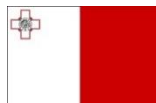


EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND 2014-2020

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR MALTA

INNOVATION OPEN CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

INFORMATION SESSION 13 FEBRUARY 2020



Maritime and Fisheries Operational Programme 2014-2020
Part-financed by the European Union
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
Co-financing rate: 75% European Union funds; 25% national funds



Investing in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

INTRODUCTION

The Maltese Operational Programme of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020 stipulates the Government's investment plan for the programming period in question. Investment is aimed at the sectoral needs in accordance with national priorities and the European 2020 Strategy.

The legal basis of the EMFF Operational Programme is constituted by Regulation (EU) no.508/2014 of the European Parliament and Council (Fund-specific) introduced on 15 May 2014 as well as Regulation (EU) no.1303/2013 of the European Parliament and Council (Common Provisions Regulations) adopted on 17 December 2013.

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 provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer;**
- ❖ The enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including the improvement of safety and working conditions, in particular of SMEs;**
- ❖ The protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and the enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and the promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture;**
- ❖ The promotion of aquaculture having a high level of environmental protection, and the promotion of animal health and welfare and of public health and safety;**
- ❖ The development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning.**

ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO.508/2014

General conditions

- 1. Support limited to aquaculture enterprises;**
- 2. Entrepreneurs entering the sector shall provide a business plan and feasibility study (for investments of more than €50,000), together with an environmental assessment of the operation. Support tied to the submission of a positive independent marketing report;**
- 3. For operations covering compliance (environmental etc.) with future requirements, support may be granted until the date on which such requirements become mandatory;**
- 4. No support to the farming of genetically-modified organisms;**
- 5. No support to operations in marine protected areas.**

ARTICLE 47 OF REGULATION (EU) NO.508/2014

Measure II.1

1a. Developing technical, scientific or organizational knowledge in aquaculture farms which in particular reduces environmental impact and, reduces dependence on fish meal and oil, fosters a sustainable use of resources, improves animal welfare or facilitates new sustainable production methods;

1b. Developing or introducing on the market new aquaculture species with good market potential, new or substantially improved products, new or improved processes, or new or improved management and organization systems;

1c. Exploring the technical or economic feasibility of innovative products or processes;

ARTICLE 47 OF REGULATION (EU) NO.508/2014

Measure II.1 (cont./ii)

2. Operations shall be carried out by or in collaboration with public or private scientific or technical bodies recognized by the Member-State which shall then validate the results of such operations;

3. Publicity with regards to results in accordance with Article 119 of the same Regulation entitled ‘Information and publicity’ (which puts the onus on the Managing Authority).

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE OPEN CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

- ❖ **Co-financing for private entities amounts to 50% (37.5% European Union funds and 12.5% national funds), with the other 50% to be covered via private funds;**
- ❖ **Beneficiaries are to initially cover the full 100%, followed by Managing Authority checks and subsequent reimbursement by Treasury Department;**
- ❖ **Submission deadline: 30 March 2020 (noon);**
- ❖ **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 etc. have to be filled-in diligently, signed and dated. Ancillary documentation must be annexed to the Application Form proper. The latter is to be submitted in both electronic and hard copy format.**

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).**

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.

Admissibility and Selection Criteria (September 2019):

- ❖ The gateway admissibility are essential criteria which all proposals must satisfy in order to proceed to the marking stage. Divided in general and specific criteria;**
- ❖ The Selection Criteria are intended to evaluate the contribution of the proposals to the strategic stipulations of the Operational Programme. 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.**

SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION FORM

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 (in case of private entities);**
- ❖ **1.6 Financial Viability of the Applicant (in case of private entities);**
- ❖ **1.7 Serious Infringements committed;**
- ❖ **1.8 Coordinating Body/Line Ministry (in case of public entities).**

Section 2 – State Aid:

Operations involving State Aid are not eligible under this call.

SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION FORM (cont./ii)

Section 3 – 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;**
- ❖ **3.5 Project Phases;**
- ❖ **3.6 Background and Justification;**
- ❖ **3.7/3.8/3.9 Activities/Sub-activities/Other Related Activities;**
- ❖ **3.10 Development of wider knowledge (selection criterion);**
- ❖ **3.11 Development or introduction of new or improved elements (selection criterion);**
- ❖ **3.12 Exploring feasibility (selection criterion);**
- ❖ **3.13 Article 27(1) of the Common Fisheries Policy (selection criterion);**
- ❖ **3.14 Operation Timeframe.**

SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION FORM (cont./iii)

Section 4 – 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

Estimated budget breakdown.

Section 6 – National Priorities

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

SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION FORM (cont./iv)

Section 7 – Horizontal Priorities (selection criterion):

- ❖ 6.1 Equal Opportunities;
- ❖ 6.2 Sustainable Development (40% of suggested expenditure).

Section 8 – Financial details

Revenue generation and other Community financing sources (selection criterion).

Section 9 – Contracting and Implementation

Procurement-related schedules.

Section 10 – Readiness (selection criterion)

Current level of implementation and planning/environmental permits.

SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION FORM (cont./v)

Section 11 – 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 12 – Added Value and Cost-Effectiveness (selection criterion)

Section 13 – Information and Publicity

Section 14 – Conditionality and Risks (selection criterion)

Delineating issues which could jeopardise time and effective implementation.

Section 15 – Additional Information

SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION FORM (cont./vi)

Section 16 – Data Protection

Section 17 – 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 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.

SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION FORM (cont./vii)

Section 18 – 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 later if not available by deadline, within five working days from the Managing Authority's request.**

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Queries must be sent to the e-mail address fpd.meae@gov.mt – the Managing Authority will be glad to provide guidance in writing, yet it is not in a position to fill-in Application Form for interested parties.

Complete Application Forms must be submitted by hand until 30 March 2020 (noon) at the Managing Authority offices in Triq il-Kukkanja, Sta. Venera. Prospective Applicants are encouraged to call the EMFF Unit on 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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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