

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EMFF

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the Operational Programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

The Managing Authority (MA) is presenting the sixth Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Operational Programme (OP) in Malta covering the seventh year of implementation. Its format is set on the model presented in Article 2 of Reg. (EU) No. 1362/2014 and on the FAME Support Unit CT04 Working Paper EMFF AIR (April 2018) guiding Member States in their formulation of Annual Implementation Reports. Its main objective is to provide EMFF key stakeholders with information on the implementation of the OP during year 2020.

In year 2020, the MA continued to focus on the constant monitoring of operations awarded in previous years, especially because 2020 saw the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic which affected various activities linked to several EMFF operations and the fisheries sector in general. The pandemic affected the implementation of the programme since Beneficiaries experienced late delivery of supplies, particularly those which relied on foreign production, and the postponement of physical/personal contact components such as seminars. Prospective applicants also found it difficult to submit all the requested documentation within deadlines as regards to launched calls. By end 2020, a total of 35 operations had been selected for EU co-financing. Three calls were issued: two open calls under Union Priority 2 (UP2) and one restricted call under Union Priority 3 (UP3).

The two open calls issued under UP2 were based on Article 47 of Reg (EU) No 508/2014 – *Innovation (total public eligible amount: €800,000)* The open calls were promoted through adverts published on the Malta Government Gazette, on all local Sunday printed newspapers and on the MA's websites. MA officials were available to assist prospective applicants with queries through phone calls, email exchanges and meetings. One application was submitted under the first open call for project proposals, issued in February and closed in April 2020, yet this was found non-admissible. Due to this, a second open call for project proposals was issued by the MA in June 2020 and two applications were submitted by the closing date. Whilst both project proposals were found eligible by the Project Selection Committee (PSC) and both complied with the objectives of the fund and the admissibility and selection criteria established for the call, only one application could be funded due to limited funds available under the specific Measure as well as the limited time-frame available.

The call issued under UP3, this being a restricted call, invited the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA) to submit a project proposal based on Article 76 – *Control and enforcement (total public eligible amount: €2,000,000)*. This was issued in March 2020 and closed in May, following an extension request submitted by the DFA due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as a result in a change in political direction, the application submitted was immediately withdrawn by the applicant.

The Annual Review Meeting between the MA and EC representatives was held on 12 November 2020. A week later, the EMFF MA held the sixth meeting of the Monitoring Committee (MC). This was planned for May, yet due to the COVID-19 pandemic it was postponed to 20 November 2020. The MC was held virtually and an update on the implementation of the OP was provided to all MC members. The Annual Implementation Report for year 2019 was already adopted by the MC via written procedure in May 2020.

In December 2020, the MA proposed an amendment to the OP, in relation to the introduction of a COVID-19 Temporary Cessation for fishing activities in line with Article 33 (1)(d) of Reg (EU) No 508/2014. This was proposed to the MC members via written procedure and then to the EC. It must be noted that this amendment was considered as incomplete by the EC in January 2021. In this regard, the MA withdrew its submission, yet informed the EC that it intends to re-submit a COVID-19 related measure in due course.

The MA's online webpage was regularly updated in order to meet CPR/EMFF Regulatory requirements, such as the list of selected operation as per Article 119 of Reg (EU) No. 508/2014. The MA ensured that the webpage included regulations, publications, reports, EMFF supporting documentation and other documents pertaining to EMFF upcoming calls.

2 Statement of Expenditures by Fund were submitted in 2020, both completed for accounting year ending 30 June 2021. One claim for payment, which amounted to €734,210.86 (EMFF share) was submitted to the EC on 29 October 2020. The other claim for payment was submitted on 23 December 2020 and amounted to €2,111,730.12 (EMFF share).

Under UP1, out of twelve operations, seven operations were completed, whilst five operations were under implementation by end 2020. The total public eligible amount paid by the end of the year stood at €9,137,129.88, marking a 27.46% increase from the previous year (2019). Out of this, a total amount of €8,528,798.95 has been verified by the MA and effectively certified. Under UP2, two operations were under implementation, one operation was officially withdrawn, whilst one operation was awarded. The total public eligible amount paid by end 2020 stood at €1,590,202.59, marking a 10.37% increase from the previous year (2019). Out of this, a total amount of €50,708.07 has been verified by the MA and effectively certified. By the end of the same year, the total public eligible amount paid under UP3 was €5,060,852.80, with various operations still under implementation, marking a 14.05% increase from the previous year (2019). Out of this, a total amount of €3,098,612.13 has been verified by the MA and effectively certified. The only operation which falls under UP5 was completed in 2018 with a total public eligible amount of €249,957.71 in payments. Out of this, a total amount of €248,501.29 has been verified by the MA and effectively certified. By end 2020, the total public eligible amount paid under UP6 stood at €1,600,000, with one operation in advanced stages, marking 56.77% increase from the previous year (2019). €1,100,450.91 worth of payments related to Technical Assistance was processed by end 2020, marking 42.73% increase from the previous year (2019). Out of this, a total amount of €1,081,375.83 has been verified by the MA and effectively certified.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNION PRIORITIES

3.1. Overview of the implementation (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Information should be provided as short and general commentary on the implementation of the Union priorities and technical assistance for the year(s) concerned with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems.

Union priority	Key information on the implementation of the priority with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
<p>1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries</p>	<p>No calls for project proposals were issued under UP1 in year 2020. The MA monitored ongoing operations, ensured effective implementation, conducted management verifications and kept regular contact with the Beneficiaries.</p> <p><u>Ongoing operations:</u></p> <p>EMFF 1.23.3: Construction of a breakwater at Qrejten point in the port of Marsaxlokk. An extension to the GA’s validity until April 2021 was requested (and approved) on account of work delays brought about by inclement weather conditions during the winter season. By end 2020, the physical aspect of the project had reached an advanced stage, 6000 tonnes of reinforced concrete and additional local hardstone were in place whilst utility and safety equipment was being installed.</p> <p>EMFF 1.23.5: Upgrading of the fisheries infrastructure of Gozo. An extension to the GA’s validity until June 2021 was requested by MGOZ on account of procurement delays in relation to the purchasing of five amphibious boat trailers and a towing vehicle for use in the designated port of Mgarr. This important area is the host of another project component, focusing on the installation of utility services in full complementarity with another EMFF project (see EMFF 1.23.6). Meanwhile, infrastructural works at the smaller designated port of Xlendi were completed and inaugurated in June. The area is now more organised and safer for the respective operators conducting landings and routine maintenance.</p> <p>EMFF 1.23.6: Upgrading of Mgarr Gozo and Marsaxlokk Malta fishing ports. An extension to the GA's validity until April 2021 was requested (and approved) on account of work delays brought about by inclement weather conditions during the winter season. By end 2020 the physical aspect of the project had reached an advanced stage, concrete and dredging works were being finalised so as to enable the installation of new pontoons.</p> <p>EMFF 1.9.1: Compensation Scheme for the Temporary Cessation of fishing activities. The first sheme was launched in 2019, whilst the second scheme was launched in November 2020. 43 applications</p>

