

# Update on Implementation 2014 – 2020 Programming Period

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Operational  
Programme

*Investing in Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture*

Monitoring Committee

25<sup>th</sup> January 2023



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*

## The Monitoring Committee:

- The role of the Monitoring Committee (MC) is to satisfy itself as to the effectiveness and quality of the implementation of the Operational Programme, in accordance with Article 49 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 113 of EMFF Regulation 508/2014.
- The Monitoring Committee shall meet once a year and shall review the implementation of the programme and progress made towards achieving its objectives, in line with Article 110 of the Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.
- The Monitoring Committee shall be updated on financial data, common and programme-specific indicators, including changes to the value of result indicators and progress towards quantified target values and the milestones defined in the performance framework.

## Outline:

- [i] Calls for Proposals
- [ii] EMFF Operations
- [iii] Financials
  - Statement of Expenditures
  - Update on the Performance Framework
  - Update on OP Commitments
  - Forecast of N+3
- [iv] Communication and Publicity
- [v] EMFF Database System
- [vi] Simplified Cost Options

## [i] Calls for Proposals

- Since 2016, a total of **30 operations** [including Technical Assistance] have been selected for co-financing, out of which 20 operations are fully completed.

<b>Evaluation &amp; Summary of Calls Issued (2016-2020)</b>	
<b>Project Selection Committee – Fact Sheet</b>	
Date of First Meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2016
Number of Meetings Held	51
Number of Clarification Letters Issued	25
Number of Projects Ranked and Recommended for Approval	30
<b>Summary of Calls Issued (2016-2020)</b>	
Number of Calls Issued	34
Number of Calls Awarded	30
Number of Closed Projects	20
Number of Ongoing Projects	10

## [ii] EMFF Operations

EU funds for Malta 2014-2020

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND ANIMAL RIGHTS  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT FOR EUROPEAN FUNDS AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE

PROJECT PART-FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

**EMFF 1.4.1. TRAINING FOR FISHERS**

- Health and Safety at Sea
- Fishing Regulations
- Information Technology

Facebook Page: Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture - Malta  
Email: fisheriesprojects.mesdc@gov.mt

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Investing in Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

Fondi tal-UE għal Malta 2014-2020

SEGRETARJAT PARLAMENTARI GĦALL-AGRIKOLTURA, SAJD U DRITTUJET TAL-ANIMALI

**FOND EWROPEW GĦALL-AFFARIJET MARITTIMI U S-SAJD 2014-2020**

Isem tal-proġett: TRAINING FOR FISHERS

Id-Dipartiment tas-Sajd u Akkwakultura ser ikun qed jorganizza seminar u żewġ moduli ta' taħriġ għas-sajjieda bejn Marzu u Ġunju 2018.

Dan it-taħriġ ser ikopri għadd ta' suġġetti, fosthom:

- Saħħa u Sigurtà fuq il-Baħar
- Regolamenti tas-Sajd
- L-użu tal-Infommazzjoni Teknoloġika

**L- Applikazzjonijiet huma miftuħa sas-16 ta' Jannar, 2018**

Għal aktar informazzjoni ċempel fuq: 2292 6845 jew ibgħat *email* fuq: fisheriesprojects.mesdc@gov.mt

Programm Operattiv għall-Affarijiet Marittimi u s-Sajd 2014-2020  
Parzjalment iffinanzjat mill-Unjoni Ewropea  
Fond Ewropew għall-Affarijiet Marittimi u s-Sajd (FEMS)  
Rata ta' Ko-finanzjament: 75% Fondi UE; 25% Fondi Nazzjonali  
Investment f'Sajd u Akkwakultura Sostenibbli

## Union Priority 1: Article 29

### Operation EMFF 1.4.1 *Training for Fishers*





## Union Priority 1: Article 39

### Operation EMFF 1.16.1

A scientific study to improve gear selectivity





## Union Priority 1: Article 43.1

### Operation EMFF 1.23.1

*The Construction and Finishing of an office on the Fish Landing Site in the Marsaxlokk Designated Port*





**Union Priority 1: Article 43.1**

**Operation EMFF 1.23.2**

***Refurbishment and upgrading of slipways in the port of Marsaxlokk***







**Union Priority 1:  
Article 43.1**

**Operation EMFF 1.23.3**

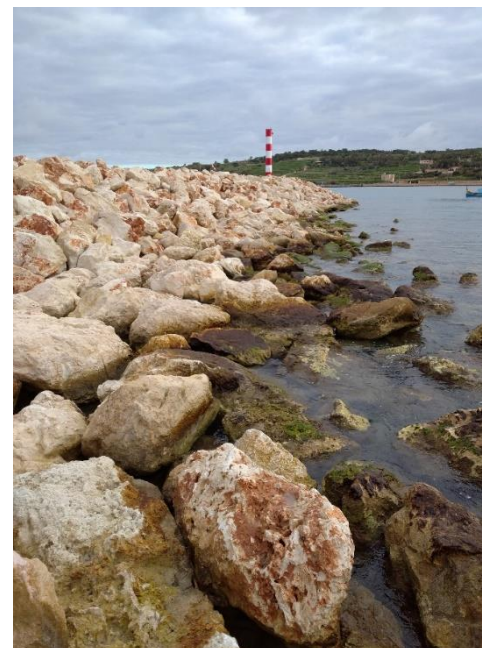
*Construction of a  
breakwater at Qrejten  
point in the port of  
Marsaxlokk*



