



FAMENET

CT 3.1 EMFF implementation report 2021

Final

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Table of Figures	2
List of abbreviations	3
1 Executive summary	5
Commitments	5
By Union Priority	6
By Measure	7
Expenditure declared	7
EMFF contribution to specific topics	7
2 Introduction	9
2.1 Background	9
2.2 Purpose and target groups	10
2.3 Structure of the document	10
3 Overview of the implementation of the operational programmes.....	11
3.1 Key developments	11
3.2 EMFF implementation progress	13
3.2.1 EMFF implementation per UP	14
3.2.2 EMFF implementation per sea basin	16
3.2.3 EMFF implementation per MS	17
3.2.4 EMFF implementation per measure.....	18
3.2.5 Average EMFF support per UP and per measure.....	21
3.2.6 EMFF contribution to CFP objectives	25
3.2.7 EMFF contribution to IMP objectives under shared management.....	26
3.2.8 EMFF contribution to the Europe 2020 Thematic Objectives	27
3.2.9 Contribution to the EMFF objectives, Article 5	28
3.2.10 EMFF contribution to horizontal principles.....	29
3.2.11 EMFF support for climate change objectives	30
3.2.12 EMFF contribution to specific topics	31
3.2.13 EMFF common result indicators, status quo.....	43
3.2.14 EMFF programme-specific result indicators.....	48
4 Issues affecting the performance of the programme and corrective measures taken (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013).....	49
4.1 Issues affecting performance	49
4.2 Corrective measures taken.....	50

5	Information on serious infringements and remedy actions (Article 114(2) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014).....	52
6	Information on the actions taken to ensure the publication of beneficiaries (Article 114(2) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014).....	55
7	Activities in relation to the evaluation plan and synthesis of the evaluations (Article 114(2)) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014, Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	56
8	Citizens’ summary (Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013)	71
10	Report on the implementation of financial instruments (Article 46(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013).....	72
11	Annexes.....	73
11.1	Annex 1 EMFF contributions to policy objectives and specific topics	73
11.2	Annex 2 EMFF implementation per Member State.....	76
11.2.1	EMFF implementation per Member State (Infosys).....	76
11.2.2	EMFF implementation per Member State (AIR).....	77
11.3	Annex 3 EMFF implementation per measure.....	78
11.3.1	EMFF implementation per measure (Infosys).....	78
11.3.2	EMFF implementation per measure (AIR).....	80
11.4	Annex 4 Types of operations per selected article	82
11.5	Annex 5: EMFF common result indicators (Infosys data).....	87
11.6	Annex 6 EMFF common result indicators (AIR data).....	91
11.7	Annex 7 EMFF programme specific result indicators (AIR data)	93
11.8	Annex 8 EMFF Articles	98

Table of Figures

Figure 1:	EMFF funds committed, cumulative (left) and per year (right), as a percentage of total allocation.....	13
Figure 2:	EMFF spending, cumulative (left) and per year (right), as a percentage of total allocation .	14
Figure 3:	EMFF number of approved operations, cumulative (left) and per year (right).....	14
Figure 4:	EMFF committed per Article (EUR)	18
Figure 5:	Number of operations per Article	19

List of abbreviations

AIR	Annual Implementation Report
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CIR	Common Implementation Regulation
CISE	Common Information Sharing Environment
CLLD	Community-led Local Development
CMES	Common Monitoring and Evaluation System
COM	European Commission
CPR	Common Provision Regulation
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Funds
ESI Funds	European Structural and Investment Funds
EU	European Union
FFR	Fishing Fleet Register
FLAG	Fishing Local Action Group
IB	Intermediate Body
IMP	Integrated Maritime Policy
IMS	Integrated Maritime Surveillance
LAG	Local Action Group (see FLAG)
LO	Landing Obligation
MA	Managing Authority
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MS	Member State
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
OP	Operational Programme
PO	Producer Organisation
RI	Result Indicator

SCO	Simplified Cost Options
SME	Small or Medium-sized Enterprise
SO	Specific Objective
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSCF	Small-scale Coastal Fishing/Fishery
TA	Technical Assistance
TO	Thematic Objective
UP	Union Priority

1 Executive summary

The EMFF implementation report 2021 describes how the available EMFF financial support has been put to use by the Member States. The impact of the EMFF on key policy objectives and specific topics is highlighted. Reporting is based on the latest data available, which pertains to all operations supported between January 2014 and December 2021. The report aggregates and analyses the data provided by Member States on each operation they have supported (Infosys reporting). Additional context is taken from information provided by Member States in their Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs).

During its seventh year, implementation of the EMFF continued to advance. Although less severe than in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact EMFF implementation in 2021. Member States continued to benefit from the emergency support available as a result of the amendment¹ to the EMFF Regulation. In several cases these compensations even played a significant role in the absorption of funding: nearly 14% of all operations of the entire EMFF implementation period (2014 – 2021) were related to the mitigation of the COVID-19 outbreak. For some MS programmes amounts related to the mitigation of the COVID-19 outbreak were around 10% of total commitments and close to 20% of total declared by beneficiaries.

Member States paid increased attention towards successful completion of the EMFF operational programmes by re-allocating funding towards the most demanded priorities and measures, by adjusting national procedures, and by closely following the finalisation of already approved projects and submission of payment claims.

Commitments

By the end of 2021, EUR 4.9 billion of EMFF funding had been committed, corresponding to 87.0% of the total EMFF funding available (under shared management). Commitments made during 2021 were EUR 843 million, or around 15% of the total EMFF allocation.

Assuming this speed holds, all EMFF available funding will be committed by 31 December 2023 – the deadline for the eligibility of expenditure stipulated in the Common Provisions Regulation² (CPR). Differences in the level of EMFF commitments across the MSs continue to persist – commitment rates range from 42% to over 100%.

The measures with the most uptake in absolute terms still relate to data collection (Article 77), with EUR 548.7 million in commitments. For the first time, processing of fisheries and aquaculture products (Article 69) is the next most demanded support, with EUR 502.2 million committed, leaving behind

¹ Regulation (EU) 2020/560 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2020 amending Regulations (EU) No 508/2014 and (EU) No 1379/2013 as regards specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector (OJ L 130, 24.4.2020, p. 11).

² Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

productive investments in aquaculture (Article 48(1)(a-d,f-g)), with EUR 495.4 million committed; investments in control (Article 76), with EUR 487.9 million committed; implementation of local development strategies (Article 63), with EUR 442.8 million; and fishing ports (Article 43(1-3)), with EUR 417.8 million in commitments. These six articles have a total of EUR 2.89 billion, or 58.8% of all commitments.

EUR 2 467 million of the support committed – 50% of the total – contributes to the objective of enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, most of which operate in remote communities.

EUR 1 728 million (35%) was committed to preserving and protecting the environment, for example through protection of Natura 2000 areas and promoting resource efficiency and waste reduction.

The remaining EUR 724 million is committed to a variety of topics, which notably include promoting quality employment and labour mobility, mostly via support for local development strategies.

EMFF implementation per Member State varies significantly. Commitment rates are in the range of 42.1% to over-commitments³ in several MSs.

By Union Priority

EUR 1 334 million has been committed to **Union Priority 1** “Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries”. 89.4% of the available allocation for the priority has been committed to funding operations.

EUR 919 million has been committed to **Union Priority 2** “Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture”. 81.7% of the available allocation for the priority has been committed to funding operations.

EUR 1 037 million has been committed to **Union Priority 3** “Fostering the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy”. 94.8% of the available allocation for the priority has been committed to funding operations.

EUR 457 million has been committed to **Union Priority 4** “Increasing employment and territorial cohesion”. 83.5% of the available allocation for the priority has been committed to funding operations.

EUR 892 million has been committed to **Union Priority 5** “Fostering marketing and processing”. 84.5% of the available allocation for the priority has been committed to funding operations.

³ *Over-commitments can be a deliberate process to ensure the best absorption of funding: MSs commit funding to new operations, taking into account the fact that some operations approved earlier could be abandoned. For several non-EUR MSs, this over-commitment results from fluctuation of currency exchange rates as commitments are reported in national currencies and later converted to EUR using fixed exchange rates. Another factor which impacts the reported commitments is interrupted and abandoned operations (Infosys state of progress codes 1 and 2) – MSs do not always adjust the amounts initially committed in the light of partial implementation or entire abandonment of operations. The impact of incorrect reporting of abandoned and interrupted operations can be estimated at EUR 140 million or around 2.8% of total commitments.*

EUR 62 million has been committed to **Union Priority 6** “Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy”. 91.2% of the available allocation for the priority has been committed to funding operations.

By Measure

Six of the 51 measures in the EMFF account for EUR 2.89 billion, or 58.8% of all EMFF funding committed to date. These are: **data collection** (EUR 548.7 million), **processing** of fisheries and aquaculture products (EUR 502.2 million), productive investments in **aquaculture** (EUR 495.4 million), **control** (EUR 487.9 million), **local development strategies** (EUR 442.8 million), and **fishing ports** (EUR 417.8 million).

Expenditure declared

Expenditure declared by beneficiaries reached EUR 3.12 billion (55.2% of total EMFF funding) since the beginning of the programming period. Beneficiaries claimed EUR 756 million, or 13.6% of the total EMFF allocation, in 2021. This is the highest amount of payments per year since the beginning of the period. It can be explained both by maturing investments and by compensation payments related to the mitigation of consequences of the coronavirus outbreak. The level of expenditure varies significantly between MSs, ranging from 22.0% to 89%. Overall, of every EUR committed, EUR 0.63 has been claimed by beneficiaries.

EMFF contribution to specific topics

This report provides dedicated sections on each of the topics below, with a full breakdown of relevant details; here is a short overview:

- **Support to the fishing fleet**

Of a total EMFF commitment of EUR 4 920 million, EUR 1 334 million (27.1%) was dedicated to operations linked to a Fishing Fleet Register (FFR) vessel number. EMFF spending on vessel-specific operations amounted to 30.0% of the total EMFF spending. During 2021 EMFF commitment and spending on these operations nearly doubled, in part due to the active use of compensation measures related to mitigation of the coronavirus outbreak. During 2021 the number of operations increased from 35 756 to 48 088 (an increase of 34%). As of the end of 2021 the EMFF supported 16 211 fishing vessels.

- **Small-scale coastal fisheries (SSCF)**

Of 48 088 operations linked to a vessel number, 18 987 (39.0%) were for SSCF vessels. This segment received 47% of the EMFF spending dedicated to specific vessels (EUR 437 million of EUR 936 million).

- **Landing obligation**

MSs selected 4 762 operations related to the landing obligation (LO), based on the FAMENET “broad approach”, with total EMFF funding of EUR 169.2 million. The FAMENET “narrow approach” identified 3 414 operations with total EMFF funding of EUR 116.9 million. Of these, 2 571 operations – with EUR 57.8 million of EMFF funding committed – were implemented in relation to added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (Article 42).

- **Innovation**

Operations related to innovation were selected under each operational programme: overall 1 251 operation with a total EMFF budget of EUR 267.2 million. As of the end of 2021, nearly half of all the commitments to innovations related to aquaculture (Article 47).

- **Natura 2000**

In total, EUR 494.4 million of the EMFF funding was committed, and EUR 299.4 million spent, under measures directly or potentially supporting the Natura 2000 network.

- **Biodiversity**

A wide range of EMFF measures potentially contribute to protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. MSs committed EUR 1 881 million of the EMFF funding over a total of 47 292 operations.

- **Climate change**

Overall, the EMFF contribution to climate change objectives by the end of 2021 was EUR 847 million, or 18.0% of the total EMFF funding committed to date. The corresponding number for total EMFF funding already declared by beneficiaries was EUR 548 million, or 17.6% of total EMFF declared by beneficiaries.

- **Outermost regions**

To support the offsetting of additional costs for the fishing, farming, processing and marketing of certain fishery and aquaculture products, and to retain the economic viability of operators from the outermost regions, ES, FR and PT selected 5 533 operations with a total budget of EUR 204.7 million.

- **Mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic impact**

Overall, EUR 188.7 million of the EMFF funding in 12 391 operations was committed to mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This corresponds to 3.8% of total EMFF funding committed at the end of 2021. 54.6% (EUR 103.1 million) of the funding was allocated via the temporary cessation of fishing activities (Article 33).

2 Introduction

2.1 Background

This is the first EMFF implementation report prepared by FAMENET (Fisheries and Aquaculture Monitoring, Evaluation and Local Support Network). FAMENET is a support unit to the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), and it brings together two former support units: FAME (Fisheries Aquaculture Monitoring and Evaluation) and FARNET (the technical assistance team established by the European Commission to assist in the implementation of CLLD under the EMFF). The key mission of FAMENET is to support stakeholders in implementing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) in three core areas:

- monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the EMFAF and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF);
- implementing community-led local development (CLLD) in fisheries and aquaculture areas to foster a sustainable blue economy; and
- communicating the results of the EMFAF through written stories and videos, and supporting the INFORM EU network.

One of the core tasks of FAMENET is to provide reports regarding the progress of EMFF implementation.

The managing authorities (MAs) of the EMFF operational programmes (OPs) report implementation progress according to:

- Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 (Common Provision Regulation, CPR) Article 50 and Regulation 508/2014 Article 114 (EMFF Regulation), specifying that MAs shall prepare and submit an **annual implementation report (AIR) by 31 May each year**, from 2016 up to and including 2023. AIRs are subject to an admissibility and acceptance procedure by the COM. Quantitative data from AIR tables 1 to 4 are presented as of 8 August 2022. At that date the AIR acceptance procedure was not yet finalised for all MSs, so any subsequent AIR modifications are not taken into account in this report.
- Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 **Article 97(1)(a)** and Regulation (EU) No. 2017/788 and Regulation (EU) No. 1242/2014 (Commission Implementing Regulation), specifying that MAs shall, **by 31 March each year**, provide the COM with relevant cumulative data on operations selected for funding up to the end of the previous calendar year, including key characteristics of the beneficiary and the operation itself. The Article 97(1)(a) report is often colloquially referred to as "Infosys". Infosys contains various complementary data that is not available in the AIR.

FAMENET aggregates the data of the Infosys reports and AIRs submitted by MAs with the purpose of presenting the state of play in terms of implementation of the operational programmes, and to demonstrate the effect of this on various policy objectives and specific topics. Compared to the AIRs, the structure of the Infosys data allows for more detailed analysis and the detection of reporting errors. Infosys data thus serve as the basis for the quantitative part of the EMFF report. Infosys data

is compared to AIR data and explanations are provided where there are significant differences.⁴ The greatest value added from AIR reports comes from the qualitative information (for example, issues affecting the performance of the programme and the corrective measures taken; and descriptions of evaluation plans).

Contextual data regarding indicative planned amounts are derived from the 2021 Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs).⁵

Several calculations are based on the methodology developed by FAMENET, which links EMFF articles to the various policy objectives of the common fisheries policy (CFP), the integrated maritime policy (IMP) and the EU 2020 Thematic Objectives (TOs), as well as towards contributions to the horizontal objectives and specific topics. Annex 1 of this report gives an overview of the methodology.

To ensure comparability with previous EMFF implementation reports, UK data are included in all aggregations.⁶

2.2 Purpose and target groups

The aim of this report is to highlight the most important achievements of the EMFF implementation, as provided through Infosys and the AIR, in a way that is timely and can be directly used for communication purposes or decision-making by the COM and MSs.

2.3 Structure of the document

The report broadly follows the structure of the AIR and represents the state of EMFF implementation as of 31 December 2021.

The report addresses the state of EMFF implementation at the level of Union Priorities (UPs), sea basins and MSs. It provides an overview of the main achievements of the OPs in relation to the CFP, the IMP objectives and the EU 2020 Thematic Objectives, as well as contributions to the horizontal objectives and specific topics. It also addresses EMFF absorption at the level of individual measures and provides an overview of the result indicators reported.

⁴ See FAME SU: CT03.1 working paper EMFF AIR and EMFF Article 97(1)(a) reports differences, October 2018.

⁵ In line with Table 4 of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 1362/2014 the content of the annual implementation report shall include financial data at the level of each measure. The AIRs are the only documents that provide indicative allocations for each measure. To ensure consistency, the contextual data for indicative allocations per measure from Table 4 of AIR 2021 is used everywhere for aggregations, even if more recent aggregated contextual OP data is available. The admissibility and acceptance procedure for AIR 2021 had not been finalised at the moment this report was compiled. Contextual AIR data may therefore not always be up-to-date in cases where an MS modified its EMFF operational programme after submitting the AIR 2021.

⁶ In line with the Withdrawal Agreement, the UK will continue to honour its payments to the EU budget after 31 January 2020. The adopted EMFF programme will continue to be implemented and EU budget commitments respected. This report will continue to present data on the financial execution and achievements of the programmes involving the UK until their closure.

3 Overview of the implementation of the operational programmes

3.1 Key developments

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis and the imminent advance towards the few remaining years of the funding period are the best descriptors of EMFF implementation in 2021. In total, EUR 4.92 billion (EUR 4.86 billion in the AIR⁷) of EMFF funding was committed, corresponding to 87.1% of the total EMFF funding available.

The total EMFF commitment rate has reached 55.3%, and EUR 3.12 billion was paid to beneficiaries. 2021 was a peak year in which MSs paid beneficiaries 13.6% of the total EMFF allocation. This can be explained mostly by two factors: earlier approved operations which were maturing, and measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. It is expected that payments to beneficiaries will continue to accelerate, taking into account that 2023 will be the last year eligible for EMFF expenditure.

Close to 89 000 (84 604 operations in the AIR⁸) operations have already been reported during the 2014-2021 period. Overall, starting from 2018 the development has been rather consistent, except for 2020 where compensations to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak were the main cause of the rapid increase in approved operations.

The Commission adopted 15 OP modification decisions in 2021 (compared to 32 in 2020, when most OPs were amended to respond to the COVID-19 crisis). For individual countries, the number of OP modifications ranged from three up to 11 for the entire period until the end of 2021.

In the AIR section “Overview of the implementation of the operational programme” MSs provided information on issues including the management of the OP and its amendments; calls for proposals; financial implementation; achievement of output and result indicators; and factors that impacted OP implementation.

The closing years of the 2014-2020 programme require additional attention. In particular, MSs referred to the completion and monitoring of projects, and the commitment of the entire funding available. Several solutions were mentioned, including a focus on supporting larger multi-year projects and processing the final payments for completed projects (DE); and allocating the remaining budget to public projects for better control of implementation (NL). Several MSs mentioned the possibility of over-commitments.⁹ However, this solution depends on national legislation and sometimes is not permitted (SE). PT mentioned the relevance of the advance payment mechanism for encouraging implementation. Another significant and often-used tool is a modification of the OP (including re-allocating funding between measures and UPs, and adjusting targets for output and result indicators).

⁷ Please see section 2.1 for explanations of discrepancies between Infosys and AIR.

⁸ Discrepancies are mostly due to differential reporting of operations related to compensations under EMFF Articles 33, 54 and 70: in Infosys each compensation is reported as an individual operation, whereas in AIR compensations are grouped together.

⁹ Over-commitments can be a deliberate process to ensure the best absorption of funding: MSs commit funding to new operations, taking into account the fact that some operations approved earlier could be abandoned

All MAs devoted significant effort to preparing for the next programming period by drafting EMFAF programmes, preparing strategic environmental assessments and adjusting national aquaculture strategies. There was special focus on communication with various stakeholders related to the new programming period.

Some MSs noted significant gaps between the levels of commitments and payments. This is also confirmed by the overall statistics at EU level (87.1% committed, but only 55.3% declared by beneficiaries).

Several Baltic Sea MSs (LV, LT, SE) mentioned that low stocks of economically important fish species in the Baltic (herring and cod) resulted directly in lower incomes and lack of financing for investments. SE noted that this negatively affects fishers' willingness to make investments (and to support innovation projects involving new fishing gear) when they are not allowed to fish for cod. At the same time in SE, however, there was low interest in permanent cessation of fishing activities (this measure was introduced in 2021 to try to alleviate the problem that the available fishing opportunities do not match the size of the Baltic fleet).

Most MSs in their AIR 2021 referred to challenges due to the pandemic. However, in comparison with 2020 it seems that most MAs managed to adapt their working procedures to limit the impact of COVID-19.

The impacts of the pandemic most often mentioned related to the implementation of already-approved projects. Operations had to be scaled back, delayed or even withdrawn. Potential beneficiaries were also more risk-averse when considering new projects. Other obstacles included price increases (especially for energy) causing cash shortages for investors; problems in global supply chains and international freight transport; difficulties in the provision of services; construction projects affected by rising prices for raw materials and restrictions on site work; falling exports and retail sales; difficult access to loans; challenges related to unpredictable price increases for contractors during tendering procedures; banks' lack of interest in co-financing; and upsets in sales channels following the closure of catering businesses.

To mitigate the impact of the pandemic, the majority of MSs provided financial support in line with Regulation (EU) 2020/560.¹⁰ Most MSs emphasised that these support measures were crucial to help the sector navigate through the crisis. However, the situation differs by MS – for example, IE noted that temporary cessation operations implemented under EMFF Article 33 represented a small fraction of the sector, since the scale of support in relation to its tie-up obligations made this option unattractive to most operators. NL noted that fisheries and aquaculture entrepreneurs could access the agricultural credit guarantee scheme, which provides bridging loans. As a structural change, several MSs mentioned that pandemic restrictions on face-to-face meetings led to the strengthening of digital communications.

In Section 2 of their AIRs, MSs also refer to other challenges not related to the pandemic. BE reported issues with Brexit and related investment uncertainties. Brexit has also impacted IE in terms of quota

¹⁰ Regulation (EU) 2020/560 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2020 amending Regulations (EU) No 508/2014 and (EU) No 1379/2013 as regards specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector (OJ L 130, 24.4.2020, p. 11).

changes under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) between the EU and UK, which has cut some quotas important to Ireland, and has also exacerbated problems in logistics, which was already difficult due to COVID-19 (IE).

IE also notes that for both fishers and aquaculture farmers the disparity between the cost of production and remuneration is a critical issue for ongoing viability, especially when the environmental impacts of their activities must also be taken into consideration. At the processor and manufacturing level, challenges include a perceived lack of scale, fierce international competition, international retail consolidation and changing consumer demands.

FI mentions the price volatility of Norwegian salmon as an influencing factor.

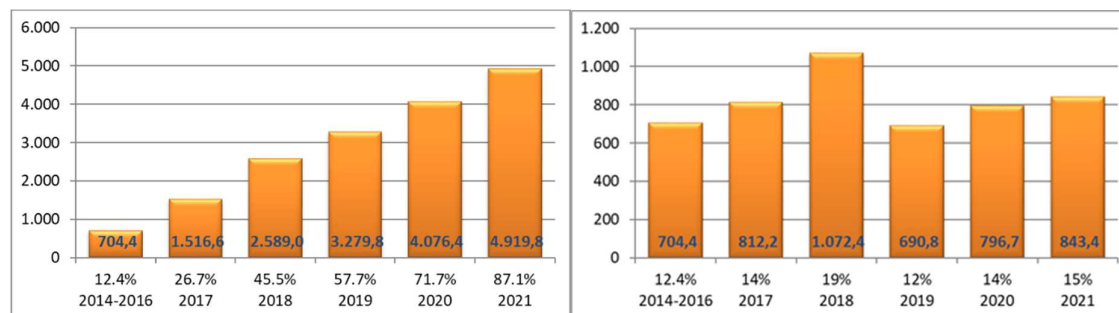
For non-EUR countries, exchange rate fluctuations have in some cases forced them to modify national financial envelopes and carefully monitor the level commitments (HU, SE, UK).

The ongoing challenges of administrative issues concerning national legislation and tendering procedures were also listed.

3.2 EMFF implementation progress

EMFF implementation continued to advance and the overall EMFF commitment rate at the end of 2021 stands at 87.1% (Figure 1)

Figure 1: EMFF funds committed, cumulative (left) and per year (right), as a percentage of total allocation¹¹



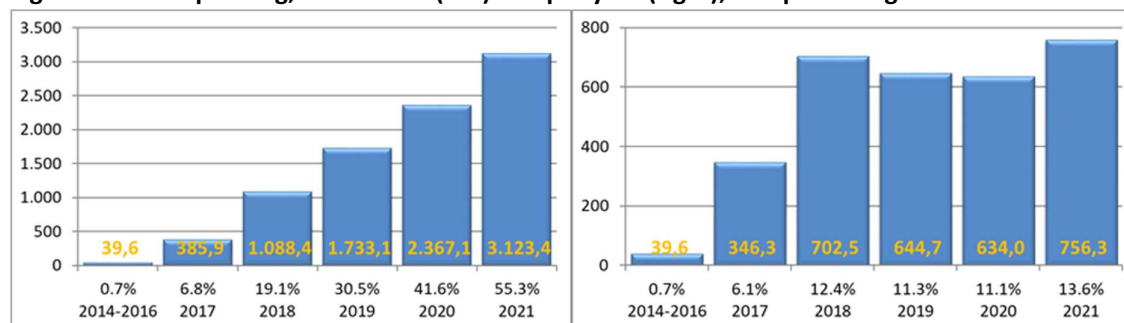
Source: Infosys 2021

Commitments vary from year to year (Figure 1). Commitments in 2021 were slightly higher than in the previous two years, thanks in part to mitigation measures provided by the European Commission in relation to coronavirus. The average annual level of commitments for the last five years of implementation (2017-2021) is slightly below 15%. The likelihood is high that all the EMFF financing available will be committed by the end of 2023.