Union priority	Key information on the implementation of the priority with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
	<p>were submitted, out of which 28 were accepted. As in 2019, the Selection Committee at DFA scrutinized the application forms in terms of the information and declarations submitted in order to determine eligibility and selection of the applicants. 15 applications were declared ineligible due to not having met the minimum Swordfish landings (SWO), others went out fishing in December (this being the month for temporary cessation), whilst another withdrew his application. An applicant fisher was also identified as having an infringement (being not compliant with CFP rules and currently has points assigned in the national register following Court judgement) and hence was not eligible to benefit from the scheme.</p> <p>EMFF 1.4.1: <i>Training for fishers.</i> The DFA requested an extension until March 2021. This operation was affected by the pandemic. In line with directives issued by the Maltese Health Authorities, the contractor suspended the delivery of the remaining training sessions. The MA was informed that the sessions could not be conducted remotely since they required the use of specialized equipment. The certificate-giving ceremony was also cancelled. Over 400 participants benefitted from this project.</p> <p><i>Completed operations:</i></p> <p>EMFF 1.16.1: A scientific study to improve trawl gear selectivity. This was completed in 2019.</p> <p>Operations EMFF 1.20.1, EMFF 1.20.2 and EMFF 1.20.3 were concluded in 2018. In 2020, a closure report was prepared by the Beneficiaries in view of the RI referring to a change in net profits. This involved verification by the MA that the RI was reached, basing on the difference between the financial figures declared in 2019 and the ones declared in 2020 by the Beneficiaries' private accountant. All operations reached the RI identified in the GA. The below numbers confirm the positive business impact left by Union co-financing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMFF 1.20.1 The GA target for completion for operation was set at €700 whilst Net profits for 2019 were €4,933.44 • EMFF 1.20.2 The GA target for completion for operation was set at €850 whilst Net profits for 2019 were €1,098 • EMFF 1.20.3 The GA target for completion of operation was set at €6,800 whilst Net profits for 2019 were €12,666 <p>Operation EMFF 1.20.4 was concluded in 2020. In 2021, the MA shall conduct a physical OTS on board the vessel to ascertain that all line items were purchased, installed and operational. A closure</p>

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	<p>report is to be prepared in 2022, following registration of 2021 financials.</p> <p>EMFF 1.23.1: <i>The Construction and Finishing of an Office on the Fish Landing Site in the Marsaxlokk Designated Port.</i> The pandemic had a negative impact on the construction and finishing process of the landing office. Foreign workers returned home and substitute workers had to be sought. The contractor and his suppliers experienced difficulties and delays in sourcing the required supplies from abroad. In fact, the contract was extended and the Landing Office was inaugurated in September. The target for RI 1.8 was set at 1116 FTE at GA stage. The Beneficiary can confirm whether this has been achieved in 2022, as data is published on an N+2 basis. It also stated that the RI is unlikely to be achieved due to a decrease of 522 FTEs between 2014 and 2020. By procuring a moveable crane, landing operations in the area became safer and more efficient. The office enables DFA officials to perform their duties in an enclosed, weather protected environment resulting in a more effective service, hence raising the overall standards of the port. Local fishers will be provided with a better service and overall work experience. Through the completion of the project and the placement of a permanent staff member in the office, the DFA was able to achieve a national Simplification Measure SM.35/2020 entitled '<i>Isir konsolidament tas-servizzi offruti fil-qasam tas-Sajd. Is-servizzi kollha lill-klijent ser jibdew jingħataw minn post wiehed. Għal dan il-għan ser jinfethu żewġ ufficini wiehed fit-Tramuntana u l-ieħor fin-Nofsinhar ta' Malta. B'hekk jiġi evitat kull skarigġ għas-sajjeda</i>'. This enabled the DFA to extend the provision of its services into the community.</p> <p>EMFF 1.23.2: <i>Refurbishment and upgrading of slipways in the port of Marsaxlokk.</i> Completed in 2019, the project provided necessary refurbished and upgraded infrastructure to improve access to the port. The slipways provide better access to all fishers where vessels can be moved to and from the sea without any difficulties, thus better working conditions. RI 1.8 was set at 783 FTE at GA stage. The Beneficiary reported 689 FTE since it is early to recognize the benefits that indirectly the project would have on the FTE in the fisheries sector and the effects of the pandemic are yet to be determined.</p> <p>By end 2020, a total amount of €9,137,129.88 in public eligible funds were paid under this UP, out of the total allocation of €11,577,239 stipulated in the OP, marking a 27.46% increase from the previous year (2019).</p>

Union priority	Key information on the implementation of the priority with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	<p><u><i>Calls launched in 2020 and Evaluation of Project Applications</i></u></p> <p>In year 2020 two open calls for project proposals were issued under Article 47 – <i>Innovation</i> of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014. Under the first open call, one application was submitted by <i>AquaBioTech Ltd</i>. The proposal was found non-admissible by the PSC, since the applicant failed to submit the required documentation by the stipulated deadline. As a result, another open call was issued under the same measure in June 2020, with a budget of €800,000. Two project proposals were received, one by <i>AquaBioTech Ltd</i> and another by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Whilst both project proposals were found eligible by the PSC, and both complied with the objectives of the fund and the admissibility and selection criteria established for the call, only one application could be funded due to limited funds available under the Measure. In this regard, the Managing Authority issued a grant award letter to <i>AquaBioTech Ltd</i>. since it ranked first out of the two.</p> <p><u><i>Ongoing operations:</i></u></p> <p>EMFF 2.1.1: <i>Development of new, innovative aquaculture technologies and facilitate knowledge transfer in AquaBioTech Group</i>, Beneficiary: <i>AquaBioTech Group</i>. The main goal of the project is to create a physical space from where the beneficiary organisation would be able to implement research and innovation activities through a structured cooperation platform involving students from Malta's higher education system, as the next generation of aquaculture experts. This Centre will host a state-of-the-art training facility and conference room, various laboratories as well as offices to carry out fish health diagnostics and aquaculture services presently absent on the island. The proposed infrastructure will enable the beneficiary to develop new vaccine and feed testing methods which will be used in the recently developed Recirculation Aquaculture Systems (RAS) facility of the Company. New vaccines and feeds will reduce the impact on the environment, reducing dependence on fish meal and oil, whilst fostering a more sustainable use of resources in aquaculture.</p> <p>EMFF 2.2.1: <i>Productive Aquaculture Investments at Pisciculture Marine de Malte Limited</i>, Beneficiary: <i>Pisciculture Marine de Malte Ltd</i>. An extension to the Grant Agreement's validity until 30 June 2021 was agreed upon in order to cater for the last two line items within the project, namely the tailor-made manufacturing and installation of cabins on existing aquaculture work boats and the procurement of a new work boat. The latter was inserted in the project as a new component upon a justified request which emphasised the dynamic clientele-based necessities of the concerned</p>

