

# Annual Implementation Report European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014-2020

Reporting on Year 2018

Monitoring Committee  
15th May 2019



Maritime and Fisheries Operational Programme 2014-2020  
Part-financed by the European Union  
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund  
Co-financing rate: 75% European Union; 25% National Funds



*Investing in Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture*

# Contents of the EMFF AIR covering year 2018

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16. Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies.

## Section 2- Overview of the Implementation of the Programme

### A. Information on Calls Issued in 2018:

- i. Union Priority 1: 6 calls issued
  - *Article 41.1: On board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes and studies (2 calls)*
  - *Article 30: Diversification and new forms of income (2 calls)*
  - *Article 43.1: 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 (2 calls)*
  
- ii. Union Priority 2: 3 calls issued
  - *Article 48.1: Productive Investments in Aquaculture (1 call)*
  - *Article 47: Innovation (2 calls)*
  
- iii. Union Priority 3: 1 call issued
  - *Article 76: Control and Enforcement*

## Section 2- Overview of the Implementation of the Programme (cont.)

### B. Information on tasks implemented in 2018:

- i. **Update of MA's webpage with necessary documentation and meeting CPR/EMFF Regulatory Requirements including:**
  - List of selected operations as laid down in Article 119 of Reg. [EU] No.508/2014
  - EMFF AIR (covering period for 2017)
  
- ii. **Information sessions and meetings held to guide potential applicants**
  - Held for all open and restricted calls
  - Two information sessions were held for Calls issued under UP1 targeting calls for fishers (one in January and one in July); One information session held for aquaculture open calls under UP 2- Article 48.1 (July).
  - Guidance was also provided by MA officials through phone and email exchanges and meetings held with prospective applicants to address queries
  - Guidance to applicants (fishers) also provided by the customer care service unit (DFA & Ministry of Gozo)

## Section 2- Overview of the Implementation of the Programme (cont.)

### B. Information on tasks implemented by end 2018:

- iii. **Fourth EMFF Monitoring Committee Meeting** was held on 4<sup>th</sup> May
  - Adoption of Proposed OP amendments which were subsequently put forward to EC
  - OP Amendments were adopted by EC on 15th December 2018
  - Amendments to the EMFF Admissibility and Selection Criteria: approved through written procedure issued in April
  
- iv. **The 2018 Annual Review Meeting** was held on 20th November with EC representatives
  - EMFF OP Implementation in Malta and related issues with reference to Performance and Decolmitment were discussed
  
- v. **Monitoring of beneficiaries & facilitation of processes:** Meetings with beneficiaries, Progress Reports, Bilateral Meetings, Guidance to beneficiaries and Management Verifications.

## Section 2- Overview of the Implementation of the Programme (cont.)

### C. Information on Pre-financing Payment received by end 2018:

- Annual pre-financing payment received on 14th June 2018 amounting to €584,918)

### D. Information on Payment Applications submitted by end 2018:

- **Six Statement of Expenditures undertaken in 2018**
  - 2 completed by accounting year ending 30 June 2018
    - Payment application amounting to €311,941.30 (EU Share) was submitted to EC on 24th July 2018
  - 4 completed for accounting year ending 30 June 2019
    - 2 Payment applications amounting to €3,988,749 (EU Share) were submitted to EC on 14th and 21st December 2018



## Information Sessions & Publicity Event held in 2018



## Section 3 -

### 3.1 Overview of the Implementation Article 50(2) of Reg. (EU) No 1303/2013

- A. Information on the Implementation of the Union Priorities and Technical Assistance in 2018 with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address the problems:**
- I. Further information given by the MA in relation to the Calls issued in 2018 as mentioned in Section 2
  - II. Information on MA steps taken in relation to ensure a wider outreach of applicants and to provide the necessary information and guidance to applicant
  - III. Information on issues experienced in relation to lack of demand from applicants for certain measures
  - IV. Reference to OP and EMFF Admissibility and Selection Criteria Amendments made in 2018
  - V. Information provided on ongoing projects

## Section 3-

### 3.1 Overview of the Implementation Article 50(2) of Reg. (EU) No 1303/2013 (cont.)

#### vi. Information on the implementation of Union Priority 7- Technical Assistance

- TA expenditure and activities in 2018 relate to the following types of operations:
  - a. *Implementation of the Operational Programme*
    - Reimbursement of Salaries
  - b. *IT systems*
    - Updates made to the EMFF Database
  - c. *Communication and Promotional Activities:*
    - Procurement of promotional material bearing EMFF visibility

## Section 3- (cont.)

### 3.2 Result, Output and Financial Indicators for EMFF

- **Tables 1-3 shown on page 19-30 of the EMFF AIR** present information on values achieved by end 2018 in relation to result, output and financial indicators for the EMFF OP.

