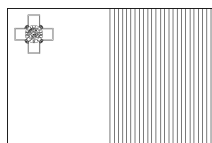


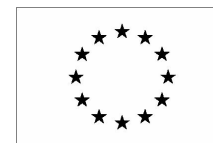
**FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES DIVISION
EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND (EMFF) 2014-2020
ADMISSIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

12 April 2018



Maritime and Fisheries Operational Programme 2014-2020
Part-financed by the European Union
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Investing in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture



1.1 GENERAL ADMISSIBILITY CRITERIA

Admissibility criteria are the essential criteria that all projects must meet in order to be admissible for a further qualitative assessment. Projects which do not comply with the gateway admissibility criteria will NOT proceed to full appraisal and scoring.

Note: no numerical markings involved in this section. Fulfilment of such criteria takes the form of Yes or No. Eligible project should fulfil all criteria listed below.

Application Form

Applicant must present an Application Form filled-in with relevant details¹ and auxiliary documentation. Timely submission prior to defined deadlines.

Capacity and remit of beneficiary organisation

Applicant must retain adequate administrative capacity, competence and technical resources.

Project implemented within the eligible territory

Reference goes to the Republic of Malta. Publicity and training initiatives may be disseminated outside the territory if benefits are clear.

Project leader from beneficiary organisation

Such officer carries monetary and legal responsibility for implementing a project on behalf of the beneficiary. The person's direct association with the beneficiary is crucial especially with a view to ensure that the grant is exclusively used for the agreed purpose.

Proposal in line with a specific objective and indicator

Contributing to the achievement of Operational Programme (OP) targets is essential, more so due to the 2018 performance review.

Verification of co-financing (where applicable)

In cases where Government is not co-financing the project from national funds, the entity committing itself to provide co-financing (public or other organisations) must produce proof that resources for the whole duration of project are available.

¹ Relevant details are those required by the selection committee to evaluate the application and award points.

Beneficiary in compliance with Common Fisheries Policy rules

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 2015/288 defines time periods and dates for the inadmissibility of applications in case of infringements - points system. This criterion is applicable where the applicant concerned is an 'operator' as defined in Article 4(30) of Regulation (EU) No. 1380/2013, thus a natural or legal person who operates or holds any undertaking carrying out any of the activities related to any stage of production, processing, marketing, distribution and retail chains of fisheries and aquaculture products.

1.2 MEASURE-SPECIFIC ADMISSIBILITY CRITERIA

Admissibility criteria are the essential criteria that all projects must meet in order to be admissible for a further qualitative assessment. Projects which do not comply with the gateway admissibility criteria will NOT proceed to full appraisal and scoring.

Note: no numerical markings involved in this section. Fulfilment of such criteria takes the form of Yes or No. Eligible project should fulfil all criteria listed below.

Union Priority 1

Measure: Promotion of human capital

Article 29 of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014:

- Training intended for registered professional fishers MFA/MFB both male and female (gender equality).

Measure: Diversification and new forms of income

Article 30 of 508/2014:

- Fishers submitting a business plan for the development of their new activities and possessing adequate professional skills;
- Complementary activities must relate to fishers' core business.

Measure: Temporary cessation of fishing activities (within a sector declared as unbalanced)

Article 33 of 508/2014:

- Applicant did not exceed the six-month maximum duration for each vessel from 2014 to 2020;
- Owners of fishing vessels registered as active and have been out at sea for 120 days during the last two years preceding application;
- Fishers who worked aboard for at least 120 days along the last two years preceding application on a Union fishing craft concerned by the temporary cessation;
- Owners of fishing craft concerned by the temporary cessation should demonstrate that during each of the preceding two years the vessel registered the minimum landing required by the local Subsidiary Legislation 425.07.

Measure: Collaboration between scientific/technical bodies and fishers

Article 39 of 508/2014:

- Applicant must demonstrate a formal cooperation with a scientific or technical body recognised by the Member-State.