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	<p>aquaculture firm especially in terms of productivity and safety measures. The introduction of a new component in the operation led to a fourfold increase in contracting. MA approval was provided upon the comfort that Article 24 of the Grant Agreement concerning change in scope, was not breached. The new work boat was built in a Greek shipyard and arrived in Malta during quarter 4 of 2020. Although five reimbursement claims were processed, covering a substantial portion of the overall project grant, not all the transactions listed in the new work boat contract were settled by end of year. Documentary checks by the MA confirmed the lawfulness of all claims.</p> <p>EMFF 2.3.1: <i>Productive Investments in non-food aquaculture using RAS in AquaBioTech Group</i>, Beneficiary: <i>AquaBioTech Group</i>. The difficult Covid-19 situation in Malta, featuring a partial lock-down and several precautionary measures such as remote working encouraged by Government, affected the progress of management verifications on this project. Physical On-The-Spot checks could not be easily executed given the biologically sensitive nature of the research centre. Diligent preparation for claiming the reimbursement of staff costs not falling under the Simplified Cost Option mechanisms, was undertaken by the Beneficiary. From its part, the MA agreed to extend the Grant Agreement validity until 30 June 2021 owing to the encountered <i>force majeure</i>.</p> <p>EMFF 2.3.2: <i>Increasing productivity, efficiency and sustainability of Blue-fin tuna fish farming operations</i>, Beneficiary: Malta Fish Farming Ltd. In line with previous years' reporting, the Managing Authority suspended payments in accordance with Article 132 [2] [b] of the Common Provisions Regulations referring to projects' suspension in case of an ongoing investigation. In fact, the MA, through official correspondence sent from the office of the State Advocate, terminated the project accordingly.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the complete removal of the MFF Ltd operation, the target output indicator for the entire UP2 is still being achieved.</p> <p>By end 2020, a total amount of €1,590,202.59 in public eligible funds were paid under this UP, out of the total allocation of €3,092,781 stipulated in the EMFF OP, marking a 10.37% increase from the previous year (2019).</p>
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	<p><u><i>Calls launched & Evaluation of Project Proposals in 2020</i></u></p> <p>A restricted call for project proposals was issued under UP3, on the basis of Article 76 – <i>Control and Enforcement</i>. The DFA, being the</p>

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	<p>competent body under UP3, was invited to submit a project proposal with a maximum total public eligible amount of €2,000,000. The MA issued the call in March 2020. The DFA submitted an application by the closing date of the call, being 8th May, due to an extension provided because of COVID-19. However, the project proposal was immediately withdrawn by the applicant. Since the application form was withdrawn, its evaluation by the PSC did not proceed.</p> <p>The project proposal which was submitted by the DFA in 2018 entitled <i>'The supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of a CCTV Network System around Malta and Gozo including a control centre for the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture'</i>, submitted under Article 76, was also withdrawn by the applicant. This was because the legislative framework required to install such system around the island that could not to be finalised by the end of 2020 due to issues revolving on data protection. Consequently, the competent body on control is undergoing internal consultations to see what alternative actions are feasible. The applicant informed the PSC and the MA that there is still a need for such project and therefore the DFA will continue with the finalisation of the legislative framework, hoping that such project proposal can be implemented during the next programming period. In this regard, the PSC accepted the withdrawal of the application and halted its evaluation process.</p> <p><u>Ongoing Operations:</u></p> <p>During 2020, the implementation of EMFF 6.2.2: Data Collection Multi-Annual Programme 2017-2019, which falls under Article 77 – <i>Data Collection</i>, was at advanced stages of implementation. An extension to the operation until July 2021 was requested by the Beneficiary due to the re-issuance of a new tender (since no bids were received at the first time) and due to extension requests submitted by suppliers as a result of COVID-19. Such extension request was approved by the MA. Throughout 2020, management verifications were conducted and financial corrections, as well as recommendations, were made accordingly.</p> <p>EMFF 6.2.3: Data Collection Multi-Annual Programme 2020-2021. By the end of Quarter 1 of 2020, the PSC completed the evaluation of the data collection operation for years 2020-2021, which entails a continuation of the previous data collection multiannual programme. The MA issued a grant award letter and implementation initiated by the Beneficiary. The GA was signed in September 2020 and implementation was initiated, with 25 claims inputted in the EMFF Database system.</p>

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	<p>The nine operations which fall under Article 76 also progressed in 2020. Whilst operation EMFF 6.1.1 (e) is completed, with 2 RHIBs delivered, the end date of the GA which caters for both EMFF 6.1.1 (e) and EMFF 6.1.1 (c) was extended until March 2021 due to public procurement issues related to the purchase of five hand-pallet trucks (which falls under operation EMFF 6.1.1 (c). The tender for the procurement of this equipment was launched three times, and in all instances the tender had to be cancelled due to non-compliance. Reviewing the technical specifications and re-launching a public call for tenders was time consuming. At the time of reporting, however, the tender has been successfully awarded. Once this activity is implemented and a closure report is submitted, result indicators will be verified by the MA.</p> <p>The other seven operations were also under implementation in 2020. Whilst several components and line items were completed by the second half of the year, other activities are still under implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMFF 6.1.2 a): <i>The purchase, installation and development of technology.</i> Actions undertaken in 2020 included the implementation of CCTVs and ALWs, and the replacement of manual logbooks with electronic logbooks. The CCTVs under this operation were installed within the areas where the AWLS systems procured through funds from the previous programme were installed, whereas the withdrawn operation referred to above concerned the supply delivery and installation of CCTVs which were to target different areas/localities. • EMFF 6.1.2 b): <i>The development, purchase and installation of the components to ensure data transmission.</i> This operation is under implementation. The DFA issued a tender for the procurement of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and The Provision of Satellite Transmissions. • EMFF 6.1.2 f): <i>The purchase of other control means.</i> The aerial drones were purchased and are being used by the DFA. This operation is still under implementation since the engine certification tender is to be issued in 2021. • EMFF 6.1.2 h): <i>Training and exchange programmes.</i> This operation was completed in year 2020. Travel invoices were inputted in the EMFF Database. • EMFF 6.1.2 i): <i>2 Cost Benefit Analysis and 3 Audits to assess the</i>

