



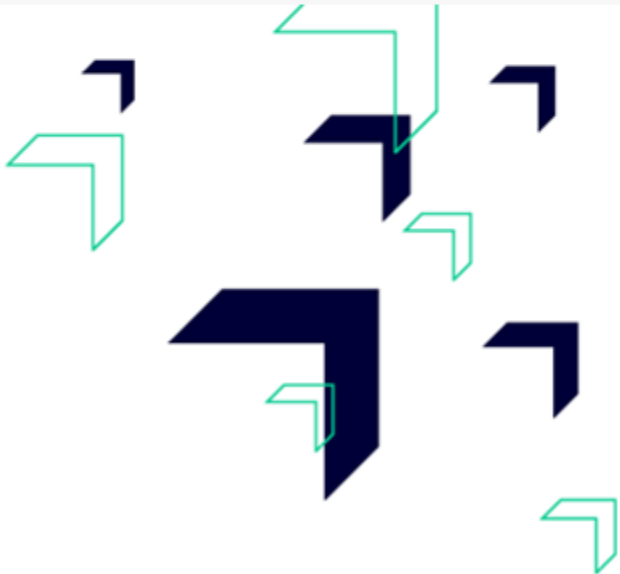
GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA



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Monitoring and Evaluation

European Maritime Aquaculture and Fisheries Fund



Co-funded by
the European Union

Monitoring - Indicators

The Evaluation Unit carries out indicator checks on a sample of indicators reported biannually by the MA in the Transmission of Data. Checks include plausibility assessments and verification of achieved values, in accordance with the methodology established for each indicator.

Guidance on indicator definitions and methodologies is also provided to the Managing Authority (MA) on an ad hoc basis.

Training on Indicators

- The Evaluation Unit carried out training to **MA officers** in April 2025, highlighting the specificities and obligations tied to indicator quantification, reporting and verification. During these sessions, information was provided on the enhancements made available on the online tool (MCIS).
- To the same aim, the Evaluation Unit held several training sessions in May 2025 for **Beneficiaries**.
- The training aimed to ensure a **common understanding** of indicator requirements, **closing knowledge gaps**, whilst promoting **good practices** in the collection and reporting of indicator data.
- Training was also instrumental in strengthening the correct and effective use of the updated **MCIS modules and reporting** on indicators.



Update on Evaluation Plans

EMFAF Evaluation Plan

| Evaluation Type | Timeframe | Evaluation | Status Update |
|---|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Preparatory Data Study | Q4 2025 – Q4 2029 | Horizontal-EV1 | Drafted |
| Communication Evaluation | Q3 2026 – Q3 2029 | Horizontal-EV2 | Planned |
| Effectiveness and Efficiency of key processes of EU Funds | Q3 2026 – Q4 2027 | Horizontal-EV3 | Planned |
| Thematic Evaluation on the EMFAF effectiveness in fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources. | Q1 2027 – Q3 2027 | EMFAF-EV1 | Planned |
| Impact Evaluation on the priorities of the EMFAF Programme 2027 Programme | Q1 2028 – Q2 2029 | EMFAF-EV2 | Planned |

The findings and recommendations of the Preparatory Data Study will feed into the updated and consolidated Evaluation Plans.

Preparatory Data Study - Horizontal-EV1

Two key building blocks

1- Evaluation:



Understanding Data Needs



Data Gap Identification and Quality Assessment



Data Collection and Integration



Framework Development and Capacity Building



Evaluation and Monitoring Preparedness



Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration



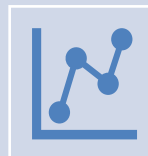
Comprehensive Reporting

2- Monitoring:



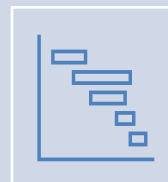
Ensure
Completeness
of Data

Review data ahead of Transmission of
Data Reporting
Ensure data is complete and valid



Ensure data
is consistent

Data continues to build on that provided
in previous reporting periods
Data reported is reflective of work on the
ground and project uptake



Track progress

Data is confirmed and analysed in terms
of progress, changes, and ability to meet
targets.