¹¹ Infosys data on annual EMFF funding committed are calculated by date of approval of each operation (Infosys field 13 "Date of approval"). Annual time series of EMFF funding committed are subject to MS-introduced modifications related to earlier reporting periods (for example, correction of errors and changes to approval dates). The total EMFF allocation is also subject to change due to decommitments. As a result, time series presented in EMFF reports may change each year.

With expenditure of EUR 3.12 billion declared by beneficiaries, the total EMFF absorption rate has reached 55.3%. Figure 2 shows that 2021 was a peak year in which MSs paid beneficiaries 13.6% of the total EMFF allocation. This can be explained mostly by two factors: earlier approved operations which were maturing, and measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. It is expected that payments to beneficiaries will continue to accelerate, taking into account the fact that the eligibility of EMFF expenditure is approaching its final year: 2023. However, taking into account that only slightly more than half of the available funding had been paid to beneficiaries by the end of 2021, there is a risk that part of the EMFF funding will be lost.

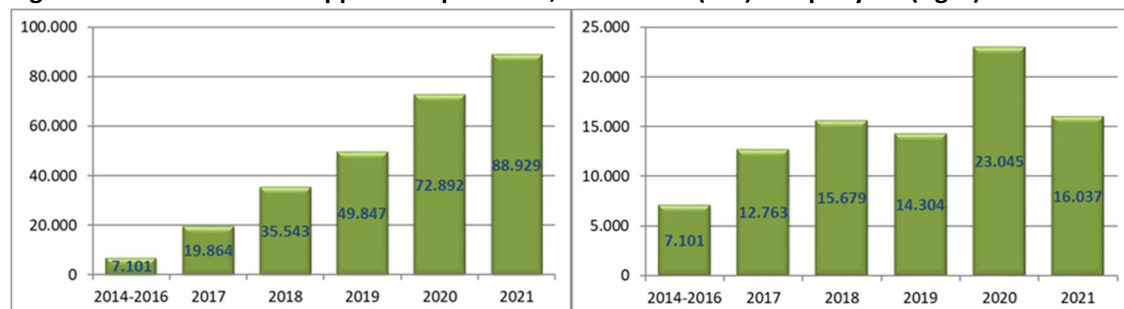
Figure 2: EMFF spending, cumulative (left) and per year (right), as a percentage of total allocation¹²



Source: Infosys 2021

Close to 89 000 operations have already been reported during the 2014-2021 period. Overall, starting from 2018 the development has been rather consistent, except for 2020 when compensations to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak were the main cause of the rapid increase in approved operations (Figure 3).

Figure 3: EMFF number of approved operations, cumulative (left) and per year (right)



Source: Infosys 2021

3.2.1 EMFF implementation per UP

The EMFF pursues the following Union Priorities for the sustainable development of fisheries, aquaculture and related activities:

¹² Calculating spending is to some extent less straightforward than calculating commitments. Infosys data on annual EMFF spending are calculated by subtracting the previous year's data from the current year's data. Moreover, this approach encounters the same challenges as those involved in calculating commitments. As a result, time series presented in EMFF reports may change each year.

- Union Priority 1 – Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries
- Union Priority 2 – Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture
- Union Priority 3 – Fostering the implementation of the CFP
- Union Priority 4 – Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
- Union Priority 5 – Fostering marketing and processing
- Union Priority 6 – Fostering the implementation of the IMP

Table 1: EMFF implementation per UP

UP	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	Number of operations
UP1	1 497 746 607	1 334 026 853	89.1	790 656 941	52.8	52 412
UP2	1 121 417 851	919 192 634	82.0	522 180 022	46.6	11 960
UP3	1 084 141 850	1 036 629 541	95.6	758 641 230	70.0	1 135
UP4	549 741 215	457 279 936	83.2	238 216 519	43.3	11 133
UP5	1 064 202 058	891 702 262	83.8	623 436 769	58.6	10 274
UP6	64 044 013	61 598 018	96.2	34 328 749	53.6	259
TA	269 457 994	219 405 270	81.4	155 904 329	57.9	1 756
Total	5 650 751 587	4 919 834 513	87.1	3 123 364 560	55.3	88 929

Source: AIR/ Infosys 2021

In absolute terms, the most advanced of the Union Priorities is UP1, with EUR 1.33 billion – or 89.1% of the total allocation – already committed (Table 1). This is the second year when committed support to fisheries has exceeded commitments to UP3 (EUR 1.04 billion).

UP3 covers data collection and control, which are usually performed by state-governed entities. This implies an easier path to implementation, and as a result UP3 has been the best performer in relative terms with 95.6% of the total allocation committed.

In terms of the amount committed, UP2 (EUR 919 million) is in third place and a fraction ahead of UP5 (EUR 891 million). However, despite the progress in 2021, the UP2 commitment constitutes 82.0% of the EMFF allocation available for this Priority, and UP2 continues to have the lowest absorption rate amongst all the UPs.

UP1 accounts for 52 412 operations, or about 59% of all EMFF operations.

The overall EMFF absorption rate is 55.3% (41.6% in 2020). UP3 leads with 70.0% (EUR 758.6 million) of the total available EMFF funding already paid to beneficiaries. In absolute terms, UP1 paid beneficiaries EUR 790.7 million and UP5 paid EUR 623.4 million.

Payments under UP4 progressed well during 2021 and reached 43.3% of the total allocation to this priority (30.1% in 2020). However, this priority remains the slowest in terms of payments to beneficiaries.

3.2.2 EMFF implementation per sea basin

Looking at the various sea basins, for the purpose of this report FAMENET applied a simplified approach based on a common agreement with DG MARE from 2017. Under this arrangement, MSs are grouped by sea basin in the order below, ignoring the fact that several MSs have operations in more than one basin:

- Black Sea – BG, RO
- Mediterranean Sea – CY, GR, HR, IT, MT, SI
- Atlantic Ocean – ES, FR, IE, PT, UK
- North Sea – BE, DE, DK, NL
- Baltic Sea – EE, FI, LT, LV, PL, SE
- Landlocked – AT, CZ, HU, SK

The most significant part of the EMFF funding – EUR 2.46 billion – is allocated to the Atlantic basin (Table 2). Commitment in the Atlantic sea basin has exceeded EUR 2 billion, or 82.4% of the total planned EMFF allocation. In monetary terms, the Mediterranean and Baltic Sea basins are the next most significant, with EUR 1.12 billion and EUR 959 million (EUR 917 million in AIR) respectively in commitments. In relative terms, the highest commitment rate (99.8%, or nearly all available funding already committed) was reached in landlocked MSs. The number of operations is highest in the Atlantic (37 479) and Mediterranean (23 998), mostly due to the numerous cessations, both permanent and temporary.

In terms of absorption, the leader again is the Atlantic basin with EUR 1.41 billion already claimed by beneficiaries. In relative terms, the highest share (63.2%) of the total planned EMFF allocation was claimed in the North Sea basin. Absorption remains slower in the Mediterranean Sea (46.0% declared).

Table 2: EMFF implementation per sea basin

Sea basin	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	Number of operations
Atlantic	2 458 404 218	2 025 070 503	82.4	1 415 341 725	57.6	37 479
Baltic	1 030 005 010	959 392 505	93.1	596 752 024	57.9	18 201
Black sea	249 245 098	214 272 352	86.0	126 542 452	50.8	1 206
Landlocked	86 161 833	86 021 862	99.8	46 129 388	53.5	1 618
Mediterranean	1 255 714 437	1 121 973 827	89.3	577 622 029	46.0	23 998
North sea	571 220 991	513 103 464	89.8	360 976 941	63.2	6 427
Total	5 650 751 587	4 919 834 513	87.1	3 123 364 560	55.3	88 929

Source: AIR/ Infosys 2021

3.2.3 EMFF implementation per MS

EMFF implementation per Member State varies significantly (Annex 2).¹³ Commitment rates are in the range of 42.1% (Slovakia) to over-commitments in several MSs.¹⁴ The largest commitments are for Spain – EUR 760 million (18 532 operations), France – EUR 501 million (5 920 operations), Poland – EUR 492 million (10 842 operations), and Italy – EUR 440 million (15 150 operations).

Progress in EMFF absorption also differs notably among MSs. In relative terms it is led by Ireland, Austria and Finland, with respectively 88.6%, 81.6% and 80.8% of the total EMFF funding available to beneficiaries already paid. Spain, having the largest EMFF budget, paid beneficiaries slightly more than half of the total EMFF funding available. Countries with an absorption rate of less than 50% are Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Slovenia and Slovakia.

Overall, of every EUR committed, EUR 0.63 has been paid to beneficiaries.

Table 3 reveals that there is a relationship between the size of OP allocation and the rates of commitment and absorption. The OPs were divided into three groups:

- total EMFF allocation below EUR 100 million (11 MSs: AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, FI, HU, LT, MT, SI and SK);
- total EMFF allocation from EUR 100 million to EUR 300 million (10 MSs: DE, DK, EE, HR, IE, LV, NL, RO, SE, UK);
- total EMFF allocation above EUR 300 million (6 MSs: EL, ES, FR, IT, PL, PT).

The last group, comprising OPs with the largest allocations, shows slightly lower rates of commitment and absorption compared to the first two groups. EMFF expenditure declared is the highest for OPs belonging to the middle group. More than two-thirds of all operations are implemented in the six MSs with total EMFF allocations above EUR 300 million.

Table 3: EMFF implementation by size of Operational Programme

Total EMFF allocation per MS (EUR million)	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate (%)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate (%)	Number of operations
< 100	430 677 073	387 209 506	89.9	248 704 575	57.7	7 991
100 – 300	1 702 241 029	1 581 714 196	92.9	1 072 809 854	63.0	20 496
> 300	3 517 833 485	2 950 910 810	83.9	1 801 850 131	51.2	60 442
Total	5 650 751 587	4 919 834 513	87.1	3 123 364 560	55.3	88 929

Source: AIR/ Infosys 2021

¹³ Data provided in the AIR compared to data reported in Infosys are not always coherent. For some MSs the discrepancies are significant. In Annex 2 are two tables that relate to EMFF implementation per MS: one is based on Infosys data and the other is based on the AIR. Analysis in this section is based on Infosys data.

¹⁴ Over-commitments are practiced by some MSs at the end of the programming period in order to achieve maximum absorption of the available funding, in case some approved operations are cancelled or fail to deliver.

3.2.4 EMFF implementation per measure

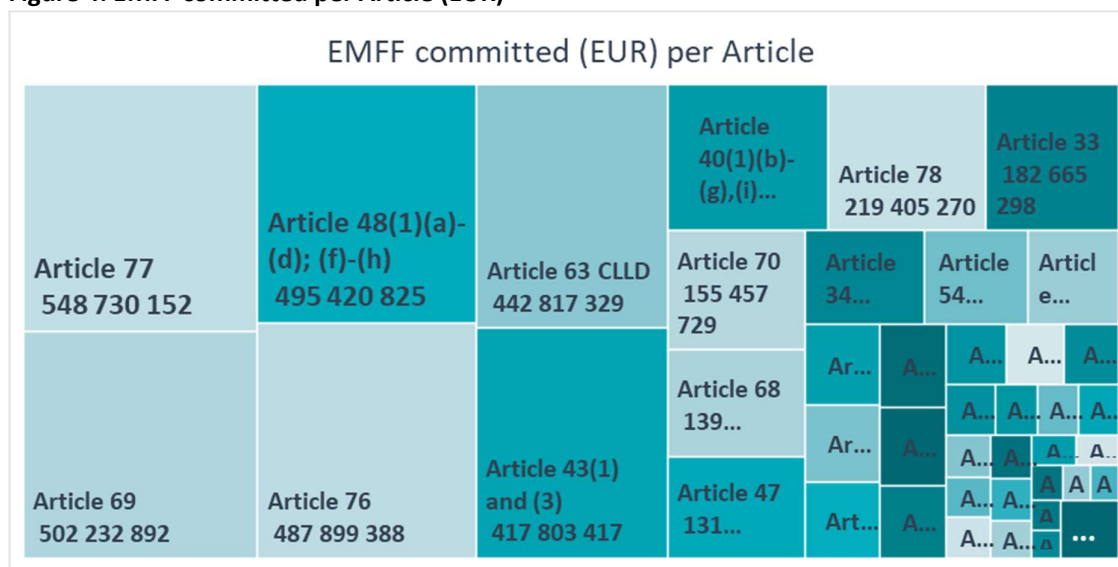
Data provided in the AIR compared to data reported in Infosys are not always consistent. For the EMFF funding committed and spent, however, most of the differences could be judged as negligible at the level of general observations.¹⁵ To allow comparison, Annex 3 includes two tables related to EMFF implementation per measure: one is based on Infosys data and the other is based on the AIR. Analysis in this section is based on Infosys data.

At the end of 2021, MSs had made commitments to all the measures with the exception of Article 35 (Mutual funds for adverse climatic events and environmental incidents).

Implementation per article varies considerably, both absolutely – in terms of the EMFF funding committed and paid for – and in relative terms when compared to the planned allocation. In absolute terms, articles with the most uptake still relate to data collection (Article 77, with EUR 548.7 million or 98.7% committed) (Figure 4). This means that practically all of the total planned EMFF allocation to data collection has already been committed.

Support for processing of fisheries and aquaculture products (Article 69) comes next, with EUR 502.2 million or 91.5% of planned EMFF amount already committed.

Figure 4: EMFF committed per Article (EUR)



Source: Infosys 2021

Support to the aquaculture sector led to EUR 495.4 million (or 84.5% of the total planned EMFF allocation for this measure) in commitments under Article 48(1)(a-d,f-g) (Productive investments in aquaculture). This is followed by EUR 487.9 million (or 89.8 % of planned EMFF allocation) committed under Article 76 (Control and enforcement).

¹⁵ The only exception is reporting of operations under Article 40(1)(a). In Infosys a total of 242 operations are reported, but in AIR the figure is 411. EMFF committed in Infosys EUR 12.2 million, in AIR EUR 20.8 million. EMFF spent EUR 6.1 million in Infosys and EUR 7.4 million in AIR. Most of these differences are due to additional operations included in ES and IT AIRs compared to Infosys reports.

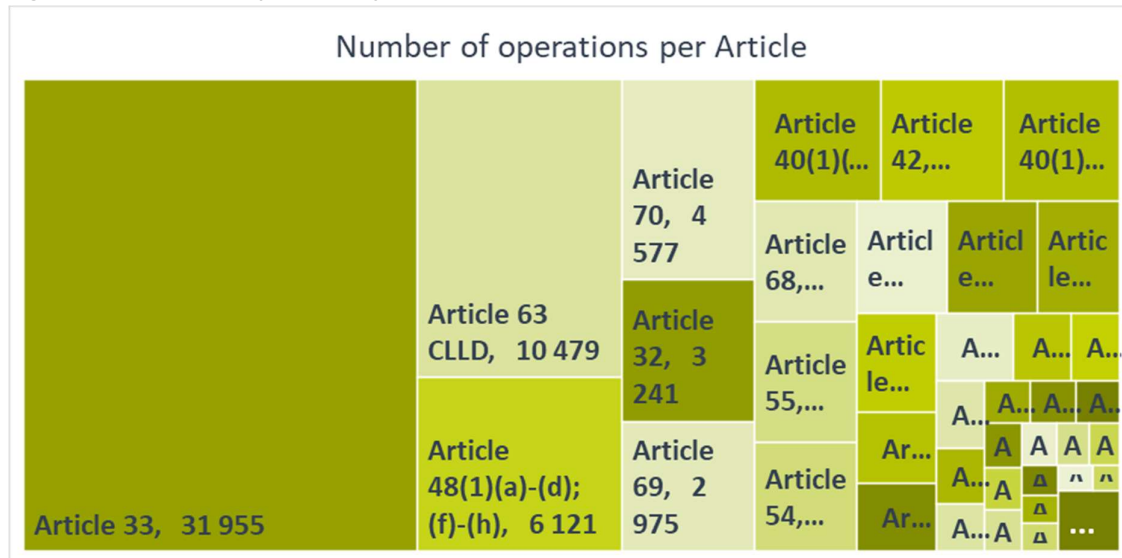
Support for CLLD activities resulted in MSs’ commitments of EUR 442.8 million or 85.8% of the total EMFF allocation planned for CLLD.

Investment in fishing ports and landing sites (Article 43(1,3)) also had a good uptake, with EUR 417.8 million in commitments (EUR 105 million more than at the end of 2020).

Measures attracting the least interest relate to conversion to eco-management, audit schemes and organic aquaculture (Article 53) and to trainees on board SSCF vessels (Article 29(3)).

More than one-third (Figure 5) of all EMFF operations (31 955) have been implemented under Article 33 (Temporary cessation). This number continued to grow rapidly: 12 496 was the number of operations in December 2019 and 23 239 in December 2020). In monetary terms the commitment under this article is moderate: EUR 182.7 million. 10 025 of these temporary cessation operations were reported as related to coronavirus impact mitigation.

Figure 5: Number of operations per Article



Source: Infosys 2021

4.2.4.1 Types of operations for selected Articles

The EMFF is the only ESI Fund to ensure reporting at the level of operations. This allows FAMENET to compile data related to EMFF contributions to various specific topics. Infosys also provides the opportunity to analyse EMFF support for specific measures by the type of operation or investment (Infosys data fields 20 and 21). Such detailed statistics have proved helpful in preparing the answers to various data requests and also for tailoring certain policy decisions.

In this section we analyse the following selected measures according to their type of operation or type of investment:

- Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment (Article 38);
- Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity (Article 40(1)(b-g,i);
- Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (Article 41(2));

- Productive investments in aquaculture (Article 48);
- Aquaculture providing environmental services (Article 54);
- Implementation of local development strategies (Article 63);
- Marketing measures (Article 68);
- Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products (Article 69);
- Control and enforcement (Article 76),
- Promotion of protection of marine environment and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources (Article 80(1)(b)).

A complete breakdown is shown in Annex 4.

In total, EUR 23.7 million, or 1 582 operations, were implemented in relation to **Article 38: Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species**. More than half of all the committed EMFF funding was devoted to gear selectivity – EUR 12.4 million, or 861 operations. The next most popular type of operation was to reduce discards or to deal with unwanted catches – EUR 4.9 million for 283 operations.

EUR 222.6 million in 2 644 operations was committed to **Article 40(1)(b-g,i): Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – contribution to a better management or conservation, construction, installation or modernisation of static or movable facilities**. There are seven types of operations under this Article (Annex 5). Around half (1 206 operations) of all operations relate to other actions enhancing biodiversity (EUR 88.3 million committed). Another popular type is management of resources, with 1 068 operations and EUR 69.0 million in commitments. These two types of operations comprise 71% of all EMFF committed funding under this Article.

There are two types of operations under **Article 41(2): Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines**. More than three-quarters (EUR 2.3 million for 556 operations) of the total commitment was allocated to engine replacement; the remainder was for engine modernisation.

Article 48(1)(a-d,f-h): Productive investments in aquaculture is one of the most advanced measures, with EUR 495.4 million of EMFF funding committed. About 65% (EUR 320.8 million) of these commitments were classified as productive investments. Modernisation was the second most popular type of operation, with EUR 133.2 million in commitments. The remaining 8% of commitments were spread amongst five other types of operations (quality of products, restoration, diversification, complementary activities, and animal health).

Of the EUR 29.7 million committed to operations related to **Article 48(1)(e,i,j): Productive investments in aquaculture – resource efficiency**, 63% (EUR 34.3 million) targeted the development of closed recirculation systems.

In total, 1 903 operations with EUR 91.8 million in commitments are implemented under **Article 54: Aquaculture providing environmental services**. This article has three types of operations. The largest proportion of the EMFF committed budget relates to aquaculture operations including conservation and improvement of environment and biodiversity – EUR 54.6 million in 1 450 operations.

Article 63: Implementation of local development strategies is, overall, one of the best performing measures, with EUR 442.8 million in EMFF commitments. ‘Adding value’ with EUR 113.5 million in

commitments (26% of total commitments under Article 63) is in the lead. 'Adding value' is followed by 'Running costs and animation', 'diversification', 'socio-cultural', 'environmental' and 'governance'.

The total EMFF funding committed to **Article 68: Marketing measures** was EUR 139.7 million for 2 098 operations. Two types of operations were chosen more often than the others: Communication and promotional campaigns (730 grants with EUR 57.0 million EMFF committed), and finding new markets and improving marketing conditions (818 operations with an EMFF commitment of EUR 45.6 million). To support the creation of producer organisations, association or inter-branch organisations, 23 operations with an EMFF commitment of EUR 1.7 million were implemented.

Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products (Article 69) was also amongst the most popular measures implemented, with a total EMFF funding of EUR 502.2 million committed for 2 975 operations. The following types of operations attracted most of the funding: new or improved products, processes or management systems with EUR 279.0 million in commitments (56% of total) in 1 676 operations (56% of total); improved safety, hygiene, health and working conditions (EUR 103.2 million, 648 operations); and energy saving or reducing the impact on the environment (EUR 79.8 million, 485 operations). On the other hand, beneficiaries were least attracted by the processing of by-products (EUR 8.6 million, 60 operations).

The fourth most popular EMFF measure relates to **Control and enforcement (Article 76)** with a total of EUR 487.9 million of EMFF funding committed. Amongst the wide range of types of investment, the top four were purchase, installation and development of technology; purchase of other control means; modernisation and purchase of patrol vessels, aircraft and helicopters; and operational costs. These types of investment together attracted 79% of total commitments.

Under **Article 80(1)(b): Promotion of protection of marine environment and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources** EUR 12.0 million was committed. Of this figure, EUR 8.5 million relates to marine protected areas and EUR 3.5 million to Natura 2000. In total 76 operations were implemented.

3.2.5 Average EMFF support per UP and per measure

Variations amongst UPs are notable, with the average EMFF support per operation ranging from EUR 25 453 to EUR 913 330 (

Table 4). The average amount of EMFF support across all UPs and technical assistance (TA) is EUR 55 323.

Looking at individual UPs, the highest average amount of EMFF funding committed per operation is EUR 0.9 million in UP3. Measures for data collection and for control and enforcement are usually implemented by state-governed institutions, so UP3 grant agreements often cover a wide range of tasks and long time periods of implementation.

UP3 is followed by UP6, whose average EMFF commitment amounts to EUR 237 830.

The average size of EMFF commitment per operation for UP1, UP2, UP4 and UP5 does not exceed EUR 100 000. However, MSs have implemented several huge operations among these UPs. The highest commitment for one operation in UP1 is close to EUR 33 million – support provided under Article 41(1)(3) (Fishing ports), and EUR 52.2 million in UP5 – the operation implemented under Article 70 (Compensation regime).

Table 4: Average and maximum EMFF committed to an operation per Union Priority

UP	Number of operations	Average EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Maximal EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)
UP1	52 412	25 453	32 925 875
UP2	11 960	76 856	6 876 308
UP3	1 135	913 330	44 360 211
UP4	11 133	41 074	2 437 975
UP5	10 274	86 792	52 200 000
UP6	259	237 830	3 967 299
TA	1 756	124 946	7 237 830
Total	88 929	55 323	52 200 000

Source: Infosys 2021

4.2.5.1 Average EMFF support by Member State

This section presents information on the average and maximal size of a single operation in each MS (Table 5). The average size of an operation may depend on several factors. These include the type of measures where MSs have advanced the most; in data collection and control and enforcement, for instance, the average size of operation is expected to be higher than under other measures. Other factors may include the size of the EMFF budget (MSs with larger budgets may have larger operations) and the progress of EMFF implementation (MSs with fewer operations may have distorted averages).

The average amount of funding per operation varies widely amongst MSs, ranging from EUR 23 719 in CY to EUR 240 512 in RO. When calculating averages, however, we need to take into account the effect of extremes. In a number of MSs the largest operations have EMFF funding of several million euros, and several operations exceed EUR 20 million.

The MSs with the highest average amounts are RO, MT, HU and NL. Those with the lowest average funding per operation are CY, FI, CZ, and IT.