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	<p><i>performance and expenditure incurred by the DFA to carry out monitoring, control and surveillance.</i> This operation is under implementation, with analysis and audits currently being undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMFF 6.1.2 j): <i>Seminars and media tools.</i> The media campaign was awarded in August 2020. TV and radio adverts pertaining to such campaign started to be broadcasted in November 2020. This operation was also affected by COVID-19. Only two seminars were held whilst five other seminars were re-scheduled. • EMFF 6.1.2 k): <i>Operational Costs.</i> This was completed in 2020. <p>As a consequence of the shortcomings detected by EC officials in the control system of Malta over Bluefin Tuna (BFT) farms and related activities carried out in the territory and waters under the jurisdiction of Malta or by vessels flying the flag of Malta, the EC opened an infringement procedure against Malta. This led to the application of Article 100 of the EMFF Regulation, effectively blocking payment requests for control and enforcement under UP3 Specific Objective 2. In order to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, as well as national funds, no payments related to Control operations were processed by the Beneficiary in the EMFF database and no funds were certified to the EC by the MA in 2020. This stance will remain until the infringement is lifted, or until the Commission effectively communicates to the MA a change in the prevailing situation. If and when the infringement is lifted, a claim for reimbursement of the costs incurred during programme implementation will then be considered.</p> <p><u><i>Completed Operations</i></u></p> <p>EMFF 6.2.1: <i>Data Collection Framework Multiannual Programme 2014-2016</i> was completed in 2018. Management verifications were conducted in 2020, envisaged to be completed by Q2 of 2021.</p> <p>The total amount of public eligible funds paid by end 2019 stood at €5,060,852.80 under Union Priority 3, out of the total allocation of €10,240,998 stipulated in the OP, marking a 14.05% increase from the previous year (2019).</p>
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	As reported in the previous Annual Implementation Report, operation EMFF 4.3.1: ' <i>Nesploraw Flimkien it-Tezori tal-Bahar!</i> ' was fully implemented by end December 2018. Financial, output

Union priority	Key information on the implementation of the priority with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
	and result indicators (both common and programme-specific result indicators) set for this Union Priority were met.
6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	<p>EMFF 8.3.1: <i>Marine environmental monitoring: towards effective management of Malta's marine waters.</i></p> <p>As in previous years, contact was maintained between the Managing Authority and the Beneficiary, this being the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA). Regular monitoring was held whereby the state-of-play of implementation and issues necessitating follow-up were discussed. Progress reports, reporting for January – June and July – December 2020 were compiled in line with the Grant Agreement. Due to unprecedented delays related to drafting of tenders and procurement, ERA requested an extension to the Grant Agreement in order to strike a balance between the duration of the tender (in order to ensure good quality deliverables) and the timelines of the project. Such tenders relate to the monitoring of marine mammals and marine reptiles in Maltese waters and to the establishment of a strategy for the long-term monitoring of seabirds in Malta. Such monitoring is in line with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC). The extension was accepted by the Managing Authority until November 2021.</p> <p>The total amount of public eligible funds paid, as well as certified, by end 2020 stood at €1,600,000 under this Union Priority, out of the total allocation of €1,814,042 stipulated in the EMFF Operational Programme, marking a 56.77% increase from the previous year (2019). At the time of reporting, no further top ups are envisaged.</p>
7 - Technical assistance	<p>During 2020, Technical Assistance (TA) funds were used mainly to support the implementation of the EMFF OP. In 2020, a total of €329,445.69 worth of payment claims (public eligible) were processed by the Managing Authority relating to various operations under this Union Priority, namely in relation to the following:</p> <p>EMFF 7.1.1: Implementation of the Operational Programme</p> <p>EMFF 7.1.2: IT Systems</p> <p>EMFF 7.1.3: Improving administrative capacity</p> <p>EMFF 7.1.5: Evaluation</p>

Union priority	Key information on the implementation of the priority with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
	<p>EMFF 7.1.9: Other</p> <p>Technical Assistance expenditure was mainly related to salaries, promotional activities and material (for future distribution to fishers and stakeholders), logistical expenses of meetings organised by the MA throughout the year and other related payment claims. Apart from the above-mentioned activities, Technical Assistance was utilised to cover advertising costs incurred for the publishing of various adverts in local newspapers and in the local Government Gazette in order to promote open calls launched during 2020.</p> <p>TA expenditure was utilised to fund the logistical expenses, such as the hiring of venue, the hire of equipment and catering services, of both the sixth Monitoring Committee meeting held on 20 November 2020 and of the Annual Review Meeting held on 12 November 2020.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the limitations imposed by the pandemic, the EMFF MA adapted its methods of outreach to ensure that the regulatory obligations are met, nevertheless. In accordance with its Communication Strategy for the 2014-2020 programming period, the Managing Authority embarks on an annual event to reach the general public and disseminate the opportunities provided by and achievements of the Fund. For year 2020, TA funds were utilised to advertise the EMFF on the exterior of fourteen route vehicles (twelve in Malta and two in Gozo) for a span of six weeks. Bus advertising featuring visibility tackling co-financed projects was chosen in view of the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 situation in terms of interpersonal contact whilst ensuring the key EMFF visuals could be seen around Malta and Gozo.</p> <p>By the end of 2020, a total of €1,100,450.91 in public eligible funds were disbursed under this Union Priority out of the total TA allocation of €1,733,940, marking a 42.73% increase from the previous year (2019).</p>

3.2. Result, output and financial indicators for EMFF (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Union priority	1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries
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Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 1

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020
1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches	1.4.a - Change in unwanted catches (tonnes)	tonnes	-0.69000	-0.69000	0.00000
1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches	1.4.b - Change in unwanted catches (%)	%	-10.00000	-10.00000	0.00000
4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.7 - Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	2.00000	0.00000	0.00000
4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.8 - Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	260.00000	1,315.00000	1,315.00000
5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer	1.3 - Change in net profits	thousand Euros	2.00000	18.70000	18.70000
6 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning	1.8 - Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	260.00000	0.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	Result indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016
1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches	1.4.a - Change in unwanted catches (tonnes)	-0.69000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches	1.4.b - Change in unwanted catches (%)	-10.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.7 - Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.8 - Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	Result indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016
5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer	1.3 - Change in net profits	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
6 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning	1.8 - Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	Result indicator	2015	2014
1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches	1.4.a - Change in unwanted catches (tonnes)	0.00000	0.00000
1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches	1.4.b - Change in unwanted catches (%)	0.00000	0.00000
4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.7 - Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	0.00000	0.00000
4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.8 - Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	0.00000	0.00000
5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer	1.3 - Change in net profits	0.00000	0.00000
6 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning	1.8 - Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	0.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches
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Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF -1.1

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020	2019
03 - Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	06	1.4 - N° of projects on conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	✓	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
03 - Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	06	1.4 - N° of projects on conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Specific objective	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions
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Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF -1.4

