

Calls for Proposals  
2021-2027

## European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (2021-2027)

*Fostering socio-economic growth and environmentally sustainable blue investment in Maltese Fisheries and Aquaculture*

Guidance Notes on Indicators

Project Proposals under the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

Specific Objective 1.6: Contributing to the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems

Type of Actions:

1. Actions targeted at the collection of lost fishing gears and the passive collection of marine litter from the sea in line with the Single Use Plastic Products Strategy for Malta 2021-2030 and in line with the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Malta (2021-2027).

## Indicators Overview, Definition and Guidance Document

### Overview

In line with monitoring and evaluation obligations established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR) and Regulation (EU) 2021/1139, the Programme for Malta for the period -2021-2027 – *European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund* is based on a number of output and result indicators which are to be reached by the year 2029 (target year).

### What are indicators and why are they needed?

Simply put, indicators are a tool to measure:

- the progress experienced by a project (henceforth referred to as ‘operation’) during the course of its implementation;
- the final achievements and deliverables produced by an operation following its full implementation.

Indicators are an integral part of the Managing Authority’s (MA) monitoring process and reflect the evolving implementation that is taking place vis-à-vis the respective operations. Monitoring of outputs and direct results allows the MA to observe whether the intended effects of the Programme are being delivered, whether outcomes are being achieved and whether implementation is on track.

Within the context of EU funds, there are both output and result indicators. Output and result indicators are set for each and every Specific Objective (SO) listed in the Programme. Output and result indicators are defined as follows:

- Output indicators relate to operations supported. An output is what is directly produced/supplied through the implementation of an operation. On the basis of Article 2(13) of the CPR, an output indicator refers to an indicator which measures the specific deliverables of the operation.
- Result indicators aim to track progress relevant to the objectives of the programme. Result indicators track changes sought which might be brought about by an operation. In line with Article 2(14) of the CPR, a result indicator refers to an indicator which measures the effects of the operations supported, with particular reference to the direct addressees, population targeted or users of infrastructure. In addition to this, Common indicators of the EMFAF can be found in Annex 1 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1139.

Every operation is obliged by the EU Regulations to achieve a number of output indicators, and to contribute to the Programme’s result indicators. In this context, Applicants must ensure that the project has clearly identifiable and measurable targets that contribute to one output indicator and at least one result indicator. The indicators are set in the Programme under the respective SO relative to the Call for Project Proposals.

## Output Indicators

As previously defined, output indicators quantify the direct deliverables that can be measured following the implementation of a specific operation. Output indicators quantify the number of operations under that respective SO. The methodology for all common output indicators was established at EU level.

## Result Indicators

Result indicators measure the direct impact/change resulting from the interventions being funded through the Programme vis-à-vis the national context. Whilst output indicators are a measure of what was 'created' as a direct result of the intervention, result indicators focus more on the overall effects of the operations. Result indicators therefore tend to measure broader and more detailed issues. Similar to output indicators, the methodology for all result indicators was established at EU level.

Result indicators are therefore similarly linked to the implementation of operations and are to be achieved by the end of the operation and/or by the end of the 2029. Each applicant needs to include a minimum of one result indicator as part of the project Application Form.

Unlike output indicators, result indicators do not include milestone (2024) targets. Additionally, Result indicators include a baseline and a reference year. The baseline is set at zero since result indicators have to always be linked to the support of the Fund and therefore contextual information about the situation prior to the Programme is not relevant. The methodology for result indicators has been prescribed by the MA in line with the European Commission's Indicator Fiches. However, beneficiaries are instructed to provide an explanation of the methodology used to determine the calculations to measure their indicator achievements.

Depending on the indicator and its methodology, the achieved values for result indicators will be collected either:

1) during implementation; 2) upon completion of the operation; or 3) within 12 months after the completion of the operation.

## Understanding the Indicator Targets Set in the Programme

Whilst each respective operation will be expected to contribute to an output and a result indicator/s on an individual basis, the Programme indicator targets reflect the cumulative target to be achieved by the various operations financed under a particular SO. For both output and result indicators, the MA thus aggregates the indicator values achieved by each operation to then achieve the Programme's targets.

In this regard, Beneficiaries have a sole responsibility in ensuring that the committed targets for their respective operations are achieved, for Malta to successfully reach the Programme's indicator targets.

## List of Indicators by relevant Specific Objective

(Applicants are expected to choose the output indicator and result indicator/s from the following list. Target values are at Programme level, i.e., each operation needs to contribute a fraction of that target. Exceptions apply in instances where only one operation is to be funded under a SO, in which case the operation will be expected to meet the full OP target.

### Specific Objective 1.6

Contributing to the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems\_

#### Type of Actions:

1. Actions targeted at the collection of lost fishing gears and the passive collection of marine litter from the sea in line with the Single Use Plastic Products Strategy for Malta 2021-2030 and in line with the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Malta (2021-2027).

