

# ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EMFF

CCI	2014MT14MFOP001
Title	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - Operational Programme for Malta
Version	2017.0
Date of approval of the report by the Monitoring Committee (Art 113.d of EMFF)	04-May-2018

<b>2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNION PRIORITIES</b> .....	<b>7</b>
3.1. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	7
3.2. RESULT, OUTPUT AND FINANCIAL INDICATORS FOR EMFF (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) .....	16
<i>Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 3</i> .....	16
<i>Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 1</i> .....	17
<i>Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 2</i> .....	17
<i>Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 6</i> .....	17
<i>Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 1</i> .....	19
<i>Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 2</i> .....	19
<i>Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 2</i> .....	20
<i>Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 3</i> .....	20
<i>Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 5</i> .....	20
<i>Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 1</i> .....	22
<i>Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 1</i> .....	22
<i>Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 1</i> .....	24
<i>Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 4</i> .....	24
<i>Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 5</i> .....	25
<i>Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 6</i> .....	25
<i>Table 3: Financial indicators for EMFF</i> .....	27
3.3. FINANCIAL DATA.....	28
<i>Table 4: Financial data for the EMFF</i> .....	28
<i>Table 5: Cost of operations implemented outside the programme area (Article 70 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)</i> .....	32
<b>4. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN</b> .....	<b>33</b>
4.1. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL THE EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) .....	33
<i>Table 6: Actions taken to fulfil applicable EMFF-specific ex-ante conditionalities</i> .....	33
4.2. ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE CORRECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) .....	34
<b>5. INFORMATION ON SERIOUS INFRINGEMENTS AND REMEDY ACTIONS (ARTICLE 114(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 508/2014)</b> .....	<b>37</b>
<b>6. INFORMATION ON ACTIONS TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH ARTICLE 41(8) (ARTICLE 114(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 508/2014)</b> .....	<b>38</b>
<b>7. INFORMATION ON THE ACTIONS TAKEN TO ENSURE THE PUBLICATION OF BENEFICIARIES (ARTICLE 114(2) ) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 508/2014)</b> .....	<b>39</b>
<b>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)</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>9. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)</b> .....	<b>43</b>
<b>10. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46(1) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)</b> .....	<b>44</b>
<b>11. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)</b> .....	<b>45</b>
11.1. ASSESSMENT OF DATA AND PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME .....	45
11.2. ASSESSMENT WHETHER PROGRESS MADE TOWARD MILESTONES AND TARGETS IS SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE THEIR EVENTUAL FULFILMENT, INDICATING ANY REMEDIAL ACTIONS TAKEN OR PLANNED .....	46
<b>12. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES OF IMPLEMENTATION (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)</b> .....	<b>47</b>

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. ....	47
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. ....	47
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. ....	47
<b>13.</b>	<b>REPORTING ON SUPPORT USED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OBJECTIVES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH (ARTICLE 50(5) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) .....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>15.</b>	<b>ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>16.</b>	<b>WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE CONTRIBUTION TO MACRO-REGIONAL AND SEA BASIN STRATEGIES. ....</b>	<b>51</b>
	DOCUMENTS .....	52
	LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS .....	53

## 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 MA is hereby presenting the third AIR for the EMFF OP in Malta covering the fourth year of the EMFF implementation, whose format is set on the model presented in Article 2 of Regulation [EU] No.1362/2014 and whose main objective is to provide key stakeholders of the EMFF Operational Programme [OP] in Malta with information on the implementation of the OP in 2017.

During 2017 a number of calls were issued under various Union Priorities. A total of five calls were launched under UP1; two calls under UP2; three calls under UP3, and one call under UP5.

Calls issued, were spread out during the whole year with the first call for project proposals targeting *innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources*, which is based on Article 39 of the EMFF Regulation 508/2014. A restricted call was issued for the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture [DFA] within the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change [MESDC] on 3rd April 2017 with a total allocated budget of €200,000 allocated. The second 2017 UP1 call targeted Article 29[1][2] of Reg (EU) No. 508/2014: *The Promotion of human capital, job creation and social dialogue*. In view of this, a restricted call was issued for the DFA on 26th April 2017 with an allocated total public eligible budget of € 500,000.

Three restricted calls for the DFA as the competent body were issued under UP3 during 2017. The first call targeted Article 77 of Reg. (EU) 508/2014: *Data Collection for the 2017-2019 period* under which €2,604,485 [public eligible] were allocated whereas the remaining two calls aimed at addressing Article 76 of the EMFF Regulation, *Control and Enforcement* were issued between August and October 2017 with an allocated total public eligible of €11,262,000.

On 25th July 2017, the MA launched an open call for project proposals under UP5 of the EMFF OP for Malta 2014-2020: *Fostering marketing and processing* according to Article 68 of the EMFF Regulation 508/2014. The public eligible amount allocated for this call totalled €250,000 – 75% of which will be the EMFF contribution [€187,500].

On 13th October 2017, the EMFF MA issued three fishermen calls, namely: [a] Measure I.20, Article 41.1 of Reg. [EU] No. 508/2014: *On board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes and studies*, a call aimed at fishing vessel owners for investments in equipment or on board with an allocated total public eligible budget of €500,000; [b] Measure I.21, Article 41.2 of Reg. [EU] No. 508/2014: *Engine replacement or modernisation* which was aimed at fishing vessel owners for the

replacement or modernisation of propulsion engines (allocated total public eligible budget of €500,000) and [c] Measure I.6, Article 30 of Reg [EU] No. 508/2014: *Diversification and new forms of income* with an allocated total public eligible budget of €525,000.