Table 5: Average and maximum EMFF funding committed to an operation per Member State

MS	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Number of operations	Average EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys 31/12/2021)	Maximal EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys 31/12/2021)
AT	7 415 996	219	33 863	495 000
BE	41 797 520	338	123 661	5 335 836
BG	61 787 935	572	108 021	2 864 831
CY	37 025 712	1 561	23 719	5 204 906
CZ	31 020 052	1 136	27 306	290 946
DE	178 412 914	3 423	52 122	23 079 682
DK	197 000 596	2 132	92 402	12 186 466
EE	84 516 945	1 577	53 593	4 500 000

MS	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Number of operations	Average EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys 31/12/2021)	Maximal EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys 31/12/2021)
EL	363 781 358	3 032	119 981	27 203 408
ES	760 450 220	18 532	41 034	52 200 000
FI	72 049 064	2 914	24 725	14 071 480
FR	501 269 647	5 920	84 674	9 215 808
HR	242 227 993	3 992	60 678	13 535 387
HU	42 609 000	225	189 373	6 876 308
IE	146 414 812	3 160	46 334	17 465 331
IT	440 334 325	15 150	29 065	29 946 400
LT	49 922 974	725	68 859	4 236 526
LV	159 412 112	1 151	138 499	12 480 993
MT	20 325 088	89	228 372	3 756 599
NL	95 892 433	534	179 574	12 800 000
PL	489 634 786	10 842	45 161	32 925 875
PT	395 440 475	6 966	56 767	7 827 747
RO	152 484 416	634	240 512	7 237 830
SE	103 856 625	992	104 694	4 718 914
SI	18 279 351	174	105 054	1 800 000
SK	4 976 814	38	130 969	690 914
UK	221 495 350	2 901	76 351	11 963 710
EU	4 919 834 513	88 929	55 323	52 200 000

Source: Infosys 2021

4.2.5.2 Average EMFF support by measure implemented

This section presents information on the average and maximal size of EMFF commitment to individual operations, broken down by measure (Table 6).

The average values range from EUR 1 941 for protection and restoration of marine biodiversity (Article 40(1)(h)) to EUR 2 110 501 for data collection (Article 77). The second-largest average operation size is for control and enforcement (EUR 557 599), and the third-largest (EUR 492 276) is for integrating maritime surveillance (Article 80(1)(a)).

The average size of EMFF allocation to one operation supporting systems of allocation of fishing opportunities (Article 36) is EUR 445 130.

Support for fishing ports and shelters to facilitate compliance with the landing obligation (Article 43(2)) as well as to improve the infrastructure of fishing ports and auction halls and construction of shelters to improve safety of fishermen (Article 43 (1, 3)) are other measures that are apparently implemented via larger-scale projects, since the average operation size is slightly above EUR 300 000.

Table 6: Size of operations by measures implemented

EMFF Article	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Number of operations	Average EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys 31/12/2021)	Maximal EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys 31/12/2021)
Article 26	49 198 670	323	152 318	1 605 000
Article 27	7 077 248	76	93 122	1 249 195
Article 28	52 010 941	187	278 133	4 374 595
Article 29(1, 2)	16 332 965	943	17 320	769 386
Article 29(3)	435 645	40	10 891	16 000
Article 30	10 221 988	337	30 332	160 061
Article 31	8 280 433	277	29 893	56 250
Article 32	45 623 371	3 241	14 077	457 035
Article 33	182 665 298	31 955	5 716	378 695
Article 34	106 818 870	1 752	60 970	509 949
Article 36	7 567 217	17	445 130	1 643 447
Article 37	31 048 497	338	91 859	1 828 874
Article 38	23 661 640	1 582	14 957	327 000
Article 39	34 578 645	182	189 993	1 257 788
Article 40(1)(a)	20 733 905	454	45 669	1 722 753
Article 40(1)(b-g,i)	222 574 036	2 644	84 181	23 671 099
Article 40(1)(h)	4 692 658	2 418	1 941	157 419
Article 41(1)(a-c)	12 743 023	989	12 885	342 348
Article 41(2)	3 013 106	666	4 524	36 480
Article 42	57 799 623	2 571	22 481	2 250 000
Article 43(1, 3)	417 803 417	1 357	307 888	32 925 875
Article 43(2)	19 145 658	63	303 899	3 115 549
Article 47	131 407 180	559	235 075	3 321 424
Article 48(1)(a-d,f-h)	495 420 825	6 121	80 938	4 705 092
Article 48(1)(e,i,j)	54 528 853	268	203 466	2 251 215
Article 48(1)(k)	6 328 938	225	28 129	348 610
Article 49	16 317 997	117	139 470	2 210 915
Article 50	9 179 408	179	51 282	878 525
Article 51	17 342 685	85	204 032	1 500 000
Article 52	19 927 867	83	240 095	6 876 308
Article 53	9 000	1	9 000	9 000
Article 54	91 758 260	1 903	48 218	1 706 772
Article 55	55 075 942	2 090	26 352	1 500 000
Article 56	17 472 884	233	74 991	2 889 108
Article 57	4 422 793	96	46 071	340 854
Article 62(1)(a)	5 224 451	260	20 094	321 401
Article 63 CLLD	442 817 329	10 479	42 258	2 437 975
Article 64	9 238 155	394	23 447	848 768
Article 66	79 604 622	556	143 174	5 484 383

EMFF Article	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Number of operations	Average EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys 31/12/2021)	Maximal EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys 31/12/2021)
Article 67	14 734 136	68	216 678	5 698 562
Article 68	139 672 883	2 098	66 574	4 937 500
Article 69	502 232 892	2 975	168 818	12 480 993
Article 70	155 457 729	4 577	33 965	52 200 000
Article 76	487 899 388	875	557 599	44 360 211
Article 77	548 730 152	260	2 110 501	42 863 142
Article 78	219 405 270	1 756	124 946	7 237 830
Article 80(1)(a)	17 229 643	35	492 276	3 000 000
Article 80(1)(b)	11 950 172	76	157 239	900 000
Article 80(1)(c)	32 418 204	148	219 042	3 967 299
Total	4 919 834 513	88 929	55 323	52 200 000

Source: Infosys 2021

3.2.6 EMFF contribution to CFP objectives

Regulation (EU) No. 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council sets several objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy. To estimate the EMFF contribution to each of these objectives, FAMENET applied a methodology to link the EMFF articles to the objectives (Table 7 and Annex 1).

Table 7: EMFF contribution to CFP objectives

CFP objective	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
CFP Article 2(2,3)	801 527 129	467 883 987	6 911
CFP Article 2(4)	548 730 152	463 039 596	260
CFP Article 2(5 a,b)	97 215 842	68 764 075	3 804
CFP Article 2(5 c)	1 519 861 652	787 930 348	18 320
CFP Article 2(5 d)	297 051 386	259 863 751	33 724
CFP Article 2(5 e)	919 192 634	522 180 022	11 960
CFP Article 2(5 f)	232 583 846	205 650 188	8 869
CFP Article 2(5 g)	154 339 934	112 900 114	1 825
CFP Article 2(5 h)	61 977 405	40 128 630	803
Total	4 632 479 980	2 928 340 712	86 476

Source: Infosys 2021

- CFP objective: **Exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested species above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield; Fisheries activities avoid the degradation of the marine environment (CFP Article 2(2,3))**. MSs have selected 6 911 operations (8 296 operations in AIR) with a total EMFF

funding of EUR 802 million (EUR 820 million in AIR).¹⁶ The money spent amounted to EUR 468 million (EUR 474 million in AIR).

- **CFP objective: Collection of scientific data (CFP Article 2(4)).** At the end of 2021, MSs selected 260 operations (237 operations in AIR) with a total budget of EUR 549 million (EUR 554 million in AIR), of which EUR 463 million (EUR 459 million in AIR) was declared by beneficiaries.
- **CFP objective: Gradually eliminate discards, by avoiding and reducing unwanted catches, and by gradually ensuring that catches are landed; where necessary, make the best use of unwanted catches (CFP Article 2(5)(a,b)).** At the end of 2021, MSs selected 3 804 operations (2 612 operations in AIR) with a total EMFF funding of EUR 97 million (EUR 75 million in AIR), and spent EUR 69 million (EUR 55 million in AIR).
- **CFP objective: Provide conditions for economically viable and competitive fishing capture and processing industry and land-based fishing-related activity (CFP Article 2(5)(c)).** MSs selected 18 320 operations (17 912 operations in AIR) with a total EMFF budget of EUR 1 520 million (EUR 1 493 million in AIR), and spent EUR 788 million (EUR 790 million in AIR).
- **CFP objective: Adjust the fishing capacity of the fleets according to fishing opportunities (CFP Article 2(5)(d)).** MSs selected 33 724 operations (31 310 operations in AIR) with a total EMFF allocation of EUR 297 million (EUR 292 million in AIR), and spent EUR 260 million (EUR 258 million in AIR).
- **CFP objective: Promote the development of sustainable aquaculture activities (CFP Article 2(5)(e)).** MSs selected 11 960 operations (11 358 operations in AIR) with a total budget of EUR 919 million (EUR 883 million in AIR), and spent EUR 522 million (EUR 522 million in AIR).
- **CFP objective: Contribute to a fair standard of living for those who depend on fishing activities (CFP Article 2(5)(f)).** MSs selected 8 869 operations (8 304 operations in AIR) with a total budget of EUR 233 million (EUR 231 million in AIR), and spent EUR 206 million (EUR 205 million in AIR).
- **CFP objective: Contribute to an efficient and transparent internal market for fisheries and aquaculture (CFP Article 2(5)(g)).** MSs selected 1 825 operations (2 567 operations in AIR) with a total EMFF allocation of EUR 154 million (EUR 217 million in AIR), and spent EUR 113 million (EUR 155 million in AIR).
- **CFP objective: Take into account the interests of both consumers and producers (CFP Article 2(5)(h)).** MSs selected 803 operations with a total EMFF allocation of EUR 62 million, and spent EUR 40 million.

3.2.7 EMFF contribution to IMP objectives under shared management

Regulation (EU) No. 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council stipulates several general and operational objectives for further development of an Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP).

To estimate EMFF contributions to the relevant objectives, FAMENET applied a methodology linking EMFF articles to the objectives (Table 8 and Annex 1). The eligible operations for the IMP measures financed by the EMFF under shared management are listed in EMFF Article 80 (“Contribute to achieving the objectives of the IMS”, “Protect the marine environment” and “Improve knowledge of

¹⁶ For several CFP objectives, AIR values differ from Infosys values. To calculate Infosys values, all operations are filtered by the codes of operation implementation data and only operations relevant to a specific CFP objective are taken into account.

the state of the marine environment”). During 2021 the number of operations increased for all three IMP objectives.

- MSs selected 76 operations with a total EMFF allocation of EUR 12.0 million, or 87.4% of the total planned EMFF allocation, under the IMP objective: **Promote the protection of the marine environment, in particular its biodiversity, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources (IMP Article 2(c))**. MSs have paid EUR 7.1 million (52.2%) to beneficiaries.
- MSs selected 35 operations with a total budget of EUR 17.2 million, or 95.3% of the total planned EMFF allocation, related to the IMP objective: **Development of the Common Information Sharing Environment for the Union maritime domain, in line with the principles of the Integrated Maritime Surveillance (IMP Article 3(2)(a))**. MSs have paid EUR 7.5 million (41.4%) to beneficiaries.
- **Development of a comprehensive and publicly accessible high quality marine data and knowledge base (IMP Article 3(2)(c))** is the most popular amongst the IMP objectives. MSs assigned 148 operations with a total budget of EUR 32.4 million, or 100.4% of the total planned EMFF allocation, to this objective.

Table 8: EMFF contribution to IMP objectives

IMP objective	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	Number of operations
IMP 2(c)	13 676 411	11 950 172	87.4	7 133 954	52.2	76
IMP 3(2)(a)	18 072 549	17 229 643	95.3	7 477 436	41.4	35
IMP 3(2)(c)	32 295 053	32 418 204	100.4	19 717 359	61.1	148
Total	64 044 013	61 598 018	96.2	34 328 749	53.6	259

Source: Infosys 2021

3.2.8 EMFF contribution to the Europe 2020 Thematic Objectives

Common Provisions Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 sets 11 thematic objectives for the ESI Funds and Common Strategic Framework. The relevant objectives for the EMFF are TO3, TO4, TO6 and TO8.

Table 9: EMFF contribution to the Europe 2020 Thematic Objectives

EU 2020 TO	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	Number of operations
TO3	2 899 445 832	2 467 121 396	85.1	1 507 256 782	52.0	62 315
TO4	50 867 089	22 085 068	43.4	13 072 632	25.7	1 880
TO6	1 842 074 354	1 727 994 825	93.8	1 192 446 498	64.7	10 683
TO8	588 906 318	483 227 955	82.1	254 684 319	43.2	12 295

Source: AIR/ Infosys 2021

To estimate the EMFF contribution to these TOs, each EMFF Article was linked to a TO according to the methodology provided in Annex 1 of this report.

- MSs selected 62 315 operations with a total budget of EUR 2 467 million, or 86.3% of planned EMFF allocation, for **TO3: Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**, under which fall 71% of all operations and 52% of the total committed amount. Under this TO the highest amounts committed were to operations implemented under EMFF Articles 69 – Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products; Article 48(1)(a-d,f-g) – Productive investments in aquaculture and Article 43 (1,3) – Investment in fishing ports and landing sites. Half (31 955 operations) of all operations under this TO were implemented under Article 33 – Temporary cessation of fishing activities.
- MSs selected 1 880 operations with a total budget of EUR 22.1 million for **TO4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors**. This TO has the lowest number of operations and committed amounts compared to other TOs. This is also true in relative terms, the 43.4% commitment rate placing it last among all the TOs. According to the methodology provided in Annex 1 the operations implemented under the following EMFF Articles are considered relevant: Article 41(1)(a-c) – Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – on board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (EUR 12.7 million committed); Article 48(1)(k) – Productive investments in aquaculture – investments increasing energy efficiency and promoting the conversion of aquaculture enterprises to renewable sources of energy (EUR 6.3 million committed) and Article 41(2) – Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (EUR 3.0 million committed).
- MSs selected 10 683 operations with a total budget of EUR 1 728 million, or 93.8% of the planned EMFF allocation, for **TO6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency**. Under this TO the largest commitments were allocated to Article 77 – Data collection and Article 76 – Control and enforcement.
- MSs selected 12 295 operations with a total budget of EUR 594 million, or 82.1% of the planned EMFF allocation, to **TO8: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility**. The implementation of local development strategies (under EMFF Article 63) accounted for EUR 443 million, or 85%, of all commitments towards this TO.

3.2.9 Contribution to the EMFF objectives, Article 5

Article 5 of the EMFF Regulation ((EU) No. 508/2014) sets four EMFF objectives. In order to establish the EMFF contribution to each objective, links were established between the Article 5 objectives and the Union Priorities (Table 10). UP1, UP2 and UP5 contribute to promoting competitive, environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries and aquaculture. UP3 contributes to fostering the implementation of the CFP, and UP4 to promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and aquaculture areas. UP6 contributes to fostering the development and implementation of the Union's IMP in a manner complementary to cohesion policy and to the CFP.

- MSs selected 74 646 operations with a total budget of EUR 3 145 million, or 85.6% of the total planned EMFF allocation, to the objective: **Promoting competitive, environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries and aquaculture (EMFF**

Article 5(a)). This corresponds to 86% of all the selected operations and to 85.4% of the total EMFF amount committed to this objective.

- MSs selected 1 135 operations with a total budget of EUR 1 037 million, or 95.6% of the total planned EMFF allocation, to the objective: **Fostering the implementation of the CFP (EMFF Article 5(b))**.
- MSs selected 11 133 operations with a total budget of EUR 457 million, or 83.2% of the total planned EMFF allocation, to the objective: **Promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and aquaculture areas (EMFF Article 5(c))**.
- MSs selected 259 operations with a total budget of EUR 62 million, or 96.2% of the total planned EMFF allocation, to the objective: **Fostering the development and implementation of the Union's IMP in a manner complementary to cohesion policy and to the CFP (EMFF Article 5(d))**.

Table 10: EMFF contribution to the EMFF objectives

Article EC 508/2014	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	Number of operations
Article 5(a) EC 508/2014	3 683 366 515	3 144 921 748	85.4	1 936 273 732	52.6	74 646
Article 5(b) EC 508/2014	1 084 141 850	1 036 629 541	95.6	758 641 230	70.0	1 135
Article 5(c) EC 508/2014	549 741 215	457 279 936	83.2	238 216 519	43.3	11 133
Article 5(d) EC 508/2014	64 044 013	61 598 018	96.2	34 328 749	53.6	259

Source: AIR/Infosys 2021

3.2.10 EMFF contribution to horizontal principles

In line with the CPR ((EU) No. 1303/2013), MSs shall ensure arrangements, in accordance with their own institutional and legal frameworks, for involving bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.

Table 11: EMFF contribution to horizontal principles

Specific objective	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	Number of operations
Gender	24 038 306	16 332 965	67.9	11 832 957	49.2	943
Sustainability	2 233 600 171	1 865 446 044	83.5	1 020 714 914	45.7	33 206

Source: AIR/Infosys 2021

According to the FAMENET methodology (Annex 1), only EMFF Article 29(1,2) contributes directly to gender equality and non-discrimination. MSs selected 943 operations with a total EMFF budget of EUR 16.3 million (Table 11), or 67.9% of the total planned EMFF allocation, for gender equality and non-discrimination. 94% of all operations and 72% of EMFF committed linked to this horizontal principle relate to the type of activity “training and learning”.

Environmental, economic and social stability are fundamental elements of investments from the ESI Funds. FAMENET linked several EMFF articles that contribute to sustainability, mostly from UP1 and UP2 (Annex 1). MSs selected 33 206 operations with a total budget of EUR 1 865 million, which corresponds to 83.5% of the total planned EMFF allocation, to sustainability. In total, 20 EMFF Articles are attributed to this horizontal principle; in terms of EMFF funds committed, operations implemented under Article 48(1) (a-d,f-g) – Productive investments in aquaculture (EUR 495 million) and Article 63 – Implementation of local development strategies (EUR 443 million) contributed the most to sustainability.

3.2.11 EMFF support for climate change objectives

The EMFF supports operations related to climate change and energy efficiency in accordance with the headline target of the Europe 2020 strategy.

The coefficients for calculating amounts of support for climate change objectives are provided in Annex III of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 1232/2014. MSs have to provide the data regarding amounts of support for climate change objectives in Table 4 of AIR (Table 12).

Table 12: EMFF contribution to climate change of operations selected for support

MS	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR 31/12/2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Climate change amount of total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2021)	Climate change / EMFF allocation (%)	Climate change / EMFF committed (%)
AT	6 965 000	7 377 520	900	0.0	0.0
BE	41 746 051	41 400 945	9 031 816	21.6	21.8
BG	80 823 727	61 687 096	8 769 940	10.9	14.2
CY	39 715 209	36 996 030	8 678 974	21.9	23.5
CZ	31 108 015	34 784 325	1 129 198	3.6	3.2
DE	219 596 276	177 722 883	50 443 640	23.0	28.4
DK	208 355 420	202 113 176	30 728 357	14.7	15.2
EE	100 970 418	88 124 410	12 612 902	12.5	14.3
EL	1 087 197 165	744 621 926	129 766 831	11.9	17.4
ES	74 393 168	73 207 397	20 431 675	27.5	27.9
FI	587 980 173	502 525 111	56 152 087	9.5	11.2
FR	381 688 668	364 585 774	75 829 793	19.9	20.8
HR	252 643 138	237 579 313	41 766 310	16.5	17.6
HU	38 412 223	39 152 802	5 588 088	14.5	14.3
IE	147 601 979	142 785 974	10 474 099	7.1	7.3
IT	537 262 559	441 290 620	102 768 270	19.1	23.3

MS	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR 31/12/2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Climate change amount of total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2021)	Climate change / EMFF allocation (%)	Climate change / EMFF committed (%)
LT	63 432 222	49 972 094	5 524 523	8.7	11.1
LV	139 833 742	132 572 570	20 808 025	14.9	15.7
MT	22 627 422	20 603 828	3 928 929	17.4	19.1
NL	101 523 244	95 841 478	12 627 798	12.4	13.2
PL	531 219 456	458 674 002	102 208 771	19.2	22.3
PT	392 485 464	389 761 727	72 565 257	18.5	18.6
RO	168 421 371	143 552 419	24 033 345	14.3	16.7
SE	120 156 004	114 419 797	25 782 589	21.5	22.5
SI	21 777 441	17 791 080	3 145 632	14.4	17.7
SK	9 676 595	4 877 896	8 304	0.1	0.2
UK	243 139 437	236 137 587	39 626 141	16.3	16.8
Total	5 650 751 587	4 860 159 780	874 432 194	15.5	18.0

Source: AIR/Infosys 2021

Overall, the EMFF contribution to climate change objectives by the end of 2021 was EUR 874 million, or 18.0% of the total EMFF funding committed to date. The corresponding number for total EMFF funding already declared by beneficiaries was EUR 548 million or 17.6% of total EMFF declared.

3.2.12 EMFF contribution to specific topics

The structure of the AIR data provides limited possibilities to report on EMFF contributions to various specific topics, so the analysis provided in this section therefore relies on Infosys data. The EMFF is the only ESI Fund that ensures reporting at the level of operations. Because of such unique Infosys datasets, it is possible to provide a detailed analysis of EMFF contributions to various specific topics. Several topics deserve specific attention due to their political significance, in particular: operations involving vessels, outermost regions, innovation, landing obligation, energy efficiency, climate change, Natura 2000, biodiversity, marine litter, and mitigation measures for the coronavirus crisis.

3.2.12.1 Operations involving vessels

Article 3(14) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 (the EMFF Regulation) defines “small-scale coastal fishing” (SSCF) as “fishing carried out by fishing vessels of an overall length of less than 12 metres and not using towed fishing gear as listed in Table 3 of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 26/2004”.

The EMFF Regulation recognises the importance of SSCF in the environmental and social context of coastal communities, and stipulates that operations related to small-scale coastal fisheries may benefit from higher aid intensity (+30 percentage points as defined in Annex I of the Regulation). While SSCF may benefit from this preferential treatment, the EMFF reporting streams (AIR and Infosys) do not contain detailed reporting provisions on SSCF.

Of a total EMFF commitment of EUR 4 920 million, EUR 1 334 million (27.1%) was dedicated to operations linked to an FFR vessel number (Table 13). EMFF spending on vessel-specific operations amounted to 30.0% of the total EMFF spending. During 2021 EMFF commitment and spending on these operations nearly doubled. This partially can be explained by the active use of compensation measures related to mitigation of the coronavirus outbreak.

During 2021 the number of operations increased from 35 756 to 48 088 (an increase of 34%), of which 18 987 (39.0%) were for SSCF vessels. This segment received 47% of the EMFF spending dedicated to specific vessels (EUR 437 million out of EUR 936 million).

The number of unique vessels supported increased by 24% (from 13 123 to 16 211). Infosys contains the so-called Fishing Fleet Register (FFR) number only when a vessel is involved in an operation. In that case it can be referred back to the FFR to identify to which vessel class it belongs. The following vessel classes were defined (Table 13):

- SSCF vessels defined according to Article 3 of the Regulation EU 508/2014¹⁷
- other vessels under 12 m
- vessels between 12–24 m
- vessels above 24 m.

Table 13: General overview of all vessel-related operations (EU total)

Vessel size	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	% of total	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	% of total	Number of operations	% of total	Number of vessels	% of total
SSCF ¹⁸	618 435 104	46	436 555 834	47	18 987	39	7 516	46
Other vessels under 12m	65 667 292	5	25 582 279	3	2 595	5	1 279	8
Vessels between 12–24m	318 271 632	24	248 105 143	27	20 360	42	5 548	34
Vessels above 24m	268 656 416	20	215 316 643	23	5 687	12	1 542	10
Unspecified	62 973 583	5	10 067 808	1	459	1	327	2
Total	1 334 004 028	100	935 627 707	100	48 088	100	16 212	100

Source: Infosys 2021, FFR 2019

Average EMFF commitment per supported vessel amounted to EUR 82 285, while the average EMFF spending was EUR 57 712. An individual vessel may receive support more than once; the average EMFF

¹⁷ Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No. 2328/2003, (EC) No. 861/2006, (EC) No. 1198/2006 and (EC) No. 791/2007 and Regulation (EU) No. 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

¹⁸ SSCF vessels defined according to Article 3 of the EU 508/2014 Regulation (EMFF Regulation).

commitment for each operation related to a vessel amounted to EUR 27 741, while the average EMFF spending was EUR 19 456.