Measure: Mitigation of climate change and the improvement of energy efficiency of fishing vessels

Article 41(1) of 508/2014:

- Project proposals on investments in equipment or on board must clearly identify how the operations to be implemented will contribute to the reduction in the emission of pollutants or greenhouse gases and to the increase in energy efficiency of fishing vessels;
- Project proposals on investments in fishing gear must clearly demonstrate that they will not compromise the selectivity of that fishing gear;
- Project proposals on energy efficiency audits must identify how they will contribute to the mitigation of climate change by reducing the emission of greenhouse gases and/or to the improvement of the energy efficiency of fishing vessels;
- Project proposals on studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs to the energy efficiency of fishing vessels should clearly identify expected outcomes in relation to the increase in energy efficiency of the said fishing vessels;
- Applicants need to be owners of fishing vessels and can only once during the programming period benefit of support for the same type of investment and for the same fishing vessel;
- Proposals submitted must be in line with the rules stipulated in Articles 13, 14, 15 and 16 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 2015/531 of 24 November 2014 (as applicable).

Measure: Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines

Article 41(2) of 508/2014:

- Vessels of up to 12m in overall length provided that the power in kW of the new or modernised engine does not exceed that of the current one;
- Vessels between 12 and 18m in overall length provided that the kW power of the new or modernised engine is 20% lower than that of the current one;
- Vessels between 18 and 24m in overall length provided that the kW power of the new or modernised engine is 30% lower than that of the current one;
- Vessels belonging to a fleet segment for which the report on fishing capacity has shown a balance with related fishing opportunities;
- Officially-certified engines as per Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1224/2009; support granted only once to owners of fishing vessels.

Measure: Fishing ports, landing sites and shelters

Article 43 of 508/2014:

- Shall not cover the construction of new ports and landing sites, with investments to be carried exclusively in designated ports;
- Project proposals over €250,000 must include a business plan or a project definition report;
- Project proposals must identify how they will contribute in a tangible manner to the enhancement of everyday services to fishers and/or aquaculture operators using the related port/s.

Union Priority 2

Measure: Innovation

Article 47 of 508/2014:

- In case of private bodies, entrepreneurs entering the sector must submit a business plan and in case of investments over €50,000, a feasibility study and environmental assessment – Article 46 (2) of 508/2014;
- Support shall be granted only where it has been demonstrated in an independent marketing report that sustainable market prospects do exist for the product concerned – Article 46(2) of 508/2014;
- Adherence to relevant environmental/planning legislation; proposals involving marine protected areas will not be supported;
- In line with Article 47(2) of 508/2014, operations shall be carried out by or in collaboration with public or private scientific or technical bodies, recognised by the Member-State, which shall validate the results of such operations;
- Show that the intended operation is consistent with the Multi-Annual National Strategic Plan for the development of aquaculture.

Measure: Projects on productive investments in aquaculture

Article 48 of 508/2014:

- Applicants linked to enterprises entering the sector must submit a business plan and in case of investments over €50,000, a feasibility study and environmental assessment- Article 46(2) of 508/2014;
- Support shall be granted only where it has been demonstrated in an independent marketing report that sustainable market prospects do exist for the product concerned – Article 46(2) of 508/2014;
- Adherence to relevant environmental/planning legislation; proposals involving marine protected areas will not be supported;
- Show that the intended operation is consistent with the multi-annual national strategic plan for the development of aquaculture.

Union Priority 5

Measure: Marketing measures

Article 68 of 508/2014:

- Diversification: promotional campaigns aiming at improving the demand for currently unexploited fish;
- Submit a marketing strategy (market research and baseline);
- Communications and promotional campaigns shall not be aimed at commercial brands.

Union Priority 6

Measure: Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment

Article 80 of 508/2014:

- Demonstrate that the proposal is linked to the Good Environmental Status (GES) related to protection of the marine environment;
- Applicant must submit a comprehensive plan detailing studies to be carried out in congruence with the relative GES.

Note: this Union Priority tackles the Integrated Maritime Policy.