The last call issued during 2017 was launched under UP2 of the EMFF OP: *Productive Investments in Aquaculture* according to Article 48.1 of Reg. (EU) No. 508/2014. The total public eligible budget allocated for this call was that of € 3.5million out of which, 75% is to be covered by the EMFF [amounting to € 2.63million EMFF share].

In accordance with Article 97 of Reg.(EU) No.508/2014, the MA shall provide information on and publicise the OP and operations and the community contribution. In this regard, the MA online EMFF webpage[1] was constantly updated throughout the year to ensure that it includes the necessary information including regulations, publications, reports, EMFF supporting documentation, list of selected operations[2] as laid down in Article 119 of Reg. (EU) No.508/2014 and other, miscellaneous documents pertaining to EMFF upcoming calls.

Linked to the promotion of open calls, adverts were published on the government gazette and on on all local Sunday printed newspapers informing potential applicants and specifically local fishers and aquaculture operators about the EMFF OP while also providing information about upcoming calls being issued. SMS notifications were sent to beneficiaries of open calls for Productive Investments in Aquaculture and fishermen calls under UP1. This innovative means of communication aimed to ensure that all potential beneficiaries were informed of the issuance of calls and the respective informations sessions.

Information sessions and meetings were held for interested applicants for all open or restricted calls. In view of the calls open for fishermen under UP1, two information sessions were held for all three calls, one in Gozo on 26th October 2017 and another one in Malta on 31st October 2017 (77 fishermen attended). During both information sessions, detailed presentations on the calls issued were given. Apart from these two official information session, MA officials were also readily available on a daily basis through the use of phone calls, email messaging and meetings to assist prospective applicants with their queries.

The third meeting of the Monitoring Committee (MC) was held on 19th May 2017 whereby an update on the implementation of the EMFF OP was provided to MC members and proposed amendments to the OP were also adopted by the MC. Subsequent to MC approval, the proposed OP amendments were put forward for European Commission's approval. Version 3.2 of the EMFF OP for Malta was as a

result adopted by EC on 10th October 2017. In September 2017, a written procedure was issued amongst MC members in accordance with Article 7 of the MC's terms of reference whereby amendments to the EMFF Admissibility and Selection Criteria were also approved.

On the 3rd and 4th October 2017 the MA hosted the 4th Informal EMFF MAs workshop, attended by 16 member states [MS]. This workshop served as a platform for EMFF MAs to share experiences and success stories. Subjects discussed during this workshop included, [i] Data Collection [ii] Control and Enforcement [iii] Integrated Maritime Policy [iv] Simplification [v] EMFF Post-2020 and [vi] the Performance Framework. As further described in Section 8, on the 8-9th November, an Annual Review Meeting and a Joint ESIF Annual Review Meeting were held.

On 15th June 2017, EC transferred a pre-financing amount of €558,331.65, to the EMFF account held by the CA [CBM], corresponding to 2.625% of the EMFF support allocated for the programming period. Two Statement of Expenditures [SOEs] were completed in 2017, one of which was completed by accounting year ending 30 June 2017 whose claim for payment amounting to €285,645.67 (EU share) was submitted to EC on 25th July 2017 and another SOE completed for accounting year ending 30 June 2018 whose payment claim amounting to €298,147.42 (EU Share) was submitted to EC on 15th December 2017.

[1]

<http://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Pages/EMFF-2014-2020.aspx>

[2]

<http://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Documents/EMFF%202014-2020/List%20of%20Operations%2026102016.pdf>