*Works on site during the initial  
project phase*



**Operation  
EMFF 1.23.3  
continued/ii**



*Completed  
works as at  
inauguration in  
January 2021*





**Union Priority 1:  
Article 43.1**

**Operation EMFF 1.23.5**

***Upgrading of the Fisheries  
Infrastructure in Gozo***



***Deliverables ready for usage by the Gozitan fishing community***

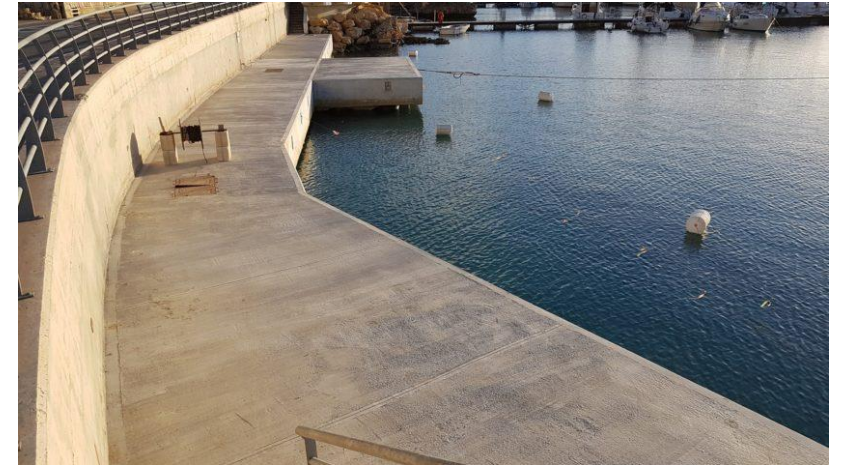




## Union Priority 1: Article 43.1

### Operation EMFF 1.23.6

#### *Upgrading of Mġarr Gozo and Marsaxlokk Malta Fishing Ports*



*Interim phase works at Mġarr Gozo*



*Completed works at Mġarr Gozo*



## Operation EMFF 1.23.6 continued/ii



*State of the Marfa quay prior to commencement of works*



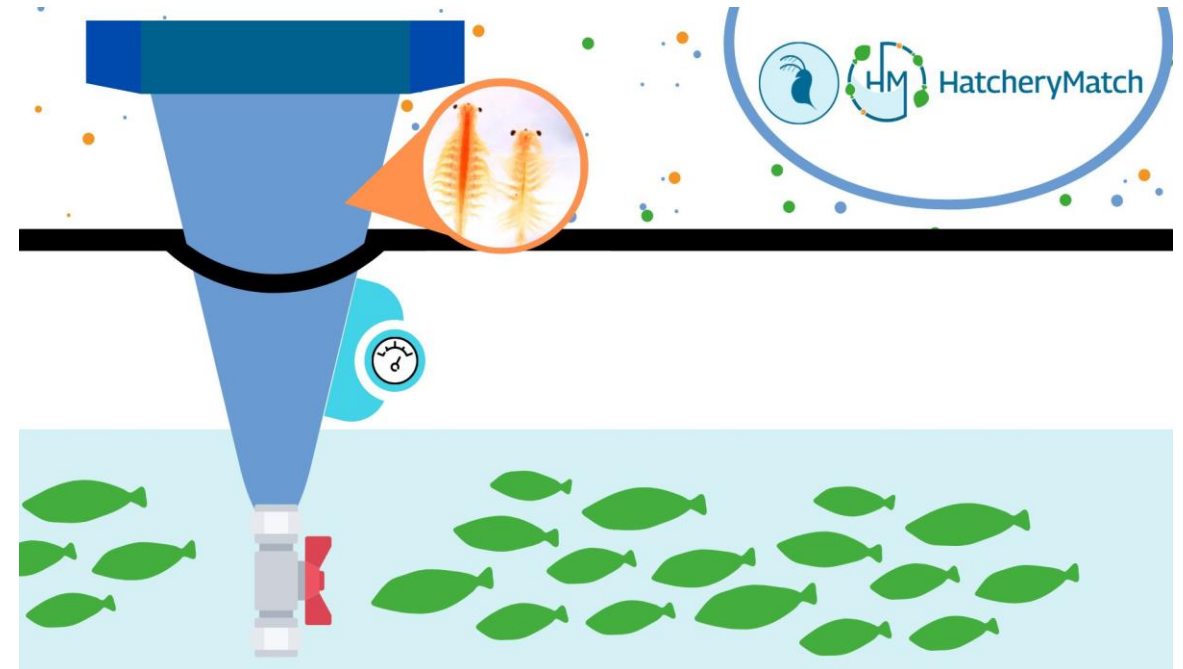
*Works on site during the initial component phase*



