

Annual Implementation Report European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014-2020

Reporting on Year 2016

Monitoring Committee
19th May 2017



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



Investing in Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

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Section 2- Overview of the Implementation of the Programme

A. Information on Calls Issued by end 2016:

i. Article 77 Data Collection

- Call Issued: 11th March 2016
- Call Deadline: 29th April 2016

ii. Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment

- Call Issued: 9th June 2016
- Call Deadline: 10th August 2016

iii. 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)

- Call Issued: 20th October 2016
- Call Deadline: 30th November 2016

[i] Article 77: Data Collection

- a. Project Proposal Evaluation: Project Selection Committee
- b. Award of project proposal and signature of grant agreement
- c. Beneficiary: Fisheries Resource Unit [FRU] within the DFA
 - Responsible for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and to provide support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy.
- d. Operation Summary:
 - The collection, use and management of fisheries data in line with Council Regulation EC No. 199/2008 and Commission Decision [2010/93/EU] and as outlined in the National Programme for the collection of primary biological, technical, environmental and socio-economic data in the fisheries sector of the Republic of Malta, 2014 - 2016 National Programme.
- e. Total Eligible Expenditure: € 1,822,425 of which 80% EU contribution = € 1,457,940.

[ii] Article 80.1.c:

Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment

- a. Project Proposal Evaluation: Project Selection Committee
- b. Award of project proposal and signature of grant agreement
- c. Beneficiary: Environment and Resources Authority [ERA] within MSDEC
- d. Operation Summary:
 - Aims at initiating the implementation of sustained environmental monitoring in marine waters in order to assess the state of Malta's marine waters on a continuous basis and address current knowledge gaps;
 - Intends to provide a sound knowledge base for effective management of anthropogenic activities and work towards achievement of Good Environmental Status in marine waters;
 - Seeks the development of a database.
- e. Total Eligible Expenditure: € 1,600,000.00 of which 75% EU contribution = € 1,200,000

[iii] 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

- a. 4 project proposals were expected to be received by 30th November 2016;
- b. 2 applications were received by 30th November 2016;
 - A proposal by MTI for the **Refurbishment and upgrading of slipways in the port of Marsaxlokk**
 - A proposal by MSDEC for **The Construction and Finishing of a Fish Landing Site in the Marsaxlokk Designated Port**
- c. Following completeness and validity check conducted in 2016, both project proposals were evaluated by PSC in 2017.

Section 2-

Overview of the Implementation of the Programme (cont.)

B. Information on tasks implemented by end 2016:

- I. Attainment of **MA's & CA's formal designation** in October 2016
 - **Audit Report and Opinion:** IAID as the Audit Body for the Designation Procedure of the EMFF OP
 - Based on work implemented between 2015 and 2016 which resulted in the finalisation of **Description of Management and Control Systems (DMCS)**
 - **Documents and tools crucial for the Designation:** DMCS, MA's MoP, CA's Internal MoP, Risk Register, Fraud Risk Assessment, National Eligibility Rules, EMFF Database (Population and testing)
- II. Update of MA's webpage with necessary documentation and meeting CPR/EMFF Regulatory Requirements including:
 - I. List of selected operations as laid down in Article 119 of Reg. [EU] No.508/2014
 - II. EMFF AIR (covering period for 2014-2015)

Section 2-

Overview of the Implementation of the Programme (cont.)

B. Information on tasks implemented by end 2016:

I. Information and Publicity Events

- **11th September 2016:** Participation by the MA in the **Marsaxlokk Fish Fest (Mir-Rahal tas-Sajjieda)** to promote the new EMFF OP whereby generic information was disseminated with the general public and prospective applicants for upcoming calls.
- **Promotional material was distributed** including: [i] USBs [ii] baseball caps and [iii] travel mugs. Promotional material bore the EMFF co-financing text.

II. Continuation of **Local and external training** of MA officials and stakeholders

III. **Annual Review Meeting** with EC representatives held on 10th November

- Aspects of implementation of the EMFF OP in Malta were discussed and subsequently followed-up by the MA

IV. **Second EMFF Monitoring Committee Meeting** held on 11th November



Annual Event 2016 Marsaxlokk Festa Hut



11th September 2016



Section 2-

Overview of the Implementation of the Programme (cont.)

C. Information on Pre-financing Payments received by end 2016:

- Two pre-financing payments:
 - I. €212,697 (initial pre-financing);
 - II. €425,395.54 (annual pre-financing).

Section 3-

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

A. Information on the Implementation of the Union Priorities and Technical Assistance in 2016 with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address the problems:

- I. Further information given by the MA in relation to the Calls issued in 2016 as mentioned in Section 2: Award of projects
- II. Information on MA steps taken in relation to the remaining calls being/to be issued in 2017
- III. Reference to required OP amendments
- IV. Information on MA steps taken to avoid unnecessary delays:
 - **At application level with the aim of increasing quality of applications:** Meetings were held with stakeholders prior to the call deadline to provide information and guidance to the applicant;
 - **At project implementation level:** Contact maintained with the beneficiary following award of operation to ensure smooth transition of the implemented operation and processing of payments.

