

Annual Implementation Report European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014-2020

Reporting on Year 2017

Monitoring Committee
4th May 2018



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 2017:

- i. Union Priority 1: 5 calls issued
 - **Article 39:** *Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources*
 - **Article 29:** *The Promotion of human capital, job creation and social dialogue*
 - **Article 41.1:** *On board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes and studies*
 - **Article 41.2:** *Engine replacement or modernisation*
 - **Article 30:** *Diversification and new forms of income*

- ii. Union Priority 2: 2 calls issued
 - **Article 48.1:** *Productive Investments in Aquaculture*

- iii. Union Priority 3: 3 calls issued
 - **Article 77:** *Data Collection for the 2017-2019 period*
 - **Article 76:** *Control and Enforcement*

- iv. Union Priority 5: 1 call issued
 - **Article 68:** *Fostering marketing and processing*

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

B. Information on tasks implemented by end 2017:

- i. **Update of MA's webpage with necessary documentation and meeting CPR/EMFF Regulatory Requirements including:**
 - List of selected operations as laid down in Article 119 of Reg. [EU] No.508/2014
 - EMFF AIR (covering period for 2016)

- ii. **Information sessions and meetings held to guide potential applicants**
 - Held for all open and restricted calls
 - Two information sessions were held for Calls issued under UP1 targeting Fishermen Calls (one in Gozo and one in Malta)
 - Guidance was also provided by MA officials on a daily basis through phone and email exchanges and meetings held with prospective applicants to address queries
 - Information session was also held for open call issued under UP2 with prospective aquaculture applicants

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

B. Information on tasks implemented by end 2017:

- iii. **Third EMFF Monitoring Committee Meeting** was held on 19th May
 - Adoption of Proposed OP amendments which were subsequently put forward to EC
 - OP Amendments were adopted by EC on 10th October 2017
 - Amendments to the EMFF Admissibility and Selection Criteria: approved through written procedure issued in September

- iv. **The 2017 Annual Review Meeting and a Joint ESIF Annual Review Meeting** were held between 8th - 9th November with EC representatives
 - EMFF OP Implementation in Malta and related issues with reference to Performance and Decommittment were discussed

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

B. Information on tasks implemented by end 2017:

- v. **4th Informal EMFF MAs workshop was hosted in Malta by the MA on the 3rd and 4th October 2017**
 - Attended by 16 Member States
 - A platform for EMFF MAs to share experiences and success stories
 - Subjects discussed: [i] Data Collection; [ii] Control and Enforcement; [iii] Integrated Maritime Policy; [iv] Simplification; [v] EMFF Post-2020 and [vi] the Performance Framework

C. Information on Pre-financing Payment received by end 2017:

- Annual pre-financing payment received on 15th June 2017 amounting to €558,331.65)

EMFF 4th MA Workshop hosted in Malta (3rd October 2017)



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

D. Information on Payment Applications submitted by end 2017:

- **Two Statement of Expenditures undertaken in 2017**

- 1 completed by accounting year ending 30 June 2017

- Payment application amounting to €285,645.67 (EU share) was submitted to EC on 25th July 2017

- 1 completed for *accounting year ending 30 June 2018*

- Payment application amounting to **€298,147.42** (EU Share) was submitted to EC on 15th December 2017

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 2017 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 2017 as mentioned in Section 2
- II. Information on MA steps taken in relation to ensure a wider outreach of applicants and to provide the necessary information and guidance to applicant
- III. Information on issues experienced in relation to lack of demand from applicants for certain measures
- IV. Reference to OP and EMFF Admissibility and Selection Criteria Amendments made in 2017
- V. Information provided on ongoing projects

Section 3-

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

- vi. **Information on the implementation of Union Priority 7- Technical Assistance**
 - TA expenditure and activities in 2017 relate to the following types of operations:
 - a. *Implementation of the Operational Programme*
 - Reimbursement of Salaries
 - b. *IT systems*
 - Updates made to the EMFF Database
 - c. *Communication and Promotional Activities:*
 - Procurement of promotional material bearing EMFF visibility

Section 3- (cont.)

3.2 Result, Output and Financial Indicators for EMFF

- **Tables 1-3 shown on page 15-26 of the EMFF AIR** present information on values achieved by end 2017 in relation to result, output and financial indicators for the EMFF OP.

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

3.3 Financial Data

- **Tables 4-5 shown on page 27-31 of the EMFF AIR** present information on financial data for the EMFF achieved by end 2017 in relation to the applicable measures programmed as per adopted OP, selected operations and expenditure as at end 2017.

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

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

- A. Information provided on MA measures taken in 2017 to address the impact that the delay of EMFF implementation may have on the Performance Framework;
- B. Information provided on challenges faced between 2017 to date to achieve output indicators under Union Priority 1 Article 41.1, Article 41.2 and Article 30 (9 operations are meant to be complete by end 2018). A lack of demand from applicants has been experienced under these measures resulting mainly from:
 - Eligibility requirements under Article 41.2 are determined by the report on fishing capacity in line with Article 41.3. Very few applicants could apply for the call issued and thus no applications were received.
 - Calls issued under Article 41.1 and Article 30 were also limited in terms of eligibility of applicants/eligible activities that can be undertaken by applicants due to the conditions also set out in the regulatory framework.

Section 5 - Information on serious infringements and remedy actions

- A. No incidents of serious infringements under Article 10(1) of Reg (EU) No 508/2014 have been recorded
- B. Information provided on the system of checks put into practice:
 - i. 2 sections were developed in the **Application Form** to address this requirement:
 - **Section 1.5:** Requires applicants to provide a copy of all notification letters issued whereby penalty points were assigned to the fishing license;
 - **Section 10:** The applicant is 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.
 - ii. In terms 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.

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

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

- In 2017, the MA compiled its first enhanced annual implementation report whereby the information provided in Part A of the report was assessed in relation to the progress made towards achieving the objectives of the programme.
- Evaluation and monitoring activities were carried out by the MA to assess the progress of the EMFF OP in terms of taking stock of i) calls issued, ii) operations awarded, iii) project implementation status, iv) indicators to be achieved, and evaluating and implementing means of address in relation to challenges being faced.
- The state-of-implementation of the EMFF Programme, its progress and results achieved as at time of reporting were discussed between MA and EC representatives during the EMFF Annual Review Meeting held on 8th November.
- The state-of-play of the implementation of ESI funds was also discussed between EC and MT representatives in the Joint ESIF Annual Review Meeting held in Malta on 9th November.

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

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

- Attendance and participation by MA representatives in the **Annual Stakeholder Meeting** organised by the **Fisheries and Aquaculture Monitoring & Evaluation Support Unit (FAME SU)** whose aim is to ensure a strengthened communication among the stakeholders involved in Monitoring and Evaluation of the EMFF. During this meeting:
 - i. 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.

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

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

- In 2017, internal discussions on MA tasks to be 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.

Thank you for your attention



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