## Union Priority 2: Article 47

### Operation EMFF 2.1.1

Development of new, innovative aquaculture technologies and the facilitation of knowledge transfer





**Union Priority 2:  
Article 48.1 a-d, f-h**

**Operation EMFF 2.2.1**

***Productive aquaculture investments at  
Pisciculture Marine de Malte Ltd.***

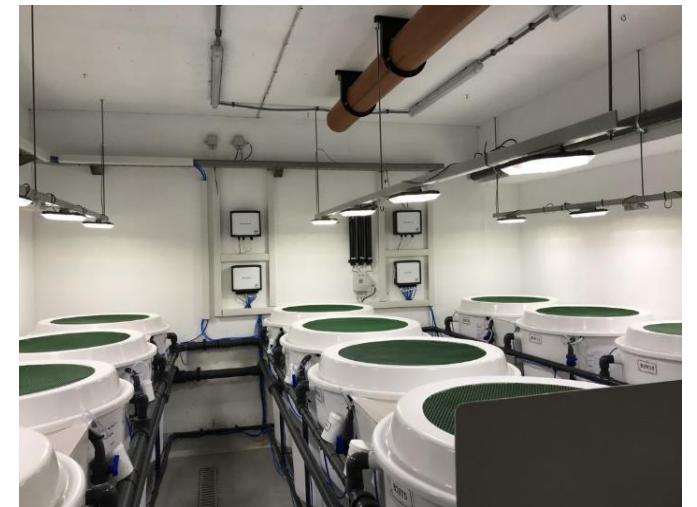


***Construction in Greece and delivery of an  
aquaculture work boat***

**Union Priority 2:  
Article 48.1 e, i, j**

**Operation EMFF 2.3.1**

***Productive investment in non-food  
aquaculture using RAS in  
AquaBioTech Group***

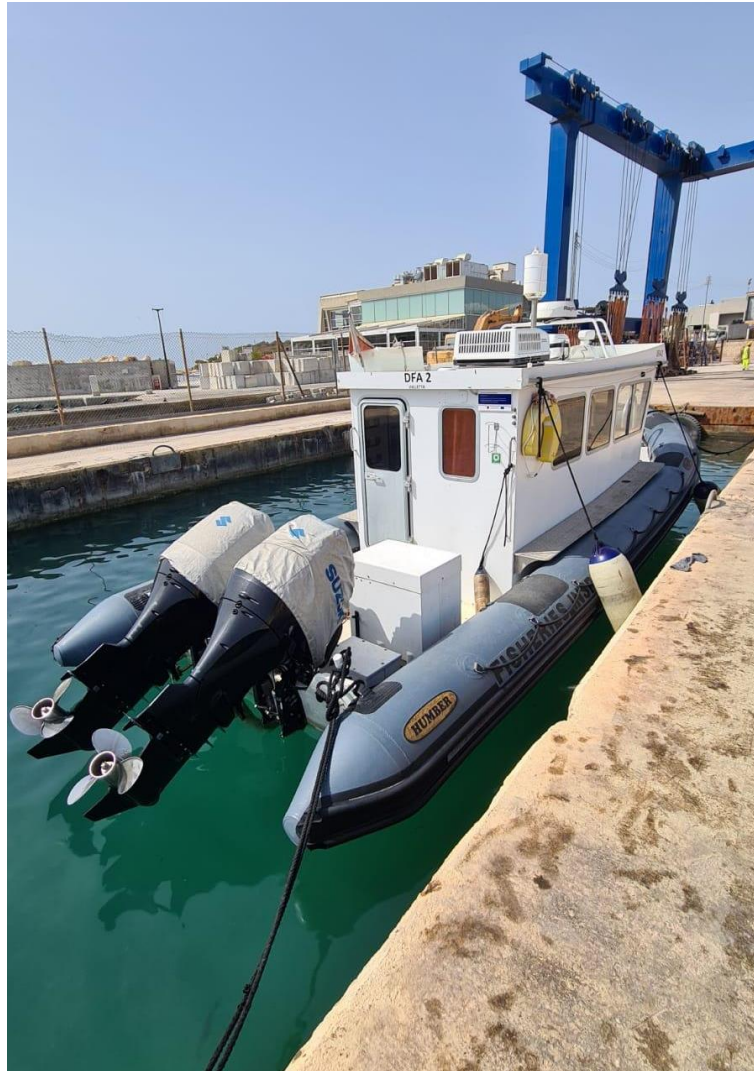


***Deliverables revolving around the Recirculation Aquaculture System [RAS]***



## Union Priority 3

### Article 76 Control & Enforcement Operation (e)



**Union Priority 3**

**Article 76**

**Control & Enforcement**

**Operation (f)**





# Union Priority 3

## Article 76

### Control & Enforcement

#### Operation (j)



## Union Priority 3

### Article 77

## Data Collection





## Union Priority 5: Article 68

### Operation EMFF 4.3.1

### *Nesploraw Flimkien it-Teżori tal-Baħar!*





## Union Priority 6: Article 80.1 c) Operation EMFF 8.3.1

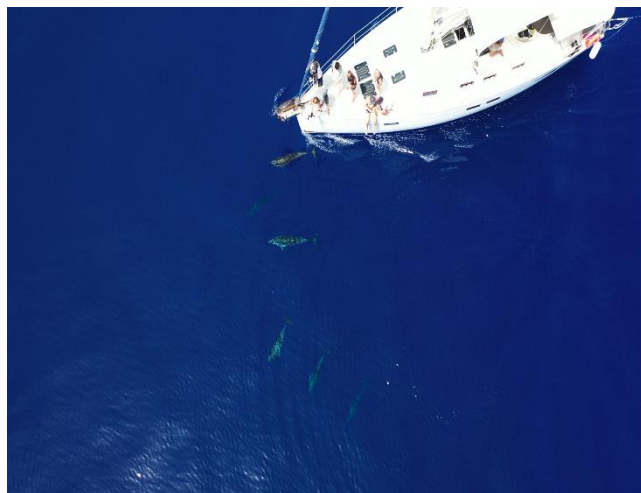
### Marine environmental monitoring: towards effective management of Malta's marine waters





**Union Priority 6: Article 80.1 c)  
Operation EMFF 8.3.1**

**Marine environmental monitoring: towards  
effective management of Malta's marine  
waters**



## ■ Challenges encountered

- Delivery delays could still be felt due to the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Several beneficiaries experienced an increase in prices due to the Ukraine-Russia War, making budgetary planning difficult.