2.1 MARKING PROCEDURE

Selection criteria are designed to assess the fit and contribution of project proposals with the OP strategy, its target group and its objectives. These may be further refined in calls for project proposals to include criteria which are specific to one type of activity area or target group. These criteria are divided in two groups: those that rely on a quantitative assessment and those that require a qualitative assessment. The evaluation will combine both data (quantitative and qualitative) in order to have a comprehensive understanding of the proposal.

The project has to obtain at least 50% of the marks available in total (both general and measure-specific criteria) in order to be considered for funding. Projects will be ranked according to marks and funds allocated to those projects which obtain the highest marks. Other projects which obtain the pass mark but which are not funded will be placed on a reserve list according to marks obtained and funding offered if and when funds become available.

The voting members shall decide how the project proposal addresses each of the criteria and assign points according to the following guide:

- Excellent 81 to 100% of points;
- Very good 76 to 80% of points;
- Satisfactory 50 to 75% of points;
- Very poor 26 to 49% of points;
- Unacceptable 01 to 25% of points.

2.2 GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA (total of 70 marks)

Contribution towards indicators beyond minimum

Assessed in terms of contribution towards the OP indicators beyond the minimum required.

Max. marks: 5

Complementarity

Applications marked according to the project proposal's complementarity with other EU-funded projects.

Max. marks: 5

Cost effectiveness

Extra marks given on the basis of added value, project effectiveness and also the justification of planned expenses. Co-financing necessitates the best monetary value possible in view of the fact that EU funds are truly tax-payers money from all Member-States.

Max. marks: 20

Horizontal priorities

Adherence to the fundamental principles of accessibility, gender equality and non-discrimination together with sustainable development.

Max. marks: 5

Level of contribution

Applicant is allotted marks in accordance with the project proposal's higher contribution towards the measure-specific indicators (using the principle of proportionality).

Max. marks: 5

Potential to contribute to achieving expected results

Selection Committee will assess the results expected to be achieved via the implementation of approved operation in terms of solutions and risks that can hinder the achievement of identified results.

Max. marks: 5

Project sustainability

Assessed in terms of how the benefits will continue to be enjoyed after the project financing has actually ended.

Max. marks: 10

Quality of Application Form

Assessed in terms of (amongst others) coherence between various parts of the proposal, adequate description of primary and auxiliary actions, a budget in line with the intended operations and the editorial presentation of proposal.

Marks: 5

Readiness

Availability of environmental/planning permits, tender designs and other studies/resources or plans.

Marks: 10

2.3 MEASURE-SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA

Notes:

- a) Each heading in this section contains different marking methods in accordance with the nature of respective actions;
- b) Measure-specific selection criteria shall not apply to measures falling under Union Priority 3 (i.e. control and enforcement and data collection).

Union Priority 1

Measure: Promotion of human capital (total of 30/100 marks)

- Green considerations: preference will be given to training promoting skills which have a reduced impact on the environment;
Max. marks: 5
- Innovation: originality in training's delivery method;
Max. marks: 5
- More points awarded to courses offering a hands-on experience;
Max. marks: 5
- Project partners: additional marks to initiatives held in collaboration with accredited providers;
Max. marks: 5
- Skills rejuvenation: training which fosters the continued participation or even increase of young fishers in this industry;
Max. marks: 5
- Improve fishing technique, health and safety and fishing adaptation (eg. reduction in unwanted catches).
Max. marks: 5

Measure: Diversification and new forms of income (total of 30/100 marks)

- Green considerations: additional points awarded to proposals which endorse energy efficiency;
Max. marks: 5
- Innovation: business originality beyond mainstream concepts;
Max. marks: 5
- Higher marks will be allocated to those fishers whose income from the diversified activities is relatively high;
Max. marks: 10
- Employment: more points will be given to fishers who shall maintain steady the employment levels registered before diversification. Job creation above pre-diversification employment levels shall receive a positively appraisal.
Max. marks: 10

Measure: Temporary cessation of fishing activities (total of 30/100 marks)

➤ Positive fish stock impact: highest reduction of fishing effort for each vessel based on the last two calendar years preceding application.

