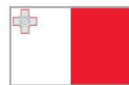


European Maritime and Fisheries Fund [E.M.F.F.] 2014-2020
Investing in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

ADMISSIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

29 May 2015



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



ADMISSIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

PART I: FUND OVERVIEW AND ADMISSIBILITY CRITERIA

29 May 2015

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Fund overview and admissibility criteria

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Operational Programme [O.P.] strategy

The legal basis of the 2014-2020 O.P. is Regulation [E.U.] No. 508/2014 of the European Parliament adopted on 15 May 2014. The new Fund is structured around three pillars:

- Smart green fisheries and aquaculture;
- Sustainable and inclusive territorial development;
- Integrated Maritime Policy.

Adopted on 03 March 2015, the Fund's O.P. operates within the Europe 2020 strategy and also the Common Fisheries Policy [C.F.P.]. It reaches an allocation of €22.6mn+ [public eligible] with co-financing rates ranging between 50 and 100%.

Financing plan 2014-2020

| Years [exc. N+3 till 2023] | E.M.F.F. allocation |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2014 | €3,101,540 |
| 2015 | €3,141,162 |
| 2016 | €3,169,876 |
| 2017 | €3,221,253 |
| 2018 | €3,296,208 |
| 2019 | €3,318,746 |
| 2020 | €3,378,637 |
| Total Fund contribution | €22,627,422 |

Measures as stipulated in the O.P.

Union Priority 1 [€8.5mn+]

Promoting environmentally-sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries:

- Promotion of human capital;
- Diversification and new forms of income;
- Temporary cessation of fishing activities;
- Collaboration between scientific/technical bodies and fishers;
- Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines;
- Fishing ports, landing sites and shelters.

Measures as stipulated in the O.P. [cont./ii]

Union Priority 2 [€2.4mn+]

Fostering environmentally-sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture:

- Projects on productive investments in aquaculture.

Union Priority 3 [€8.6mn+]

Fostering the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy:

- Control and enforcement;
- Data collection.

Measures as stipulated in the O.P. [cont./iii]

Union Priority 5 [€407,000+]

Fostering marketing and processing:

- Marketing measures;
- Storage aid.

Union Priority 6 [€1.2mn+]

Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy:

- Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment.

Who can apply for funding?

| Union Priorities and measures | Fishers | Public bodies | Other entities |
|--|---------|---------------|----------------|
| Union Priority 1: | | | |
| Promotion of human capital | No | Yes | Yes |
| Diversification and new forms of income | Yes | No | No |
| Temporary cessation of fishing activities | Yes | No | No |
| Collaboration between scientific/technical bodies and fishers | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines | Yes | No | No |
| Fishing ports, landing sites and shelters | No | Yes | No |
| Union Priority 2: | | | |
| Projects on productive investments in aquaculture | No | No | Yes |
| Union Priority 3: | | | |
| Control and enforcement | No | Yes | No |
| Data collection | No | Yes | No |
| Union Priority 5: | | | |
| Marketing measures | No | Yes | Yes |
| Storage aid | No | No | Yes |
| Union Priority 6: | | | |
| Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment | No | Yes | No |

General admissibility criteria [discussed during consultation session 24 Apr 2015]

Remark: 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 a complete application form filled-in with relevant details 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.

General admissibility criteria [cont./ii]

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 O.P. 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.

General admissibility criteria [cont./iii]

Beneficiary in compliance with C.F.P. rules

Commission Delegated Regulation [E.U.] 2015/288 defines time periods and dates for the inadmissibility of applications in case of infringements - points system [not applicable to control and data collection functions].

Measure-specific admissibility criteria

Remark: 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

Promotion of human capital

Article 29 of Regulation [E.U.] No. 508/2014:

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

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-specific admissibility criteria [cont./ii]

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;
- Owner of fishing craft concerned by the temporary cessation should demonstrate that during each of the preceding two years the vessel registered the minimum landings required by Subsidiary Legislation 425.07.

Measure-specific admissibility criteria [cont./iii]

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.

Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines

Article 41 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 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;

Measure-specific admissibility criteria [cont./iv]

- 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 1224/2009; support granted only once to owners of fishing vessels.

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.

Measure-specific admissibility criteria [cont./v]

Union Priority 2

Projects on productive investments in aquaculture

Article 48 of 508/2014:

- Applicants must submit a business plan and in case of investments over €50,000 a feasibility study and environmental assessment;
- 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].
- Adherence to relative 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.

Measure-specific admissibility criteria [cont./vi]

Union Priority 3

Control and enforcement

Article 76 of 508/2014:

- Admissibility is restricted to the national fisheries control authority.

Data collection

Article 77 of 508/2014:

- Admissibility is restricted to the national coordination entity.

Measure-specific admissibility criteria [cont./vii]

Union Priority 5

Marketing measures

Article 68 of 508/2014:

- Diversification: promotional campaigns that aim 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.

Measure-specific admissibility criteria [cont./viii]

Union Priority 6

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 [G.E.S.] related to protection of the marine environment;
- Applicant must submit a comprehensive plan detailing studies to be carried out in congruence with the relative G.E.S.

Remark: this Union Priority tackles the Integrated Maritime Policy.

ADMISSIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

PART 2: SELECTION CRITERIA

29 May 2015

Marking procedure

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 shall be allocated to projects obtaining 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 will be 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.

General selection criteria [total 70 marks]

Contribution towards indicators beyond minimum

Assessed in terms of contribution towards the O.P. indicators beyond the minimum required [max. marks: 5].

Complementarity

Applications marked according to the project proposal's complementarity with other E.U.-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 E.U. funds are truly tax-payers money from all Member-States [max. marks: 20].

General selection criteria [cont./ii]

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].

General selection criteria [cont./iii]

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 [max. marks: 5].

Readiness

Availability of environmental/planning permits, tender designs and other studies/resources or plans [max. marks: 10].

Measure-specific selection criteria

Remark: different marking methods in line with nature of respective actions.

Union Priority 1

Promotion of human capital [total 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 [e.g. reduction in unwanted catches] [max. marks: 5].

Measure-specific selection criteria [cont./ii]

Diversification and new forms of income **[total 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].

Temporary cessation of fishing activities **[total 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].

Measure-specific selection criteria [cont./iii]

Collaboration between scientific/technical bodies and fishers [total 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].

Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines [total 100 marks]

- More points given to small-scale coastal fishers who normally retain less capital to execute regular engine replacements [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 volumes of catches] [max. marks: 10].

Measure-specific selection criteria [cont./iv]

Fishing ports, landing sites and shelters [total 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].

Measure-specific selection criteria [cont./v]

Union Priority 2

Projects on productive investments in aquaculture [total 100 marks]

- 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 innovate specialised techniques [max. marks: 5].

Measure-specific selection criteria [cont./vi]

Union Priority 5

Marketing measures [total 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: precedence to promotional material obtained through environmental-friendly methods [printing etc.] [max. marks: 5];
- More marks to campaigns targeting wider audience segments [max. marks: 10].

Measure-specific selection criteria [cont./vii]

Union Priority 6

Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment

[total 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].

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

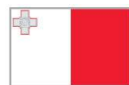
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