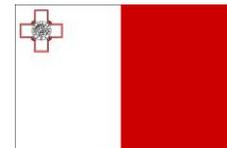
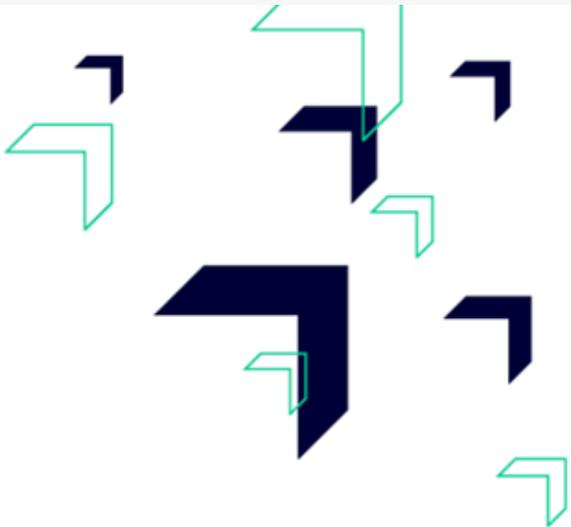


PROGRAMMING OF EUROPEAN UNION FUNDS
FOR MALTA
2021-2027

EMFAF
Eligibility and Selection Criteria – Aquaculture
2021-2027

25th January 2023



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Common Provision Regulation No 2021/1060:

- Article 40(2)(a), the Monitoring Committee (MC) shall approve the methodology and criteria used for the selection of operations
- The Managing Authority (MA) is mandated by Regulation 2021/1060 Article 73 to establish and apply criteria and procedures which are non-discriminatory, transparent, that ensure accessibility to persons with disabilities, ensure gender equality and the principle of sustainable development and of the Union policy on the environment in accordance with Article 11 and Article 191(1) TFEU
- Selected operations are approved with the general understanding that these should be implemented in line with the Annex III of Regulation 2021/1060 horizontal enabling conditions tied to: (i) Public procurement; (ii) State Aid rules; (iii) Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union; and (iv) United Nations convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD)

Project Eligibility and Selection Criteria

The criteria for the selection of mainstream projects are divided as follows:

- **Eligibility Criteria** which consist in a gateway assessment which ensures that all applications have reached a minimum standard
- **Selection Criteria** which are designed to assess the fit and contribution of project proposals with the Programme's strategy, its target groups, and its objectives

Eligibility Criteria



✓ Application Form

✓ Eligibility of Beneficiary

✓ Remit of beneficiary organisation

✓ Capacity of beneficiary organisation

✓ Beneficiary in compliance with Common Fisheries Policy rules

✓ Project implemented within the eligible territory

Eligibility Criteria

- ✓ Verification of co-financing (where applicable)
- ✓ Project Leader from beneficiary organisation
- ✓ Compliance with Article 13 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139
- ✓ Proposal demonstrates the contribution to a specific objective in line with Article 26 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139
- ✓ Status of operation
- ✓ Compliance with Article 27 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139
- ✓ Compliance with Article 11 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139

Eligibility Criteria

Application Form

- The Applicant must present a complete application form, filled in with all relevant details and auxiliary documentation
- No outline applications or incomplete applications shall be considered
- Submission of project proposals must be made within the time-limit set for receipt of applications defined in the call for applications

Capacity of beneficiary organisation

- The Applicant organisation must have adequate administrative capacity, competence and technical resources

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility of Beneficiary

- Applicant is not in an exclusion situation in accordance with Art 136 (1) and Art 141 (1) of 2018/1046 Financial Regulation and CPR Art 73(2)(i) of CPR (*if applicable*)
- The Applicant should sign a declaration confirming that they or any person involved in the project are not in an exclusion situation in accordance with the Financial Regulation and Common Provisions Regulation (*if applicable*)

Beneficiary in compliance with Common Fisheries Policy rules

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2022/2181 defines time periods and dates for the inadmissibility of applications in case of infringements and points system
- The criterion is applicable where the applicant concerned is an ‘operator’ as defined in Article 2(30) of Regulation (EU) No. 1380/2013, thus a natural or legal person who operates or holds any undertaking carrying out any of the activities related to any stage of production, processing, marketing, distribution and retail chains of fisheries and aquaculture products (*if applicable*)
- This is not applicable for Public Entities

Eligibility Criteria

Remit of beneficiary organisation

- Applicant organisation has remit to implement the project within its mandate. It must be publicly mandated or authorized to implement the project by virtue of the applicable law establishing the Organisation or by the respective Statute in the case of NGOs
- The parameters and objectives of the project must fall within the remit and mandate of the Applicant
- Supporting documentation as required in the call would need to be provided

Project implemented within the eligible territory and its direct benefit

- The eligible territory for the Programme is the whole territory for the Republic of Malta.
- All or part of an operation may be implemented outside of a Member State, including outside the Union, provided that the operation contributes to objectives of the Programme and provides direct benefits to the targeted territory of Malta.