## ■ Infringements

- The Infringement on the shortcomings detected in the control system over Bluefin Tuna (BFT) farms and related activities was lifted in July 2022.

## Annual Implementation Report

- Following circulation of the draft Annual Implementation Report, which was accepted by the Monitoring Committee via written procedure, the report was submitted to the European Commission on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and was subsequently found admissible by the Commission on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022.



## [iii] Financials

# Statement of Expenditures undertaken in 2021 and in 2022 – Accounting Year 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## 3 SOEs completed for accounting year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

- 1 payment application amounting to €1,115,430.03 (EU Share) was submitted to EC on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021
  - 1 payment application amounting to €295,181.82 (EU Share) was submitted to EC on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022
  - 1 payment application amounting to €586,430.85 (EU Share) was submitted to EC on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022
- 45 documentary OTS checks were conducted in accounting year 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.



# Statement of Expenditures undertaken in 2022

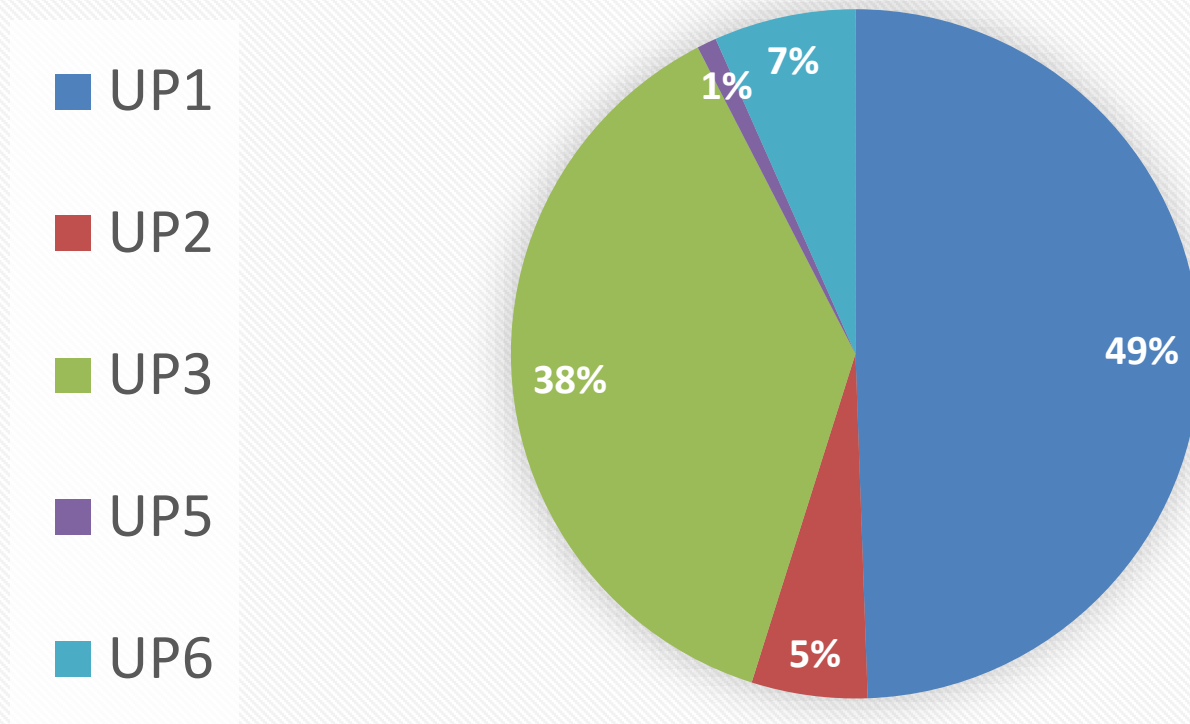
## Accounting Year 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**2 SOEs completed until December 2022 for accounting year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