### 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><i>Calls launched in 2017:</i></p> <p>A total of five (5) calls were issued during 2017, four of which were directly related and targeted to help local fishers.</p> <p>The first call issued in 2017 under this UP related to <b>Article 39 of Reg.(EU) No. 508/2014 on Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources</b>. Following the evaluation undertaken by the PSC, the project proposal submitted by the DFA was awarded and at time of reporting is under implementation. This operation includes a desktop study, marine surveys and analysis of data with the aim to improve the gear selectivity of the 40mm square mesh size currently in use by the Maltese otter board trawling fleet so as to reduce discards of <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> (European hake) and <i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i> (Deep-water rose shrimp).</p> <p>As mentioned in the previous section of this report, the second call issued under this UP targetted the Promotion of human capital, job creation and social dialogue under Article 29[1][2] and Article 44[1][a] of Reg (EU) No. 508/2014.</p> <p>The awarded project proposal submitted by the DFA named <b><i>Training of Fishers</i></b> was developed taking into consideration the needs of the fishing community and in this regard, a number of high standard training courses shall be provided to all interested registered fishers. The courses are aimed at improving the knowledge and skill of local fishers with the intention to increase the overall standard of the local fishing industry.</p> <p>Three (3) measures were launched for fishermen aimed to promote i) <b>energy efficient practices through investments in equipment or on board and studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs</b> through Article 41.1 of Reg (EU) No 508/2014; ii) <b>energy efficient practices relating to engine replacement</b> (Article 41.2 of Reg (EU) No 508/2014) and iii) <b>diversification of the fishing industry through new forms of income</b> (Article 30 of Reg (EU) No 508/2014). These three (3) calls were launched in October 2017 whose evaluation, as at</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>time of reporting, is underway.</p> <p>With reference to the promotion of calls aimed for fishermen, adverts were published on the government gazette and on all local Sunday printed newspapers informing potential applicants and specifically local fishers about upcoming calls. A pre-launch press conference and informal meetings were also held in January 2017 to prepare fishermen accordingly. In view of these calls, two information sessions were held for all three calls, one in Gozo on the 26th October 2017 and another one in Malta on the 31st October 2017. Guidance to fishermen and detailed presentations on the calls issued were given to those attending the information sessions.</p> <p>With the aim of assisting potential applicants in relation to calls for fishermen, the respective application forms, annexes (where applicable) and Admissibility &amp; Selection Criteria were also translated to Maltese and Fact Files in Maltese bearing Frequently Asked Questions were also developed. Relevant documentation for all calls, including the application forms and annexes in both English and Maltese languages, Fact Files, copies of the Admissibility and Selection Criteria in English and Maltese and copies of the information Session presentation were also uploaded on the MA's website for potential applicants.</p> <p>Potential applicants were also individually notified of the issuance of the calls and of the information session being held via sms notification. Fish cooperatives were also notified of the calls issued with the aim of ensuring a wider promotion amongst all stakeholders. Throughout the open call period, information and guidance was provided to potential applicants whereby MA officials were readily available on a daily basis through the use of phone calls, email messaging and meetings held to assist prospective applicants with their queries.</p> <p>Unfortunately notwithstanding the MA's efforts in providing guidance and outreach to potential applicants under calls issued for fishermen, a small number of applications were received for the calls issued in 2017. In total, 8 (eight) applications were received, one of which was not received within the closing date of the call. In addition, no applications were received for the calls issued under Article 30 and Article 41.2. It was noted that the main reasons for the lack of demand can be considered as threefold:</p> <p>a. The requirements of Article 30 were seen as too demanding by fishermen whereby i) the aid intensity was regarded as being too low especially for small coastal fisheries (a maximum of 50% public aid of the total eligible expenditure of the operation can be applied) and thus fishers may not have enough sufficient funds or means to finance the remaining budgetary needs, ii) bearing in mind the characteristics and the aging profile of the fishing community, having and attesting to adequate professional skills linked to the diversification activity</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>may have been regarded as being difficult to fulfill;</p> <p>b. Although guidance was provided to fishermen as mentioned earlier on and the application form was developed bearing the target audience in mind, the documentation required and the relevant processes to be undertaken by fishermen should the operation be awarded may still have been regarded as being difficult to complete/conclude due to regulatory requirements, and</p> <p>c. Very few owners of fishing vessels could apply for Article 41.2 due to its requirement whereby support can only be granted for vessels belonging to a balanced fleet segment in line with the report on fishing capacity issued by the DFA in May 2017.</p> <p>In this regard, another call was issued on 4th January 2018 targetting Article 41.1 and Article 30 whereby further assistance to applicants was provided by other stakeholders, namely the DFA and the Ministry of Gozo. Following high-level discussions it was agreed that officials external to the MA with the aim of ensuring impartially were to be appointed to assist fishermen in filling in the application and/or assisting fishermen in their queries. In 2018, prior to the provision of this assistance, training was also provided by the MA to the appointed officials with the aim of providing the necessary information and guidance. In terms of Article 41.2, 2018 may see changes in OP amendment to address the uptake issues of this measure.</p> <p><i>Ongoing Projects:</i></p> <p>Further to the MA's project approval dated 11th May 2017 for the DFA's project proposal named "The Construction and Finishing of an Office on the Fish Landing Site in the Marsaxlokk Designated Port", the DFA commenced preparations for the implementation of this project. 2017 also saw the evaluation and award of other operations under this UP, namely the award of the Construction of a Breakwater at Qrejten point in the port of Marsaxlokk, the Refurbishment of the Delimara breakwater in the port of Marsaxlokk and the Refurbishment and Upgrading of Slipways in the port of Marsaxlokk.</p>
2 - Fostering environment ally sustainable, resource	<i>Calls Launched in 2017:</i>