Specific Objective 1.6					
Specific Objective	<u>Contributing to the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems</u>				
Indicator type, Code & Name	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value (only for Result indicators)	Baseline Year (only for Result indicators)	Milestone (2024) (only for Output indicators)	Target (2029)
Output Indicator  CO01  Number of operations	number	/	/	2.00	4.00
Result Indicator (OBLIGATORY)  CR10  Actions contributing to good environmental status including nature restoration, conservation, protection of ecosystems,	actions	0.00	2021	/	10.00

biodiversity, animal health and welfare					
Result Indicator (OPTIONAL) <sup>1</sup>  CR09.1  Area addressed by operations contributing to a good environmental status, protecting, conserving, and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems	km2	0.00	2021	/	4,100.00

## Indicator Definitions

### Output Indicators:

**1. CO01: Number of operations:** This output indicator measures the number of operations (projects) benefitting from EMFAF support as implemented under this Specific Objective. Each operation contributes '1' to the output indicator upon completion of the operation.

This is the only type of output indicator under the EMFAF. The target value for the number of operations for each specific objective is outlined in the EMFAF programme, which is the sum of all operations to be implemented for that specific objective. In this regard, milestones for output indicators shall be measured in terms of the number of operations under implementation by end 2024 as further defined hereunder:

*The milestone and target for an output indicator shall refer to the values achieved by operations, where all the actions leading to outputs have been implemented in full, but for which not all the related payments have necessarily been made, or to the values achieved by operations which have been started, but where some of the actions leading to outputs are still ongoing, or to both.*

Moreover, targets for output indicators are defined as the number of completed operations by end

<sup>1</sup> Operations that commit to 'optional' type indicators will be required to achieve the targets agreed upon in the Grant Agreement.

2029. EMFAF output indicators demonstrate their full explanatory potential in combination with Infosys.

### Result Indicators:

Result indicators are a pre-defined set of indicators, along specific thematic categories, included in Annex 1 of the EMFAF Regulation. They aim to demonstrate the gross effect of the EMFAF programme and are common to all Member States. As in the case of output indicators, result indicators are also set out under Annex 1 of the EMFAF Regulation, which provide for the possibility to have comparable and coherent indicators between the different Member States. All interventions supported by the EMFAF are required to report on common result indicators.

2. **CR10: Actions contributing to good environmental status including nature restoration, conservation, protection of ecosystems, biodiversity, animal health and welfare (Obligatory):** This result indicator measures the number of actions addressing nature restoration and protection needs of biodiversity and ecosystems with EMFAF support. These involve actions contributing to good environmental status including nature restoration, conservation, protection of ecosystems, biodiversity, animal health, and welfare that CANNOT be expressed in terms of area (being a point action or intangible).

The following are potential actions that could be funded, which list is non-exhaustive:

- marine litter collection
- Interventions that protect and restore aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems through the provisions of support to fishers for the passive collection of lost fishing gears
- Interventions that prevent the entry of litter (including abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear and single use plastic into the marine environment
- Actions related to port or other infrastructure amenities for adequate lost fishing gear and marine litter reception.

Reporting timeframe: Upon completion of the operation.

Examples of supporting documentation (non-exhaustive list) include:

- Technical report by an environmental engineer, biologist, ecologist, scientist or equivalent profession, detailing the number and type of actions that are contributing to GES and were supported by EMFAF. The report needs to detail how the action is contributing to a good environmental status.
  - Other documentation considered relevant.
3. **CR09: Area addressed by operations contributing to a good environmental status, protecting, conserving, and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems (Optional)** – This result indicator measures the area (in km<sup>2</sup>) of protected areas as per its Standard Data Form (for Natura 2000 areas) or, in the case of other MPAs, its designation decree, which areas contributing to a good environmental status, protecting, conserving and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems.

Examples of such areas include:

- the entire protected area in which the operation occurs should be counted, regardless of the extent of a specific operation, unless there is a distinct spatial focus of the operation,

and an exact measurement of km<sup>2</sup> is possible and meaningful

- this includes establishing new areas but also protecting and restoring biodiversity or ecosystems in an area that already has protected status
- formal or legal protected status of the area is not required
- it is sufficient that an operation is within the designated area and is clearly linked to the conservation management of the area in accordance with the requirements under the Birds 2009/147/EC or Habitats 92/43/EEC directives or the MSFD 2008/56/EC
- other types of protected areas should be linked to the national ecosystem protection strategies or other relevant strategies

The measurement unit for this indicator may be computed as follows:

- km<sup>2</sup> of marine protected area (MPA)
- km<sup>2</sup> of Natura 2000 area
- km<sup>2</sup> of other protected area (e.g. inland water)

Reporting timeframe: Upon completion of the operation. Double counting of the same area is to be avoided.

Examples of supporting documentation (non-exhaustive list) include:

- A technical report by environmental specialists, ecologists, scientists and similar professionals indicating the site benefitting from the support, its total area and an overview of the actions undertaken (supported by EMFAF) that contribute to the aims of this indicator.
- Log specifying area code or equivalent
- Other documentation considered relevant.

### Closing Remarks

The success of EMFAF operations is defined as the achievement of the related output indicators by a) 2029 for targets set or, b) 2024 for milestones set for 2024. Result indicators are to be achieved by end 2029. When compiling and gathering data for the indicators, the necessary audit trail should always be in place. The applicant should note that failure to deliver on the agreed indicators could result in EU Funds to be withdrawn by the Managing Authority and/or reimbursed in full by the beneficiary.