- 1 payment application amounting to €868,065.61 (EU Share) was submitted to EC on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022
  - 1 payment application amounting to €1,060,349.91 (EU Share) was submitted to EC on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2022
- 39 documentary OTS checks were conducted (till December 2022) for accounting year 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

## State of Play: OP Allocation

Sales





## Funds Committed

Union Priority	Approved Allocation in the OP	% of EMFF Funds committed through approved projects
UP1	13,480,342	13,604,708.01 (100.92%)
UP2	1,482,706	1,519,322.19 (102.46%)
UP3	10,240,997	9,264,709.91 (90.46%)
UP5	250,000	248,501.35 (99.4%)
UP6	1,814,042	1,784,477 (98.37%)

- Figures refer to public eligible amount

### Progress towards EMFF OP Allocation





# Update on the Performance Framework

## Progress made towards 2018 & 2023

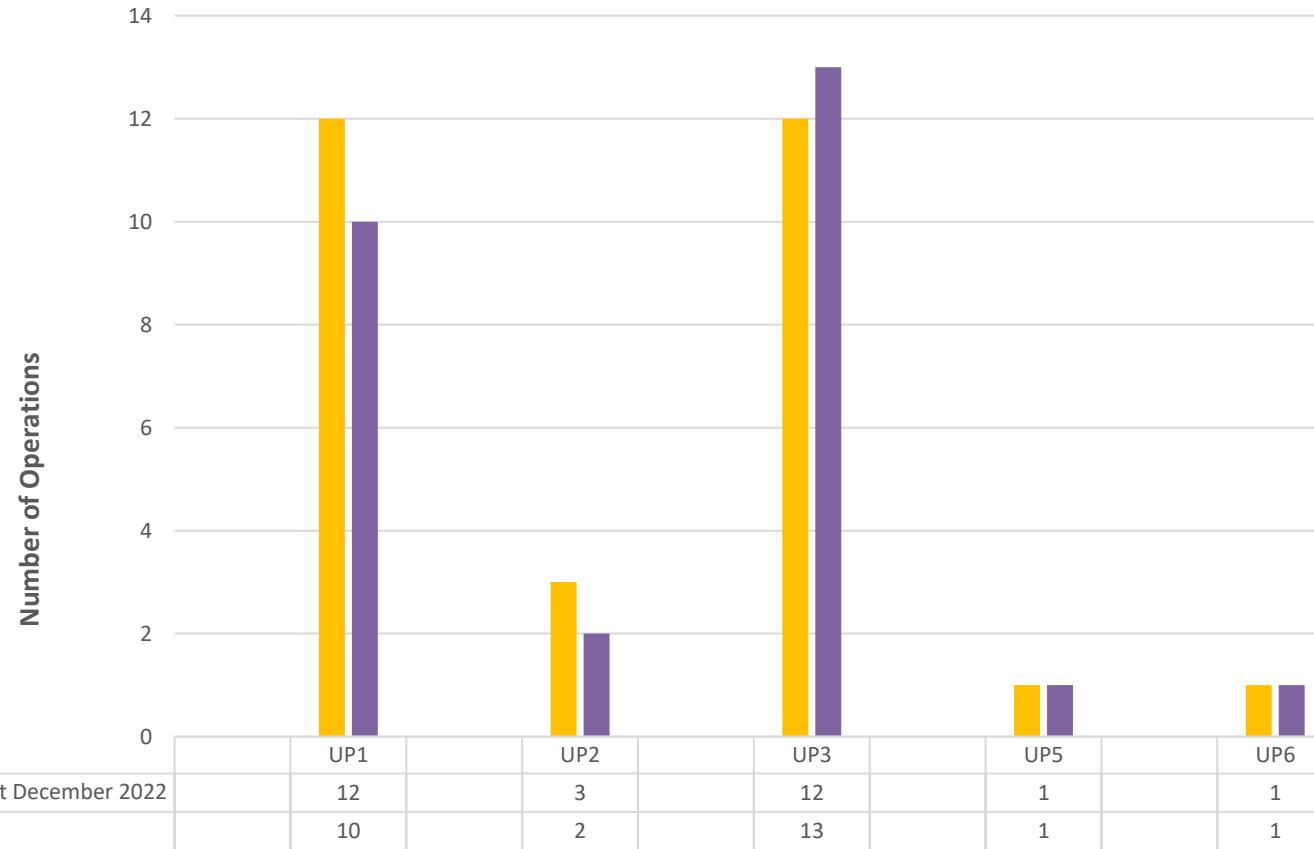
### Performance Framework Milestones & Targets