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020	2019
02 - Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ art. 44.4 Inland fishing)	03	1.9 - N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety		3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 - Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities	03	1.10 - N° of projects on temporary cessation		1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
09 - Article 43.1 + 3 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters - investments improving fishing port and auctions halls infrastructure or landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters to improve safety of fishermen (+ art. 44.1.f Inland fishing)	03	1.3 - N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	✓	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
02 - Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ art. 44.4 Inland fishing)	03	1.9 - N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 - Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities	03	1.10 - N° of projects on temporary cessation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
09 - Article 43.1 + 3 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters - investments improving fishing port and auctions halls infrastructure or landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters to improve safety	03	1.3 - N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
of fishermen (+ art. 44.1.f Inland fishing)							

Specific objective	5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer
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Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF -1.5

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020	2019
03 - Article 41.1.a, b, c Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – on board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	04	1.7 - N° of projects on energy efficiency, mitigation of climate change	✓	3.00	4.00	0.00	1.00
04 - Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	04	1.8 - N° of projects on replacement or modernisation of engines		1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
03 - Article 41.1.a, b, c Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – on board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	04	1.7 - N° of projects on energy efficiency, mitigation of climate change	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
04 - Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	04	1.8 - N° of projects on replacement or modernisation of engines	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Specific objective	6 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning
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Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF -1.6

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020	2019
01 - Article 29.1 + 29.2 Promoting human capital and social dialogue - training, networking, social dialogue; support to spouses and life partners (+ art. 44.1.a Inland fishing)	08	1.9 - N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety	✓	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
01 - Article 29.1 + 29.2 Promoting human capital and social dialogue - training, networking, social dialogue; support to spouses and life partners (+ art. 44.1.a Inland fishing)	08	1.9 - N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Union priority	2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture
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Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 2

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020
1 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer	2.9 - Employment maintained	FTE	153.00000	0.00000	0.00000
2 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs	2.9 - Employment maintained	FTE	153.00000	0.00000	0.00000
3 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture	2.9 - Employment maintained	FTE	153.00000	0.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	Result indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016
1 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer	2.9 - Employment maintained	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
2 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs	2.9 - Employment maintained	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
3 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture	2.9 - Employment maintained	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	Result indicator	2015	2014
1 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer	2.9 - Employment maintained		
2 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs	2.9 - Employment maintained	0.00000	0.00000
3 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture	2.9 - Employment maintained	0.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	1 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer
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Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF -2.1

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020	2019
01 - Article 47 Innovation	03	2.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
01 - Article 47 Innovation	03	2.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Specific objective	2 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs
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Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF -2.2

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020	2019
01 - Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture	03	2.2 - N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	✓	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
01 - Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture	03	2.2 - N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Specific objective	3 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture
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Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF -2.3

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020	2019
02 - Article 48.1.e, i, j Productive investments in aquaculture - resource efficiency, reducing usage of water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use	06	2.2 - N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	✓	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
02 - Article 48.1.e, i, j Productive investments in aquaculture - resource efficiency, reducing usage of water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use	06	2.2 - N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
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Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 3

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020
1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data	3.B.1 - Increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls	%	100.00000	100.00000	0.00000
2 - Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden	3.A.1 - Number of serious infringements detected	number	150.00000	753.00000	753.00000
2 - Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden	3.A.2 - Landings that have been the subject to physical control	%	100.00000	100.00000	100.00000

Specific objective	Result indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016
1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data	3.B.1 - Increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls	100.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
2 - Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden	3.A.1 - Number of serious infringements detected	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
2 - Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden	3.A.2 - Landings that have been the subject to physical control	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	Result indicator	2015	2014
1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data	3.B.1 - Increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls	0.00000	0.00000
2 - Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden	3.A.1 - Number of serious infringements detected	0.00000	0.00000
2 - Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden	3.A.2 - Landings that have been the subject to physical control	0.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data
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Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF -3.1

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020	2019
01 - Article 77 Data collection	06	3.2 - N° of projects on supporting the collection, management and use of data	✓	2.00	3.00	1.00	0.00

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
01 - Article 77 Data collection	06	3.2 - N° of projects on supporting the collection, management and use of data	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Specific objective	2 - Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden
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Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF -3.2

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020	2019
01 - Article 76 Control and enforcement	06	3.1 - N° of projects on implementing the Union's control, inspections and enforcement system	✓	11.00	9.00	0.00	0.00

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
01 - Article 76 Control and enforcement	06	3.1 - N° of projects on implementing the Union's control, inspections and enforcement system	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
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Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 5

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020
1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.c - Change in value of first sales in non-POs	thousand Euros	1,000.00000	1,216.94500	0.00000

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020
1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.d - Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	tonnes	200.00000	280.64000	0.00000
1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.e - Increase in the estimated per capita fish consumption	Kgs	0.50000	257.54000	0.00000

Specific objective	Result indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016
1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.c - Change in value of first sales in non-POs	1,216.94500	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.d - Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	280.64000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.e - Increase in the estimated per capita fish consumption	257.54000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	Result indicator	2015	2014
1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.c - Change in value of first sales in non-POs	0.00000	0.00000
1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.d - Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	0.00000	0.00000
1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.e - Increase in the estimated per capita fish consumption	0.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products
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Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF -5.1

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020	2019
02 - Article 67 Storage aid	03	5.2 - N° of projects on marketing measures and storage aid		1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
03 - Article 68 Marketing measures	03	5.2 - N° of projects on marketing measures and storage aid	✓	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
02 - Article 67 Storage aid	03	5.2 - N° of projects on marketing measures and storage aid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
03 - Article 68 Marketing measures	03	5.2 - N° of projects on marketing measures and storage aid	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Union priority	6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy
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Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 6

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020
1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	6.3 - Development of a database on the marine environment	number	1.00000	1.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	Result indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016
1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	6.3 - Development of a database on the marine environment	1.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	Result indicator	2015	2014
1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	6.3 - Development of a database on the marine environment	0.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy
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Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF -6.1

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020	2019
03 - Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment	06	6.2 - N° projects on the protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment	✓	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
03 - Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment	06	6.2 - N° projects on the protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Table 3: Financial indicators for EMFF

Union priority	Milestone (2018)	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2020	2019
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	2,000,000.00	11,577,239.00	8,528,798.95	2,833,068.04	2,046,339.49
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	500,000.00	3,092,781.00	50,708.07	0.00	0.00
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	3,000,000.00	10,240,997.00	3,098,612.13	16,710.22	0.00
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	150,000.00	469,771.00	248,501.29	0.00	45,494.65
6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	500,000.00	1,814,042.00	1,600,000.00	579,400.00	0.00
7 - Technical assistance			1,081,375.83	321,139.75	193,733.46

Union priority	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	3,649,391.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	50,708.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	2,902,471.91	179,430.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	203,006.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	700,600.00	320,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7 - Technical assistance	299,503.16	266,999.46	0.00	0.00	0.00

