

Table 1: The table below delineates the eligibility and selection criteria being proposed

Eligibility Criteria		Selection criteria		
<p>Eligibility criteria are the essential criteria that all projects must meet in order to be admissible for a further qualitative assessment. Projects which do not comply with the gateway eligibility criteria will NOT proceed to full appraisal and scoring.</p> <p>Note: no numerical markings are involved in this section. Fulfilment of such criteria takes the form of Yes or No. Eligible projects should fulfil all criteria listed below.</p>				
Criterion	Assessment	Criterion	Marks (max)	Sub-criteria
<p>Application Form</p> <p>Applicant must present an application form filled-in with relevant details¹ and auxiliary documentation. Timely submission prior to deadline defined in the call for applications.</p>	Yes/No	<p>The proposed project maximises the contribution to EU key priorities as expressed in the programme objectives and expected results</p>	20	<p>The assessment will include the following selection criteria, amongst others:</p> <p>Relevant to SO 2.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project ensures the strengthening of knowledge in the sector leading to more targeted public policies and approaches towards aquaculture - The project is able to support transfer of research and uptake of new/novel technologies in the sector - 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

¹ Relevant details are those required by the selection committee to evaluate the application and award points.

				<p>security, development, employment, and competitiveness of the aquaculture industry</p> <p>Relevant to SO 2.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The actions increase public awareness and social responsibility on low-impact and sustainable fishery and aquaculture products, consumer rights and attractiveness of the sector - A clear description of how the actions will increase awareness of low carbon/low impact fishing practices, underutilised species and new products. - The proposed actions address the enhancement, resilience and competitiveness of the fisheries and aquaculture industry, its sustainability, development, employment through processing and marketing
<p>Capacity of beneficiary organisation</p> <p>Applicant must have adequate administrative capacity, competence and technical resources</p>	Yes/No	Contribution of the project to the programmes type of actions, interventions and Member State Obligations and commitments	20	<p>The assessment will include the following selection criteria, amongst others:</p> <p>Evidence that the project addresses qualitatively and quantitatively the programme objectives and support the recovery, resilience, green transition, and digitalisation.</p>

			<p>The extent that the project delivers on the type of actions and interventions described in the programme.</p>
			<p>The project contributes to the EU and National Fisheries and Aquaculture regulations and policies.</p>
			<p>Relevant to SO 2.1</p> <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 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, Biodiversity and the Bioeconomy Strategies</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</p>

				<p>Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.</p> <p>Relevant to SO 2.2</p> <p>The project guarantees the achievements of the general and specific objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy, as well as regional challenges identified in <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'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 Action 22 of the <i>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>Eligibility of Beneficiary</p> <p>Applicant is not in an exclusion situation in accordance with Art 136(1) and Art 141(1) of 2018/1046 Financial Regulation and Art 73(2)(i) of CPR <i>(if applicable)</i></p>	Yes/No/NA	Potential of the project to enhance innovation and partnership in the sector	5	<p>If partners are involved, evidence of how they will contribute to the achievement of the Expected Results</p> <p>The ability of the project to mobilise complementary funding/actions to achieve the Expected Results</p> <p>Innovative solutions proposed in this project to achieve the Expected Results</p>

<p>Beneficiary in compliance with Common Fisheries Policy rules</p> <p>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 4(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 <i>(if applicable)</i>²</p>	<p>Yes/No/NA</p>	<p>Contribution indicators towards minimum beyond</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Assessed in terms of contribution towards the programme indicators beyond the minimum required</p> <p>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</p> <p>Relevant to SO 2.1</p> <p>The relevant result indicators to be identified in the call for proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persons benefiting - Actions contributing to Good environmental status - Innovations enabled - Entities improving resource efficiency in production and/or processing - Data sets and advice made available
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² Not Applicable for Public Entities

				<p>Relevant to SO 2.2 (Awareness Rising and marketing)</p> <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
				<p>Assessment of whether there are any unrealistic project indicator targets which are not achievable</p>
				<p>The level of contribution of the proposed indicators towards achieving Programme targets as outlined in the call</p>
<p>Remit of beneficiary organisation</p> <p>Applicant organisation has remit to implement the project within its mandate</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>	<p>Readiness</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Risk associated with the timeline of the project as proposed by the Applicant</p>
				<p>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</p>
				<p>Other risks</p>

<p>Project implemented within the eligible territory and its direct benefit</p> <p>Reference goes to the Republic of Malta or for its direct benefit</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>	<p>Project Sustainability and Cost-Effectiveness</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The financial stability of the Applicant organisation if it is a private entity</p> <p>The proposal includes a qualitative description on how the operations will respect the requirements on durability under Article 65(1) of the CPR</p> <p>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 funds invested.</p>
<p>Verification of co-financing (where applicable)</p> <p>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 project are available</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>	<p>Horizontal principles - Fundamental rights, Equal opportunities, non-discrimination, and accessibility</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Effective measures addressing Fundamental rights and compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union</p> <p>Effective measures addressing gender equality, including the role of women in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors</p> <p>Effective measures addressing equal opportunities for all</p> <p>Effective measures ensuring the principle of non-discrimination</p> <p>Effective measures ensuring accessibility</p>

<p>Proposal demonstrates the contribution to a specific objective in line with Article 26 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139</p> <p>Contributing to the achievement of Programme objectives and targets is essential</p>	Yes/No	Sustainable Development	10	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 EU environmental legislation.
<p>Project Leader from beneficiary organisation</p> <p>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</p>	Yes/No	Quality of application form	5	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'
<p>Status of operation</p> <p>Status of operation is either ongoing or not yet started, unless otherwise allowed by the Regulation (EU)2021/1060 Article 63 (6)</p>	Yes/No			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

<p>Compliance with Article 11 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139</p> <p>The application form must be in line with applicable criteria identified under Article 11 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139 <i>(if applicable)</i></p>	<p>Yes/No/NA</p>	<p>Complementarity</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Proposal identifies complementarity with actions and results of other EU-funded projects, including under relevant Horizon Europe call and its Mission Ocean.</p> <p>Relevant to SO 2.2</p> <p>Proposal implements the activities and actions in the EU Strategic Guidelines on Aquaculture on Communication on EU aquaculture to consumer and citizens</p>
<p>Compliance with Article 13 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139</p> <p>The operation/proposal does not fall under Article 13 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>			
<p>Compliance with Article 27 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139</p> <p>The operation/proposal must be in line with Article 27 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139³ <i>(if applicable)</i></p>	<p>Yes/No/NA</p>			

³ Applicable for Aquaculture related calls