

**Expression of Interest for Engineer and Consultant/Advisor: *Strengthening economically, socially and environmentally sustainable fishing***

*Nomenclatures denoting the male gender include also the female gender.*

**1. Introduction**

The Managing Authority for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund within the Ministry of European Funds, Equality, Reforms and Social Dialogue is issuing this expression of interest funded under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 2021-2027 Programme under Priority 1, Specific Objective 1.1 ***Strengthening economically, socially and environmentally sustainable fishing activities***. The budget pegged with this expression of interest is €100,000.

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply for the following two positions:

- Warranted Engineer and/or;
- Consultant/Advisor
  - a. Project Management and/or
  - b. Business Plan

This expression of interest is issued as an open call until 30 September 2026. Early closure or further extension of the call is at the discretion of the Managing Authority (MA).

The selected consultants/advisors and warranted engineers will be added to an open publicly accessible shortlist and these will be contractually engaged by prospective beneficiaries of Schemes targeting fishers.

The Managing Authority reserves the right to update the call documents depending on the developments and emerging needs.

**2. Service provision**

The service falls under Priority 1 of the EMFAF Programme which identifies the importance of fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources. The cost for the consultancy/advisory or engineering services will be partly financed by EMFAF and integrated as a Work Package with the projects listed in Annex II.

- The **Engineer** will:
  - provide advice and assistance to fishers, including any certification as required;
  - formulate required reports addressing all factors related to the outcomes of the inspections and/or verification services, and;
  - provide certification where needed in line with , Regulation (EU) 2021/1139.

- The **Consultant/Advisor** will:

- formulate business plans for calls issued under the Diversification Scheme and/ or,
- fill out application forms, and;
- provide multi-faceted professional advice to fishers on environmental sustainability to ensure resilience and reduce the negative impact of fishing activities on ecosystems; business planning on technical sectoral knowledge and business skills to foster competitiveness and long-term sustainability of the sector as well as the improvement of energy efficiency and transition.
- Provide assistance during audits from National and EU bodies.

### **3. Eligibility requirements**

#### **- Engineer:**

The applicant shall be a warranted engineer enrolled in the Chamber of Engineers' list of Warranted Engineers kept in Malta available on: [https://www.coe.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Warrant-list-2024\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.coe.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Warrant-list-2024_compressed.pdf)

The applicant is to be genuinely independent and free from conflict of interest in his responsibilities.

The Engineer must possess excellent communication, organisation and interpersonal skills and must be fluent in Maltese and English language (verbal and written).

#### **- Consultant/Advisor:**

The applicant shall have a minimum of a Master's Degree or a comparable recognised qualification at MQF Level 7 in any one of the following areas: Accounts, Economics, Business Management, Fisheries Science, Ecology, Sustainability, Marketing or equivalent. A qualification at MQF Level 7 in other areas may be accepted on provision of a full academic record and/or declaration from the Awarding Body.

The applicant is to be genuinely independent and free from conflict of interest in his responsibilities.

The Consultant must possess excellent communication, organisation and interpersonal skills and must be fluent in Maltese and English language (verbal and written).

Each consultant shall provide and list their competences and expertise including but not limited to analytical and evaluation skills; knowledge and expertise of the national and international economic landscape; and previous consultancy projects undertaken in Malta. These must be supported by any relevant documentation.

### **4. Submission of supporting documentation**

#### **- Engineer:**

- Declaration of independence from any conflict of interests;
- Curriculum Vitae (CV). These should clearly demonstrate the qualifications, skills and knowledge needed and presented with the offer.

- The economic operator must be enrolled in the Chamber of Engineers' list of Warranted Engineers kept in Malta.
  - Certificates attesting qualification.
- **Consultant/Advisor:**
- Declaration of independence from any conflict of interests;
  - Qualifications and experience claimed must be supported by certificates/transcripts and/or testimonials, copies of which should be submitted together with the application.
  - Curriculum Vitae (CV). These should clearly demonstrate the qualifications, skills and knowledge needed and presented with the offer.
  - Certificates and/or testimonials are to be invariably produced for verification.

## **5. Selection procedure**

The selected consultants/advisors and warranted engineers will be added to an open publicly accessible shortlist and these will be contractually engaged by prospective beneficiaries of Schemes targeting fishers.

Eligible applicants will be assessed by the Managing Authority to determine their suitability for the position/s of Warranted Engineers and Consultants/Advisors.

## **6. Budget**

The budget for this Expression of Interest is € 100,000 with 70% EU co-financing. This shall cover the expense of all professionals whose application is approved and included in the open publicly accessible shortlist of consultants/advisors and engineers.

Simplified Cost Options shall be used for reimbursement of costs for the development of business plans under the Diversification Scheme. A flat rate of € 2,500.00 per business plan applies.

For advisory which does not consist of any business plan, prospective fishers who require the service of an Engineer and/ or Consultant shall seek quotations from the open publicly accessible shortlist of consultants/advisors and engineers.

The following Aid Intensity rates for the advisory scheme apply as follows:

- On Board Investments: 80% for Small Scale Coastal Fishers (SSCF) vessel with overall length of less than 12 metres and not using towed gear as defined in point (1) of Article 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 (28); as provided in the EMFAF Regulation.
- 50% for Large Scale Coastal Fishers (LSCF) with overall length of more than 12 meters (up until 24 meters)
- Modernisation/ Replacement of Engines: 40%
- Diversification: 50%

The MA reserves the right to introduce additional Simplified Cost Options through the duration of this call.