**Note:** *In line with Article 1 of **COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2018/276**, “the milestone and target for an output indicator shall refer to the values achieved by operations, where all the actions leading to outputs have been implemented in full, but for which not all the related payments have necessarily been made, or to the values achieved by operations which have been started, but where some of the actions leading to outputs are still ongoing, or to the both”*

### 3.3 Financial Data

- **Table 4 shown on page 31-34 of the EMFF AIR** present information on financial data for the EMFF achieved by end 2018 in relation to the applicable measures programmed as per adopted OP, selected operations and expenditure as at end 2018.

## Section 4 - Issues affecting the performance of the programme and corrective measures taken

### 4.2 Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the corrective measures taken

- A. Information provided on MA measures taken in 2018 to address the impact that the delay of EMFF implementation may have on the Performance Framework;
- B. Information provided on challenges faced to achieve output indicators under Union Priority 1 Article 41.1, Article 41.2 and Article 30 (9 operations are meant to be complete by end 2018). A lack of demand from applicants has been experienced under these measures resulting mainly from:
  - Article 41.2 eligibility requirements are determined by the report on fishing capacity. Very few applicants could apply for the call issued and thus no applications were received.
  - Calls issued under Article 41.1 and Article 30 were also limited in terms of eligibility of applicants/eligible activities that can be undertaken due to the conditions also set out in the regulatory framework .
- C. Information on challenges faced and actions taken for Union Priority 2 resulting in two OP changes.

## Section 5 - Information on serious infringements and remedy actions

- A. **No incidents of serious infringements under Article 10(1) of Reg (EU) No 508/2014 were recorded for EMFF Beneficiaries**
- B. **Information provided on the system of checks put into practice:**
  - i. **2 sections** were developed in the **Application Form** to address this requirement:
    - **Section 1.5/1.7:** Requires applicants to provide a copy of all notification letters issued whereby penalty points were assigned to the fishing license;
    - **Section 10/15/16:** The applicant is requested to declare to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, conformity with the criteria listed under Article 10.1 of Regulation (EU) 508/2014 and also declare that no fraud was committed.
  - ii. In terms of **MA follow-up of the declared non-infringement:** The DFA & ERA were formally contacted in their capacity as the competent body/ies and requested to provide information on whether infringements were recorded for these vessel owners since 2013.

## **Section 8- Activities in relation to the evaluation plan and synthesis of the evaluations**

### **Information on activities undertaken in view of the interim evaluation to be conducted in 2019**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Implementation Report covering year 2017 was approved by the MC and submitted to EC by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018.
- Evaluation and monitoring activities were carried out by the MA to assess the progress of the EMFF OP in terms of taking stock of i) calls issued, ii) operations awarded, iii) project implementation status, iv) indicators to be achieved, and evaluating and implementing means of address in relation to challenges being faced.
- The state-of-implementation of the EMFF Programme, its progress and results achieved as at time of reporting were discussed between MA and EC representatives during the EMFF Annual Review Meeting held on 20th November.

## Section 8- Activities in relation to the evaluation plan and synthesis of the evaluations (cont.)

### Information on activities undertaken in view of the interim evaluation to be conducted in 2019

- **February 2018:** FAME SU workshop held in Malta with MA representatives to present the Infosys validation tool developed for the validation of data presented to EC annually (Article 97.1 of the EMFF Regulation).
- Attendance and participation by MA representatives in the **Annual Stakeholder Meeting** organised by the **Fisheries and Aquaculture Monitoring & Evaluation Support Unit (FAME SU)** whose aim is to ensure a strengthened communication among the stakeholders involved in Monitoring and Evaluation of the EMFF. During this meeting:
  - i. the rationale of the FAME SU concept for CMES II post 2020 was presented;
  - ii. views on the draft documents were exchanged between stakeholders and evaluators; and
  - iii. priorities for the *FAME SU Annual Work Programme 2019* were identified.



## **Section 8- Activities in relation to the Evaluation Plan and synthesis of the evaluations (cont.)**

### **Information on activities undertaken in view of the interim evaluation to be conducted in 2019**

- Preparatory activities for the interim evaluation including the drafting, issuance and evaluation of the tender document for the Interim Evaluation to be conducted by external evaluators were held in 2018.
- The EMFF MA shall lead the evaluation process and assume the responsibility for the coordination of the monitoring and evaluation process of the EMFF OP 2014-2020.