Average EMFF commitment per supported SSCF vessel amounted to about EUR 82 282, while the average EMFF spending was EUR 58 084. Average EMFF commitment for each operation related to an SSCF vessel was EUR 32 572, but the average EMFF spending was EUR 22 992. FAME presented a detailed analysis of SSCF in the scope of the ancillary task “FAME SU: AT01.2 SSCF periodic reports, sample report 2, August 2020”.

A short summary of information supplied in the AIRs related to SSCF is provided below:

- Prioritisation of the SSCF sector is secured in the guidelines for applicants on two levels: (1) higher aid intensity (BG, FR) and (2) prioritisation in the ranking when projects are assessed (BG, HR, LT).
- BG, CY, DE, ES and IT noted that the quantity of upcoming and approved projects was rather poor as interest from beneficiaries remained low.
- EL noted that the measure under Article 41 (2) for the replacement or modernisation of main or auxiliary engines has not yet been activated.
- ES reported that in total 47 operations were approved, of which 43 were SSCF-related. The implementation of this measure remained very low in 2021, although the number of approvals increased compared to 2020. Less than 10% of the planned allocation was committed. Of that 10%, three-quarters was SSCF-related.

The difficulty in implementing this measure is a consequence of the annual report on the activity of the Spanish fishing fleet, where in previous years the SSCF segment was considered unbalanced. As of now, a more comprehensive segmentation had been made for each fishing region in the North Atlantic. In 2021, however, in order to standardise the results with those obtained by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), the segmentation of the fleet of the North Atlantic region was assessed jointly. This means that the vessels less than 24 metres in length operating in this area have been grouped only in accordance with the most often used fishing gear, independently of the fishing ground where they operate. This modification changes the results of the economic, technical and biological indicators that influence the assessment of whether the SSCF sector is balanced.

In addition, low implementation of this measure may also be in part linked with the conditions to be met by the beneficiaries with regard to Article 10 of the EMFF Regulation. The economic situation of the SSCF sector is sensitive, and a hypothetical case in which beneficiaries are penalised and asked to repay grants they have received is considered a risk.

- In IE there are two schemes of relevance to SSCF: the New Fishermen Scheme (one SSCF vessel was acquired) and the Inshore Fisheries Conservation Scheme (six onshore refrigeration facilities and a trading website). More generally, the priority for SSCF is the preferential grant rate of 70%: in 2021 two SSCFs received grants for engine replacement.
- In IT, in most of the territories this measure is not very attractive due to the complexity of the procedures and the low rate of public contribution (30% of the eligible expenditures). This discouraged potential beneficiaries from applying. In addition, the need to acquire specific skills for preparing documents on CO2 emissions and energy efficiency has made the implementation of this measure complex. The lack of attractiveness of the measure has prompted some IBs to reduce or eliminate the previously allocated funding.
- In LT only four applicants were registered by the end of 2021.

- PL notes that support for the replacement or modernisation of main or auxiliary engines may only be granted for vessels belonging to a fleet segment for which the capacity report referred to in Article 22(2) of Regulation (EU) No. 1380/2013 shows a balance with the fishing opportunities available to that segment. Since the beginning of the implementation of the OP, fishing segments have not been balanced, so the measure cannot be implemented. The Managing Authority has taken measures to transfer funds from this measure.
- In PT, 119 operations were approved by the end of 2021. 95 of those were SSCF-related, which corresponds to 80% of the total number of operations and 49.3% of the total amount committed.
- In the UK, 48 Article 41(2) projects have been approved since the start of the programme, with public assistance of EUR 331,000 awarded. 60.4% of the total public support allocated to Article 41(2) is committed to SSCF operators. Of the 48 projects selected, 42 relate to SSCF, with total public support of EUR 194,000 awarded.

4.2.12.2 Landing obligation

The landing obligation (LO) is established under the “fisheries management” pillar of the Common Fisheries Policy.¹⁹ Article 15 of the CFP sets out the obligation to retain all species subject to catch limits or minimum sizes²⁰ caught either in European Union (EU) waters or by Union fishing vessels outside EU waters without prejudice to international obligations. It was implemented in phases:

- 2015 – the landing obligation began to cover small and large pelagic species, industrial fisheries and the main fisheries in the Baltic.
- 2016 – it was extended to demersal fisheries for the North Sea and the Atlantic.
- 2019 – full implementation, i.e. land all species subject to catch limits and, in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, to minimum conservation reference sizes (MCRS).

EMFF (EU Regulation 508/2014) has general and specific measures designed to support the implementation of the LO. The EMFF introduced, among other measures, a focus on increased gear selectivity, with gear technology development and sea trials continuing the work started under the EFF in 2007-2013.

Actions to support the LO include for example:

- improved selectivity of fishing gear to minimise unwanted catches,
- specific on-board equipment, and/or
- adaptation of landing sites to handle and commercialise unwanted catches.

However, there is no explicit LO earmarking at the level of individual operations. In May 2018 FAME completed a report on the implementation of LO-relevant measures under the EFF and EMFF. The approach to identifying relevant operations was based on:

- the relevance of the measure under which the operation was implemented;

¹⁹ The other three pillars being international policy, market and trade policy, and funding of the policy.

²⁰ As defined in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No. 1967 /2006.

- a combination of relevant Infosys implementation data and/or result indicators such as a “change in unwanted catches”; and
- validation of the above through an interview with the MS authorities.

While this approach proved fruitful, it was also too demanding to be repeated annually. For this reason, FAME introduced two additional ways to identify EMFF contributions to the LO implementation:

- A broad approach based on the measure alone (with the exception of Article 68: Marketing measures, where a combination of measure and operation implementation data is applied). The broad approach is easier to apply but might also include operations that are marginally relevant.
- A narrow approach combining the measure with Infosys operation implementation data. This is harder to apply, but more precise. However, it should be assumed that not all operations selected by the narrow approach contribute directly to the LO.

One or other of these two complementary approaches is chosen based on the information required.

Table 14: EMFF contribution to landing obligation (Infosys – broad approach)

EMFF Article	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Article 37	31 048 497	22 321 531	338
Article 38	23 661 640	17 595 323	1 582
Article 39	34 578 645	13 568 624	182
Article 42	57 799 623	40 200 614	2 571
Article 43(2)	19 145 658	14 040 303	63
Article 68 code 118	2 960 166	1 718 605	26
Total	169 194 228	109 444 998	4 762

Source: Infosys 2021

The broad approach takes into account all operations related to the following articles:

- Article 37: Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures;
- Article 38: Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species (+ Article 44(1)(c) Inland fishing);
- Article 39: Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ Article 44(1)(c) Inland fishing);
- Article 42: Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ Article 44(1)(e) Inland fishing);
- Article 43(2): Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches.

The only exception is operations implemented under Article 68: Marketing measures. Here, only operations with Infosys code 118 (Find new markets and improve marketing) are counted.

According to the broad approach (Table 14), at the end of 2021 MSs selected 4 762 operations with a total EMFF funding of EUR 169.2 million for the landing obligation. A year ago, the respective numbers stood at 4 114 operations and EUR 147.7 million. In terms of numbers of operations, most were implemented under Article 42 (2 571 operations) and Article 38 (1 582 operations). About one-third of the funding committed to supporting the LO was for operations implemented under Article 42.

Table 15: EMFF contribution to landing obligation (AIR – broad approach)

EMFF Article	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2021)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Article 37	31 820 511	22 771 185	338
Article 38	23 916 786	17 614 884	1 566
Article 39	34 791 130	13 937 979	175
Article 42	55 489 684	40 174 068	2 549
Article 43(2)	19 602 306	14 589 328	63
Total	165 620 418	109 087 444	4 691

Source: AIR 2021

A slightly modified approach to the AIR data, with Article 68 (marketing measures) excluded from the calculations, gives the results shown in Table 15.

Table 16: EMFF contribution to landing obligation (narrow approach)

EMFF Article	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Article 37 RI 1.4	9 629 572	5 444 058	165
Article 38 codes 35,36, RI 1.4	6 952 205	6 333 308	474
Article 39 RI 1.4	20 377 297	8 507 702	115
Article 42	57 799 623	40 200 614	2 571
Article 43(2)	19 145 658	14 040 303	63
Article 68 code 118	2 960 166	1 718 605	26
Total	116 864 520	76 244 590	3 414

Source: Infosys 2021

The narrow approach takes into account operations under the same articles described above. However, operations are also selected by means of Infosys codes according to their relevance to the LO. Operations under Article 37 and Article 39 are taken into account provided they are linked to result indicator 1.4: Change in unwanted catches. Operations under Article 38 are counted provided the following conditions are met: they have Infosys codes 35 (selectivity of gear) or 36 (reduce discards or deal with unwanted catches) and they are linked to RI 1(4): Change in unwanted catches.

According to the narrow approach (Table 16), at the end of 2021 MSs selected 3 414 operations for the LO with a total EMFF funding of EUR 116.9 million. Under Article 37, 165 operations out of 338 were attributed to the LO. For Article 38, the LO figure was 474 out of 1 582 operations. For Article 39, 115 out of 182 operations were clearly connected to the LO.

In 2017 FAME undertook an Ancillary Task (AT) to explore mainly how the EMFF, and to a lesser extent the EFF and other (EU and national) funding, had been used to date by MSs to support the implementation of the LO. In 2021, FAME did a follow-up to this AT. Conclusions drawn are provided in the EMFF implementation report 2020.²¹

4.2.12.3 Innovation

The EMFF supports investment in innovation to increase the competitiveness and economic performance of fishing activities and aquaculture, and to conserve marine biological resources.

Operations related to innovation were selected by all 27 MSs: in total 1 251 operations with a total EMFF budget of EUR 267.2 million, or 86.5% of the total planned EMFF allocation to innovation (Table 17). Nearly half of all the commitments to innovation related to aquaculture (Article 47). Amongst the MSs, FR committed the most (EUR 43.2 million), followed by PT (EUR 31.5 million), NL (EUR 25.8 million) and ES (EUR 24.5 million). The average size of EMFF commitment to an innovation operation was EUR 213 585. The average size of EMFF commitment to an innovation operation under Article 26 “Innovation” was EUR 152 318, but under Article 28 “Partnerships between fishermen and scientists” it was EUR 278 133.

Table 17: EMFF contribution to innovation

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	Number of operations
Article 26	56 889 106	49 198 670	86.5	19 166 989	33.7	323
Article 28	53 000 484	52 010 941	98.1	22 576 960	42.6	187
Article 39	44 949 342	34 578 645	76.9	13 568 624	30.2	182
Article 47	153 901 399	131 407 180	85.4	52 048 473	33.8	559
Total	308 740 331	267 195 435	86.5	107 361 046	34.8	1 251

Source: AIR/Infosys 2021

4.2.12.4 Natura 2000

The EMFF supports operations to protect and restore marine biodiversity and ecosystems in the framework of sustainable fishing activities. The EMFF contains, under shared management, a series of measures directly or potentially supporting the Natura 2000 network (Table 18). Directly related measures are Article 40(1)(b-g,i) (Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – Natura 2000 sites), Article 40(1)(h) (Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – schemes for compensation of damage to catches caused by mammals and birds), Article 54 (Aquaculture providing environmental services), and Article 80(1)(b) (Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources).

²¹ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/emff-implementation-report-2020_en.pdf

Table 18: EMFF contribution to Natura 2000 (directly related EMFF measures)

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	Number of operations
Article 40(1)(b-g,i)	248 795 893	222 574 036	89.5	114 810 360	46.1	2 644
Article 40(1)(h)	8 432 169	4 692 658	55.7	4 310 395	51.1	2 418
Article 54	100 337 631	91 758 260	91.4	82 399 353	82.1	1 903
Article 80(1)(b)	13 676 411	11 950 172	87.4	7 133 954	52.2	76
Total	371 242 104	330 975 125	89.2	208 654 061	56.2	7 041

Source: AIR/Infosys 2021

In 7 041 operations, the MSs together committed EUR 331.0 million, or 89.2% of the total planned allocation, to these measures. The biggest contributors are ES with EUR 44.3 million and PL with EUR 44.1 million in commitments. FI and DK have the highest number of operations (1 316 and 1 042). Of the total EMFF budget committed to the articles directly related to Natura 2000, Article 40(1)(b-g,i) and Article 54 jointly account for 95%.

Articles directly related to the implementation of the Natura 2000 network are further analysed according to their type of operation in section 4.2.4.1 of this report.

Potentially supporting measures are Article 28 (Partnerships between fishermen and scientists), Article 38 (Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species), Article 39 (Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources), Article 40 (1)(a) (Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter) and Article 80 (1)(c) (Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment).

Table 19 lists the EMFF measures that potentially support the implementation of the Natura 2000 network.

Table 19: EMFF contribution to Natura 2000 (potentially contributing EMFF measures)

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2020)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	Number of operations
Article 28	53 000 484	52 010 941	100.2	22 576 960	43.5	187
Article 38	30 457 377	23 661 640	74.5	17 595 323	55.4	1 582
Article 39	44 949 342	34 578 645	67.6	13 568 624	26.5	182
Article 40(1)(a)	15 689 318	20 733 905	42.0	17 271 444	35.0	454
Article 80(1)(c)	32 295 053	32 418 204	94.3	19 717 359	57.4	148
Total	176 391 573	163 403 334	92.6	90 729 710	51.4	2 553

Source: AIR/Infosys 2021

In total, EUR 494.4 million of the EMFF funding has been committed and EUR 299.4 million spent under measures directly or potentially supporting the Natura 2000 network.

4.2.12.5 Biodiversity

A wide range of EMFF measures potentially contribute to protection and restoration of biodiversity (Table 20). Taking this range of measures into account, MSs committed EUR 1 881 million of the EMFF funding over a total of 47 292 operations.

Table 20: EMFF contribution to biodiversity

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate (%)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate (%)	Number of operations
Article 33	251 583 121	182 665 298	72.6	171 971 947	68.4	31 955
Article 34	88 681 396	106 818 870	120.5	82 935 004	93.5	1 752
Article 36	8 837 270	7 567 217	85.6	4 956 800	56.1	17
Article 37	31 127 239	31 048 497	99.7	22 321 531	71.7	338
Article 38	30 457 377	23 661 640	77.7	17 595 323	57.8	1 582
Article 39	44 949 342	34 578 645	76.9	13 568 624	30.2	182
Article 40(1)(a)	15 689 318	20 733 905	132.2	17 271 444	110.1	454
Article 40(1)(b-g,i)	248 795 893	222 574 036	89.5	114 810 360	46.1	2 644
Article 40(1)(h)	8 432 169	4 692 658	55.7	4 310 395	51.1	2 418
Article 42	71 064 313	57 799 623	81.3	40 200 614	56.6	2 571
Article 49	21 070 571	16 317 997	77.4	7 219 465	34.3	117
Article 54	100 337 631	91 758 260	91.4	82 399 353	82.1	1 903
Article 76	528 175 219	487 899 388	92.4	295 601 634	56.0	875
Article 77	555 966 632	548 730 152	98.7	463 039 596	83.3	260
Article 80(1)(b)	13 676 411	11 950 172	87.4	7 133 954	52.2	76
Article 80(1)(c)	32 295 053	32 418 204	100.4	19 717 359	61.1	148
Total	2 051 138 953	1 881 214 562	91.7	1 365 053 401	66.6	47 292

Source: AIR/Infosys 2021

4.2.12.6 Outermost regions

To maintain the economic viability of operators in the outermost regions, the EMFF provides support to offset additional costs for the fishing, farming, processing and marketing of certain fishery and aquaculture products. To yield an overview of the EMFF contribution to the outermost regions, all operations implemented by ES, FR and PT with the relevant Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) codes were selected.

ES, FR and PT supported 5 533 operations in the outermost regions with a total EMFF budget of EUR 204.7 million (Table 21). Most of these were from PT: 4 156 operations with a total EMFF contribution of EUR 97.4 million. PT was followed by FR with EUR 91.4 million committed to 1 051 operations.

Table 21: EMFF contribution to the outermost regions

MS/Outermost region	NUTS code	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
ES		15 927 882	10 226 996	326
Gran Canaria	ES705	10 639 149	6 220 433	175
Tenerife	ES709	5 288 733	4 006 563	151
FR		91 377 211	71 414 344	1 051
Guadeloupe ²²	FRA10	4 385 155	2 466 985	140
Martinique	FRA20	5 770 796	3 179 118	155
French Guiana	FRA30	26 531 929	19 897 834	182
La Réunion	FRA40	47 528 372	40 999 679	210
Mayotte	FRA50	7 160 956	4 870 726	364
PT		97 381 790	66 040 626	4 156
Azores	PT200	73 854 761	45 777 039	3 752
Madeira	PT300	23 527 028	20 263 587	404
Total		204 686 884	147 681 966	5 533

Source: Infosys 2021

4.2.12.7 Mitigation of the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to directly impact EU fisheries and aquaculture.

The European Parliament and the Council have proposed a set of ambitious measures under the EMFF to support EU fisheries and aquaculture in tackling the impact of the pandemic. The package includes support for the temporary cessation of fishing activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, support to aquaculture farmers for the suspension of production and additional costs, and support to producer organisations for the storage of fishery and aquaculture products.

To enable tracking of the uptake of these measures, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1027 introduced a new field into Infosys: Field 25 “Mitigation of the COVID-19 outbreak”.

These measures were available to beneficiaries for the second consecutive year in 2021. At the end of 2020, overall, EUR 108.7 million of EMFF funding in 5 913 operations was committed to mitigate the impact of coronavirus. These commitments thus corresponded to 2.7% of the total EMFF funds committed. At the end of 2021 commitments grew to EUR 188.7 million (corresponding to 3.8% of total EMFF funds committed) and the number of operations more than doubled, to 12 391 (Table 22). In total, 20 MSs provided support for their fisheries and aquaculture sectors to mitigate the COVID-19 outbreak.

²² The French overseas community of Saint-Martin does not have its own NUTS code and is included under Guadeloupe (FRA10).

Table 22: EMFF contributions to COVID-19 pandemic support measures

EMFF Article/MS	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	EMFF committed per Article of total %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	EMFF spent per Article of total	Number of operations	Number of operations per Article of total %
Article 28	401 294	0.2	280 054	0.2	5	0.0
ES	401 294	0.2	280 054	0.2	5	0.0
Article 29(1)(2)	5 601	0.0	–	0.0	1	0.0
ES	5 601	0.0	–	0.0	1	0.0
Article 32	432 919	0.2	362 087	0.2	62	0.5
ES	2 946	0.0	2 945	0.0	10	0.1
IE	54 147	0.0	54 147	0.0	1	0.0
PT	48 938	0.0	32 074	0.0	16	0.1
UK	326 889	0.2	272 921	0.2	35	0.3
Article 33	103 066 410	54.6	91 072 622	53.1	10 025	80.9
BE	368 438	0.2	363 375	0.2	42	0.3
BG	681 105	0.4	680 000	0.4	71	0.6
CY	646 107	0.3	646 107	0.4	487	3.9
DE	1 824 975	1.0	1 809 975	1.1	323	2.6
EL	16 345 088	8.7	13 848 430	8.1	1 136	9.2
ES	9 204 880	4.9	9 128 216	5.3	2 623	21.2
FR	22 014 401	11.7	19 415 775	11.3	1 721	13.9
HR	5 207 621	2.8	4 895 483	2.9	508	4.1
IE	152 475	0.1	152 475	0.1	93	0.8
IT	1 035 553	0.5	574 343	0.3	433	3.5
LT	113 203	0.1	113 203	0.1	23	0.2
LV	978 027	0.5	978 027	0.6	92	0.7
NL	3 688 300	2.0	3 110 800	1.8	270	2.2
PL	32 799 776	17.4	27 488 299	16.0	1 203	9.7
PT	5 965 500	3.2	5 832 549	3.4	808	6.5
RO	564 960	0.3	478 416	0.3	11	0.1
SE	342 612	0.2	378 618	0.2	54	0.4
UK	1 133 390	0.6	1 178 530	0.7	127	1.0
Article 41(1)(a-c)	1 444	0.0	1 444	0.0	1	0.0
ES	1 444	0.0	1 444	0.0	1	0.0
Article 43(1,3)	834 344	0.4	502 417	0.3	37	0.3
ES	49 389	0.0	45 397	0.0	16	0.1

EMFF Article/MS	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	EMFF committed per Article of total %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	EMFF spent per Article of total	Number of operations	Number of operations per Article of total %
PT	394 238	0.2	285 555	0.2	4	0.0
UK	390 716	0.2	171 465	0.1	17	0.1
Article 47	196 314	0.1	124 018	0.1	3	0.0
ES	196 314	0.1	124 018	0.1	3	0.0
Article 48(1)(a-d,f-h)	20 656	0.0	14 631	0.0	2	0.0
PT	20 656	0.0	14 631	0.0	2	0.0
Article 55	49 021 082	26.0	45 900 482	26.8	1 946	15.7
BG	1 495 366	0.8	1 343 219	0.8	109	0.9
CY	1 350 000	0.7	1 193 753	0.7	12	0.1
CZ	1 346 336	0.7	1 351 534	0.8	28	0.2
EE	406 894	0.2	406 894	0.2	12	0.1
EL	16 335 412	8.7	14 814 805	8.6	84	0.7
ES	5 733 456	3.0	5 355 098	3.1	534	4.3
HR	3 818 354	2.0	3 769 476	2.2	77	0.6
IE	627 188	0.3	623 788	0.4	155	1.3
IT	2 795 112	1.5	2 486 525	1.4	43	0.3
LT	872 830	0.5	872 830	0.5	37	0.3
LV	49 667	0.0	49 667	0.0	3	0.0
NL	1 011 601	0.5	1 011 601	0.6	19	0.2
PL	10 137 796	5.4	9 602 996	5.6	712	5.7
PT	2 237 615	1.2	2 237 615	1.3	69	0.6
RO	507 715	0.3	474 545	0.3	24	0.2
UK	295 741	0.2	306 137	0.2	28	0.2
Article 63 CLLD	106 495	0.1	15 300	0.0	4	0.0
ES	106 495	0.1	15 300	0.0	4	0.0
Article 66	868 496	0.5	868 405	0.5	8	0.1
ES	868 496	0.5	868 405	0.5	8	0.1
Article 67	4 946 669	2.6	4 871 902	2.8	11	0.1
EE	998 696	0.5	998 696	0.6	3	0.0
ES	3 195 376	1.7	3 189 677	1.9	1	0.0
LV	236 916	0.1	216 156	0.1	2	0.0
PL	43 171	0.0	40 666	0.0	2	0.0
PT	472 510	0.3	426 706	0.2	3	0.0

EMFF Article/MS	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	EMFF committed per Article of total %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	EMFF spent per Article of total	Number of operations	Number of operations per Article of total %
Article 68	56 564	0.0	55 423	0.0	4	0.0
ES	56 564	0.0	55 423	0.0	4	0.0
Article 69	28 271 050	15.0	27 036 391	15.8	281	2.3
BG	1 050 069	0.6	1 016 577	0.6	35	0.3
CZ	670 802	0.4	573 822	0.3	4	0.0
EE	693 443	0.4	693 443	0.4	17	0.1
ES	4 776 251	2.5	4 696 556	2.7	34	0.3
HR	2 361 655	1.3	2 333 158	1.4	26	0.2
IT	250 000	0.1	250 000	0.1	3	0.0
LV	583 654	0.3	583 654	0.3	4	0.0
PL	16 959 672	9.0	16 185 554	9.4	134	1.1
PT	330 786	0.2	143 368	0.1	23	0.2
RO	594 717	0.3	560 259	0.3	1	0.0
Article 78	468 613	0.2	398 304	0.2	1	0.0
ES	468 613	0.2	398 304	0.2	1	0.0
Total	188 697 950	100.0	171 503 479	100.0	12 391	100.0

Source: Infosys 2021

54.6%, or EUR 103.1 million, of coronavirus support was allocated via the temporary cessation of fishing activities (Article 33). Support under Article 55 (Public health measures) was implemented via 1 964 operations with total EMFF funding committed of EUR 49.0 million. The third ranking was Article 69 (Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products) – 281 operations and total EMFF funding committed of EUR 28.3 million.

At MS level, Poland committed EUR 59.9 million to four measures (Article 33, Article 55, Article 67 and Article 69) and this corresponds to 31.8% of total commitment to coronavirus support. Poland was followed by Greece with EUR 32.7 million in commitments (Article 33 and Article 55), Spain with EUR 25.1 million, and France with EUR 22.0 million in commitments. Spain and Poland had the highest number of operations (3 245 and 2 051 respectively).

3.2.13 EMFF common result indicators, status quo

Like all the other European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds), the EMFF takes a reinforced result-oriented approach. To achieve this, a Common Monitoring and Evaluation System (CMES) for the EMFF has been introduced, comprising context, result and output indicators, as well as a reinforced intervention logic, milestones and target values.