Union priority	Key information on the implementation of the priority with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	<p>As mentioned in Section 2 of this report, in mid-2017, an OP amendment to introduce Article 48.1.(a-d, f-h) was proposed to the European Commission following approval by the Monitoring Committee (MC) which amendment was adopted in early October. The relevant Admissibility and Selection Criteria were also adopted by the MC in September 2017 following a written consultation.</p> <p>On 19th September, a restricted call under Article 48.1 (a-d, f-h) was issued with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture as the competent authority responsible for the Malta Aquaculture Research (MAR) Centre at Fort San Lucjan, the national body of aquaculture research in Malta. Between October and beginning November 2017, discussions were held with national experts and EC representatives whereby it was noted that due to the fact that MAR could not be considered as an ‘enterprise’ in view of Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014, the project being proposed could not be considered as eligible for funding. In this regard, the call had to be redesigned by the MA on 7th November 2017.</p> <p>Preparations in terms of the drafting of applications and undertaking the necessary processes for the issuance of open calls to the public under Article 48.1 (a-d, f-h) and (e, i,j), were in force between October and November 2017 following the adoption of the amended OP. The relevant call for proposals for UP2 Article 48.1.(a-d, f-h) and (e, i,j) Productive investment in aquaculture were issued on the 24th November 2017 and had a closing date set for the 12th January 2018. At the time of writing of this report two applications have been received. The evaluation process of both submissions will be concluded by the 2nd quarter of 2018. As with other calls open to the public, the call was promoted in the Government Gazette and on all Sunday newspapers with the aim of ensuring wide coverage. Information on the call and the relevant documentation including the application in e-form was uploaded on the MA’s webpage for ease of access by beneficiaries. An sms notification was also sent to all aquaculture operators with the aim of better targeting potential applicants and informing them also of the information session scheduled for the 4th December 2017 which was held to provide applicants with information and guidance on the call for proposals, procedures to be followed and requirements to be met. Meetings were also held with ERA representatives to discuss Article 10.1.c of the EMFF Regulation in relation to inadmissibility of applications, procedures being implemented and means of address.</p> <p><i>Ongoing Projects:</i></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>Since no operations were selected in 2016 or 2017, no operations were implemented in 2017.</p>
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	<p><i>Calls Launched in 2017:</i></p> <p>On the 3rd March 2017, the MA launched a restricted call for proposals with the DFA as the competent authority for the implementation of Article 77 <i>Data Collection</i> of Regulation [EU] No 508/2014 covering the 2017 - 2019 period. Following evaluation by the Project Selection Committee of the submitted project proposal, this operation was approved for funding and thus awarded. The operation is currently under implementation.</p> <p>Between January and April 2017, discussions were held between the MA and the DFA as the competent authority on <i>Control &amp; Enforcement</i> in light of OP amendments required in terms of budgetary shifts between Article 76(2)(a) to (d) and (f) to (l) of the EMFF Regulation and Article 76(2)(e) of the EMFF Regulation. The budgetary shift from the former measure to the latter matter was approved by EC in early October 2017.</p> <p>The first restricted call for applications under Article 76, targeting all the eleven (11) operations adopted in the OP as per Section 12.4 of the OP, was issued on 11th August which was subsequently followed by another call on 9th October 2017 with the aim of ensuring that the allocated budget under Control is absorbed and that all operations are implemented by the DFA.</p> <p><i>Ongoing Projects:</i></p> <p>Implementation of the Control and Enforcement function is gaining momentum. These proposed operations seek to address the improvement of working conditions and</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>facilitate daily control and enforcement operations such as, the procurement of hand pallet trucks to assist with fish weighing at the Fish Market, upgrades in Traceability modules of the Fisheries Information Solution and also development of a Sales Notes System, procurement of two Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats [RHIBs] to assist DFA employees during control missions, CCTV cameras, automated weighing and labelling stations, replacement of VMS units on 149 vessels and installation of GPRS trackers on vessels smaller than 10 metres, training for DFA officials, productions of TV and radio adverts in order to raise public awareness of the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy [CFP] and the importance to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.</p> <p>The implementation and all necessary payments falling under the Data Collection Framework Multiannual Programme 2014-2016, have been successfully concluded and reimbursements for eligible costs under this project are currently being processed by DFA and the respective stakeholders. All data calls for the 2014-2016 period have been wrapped up and completed - such data was reported on in the Annual Report of the Data Collection Framework submitted by Malta at the end of May 2017.</p> <p>In 2017, a total of €179,429.86 (total public eligible excluding VAT) were processed and certified by end 2017, which payment claims were also declared as expenditure to the European Commission by end of year. In this regard, the first OTS checks conducted by the MA on this operation were held in June 2017 whereby the expenditure claimed was verified and whereby an irregular amount totalling €9,000 was deducted by the MA prior to certification. Further verification controls were conducted in October 2017 following the processing of further payment claims by the respective stakeholders.</p>
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	<p><i>Calls Launched in 2017:</i></p> <p>On the 25th July 2017, the MA launched an open call for project proposals falling under UP5 of the EMFF OP for Malta 2014-2020: <i>Fostering marketing and processing</i> according to Article 68 of the EMFF Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014. The public eligible amount allocated for this call totals €250,000 – 75% of which will be the EMFF contribution [€187,500]. One application was submitted by the DFA whose aim is to launch a promotional campaign with the main objectives being that of [i] increasing awareness of the state of local fish stocks [ii] promote sustainable fish consumption and [iii] increasing importance of each citizen’s role in assisting in conservation efforts. As at time of reporting this operation is under implementation.</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
6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	<p data-bbox="359 179 766 212"><i>Calls Launched in 2017: None</i></p> <p data-bbox="359 369 606 414"><i>Ongoing Projects:</i></p> <p data-bbox="359 571 1484 795">A call for proposals under UP 6 Article 80.1.c – Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment was issued in March 2016. The project contributes to the effective management and sustainable use of marine resources, through sustained environmental monitoring in marine waters with the aim to assess the state of Malta’s marine waters on a continuous basis and address current knowledge gaps. Concrete data will be used to develop better management practices to address these pressures.</p> <p data-bbox="359 952 1492 1220">The project is being implemented by the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) through a tender awarded to the Malta Marine Monitoring Consortium [M3C], and has a value of €1,774,000 excluding VAT. The contract between the service provider and ERA was signed on the 16th June 2017. A launch event was held on the 31st July 2017 whereby the aims of the project and its expected results were presented by ERA representatives and the service provider to involved/interested stakeholders. The operation includes four main activities:</p> <ul data-bbox="430 1377 1484 1579" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Implementation and updating of the monitoring programme</i></li> <li>• <i>Development of a marine database system</i></li> <li>• <i>Analysis of monitoring data, assessment of environmental status and proposals of environmental targets</i></li> <li>• <i>Information and Publicity</i></li> </ul> <p data-bbox="359 1736 1468 1960">Communication between ERA and the Contractors is constant and regular. Technical meetings are held regularly to discuss and address any issues which arise, regular updates are provided as the work progresses. Meetings were also held between ERA and MA representatives at various stages of the project in 2017 to ensure the timely implementation and the achievement of planned targets. Progress reports were also compiled in line with the grant agreement.</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>In 2017, a total of €320,000 (total public eligible excluding VAT) were processed and certified by end 2017, which payment claims were also declared as expenditure to the European Commission. In this regard, the first OTS check conducted by the MA was held in November whereby the expenditure claimed was verified and the transactions were deemed as regular.</p>
7 - Technical assistance	<p>As in previous years, Technical Assistance (TA) during 2017 was used mainly to support the implementations of the EMFF OP. In 2017, a total of €266,999.46 worth of payment claims (total public eligible excluding VAT) were processed by the MA relating to various operations under this UP, namely in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Assistance at the initiative of the Member State - Implementation of the Operational Programme</li> <li>• Technical Assistance at the initiative of the Member State - IT Systems</li> <li>• Technical Assistance at the initiative of the Member State - Communication Activities</li> </ul> <p>TA expenditure was mainly related to salaries, promotional activities and material, Monitoring Committee meeting logistical expenses and other IT related payment claims.</p> <p>In 2017 the MA also hosted the 4th EMFF MA Workshop. During this workshop a total of 16 MS [with more than one participant per MS] participated whereby a number of important issues were discussed, namely: [i] the Status of the EMFF Implementation in the respective MS, challenges faced and applied measures by MS including Data Collection, Control and Enforcement and Integrated Maritime Policy [ii] Simplification [iii] EMFF Post-2020 and [iv] the Performance Framework. Documents used/ developed during the workshop were uploaded on the MA's EMFF Links and Downloads website for ease of access on:</p> <p><a href="https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Pages/Links-and-Downloads---EMFF.aspx">https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Pages/Links-and-Downloads---EMFF.aspx</a></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
	Technical Assistance was also utilised to cover advertising costs incurred for the publishing of various adverts in all local Sunday newspapers and the Government Gazzette in order to promote the calls launched during 2017. Administrative verifications and OTS checks controls on TA expenditure were held prior to the certification of payments In line with the applicable procedures.

