

MINISTERU GĦALL-AFFARIJJIET EWROPEJ U L-
UGWALJANZA

SEGRETARJAT PARLAMENTARI GĦALL-FONDI
EWROPEJ U ID-DJALOGU SOCJALI



MALTA

MINISTRY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND
EQUALITY

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT FOR EU
FUNDS AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE

Id-Divizjoni għall-Fondi u Programmi

Funds and Programmes Division

18th October 2018

MA Circular No 2/2018

Subject: De-commitment of Funds following 31 December 2018 & Performance Framework Milestones 2018 for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (2014-2020)

Dear Project Leaders & Beneficiary Organisations,

As you have been informed, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund is subjected to annual commitment targets¹ and a performance review which will also be undertaken in 2019 on output indicator and financial indicator milestones achieved by end 2018. Consequently, if funds are not spent in line with the disbursement table and the performance framework table within the EMFF Operational Programme 2014-2020, the respective funds may be lost.

The first N+3 de-commitment process will materialise on the 31st of December 2018, if the amount of €3,692,355.49 (€2,769,266.62 EU share and €923,088.87 MT share) is not paid and processed completely through the EMFF Database by then. Details on Performance Framework commitments can be accessed on Section 7.1 of the Operational Programme. As can be seen in total, Performance Framework financial targets for 2018 amount to €6,000,000 (circa €4,500,000 EU share and €1,500,000 MT share).

In view of this, we strongly encourage you to assess mechanisms in order to hasten the tendering processes and reach or exceed the disbursement allocations you have estimated for 2018. This would enable you to contribute as much as possible to the amounts identified above, as well as ensuring that the funds allocated to your projects remain available after 2018. This urgent action needs to be enforced

¹ Article 86 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013

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not only on operations which have been approved by the Project Selection Committee but also for those projects under evaluation or are being planned to be submitted, without prejudice to the PSC results.

A general concerted effort is now crucial in order to keep the funds for the implementation of Malta's EMFF 2014-2020 operations. Bilateral meetings have already been held with beneficiary organisations last July and August whereby the significance of these matters was clearly described and updates on time-frames of contracting and disbursements until the 31st December 2018 were presented and discussed.

Unfortunately, delays are still being registered in the implementation of operations in relation to procurement processes and in the upload and processing of payment claims through the EMFF Database. To this end, project leaders are being requested to update the Managing Authority on a weekly basis (Friday close of business) on contracting and disbursements until the 31st December 2018 and implement the necessary mitigating measures to speed up the disbursement process. May we underline that the data received will be relayed to higher levels and therefore any delays which may jeopardise the funds need to be notified immediately, together with mitigating measures to address the related challenges. In relation to activities under implementation, it is of utmost importance that the necessary documentation is uploaded and payment claims processed without further delays in the EMFF Database so as to avoid bottlenecks in the system in the forthcoming weeks.

Beneficiary organisations and project leaders are kindly requested to treat these matters as urgent, since loss of funds will mean the inability to finance in full the awarded projects and hence the Ministries will need to fork out their funds to cover the costs.

Thanking you for your co- operation.



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