## Part B:

# Section 11- Assessment of the Implementation of the Operational Programme

## 11.1. Assessment of progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme

- Analysis of the information and data provided in Part A of the AIR in relation to whether the measures implemented through the EMFF OP by end 2018 contributed to the achievement of the objectives of the programme
- Overall, it should be noted that all specific objectives adopted in the OP under all UPs, excluding UP2 SO1, were addressed by end 2018 since out of the 16 adopted measures, 11 measures were implemented/under implementation. The remaining measures to be implemented shall be targeted between 2019-2021, as applicable.

## 11.2. Assessment of progress toward milestones and targets

- Analysis of the information provided in Part A to measure the attainment of output and financial indicators 2018 and progress achieved towards 2023 targets. Analysis was undertaken on the basis of guidance provided by FAME Support Unit.
- Overall, output indicators were all achieved for 2018. Financial indicators for all UPs were also achieved, except potentially for UP 2.

## Section 12- Horizontal Principles of Implementation

### 12.1. Assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take address partnership and multi-level governance

- Involvement of stakeholders during the implementation of operations through meetings and bilateral meetings
- Monitoring Committee Meetings & Written Procedures
- Specific sections of the EMFF Application Form targeting partnership, where applicable

### 12.2. Assessment of the implementation of specific actions on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including accessibility for disabled persons

- Specific sections of the EMFF Application Form & selection criteria for horizontal priorities
- Removal of language barriers for fishers (application forms translated also into Maltese)

### 12.3. Assessment of the implementation of specific actions to address sustainable development

- Overall, all measures adopted and being implemented through the EMFF OP target sustainable development (AIR 2018, pg. 64 for further details)

## Section 13- Reporting on support used for climate change objectives

### Information on activities undertaken in view of the interim evaluation to be conducted in 2019

- 13 operations were deemed to **directly contribute** to climate change objectives in line with the EMFF OP out of the 26 operations under implementation by end 2018,
  - EMFF 1.16.1 (Article 39 -Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources)
  - EMFF 1.23.1, EMFF 1.23.2, EMFF 1.23.3, EMFF 1.23.5 & EMFF 1.23.6 (Article 43- Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters)
  - EMFF 1.20.1, EMFF 1.20.2, EMFF 1.20.3 (Article 41.1- Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change)
  - EMFF 2.2.1, EMFF 2.2.2 and EMFF 2.3.1 (Article 48- Productive Investments in Aquaculture)
  - EMFF 8.3.1 (Article 80.1.c- Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment)
- 2019-2021 shall also see the implementation of Article 33 (Temporary Cessation) which will further increase Malta's EMFF contribution to climate change objectives.

## Part C: Section 14- Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

- EMFF operations implemented in line with the respective adopted measures of the EMFF OP are deemed to contribute significantly both **directly** and **indirectly** to the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- **Smart growth:** 7 operations (€10,618,080.79 P.E) out of the allocated €11,778,740.34 were awarded and under implementation by end 2018, addressing *Thematic Objective 3 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)*.
- **Sustainable growth:** 3 operations targeting *Thematic Objective 4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors* and 15 operations addressing *Thematic Objective 6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency*. In total 18 operations: €12,936,121.31 public eligible funds committed with €5,735,976.97 total eligible public expenditure by end 2018.
- **Inclusive growth:** 1 operation addressing *Thematic Objective 8: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility*. A total of €500,000 (public eligible) was committed in this regard to EMFF 1.4.1- Training for Fishers with circa € 253,754.93 (public eligible) paid to beneficiaries by end 2018

## Section 15- Issues affecting the performance of the programme — performance framework

- As at end 2018, no issues affecting the performance of the EMFF OP resulted as all the output and financial indicators were deemed to be achieved for all Union Priorities.
- 2019 developments under Union Priority 2 (Aquaculture) may impact the achievement of the financial indicator for UP2 since circa €1,095,660.93 payment claims to EC are being withheld from being certified to safeguard the Union's financial interests prior to an official decision being taken determining, if any, serious infringement.
- Serious infringements were not recorded (officially determined) for awarded EMFF BNs by end 2018. Admissibility of applications checked for BNs as reported in Section 5 of the AIR.

# Thank you for your attention



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