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

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
----------------	---

Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 3

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017
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
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	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	%	100.00000	0.00000	0.00000

Specific objective	Result indicator	2016	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	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
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



<b>Specific objective</b>	1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data
---------------------------	--

Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 1

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017	2016
01 - Article 77 Data collection	06	3.2 - N° of projects on supporting the collection, management and use of data	✓	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00

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

<b>Specific objective</b>	2 - Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden
---------------------------	---

Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 2

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017	2016
01 - Article 76 Control and enforcement	06	3.1 - N° of projects on implementing the Union's control, inspections and enforcement system	✓	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

<b>Union priority</b>	6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy
-----------------------	--

Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 6

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017
1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	6.3 - Development of a database on the marine environment	number	1.00000	0.00000	1.00000

<b>Specific objective</b>	<b>Result indicator</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	6.3 - Development of a database on the marine environment	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

<b>Specific objective</b>	1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy
---------------------------	--

Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 1

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017	2016
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	1.00	0.00

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	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	0.00

<b>Union priority</b>	2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture
-----------------------	--

Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 2

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017
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	2016	2015	2014
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
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

<b>Specific objective</b>	2 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs
---------------------------	---

Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 2

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017	2016
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

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	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	0.00	0.00

<b>Specific objective</b>	3 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture
---------------------------	---

Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 3

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017	2016
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

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	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	0.00	0.00

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
----------------	--

Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 5

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017
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	0.00000	0.00000

<b>Specific objective</b>	<b>Result indicator</b>	<b>Measurement unit</b>	<b>Target value (2023)</b>	<b>Cumulative value</b>	<b>2017</b>
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	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	Kgs	0.50000	0.00000	0.00000

<b>Specific objective</b>	<b>Result indicator</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
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	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	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	0.00000

<b>Specific objective</b>	1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products
---------------------------	---

Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 1

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017	2016
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	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

<b>Union priority</b>	1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries
-----------------------	--

Table 1: Result indicators for the EMFF - 1

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017
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	0.00000	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
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	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	thousand Euros	2.00000	0.00000	0.00000

<b>Specific objective</b>	<b>Result indicator</b>	<b>Measurement unit</b>	<b>Target value (2023)</b>	<b>Cumulative value</b>	<b>2017</b>
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