3.3. Financial data

Table 4: Financial data for the EMFF

Union priority	Selected specific objective	Thematic objective	Measure	Total public contribution (EUR)	EMFF contribution (EUR)	Contribution to climate change from EMFF contribution (EUR)	EMFF co-financing rate (%)	Total eligible expenditure of operations selected for support (EUR)	Total public contribution of operations selected for support (EUR)	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations (%)
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches	06	03 - Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	200,000.00	150,000.00	60,000.00	75.00%	190,491.54	190,491.54	95.25%
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	03	02 - Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ art. 44.4 Inland fishing)	225,000.00	168,750.00	0.00	75.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	03	05 - Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities	500,000.00	250,000.00	100,000.00	50.00%	500,000.00	500,000.00	100.00%
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	03	09 - Article 43.1 + 3 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters - investments improving fishing port and auctions halls infrastructure or landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters to improve safety of fishermen (+ art. 44.1.f Inland fishing)	10,005,572.00	7,504,179.00	3,001,671.60	75.00%	10,072,981.62	10,072,981.62	100.67%
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer	04	03 - Article 41.1.a, b, c Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – on board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	106,666.67	80,000.00	80,000.00	75.00%	73,431.29	44,480.72	41.70%
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer	04	04 - Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	40,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	50.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative,	6 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning	08	01 - Article 29.1 + 29.2 Promoting human capital and social dialogue - training, networking, social dialogue; support to spouses and life partners (+ art. 44.1.a	500,000.00	375,000.00	0.00	75.00%	500,000.00	500,000.00	100.00%

Union priority	Selected specific objective	Thematic objective	Measure	Total public contribution (EUR)	EMFF contribution (EUR)	Contribution to climate change from EMFF contribution (EUR)	EMFF co-financing rate (%)	Total eligible expenditure of operations selected for support (EUR)	Total public contribution of operations selected for support (EUR)	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations (%)
competitive and knowledge based fisheries			Inland fishing)							
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	1 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer	03	01 - Article 47 Innovation	571,196.00	428,397.00	0.00	75.00%	1,670,469.00	835,234.50	146.23%
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	2 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs	03	01 - Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture	200,000.00	150,000.00	60,000.00	75.00%	424,327.85	212,163.93	106.08%
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	3 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture	06	02 - Article 48.1.e, i, j Productive investments in aquaculture - resource efficiency, reducing usage of water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use	2,321,584.00	1,741,188.00	696,475.20	75.00%	944,674.89	388,734.55	16.74%
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data	06	01 - Article 77 Data collection	4,426,910.00	3,541,528.00	0.00	80.00%	4,960,551.58	4,960,551.58	112.05%
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	2 - Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden	06	01 - Article 76 Control and enforcement	5,814,087.14	5,150,123.00	0.00	88.58%	4,096,779.63	4,096,779.63	70.46%
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	03	02 - Article 67 Storage aid	219,771.00	219,771.00	0.00	100.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	03	03 - Article 68 Marketing measures	250,000.00	187,500.00	0.00	75.00%	248,501.29	248,501.29	99.40%
6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	06	03 - Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment	1,814,041.33	1,360,531.00	544,212.40	75.00%	1,825,000.00	1,825,000.00	100.60%
7 - Technical assistance	1 - Technical assistance		01 - Article 78 Technical assistance at the initiative of the Member States	1,733,940.00	1,300,455.00	0.00	75.00%	1,733,886.55	1,733,886.55	100.00%
Total				28,928,768.14	22,627,422.00	4,562,359.20	78.22%	27,241,095.24	25,608,805.91	88.52%

Union priority	Selected specific objective	Thematic objective	Measure	Contribution to climate change of operations selected for support (EUR)	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Total eligible public expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Proportion of total eligible public expenditure declared by beneficiaries of the total allocation (%)	Contribution to climate change of total eligible public expenditures declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations selected
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches	06	03 - Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	57,147.46	190,491.54	190,491.54	95.25	57,147.46	1
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	03	02 - Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ art. 44.4 Inland fishing)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	03	05 - Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities	100,000.00	100,621.00	100,621.00	20.12	20,124.20	1
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	03	09 - Article 43.1 + 3 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters - investments improving fishing port and auctions halls infrastructure or landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters to improve safety of fishermen (+ art. 44.1.f Inland fishing)	3,021,894.49	7,798,859.55	7,798,859.55	77.95	2,339,657.86	5
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer	04	03 - Article 41.1.a, b, c Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – on board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	33,360.54	71,448.03	43,814.31	41.08	32,860.73	4
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer	04	04 - Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	6 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning	08	01 - Article 29.1 + 29.2 Promoting human capital and social dialogue - training, networking, social dialogue; support to spouses and life partners (+ art. 44.1.a Inland fishing)	0.00	395,012.55	395,012.55	79.00	0.00	1
2 - Fostering environmentally	1 - Provision of support to strengthen technological	03	01 - Article 47 Innovation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1

Union priority	Selected specific objective	Thematic objective	Measure	Contribution to climate change of operations selected for support (EUR)	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Total eligible public expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Proportion of total eligible public expenditure declared by beneficiaries of the total allocation (%)	Contribution to climate change of total eligible public expenditures declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations selected
sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	development, innovation and knowledge transfer								
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	2 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs	03	01 - Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture	63,649.18	35,650.79	17,825.39	8.91	5,347.62	1
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	3 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture	06	02 - Article 48.1.e, i, j Productive investments in aquaculture - resource efficiency, reducing usage of water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use	116,620.36	65,765.36	32,882.68	1.42	9,864.80	1
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data	06	01 - Article 77 Data collection	0.00	2,106,692.81	2,106,692.81	47.59	0.00	3
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	2 - Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden	06	01 - Article 76 Control and enforcement	0.00	991,919.32	991,919.32	17.06	0.00	9
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	03	02 - Article 67 Storage aid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	03	03 - Article 68 Marketing measures	0.00	248,501.29	248,501.29	99.40	0.00	1
6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	06	03 - Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment	547,500.00	1,600,000.00	1,600,000.00	88.20	480,000.00	1
7 - Technical assistance	1 - Technical assistance		01 - Article 78 Technical assistance at the initiative of the Member States	0.00	1,081,375.83	1,081,375.83	62.37	0.00	6
Total				3,940,172.03	14,686,338.07	14,607,996.27	50.50	2,945,002.67	35

Table 5: Cost of operations implemented outside the programme area (Article 70 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Union priority	Eligible expenditure within the EMFF incurred in operations implemented outside the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)	Share of the EMFF support to the union priority at the time of adoption of the programme (%)
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	0.00	0.00%
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	0.00	0.00%
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	0.00	0.00%
4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion	0.00	
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	0.00	0.00%
6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	0.00	0.00%
7 - Technical assistance	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL OP	0.00	

4. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN

4.1. Actions taken to fulfil the ex-ante conditionalities (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: Actions taken to fulfil applicable EMFF-specific ex-ante conditionalities

Thematic ex-ante conditionalities which are not or partially fulfilled	Criteria fulfilled	Criteria not fulfilled	Action to be taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible for fulfilment	Action completed by the deadline	Criteria fulfilled	Expected date for full implementation of remaining actions	Commentary
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4.2. Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the corrective measures taken (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

During this reporting period, all stakeholders faced the difficult unprecedented challenge brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, as already explained in Section 3.1 above. This was a *force majeure* situation which affected the programme in two ways, namely: (i) the slowed-down implementation of some projects due to late delivery of supplies, particularly those which relied on foreign production; the postponement of physical/personal contact components such as seminars etc., together with (ii) prospective applicants' diminished ability to submit all the requested documentation on time with regards to new calls. The Managing Authority was duly made aware of cases involving difficulties in the provision of quotations from foreign suppliers operating on a reduced working schedule.