Section 3-

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

A. Information on the Implementation of the Union Priorities and Technical Assistance in 2016 with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address the problems:

v. Information on Technical Assistance expenditure

- Information on calls for quotations issued in 2016:
 1. Procurement of the promotional items distributed during the Festa Hut event.
 2. Procurement of Roll-up Banner [design and printing]: used during the EMFF MC Meeting held on 11th November 2016.
 3. Provision of Diaries together with artwork for Year 2017: disseminated amongst potential beneficiaries.
- Payments claims received by the MA in 2016 including reimbursement requests for salaries started being processed by the MA in 2016.

Section 3-

3.2 Result, Output and Financial Indicators for EMFF

- **Tables 1-3 shown on page 12-22 of the EMFF AIR** present information on values achieved by end 2016 in relation to result, output and financial indicators for the EMFF OP.
- **Note: Indicators can only be achieved upon completion of operation/s some of which are expected to be complete by end 2018 as also reported in Part B of the AIR.**

3.3 Financial Data

- **Tables 4-5 shown on page 23-27 of the EMFF AIR** present information on financial data for the EMFF achieved by end 2016 in relation to the applicable measures programmed as per adopted OP, selected operations and expenditure as at end 2016.

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

4.1 Actions taken to fulfil the ex-ante conditionalities

- **Table 6 shown on page 28 of the EMFF AIR** provides information on ex-ante conditionality not fulfilled at the time of adoption of the OP:
 - **Thematic ex-ante conditionality:** Report on fishing capacity has been submitted in accordance with Article 22[2] of Regulation [EU] No 1380/2013
 - **Criteria not fulfilled as at time of OP adoption:** The report is made in accordance with common guidelines issued by the Commission
 - Fulfilled following submission of amended **Fleet Capacity Report for the year 2015** on 31st May 2016 as per **EC's letter dated 12th December 2016** [Ref. Ares (2016) 6915887]

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

Information on Evaluation Plan circulated to EMFF MC members on 2 March 2016

i. Aims & objectives:

- To lay out in more detail the framework to be followed by Malta for the Evaluation Plan of the EMFF OP in accordance with the plan set out in Section 10 of the EMFF OP;
- To provide evidence on the contribution of each Union Priority to its objectives and the assessment of the impact of the programme in relation to set targets;
- To enable informed programme management and policy decision on the basis of evaluation findings;
- To facilitate the synthesis of findings and the exchange of available evidence.

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

Information on Evaluation Plan circulated to EMFF MC members on 2 March 2016

- ii. **Implemented Evaluation Activities** will assess if the overall strategy of the EMFF OP was effective in terms of results achieved in the context of the European 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, the policy intentions of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy, the national development priorities and also the sectorial ambitions as highlighted by industry stakeholders.
- iii. 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.
- iv. The MA shall also be responsible for ensuring that sufficient resources.
- v. **Interim Evaluation:** proposed in Chapter 3 of the Evaluation Plan, *covering the EMFF programme implementation in Malta between 2014 and 2018, taking into consideration the Performance Framework.*

Section 11- Assessment of the implementation of the OP

[Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013]

Assessment by UP on the information and data provided in Part A and progress towards achieving the objectives of the Programme

- i. Analysis performed on whether the calls issued and the results achieved during programme implementation in 2016, in addition to the state-of-play of programme implementation as at time of reporting and expected future outcomes will result in the achievement of the applicable specific objectives for OP measures adopted through the attainment of result indicators.
- ii. Information on steps taken by the MA/ aspects of programme implementation which aid in the achievement of the objectives, including monitoring of beneficiaries, guidance to applicants, proposed OP amendments etc....

Section 11- Assessment of the implementation of the OP

[Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013]

Assessment by UP on whether progress made towards milestones and targets is sufficient to ensure eventual fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned (where appropriate)

- i. Analysis performed in relation to the achievement of set milestone values (2018) and target values (2023) regarding output indicators and financial indicators (Section 7.1 of the EMFF OP).
 - Based on information given in Part A of the AIR and
 - further info provided in Section 11 in relation to calls issued, outputs and financial allocation achieved during programme implementation in 2016, the state-of-play of programme implementation as at time of reporting and expected future achievements.
- i. Information on steps taken by the MA/ aspects of programme implementation which aid in the achievement of output and financial indicators, including establishment of EMFF Selection Criteria, drafting of applications, evaluation of project proposals, monitoring of beneficiaries, guidance to applicants, proposed OP amendments etc....

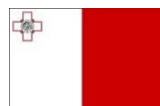
Section 12- Horizontal Principles of implementation

[Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013]

Assessment of the implementation of specific actions taking in account the principles set out in:

- i. **Article 5** of Reg. [EU] No 1303/2013 on **partnership and multi-level governance**, with particular emphasis on the role of partners in the implementation of the programme;
- ii. **Article 7** of Reg. [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 OP;
- iii. **Article 8** of Reg. [EU] No 1303/2013 on **sustainable development**, including an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development;

Thank you for your attention



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