## **7. Submission of applications**

The applicant is to submit a filled application form which can be downloaded from <https://fondi.eu> through [here](#). Subsequently, the applicant shall fill in the required details of the application form and provide the required documentation on [fpd.opm-ees@gov.mt](mailto:fpd.opm-ees@gov.mt).

## **Annex 1: Information on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund**

The Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2021-2027 provides an important opportunity for Malta to support investment in its fisheries and aquaculture sectors, which constitute an important resource for Malta. Such support will primarily be implemented under the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) Programme, which continues to represent a main funding arm for investment in the Fisheries and Aquaculture sectors in Malta, complementing other EU funded interventions and investments. The EMFAF 2021-2027 Programme is expected to build upon the investments of the previous programming period thus aiming to maximise the added value of public investment. A general overview of the Programme is being explained below:

With an EU Share of €21,825,290 and a total share of €31,178,987, the EMFAF focuses on 2 Priorities:

- Priority 1: Fostering sustainable fisheries and the conservation of aquatic biological resources
- Priority 2: Fostering sustainable aquaculture activities and processing, and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products

Planned Actions under these priorities include investments on-board fishing vessels, advisory services, training and diversification opportunities targeting support for professional fishers as well as improvement in designated fishing ports and landing infrastructure. The funding shall also aid in enhanced data collection activities and investment in control and enforcement. Actions targeting the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems together with research and innovation actions targeting the sustainability, resilience and competitiveness of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors shall also be at the forefront of these priorities. Finally, awareness-raising campaigns shall focus on the promotion of sustainable fish consumption.

This Fund also includes operations of strategic importance under each of the 2 priorities mentioned above, such as the conservation and restoration of marine Natura 2000 areas, for which the EMFAF programme shall contribute. This operation will seek synergy between implementation of management processes for a holistic approach to the management of the marine environment. These measures will seek an integrated approach towards management of relevant economic and environmental sectors, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders. The action will enable Malta to progress towards the achievement of good status in the marine environment and of conservation objectives for listed marine habitats and species. Such management processes will contribute to the ambitions of the Biodiversity Strategy 2030 through the effective management of protected areas in the marine environment.

Under the second priority, another operation of strategic importance will be the Research and development on domestication of aquaculture species to promote species diversification. In line with Malta's Multiannual National Plan for the Development of Sustainable Aquaculture 2022-2030, which aims to improve the sustainability and competitiveness of the sector, support will be given to research, innovation and investment in the introduction of new-culture species to decrease reliance on the limited national number of species currently available.

EMFAF resources will target the needs of fishers and sector-related employees to ensure the provision of the necessary training. The Programme will also support interventions related to advisory services with the aim of improving the overall performance and competitiveness of operators and to promote sustainable fisheries. Main initiatives will include the promotion of the Fisheries and Aquaculture sectors, modernisation through support for new technology equipment as well as a strong focus on data collection and control, addressing marine litter, climate change and biodiversity impacts.

## Annex II: EMFAF Open Calls for Fishers

### 1. Investments on Board

- Specific Objective – SO 1.1
- Budget of Call – € 250,000
- Aid Intensity – 80% in case of Small Scale Coastal Fishers (SSCF), 50% for other Operators
- Target Audience – Fishers
- Type of Call – Open Rolling Call until 30 September 2026
- Type of Support - Support will be directed at fleet modernisation, innovation and the use of the latest equipment and technology, to increase EE and/or, product quality. These actions aim to support conservation measures and add value across the value chain to improve fishing gear selectivity, eliminate discards and bycatch linked to the implementation of the landing obligation, and improve the sustainability of fishing activity, marine biodiversity and the regeneration of fish stocks. Actions will support hull and propeller improvements, improved fuel performance, LED lighting and alternative refrigerants, fishing gear reducing fuel consumption and improving catch efficiency, on board fuel control and monitoring. Investments in selective fishing gear may target trawling nets, gillnets and trammel nets and traps provided that such gear minimises unwanted catches and improves size/species selectivity.

### 2. Diversification

- Specific Objective – SO 1.1
- Budget of Call – € 500,000
- Aid Intensity – 50%
- Target Audience – Fishers
- Type of Call – Open Rolling Call
- Type of Support – Diversification of fishing activities will target the development of complementary activities, which may include inter alia investments on board, angling tourism, restaurants, environmental services related to fishing and educational activities. Endeavours may also be aimed at the retrofitting of SSCF vessels for activities complementary to commercial fishing, thus increasing the potential for ancillary employment opportunities on land.

### 3. Replacement or modernisation of engine fishing vessels

- Specific Objective – SO 1.2
- Budget of Call – € 200,000
- Aid Intensity – 40%
- Target Audience – Fishers
- Type of Call – Open Rolling Call
- Type of Support – The replacement or modernisation of fishing vessel engines shall support the shift of the sector towards decarbonisation. By investing in more modern technology, the reduction of carbon emissions shall be directly affected, hence increasing Malta's efforts towards the promotion of a cleaner environment. Support will be provided to vessels of **balanced fleet segments** in line with the conditions set out in the EMFAF Regulation and the related Commission Implementing Regulation which defines the energy-efficient technologies that may be used for new engines. In the case of SSCF vessels, support may be provided for a new or modernised engine that do not have more power in kW than that of the current engine. This also applies to large-scale coastal fishing vessels of up to 24 metres in overall length, however, the

replaced or modernised engine will also need to emit at least 20% less CO2 compared to the current engine. As also noted in the EMFAF Regulation, the fishing capacity withdrawn due to these operations shall not be replaced.

All operations approved under these calls shall be in line with **Article 13 of the EMFAF Regulation**.