Data on EMFF result indicators is available from both Infosys reports and AIRs. Both reporting streams have their benefits and constraints. However, Infosys has one significant advantage: reporting is done

at the level of a single operation. That provides the opportunity to implement several measures for data quality control. As a consequence, in this section FAMENET provides analysis of EMFF result indicators based on Infosys reports (Annex 5). Result indicators reported in the AIRs are presented in Annex 6.

EMFF result indicators are unusual among the ESI Funds in measuring the gross direct effects of EMFF interventions at the beneficiary level. Such granularity demands diligence and precision in collecting and inserting data into Infosys at the level of individual operations. On the positive side, it offers programme managers, evaluators and policymakers wide-ranging potential to identify promptly what works and at what cost.

The period 2014-2020 was the first time that common result indicators were used on this scale (EFF 2007-2013 did not use common result indicators). Experience showed that this was a challenging task, especially when aggregating the values of result indicators at MS or EU level, due to a number of formal errors and plausibility issues.²³

To improve RI data quality, the current version of the FAMENET Infosys validation tool has a total of 20 specific queries – one for each RI – plus one general query applying to all RIs (assessing the gap between ex-ante and ex-post values). Specific queries for single RIs compare costs and achievements. The logic implies that it takes a certain amount of investment to create one unit of result. Queries are designed to flag outliers using benchmarks established at the EU level. Plausibility issues flagged by the validation tool are reported to the MS in question. However, it is often challenging for the MA and/or intermediate body (IB) to rectify the situation, as this may require the reported values to be verified with each beneficiary.

The number of plausibility issues decreases each reporting year. However, the errors and plausibility issues that remain can reduce the accuracy of the interpretation of RI data when making detailed analyses. One proof of reporting mistakes is the observation that there were significant fluctuations in reported ex-post RI values: in each reporting year, several ex-post RI values decreased despite progress in implementing the OPs.

Several MSs in their AIRs mention other factors impacting reported RI values. In the case of projects that are not yet finalised, for instance, RI values are not yet available. Several types of projects may even take a few years after completion to start delivering results.

In this report FAMENET provides the following analysis related to RIs:

- comparison of reported ex-ante and ex-post values of result indicators;
- description of RI use per UP and SO.

The first step in the analysis is to compare the ex-ante and ex-post RI values. We looked at the relation between the RI values forecast by beneficiaries before the implementation of the operation (ex-ante)

²³ Some examples of formal errors are: use of the national currency where EUR is required; values reported in EUR where “thousand EUR” is required; values reported in kg where tonnes are required; duplication of RI values; missing values; wrong or missing codes (implementation data or result indicator codes); multiple use of codes where only one entry is required, etc.

and the results actually achieved (ex-post). FAMENET selected all Infosys entries with values in both ex-ante and ex-post fields and compared the absolute deviation between them (Table 23).

It can be observed that RI data reported in Infosys include a number of entries with a large difference between ex-ante and ex-post values. It can be assumed that at least some of the reported RI values are implausible, in cases where the ex-post value exceeds the ex-ante value by more than 200%. Most of these errors are considered to be of the formal type, such as using the national currency where EUR is required, reporting in EUR where “thousand EUR” is required, or reporting in kg where tonnes are required. A part of these differences may also relate to imprudent planning, unforeseen events during the implementation, or small numbers (for example, ex-ante: one FTE maintained; ex-post: three FTE maintained).

In 1 038 occurrences, over-performance of up to twice the ex-ante value is reported. 1 292 cases report over-performance of less than 200%, most of which could be considered plausible.

Table 23: RI values: Ex-post values as a percentage of ex-ante values

Ex-post values as percentage of ex-ante values	Number of occurrences
More than 200% (possibly a reporting error)	1 038
From 100% to 200% (overperformance)	1 298
100% (ex-post and ex-ante values are the same)	20 327
Less than 100% (underperformance)	4 646
Ex-ante and ex-post values are zero (maintained status quo; compulsory common RI not applicable to the operation)	157 023
Reported ex-ante value is non-zero, ex-post value is zero (possibly results are not yet reported)	9 335
Ex-ante value is zero, reported ex-post value is non-zero (possibly the project achieved unexpected results)	4 166
Total	197 783

Source: Infosys 2021

The relatively high number (20 327) of occurrences where ex-post and ex-ante RI values are exactly the same should be viewed with caution. It means that ex-ante forecasts of results to be delivered were extremely precise. In cases where a supported project falls into a wider entrepreneurship activity there may be some degree of subjectivity on which part of the achievement relates directly to the EMFF support.

Underperformance is observed in 4 646 cases.

The biggest group of observations – 157 023 in total – relate to cases where both ex-ante and ex-post RI values are zero. This group nearly doubled compared to the 86 320 cases observed in 2020. In the case of an indicator measuring, for example, work-related injuries and accidents, this may simply mean preserving the status quo. In other cases it may indicate that preserving the current employment or volume of production was the best that could be achieved in a negative economic environment. It may also indicate that the applicability of an RI to a particular measure is limited. Most operations related to measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak fall into this category.

In 9 335 occurrences, an ex-ante value other than zero is reported and the ex-post value is zero. This can be explained at least partially by assuming that not all operations have yet collected RI data after implementation.

In 4 166 cases the ex-ante value is zero and a non-zero ex-post value is reported. Such a case can be either a mistake, or an admission by the beneficiaries that they achieved unexpected results following the implementation.

The second step of RI analysis concentrates on selected RIs for which the data reported have the least issues related to their plausibility. The analysis is based on the table of EMFF common result indicators reported in Infosys as provided in Annex 6.

- **Union Priority 1 – Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries²⁴**

RI 1(4)(a,b) “Change in unwanted catches” as well as RI 1(6) “Change in the % of unbalanced fleets” likely have issues with reporting of negative and positive values. “Change” in the sense of a reduction is expected to be expressed as a negative value. However, in Infosys, reduction is sometimes reported as a positive value. The data quality is also influenced by an additional layer of complexity related to the calculation of percentages. Several RIs under SO4 (Change in the value of production; Change in net profits) seem to suffer from frequent errors; common error types are wrong reporting units.

RI 1(10)(a) “Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives” demonstrates an increase of 19 192 km² which corresponds to 60.7% of the target value set in the OPs.

Another RI, “Change in the volume of production”, reports 37.4 million tonnes under SO4 (Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including SSCF, and the improvement of safety and working conditions) or 63.2% of the target value. The same RI under SO5 (Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer) achieved 1.12 million tonnes or 2.5% of the target value.

Under SO4, the RIs “Employment created” and “Employment maintained” report fulfilment of targets at 59.9% (1 596 FTE) and 150.9% (28 150 FTE) respectively. However, there are often cases where the values reported go beyond the direct impact of EMFF support. Under SO6 (“Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning”) another 954 jobs were created (76.0% of the target value) and 3 808 jobs were maintained (76.6% of the target value).

²⁴ Article 6 of the Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2328/2003, (EC) No 861/2006, (EC) No 1198/2006 and (EC) No 791/2007 and Regulation (EU) No 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council. OJ L 149, 20.5.2014, p. 1–66

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

Under SO1 (“Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer”), two RIs (“Change in volume and value of production” and “Change in net profit”) report values corresponding to just slightly above 3% of their targets.

Under SO2 (measures: “Productive investments in aquaculture” and “Support to new aquaculture farmers”) the reported change in the volume of aquaculture production thanks to EMFF support was 208.0 million tonnes, corresponding to 71.1% of the target value. The other two RIs (“Change in value of aquaculture production” and “Change in net profit”) under this SO are most likely erroneous (presumably due to wrong reporting units). Employment created and employment maintained are at 51.0% (751 FTE) and 63.0% (5 777 FTE) of their respective target values.

RIs under SO3 (covering measures related to energy and resource efficiency; increasing potential of aquaculture sites; and eco-management and organic aquaculture) show strong growth in organic aquaculture: 14.8 million tonnes (197.7% of the target value). The RI for recirculation systems reports a moderate increase of 2.0 million tonnes (or 10.6% of achievement of the target). MSs also reported an increase of 912 tonnes (41.4% of the target value) in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes. Targets for employment indicators are fulfilled only partially: 55 FTE were created (9.4% of the target level) and 164 FTE were maintained (4.9% of the target value).

Under SO4 (“Aquaculture farms providing environmental services, public and animal health measures and aquaculture stock insurance”) 317 aquaculture farms provide environmental services (27.1% of the target value).

Under SO5 (the only article under this SO that relates to promoting human capital and networking) there are two RIs: employment created and employment maintained. It seems that operations implemented under this SO had limited impact on employment indicators, with 13 new jobs created (2.6% of the target value) and 670 jobs maintained (25.6% of the target value).

- **Union Priority 3 – Fostering the implementation of the CFP**

UP3 has two SOs and related RIs: 3(b)(1) “Increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls” and 3(a)(1) “Number of serious infringements detected”. Note that reporting on these indicators involves additional complexity, as they require supplementary data to be calculated and cannot always be provided by individual beneficiaries. MSs reported 2 409 serious infringements detected (32% of the target value). However, several factors may impact this number – for example, a general decrease in infringements or less intense controls.

- **Union Priority 4 – Increasing employment and territorial cohesion**

UP4 has only one SO, with measures related to local development strategies. According to the reported values, 2 709 jobs were created (82.0% of the target value), 6 243 jobs were maintained (67.0% of the target), and 836 businesses were created (108.3% of the target).

- **Union Priority 5 – Fostering marketing and processing**

UP5 has two SOs: one relates to improvement of market organisation and the other to investments in processing and marketing. Both SOs have the same RIs, which are designed to demonstrate the change in volume and value of first sales, both within and outside producer organisations. Compared to other RIs, the values of the UP5 RIs have more exposure to external factors such as price volatility. Reporting on these RIs is therefore challenging, and the values are often erroneous. Most of the errors are due to the wrong measurement units, but it can be assumed that there are further distortions because the RIs include results that go beyond the direct impact of EMFF-supported operations. As a result, the reported values of these RIs should be approached with vigilance.

- **Union Priority 6 – Fostering the implementation of the IMP**

UP6 is the smallest UP in terms of EMFF allocation and it has only one SO: “Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy”. As with the UP3 indicators, reporting on UP6 indicators involves additional complexity, as it requires supplementary data to be calculated and cannot always be answered by individual beneficiaries. The data quality is also influenced by an additional layer of complexity related to the calculation of percentages. As a result, caution is advised when looking at the reported values of RI 6(1) “Increase in the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain”, RI 6(2)(a) “Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives” and RI 6(2)(b) “Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Article 13(4) of the Directive 2008/56/EC”.

3.2.14 EMFF programme-specific result indicators

EMFF intervention logic defines rigid links between measures, specific objectives and result indicators. Most MSs have therefore found it necessary to introduce programme-specific RIs into their OPs to fill gaps perceived to exist when measuring results with common result indicators alone, even though the names of the programme-specific RIs are often similar to those of common RIs.

In several cases, programme-specific RIs provide an insight into what a specific MS considers to be the relevant result of an OP implementation. For example, LT provides a value for a relatively complex indicator “Return on investment (ROI) of fishing in the Baltic Sea”. RO introduced indicators which count aquaculture farms and processing entities affected by loss of sales revenue in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic. Some MSs use an indicator tracing the change in consumption of fish and fish products per capita (HU, SK). ES reports the number of subsidised projects.

Data related to programme-specific indicators cannot be aggregated at the EU level. These data are therefore reported in the AIRs, whereas Infosys reporting captures only common RIs. In total, 17 MSs provided at least a target value for 106 different programme-specific RIs in their AIRs. ES listed the highest number of programme-specific indicators (20), followed by PL (15) and HU (12).

The use of programme-specific RIs apparently faces similar issues to the application of common RIs: for 30 of the 106 programme-specific RIs, for instance, the reported cumulative value was zero. For 34 programme-specific RIs the target value was either achieved or over-achieved (with at least some of those over-achievements suggesting issues of erroneous metrics).

The complete table of all EMFF programme-specific RIs can be found in Annex 7.

4 Issues affecting the performance of the programme and corrective measures taken (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013)

4.1 Issues affecting performance

The purpose of this section is to summarise issues highlighted by MSs in AIR section 4.2.

As in 2020, most 2021 AIRs mention one common issue affecting performance: the coronavirus crisis. Besides having multiple negative effects, the crisis also contributed to some positive outcomes. In particular, continued progress in the absorption of EMFF funding was partially due to the COVID-19 mitigation measures provided by the European Parliament and the Council in the form of several compensation schemes.²⁵ Overall, EUR 188.7 million (compared to EUR 108.7 million in 2020) in EMFF funding was committed in 12 391 operation (5 913 operations in 2020) to mitigate the impact of coronavirus (Table 22). As in most other economic sectors, restrictions imposed by the coronavirus crisis accelerated various “e-based” solutions in OP management and likely reduced administrative burdens.

MSs faced similar challenges due to coronavirus. In particular, they underlined the fact that the pandemic led to delays in the implementation of projects that had already been approved, as well as causing operations to be scaled back, delayed or even withdrawn.

Beneficiaries had to deal with a lack of liquidity, which led to delays in the implementation of productive investments; sharp rises in energy prices and problems in global supply chains; imbalances between supply and demand; challenges with international freight services; inability to obtain the equipment they had purchased, due to delays in delivery and distribution (especially for imports); and restrictions on retail trade, accommodation and catering, which relate directly to the sales of fishery products. Several types of activities were directly impacted by health restrictions, notably in-person events such as seminars, training sessions and trade fairs.

The functioning of MAs was also affected: MAs experienced recruitment difficulties and delays in the preparation of calls for proposals; and lack of staff to approve new projects and verify ongoing and completed operations. Communication with stakeholders had to be adapted to online solutions.

The pandemic did not affect all MSs in the same way. In Ireland, for example, the pandemic had minimal impact on investment and EMFF support despite the fact that many seafood businesses were negatively impacted. Demand for grants to support investment was buoyant across the range of support schemes. On the other hand, this success in implementation contributed to the fact that the availability of EMFF funding started to become a constraint in 2021 as the OP neared its end.

Besides the impact of COVID-19, MSs also mentioned several other hindering factors. In particular, these included: limited opportunities to attract new potential applicants; extensive management documentation for applicants and beneficiaries; long processing times for applications; and low numbers of finished projects. Another external factor mentioned was the problematic situation for the Baltic cod fishery, which has affected interest in the programme. As cod vessels were not allowed

²⁵ *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1027 of 14 July 2020 on amending Implementing Regulations (EU) No. 771/2014, (EU) No. 1242/2014 and (EU) No. 1243/2014 as regards the implementation and monitoring of specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector.*

to fish, this negatively affected owners' willingness to make investments. The cod situation may also affected willingness to carry out innovation projects for new fishing gear.

A non-exhaustive list of issues mentioned by MSs is:

- Several projects cancelled due to increased prices of equipment and construction work, and companies' lack of capital (BG).
- Lack of liquidity and consequently delays in the implementation of productive investments under UP2 (EL).
- An important fraction of the aid given to mitigate the effects of the pandemic came from other aid schemes, leading to a lower than expected number of EMFF applications (ES).
- The pandemic disrupted the recruitment of additional staff to help in clearing the backlog attributable to the pandemic (FR). The human resources of the MA were strained due to the introduction of additional measures to mitigate the effects of COVID-19, as staff involved in approval and control of operations were allocated to COVID-19-related measures (HR). Obligatory field monitoring for payment claims suffered significant delays – 3-5 months on average – due to the COVID-19 epidemic (HU).
- One area impacted was the planned support for promotion of Irish seafood through international trade fairs; however, the marketing funds concerned were re-invested in other areas, particularly domestic market promotions, and this helped producers whose export markets were disrupted (IE).
- About 20% of the UP1 budget remained unallocated after the closure of applications for support under the measures "Temporary cessation of fishing activities due to COVID-19 (coronavirus infection)". Several potential beneficiaries did not apply because they did not meet the requirement for the minimum number of fishing days in previous years (LT).
- Fragmented structure of EMFF measures defined by the EU regulation. This limits the Managing Authority's prompt action to address current challenges in the sector (LV).
- Potential private beneficiaries perceive the 50% co-financing rate as burdensome (RO).
- Low interest from local public authorities in investments in fishing port infrastructure, due the fact that only the modernisation of existing infrastructure can be financed, and not the creation of new ports (RO).
- Low interest in investments in the processing of fishing and aquaculture products; bad experience by applicants and recipients from the previous funding period (SK).

4.2 Corrective measures taken

The purpose of this section is to summarise issues highlighted by MSs in AIR section 4.2

To tackle issues affecting performance MSs applied a wide array of solutions. The most common solutions were to modify operational programmes and re-allocate funding within the programmes; introduce compensation measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19; extend project implementation deadlines; modify project selection criteria; and switch to web-based solutions for administering OP implementation. MSs also continued to invest in simplified administration. As EMFF implementation approaches its final years more focus is given towards absorbing all the EMFF funding available.

A non-exhaustive list of corrective measures applied by MSs is:

- Nomination of additional experts (BG).
- Intensification of various forms of support to CLLD implementation (BG, DE, IT, LT, SE).
- Introduction of financial instruments (BG).
- Introduction of a phased approach: due to unforeseen delays, budget increases and changes in implementation, some operations may extend into the next programming period (CY).
- Increased frequency of publishing calls for proposals (CZ).
- Focus on projects that have already received grants, to ensure that they reach completion (DK).
- The managing authority supports intermediate bodies through publication of FAQs and monthly calls (FR).
- Regional approach that gives each region the assistance it actually needs. For example, using contract staff for animation; meeting representatives of the sector to help with applications; intensifying visits and communication (FR).
- To reduce the risk of delays due to strained human resources, the MA has involved external experts for public procurement and on-the-spot checks of investments in modernisation of fishing ports, and has started to recruit additional staff for approval and control of operations (HR).
- Changes to the rules on advance payments: the rate has increased to 80% (HU).
- Advance payments to beneficiaries up to 50% of the grant amount. Maximum guarantee percentage of 80% of the value of loans granted by the financing institutions to the beneficiaries (RO).
- Necessary amendments to national laws and regulations (LV).
- Intensified contact with the beneficiaries should lead to quicker submission of invoices (NL).
- Complete revision of management documentation; professional advice on project preparation offered daily to potential applicants; publication of a sample contract (SK).

5 Information on serious infringements and remedy actions (Article 114(2) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014)

OP implementations are at their final stage, with more than 87% of the total EMFF funding already committed and more than 55% declared by beneficiaries. However, the number of MSs reporting that they have detected serious infringements remains low, as does the number of individual infringements. We can conclude that MSs have established well-functioning detection and reporting systems to protect the system from ineligible beneficiaries.

Information presented in this AIR section varies significantly between MSs in terms of the level of detail provided. Examples of measures taken to detect infringements as described in section 5 of the AIR are presented below.

BG reports that all detecting and reporting systems are in place and in full compliance with national regulations. BG has created a separate manual of procedures and nominated two experts to combat irregularities and fraud; in addition, there are established reporting lines to specialised structures that combat irregularities. Each applicant under the UP1 measures is checked in relation to IUU fishing irregularities.

CY has set up specific procedures to monitor and audit beneficiaries for serious infringements in line with Articles 10(1) and 10(2) of EU regulation 508/2014. CY notes that the process of auditing all beneficiaries during the implementation of the selected operations, and for five years afterwards, has proven to be extremely time-consuming and burdensome for the IB, taking into account the continual increase in the number of operations and beneficiaries.

In **DE** the management and control systems of the federal states include comprehensive measures for fraud prevention. These include screening of applicants before approval and during the implementation of the project (on-site checks, administrative controls) and IT-based implementation of the administrative and control process. The procedures are regularly reviewed and updated when necessary. The security and fraud prevention standards applied are of the highest level and the IT systems are regularly checked and certified.

In **DK** during 2021 infringements were detected and points allocated in 25 cases. New guidelines and checklists have been developed and implemented since 2019, and are ongoing. Regarding physical controls: 22% of the overall catch was checked, as were 6.7% of overall landings. A systematic check for eligibility was implemented in 2020: each project must be checked for serious infringements by the departments of the Fisheries Agency and with local municipalities in relation to infringements of environmental laws. An IT system for automatic checking of eligibility was launched in the first half of 2021.

In **EE** the control of applicants is laid down in the working procedure of the intermediate body (IB). The IB is responsible for background checks on each applicant.

The **ES** MA has implemented an action protocol and requires each beneficiary to present a signed statement that the requirements of Article 10 of the EMFF regulation are fulfilled. The IBs have to verify these statements before approving an operation. In 2021 ES detected 129 serious infringements, corresponding to 1.7% of total applications. Funding was withdrawn from 81 application, totalling EUR 0.8 million.

In 2021 the **FI** Food Agency received one allegation of a serious violation. In addition, one previous suspected infringement case is still pending. During the programming period one serious infringement has been justified. In addition, seven decisions have been made in which it has been established that serious violations were unjustified.

In **FR** accordance with Article 10(5) of the EMFF Regulation – verification of the situation of the beneficiary – is carried out at two levels. A declaration of conformity by the beneficiary is first required, and then the instructing department systematically verifies these declarations. This procedure is included in the procedure manual and specifies that the investigating service checks for three types of malpractice: fishing offences (Article 10 of EMFF Regulation); offences relating to environmental protection; and fraud committed within the framework of the ERF and/or the EMFF. In 2021, two cases were detected in relation to Article 10 of the EMFF Regulation. In addition, tools were reinforced in 2021 to verify the absence of offences after the completion of the operation – systematic monitoring is planned for a period of five years.

In **HU** no serious infringements have been identified so far. However, according to the information provided by the MA, a total of 27 cases of suspected irregularities were reported by 31 December 2021 and irregularities were found in 20 cases. The main reasons for the irregularities were violation of fair competition in procurement procedures, and ineligible costs related to procurement procedures.

The **IE** Sea Fisheries Protection Authority maintains a National Register of Infringements which contains the information required under Article 10(1)(a) of the EMFF Regulation. The National Register of Infringements allows for each application for grant aid to be checked by an intermediate body for admissibility under Article 10. Separately, as required by Article 10(5) of the EMFF, applicants for grant aid under all schemes are required to make a declaration confirming that none of the criteria specified in Article 10(1) apply to them, or if they do, specifying details of their infringements, convictions etc.

In 2021 Sea Fisheries Protection Officers detected 20 serious infringements. Of the 39 case files opened by the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority since the establishment of the process for vessel owners under the 2020 regulations, 20 case files have been forwarded to the appropriate panel and points assigned. Of these, seven cases related to vessels from other Member States. By the end of 2021, the panel had determined 16 serious infringements, of which four were at the appeal stage. In one case there was found to be no serious infringement.

Ireland recently introduced a points-based system for fisheries control. By the end of 2021 eight vessel owners had points applied to their licences by the licensing authority. None of these were at the threshold of nine points that would trigger a period of inadmissibility or recovery of grants already paid.

In **LT** the Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for reporting to the Intermediate Body serious violations of the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy provided for in Article 10 (1) (a-c) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014. The infringement register is integrated into the fisheries data information system. Measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing are published on the Fisheries Service website.

In **LV**, to ensure the application of Regulation (EC) No.1224/2009 the Latvian Fisheries Integrated Control and Information System (LFICIS) has been established. The system includes information on the fishing inspections carried out, infringements found and penalties imposed.

PL applies a system of administrative penalties (financial fines) for violations of sea fishing regulations. In addition, the Sea Fisheries Act of 19 December 2014 regulates the issues of penalties for serious violations of the CFP. Pursuant to Article 93 of Council Regulation No. 1224/2009, an electronic register of breaches of CFP regulations, including serious infringements, was created. An electronic register of serious infringements is publicly available. In 2021 five serious violations of the CFP were found.

SE performs a variety of checks to verify whether the person seeking or receiving support: has been convicted of fraud; has any claim for reimbursement of aid from the EMFF; has been convicted of environmental crimes (applies only to applications in aquaculture); has received a decision on a serious infringement during the previous 12 months (applies to vessel owners and fishing licence holders); has a vessel included in the list of vessels that committed illegal fishing in the last 24 months.

SI's national implementing regulations ensure compliance with the CFP rules. Data on serious infringements referred to in Article 10(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 are obtained when the Managing Authority verifies applicants' data in the national register of infringements kept by the Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting and Fisheries. Business entities applying for support for aquaculture must submit a signed statement that they have not committed a fraud under the rules of the European Fisheries Fund or the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. The national implementing regulations also stipulate that during the implementation of an operation, and five years after the last payment of funds, the beneficiary must not be convicted of a criminal offence referred to earlier. To certify that, the beneficiaries submit a statement that they have not committed the relevant criminal offence when they submit each progress report, and the Intermediary Body can verify this in court.