Results from Concluded Studies

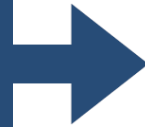
Ex-Ante assessment on Financial Instruments for EMFAF: Methodological tools

TASK 1 (FISHERY)

TASK 2 (AQUACULTURE)



DESK AND
DOCUMENTARY
RESEARCH



Collection of information and data from **existing studies, official documents, official data sources**, etc.



INTERVIEWS
WITH KEY
STAKEHOLDERS

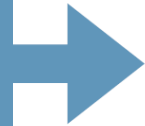


15 interviews with 34 representatives of national authorities, financial institutions, business and sector associations

14 interviews with 34 representatives of national authorities, financial institutions, business and sector associations



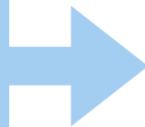
ONLINE SURVEY



To young individuals not yet involved in commercial fishing but potentially interested, as well as active and retired commercial fishers. **174 respondents.**



FOCUS GROUP



20 participants, including 11 active commercial fishers, 1 retired fisher and 9 recreational fishers (either holding an MFC licence or a sport licence)

Involving representatives of 3 of the 5 aquaculture operators (**i.e., 4 out of 7 aquaculture companies**)



TRIANGULATION OF
EVIDENCE AND
VALIDATION
MEETING



Comparison of information and data collecting from different sources and **validation of the findings** from the market assessment as well as discussion of the suitability of the proposed support/financial instruments

Financing Gap – Task 1 – Aquaculture sector

Need for joint investments in large-scale shared storage, and processing facilities: these investments are currently under consideration by some operators, but they would be needed at industry level.

Estimated capital investment cost: EUR 50-100 million in total

Research efforts by operators remain limited, with investments mainly focusing on small laboratories for pathological rapid diagnostic testing, **while some gaps remain in other types of research and testing activities:** beyond research for species diversification, there is a need to address the growing risks linked to climate change. Operators emphasise the need for public sector leadership in funding research programmes in these critical fields.

The aquaculture sector faces a credit gap due to its high-risk nature, recent financial constraints, and declining profitability, which has made banks more reluctant to lend. This poses a challenge, as the sector requires significant investment to diversify exports beyond Japan, reduce risks, and improve environmental sustainability.

Financing Gap – Task 2 – Fisheries sector

A financing gap exists in the fishery sector, both for aspiring fishers and for investment in the industry.

- Small-scale businesses rely mainly on self-financing through personal savings and business profits, which are typically limited.
- Both qualitative and quantitative evidence indicate that young aspiring fishers and most existing fishers, especially the self-employed and those not backed by aquaculture operators, face **difficulties in accessing bank financing**, whether for entering the sector or making necessary investments in their businesses, primarily **due to a lack of sufficient collateral**.
- The problem is **particularly acute for younger individuals**, as they often already have a personal loan in place and cannot use their property as collateral.
- The **estimated financing gap over the next five years:**

YOUNG PEOPLE WISHING TO ENTER IN THE SECTOR:

Min: EUR 100-140 thousands

Max: Up to EUR 1.1 million

FISHERS' INVESTMENTS:

Min: EUR 1.7 million

Max: EUR 9.5 million

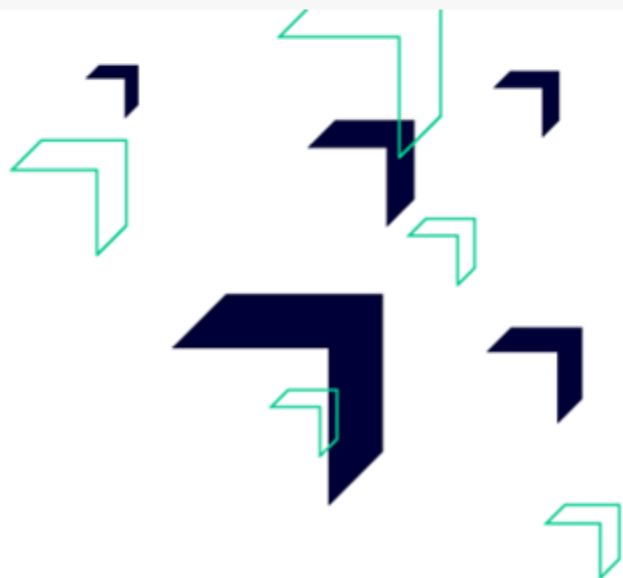


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Thank you !



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