Although there was no template solution to the problem, mitigation measures were successfully embarked upon to achieve the programme's targets for year 2020 just the same. Considerable effort was made by the Managing Authority to coordinate work remotely yet effectively, between its own hierarchy and with third parties. Meetings were held digitally as far as technically possible, whilst certain management verifications at the Beneficiary's site (i) were held during periods of more lenient Covid-19 restrictions, enabling cautious inter-personal contact with Project Leaders etc. or (ii) were based on material transferred electronically especially via extra uploads to the EMFF 2014-2020 payments database. Furthermore, the annual Monitoring Committee meeting was held late in the year, as opposed to its usual timing, with the Managing Authority opting to wait for the stabilisation of restrictive measures in between virus waves. The digital platform used for the said meeting fulfilled all the needs for an active discussion. Another positive result along the same terms was registered in respect of the annual publicity activity obligation. As reported earlier investments from the Fund were this time not promoted on a single-day event or by means of traditional media sources such as radio and television; they were instead innovatively publicised on fourteen buses with different routes, using the services of the country's sole public transport operator and its advertising partner.

The efficacy of the above-mentioned mitigation measures is most importantly reflected in Malta's ability to keep a steady certified disbursement flow in fulfilment of the decommitment threshold for 2020. Since repeated difficulties were being encountered with restricted calls issued to national entities apropos Article 47 Innovation (aquaculture), mainly revolving around the proposals for independent validation of results, the Managing Authority decided to resort to an open call dated February 2020. Feedback was hindered by the Covid-19 limitations affecting local enterprises and therefore a second open call was launched in June 2020. Two eligible submissions were received emanating from a government department and a business enterprise. Both organisations could not immediately implement their pioneering innovation ideas on their own financial steam.

Concerning the second call for temporary cessation applications, invitations with Application Forms as an attachment were sent by postal mail to respective fishers on the full-time and part-time registers of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (the competent public entity), rather than proposing a personal pick-up of documentation by prospective beneficiaries from the Department's premises. Uptake was once again satisfactory, featuring amounts like those of the first call dated 2019.

On another note, severe weather conditions during the winter months of 2019-2020, forced contractors to pause concrete works of a large magnitude (like bedrock levelling and foundation-laying) for the sake of safety. Consequently, as per the formal paperwork between the Managing Authority and beneficiaries covering specific projects' implementation extension, efforts were undertaken in summer 2020 to recuperate some of the lost time. The contractors working on the construction of a breakwater at Qrejtjen point in the port of Marsaxlokk (project coded EMFF 1.23.3) as well as the upgrading of the Mgarr (Gozo) and Marsaxlokk (Malta) fishing ports (project coded EMFF 1.23.6), are experienced in marine

works apart from being very well-equipped. Diligent procurement carried out by Infrastructure Malta (beneficiary) as confirmed by the Managing Authority's verifications and by the Audit Authority's audits on operations, yielded a selection of contractors who could respond to unforeseen circumstances in an organised manner. The procurement of third-party project management services additionally provided individual focus on day-to-day activities, to the comfort of stakeholders (such as the Managing Authority) engaged in regular checks.

Vis-à-vis the targets and indicators to be reached by 2023 (N+3), few are the risks being anticipated by the Managing Authority. In fact, the latter intends to channel savings under Union Priority 1 to an operation within the same Union Priority which has already been audited by the Maltese Audit Authority and who produced a clean report in view of the procurement processes adopted. Such a modus operandi will hopefully enable an earlier programme closure, meaning an earlier tapping into the 2021-2027 programming period.

Risks of double-financing through different Union funds used to be tackled within the ambit of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee. In view of the Covid-19 restrictions, alternative arrangements were put in place to ensure the same usefulness. In fact, the Funds and Programmes Division is in constant discussion with the ESF and the ERDF MA's on projects which are complementary. Furthermore, the FPD is also a member of the Monitoring Committee of both funds.

5. INFORMATION ON SERIOUS INFRINGEMENTS AND REMEDY ACTIONS (ARTICLE 114(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 508/2014

Information and actions taken on cases of serious infringements as referred to in Article 10(1) and non-respect of durability conditions and remedy actions as set out in Article 10(2).

No serious infringements were encountered neither by the Managing Authority during its verifications nor by the Audit Authority during its audits on operations in quarter 4 of 2020. Minor administrative inquiries and observations for improvement were mostly tackled in earnest by Project Leaders to the advantage of documentary trails. Pending follow-up checks were conducted as necessary.

The successful applicant under Article 47 Innovation (second call June 2020) had no infringements on the records of the competent governmental entity, as indicated in project selection paperwork.

Risk-averse decisions have been (and will continue to be) taken by the Managing Authority in connection with (i) terminated project EMFF 2.3.2 – Tarantello case still under a magisterial inquiry, and (ii) Control operations scrutinised by the European Commission. The aim remains to place funds were implementation is fiscally clean, more so given the consideration that Union funds incorporate contributions from 27 Member-States and not just the Maltese taxpayer. In this regard the EMFF is also regularly informed of any progress which Malta achieves in having this suspension lifted, and has also pledged its support and assistance to the competent authorities to resolve this issue at the earliest. The aim of the EMFF is to ensure 100% absorption until the end of 2023.

With regards to the second call for applications issued in quarter 4 of 2020 by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture on behalf of the Managing Authority under Article 33 Temporary Cessation, the protocol used in 2019 for the first call was re-applied. This system of dual checks (already described in the Annual Implementation Report 2019), detected no serious infringements under Article 10(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014. The infringements mentioned under UP1 (temporary cessation scheme) refers to shortfalls identified at eligibility stage of the applicant and hence does not fall under the spirit of Article 10 (1) of Regulation N. 508/2014. As one might presume, the experience garnered through the first call definitely contributed to enhanced planning and execution of checks this time round.