6 Information on the actions taken to ensure the publication of beneficiaries (Article 114(2) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014)

All MSs reported having made the list of supported beneficiaries available on a dedicated website.

Other information describing wider publicity measures provided in this AIR section includes:

- **BE** describes a variety of digital channels used to disseminate different types of information about the EMFF: not just the beneficiaries, but also general info, calls and submission of proposals.
- **BG** says it provides information on beneficiaries in real time via the ISUN 2020 e-system. Publicity is assured by numerous information campaigns on different websites. In addition, fisheries associations, representatives of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and the national fisheries network have contributed to information campaigns in 28 regional centres in Bulgaria. Information on calls for proposals is well covered by publications on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Supply and Forests (www.mzh.government.bg) and the Unified Information Portal www.eufunds.bg.
- In **CY and GR** the published list of selected operations is updated every six months.
- **DE** publishes the list of project data in accordance with Article 119 and Appendix V of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 every six months on the portal agrar-fischerei-zahlungen.de. Beneficiaries consent to publication when submitting the personal application data on the above website.
- **EE** updates information required by Article 119 and Annex V at the beginning of each month, and it is available on the website of the Agricultural Registers and Information Board.
- **LV** provides all the necessary information and publicity measures in accordance with Article 114(2)(e) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 as well as Paragraph 1 of Annex V. Information on approved projects and summaries is available on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture (Managing Authority) and the Rural Support Service (Intermediate Body). The information is also published according to the requirements of Article 119(2) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014, Articles 58 to 61 of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 908/2014 and Articles 111 to 117 of Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013. This information is also available on the websites of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Rural Support Service.
- **PL** administrators significantly increased their online activities, conducting most of their outreach activities via websites.
- The **SI** MA publishes and regularly updates information on the implementation of the OP on its EMFF website (www.ribiski-sklad.si). The Managing Authority updates the list of beneficiaries after each selection of operations or any change in the published operations. An electronic mailbox has been established for communication with applicants, beneficiaries and other interested parties.

Several MSs (AT, CZ, FR, PL, SI) noted restrictions in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) or national legislation on publishing the names of physical persons.

7 Activities in relation to the evaluation plan and synthesis of the evaluations (Article 114(2)) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014, Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) NO 1303/2013)

CFP Article 50(2) stipulates that the AIR should provide a synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the OP that have become available during the previous financial year.

It has to be noted that information presented in this AIR section varies significantly amongst the MSs in terms of the level of detail provided. Several MSs provided information on evaluations completed before 2021 and referred to evaluations planned for 2022. Several activities described in this AIR section can be attributed more to monitoring than to evaluation. In some cases audit activities are also reported.

There follows a non-exhaustive compilation of evaluation findings and recommendations for selected MSs:

AT

The mid-term evaluation for the 2014-2018 period was completed prior to 2021. The rest of the information provided by AT mostly relates to programme monitoring. The progress of the programme is monitored on an ongoing basis, in particular with regard to the development of key output and result indicators. The Monitoring Committee carries out the ongoing monitoring and concluded that the values of the result indicators show the desired favourable development and make a significant contribution to the main objective of the Austrian strategy, which is to increase production.

BE

MA in this AIR section provided one sentence explaining that apart from regular audits by the audit authority, no additional evaluations took place in 2021.

BG

The mid-term evaluation covered all priority axes and measures as well as the implementation process from the launch of the programme up to 31 December 2018. The mid-term evaluation aims to examine the level of implementation of the Maritime Affairs Programme and Fisheries 2014-2020 by assessing resource utilisation, performance and the effectiveness of EMFF programming, the socio-economic impact and its impact on community priorities.

During the reporting period, a second interim evaluation of the OP was performed with the purpose of assessing the results achieved during 2019-2020. In particular, the evaluation examined the absorption of the funding; the effectiveness of implementation; the effectiveness of EMFF programming; and the socio-economic impact. The following recommendations were provided: reduce the administrative burden for applying and during implementation of projects (shorten time for application processing, evaluation and ex-post control phase; reduce the number of required documents); provide a longer application period due to the need for multiple coordination with several institutions; continue the process of upgrading the capacity of the MA (certification of expenses, public procurement, audit, irregularities, spreadsheets training).

With regard to communication and publicity, the evaluation advised more focused planning of the specific communication needs of the target groups; a stronger social media presence for the OP; and maintenance of the model for conducting online information campaigns and discussions.

For the next programming period (2021-2027) the evaluation recommended preparing the necessary procedures to make sure that they were ready for the start of the new programme; implementing simplified cost options; including measures supporting SSCF; creating opportunities for CLLD in municipalities along the river Danube; and ensuring the timely start of implementation of the CLLD measures.

CY

An evaluation plan listed the following evaluations: the first process evaluation (2018); evaluation of effectiveness/efficiency at the level of SO/Measure (2019); assessment of UP4 – CLLD (2020); the second process evaluation (2021); and impact assessment at the level of UPs (2021).

The main conclusions from the second process evaluation were as follows: the involvement of partners from representative industries is considered very important for the OP as it aids effective coverage of various topics during the planning and implementation; further use of teleconferences and other technology for the design of the new programme should be considered; the implementation of the OP was affected by low demand for several of the measures. It was observed that in relation to the previous evaluation the OP has matured, and there is more experience on each side: both the MA and the beneficiaries. However, there is also an increase in the amount of work related to project closures, and the situation is aggravated by the shortage of personnel. The mix of communication actions at this stage was judged to be appropriate and to serve the needs of the OP.

CZ

During 2018 and 2019, an ongoing evaluation of the fisheries OP was carried out by an external evaluator. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of OP interventions at the level of measure/SO and to assess progress towards the objectives of the programme in relation to the results expected in the Partnership Agreement. The evaluation also assessed the implementation structure, i.e. whether the system is efficient and effective from the point of view of all stakeholders.

The CZ MA states that some of the recommendations of the interim evaluation in 2018-2019 have been fully implemented, while others are still being implemented.

Some recommendations will be taken into account for the next programme 2021-2027. In particular, these are: reducing the administrative complexity and simplifying forms; making the MA's instructions more comprehensible for applicants and beneficiaries; concentrating all information for applicants and beneficiaries in one place; reducing the work associated with submitting maps when re-submitting an application in eel stocking measures; creating an efficient and permanent electronic system for collecting data from aquaculture; and strengthening support for projects aimed at modernising processing in both aquaculture enterprises and independent processing companies .

DE

An interim evaluation of the OP was prepared in 2018 by external consultants and its results were briefly summarised in the AIR 2019.

DK

The DK MA reports that internal and external evaluations are ongoing and follow individual application rounds. The internal evaluations analyse application process. External evaluations collect input from target groups regarding their experience with the processes related to previous application rounds.

In 2018, an evaluation of the results and effects of EMFF subsidy schemes was carried out in relation to the OP. The evaluation resulted in ten recommendations. To implement these recommendations a number of initiatives have already been undertaken.

In 2021, initiatives for two recommendations can be highlighted. The first is that the Danish Fisheries Agency should only require the submission of two offers when expenses reach DKK 100 000. The second relates to support and knowledge dissemination: a new knowledge bank has been developed and is available on the agency's website, covering three innovation schemes: Joint Efforts in Fisheries; Joint Efforts in Aquaculture; and Fisheries, Nature and Environment.

EE

The need to conduct evaluations, the schedule, the precise goals and the outputs of the evaluations are decided on a rolling basis for each subsequent year. The corresponding evaluation plan and the results of the evaluations are presented annually during the monitoring committee meetings.

As required by the evaluation plan, the MA has regularly monitored progress towards the targets for the financial and output indicators presented in the performance framework, analysed problems with the indicators where achievement of the target values has been questionable, and sought solutions. The achievement of the 2023 target values for the performance indicators is evaluated in the Infosys report.

Preparations for the 2021-2027 programming period are also described. In particular, the MA provides detailed information on preparing the strategic environmental impact assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to contribute to a balanced implementation plan that is in line with the environmental policy of the European Union and Estonia, and which will enable effective implementation of EMFAF measures in Estonia.

During 2022, performance and impact evaluations for UP1, UP2, UP3, UP 5 and UP6 will be carried out. The aim is to evaluate the extent to which the OP's main targets were achieved, and to analyse the main success factors and obstacles. The evaluation results will primarily be used for better planning and implementation, and for shaping future policy.

EL

In accordance with the evaluation plan, the EL MA prepared and disseminated the AIR. It was observed that the launch of calls for proposals and commitments was proceeding well. On the other hand, the level of payments was judged to range from moderate to low. The evaluation consultant underlined the need to redistribute resources among the UPs.

ES

The objectives of the evaluation plan are to demonstrate the progress and achievements of the OP; analyse the impact, effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of the EMFF implementation; check the coherence of the strategy; and establish corrective measures if deficiencies are found.

Since its inception, the biggest problem with the EMFF OP in Spain has been the low level of execution. Accordingly, the actions in terms of evaluation and monitoring of the measures adopted have focused on trying to improve this situation. For this purpose, an evaluation was carried out to discover what was causing the low execution and find measures to improve the effectiveness of the EMFF implementation.

The MC approved the action plan in April 2021. The plan defines the actions of the IBs as well as monitoring indicators that will be checked quarterly. The first action under the plan was to reprogramme allocations to the IBs: transferring funding from IBs who faced implementation difficulties to those with better opportunities for spending.

To improve the management of MAs, IBs and beneficiaries, the following administrative measures were also taken: open and multi-annual calls; moving towards electronic administration; reviewing the regulations; speeding up the processing of applications; disseminating the calendar of future calls for proposals; developing programmes for virtual training; and improving resolution procedures.

The third block of measures relates to increasing the number of management staff. In 2021 staff numbers increased by 11.8% compared to 2020, with further growth expected in 2022. The development of IT tools to streamline and improve management, including connection and automatic data loading, is also highlighted.

FI

The effectiveness of the Finnish OP is assessed by a team of experts in fisheries and fish stock assessment at the Natural Resources Institute. The evaluation is carried out as an ongoing exercise working with fishery managers, entrepreneurs and stakeholders. The evaluation provides information on the development of the industries and the operating environment in the fisheries sector.

Three reviews were published, on conditions in the Finnish fisheries, conditions in Finnish aquaculture, and the Finnish fish market, respectively.

In addition, the performance of the administration and policy is assessed following an annual questionnaire.

In particular, improvements were seen in reducing animal-related harm; supporting new fishers; resolving industry conflicts; and supporting processing companies. Companies were more critical of

governance than other stakeholders were. Many companies consider the progress of the innovation programmes and the availability of information to be too slow and not sufficient, although the programmes themselves were considered important.

The 2021 survey also sought the views of fishing companies on individual quotas and compensation for losses due to seals and cormorants. An interim evaluation of the operator-specific quota system was carried out in 2021: for trawlers this allowed fishers to perform better and in line with market needs, but herring and salmon fishers were more critical. The start-up opportunities for new fishers were considered weak. Trade in licences and quotas between trawlers is going fairly well. However, there were more problems in communication and trade between coastal fishers. The system has promoted value chain cooperation and new processing investments.

The assessment team also participated in assessing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in the fisheries sector.

In addition, in 2021, mainland Finland's aquaculture strategy and its implementation were evaluated as part of the strategy update process. An evaluation of the seal and cormorant compensation process was launched, and the final results of this evaluation will be used in planning the compensation model for the new programme period.

Evaluations have helped to maintain an up-to-date picture and supporting governance, research and stakeholder dialogue. For example, the results have been taken into account for funding needs assessments and in preparing the 2021-2027 programme.

FR

FR implemented one evaluation at the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019. The recommendations were carefully monitored and had materialised during the revision of the programme. In addition, they were also taken into account for the development of the EMFAF programme.

The MA undertook the following actions as a response to the recommendations: regarding UP1, the temporary cessation of fishing was activated; redeployment of funds in order to make it possible to select port projects with substantial financing amounts. For UP2, in view of the rapid consumption of funding, more demanding selection criteria were put in place and the budget for the two most demanded measures was increased. Regarding UP3, a need to support data collection operations has been identified in order to ensure a smooth transition to the new EMFAF programme. In UP4, the loss of the performance reserve has been distributed among the regions and also among the FLAGs on a pro rata basis. Under UP5 and UP6 several reallocations of funding between the measures were implemented.

Intermediate bodies and regions have implemented support measures for project leaders. In addition, beneficiaries received support in the form of instalment payments to facilitate the completion of projects.

Furthermore, in line with recommendations in the context of the next programming period, project leaders will receive more extensive support either by covering their consulting expenses or by financing actors (professional organisations like fishing committees) to provide direct assistance to the sector. Other recommendations mentioned, particularly those relating to governance and simplified

costs, have or will be studied in order to integrate them into the future EMFAF programme, bearing in mind that doing this will require further overhaul of programme procedures.

The strengthening of the national FLAG network has enabled many improvements responding to the observations of the mid-term evaluation. In particular, the national evaluation of the implementation of CLLD in France, carried out by the national network in 2021, led to a number of lessons and advice for the future. Evaluation also confirmed that the mode of governance of CLLD has an added value: the selection committees, which bring together a diversity of private and public actors, can be considered as bodies for consultation and knowledge exchange between maritime stakeholders. More regular exchanges between the regions have been organised in order to advance collectively on certain projects relating to the future EMFAF CLLD (management circuit, integration of ORs, selection of FLAGs, prefiguration of the future CLLD network, etc.). The common objective was to make rapid progress on these various projects in order to avoid any rupture between the two programmes, which would be harmful to ongoing progress in these territories. Thus, almost all the regions of metropolitan France had launched their call for applications to maritime territories before the end of 2021.

Finally, some recommendations and observations were more general. To address the risk of under-programming during preparation of the EMFF OP, the MA and the IBs have set up many communication tools at local and national levels, such as the catalogue of projects and the annual summary. The lack of coordination and communication within the partnership (state, regions, socio-professional and civil society) and the under-use of the technical assistance budget have also been obstacles to the rapid deployment of an operational intervention framework and sufficient project engineering capacity to ensure rapid take-off of the programming. This recommendation will be taken into account for the next programming period, with the launch of EMFAF planned for the agricultural fair. The complexity of governance, with its hierarchical relationships and lack of clarity of roles, in a context of decentralisation and territorial reform, and the multiplication of low-volume measures – these challenges are expected to be addressed by the new simplified architecture of intervention.

FR notes that an assessment of the programme's impacts targeted at certain measures will be implemented in 2022.

HR

A mid-term evaluation was conducted in 2019, which resulted in a series of recommendations, including monitoring and control systems, support for networking, association and cooperation of stakeholders, activities to improve consideration of horizontal issues (e.g. reduce environmental impact, use of environmental indicators), communication and activities for capacity building of stakeholders (particularly FLAGs).

In 2021, implementation of recommendations of the mid-term evaluation continued through the preparation and launch of an action plan for the implementation and monitoring of recommendations.

Based on the resulting evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the OP, several recommendations were adopted, to: improve the monitoring of indicators of employment and net profit, especially in the aquaculture sector; further improve the landing control system and increase the percentage of controlled landings; encourage the creation of additional producer organisations and monitor benefits that members have from such associations; consider subsidising the collection of marine litter (especially by trawlers); monitor measures and indicators related to environmental

protection with extra attention (UP2 for SO2 and SO2) and increasing employment and territorial cohesion (UP4); significantly increase the number of landings that are subject to physical control; encourage active communication with commercial banks regarding financial packages to support projects that are co-financed from the OP; encourage communication with scientific and research institutions in the design of research, development and innovation projects; organise workshops presenting examples of innovation projects from other MSs comparable to Croatia; improve monitoring of the OP's contribution to the thematic goals of ESI funds, not only through financial indicators but also through qualitative indicators (e.g. context and result indicators) for each of the observed thematic objectives, and connect them with the number of projects which contribute to each observed thematic goal; provide additional education to FLAGs on strategic planning, networking and creation partnerships and the preparation and implementation of projects, with reference to broader topics related to blue growth; and implement several other measures to support CLLD.

The evaluation also recommended considering an obligation to include horizontal principles in procurement procedures (e.g. green public procurement); using technical assistance more intensively to prepare for the future programme period through drafting studies that will enable even more ambitious use of EU funds; and defining the national development policy in this sector in more detail.

In addition, an evaluation of the EMFF OP at the level of UP4 was started, with a focus on the effectiveness and efficiency of support for CLLD. The evaluation includes analysis of all local development strategies from the perspective of their effectiveness, efficiency and external coherence, i.e. connection with other local and regional development plans and initiatives; analysis of the capacity of CLLD, including their organisation and management; analysis of the quality of consultations and involvement of key stakeholders in the process of creating and implementing CLLD; analysis of the quality of information activities and visibility of CLLD towards key stakeholders; identification of good practice examples; formulating recommendations to improve the process of preparation and implementation of CLLD in the 2021-2027 programming period; and providing examples of good practice from other comparable countries.

HU

In HU, external experts functionally independent of the responsible authorities carry out evaluations by providing methodology, annual evaluations and summaries continuously.

In autumn 2021, the satisfaction survey (questionnaire and in-depth interviews) of OP beneficiaries was completed. Based on the results, several conclusions were drawn. For the measure "Stimulating innovation in aquaculture" it was suggested that the 2023 targets should be revised; private companies could have applied for this measure alongside research institutes and universities, but the unfavourable aid intensity meant that this did not happen. Aid intensity significantly affects the circle of potential applicants, so the MA should pay special attention towards this and its influence on the values of EMFAF indicators. The evaluators suggested that in the next period the choice of indicators for technological development and innovation should reflect not only increases in production, but also the added value of innovation and knowledge transfer.

Regarding the measure "Productive investments in aquaculture" it was suggested to speed up processes for both project selection and management. This includes applications that are subject to objections: decisions must be taken without delay, and resources reallocated as necessary.

For the measure “Supporting the data collection, management and use relating to the fisheries and aquaculture sector” the review suggested increasing available funding. It was also observed that the visibility of Data Collection Framework (DCF) projects is much lower than expected. It is necessary to promote the results of the projects more widely in order to raise awareness of the importance of data collection within industry.

In relation to the measure “Supporting investments for processing of fisheries and aquaculture products”, for which the call was oversubscribed, it was proposed to close the call or provide additional resources. The review also advised accelerating the selection process, even to the extent of hiring more staff.

Evaluators also made several recommendations on financial management. It was suggested that beneficiaries should be contacted as soon as possible to verify that they are still able to implement their projects. Other potential improvements include: continuous commitment of released resources from abandoned projects should be ensured; capacity should be provided to ensure well-prepared human resources for 2021-2027; continuous payments and processing of advance applications.

Several observations were also made in relation to the institutional set-up of the OP management: targeted information for the beneficiaries for practical handling of the electronic interface is recommended within the framework of Technical Assistance; an increase in staff numbers and motivation; outsourcing of project evaluations to speed up the selection process; and investigating the reasons for project withdrawals. In order to take timely grant decisions it is necessary to minimise organisational changes and ensure that public authorities have adequate and well-trained human resources.

It was concluded that with the current monitoring data it is not possible to determine values of result indicators related to change in the value and volume of first sales. It was recommended either to develop suitable methodologies or to remove these indicators from the OP.

IE

The following evaluations have been undertaken to date in IE: review of the FLAG programme 2012-15 (February 2016); cost- benefit analysis of the proposed decommissioning scheme (July 2016); ex-ante assessment of the use of financial instruments (June 2017); evaluation of lobster v-notching scheme (2018); evaluation of sustainable fisheries scheme (2019); evaluation of the EMFF OP 2014-2020.

In 2020 Ireland carried out two evaluations addressing effectiveness and process respectively. The effectiveness evaluation focused on how well the EMFF programme was being implemented, with the key question being how effective EMFF measures have been in achieving the SOs and the targets set in the OP. This was carried out by evaluating each scheme against key evaluation questions. The process evaluation focused on the delivery mechanism of the EMFF OP 2014-2020. This evaluation assessed management structures and implementation methods, and evaluated the effectiveness and efficiency of the management and delivery system.

For the current programme, the main recommendations proposed in the final report were to continue to keep commitments under review and to reallocate funds from schemes that are unlikely to spend

their full allocation to those where demand exists; clearly designated responsibilities should be put in place to capture data to determine RIs.

For the future programme, the main recommendations were to: streamline the number of interventions in the interests of efficiency and clarity; ensure clear targeting (to increase uptake) to areas of need, minimising any potential for overlap; improve programme management efficiency regarding the IT system; and process more grants online. The MA should clearly detail and communicate the purpose for which technical assistance should be used; the MA should provide training at the outset of the programme; a new centralised communication strategy to promote awareness of the EMFAF in a coherent and consistent manner should be agreed and rolled out. Support should also be put in place to build capacity in some sectors where there is an ongoing need (economic drivers to support growth and competitiveness), or where uptake to date has been low. Such support should be within the scope of the regulations, for example covering networking, knowledge transfer and dissemination, to raise awareness and provide pathways to other beneficial interventions.

IT

During 2021, the following evaluation activities took place: preparation of the ongoing Evaluation Report in June 2021; FLAG case studies; and preparation of a survey of the beneficiaries of Measure 2.48, scheduled to start in the first months of 2022.

In addition, the evaluator carried out a training and information seminar entitled “Evaluation of the environmental sustainability of a Community Programme” in the context of the strategic environmental assessment process for the new EMFAF programme. The evaluator also supported the MA in remodelling the financial plan and reprogramming some OP interventions.

As the pandemic caused field activities to be postponed to 2022, the evaluation activities mostly involved the analysis of documents. The ongoing evaluation report therefore focused on the progress of the EMFF OP and analysis related to the new programme – in particular, a comparison of needs for the 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programmes, and recommendations for the interventions of the EMFAF programme. Several conclusions were drawn: extreme fragmentation of measures and financial allocations should be discontinued; special support for small-scale artisanal fishing is envisaged; due to the limited interest among operators for aquaculture operations with environmental characteristics during 2014-2020 it was proposed in 2021-2027 to issue single calls for aquaculture support without distinguishing the environmental aspect.

The evaluation also advised assigning more importance to business diversification interventions (transformation, fishing tourism, etc.) and increasing added value (shortening supply chains, application of Community trademarks and certifications, etc.). It was confirmed that fishing must innovate through product enhancement and sustainable operations, without forgetting the importance of fishers as figureheads and providers of environmental services for the community. Another suggestion was to support the provision of environmental services by fisheries operators through prompt and robust compensation systems.

The entrepreneurial structure of Italian fishing is characterised by family businesses. This means that the aid available to young fishers to help them buy their first vessels typically does not achieve its aim of encouraging young people to start new businesses. Instead, the review suggested continuing

support to young fishers through other activities, for example modernising a boat or diversifying the business.

LT

One of the topics of Lithuania's evaluation plan is the monitoring of OP indicators. This assessment is carried out continuously and for all UPs. Taking into account the results of the evaluation, implementation rules for UP1, UP2 and UP5 were modified, as well as administrative rules and rules for implementation of measures.

LT also prepares the programme implementation assessment each quarter. The assessment includes quantitative and financial progress of the OP, the achievement of indicators, highlighting of emerging problems and ways to solve them.

External experts conducted research in 2021, mainly related to preparation for programming for the new period. Experts completed an ex-ante evaluation of the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the EMFAF 2021-2027 programme draft. The evaluation established the feasibility of the programme draft, the appropriateness of the intended goals, priorities and measures in the context of the needs of the sector, and the appropriateness of financial allocations.

LV

OP investment evaluation takes place continuously. Within this framework, information and data related to the industry are collected and evaluated by independent experts from the Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics. In line with the working plan and by evaluating the needs for the in-depth assessment, the activities described below were implemented in 2021.

Evaluation of support payments for organic aquaculture for the promotion of environmental services in aquaculture and the development of organic aquaculture

A new calculation methodology was proposed for the OP 2021-2027:

- Compared to conventional aquaculture, organic aquaculture tends to have lower yields and higher production costs, which ought to make the final product more expensive. However, fish raised through organic aquaculture in Latvia sells at a price not significantly different from that of the conventional product, and consumers do not have enough information about its benefits.
- The main additional costs that necessitate compensation are those of fish feed, which in organic carp farming is about twice that for conventional carp farming. The increase in other costs compared to environmentally friendly conventional production is small. As a result, the total cost of organic aquaculture is estimated to be 37% higher per unit weight of fish farmed.
- The planned compensatory payment for organic aquaculture does not overlap with support for environmentally friendly aquaculture, as it is intended to compensate for additional costs directly related to the organic farming method.
- Support payments for organic aquaculture are necessary for the development of this sector in Latvia. Both in Latvia and in other countries, experience indicates that without compensatory support payments, organic aquaculture cannot develop as a market sector.

