

# EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND 2014-2020

## OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR MALTA

### Union Priority 2: Article 48 – Productive Investments in Aquaculture OPEN CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

Information session  
26 July 2018



Maritime and Fisheries Operational Programme 2014-2020  
Part-financed by the European Union  
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)  
Co-financing rate: 37.5% European Union funds; 12.5% national funds; 50% private funds



*Investing in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture*

## INTRODUCTION

**The Operational Programme of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020 for Malta stipulates the country's investment plan for the programming period in question which aims to target the sectoral needs in accordance with national priorities and the European 2020 Strategy.**

Legal basis:

- Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 of the European Parliament and Council (Fund-specific);
- Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and Council (Common Provisions Regulations).

## STRUCTURAL PILLARS OF THE EMFF

- ❖ Ecological and smart fisheries;
- ❖ Ecological and smart aquaculture;
- ❖ Sustainable and inclusive territorial development;
- ❖ Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP).

The EMFF Operational Programme for Malta includes various **Union Priorities and Specific Objectives** linked to the above-mentioned main pillars.

**Union Priority 2: Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture.**

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR UNION PRIORITY 2**

- ❖ The enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including the improvement of safety and working conditions, in particular of SMEs: applicable for Article 48.1 (a-d, f-h);**
- ❖ The protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and the enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and the promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture: applicable for Article 48.1 (e, i, j);**
- ❖ Total indicative budget: €2.0 million.**

## **ARTICLE 48(1) (A-D, F-H) OF REGULATION (EU) NO.508/2014:**

## **Measure II.2**

- a. Productive investments in aquaculture;
- b. The diversification of aquaculture production and species cultured;
- c. The modernisation of aquaculture units, including the improvement in working and safety conditions of aquaculture workers;
- d. Improvements and modernisation related to animal health and welfare, including the purchase of equipment aiming at protecting the farms from wild predators;
- f. Investments in enhancing the quality of, or in adding value to, aquaculture products;
- g. The restoration of existing aquaculture ponds or lagoons through the removal of silt, or investments aimed at the prevention of silt deposits;
- h. The diversification of the income of aquaculture enterprises through the development of complementary activities.

## ARTICLE 48(1) (E, I, J) OF REGULATION (EU) NO.508/2014:

## Measure II.3

- e. Investments reducing the negative impact or enhancing the positive effects on the environment and increasing resource efficiency;
- i. Investments resulting in a substantial reduction in the impact of aquaculture enterprises on water usage and quality, in particular through reducing the amount of water or chemicals, antibiotics and other medicines used, or through improving the output water quality, including through the deployment of multi-trophic aquaculture systems;
- j. The promotion of closed aquaculture systems where aquaculture products are farmed in closed recirculation systems, thereby minimising water use.

## BASIC INFORMATION ON THE OPEN CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

- ❖ **Submission deadline: 31 August 2018 (11:00hrs);**
- ❖ **Web link for downloading all the pertinent documents:**  
<http://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Pages/News-and-Events.aspx>;
- ❖ **Application Form and Project Business Plan template have to be filled-in diligently, signed and dated.** Ancillary documentation must be annexed to the Application Form. The latter is to be submitted in both electronic and hard format;
- ❖ **Public Aid Intensity for SMEs: 50%** (37.5% European Union funds and 12.5% national funds), remaining 50% to be covered via private funds;
- ❖ **Payments will be made against requests for reimbursements.** Payments made by beneficiaries will be subsequently checked and verified by the Managing Authority following which they will be reimbursed by Treasury Department;

## GUIDANCE NOTES

Pages 2-3 of the Application Form contain crucial Guidance Notes to be read carefully:

- ❖ **Serious infringements** as per Article 10 of Regulation (EU) no.508/2014;
- ❖ **Public aid intensity** (reduction by 20% in case of enterprises larger than SMEs);
- ❖ **Durability of co-financed operations and ineligible expenditure;**
- ❖ Details in the **application and selection processes;**
- ❖ Links to the latest **Admissibility and Selection Criteria** (in English and Maltese);
- ❖ **Important explanation on the format of the Application Form in respect of Sections 3A/B and 4A/B.**

Further assistance for the filling-in of certain parts of the Application Form can be found throughout the document in the form of footnotes.