Eligibility Criteria

Verification of Co-financing (where applicable)

- In cases where Government is not co-financing the project from national funds, the entity committing itself to provide co-financing (public or other organisations) must produce proof that resources for the whole duration of the project are available

Proposal demonstrates the contribution to specific objectives in line with Article 26 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139

- Only proposals that selected the relevant Specific Objective/s as published in the call will be considered.
- Contributing to the achievement of Programme objectives and targets is essential

Eligibility Criteria

Project Leader from beneficiary organisation

- Such officer carries monetary and legal responsibility for implementing a project on behalf of the beneficiary.
- The persons' direct association with the beneficiary is crucial especially with a view to ensure that the grant is exclusively used for the agreed purpose.

Status of operation

- Status of operation is either ongoing or not yet started, unless otherwise allowed by the Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 Article 63(6)
- Unless otherwise allowed by the specific applicable regulations, operations shall not be considered eligible for support by the Funds where they have been physically completed or fully implemented before the application for funding under the programme is submitted, irrespective of whether all related payments have been made.

Compliance with Article 11 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139

- The application form must be in line with applicable criteria identified under Article 11 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139 *(if applicable)*.

Compliance with Article 13 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139

- The operation/proposal does not fall under Article 13 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139, which identifies ineligible operations or expenditure

Compliance with Article 27 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139

- The operation/proposal must be in line with Article 27 ‘Aquaculture’ of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139 (*if applicable*)
- This criterion is applicable for only Aquaculture calls

Selection Criteria

Criteria	Marks
The proposed project maximises the contribution to EU key priorities as expressed in the programme objectives and expected results	15 marks
Contribution of the project to the programmes type of actions, interventions and Member State Obligations and commitments	15 marks
Potential of the project to enhance innovation and partnership in the sector	5 marks

Selection Criteria

Criteria	Marks
Contribution towards indicators beyond minimum	15 marks
Readiness	5 marks
Project Sustainability and Cost Effectiveness	15 marks

Selection Criteria

Criteria	Marks
Horizontal principles – Fundamental rights, Equal opportunities, non-discrimination and accessibility	5 marks
Sustainable Development	15 marks
Quality of application form	5 marks
Complementarity	5 marks

Selection Criteria

The proposed project maximises the contribution to EU key priorities as expressed in the programme objectives and expected results

15 marks

The assessment will include the following selection criteria, amongst others:

Relevant to Specific Objective 2.1	Relevant to Specific Objective 2.2
The project ensures the strengthening of knowledge in the sector leading to more targeted public policies and approaches towards aquaculture	The actions increase public awareness and social responsibility on low-impact and sustainable fishery and aquaculture products, consumer rights and attractiveness of the sector
The project is able to support transfer of research and uptake of new/novel technologies in the sector	A clear description of how the actions will increase awareness of low carbon / low impact fishing practices, underutilised species and new products
Moreover, the project actions contribute towards the achievement of a direct and indirect benefit to the private sector by enhancing areas related to sustainability, diversification, adaptation and resilience of the sector, circular economy, innovation, decarbonisation, food security, growth, employment, and competitiveness of the aquaculture industry	The proposed actions address the enhancement, resilience and competitiveness of the fisheries and aquaculture industry, its sustainability, development, employment through processing and marketing

Selection Criteria

Contribution of the project to the programmes type of actions, interventions and Member State Obligations and commitments

15 marks

The assessment will include the following selection criteria, amongst others:

- Evidence that the project addresses qualitatively and quantitatively the programme objectives and support the recovery, resilience, green transition and digitalisation
- The extent that the project delivers on the type of actions and interventions described in the programme
- The project contributes to the EU and National Fisheries and Aquaculture regulations and policies

Selection Criteria

Contribution of the project to the programmes type of actions, interventions and Member State Obligations and commitments (*cont.*)

Relevant to Specific Objective 2.1	Relevant to Specific Objective 2.2
<p>The project contributes to the objectives defined in the Common Fisheries Policy, the EU's Strategic Guidelines for Aquaculture, regional aspects under the WestMed, initiative and challenges identified in <i>EC's Sea Basin Analysis (2020)</i></p>	<p>The project guarantees the achievements of the general and specific objectives of the Open Method for Coordination defined in the Common Fisheries Policy, as well as regional challenges identified in the <i>EC'S Sea Basin Analysis (2020)</i>, particularly <i>Challenge 5 – Improving the value chain and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products.</i></p>
<p>The project demonstrating actions are clearly in line and contributing to <i>Malta's Aquaculture Strategy, Multiannual National Plan for the Development of Sustainable Aquaculture 2022-2030 and Malta's Smart Specialisation Strategy 2021-2027</i>, as well as the guiding principles and objectives of the European Green Deal, the EU's Farm-to-Fork Strategy, Biodiversity and the Bioeconomy strategies.</p>	<p>The project's demonstrating actions are clearly in line with and contributing to <i>Malta's Aquaculture Strategy, Multiannual National Plan for the Development of Sustainable Aquaculture 2022-2030</i>, as well as <i>Action 22 of the Ministerial Declaration on a Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea</i> and the objective of the EU's Farm-to-Fork strategy.</p>
<p>The project is compatible with requirements under European and National legislation, including the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive and achieving good environmental status under the Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive</p>	