An assessment of innovation implementation mechanisms to improve the development and implementation of innovation in fisheries

- A total of 35 projects were submitted to the OP 2014-2020 measure “Innovation”, which indicates the industry’s interest in innovation. Most of the projects focus on innovation in fisheries and processing (67% of projects), while the others address innovation in aquaculture (33% of projects). The average amount of eligible costs in innovation projects is less than EUR 320,000 per project.
- In terms of activity, most projects focus on improving the efficiency of the industry’s production processes (65% of projects). Sustainable production methods (36%) and product added value (35%) are also important areas.
- To further foster innovation in the sector, all stakeholders emphasise the need for cooperation and communication (including virtual environments).

It was recommended that:

- Innovation should be encouraged in all areas that can contribute to the competitiveness of fisheries, in particular towards the objectives of the EU Green Deal.
- To promote the introduction of the latest technologies and the development of fisheries, co-operation should be encouraged not only with scientific and technical organisations in Latvia but also with other EU countries, to the extent permitted by EU legislation.
- In selecting projects it is useful to rely as much as possible on measurable and objective criteria, without involving experts from the industry or from other institutions.
- To facilitate and standardise the project selection process, a self-assessment questionnaire can be created and completed by the applicant.
- To increase awareness of innovation projects, there may be an obligation to inform the industry both while a project is active (if it has 100% public funding) and afterwards. This publicity should be provided not only through information on the project website, but also in the form of presentations, trials, etc.

Work on methodological issues of evaluation and data collection

- During the reporting year, data were updated to provide information for the evaluation of OP support measures both within the ongoing evaluation and for the Managing Authority for policy planning.
- To improve the quality of the data to be obtained and to promote co-operation in obtaining the data required for the evaluation, meetings were organised during the reporting year between the MA, the evaluator, the Rural Support Service, the Fisheries Network, the BIOR and the Central Statistical Bureau.

The MA will review the recommendations provided by the evaluators and will take them into account when developing the support mechanisms for the next programming period.

MT

In line with the evaluation plan adopted in March 2016, the interim evaluation for Malta's OP was conducted and the final report was concluded by May 2019.

A detailed summary of the outcomes and recommendations was presented in the AIR 2019. The report's findings were given their due importance by the MA in its endeavour to transform best practices into de facto standard procedures. Lessons learned will also be part of an administrative legacy to be applied in the upcoming programming period 2021-2027.

NL

The annual EMFF evaluation meeting was held in 2021. The meeting analysed the establishment of temporary cessation of fishing activities as a result of the coronavirus crisis, and drew the following conclusions:

- To reduce implementation costs and the regulatory burden, administrators had used data that already existed: the fisheries register, vessels' electronic logbooks, and data from the vessel monitoring system (VMS). However, this approach also led to some challenges. The VMS could not always be relied on to prove that an individual vessel had ceased all fishing activities. In the fishing fleet register, data on a vessel's status (active versus not active) did not always change sufficiently fast.
- Article 65(6) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 specifies that an operation cannot be physically completed or fully implemented before the funding application is submitted. This was clearly a problem in the case of coronavirus cessations. The issue was solved by splitting the application process into two phases: for the temporary cessation of fishing activities, separate decisions were made for the granting of a subsidy and for the amount of the subsidy.

PL

In 2021 PL did not perform any evaluations of the OP in the meaning of Article 54 of Regulation No. 1303/2013. The MA implemented the evaluation plan mainly by monitoring and evaluating the programme data. The MA monitors the implementation of the OP on an ongoing basis, taking into account the state of implementation of the performance framework. Each IB every month provides the MA with information on the progress of programme implementation, presenting data related to applications, signed contracts and payments.

To facilitate the implementation of UP4, the MA performed commitments calculations broken down by all activities and sub-measures for each FLAG on a monthly basis.

The MA carried out an analysis of national legal acts in the scope of regulations influencing the final stage of implementation of the OP and effective implementation of the programme in the following years. This analysis showed that at present, for the OP, there is a lack of uniformity across the UPs in the regulations regarding the final submission dates for applications for payment by beneficiaries.

PT

The EMFF OP assessment plan is included in the Global Assessment Plan for Portugal. The following ongoing assessments were listed: evaluation of the implementation of the Pacts for Development and Territorial Cohesion and of CLLD; assessment of the contribution of PT 2020 to the Europe 2020 Strategy and the National Programme of Reforms; evaluation of the implementation of measures on adaptation to climate change; the Portugal 2020 Macroeconomic Impact Assessment; and assessment of the contribution of Portugal 2020 to the National Strategy for the Sea 2013-2020, which covers all five ESI funds .

OP implementation assessment was also completed in 2020. In 2021, a follow-up of actions planned for compliance with the evaluation recommendations was revisited and updated in the Monitoring Committee.

RO

The MA established an evaluation methodology designed to effectively support OP management and assess the status of programme implementation, define implementation challenges and create measures to solve them. Interim evaluation is performed annually. In 2021 the process evaluation was based on the following documents: detailed status of funding applications for each call; list of terminated contracts; absorption of funding; status of irregularities; issues and deficiencies; reasons for rejection of financing applications and reasons for non-authorisation of payments; reimbursement requests planned for the current year; and evaluation of result indicators.

The evaluation working group analysed the following aspects: achievement of output, result and financial indicators; trends of environmental indicators; irregularities.

In addition to the information resulting from programme monitoring, the following issues that influence the implementation of the OP were also discussed during the annual evaluation activity: reasons for rejecting funding requests/expenses; reasons for delaying the deadline for submitting reimbursement requests; problems encountered by FLAGs.

SE

The MA has an evaluation secretariat working on the EMFF and other funds. In addition, an advisory research group is attached to the secretariat. The advisory group consists of external researchers from several Swedish universities and provides support in evaluation planning as well as acting as independent reviewers of evaluation reports.

Two evaluations and three so-called follow-up studies have been published.

Evaluations:

Climate adaptation in the EU programmes 2014-2020. The evaluation analyses the extent to which the operational programmes funded by the ESI funds and managed by the Swedish Board of Agriculture promote climate change adaptation (the Rural Development Programme, the Maritime and Fisheries Programme and CLLD/LEADER). The results show that the regulations and guidance documents of the funds do not exclude projects for climate change adaptation. On the other hand, there is no clear structure in place to support climate adaptation. The results of the evaluation show

that around 13% of the total funding granted in the EMFF 2014-2020 went to projects contributing to climate change adaptation.

A model for evaluation of LEADER.²⁶ This report is part of a project evaluating the long-term effects of initiatives within LEADER. The report is the third out of five and builds on the two previous reports from the same project. The report discusses a number of criteria and points of references that could be used when evaluating the effects of LEADER.

Follow-up studies:

Local indicators in local-led development. The experience of LEADER areas is that it has been difficult to develop indicators, although despite this they are able to steer towards their objectives. The surveys answered by the LEADER offices and LAG members show that more than half find it difficult, or very difficult, to develop local indicators. There is a desire for more support for the next programme period. Only 4% of the LAGs rated the support from the MA as “good” or “very good”. During 2020-2021 the MA has been working on an indicator bank including 55 indicators.

LEADER or not – that is the question. This report is a follow-up study for the Rural Development Programme, the Maritime and Fisheries Programme and CLLD/LEADER. The report examines how results are affected depending on whether the support is handled within LEADER or by the county administrative boards. The report finds that some of the measures should be transferred from the county administrative boards to LEADER. This is because the current structure causes some confusion among those applying for project support. The report also finds that guidelines and conditions should be revised in order to better reach the objectives.

Selection criteria in local-led development. This report analyses the selection criteria that govern which projects receive support in locally led development. The report recommends that: 1) criteria should be clear and linked to specific objectives; 2) conditions should be included to simplify the assessments of applications; 3) criteria should be followed up regularly and adjusted if necessary; 4) more information about the criteria should be given to the applicants; 5) the criteria should be integrated into the MA's IT system.

FAME provided a detailed overview of SE's evaluations in the form of a case study in the previous EMFF implementation report covering the period 2014-2019.²⁷

SI

The MA carried out an ongoing evaluation of the OP with the purpose of evaluating performance at the level of SOs and measures, and reviewing the recommendations of the intermediate evaluation of 2018. The AIR states that from the point of view of performance, the programme advanced

²⁶ The acronym 'LEADER' derives from the French phrase "Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale" which means, 'Links between activities for the development of rural economy'.

²⁷ European Commission – Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Unit D.3 (2020): FAME SU, EMFF implementation report 2019, Brussels. <http://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/Documents/Library/6d5093cbadc74f67bf14c125f5ae078b.pdf>

significantly compared to previous years. This was largely due to improved communication and more sophisticated procedures at the level of the programme partners, especially on the side of the IB.

To carry out the on-the-spot evaluation the MA contracted an evaluator, and the final report was delivered in April 2021.

SK

The SK MA carried out an internal assessment of the fulfilment of the OP performance framework indicators in February 2018. The results served as a basis for the proposal to revise the OP by adjusting mid-term indicators of the performance framework.

During 2021, the MA discussed the need to specify the focus of the topics identified by the evaluation, to set the time schedule for the anticipated evaluation activities, and to define the resources necessary for successful implementation of the evaluation plan.

UK

There have been two external evaluations of the EMFF. These evaluations were summarised in the 2020 AIR and the broad findings of each are set out below.

The EMFF sponsorship body (DEFRA) conducted an evaluation of the implementation and early impact of the EMFF in 2019, also referred to as the socio-economic evaluation of the EMFF. This evaluation, which focused on the process and delivery elements of the EMFF, was presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee in November 2020 and formally published in 2021. The report highlighted that the overall opinion of grant recipients accessing the scheme was positive; the effectiveness of the delivery model at each UK Intermediate Body varies, partly because each faces a different situation; grants received have resulted in both intended and unintended benefits, with several interviewees reporting wider impacts for third parties (i.e. local suppliers); there appears to be some geographical variation in the uptake of grants.

An evaluation of the environmental benefits delivered through the EMFF in England was commissioned by DEFRA and published in November 2019. In summary, the evaluation found that projects funded under the EMFF have been delivering environmental benefits and/or are likely to do so in the future. This includes reducing incidental mortality of commercial and non-commercial fish stocks, improving and connecting habitats, developing skills and knowledge (human capital), broadening participation in environmental decision-making (human and social capital), and improving energy efficiency. The evaluating body also concluded that the RIs applicable to the EMFF programme were not that useful in selecting environmental projects, due to their focus on flows (in natural capital terms) which downplay potential contributions to reducing pressures or enhancing assists .

The UK Managing Authority is committed to undertaking a third evaluation. In accordance with Article 56(3) of the Common Provisions Regulation 1303/2013, the UK is required to assess how support from the EMFF has contributed to the objectives for each UP. This evaluation will be commissioned in 2022.

Finally, UK authorities have expressed interest in commissioning an external evaluation of UK FLAGs. The MA is considering this.

8 Citizens' summary (Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013)

Along with their AIRs, all MSs also submitted a citizens' summary – a short overview of the state of play of their OP implementation.

The annual implementation reports as well as a summary for citizens of its content, shall be made available to the public.

10 Report on the implementation of financial instruments (Article 46(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013)

In cases where an MA has decided to use financial instruments, it must send the Commission a specific report covering their operations as an annex to the AIR, using the template included in the implementing act adopted pursuant to Article 46(3) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.

According to the information provided in the AIRs, only Estonia and Bulgaria currently implement financial instruments within the framework of the EMFF. Both MSs reported in their AIRs that the type of financial instrument was a “fund of funds”.

Estonia implements financial instruments under UP2 and UP5. Under UP2, Estonia established an investment loan fund totalling EUR 4 320 000 (including management fees) for aquaculture production. The situation caused by COVID-19 necessitated an amendment to the OP in 2020, with part of the funds re-allocated to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. As a result, the total fund including management fees fell to EUR 2 160 000, of which EMFF commitments accounted for EUR 1 620 000. By the end of 2021, total contributions of EUR 2 036 977 had been paid to the financial instrument, of which EUR 1 527 733 was EMFF funding. Seven loan agreements have been signed.

Under UP5, contributions to financial instruments reached EUR 5 773 424. EE has two types of financial instruments:

- A growth loan fund of EUR 3 456 000 (including management fees) for enterprises starting or dealing with fish processing. Of this, EUR 2 592 000 was EMFF commitments. By the end of 2021 total contributions paid to the financial instrument were made in the amount of EUR 1 638 051, of which EUR 1 228 538 was EMFF funding.
- A long-term investment loan fund of EUR 5 000 000 (including management fees) for micro- and small enterprises in fish processing. Of this, EUR 3 750 000 was EMFF commitments. By the end of 2021 total contributions paid to the financial instrument were made in the amount of EUR 4 135 378, of which EUR 3 101 530 was EMFF funding. As of the end of 2021, 11 loan agreements had been concluded.

Bulgaria implements financial instruments under UP2, UP4 and UP5.

The total amount of programme contributions committed in the funding agreement under UP2 is EUR 1 636 940, of which the EMFF part is EUR 1 227 705. The total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument is EUR 409 235, of which EUR 306 927 is EMFF funding.

The total amount of programme contributions committed in the funding agreement under UP4 is EUR 306 779, of which the EMFF part is EUR 260 762. The total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument is EUR 76 694, of which EUR 65 190 is EMFF funding.

The total amount of programme contributions committed in the funding agreement under UP5 is EUR 818 470, of which the EMFF part is EUR 613 852. The total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument is EUR 204 617, of which EUR 153 463 is EMFF funding.

11 Annexes

11.1 Annex 1 EMFF contributions to policy objectives and specific topics

The EMFF Regulation ((EC) No. 508/2014) structures support by measures (EMFF articles). The EMFF intervention logic links EMFF articles to TOs, SOs and UPs.

To determine EMFF support for various policy objectives within the CFP, IMP and Europe 2020 strategy, and also for specific topics (for example SSCF, outermost regions, and innovation), links had to be established between the EMFF articles and these objectives and topics. These links are presented in the table below.

Policies	Objectives	EMFF Article 508/2014	UP
CFP objectives	CFP(2)2: Ensure that exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested species above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield	37, 38 (partially), 39, 40(1)(a,b-g,h)	1
	CFP(2)3: Ensure that fisheries activities avoid the degradation of the marine environment	76	3
	CFP(2)4: Collection of scientific data	77 ²⁸	3
	CFP(2)5 a, b: Gradually eliminate discards, by avoiding and reducing unwanted catches, and by gradually ensuring that catches are landed; where necessary, make the best use of unwanted catches	38 (partially), 42, 43(2)	1
		68 (partially)	5
	CFP(2)5 c: Provide conditions for economically viable and competitive fishing capture and processing industry and land-based fishing-related activity	26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 35, 41(1)(a-c), 41(2), 43(1,3)	1
		62, 63, 64	4
		68 (partially), 69	5
	CFP(2)5 d: Adjust the fishing capacity of the fleets according to fishing opportunities	33, 34, 36	1
	CFP(2)5 e: Promote the development of sustainable aquaculture activities	47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57	2
	CFP(2)5 f: Contribute to a fair standard of living for those who depend on fishing activities	29, 32	1
		67, 70	5
	CFP(2)5 g: Contribute to an efficient and transparent internal market for fisheries and aquaculture	66	5
CFP(2)5 h: Take into account the interests of both consumers and producers	68 with Infosys codes 124-127 ²⁹	5	
IMP objectives	IMP 3.2.a: Development of the Common Information Sharing Environment for the Union maritime domain, in line with the principles of the Integrated Maritime Surveillance	80(1)(a)	6

²⁸ EC 508/2014 Article 13(4): limited allocation possible.

²⁹ Infosys fields for types of operations: 124 – Transparency of production, 125 – Traceability and eco-labels, 126 – Standard contracts, 127 – Communication and promotional campaigns.

Policies	Objectives	EMFF Article 508/2014	UP
	IMP 2.c: Promote the protection of the marine environment, in particular its biodiversity, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources	80(1)(b)	6
	IMP 3.2 c: Development of a comprehensive and publicly accessible high quality marine data and knowledge base	80(1)(c) ³⁰	6
EU 2020 objectives	TO3: Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 40.1.h, 42, 43(1,3)	1
		47, 48(1)(a-d,f-h), 49, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57	2
		66, 67, 68, 69, 70	5
	TO4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	41(1)(a-c), 41(2)	1
		48(1)(k)	2
	TO6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	34, 37, 38(1)(a), 40(1)(a,b-g,i), 43(2)	1
		48(1)(e,i,j), 53, 54	2
		77, 76	3
		80(1)	6
	TO8: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	29(1)(a,b), 29(2), 29(3)	1
		50	2
		62(1)(a), 63, 64	4
EC 508/2014 Article 5	508/2014 Article 5(a): Promoting competitive, environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries and aquaculture	UP1, 2, 5	1, 2, 5
	508/2014 Article 5(b): Fostering the implementation of the CFP	UP3	3
	508/2014 Article 5(c): Promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and aquaculture areas	UP4	4
	508/2014 Article 5(d): Fostering the development and implementation of the Union's IMP in a manner complementary to cohesion policy and to the CFP	UP6	6
Specific topics	Small-scale coastal fisheries	26, 28, 29(1,2), 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38, 39, 40(1)(a,b-g,h,i), 41(1)(a-c), 41(2), 42, 43(1), 43(3), 63, 69, 70, 76. All operations with fleet register number filtered by the size of vessel (<12m)	1,3,4,5
	Outermost regions	NUTS codes (outermost regions for ES, FR, PT)	
	Innovation	26, 28, 39, 47	1,2

³⁰ EC 508/2014 Article 13(7): limited allocation possible.

Policies	Objectives	EMFF Article 508/2014	UP
	Landing obligation (narrow approach)	37, 38, 39, 68 – partially, based on Infosys codes relevant to LO 42, 43(2) – all operations	1,5
	Landing obligation (broader approach)	37, 38, 39, 42, 43(2), 68 – partially, based on Infosys code relevant to LO	1,5
	Energy efficiency	41(1)(a-c), 41(2), 43(1,3), 48(1)(e,i,j), 48(1)(k), 53	1,2
	Climate change adaptation	38(1)(c,d), 43(1,3), 43(2)	1
Horizontal principles	Gender equality and non-discrimination	29(1,2)	1
	Sustainability	26, 27, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41	1
		47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57	2
		63	4
		68	5

11.2 Annex 2 EMFF implementation per Member State

11.2.1 EMFF implementation per Member State (Infosys)

MS	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	No of operations
AT	6 965 000	7 415 996	106.5	5 684 427	81.6	219
BE	41 746 051	41 797 520	100.1	28 763 037	68.9	338
BG	80 823 727	61 787 935	76.4	36 385 308	45.0	572
CY	39 715 209	37 025 712	93.2	19 919 490	50.2	1 561
CZ	31 108 015	31 020 052	99.7	20 080 508	64.6	1 136
DE	219 596 276	178 412 914	81.2	141 359 988	64.4	3 423
DK	208 355 420	197 000 596	94.6	136 933 681	65.7	2 132
EE	100 970 418	84 516 945	83.7	64 266 963	63.6	1 577
EL	381 688 668	363 781 358	95.3	145 251 531	38.1	3 032
ES	1 087 197 165	760 450 220	69.9	557 104 642	51.2	18 532
FI	74 393 168	72 049 064	96.8	60 085 834	80.8	2 914
FR	587 980 173	501 269 647	85.3	317 920 553	54.1	5 920
HR	252 643 138	242 227 993	95.9	122 211 609	48.4	3 992
HU	38 412 223	42 609 000	110.9	17 767 883	46.3	225
IE	147 601 979	146 414 812	99.2	130 808 159	88.6	3 160
IT	537 262 559	440 334 325	82.0	263 965 742	49.1	15 150
LT	63 432 222	49 922 974	78.7	31 147 861	49.1	725
LV	139 833 742	159 412 112	114.0	74 673 453	53.4	1 151
MT	22 627 422	20 325 088	89.8	15 182 129	67.1	89
NL	101 523 244	95 892 433	94.5	53 920 235	53.1	534
PL	531 219 456	489 634 786	92.2	282 936 157	53.3	10 842
PT	392 485 464	395 440 475	100.8	234 671 506	59.8	6 966
RO	168 421 371	152 484 416	90.5	90 157 144	53.5	634
SE	120 156 004	103 856 625	86.4	83 641 756	69.6	992
SI	21 777 441	18 279 351	83.9	11 091 527	50.9	174
SK	9 676 595	4 976 814	51.4	2 596 570	26.8	38
UK	243 139 437	221 495 350	91.1	174 836 865	71.9	2 901
Total	5 650 751 587	4 919 834 513	87.1	3 123 364 560	55.3	88 929

Source: AIR/Infosys

11.2.2 EMFF implementation per Member State (AIR)

MS	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	No of operations
AT	6 965 000	7 377 520	105.9	5 655 238	81.2	204
BE	41 746 051	41 400 945	99.2	28 552 854	68.4	338
BG	80 823 727	61 687 096	76.3	36 261 379	44.9	572
CY	39 715 209	36 996 030	93.2	19 965 056	50.3	1 561
CZ	31 108 015	34 784 325	111.8	20 907 046	67.2	1 136
DE	219 596 276	177 722 883	80.9	141 718 081	64.5	2 977
DK	208 355 420	202 113 176	97.0	141 689 700	68.0	2 104
EE	100 970 418	88 124 410	87.3	67 005 968	66.4	1 593
EL	381 688 668	364 585 774	95.5	144 971 035	38.0	3 032
ES	1 087 197 165	744 621 926	68.5	541 111 782	49.8	18 068
FI	587 980 173	502 525 111	98.4	318 676 728	80.7	2 914
FR	381 688 668	364 585 774	85.5	144 971 035	54.2	6 006
HR	252 643 138	237 579 313	94.0	124 887 607	49.4	1 888
HU	38 412 223	39 152 802	101.9	17 767 883	46.3	225
IE	147 601 979	142 785 974	96.7	131 258 350	88.9	3 160
IT	537 262 559	441 290 620	82.1	260 847 629	48.6	14 637
LT	63 432 222	49 972 094	78.8	31 318 033	49.4	725
LV	139 833 742	132 572 570	94.8	74 661 056	53.4	1 037
MT	22 627 422	20 603 828	91.1	13 756 978	60.8	36
NL	101 523 244	95 841 478	94.4	53 887 992	53.1	510
PL	531 219 456	458 674 002	86.3	283 187 450	53.3	10 842
PT	392 485 464	389 761 727	99.3	241 158 033	61.4	6 381
RO	168 421 371	143 552 419	85.2	89 879 048	53.4	573
SE	120 156 004	114 419 797	95.2	76 473 430	63.6	982
SI	21 777 441	17 791 080	81.7	11 103 427	51.0	166
SK	9 676 595	4 877 896	50.4	4 877 896	50.4	36
UK	243 139 437	236 137 587	97.1	173 730 203	71.5	2 901
Total	5 650 751 587	4 860 159 780	86.0	3 115 345 408	55.1	84 604

Source: AIR 2021

11.3 Annex 3 EMFF implementation per measure

11.3.1 EMFF implementation per measure (Infosys)

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	No of operations
Article 26	56 889 106	49 198 670	86.5	19 166 989	33.7	323
Article 27	9 904 947	7 077 248	71.5	4 966 775	50.1	76
Article 28	53 000 484	52 010 941	98.1	22 576 960	42.6	187
Article 29(1)(2)	21 821 413	16 332 965	74.8	11 832 957	54.2	943
Article 29(3)	4 178 727	435 645	10.4	24 189	0.6	40
Article 30	25 653 772	10 221 988	39.8	4 178 080	16.3	337
Article 31	13 451 847	8 280 433	61.6	7 520 882	55.9	277
Article 32	54 502 956	45 623 371	83.7	31 024 850	56.9	3 241
Article 33	251 583 121	182 665 298	72.6	171 971 947	68.4	31 955
Article 34	88 681 396	106 818 870	120.5	82 935 004	93.5	1 752
Article 35	392 946		–		–	
Article 36	8 837 270	7 567 217	85.6	4 956 800	56.1	17
Article 37	31 127 239	31 048 497	99.7	22 321 531	71.7	338
Article 38	30 457 377	23 661 640	77.7	17 595 323	57.8	1 582
Article 39	44 949 342	34 578 645	76.9	13 568 624	30.2	182
Article 40(1)(a)	15 689 318	20 733 905	132.2	17 271 444	110.1	454
Article 40(1)(b-g,i)	248 795 893	222 574 036	89.5	114 810 360	46.1	2 644
Article 40(1)(h)	8 432 169	4 692 658	55.7	4 310 395	51.1	2 418
Article 41(1)(a-c)	20 510 830	12 743 023	62.1	8 447 010	41.2	989
Article 41(2)	9 101 125	3 013 106	33.1	2 247 703	24.7	666
Article 42	71 064 313	57 799 623	81.3	40 200 614	56.6	2 571
Article 43(1.3)	398 160 139	417 803 417	104.9	174 688 204	43.9	1 357
Article 43(2)	30 560 878	19 145 658	62.6	14 040 303	45.9	63
Article 47	153 901 399	131 407 180	85.4	52 048 473	33.8	559
Article 48(1)(a-d,f-h)	584 169 719	495 420 825	84.8	275 714 827	47.2	6 121
Article 48(1)(e,i,j)	63 317 900	54 528 853	86.1	22 731 989	35.9	268
Article 48(1)(k)	21 255 134	6 328 938	29.8	2 377 919	11.2	225
Article 49	21 070 571	16 317 997	77.4	7 219 465	34.3	117
Article 50	13 164 964	9 179 408	69.7	4 610 654	35.0	179
Article 51	28 475 899	17 342 685	60.9	6 839 789	24.0	85
Article 52	16 824 199	19 927 867	118.4	3 398 506	20.2	83
Article 53	2 658 350	9 000	0.3	6 000	0.2	1
Article 54	100 337 631	91 758 260	91.4	82 399 353	82.1	1 903
Article 55	74 948 549	55 075 942	73.5	51 177 114	68.3	2 090
Article 56	30 229 654	17 472 884	57.8	9 958 579	32.9	233
Article 57	11 063 881	4 422 793	40.0	3 697 354	33.4	96