6. INFORMATION ON ACTIONS TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH ARTICLE 41(8) (ARTICLE 114(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 508/2014)

A summary of actions taken is to be provided on the progress to achieve the provision set out in Article 41(8) with regard to the priority up to 60 % of the public assistance to be ensured to small-scale coastal fishing sector, including data on actual share of small-scale coastal fishing within the operations financed under the measure of Article 41(2)

Article 41(8) states that applications made by operators from the small-scale coastal fishing sector shall be treated as a priority up to 60% of the total support allocated for the replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines referred to in paragraph 2, over the entire 2014-2020 programming period. This was addressed in past calls under Union Priority 1, Specific Objective 5, Article 41.2. A clause was included in the Guidance Notes to applicants where it was indicated that 'In line with Article 41.2 of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014, support shall be granted to vessels up to 12 meters in overall length, provided that the new or modernised engine does not have more power in KW than the current engine.' However, no engine-related calls were issued in 2020. None are currently envisaged, but should further calls be issued in 2021, the same approach will be followed.

7. INFORMATION ON THE ACTIONS TAKEN TO ENSURE THE PUBLICATION OF BENEFICIARIES (ARTICLE 114(2)) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 508/2014)

A summary of actions taken is to be provided in line with Annex V of EMFF Regulation, with special regard to national legislation including any applicable threshold regarding the publication of data of natural persons

For all calls launched during 2020, similarly to other calls issued in the preceding years, a list of selected operations (1) pursuant to Article 119(2) of the Fund-specific Regulation was published online on the Managing Authority's dedicated website (1)

The promotion of open calls for applications was embarked upon via various means including publication of information in newspapers without distinction (be it pre-announcements and adverts proper immediately following the issuance of the Managing Authority's website (2). Press Conferences and Press Releases through the Department of Information, targeting various stakeholders (including inaugurations), were also held in Malta and the sister island of Gozo so as to inform the general public with the true benefits of Union support to the local aquaculture and fisheries sectors. An example of a Press Release published on the Managing Authority's website (Priority 1, can be accessed through the following weblink (3).

Furthermore, <http://www.eufundsmalta.gov.mt/> as a complementary website to <http://eufunds.gov.mt>, also made available. It can be accessed by way of a facility called Maltapps, a mobile application enabling unimpeded public access to information, including EMFF 2014-2020 funding opportunities, on mobile devices anywhere 24 hours a day.

(1)

https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Documents/EMFF%20and%20Publicity/Copy%20of%20List%20of%20Operations%2019_01_2021.pdf

(2)

<https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Pages/News-and-Information.aspx>

(3)

<https://www.gov.mt/en/Government/DOI/Press%20Releases/Pages/2020/June/13/pr201117.aspx>

8. ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO THE EVALUATION PLAN AND SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS (ARTICLE 114(2)) OF REGULATION (EU) No 508/2014, ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

A summary should be provided on activities undertaken in relation to the implementation of the evaluation plan, including follow-up given to the findings of evaluations.

A synthesis of the findings should be provided of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, with reference of name and reference period of the evaluation reports used.

Additionally, the access to evaluations that were made publicly available pursuant to Article 54(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 should be communicated here.

In line with the Evaluation Plan adopted in March 2016, the Interim Evaluation for Malta's Operational Programme was conducted by an external consulting firm as scheduled; the final report was concluded by May 2019. The latter can be accessed on the web page <https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Documents/EMFI%20Evaluation%20Report.pdf> and the Fund has assumed a coordination role.

<https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Documents/EMFI%20Evaluation%20Report.pdf>

A detailed summary of the outcomes and recommendations was presented in the Annual Implementation Report 2019.

The report's findings were given due importance by the Managing Authority in its endeavour to make best practice. Lessons learnt will also be part of an administrative legacy to be applied in the upcoming programming period.

Throughout quarters 1 and 2 of 2020, the Managing Authority compiled its fifth Annual Implementation Report using a dedicated template. The Annual Review Meeting with European Commission representatives as well as the sixth meeting on 11 November 2020, whereby an update on the implementation of the Operational Programme was provided to participants. Programme execution were the dominant subject matter.

Throughout the reporting year, Project Progress Reports covering ongoing operations were submitted by the beneficiaries to the Managing Authority. Assistance with the filling-in of the said template was provided when needed. Bilateral and group meetings with the aim of clearly determining with stakeholders the status of operations, the basis for informed decision-making.

On 07 October 2020, the FAME Support Unit Annual Stakeholders Meeting was organised online. The FAME Support Unit meets annually so that communication among stakeholders (Managing Authorities, the European Commission, evaluation experts) is maintained. The goal of this meeting was to exchange views on implementation issues arising from Covid-19 restrictions and emergency funding. The remote setting still enabled exchange and communication among the Fund's stakeholders.

9. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the AIRs should be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the AIR.

10. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46(1) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

11. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

11.1. Assessment of data and progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme

For each Union priority an assessment should be carried out on the information and data provided in Part A and progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme (incorporating the findings and recommendations of evaluations)

Union priority	Assessment of data and progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	
6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	
7 - Technical assistance	

11.2. Assessment whether progress made toward milestones and targets is sufficient to ensure their eventual fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned

An assessment by Union priority of whether progress made toward milestones and targets is sufficient to ensure their eventual fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate

Union priority	Assessment whether progress made toward milestones and targets is sufficient to ensure their eventual fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	
6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	
7 - Technical assistance	

12. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES OF IMPLEMENTATION (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

12.1. An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on partnership and multi-level governance, with particular emphasis on the role of partners in the implementation of the programme.

12.2. An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including accessibility for disabled persons as well as the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the Operational Programme.

12.3. An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development.

13. REPORTING ON SUPPORT USED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OBJECTIVES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

Figures are calculated automatically and will be included into Table 4 on financial data. A clarification on the given values may be provided, particularly if the actual data is lower than the planned.

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14. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH (ARTICLE 50(5) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

Information and assessment should be provided on the Operational Programme's contribution to achieving the objectives of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

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**15. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK
(ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and the report by the deadline referred to in Article 138(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (for targets)

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16. WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE CONTRIBUTION TO MACRO-REGIONAL AND SEA BASIN STRATEGIES.

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, article 27(3) on the "content of programmes", article 96(3)(e) on the "content, adoption and amendment of operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal", article 111(3) and 4(d) on "implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal", and Annex 1, section 7.3 on "contribution of mainstream programmes to macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS

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- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)
- WestMED Sea Basin Strategy (WestMED)

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Citizen's Summary: Section 9 of the Annual Implementation Report	Citizens' summary	29-May-2021	Citizen's Summary 2020	Ares(2021)3552683	Citizen's Summary 2020	29-May-2021	ncamanth

LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Implementation report version has been validated