	Output Achieved - Operations	2023 Output Planned - Operations	Financials Achieved - Paid	Financials Achieved - Certified	2023 Financials Planned
UP1	12	10	13,511,982.07	€10,955,333.91	€13,480,342
UP2	3	2	€844,353.83	€844,353.83	€1,482,706
UP3	12	13	€7,004,117.76	€5,772,598.86	€10,240,997
UP5	1	1	€248,501.35	€248,501.29	€250,000
UP6	1	1	€1,784,477	€1,784,477	€1,814,042
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>€23,393,432.01</b>	<b>€19,605,264.89</b>	<b>€27,268,087</b>

- Figures refer to the public eligible amount
- Figures as at end December 2022



### Progress towards EMFF Performance Framework Output Targets



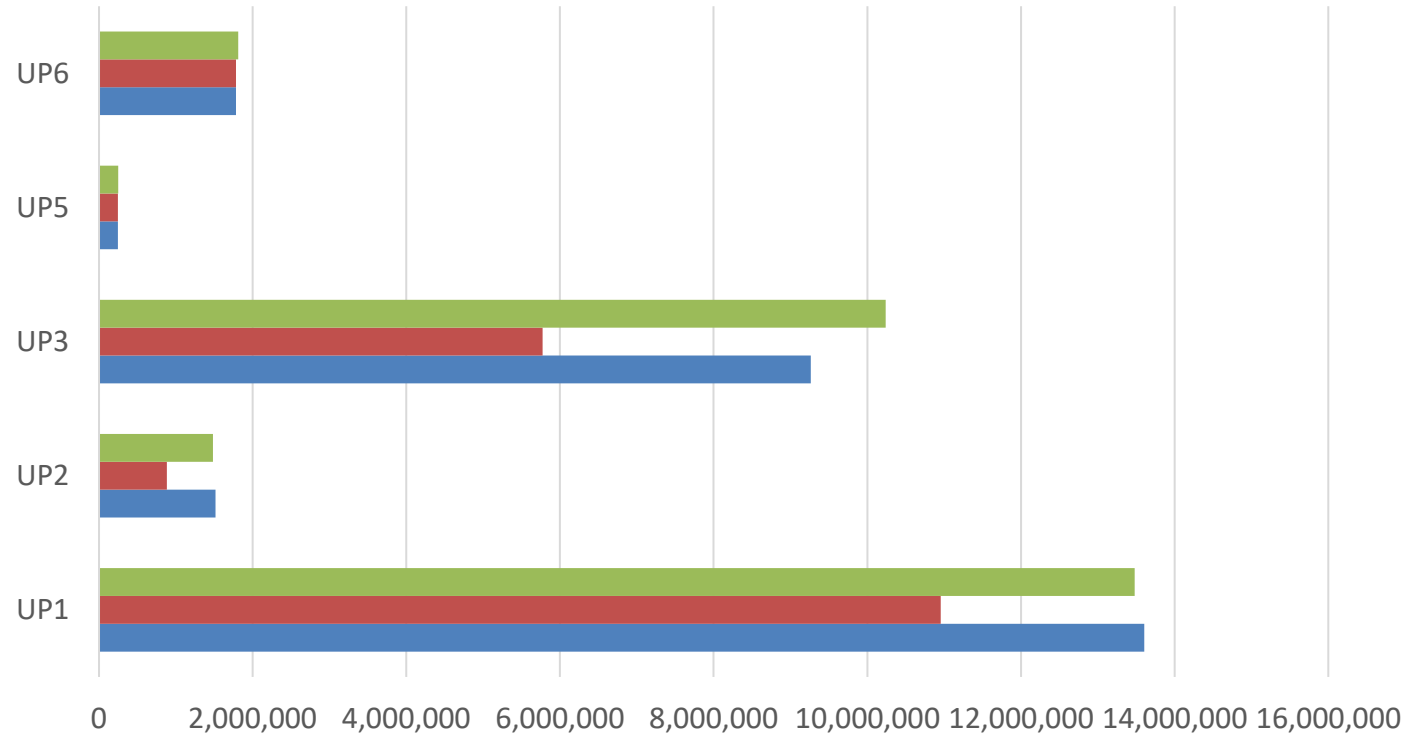
Committed Operations as at December 2022	12	3	12	1	1
2023 Output Indicators	10	2	13	1	1

