3. We have not yet had any projects with ESF support but we have an ongoing application, which aims to build organizational capacity to work with people in unemployment in a broader perspective. Target group: Unemployed persons (no matter if they are young, old, immigrants or persons with disabilities). Results: A social enterprise that allows participants to practice/train on different tasks and in the long run get an employment. Budget: 126 000 euro.
4. We fund the project IKEF Högbo, where the target group of refugees will participate in education and internships linked to local production at Högbo use in Sandviken municipality. The project has approximately SEK 1m in budget and is currently ongoing with 15 participants. The aim is for the participants to get jobs / get closer to the labour market.
5. Starting up social corporations where members are individuals far from the labour market and need a way into the labour market.
6. "Doula and cultural-interpreter". The project aims to create meeting places for women and men, thus creating a safe and welcoming place for integration. The cultural interpreter-doulas get a great deal of trust and they become a role model for newly arrived women. The venues create a safe and welcoming place for integration and activities such as Swedish with baby, baby rhythmic, yoga, parental support and Swedish education where infants are welcome to enable women to take advantage of the Swedish language even during parental leave. Long-term effects are to increase public health and to achieve public health goals for a group that is otherwise difficult to achieve. Another goal is increased influence and introduction in Swedish society and civil society, which reduces isolation and builds networks. This in turn affects the integration, language development and introduction to the Swedish labour market positively. The Project runs for 2 years, at a cost of approximately 150.000€.
7. Project: "Farmers needs labour". In this project the municipality of Götene do a match between unemployed people, born in a foreign country, and farmers who are in need of labour.
8. Aim: To get people with mental illness who are far from the labour market to get closer employment. Activities: The participants will be activated 100% of their ability with valuable practical work that are adapted to each person. Target group: People outside the labour market. Result: Too early to tell. Budget: 1 120 000 SEK.
9. We have just one project that just started. The aim is to bring people closer to the labour market. Activities are

mindfulness, gardening, social training and yoga. The target group is people who have been out of work for a long time and have suffered from different diseases. So far we cannot see any result. The budget is about 1200000 SEK.

Examples of European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

1. Fishing tourism development in Ventspils municipality. Implementer - GP Trading, Jurkalne parish. Goal - Diversification of the provided services, rising of competitiveness and lowering the seasonality of the tourism services by purchasing the necessary equipment for innovative saltwater fishing and provision of coastal excursion services. EU co-financing - 49968.00 Eur implemented by buying boat for fishing in the sea and fishing equipment (**Latvia**).

Examples from Sweden

2. Transnational cooperation focused on seal and cormorant.
3. We have several fishing projects, our first was SLUSS where seal-proof push-up traps are supplemented with a special grid so that the small-scale whitefish is sorted out to ensure a long-term sustainable fish resource. The project is aimed at professional fishermen along the coast in six municipalities and is good for fish stocks and preservation of jobs in the long term.
4. Eel in the lake Bolmen: The purpose of the project is to find out why, in spite of the large annual release of the eel in Lake Bolmen, the production of caught eel is not as high as expected. This is of great interest to fishermen, researchers, authorities and the power companies involved. It is also important for many activities around Bolmen that could have a significantly bigger exchange of both fishing and tourism if the catch of eel could increase. The Project runs for 2 years and cost is about 150.000€.