Max. marks: 30 in line with tables below

Fishing vessels in category A (MFA)

Length of fishing boat	Minimum value of landings in € as per SL 425.07	Value of registered landings in €	Points
< 5.99 metres	3,494.06	3,529 – 3,843.47	6
		3,843.48 – 4,192.87	12
		4,192.88 – 4,507.34	18
		4,507.35 – 4,856.74	24
		4,856.75 & over	30
From 6 to 7.99 metres	9,317.49	9,410.66 – 10,249.24	6
		10,249.25 – 11,180.99	12
		11,181 – 12,019.56	18
		12,019.57 – 12,951.31	24
		12,951.32 & over	30
From 8 to 11.99 metres	12,811.55	12,939.67 – 14,092.71	6
		14,092.72 – 15,373.86	12
		15,373.87 – 16,526.90	18
		16,526.91 – 17,808.05	24
		17,808.06 & over	30
From 12 to 14.99 metres	16,305.61	16,468.67 – 17,936.17	6
		17,936.18 – 19,566.73	12
		19,566.74 – 21,034.24	18
		21,034.25 – 22,664.80	24
		22,664.81 & over	30
From 15 metres upwards	34,900.60	35,249.61 – 38,390.66	6
		38,390.67 – 41,880.72	12
		41,880.73 – 45,021.77	18
		45,021.78 – 48,511.83	24
		48,511.84 & over	30

Fishing vessels in Category B (MFB)

Length of fishing boat	Minimum value of landings in € as per SL 425.07	Value of registered landings in €	Points
< 5.99 metres	1,164.69	1,176.34 – 1,281.16	6
		1,281.17 – 1,397.63	12
		1,397.64 – 1,502.45	18
		1,502.46 – 1,618.92	24
		1,618.93 & over	30
From 6 to 7.99 metres	1,747.03	1,764.50 – 1,921.73	6
		1,921.74 – 2,096.44	12
		2,096.45 – 2,253.67	18
		2,253.68 – 2,428.37	24
		2,428.38 & over	30
From 8 to 11.99 metres	2,329.37	2,352.66 – 2,562.31	6
		2,562.32 – 2,795.24	12
		2,795.25 – 3,004.89	18
		3,004.90 – 3,237.82	24
		3,237.83 & over	30
From 12 to 14.99 metres	3,494.06	3,529.00 – 3,843.47	6
		3,843.48 – 4,192.87	12
		4,192.88 – 4,507.34	18
		4,507.35 – 4,856.74	24
		4,856.75 & over	30
From 15 to 29.99 metres	5,823.43	5,881.66 – 6,405.77	6
		6,405.78 – 6,988.12	12
		6,988.13 – 7,512.22	18
		7,512.23 – 8,094.57	24
		8,094.58 & over	30

Measure: Collaboration between scientific/technical bodies and fishers (total of 30/100 marks)

- Enhanced fishing techniques and gear selectivity;
Max. marks: 10
- Development of innovative technical and organisational knowledge as well as a reduction of fishing impact on the environment;
Max. marks: 5
- More points for having a ready plan of knowledge dissemination;
Max. marks: 10
- Number of fishing vessels involved in the project: higher points shall be awarded to collaborations hosting the biggest amount of crafts.
Max. marks: 5

Measure: Mitigation of climate change and the improvement of energy efficiency of fishing vessels (total of 30/100 marks)

- Points given for investments aimed at improving the refrigeration, freezing, or insulation systems for vessels under 18 m in line with Article 41.1 (a) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 and Article 16 (a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 2015/531;
Max. marks: 5
- Points given to operations aimed at improving the propulsion system of the vessel in line with Article 41.1 (a) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 and Article 14 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 2015/531;
Max. marks: 5
- Points given to investments targeting fishing gear and equipment in line with Article 41.1 (a) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 and Article 15 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 2015/531;
Max. marks: 5
- Points given to investments aimed at improving the hydrodynamics of the hull of the vessel in line with Article 41.1 (a) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 and Article 13 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 2015/531;
Max. marks: 5
- Points given to operations targeting the increase in fuel efficiency (translated in savings – litres per volume of catches);
Max. marks: 5
- Preference given to investments made on older but still operational vessels which operations are to be in line with the investments defined in Article 41.1 (a) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 and eligible costs defined in Articles 13-16 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 2015/531.
Max. marks: 5 (2 year-old vessels= 1 point; 3 to 5 year-old vessels= 2 points; 6-8 year-old vessels= 3 points; 9 -10 year-old vessels= 4 years; >10 year-old vessels= 5 points)

