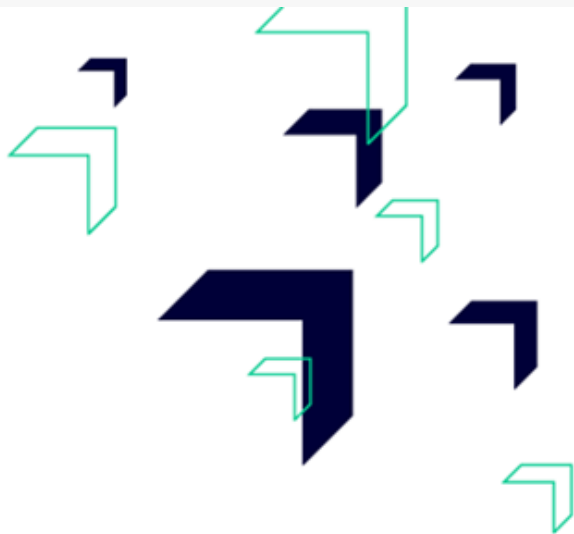


PROGRAMMING OF EUROPEAN UNION FUNDS
FOR MALTA
2021-2027

EMFAF Eligibility and Selection Criteria -
Support for engine replacement or modernisation
Investments on Board
Diversification not related to commercial fishing activities
Priority 1, SO 1.1

12th November 2024



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

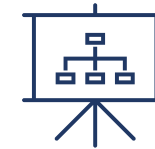
✓ Application Form



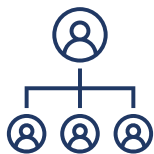
✓ Eligibility of Beneficiary



✓ Remit of beneficiary organisation



✓ Capacity of beneficiary organisation



✓ Beneficiary in compliance with Common Fisheries Policy rules



✓ Project implemented within the eligible territory and its direct benefit



Eligibility Criteria

- ✓ Verification of co-financing (where applicable)
- ✓ Status of operation
- ✓ Compliance with Article 13 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139
- ✓ Proposal demonstrates the contribution to specific objectives in line with Article 14(1)(a) or Article 14(1)(b) of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139
- ✓ Compliance with Article 11 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139
- ✓ Compliance with Article 18 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139
- ✓ Diversification not related to commercial fishing activities
- ✓ Project Leader from beneficiary organisation

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
- All details and required documentation are set out in the application form under the Section titled 'Guidance Notes to the Application Form'

Capacity of beneficiary organisation

- The Applicant organisation must have adequate administrative capacity, competence and technical resources (if applicable)

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 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 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 (*if applicable*).

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.

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 14(1)(a) or Article 14(1)(b) 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.
- Beneficiary refers to self-employed fishers

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).

Eligibility Criteria

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

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.

Eligibility Criteria

Compliance with Article 18 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139

- The operation/proposal must be in line with either Article 18 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139 (*applicable for calls related to the modernisation or replacement of engines*)

Diversification not related to commercial fishing activities

- This criterion is applicable for only operations relating to the Diversification open call
- Complementary activities must relate to the fishers' core business. Fishers must submit a business plan for the development of these new activities

Selection Criteria

Criteria	Marks
The proposed project maximises the contribution to EU key priorities as expressed in the programme objectives and expected results	20 marks
Contribution of the project to the programmes types of action, interventions and Member State Obligations and commitments	20 marks
Potential of the project to enhance innovation in the sector	5 marks

Selection Criteria

Criteria	Marks
Contribution towards indicators beyond minimum	10 marks
Readiness	10 marks
Project Sustainability and Cost Effectiveness	10 marks

Selection Criteria

Criteria	Marks
Horizontal principles – Fundamental rights, Equal opportunities, non-discrimination and accessibility	5 marks
Sustainable Development	10 marks
Quality of application form	10 marks

Selection Criteria

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

20 marks

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

- The project's ability to support environmental sustainability of fisheries, as highlighted in the *European Green Deal, the Ministerial Declaration on a Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and the Malta MedFish4Ever Ministerial Declaration*

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

20 marks

☐ *Relevant to Investments on board professional fishing vessels:*

- The project's ability to foresee support for investments on board professional fishing vessels to ensure that the fishing fleet is kept up to date with modern technologies; supporting decarbonisation efforts through energy efficiency (EE) measures, and fostering enhanced sustainability and resilience
- The extent the project improves health, safety and working conditions
- The extent the project implements energy transition measures (including energy efficiency)
- The extent the project improves the preservation of catches and increases product value and quality
- The extent the project improves cold-chain management and on-board handling/storage beyond the minimum requirements
- The extent the project invests in selective fishing gear to improve size/species selectivity, reduce by-catch and eliminate discards

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

20 marks

Relevant to *Diversification not related to commercial fishing activities*:

- The extent the project develops complementary activities through diversification of fishing activities in the broader sustainable blue economy
- The project's ability to demonstrate how the interventions aimed at diversification of activities improves attractiveness of the fisheries sector and support its generational renewal whilst enhancing the economic growth, safeguarding the environment and social cohesion and wellbeing.
- The project's ability to provide support to employability and labour mobility in coastal communities which depend on fishing and aquaculture, including both the diversification of activities within fisheries, and into other sectors of maritime economy
- The extent the project involves endeavours aimed at the retrofitting of SSCF vessels for activities complementary to commercial fishing, thus ensuring the potential for ancillary employment opportunities on land

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

20 marks

Relevant to *Support for engine replacement or modernisation*:

- The proposal's ability to invest in more fuel-efficient engines to reduce fuel consumption and carbon emissions, increasing Malta's efforts towards the promotion of a cleaner marine environment

Selection Criteria

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

20 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 of the sector.
- The proposal's ability to demonstrate how its actions will improve the sustainability of fishing activity, marine biodiversity and the regeneration of fish stocks, including by contributing and enhancing implementation of the landing obligation.

Selection Criteria

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

20 marks

Relevant to Investments on board fishing vessels:

- The project's ability to demonstrate how it contributes to the *Malta Low Carbon Development Strategy* and the *Energy Transition Partnership*, by adopting more fuel-efficient vessels, including the adoption of renewable energy resources, to reduce fuel consumption and emissions
- The project's ability to contribute to conservation measures in the fisheries sector (where applicable)
- The project's ability to contribute to fisheries management and conservation, and in so doing compliment other actions included in the programme (*where applicable*)

Selection Criteria

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

20 marks

Relevant to *Diversification not related to commercial fishing activities*:

- The project's ability to ensure a balanced socio-economic outlook for the fisheries sector and strengthen resilience

Selection Criteria

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

20 marks

Relevant to *Support for engine replacement or modernisation*:

- The project's interventions support the shift of the sector towards decarbonisation and energy transition of the fisheries sector, therefore contributing to the principles of the *European Green Deal*; *the Malta Low Carbon Development Strategy*; and *the Energy Transition Partnership*

Selection Criteria

Potential of the project to enhance innovation in the sector

5 marks

- 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, such as but not limited to investment in the latest state of the art equipment and technology and new fishing modalities

Selection Criteria

Contribution towards indicators beyond minimum

10 marks

- 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 contribution of the proposed indicators towards achieving Programme targets as outlined in the call

The relevant result indicators to be identified in the call for proposals:

Relevant to *Investments on board fishing vessels*:

- Innovations enabled (number of new products, services, processes, business models or methods)
- Jobs maintained
- Actions contributing to good environmental status including nature restoration, conservation, protection of ecosystems, biodiversity, animal health and welfare

Selection Criteria

Contribution towards indicators beyond minimum (*cont.*)

10 marks

Relevant to *Diversification not related to commercial fishing activities:*

- Business created
- Innovations enabled

Relevant to *Support for engine replacement or modernisation:*

- Energy consumption leading to CO2 emissions reduction

Selection Criteria

Readiness

10 marks

- Risk associated with the timeline of the project as proposed by the applicant.
- Readiness, assessed based on 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

10 marks

- Magnitude of post operating costs against total project costs and how the benefits will continue to be enjoyed after the project finning has actually ended, therefore ensuring sustainability of the fisheries sector, enhance SSCF support and encourage participation in the sector
- The proposal includes a qualitative description on how the operations will respect 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 funds 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

10 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's ability to demonstrate that it is compatible with requirements under European and National legislation, including an adequate description of effective measures to achieve environmental sustainability within the framework of the CFP and EU environmental legislation
- The project includes the active involvement of women and young fishers, considering the sector being male oriented and composed of an ageing SSCF fleet

Selection Criteria

Quality of application form

10 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

Contact Details



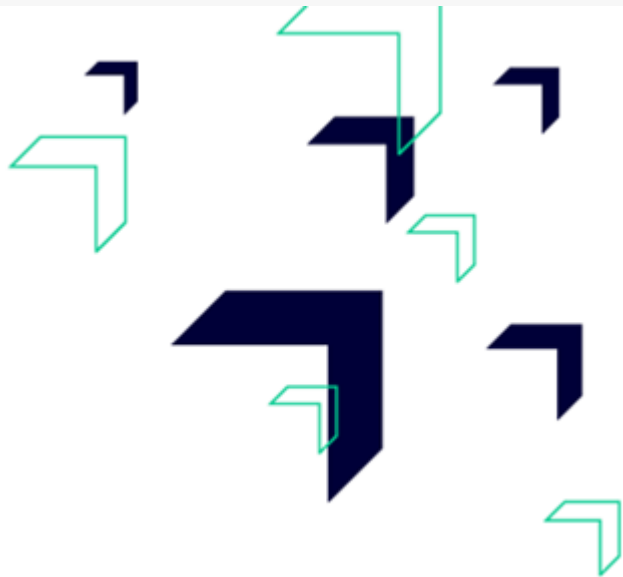
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Thank you



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