EMFF OP Union Priorities

 Committed Operations as at December 2022

 2023 Output Indicators

### Progress towards EMFF Performance Framework Financial Targets



	UP1	UP2	UP3	UP5	UP6
2023 Financial Targets	13,480,342	1,482,706	10,240,997	250,000	1,814,042
2022 Certified Funds	10,955,334	884,354	5,772,599	248,501	1,784,477
2022 Committed Funds	13,604,708	1,519,322	9,264,710	248,501	1,784,477

■ 2023 Financial Targets    
 ■ 2022 Certified Funds    
 ■ 2022 Committed Funds



## Update on OP Commitments

- As at today, EUR 28,155,658.46 (total public eligible) were committed out of the total contribution of EUR 29,002,027 (including Technical Assistance). This amounts to circa **97.08% of total public eligible allocated Funds.**

## Forecast of N+3

- **N+3 target for 2022** - As at 1st January 2022 [EU Share] the n+3 target was €4.61m and reduced to €0.25m (net of pre-financing flexibility). Considering certified expenditure amounting to €2.81m during Financial Year 2022 and taking into account the pre-financing flexibility (part of), Malta has reached the n+3 target for Allocation Year 2019.
- **N+ 3 target for 2023:** As at 1st January 2023, n+3 target for Allocation Year 2020 is €6.34m. Being the Final Accounting Year, initial and annual pre-financing must be cleared against certified expenditure to be declared at the latest, in the Final Application for Payment to be submitted by the 31st July 2024.
- This means that €6.34m in EU funds remain to be certified in 2023/2024 in order to absorb 100% of Malta's allocation in the EMFF Programme.



## **[iv] Communication & Publicity Activities**

# ➔ Publicity obligation

A detailed article showcasing success stories from the EMFF Operational Programme was published in September and October 2022 inside the *Bizzilla* onboard magazine. The latter is distributed on all Air Malta flights. Issuance during the end of summer travel peak was intended to maximise catchment.

Launching of new website: [www.fondi.eu](http://www.fondi.eu)

LOCAL

WORDS MINISTRY FOR THE ECONOMY, EUROPEAN FUNDS AND LANDS

EU Funds for Malta 2014-2020

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

MINISTRY FOR THE ECONOMY, EUROPEAN FUNDS AND LANDS

THE EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND [EMFF] 2014-2020 IN MALTA  
SOME SUCCESS STORIES TARGETING SUSTAINABILITY

Source: Beneficiary organisations and the Fund's Managing Authority within the Parliamentary Secretariat for European Funds; Ministry for the Economy, European Funds and Lands.

The European Commission had approved Malta's Operational Programme for the 2014-2020 funding period (and the related N+3 implementation extension until 2023) back in 2015, allowing Malta to strategically invest more than €22.60m in EMFF alone. The said investment package supports smart green fisheries and aquaculture, whilst strengthening the economic viability of businesses in the sector. The Programme supports fishing communities by improving infrastructure and equipping fishers with new skills and opportunities to help them diversify their business models. In fact the Fund has co-financed over 30 projects involving various governmental stakeholders, aquaculture enterprises and individual fishers.

Maritime and Fisheries Operational Programme 2014-2020  
Funded by the European Union  
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Investing in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

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LOCAL

1. CONSTRUCTION OF A BREAKWATER AT GREJTEN POINT IN THE PORT OF MARSAXLOKK

This project primarily involved (i) the construction of a new 110m breakwater at Grejten point in the designated port of Marsaxlokk using almost 6000 tonnes of concrete and additional large boulders of upper coralline limestone hewn from the Rabat Dingli uplands, together with (ii) the installation of maintenance and navigational amenities. The intent is to strengthen the general coastal defences against strong southerly currents in Marsaxlokk Bay, enabling a safer mooring shelter for fishers thus creating a more sustainable business through risk reduction. This approach will enable fishers to dedicate more time and effort to other profitable activities. The project is contributing towards a vulnerable economic area of the Maltese economy since local fisheries are artisanal and seasonal, generating limited employment and limited interest from young generations. Such interventions were executed with the aim of doing the least harm to the natural environment. The new breakwater is accessible to the public via dedicated pathways and existing roadways. It caters for all fishers operating from the islands' foremost fishing village irrespective of gender, disabilities etc. See previous page for photos.

- CO-FINANCING RATE OF 75% EU FUNDS AND 25% NATIONAL FUNDS
- INVESTMENT REACHING €2,399,601.96 IN EU SHARE
- EMPLOYMENT CREATED AND MAINTAINED AS RESULT INDICATORS

2. UPGRADING OF THE FISHERIES INFRASTRUCTURE OF GOZO

The focus of this project was on modernising fishers' facilities located within the designated fishing ports of both Mgarr and Xlendi, together with the introduction of new amenities crucial for vessel maintenance. Through this investment, Gozitan fishers are benefitting from a much better and safer working environment thus encouraging the solid cohort to further invest in their operations and in the same process improve the quality of their catch. The final target of this investment is to retain jobs in fisheries, preventing the shrinking of such an important sector to the local economy and the Gozitan way of life.