Measure: Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (total of 30/100 marks)

- More points given to small-scale coastal fishers who normally retain less capital to execute regular engine replacements/modernisation;
Max. marks: 10
- Preference given to removal/modernisation of older energy-inefficient engines;
Max. marks: 10
- Increase in fuel efficiency (translated in savings – litres per volume of catches).
Max. marks: 10

Measure: Fishing ports, landing sites and shelters (total of 30/100 marks)

- Common interest: more marks allocated to projects that will benefit the largest number of registered fishers;
Max. marks: 10
- Health and safety: preference given to investments creating a safer working environment;
Max. marks: 5
- Precedence to projects which are a national priority;
Max. marks: 5
- Energy efficiency: extra points to proposals which include expenses related to alternative natural energy sources or will improve energy efficiency;
Max. marks: 5
- Improvement in the fish landing process.
Max. marks: 5

Union Priority 2

Measure: Innovation (total of 30/100 marks)

Article 47 (1) of 508/2014

- Development of wider knowledge in aquaculture farms which reduces environmental impact and facilitates sustainable resource use including new production methods;
Max. marks: 5
- Development or introduction in the market of new aquaculture species with good market potential and new or improved products / processes or new or improved management and organisation systems;
Max. marks: 10
- Points awarded to proposals exploring the technical or economic feasibility of innovative products or processes;
Max. marks: 5
- Preference will be given to proposals linked to Article 27 (1) of the Common Fisheries Policy, Regulation (EU) No. 1380/2013, mainly the carrying out of research and innovation programmes.
Max. marks: 10

Measure: Projects on productive investments in aquaculture (total of 30/100 marks)

Article 48 (1) a-d, f-h of 508/2014

- Green considerations: additional points awarded to proposals which endorse energy efficiency;
Max. marks: 5
- Job creation: creation of employment in the aquaculture sector (i.e. full-time equivalents) or complementary sectors;
Max. marks: 5
- Points given to operations aimed at targeting the diversification of aquaculture production and species cultured;
Max. marks: 5
- Higher points given to facilities which will spawn more than just one species and in proportion to the production capacity;
Max. marks: 10
- Supplementary consideration allotted to closed-cycle techniques or any other innovate specialised techniques.
Max. marks: 5

Measure: Projects on productive investments in aquaculture (total of 30/100 marks)

Article 48 (1) e, i, j of 508/2014

- Green considerations: additional points awarded to proposals which endorse energy efficiency;
Max. marks: 5
- Job creation: creation of employment in the aquaculture sector (i.e. full-time equivalents) or complementary sectors;
Max. marks: 5
- Forecasted increase in Net profits based on the business plan;
Max. marks: 5
- Higher points given to facilities which will spawn more than just one species and in proportion to the production capacity;
Max. marks: 10
- Supplementary consideration allotted to closed-cycle techniques or any other innovative specialised techniques.
Max. marks: 5

Union Priority 5

Measure: Marketing measures (total of 30/100 marks)

- Cohesion: preference to investments proposed jointly by more than one sector operator;
Max. marks: 5
- Fish consumption: extra marks to promotional campaigns sustained by a proper plan and focus on the improvement of public knowledge on fish consumption;
Max. marks: 10
- Green considerations: preference to promotional material obtained through environmental-friendly methods (printing etc.);
Max. marks: 5
- More marks to campaigns targeting wider audience segments.
Max. marks: 10

Union Priority 6

Measure: Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment (total of 30/100 marks)

- National synergies between institutes and public bodies;
Max. marks: 10
- Additional points will be allocated to projects which involve multiple collaborations;
Max. marks: 10
- Demonstrating a higher increase in maritime knowledge.
Max. marks: 10