Selection Criteria

Potential of the project to enhance innovation and partnership in the sector

5 marks

- If partners are involved, evidence of how they will contribute to the achievement of the expected results is required
- The ability of the project to mobilise complementary funding/actions to achieve the expected results
- Innovative solutions proposed in this project to achieve the expected results

Selection Criteria

Contribution towards indicators beyond minimum

10 marks

- Assessed in terms of contribution towards the programme indicators beyond the minimum required
- Adequate description of the selected result indicators in the project proposal including an explanation of the method of quantification of targets and verification of their attainment
- Assessment of whether there are any unrealistic project indicator targets which are not achievable
- The level of contribution of the proposed indicators towards achieving Programme targets as outlined in the call

Selection Criteria

Contribution towards indicators beyond minimum (*cont.*)

10 marks

Relevant to Specific Objective 2.1	Relevant to Specific Objective 2.2 (Awareness Rising and marketing)
<p>The relevant result indicators to be identified in the call for proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Persons benefitting- Actions contributing to good environmental status- Innovations enables- Entities improving resource efficiency in production and/or processing- Data sets and advice made available	<p>Relevant result indicators to be identified in the call for proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Entities increasing social sustainability- Entities benefitting from production and information activities.

Selection Criteria

Readiness

10 marks

- Risk associated with the timeline of the project as proposed by the Applicant
- Readiness, assessed on the basis of policy-readiness, tenders, planning and environmental permits, recruitment procedures and, discussions amongst the relevant stakeholders, mandate, amongst others, depending on the nature of the published call and the nature of the proposal
- Other risks

Selection Criteria

Project Sustainability and Cost Effectiveness

15 marks

- Magnitude of post operating costs against total project costs and how the benefits will continue to be enjoyed after the project financing has actually ended
- The financial stability of the Applicant organisation if it is a private entity
- The proposal includes a qualitative description on how the operations will respect the requirements on durability under Article 65(1) of the Common Provisions Regulation
- Extra marks given on the basis of added value, project effectiveness and also the justification of planned expenses. Co-financing necessitates obtaining the best return and added value possible on EU fund invested.

Selection Criteria

Horizontal principles – Fundamental rights, Equal opportunities, non-discrimination and accessibility

5 marks

- Effective measures addressing Fundamental rights and compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
- Effective measures addressing gender equality, including the role of women in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors
- Effective measures addressing equal opportunities for all
- Effective measures ensuring the principle of non-discrimination
- Effective measures ensuring accessibility

Selection Criteria

Sustainable Development

15 marks

- Effective measures that contribute towards economic development of the fisheries and/or the aquaculture sector
- Effective measures that contribute towards responsible fisheries and aquaculture practices and social cohesion of the Small Scale Fishers
- The proposal includes an adequate description of effective measures to achieve environmental sustainability within the framework of the CFP, MSFD and other and EU environmental legislation

Selection Criteria

Quality of application form

5 marks

- General presentation and overall coherence between different sections of the proposal
- Proposed budget is in line with the proposed activities, demonstrating sound financial management and the absence of 'Double Funding'
- Adequate description and purpose of each activity being proposed including a work plan/Gantt chart with regards to the implementation of these activities
- Proposal identifies communication strategies/actions showing how the use of public funds will be effectively publicised and communicated with the relevant target groups of the proposed project and the general public

Selection Criteria

Complementarity

5 marks

- Proposal identifies complementarity with actions and results of other EU-funded projects, including under relevant Horizon Europe call and its Mission Ocean.
- Relevant to Specific Objective 2.2 – Proposal implements the activities and actions in the EU Strategic Guidelines on Aquaculture on Communication on EU aquaculture to consumer and citizens.

Contact Details



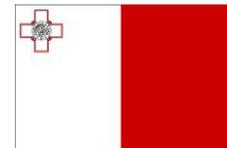
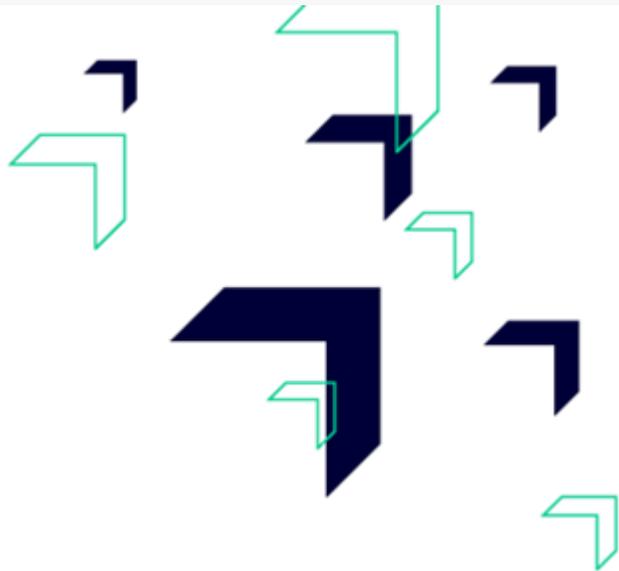
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Thank you



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