## DOWNLOADABLE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The Fund-specific Regulation and the Common Provisions Regulation mentioned earlier are available for download from the same webpage hosting the Application Form.

### EMFF Admissibility and Selection Criteria (April 2018):

- ❖ **Admissibility criteria** are essential criteria which all proposals must satisfy in order to proceed to the marking stage. These are divided in general and specific criteria;
- ❖ **Selection Criteria** are intended to evaluate the contribution of the proposals to the strategic stipulations of the Operational Programme. These are also divided in general and specific criteria, with marks allotted to each;
- ❖ So as to qualify, **proposals must obtain at least 50% of the total marks available.**

## ADMISSIBILITY CRITERIA

- ❖ **Applicants linked to enterprises entering the aquaculture sector must submit a business plan** and in case of investments over €50,000 a **feasibility study and environmental assessment** – Article 46(2) of 508/2014;
- ❖ Support shall be granted only where it has been demonstrated in an **independent marketing report** that sustainable market prospects do exist for the product concerned – Article 46(2) of 508/2014;
- ❖ **Adherence to relevant environmental/planning legislation**; proposals involving marine protected areas will not be supported;
- ❖ Show that the intended operation is consistent with the **Multi-Annual National Strategic Plan** for the development of aquaculture.

## SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ARTICLE 48(1) (A-D, F-H)

- ❖ **Green considerations:** additional points awarded to proposals which endorse energy efficiency (max. marks: 5);
- ❖ **Job creation:** creation of employment in the aquaculture sector (i.e. full-time equivalents) or complementary sectors (max. marks: 5);
- ❖ **Points given to operations aimed at targeting the diversification of aquaculture production and species cultured** (max. marks: 5);
- ❖ **Higher points given to facilities which will spawn more than just one species and in proportion to the production capacity** (max. marks: 10);
- ❖ **Supplementary consideration allotted to closed-cycle techniques or any other innovative specialised techniques** (max. marks: 5).

## SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ARTICLE 48(1) (E, I, J)

- ❖ **Green considerations:** additional points awarded to proposals which endorse energy efficiency (max. marks: 5);
- ❖ **Job creation:** creation of employment in the aquaculture sector (i.e. full-time equivalents) or complementary sectors (max. marks: 5);
- ❖ **Forecasted increase in Net profits based on the business plan** (max. marks: 5);
- ❖ **Higher points given to facilities which will spawn more than just one species and in proportion to the production capacity** (max. marks: 10);
- ❖ **Supplementary consideration allotted to closed-cycle techniques or any other innovative specialised techniques** (max. marks: 5).

## OUTPUT & RESULT INDICATORS

### (Section 4A/4B of the Application Form)

- ❖ The operation must have clearly **identifiable and measurable targets** that comply with the applicable indicators set in the Operational Programme under the relevant Union Priority and Measure;
- ❖ Each output and result indicator should be realistically quantified;
- ❖ The Applicant must provide a **clear explanation of how the proposed targets for ‘output indicator’ and ‘result indicator’ (in the Application Form) have been calculated.**

## SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION FORM

### Application Summary

#### Section 1 – The Applicant:

- ❖ 1.1 Applicant Organisation's Details;
- ❖ 1.2 Type of beneficiary;
- ❖ 1.3 Partner Organisation (local or transnational);
- ❖ 1.4 Institutional Framework;
- ❖ 1.5 Capacity and Resources;
- ❖ 1.6 Financial Viability of the Applicant;
- ❖ 1.7 Serious Infringements committed.

#### Section 2 – State Aid:

Operations involving State Aid are not eligible under this call.

## SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION FORM (cont./ii)

### Section 3A/B – Details of Operation:

- ❖ 3.1 Description of the Operation;
- ❖ 3.2 Objectives of the Operation;
- ❖ 3.3 Type of Operation;
- ❖ 3.4 Target Groups supported by the Operation (selection criterion);
- ❖ 3.5 Project Phases;
- ❖ 3.6 Background and Justification;
- ❖ 3.7/3.8/3.9 Activities/Sub-activities/Other Related Activities (3.7 selection criterion);
- ❖ 3.10 Green considerations (selection criterion);
- ❖ 3.11 Innovation (selection criterion);
- ❖ Section 3B 3.11 Profits (selection criterion for proposals under Article 48(1) (e, i, j));
- ❖ 3.12 Operation Timeframe.

## SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION FORM (cont./iii)

### Section 4A/B – Operational Programme:

- ❖ 4.1 Specific Objectives;
- ❖ 4.2 Contribution toward Indicators (selection criterion);
- ❖ 4.3 Context Indicator presenting the initial situation;
- ❖ 4.4 Complementary Specific Objectives (selection criterion).

### Section 5 – Financial plan:

Budget breakdown.

### Section 6 – National Priorities:

How the operation will contribute towards Malta's policies including the Aquaculture Strategy.

### Section 7 – Horizontal Priorities (selection criterion):

- ❖ 7.1 Equal Opportunities;
- ❖ 7.2 Sustainable Development.

## **SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION FORM (cont./iv)**

### **Section 8 – Financial Details and Complementarity:**

Revenue generation and other Community financing sources.

### **Section 9 – Readiness (selection criterion):**

Current level of implementation and planning/environmental permits.

### **Section 10 – Sustainability of the Operation (selection criterion):**

How the benefits of the operation will continue to be delivered after grant support comes to an end.

### **Section 11 – Added Value and Cost-Effectiveness (selection criterion)**

### **Section 12 – Information and Publicity**



## SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION FORM (cont./v)

### **Section 13 – Conditionality and Risks (selection criterion):**

Delineating issues which could jeopardise time and effective implementation.

### **Section 14 – Additional Information**

### **Section 15 – Data Protection**

### **Section 16 – Declaration:**

- ❖ Confirmation that the inputted contents are correct and that the operation is not physically completed or fully implemented at the date of submission;
- ❖ Confirmation of adherence to Article 10 of Regulation (EU) no. 508/2014 re. infringements;

## SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION FORM (cont./vi)

- ❖ Confirmation that commitment can be made within the timescales indicated in the Operational Programme;
- ❖ Acknowledging that the application will be subject to regular monitoring/auditing/evaluations and the need of keeping adequate records as per the Manual of Procedures;
- ❖ Confirmation that proposal is not being supported through other Community funding and applicant abiding by the durability clause in Article 71 of Regulation (EU) no.1303/2013.

### Section 17 – Checklist of Attachments:

- ❖ For an Application Form to be deemed complete, documents marked as obligatory must be submitted prior to the deadline together with the Application Form proper;
- ❖ Documents marked as required can be submitted at a later stage (if not at hand by deadline) within five working days from the Managing Authority's request.

## **PAR. 2-3 OF ARTICLE 48 (EU) NO.508/2014**

Support for **(operation h) diversification of income**, shall only be granted if the complementary activities relate to the core aquaculture business of the enterprise, including angling tourism, environmental services or educational activities.

**Support under the previously-mentioned par. (1)** shall be granted for the increase in production and/or modernization of existing aquaculture enterprises, or for the construction of new ones, **provided that the development is consistent with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for the development of aquaculture.**

NB: (Operation k) of par. (1) is not included in the Operational Programme for Malta. This involves promoting the conversion of enterprises to renewable sources of energy.

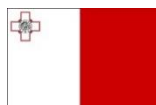
## CONCLUDING REMARKS

**Queries must be sent to the e-mail address [fpd.meae@gov.mt](mailto:fpd.meae@gov.mt) – the Managing Authority will be glad to provide guidance, yet it is not in a position to fill-in Application Forms for interested parties.**

**Complete Application Forms must be submitted by hand until 31 August 2018 (11:00hrs) at the Managing Authority offices in Triq il-Kukkanja, Sta. Venera. Prospective Applicants are encouraged to call the EMFF Unit on [22001108](tel:22001108) to schedule a submission appointment. This will facilitate logistical preparations.**

**More information can be found on [www.eufunds.gov.mt/www.eufundsmalta.gov.mt](http://www.eufunds.gov.mt/www.eufundsmalta.gov.mt).**

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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