<b>Specific objective</b>	<b>Result indicator</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
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	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	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
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
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
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

<b>Specific objective</b>	1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches
---------------------------	--

Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 1

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017	2016
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

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	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	0.00	0.00

<b>Specific objective</b>	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions
---------------------------	--

Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 4

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017	2016
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	✓	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 - Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities	03	1.10 - N° of projects on temporary cessation		10.00	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 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	✓	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	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
05 - Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities	03	1.10 - N° of projects on temporary cessation	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 of fishermen (+ art.	03	1.3 - N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	0.00	0.00



Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	2015	2014
44.1.f Inland fishing)				

<b>Specific objective</b>	5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer
---------------------------	---

Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 5

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017	2016
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
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	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	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

<b>Specific objective</b>	6 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning
---------------------------	---

Table 2: Output indicators for EMFF - 6

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	Included into the performance framework	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017	2016
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

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicator	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	0.00	0.00



Table 3: Financial indicators for EMFF

Union priority	Milestone (2018)	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value	2017	2016
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	2,000,000.00	11,577,239.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	500,000.00	3,306,822.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	3,000,000.00	10,215,936.00	179,430.00	179,430.00	0.00
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	150,000.00	469,771.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	500,000.00	1,600,000.00	320,000.00	320,000.00	0.00
7 - Technical assistance			266,999.00	266,999.00	0.00

Union priority	2015	2014
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
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

### 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%	200,000.00	200,000.00	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	02 - Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ art. 44.4 Inland fishing)	1,000,000.00	750,000.00	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%	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	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)	9,230,572.00	6,922,929.00	2,769,171.60	75.00%	9,350,950.00	9,350,950.00	101.30%
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)	106,666.00	80,000.00	80,000.00	75.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%
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, 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	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	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	1,000,000.00	750,000.00	300,000.00	75.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%
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	2,306,822.00	1,730,116.00	692,046.40	75.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%
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%	4,426,910.00	4,426,910.00	100.00%
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	5,789,026.00	5,150,123.00	0.00	88.96%	0.00	0.00	0.00%
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%	0.00	0.00	0.00%
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	1,600,000.00	1,200,000.00	480,000.00	75.00%	1,600,000.00	1,600,000.00	100.00%
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%	1,155,000.00	1,155,000.00	66.61%
<b>Total</b>				<b>28,903,707.00</b>	<b>22,627,422.00</b>	<b>4,501,218.00</b>	<b>78.29%</b>	<b>17,232,860.00</b>	<b>17,232,860.00</b>	<b>59.62%</b>

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,	1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as	06	03 - Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	60,000.00	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
competitive and knowledge based fisheries	possible, of unwanted catches								
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	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	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)	2,805,285.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	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	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)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0

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
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
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	179,430.00	179,430.00	4.05	0.00	2
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	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	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
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	480,000.00	320,000.00	320,000.00	20.00	96,000.00	1
7 - Technical assistance	1 - Technical assistance		01 - Article 78 Technical assistance at the initiative of the Member States	0.00	266,999.00	266,999.00	15.40	0.00	4
<b>Total</b>				<b>3,345,285.00</b>	<b>766,429.00</b>	<b>766,429.00</b>	<b>2.65</b>	<b>96,000.00</b>	<b>13</b>

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 total financial allocation to the priority axis (%)
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%
<b>TOTAL OP</b>	<b>0.00</b>	



#### 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 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
--	------------------------	--------------------	----------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------	--	------------

#### **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, no major issues affecting the performance of the programme were encountered by Malta. However, in light of the delay in implementation faced by the MA mainly due to the late adoption of the regulatory framework and due to MA resources between 2014 and 2015 being stretched due to efforts being also concentrated on the closure of the EFF programme, between 2016 and 2017 considerable effort was made by the MA to address the impact that this may have on the Performance Framework.

In this regard, in 2017 a total of eleven (11) calls were issued by the MA, targeting all the remaining measures which were necessary to be completed by end 2018 (a total of 10 different measures). This process included:

1. Consulting with the relevant stakeholders prior to the issuance of calls where necessary including EC representatives;
2. Drafting application forms bearing in mind the targeted beneficiaries, the relevant regulatory requirements including the adopted EMFF Admissibility and Selection Criteria;
3. Issuing calls for proposals and implementing promotional and informational activities in line with the needs of the target audience;
4. Conducting a completeness check on all applications received and following-up accordingly;
5. Evaluation by the PSC of all admissible applications in view of eligibility and regulatory requirements;
6. Issuing and following-up PSC clarification requests;
7. Selection of project proposals by the PSC following complete evaluation of admissible project proposals and
8. Communication of the grant award, where applicable.