- CO-FINANCING RATE OF 75% EU FUNDS AND 25% NATIONAL FUNDS
- INVESTMENT REACHING €742,392.25 IN EU SHARE
- EMPLOYMENT CREATED AND MAINTAINED AS RESULT INDICATORS

3. PRODUCTIVE AQUACULTURE INVESTMENTS AT PISCICULTURE MARINE DE MALTE LTD.

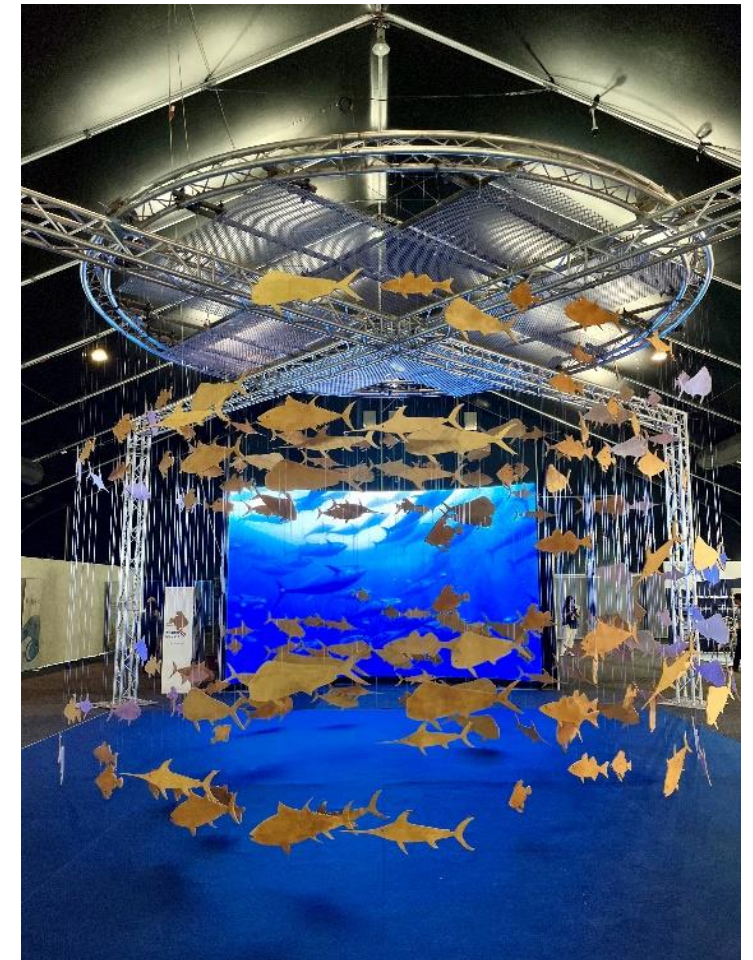
Modernization investment (i) to reduce the environmental impacts of aquaculture operations, (ii) to improve the Health and Safety of operations for the Company's staff, (iii) to improve the health, hygiene and welfare of the fish being farmed and (iv) to improve the competitiveness of the firm through slimmer operational costs. Cultivated species mainly include Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) and Sea bream (*Sparus aurata*).

- CO-FINANCING RATE OF 37.5% EU FUNDS, 12.5% NATIONAL FUNDS AND 50% PRIVATE FUNDS
- INVESTMENT REACHING €158,812.68 IN EU SHARE
- EMPLOYMENT MAINTAINED AS RESULT INDICATOR

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## ➔ Publicity event

The presence of the Managing Authority's personnel at the first edition of the AgriFair in April 2022, organised by the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights, with the aim to promote local produce etc. within the agricultural and fisheries sectors.







PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT  
FOR EUROPEAN FUNDS

## **[v] EMFF Database System**

- The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund System has been launched in year 2016;
- So far 48 active users;
- 1663 claims for payment have already been processed. These include Technical Assistance;
- Further updates to the system are envisaged.

## [vi] Simplified Cost Options

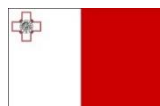


In 2021 the Managing Authority, with the help of technical expertise, undertook studies in relation to the introduction of Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) to be used under the EMFAF

### **SCOs to cover principally:**

- The reimbursement of staff costs related to the data collection and control projects;
  - The reimbursement costs relating to Research and Technical Personnel in research and development and innovation projects;
  - The reimbursement costs relating to expert fees.
- 
- Some proposals already submitted to the Internal Audit and Investigations Department (IAID) with others in the process and are in line with the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) 14-20 (CPR14-20) Article 68a), as well as the new CPR 2021/1060 for the new programming period 2021-2027.

# Thank you for your attention



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