GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI

Ministerul Agriculturii şi Dezvoltării Rurale

POP 2007 - 2013

Programul Operaţional pentru Pescuit

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FLAG DELTA

WHAT IS A FLAG? ADDING VALUE TO A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY THROUGH A FLAG!

- There are over 300 FLAGs in 21 European Member states
- FLAG Danube Delta in Romania is the largest in Europe – by the area covered (5,227 km^2) and by the value of the strategy allocated (over 22 mil. euros)
- Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) manage the funds of Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF). The FLAGs are partnerships between fisheries actors and other local private and public stakeholders. Together, they design and implement a bottom-up strategy that fits and addresses their area´s needs to increase economic, social and environmental welfare.
- Due to the diversity and unique characteristic of the Danube Delta, the FLAG area presents many key challenges: improving the basic infrastructure in the area with regard to road access, sewage and water systems, tourism facilities or the refurbishment of existing landing points; ensuring long-term sustainable use of renewable resources, developing ecotourism and exploring the potential of other types of tourism such as pescatourism and bird watching activities; diversification of economic activities, training fishermen, creating new jobs or providing them with alternatives to increase their incomes.

All of the above challenges are developed into opportunities so they create valuable and sustainable blue economy and social benefits for the inland and coastal communities!

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RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AMONG THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The membership of the Danube Delta FLAG consists of: 2 public authorities and 3 private fishermen associations in the area:

- Tulcea County Council
- Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation Administration
- Ro-Pescador Association
- Black Sea Sf.Gheorghe Association
- Shark Association

Together with the team of the FLAG they raise awareness of the opportunities that can be financed by the European Fishing Fund, they collect ideas about profitable and sustainable business opportunities and then disseminates the information through the local community.

Setting a good example is always the best way to promote future investments!

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MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIONS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY AND ADDED VALUE

FLAG Delta received 239 projects and managed to select and submit for financing more than 130. With over 10,000 projects across Europe, one FLAG project has been chosen to participate at the final exhibition in Brussels on the 2-3 March within “Sailing towards 2020” conference held by FARNET with the support of DG MARE.

The project "Fisherman B&B" was the only one in Romania selected and was part of the cluster of projects on the theme: **linking fisheries with tourism.**

Along with the central authority - the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Axis 4 Experts and Regional Offices for the Fishing Programme, FLAG team is monitoring and helping the beneficiaries to succeed in implementing their projects and add value to the local products and services.

In March 2015, the Projects state of play across Europe was up to 10 214 projects!

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THE ACQUISITION OF THE NECESSARY CAPACITY BY LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

The implementing of AXIS 4 of the European Fishing Fund, sets a good example for the future and we think we will find more innovative methods and ideas in the 2014-2020 in order to provide other sources of income for the people in the Danube Delta.

For the next programming period we need more concrete projects, designed from the bottom up, implemented in small steps, and with stakeholders playing a leading role in the community, it will help:

- ✓ Develop tourism infrastructure and promote ecotourism to boost the competitiveness of the fisheries areas;
- ✓ Diversification of activities by promoting multiple jobs for fishermen;
- ✓ Environmental protection and improvement of natural and architectural heritage;

We are confident that we will strengthen the fishing communities in the Danube Delta and the Black Sea coast in order to preserve the Danube and marine ecosystem and at the same time create economic growth!

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A VISION FOR THE DANUBE DELTA IN 2020?

The Danube Delta has an important fishing potential. The large number of fishing communities in the area reflects the fact that fishing is the oldest and most important activity among the inhabitants of the Danube Delta and a basic occupation passed down from father to son for generations to the present day.

Tourism becomes an important occupational alternative for fishermen (the closed season lasts for 5 months in the Danube Delta) and one of the main sources of income in the wet area of the Danube Delta.

It is important that both these activities, fishing and tourism are linked but in a manner that brings better methods to use the natural resources, because:

Everything that happens in the Danube Delta affects the Black Sea and the ecosystem of the coastal area!

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THANK YOU!

FLAG Manager: Bumbac Raluca
Address: Str. Ing. Dumitru Ivanov Nr. 6, Bl. Iberom, Et. 2, Tulcea, Romania
Email: flag.delta@yahoo.com; manager@flagdelta.ro
Website: http://www.flagdelta.ro
Telephone: +40 340.401.630; +40 756.144.580
Languages spoken: Romanian, English