Following award of the operation:

1. Meetings were held between the MA and the relevant stakeholders in view of ensuing processes including tasks to be implemented leading to the signature of the grant agreement;
2. Training was provided by MA representatives to beneficiaries and line ministry representatives at times on a 'one-to-one' basis on the EMFF Database (DB);
3. MA assistance in relation to EMFF DB matters was also provided to beneficiaries and other stakeholders throughout the implementation of the project;
4. Regular monitoring was undertaken through the use of verifications conducted by MA officials on the EMFF database, through communication exchanges held via email, phone calls and meetings;
5. Issues in need of address including aspects of disbursement and actions to be taken were brought to the attention of the respective stakeholders and discussed accordingly;
6. MA guidance was given to beneficiaries in view of procedures to be followed throughout the project lifecycle and implemented in terms of documents to be retained and recorded, visibility requirements, eligibility of costs being claimed/ proposed etc...;
7. Documentary and OTS verifications on payment claims were undertaken by the MA in line with the Manual of Procedures prior to certification to ensure that the declared expenditure to EC is

- regular and real;
8. Irregular amounts were deducted from payment claims through financial corrections and irregular reports issued;
  9. Verified amounts were certified through the EMFF Database in line with the applicable procedures with certified payments being claimed to EC by end 2017

Further to meetings and discussions held in 2016 and 2017 with the respective stakeholders including EC representatives, potential beneficiaries and Monitoring Committee members, amendments to the OP were proposed and adopted to target issues of foreseen lack of demand for certain adopted measures including Article 41.2 and interest shown in new measures to be introduced in the OP with the aim of addressing the achievement of the Performance Framework. Admissibility and Selection Criteria were also proposed to the Monitoring Committee and adopted in September 2017.

Notwithstanding the measures taken by the MA when issuing calls for proposals under Article 41.1, 41.2 and Article 30 of the EMFF Regulation as described in Section 3 of this report, challenges are currently being faced by the MA in achieving the output and financial indicators set for the Performance Framework whereby in total nine operations are meant to be complete by end 2018.

Out of these nine operations, it is highly likely that one operation will not be implemented by end 2018 since this operation falls under Article 41.2 whose eligibility is determined by the report on fishing capacity in line with Article 41.3. As explained in Section 3, due to this very few applicants were eligible to apply and in fact no applications were received in 2017. Although the MA may re-issue the call again in 2018 following the issuance of the 2018 report on the fishing capacity, it may be faced by a similar situation.

As at time of reporting, two calls for proposals were issued by the MA for Article 41.1 and Article (one in 2017 & one in early 2018). Eight applications were received for Article 41.1, 1 of which was not received within the closing deadline and 2 of which as at time of reporting were deemed by the PSC as not admissible due to incomplete project proposals. The remaining 5 applications are being currently evaluated by the PSC in view of the eligibility requirements set out in Commission Delegated Regulation 2015/531. Although 2 operations are meant to be completed by end 2018, the limitations imposed by this regulation increase the risk of inadmissibility as well as eligibility of the proposed actions, thus impacting both output and financial indicators.

Meanwhile, no proposals were received in 2017 under Article 30, whilst 1 application was submitted in the re-issued 2018 call. However, this application cannot be considered for evaluation since it was

submitted incomplete, meaning that this target is not likely to be met, even if further calls are issued.

A detailed explanation of the main reasons for lack of interest from fishers can be found under Section 3 of this report. As a consequence of the above, in 2018, further changes to the OP are foreseen to be made to address Performance Framework issues.

As per feedback given by the MA to EC representatives during formal and informal exchanges, Article 67 Storage Aid cannot be implemented in Malta since this is subject to the existence of Producer Organisations which cannot be introduced in Malta as described in Section 3.2 of the EMFF OP. To this end, it is envisaged that €219,771 worth of funds will not be disbursed by end 2023 and that these funds will be lost as these cannot be shifted to other measures,

Taking into consideration the targets and indicators of the Performance Framework of the EMFF programme the MA shall continue to place its effort in previous years, to maintain constant contact with its beneficiaries and stakeholders to address the above challenges. This will be carried out through bilateral meetings held between the MA and its beneficiaries in line with the MA's monitoring procedure and further supplemented with additional meetings and exchanges as deemed necessary.

## **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).

With reference to the fishermen calls issued by the MA in October 2017 under Article 30, Article 41.1 and Article 41.2 of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014, the actual process of Project Selection is still to be completed as at time of reporting due to required documentation submitted by applicants in 2018.

However, as at time of reporting, the MA can confirm that eligible applicants and their respective vessels do not have any recorded incidents of serious infringements under Article 10 (1) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014. This admissibility check was undertaken two ways. Firstly, as part of the application form under these calls, two sections were developed to address this requirement. Section 1.5 of the application required applicants to provide a copy of all notification letters issued whereby penalty points were assigned to the fishing license whereas in Section 10, the applicant was requested to declare to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, conformity with the criteria listed under Article 10.1(a-c) of Regulation (EU) 508/2014 and also declare that no fraud was committed. Secondly by way of MA follow-up of the declared non-infringement, the DFA was formally contacted in its capacity as the competent body and requested to provide information on whether infringements were recorded for these vessel owners since 2013. The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture confirmed that no infringements were recorded.

With reference to open calls under Article 48.1 of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014, since the deadline of the call was in 2018 and the project proposals are still under evaluation as at time of reporting, information on this requirement will be provided in the AIR covering the period of 2018. In addition, information on MA follow-up action taken with reference to Article 10(1), non-respect of durability conditions and remedy actions as set out in Article 10(2) will also be provided in subsequent Annual Implementation Reports.

**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 programming period. This was addressed in the call issued under UP1, Specific Objective 5 Article 41.2. A clause was included in the Guidance Notes to the applicants where it was specifically indicated that *“In line with Article 41.2 of Regulation [EU] № 508/2014, support shall be granted to vessels up to 12 metres in overall length, provided that the new or modernised engine does not have more power in KW than the current engine”*. However no applications were received under this call.

**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 2017, similarly to the previously launched calls in the preceding years a list of selected operations in line with Annex V of the EMFF Regulation was published online. The list of operations in accordance with the said Annex and Article 119 [2] of the EMFF Regulation is available online on the dedicated MA's website[1].

[1]<https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Documents/EMFF%20links%20and%20downloads/Information%20and%20Publicity/List%20of%20Operations%2010.01.2018.pdf>

**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 accordance with the Evaluation Plan adopted in March 2016, evaluation activities in terms of the Interim Evaluation for the EMFF OP in Malta were not implemented in 2017 since in order to effectively address the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the EMFF Operational Programme, the interim evaluation is planned to be conducted in the first quarter of 2019.

In 2017 however, the MA compiled its first enhanced annual implementation report, in accordance with Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 2 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1362/2014 of 18 December 2014, whereby the report submitted in 2017 set out and assessed the information provided in Part A of the Model for the Annual Implementation Report and the progress made towards achieving the objectives of the programme.

Furthermore, the annual implementation report submitted in 2017 set out the actions taken to fulfil the ex-ante conditionalities not fulfilled at the time of adoption of the programme. It also assessed the implementation of actions taking into account the principles set out in Articles 7 and 8 of the CPR, the role of the partners referred to in Article 5 in the implementation of the programme whilst also reported on support used for climate change objectives.

The third meeting of the Monitoring Committee (MC) was also held on 19th May 2017 whereby an update on the implementation of the EMFF OP was provided to MC members and whereby proposed amendments to the OP were discussed in detail in light of the local context and also adopted by the MC. The changes implemented in the Operational Programme also led to changes in the Admissibility and Selection Criteria due to new measures being programmed which amendments were adopted by the MC in September.

During 2017, 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. On 8th November 2017, the EMFF Annual Review Meeting was held in Malta whereby 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. Challenges faced by the MA in relation to the situational context at hand were discussed in light of the Performance Framework and an update on mitigating measures taken/to be taken was also provided. This meeting was subsequently followed by a Joint ESIF Annual Review Meeting also held in Malta on 9th November 2017, in view of Article 51(2) Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 whereby the state-of-play of the implementation of ESI funds was discussed between EC and MT representatives.

As in previous years, in September 2017, the MA attended 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 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund including the. Managing Authorities, the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), evaluators and other experts.

Through this meeting, i) EMFF stakeholders were informed on the structure and state-of-play of FAME SU's Common Monitoring and Evaluation System (CMES) report and working paper on EMFF evaluation; ii) views on the implementation of the CMES and the EMFF evaluation were exchanged between stakeholders and evaluators; and iii) priorities for the FAME SU Annual Work Programme 2018 were identified. With reference to FAME's working paper on EMFF evaluation it was noted that it consisted of two parts, a short introductory handbook and an extensive toolbox which can be used as reference for the three main types of evaluation described by FAME. Guidance provided in the EMFF evaluation working paper is deemed as very useful and will be taken into consideration as applicable by the MA for the interim evaluation.

In this regard, in 2017 internal discussions on MA tasks to implemented in 2018 with reference to the Interim Evaluation were held. It is foreseen that preparatory activities for the interim evaluation including the drafting of the tender document including the terms of reference for the Interim Evaluation to be conducted by external evaluators will commence 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. The MA shall also be responsible for ensuring that sufficient resources are available for carrying out evaluations and that procedure are in place to collect common and programme specific data for evaluations.

It is envisaged that the EMFF Monitoring Committee shall also contribute toward the evaluation plan by [i] reviewing the implementation of the EMFF OP [ii] approve the Annual Implementation Report prior to submission to the European Commission.

The Ex-ante Evaluation Report of the EMFF OP can be accessed on  
<http://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Documents/EMFF%202014-2020/ex%20ante%20evaluation%20report.pdf>.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the EMFF OP can be accessed on  
[http://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Documents/EMFF%202014-2020/Final%20Environmental%20Report\\_.pdf](http://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Documents/EMFF%202014-2020/Final%20Environmental%20Report_.pdf).

The Citizen's Summary of the EMFF Annual Implementation Report covering 2014 and 2015 can be accessed on  
<https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Documents/EMFF%202014-2020/EMFF%20AIR%202014-5%20final%20Annex.pdf>.

The Citizen's Summary of the EMFF Annual Implementation Report covering 2016 can be accessed on  
<https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Documents/EMFF%202014-2020/Reports/Final%20AIR%202016%20Annexes.pdf>.

The Evaluation Plan can be accessed on  
<http://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Documents/EMFF%202014-2020/Evaluation%20Plan%20Final%20v1.pdf>.

**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.

--



**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.

--

**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)

--

**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

--

- 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
Annual Implementation Report - Citizen's Summary	Citizens' summary	07-May-2018		Ares(2018)2611372	Citizen's Summary	20-May-2018	nsceraph

## Latest validation results

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Implementation report version has been validated