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	No of operations
Article 62(1)(a)	5 108 955	5 224 451	102.3	4 359 708	85.3	260
Article 63 CLLD	529 418 602	442 817 329	83.6	229 681 436	43.4	10 479
Article 64	15 213 658	9 238 155	60.7	4 175 376	27.4	394
Article 66	110 014 443	79 604 622	72.4	65 499 579	59.5	556
Article 67	27 435 522	14 734 136	53.7	14 634 112	53.3	68
Article 68	160 430 665	139 672 883	87.1	89 247 770	55.6	2 098
Article 69	573 821 428	502 232 892	87.5	305 921 226	53.3	2 975
Article 70	192 500 000	155 457 729	80.8	148 134 081	77.0	4 577
Article 76	528 175 219	487 899 388	92.4	295 601 634	56.0	875
Article 77	555 966 632	548 730 152	98.7	463 039 596	83.3	260
Article 78	269 457 994	219 405 270	81.4	155 904 329	57.9	1 756
Article 80(1)(a)	18 072 549	17 229 643	95.3	7 477 436	41.4	35
Article 80(1)(b)	13 676 411	11 950 172	87.4	7 133 954	52.2	76
Article 80(1)(c)	32 295 053	32 418 204	100.4	19 717 359	61.1	148
Total	5 650 751 587	4 919 834 513	87.1	3 123 364 560	55.3	88 929

Source: AIR/Infosys

11.3.2 EMFF implementation per measure (AIR)

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate (%)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate (%)	Number of operations
Article 26	56 889 106	49 009 778	86.1	19 237 320	33.8	309
Article 27	9 904 947	7 330 275	74.0	4 961 947	50.1	76
Article 28	53 000 484	52 565 647	99.2	22 905 069	43.2	183
Article 29(1)(2)	21 821 413	16 718 063	76.6	11 585 479	53.1	942
Article 29(3)	4 178 727	435 645	10.4	24 189	0.6	40
Article 30	25 653 772	9 731 336	37.9	4 166 106	16.2	336
Article 31	13 451 847	8 283 922	61.6	7 510 258	55.8	276
Article 32	54 502 956	44 894 832	82.4	30 587 332	56.1	3 185
Article 33	251 583 121	178 952 586	71.1	169 481 404	67.4	29 547
Article 34	88 681 396	105 417 417	118.9	83 124 444	93.7	1 746
Article 35	392 946		-		-	
Article 36	8 837 270	7 608 725	86.1	4 974 528	56.3	17
Article 37	31 127 239	31 820 511	102.2	22 771 185	73.2	338
Article 38	30 457 377	23 916 786	78.5	17 614 884	57.8	1 566
Article 39	44 949 342	34 791 130	77.4	13 937 979	31.0	175
Article 40(1)(a)	15 689 318	20 022 184	127.6	17 236 542	109.9	453
Article 40(1)(b-g,i)	248 795 893	226 094 128	90.9	117 430 594	47.2	2 599
Article 40(1)(h)	8 432 169	4 804 301	57.0	4 436 763	52.6	2 418
Article 41(1)(a-c)	20 510 830	12 667 162	61.8	8 431 614	41.1	973
Article 41(2)	9 101 125	2 981 226	32.8	2 240 719	24.6	648
Article 42	71 064 313	55 489 684	78.1	40 174 068	56.5	2 549
Article 43(1,3)	398 160 139	410 794 306	103.2	173 360 787	43.5	1 327
Article 43(2)	30 560 878	19 602 306	64.1	14 589 328	47.7	63
Article 47	153 901 399	129 552 954	84.2	52 073 711	33.8	537
Article 48(1)(a-d,f-h)	584 169 719	469 639 071	80.4	276 926 598	47.4	6 042
Article 48(1)(e,i,j)	63 317 900	54 784 211	86.5	24 006 061	37.9	268
Article 48(1)(k)	21 255 134	6 046 713	28.4	2 483 212	11.7	224
Article 49	21 070 571	16 189 954	76.8	7 221 353	34.3	117
Article 50	13 164 964	9 160 556	69.6	4 582 178	34.8	177
Article 51	28 475 899	16 539 001	58.1	6 767 825	23.8	82
Article 52	16 824 199	19 070 620	113.4	3 571 670	21.2	80
Article 53	2 658 350	9 000	0.3	6 000	0.2	1

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2021)	Commitment rate (%)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate (%)	Number of operations
Article 54	100 337 631	87 914 634	87.6	82 401 477	82.1	1 441
Article 55	74 948 549	51 826 572	69.1	48 936 275	65.3	2 060
Article 56	30 229 654	18 177 083	60.1	9 692 012	32.1	233
Article 57	11 063 881	4 382 655	39.6	3 721 077	33.6	96
Article 62(1)(a)	5 108 955	5 128 627	100.4	4 309 130	84.3	259
Article 63 CLLD	529 418 602	437 489 768	82.6	234 402 388	44.3	10 264
Article 64	15 213 658	8 927 963	58.7	3 954 225	26.0	346
Article 66	110 014 443	78 946 706	71.8	65 497 259	59.5	486
Article 67	27 435 522	14 710 622	53.6	14 634 112	53.3	55
Article 68	160 430 665	138 460 050	86.3	89 068 420	55.5	2 081
Article 69	573 821 428	487 581 932	85.0	304 699 250	53.1	2 915
Article 70	192 500 000	154 630 488	80.3	148 105 256	76.9	4 082
Article 76	528 175 219	478 046 668	90.5	280 898 007	53.2	747
Article 77	555 966 632	554 183 511	99.7	459 256 700	82.6	237
Article 78	269 457 994	232 713 515	86.4	162 811 262	60.4	1 763
Article 80(1)(a)	18 072 549	16 839 544	93.2	7 558 019	41.8	33
Article 80(1)(b)	13 676 411	12 409 074	90.7	7 079 761	51.8	75
Article 80(1)(c)	32 295 053	32 866 338	101.8	19 899 629	61.6	137
Total	5 650 751 587	4 860 159 780	86.0	3 115 345 408	55.1	84 604

Source: AIR

11.4 Annex 4 Types of operations per selected article

Article 38: Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species

Type of investment	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Selectivity of gear	12 446 419	8 847 669	861
Reduce discards or deal with unwanted catches	4 863 976	3 956 883	283
Eliminating impacts on ecosystem and sea bed	4 224 647	3 304 923	329
Protecting gears and catches from mammals and birds	2 108 812	1 474 490	108
Fish aggregating device in outermost regions	17 784	11 356	1
Total	23 661 639	17 595 323	1 582

Article 40(1)(b-g,i): Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Other actions enhancing biodiversity	88 287 312	35 277 480	1 206
Management of resources	68 965 527	39 519 120	1 068
Management of MPAs	28 554 839	22 513 582	47
Management of Natura 2000	14 812 253	6 615 038	94
Investment in facilities	11 858 053	6 200 344	113
Management plans for Natura 2000 and SPA	6 713 641	2 980 269	63
Increasing awareness	3 382 411	1 704 528	53
Total	222 574 036	114 810 360	2 644

Article 41(2): Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Replacement of engine	2 346 553	1 620 892	556
Modernisation	666 552	626 810	110
Total	3 013 105	2 247 703	666

Article 48(1)(a-d,f-h): Productive investments in aquaculture

Type of investment	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Productive	320 774 301	171 005 148	3 110
Modernisation	133 229 829	81 263 320	2 376
Quality of products	12 245 002	9 060 933	195
Diversification	9 959 575	6 498 670	132
Complementary activities	7 405 858	1 883 196	62
Restoration	7 158 388	3 226 893	102
Animal health	4 647 873	2 776 667	144
Total	495 420 825	275 714 827	6 121

Article 48(1)(e,i,j): Productive investments in aquaculture – resource efficiency

Type of investment	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Closed systems	34 317 523	10 891 180	133
Environmental and resources	13 597 718	7 538 510	88
Water usage and quality	6 613 612	4 302 300	47
Total	54 528 853	22 731 989	268

Article 54: Aquaculture providing environmental services

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Aquaculture operations including conservation and improvement of environment and biodiversity	54 632 780	52 008 231	1 450
Aquaculture in Natura 2000 areas	35 949 499	29 490 760	420
Ex-situ conservation and reproduction	1 175 981	900 361	33
Total	91 758 260	82 399 353	1 903

Article 63: Implementation of local development strategies

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Adding value	113 503 527	58 381 606	2 845
Running costs and animation	102 605 811	55 150 782	2 781
Diversification	89 520 795	48 686 290	3 073
Socio-cultural	84 832 537	44 041 622	493
Environment	42 043 947	18 424 709	1 021
Governance	10 310 711	4 996 428	266
Total	442 817 329	229 681 436	10 479

Article 68: Marketing measures

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Communication and promotional campaigns	57 004 222	37 311 017	730
Find new markets and improve marketing conditions (focus on species with marketing potential)	45 591 307	32 235 055	818
Promoting quality and value-added (focus on direct marketing)	10 407 826	7 015 815	230
Promoting quality and value-added (focus on certification and promotion sustainable products)	9 892 836	4 371 339	101
Find new markets and improve marketing conditions (focus on products with low impact or organic products)	3 336 936	605 120	39
Find new markets and improve marketing conditions (focus on unwanted catches)	2 960 166	1 718 605	26
Traceability and eco-labels	2 288 410	1 140 191	43
Promoting quality and value-added (focus on packaging)	1 995 501	1 059 473	24
Promoting quality and value-added (focus on quality schemes)	1 842 213	685 839	34
Create Producers Organisations, association or inter-branch organisations	1 668 693	1 427 894	23
Transparency of production	1 437 166	723 254	16
Standard contracts	1 247 607	954 168	14
Total	139 672 883	89 247 770	2 098

Article 69: Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2021)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
New or improved products, processes or management system	278 993 081	154 734 515	1 676
Improve safety, hygiene, health, working conditions	103 193 242	71 161 973	648
Energy saving or reducing impact on the environment	79 792 706	46 582 422	485
Processing catches not for human consumption	18 147 153	16 582 543	26
processing of organic aquaculture products	13 470 171	10 251 363	80
Processing by-products	8 636 539	6 608 410	60
Total	502 232 892	305 921 226	2 975

Article 76: Control and enforcement

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Purchase, installation and development of technology	115 351 505	74 666 818	171
Purchase of other control means	94 109 132	55 174 829	155
Modernisation and purchase of patrol vessels, aircrafts and helicopters	87 872 148	28 035 693	79
Operational costs	86 350 311	64 166 225	60
Development, purchase and installation of the components to ensure data transmission	34 588 235	26 646 756	134
Implementation of programmes for exchanging and analysing data	22 884 387	16 244 255	22
Implementation of an action plan	17 862 610	14 215 110	19
Development, purchase and installation of the components necessary to ensure traceability	11 273 947	7 934 463	119
Development of innovative control and monitoring systems and pilot projects	9 405 879	4 922 087	48
Training and exchange programmes	4 349 697	2 405 719	34
Seminars and media tools	3 460 113	1 089 767	30
Cost/benefit analyses and assessments of audits	391 425	99 912	4
Total	487 899 388	295 601 634	875

Article 80(1)(b): Promotion of protection of marine environment and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
MPA	8 517 811	5 350 963	50
Natura 2000	3 432 360	1 782 990	26
Total	11 950 172	7 133 954	76

11.5 Annex 5: EMFF common result indicators (Infosys data)

UP1 Result indicators

SO	RI	RI description	RI unit	Target value (a)	RI ex-ante (b)	(c) =b/a	RI ex-post (d)	(e) =d/a
1	1.4.a	Change in unwanted catches	tonnes	-25 807	20 063	-77.7%	8 315	-32.2%
1	1.4.b	Change in unwanted catches	%	-257	-1 736	675.7%	-930	362.1%
2	1.10.a	Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	km ²	31 632	90 658	286.6%	19 192	60.7%
2	1.10.b	Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Article 13(4) of the Directive 2008/56/EC	km ²	291 074	27 718	9.5%	10 633	3.7%
3	1.3	Change in net profits	thousand euros	19 392	2 719	14.0%	2 729	14.1%
3	1.6	Change in the % of unbalanced fleets	%	6		6.5%		1.1%
4	1.1	Change in the value of production	thousand euros	104 349	615 550	589.9%	272 209	260.9%
4	1.2	Change in the volume of production	tonnes	59 214	-387 300	-5 720.4%	37 423	63.2%
4	1.3	Change in net profits	thousand euros	37 687	478 563	1 269.8%	222 437	590.2%
4	1.7	Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	2 666	2 716	101.9%	1 596	59.9%
4	1.8	Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	18 650	46 063	247.0%	28 150	150.9%
4	1.9.a	Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	number	-326	366	-112.2%	655	-200.7%
5	1.1	Change in the value of production	thousand euros	47 815	596 456	1 247.4%	160 623	335.9%
5	1.2	Change in the volume of production	tonnes	45 396	19 192	42.3%	1 123	2.5%
5	1.3	Change in net profits	thousand euros	28 364	49 699	175.2%	14 893	52.5%
6	1.7	Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	1 257	1 956	155.6%	954	75.9%
6	1.8	Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries	FTE	4 972	6 855	137.9%	3 808	76.6%

SO	RI	RI description	RI unit	Target value (a)	RI ex-ante (b)	(c) =b/a	RI ex-post (d)	(e) =d/a
		sector or complementary activities						
6	1.9.a	Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	number	-382	216	-56.5%	0	0.0%

Source: Infosys 2021

UP2 Result indicators

SO	RI	RI description	RI unit	Target value (a)	RI ex-ante (b)	(c) =b/a	RI ex-post (d)	(e) =d/a
1	2.1	Change in volume of aquaculture production	tonnes	149 997	48 987	32.7%	4 971	3.3%
1	2.2	Change in value of aquaculture production	thousand euros	407 415	369 249	90.6%	12 827	3.1%
1	2.3	Change in net profit	thousand euros	82 080	117 147	142.7%	2 997	3.7%
2	2.4	Change in volume of aquaculture production	tonnes	292 362	55 002 742	18 813.2%	207 983	71.1%
2	2.2	Change in value of aquaculture production	thousand euros	931 105	62 874 875	6 752.7%	43 369 932	4 657.9%
2	2.3	Change in net profit	thousand euros	138 062	4 326 641	3 133.8%	2 117 687	1 533.9%
2	2.8	Employment created	FTE	1 473	2 200	149.4%	751	51.0%
2	2.9	Employment maintained	FTE	9 173	9 920	108.1%	5 777	63.0%
3	2.4	Change in the volume of production organic aquaculture	tonnes	7 479	85 136	1 138.3%	14 783	197.7%
3	2.5	Change in the volume of production recirculation system	tonnes	18 476	8 235	44.6%	1 956	10.6%
3	2.6	Change in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes	tonnes	2 201	1 221	55.5%	912	41.4%
3	2.7	Aquaculture farms providing environmental services	number	24	28	116.7%	18	75.0%
3	2.8	Employment created	FTE	588	644	109.5%	55	9.4%
3	2.9	Employment maintained	FTE	3 337	329	9.9%	164	4.9%
4	2.1	Change in volume of aquaculture production	tonnes	136 564	-481 929	-352.9%	10 801	7.9%

SO	RI	RI description	RI unit	Target value (a)	RI ex-ante (b)	(c) =b/a	RI ex-post (d)	(e) =d/a
4	2.2	Change in value of aquaculture production	thousand euros	342 342	867 135	253.3%	160 211	46.8%
4	2.4	Change in the volume of production organic aquaculture	tonnes	3 229	7	0.2%	4	0.1%
4	2.5	Change in the volume of production recirculation system	tonnes	29		0.0%		0.0%
4	2.6	Change in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes	tonnes	1 536	6	0.4%	3	0.2%
4	2.7	Aquaculture farms providing environmental services	number	1 169	482	41.2%	317	27.1%
5	2.8	Employment created	FTE	492	71	14.4%	13	2.6%
5	2.9	Employment maintained	FTE	2 619	1 007	38.5%	670	25.6%

Source: Infosys 2021

UP3 Result indicators

SO	RI	RI description	RI unit	Target value (a)	RI ex-ante (b)	(c) =b/a	RI ex-post (d)	(e) =d/a
1	3.B.1	Increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls	%	614	1 704	277.6%	1 201	195.6%
2	3.A.1	Number of serious infringements detected	number	7 521	4 201	55.9%	2 409	32.0%

Source: Infosys 2021

UP4 Result indicators

SO	RI	RI description	RI unit	Target value (a)	RI ex-ante (b)	(c) =b/a	RI ex-post (d)	(e) =d/a
1	4.1	Employment created (FTE)	FTE	3 302	5 405	163.7%	2 709	82.0%
1	4.2	Employment maintained (FTE)	FTE	9 312	10 960	117.7%	6 243	67.0%
1	4.3	Businesses created	number	772	1 427	184.9%	836	108.3%

Source: Infosys 2021

UP5 Result indicators

SO	RI	RI description	RI unit	Target value (a)	RI ex-ante (b)	(c) =b/a	RI ex-post (d)	(e) =d/a
1	5.1.a	Change in value of first sales in POs	thousand euros	611 156	77 797 707	12 729.6%	30 673 075	5 018.9%
1	5.1.b	Change in volume of first sales in POs	tonnes	337 169	955 856	283.5%	1 185 039	351.5%
1	5.1.c	Change in value of first sales in non-POs	thousand euros	157 251	2 554 601	1 624.5%	695 816	442.5%
1	5.1.d	Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	tonnes	71 387	129 945	182.0%	15 550	21.8%
2	5.1.a	Change in value of first sales in POs	thousand euros	49 801	314 842	632.2%	295 987	594.3%
2	5.1.b	Change in volume of first sales in POs	tonnes	27 500	43 096	156.7%	23 903	86.9%
2	5.1.c	Change in value of first sales in non-POs	thousand euros	240 607	63 239 036	26 283.1%	54 587 786	22 687.5%
2	5.1.d	Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	tonnes	109 478	18 387 308	16 795.4%	187 858	171.6%

Source: Infosys 2021

UP6 Result indicators

SO	RI	RI description	RI unit	Target value (a)	RI ex-ante (b)	(c) =b/a	RI ex-post (d)	(e) =d/a
1	6.1	Increase in the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain	%	599	1 978	330.3%	1 221	203.8%
1	6.2.a	Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	km ²	25 600	20 630	80.6%	21 081	82.3%
1	6.2.b	Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Article 13(4) of the Directive 2008/56/EC	km ²	146 575	520 156	354.9%	515 568	351.7%

Source: Infosys 2021

11.6 Annex 6 EMFF common result indicators (AIR data)

Common result indicator	Measurement unit	RI target (ex-ante) value	RI cumulative (ex-post) value
UP 1			
Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	litres fuel/tonnes landed catch	118 282	-8 296 265
Change in net profits	thousand EUR	85 873	492 756
Change in the % of unbalanced fleets	%	6	24
Change in the % of work-related injuries and accidents in relation to total fishers	%	-120	761
Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	km ²	31 632	1 358
Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	km ²	291 074	643
Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	number	-708	-287
Change in the value of production	thousand EUR	153 643	6 989 350
Change in the volume of production	tonnes	104 610	25 510
Change in unwanted catches (%)	%	-257	-270
Change in unwanted catches (tonnes)	tonnes	-25 807	-3 702
Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	4 168	2 134
Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	23 764	22 734
UP 2			
Aquaculture farms providing environmental services	number	1 197	1 150
Change in net profit	thousand EUR	220 217	6 056 256
Change in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes	tonnes	3 738	1 317
Change in the volume of production organic aquaculture	tonnes	10 709	5 898
Change in the volume of production recirculation system	tonnes	18 504	4 014
Change in value of aquaculture production	thousand EUR	1 681 362	62 553 974
Change in volume of aquaculture production	tonnes	579 032	306 185
Employment created	FTE	2 673	926
Employment maintained	FTE	15 179	5 317
UP 3			
Increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls	%	711	1 018
Landings that have been the subject to physical control	%	343	157
Number of serious infringements detected	number	7 521	12 347
UP 4			
Businesses created	number	772	570
Employment created (FTE)	FTE	3 302	3 007
Employment maintained (FTE)	FTE	9 312	12 005
UP 5			
Change in value of first sales in non-POs	thousand EUR	397 858	2 497 900

Common result indicator	Measurement unit	RI target (ex-ante) value	RI cumulative (ex-post) value
Change in value of first sales in POs	thousand EUR	650 358	6 322 857
Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	tonnes	180 866	5 211 026
Change in volume of first sales in POs	tonnes	358 668	35 754 540
UP 6			
Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	km ²	25 600	20 964
Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	km ²	146 575	23 297
Increase in the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain	%	599	190

Source: AIR 2021

11.7 Annex 7 EMFF programme specific result indicators (AIR data)

MS specific result indicators	Specific result indicator (working translation)	RI target (ex-ante) value	RI cumulative (ex-post) value
UP 1			
Aantal obstakels die vismigratie beletten in de rivierbeding van de Maas en de Rijn	Number of obstacles preventing fish migration in the Meuse and Rhine riverbed	-8	-16
Area of the sites restored under the MAHOP		1 000	119
Asistentes a actividades de formación	Attendees at training activities	7 240	67
Buques pesqueros afectados	Affected fishing vessels	42	100
Creación de nuevas Redes y Asociaciones	Creation of new Networks and Associations	25	7
Ilość użytego materiału zarybieniowego	The amount of restocking material used	7	
Innovaatilised tooted, protsessid	Innovative products, processes	6	8
Investicinē žvejybos Baltijos jūroje grāža (ROI)	Return on investment (ROI) of fishing in the Baltic Sea	11	
Izstrādātas inovācijas	Developed innovations	11	5
Kuro sunaudojimo (litrai/ iškrautam kg) efektyvumo padidėjimas	Increase in efficiency of fuel consumption (litres/kg landed)	5	
Mere viden om fiskeriets påvirkning af og samspil med det marine økosystem	More knowledge about fishing's impact on and interaction with the marine ecosystem	5	3
Muutus kalapüügi kütusesäästlikkuses	Change in fishing fuel efficiency	-3	-8
N° of businesses maintained		100	
Nerštaviečių ir migruojančių rūšių migracijos kelių atkūrimas	Restoration of spawning grounds and migration routes of migratory species	5	3
Number of protected areas NATURA 2000 covered by operations		17	18
Number of sites restored under the MAHOP		15	9
Number of vessels having purchased the gear referred to in art. 38.1.a-c		200	267
Number of vessels having purchased the gear referred to in art. 38.1.d		20	
Odsetek wyłowionych sieci-widm	Percentage of ghost nets retrieved	20	
Ohranjeno število plovil privezanih v ribiških pristaniščih	Maintained number of vessels moored in fishing ports	33	
Omfang af opnået god økologisk tilstand	Extent of achieved good ecological status	1 700	1 352
Ostu skaits, kurās attīstīta infrastruktūra	Number of ports with developed infrastructure	7	9
Partnerlusvõrgustiku tegevustes osalevad ettevõtjad	Entrepreneurs participating in the activities of the partnership network	350	425
Pescadores afectados	Affected fishermen	41 209	183 134
Pescadores afectados por sustitución de motor en buques menores de 12 metros	Fishermen affected by engine replacement in vessels less than 12 metres	40	47
Pescadores que se benefician de la operación	Fishermen benefiting from the operation	2 456	3 458
Pesquerías analizadas	Fisheries analysed	11	8
Povečano število plovil privezanih v ribiških pristaniščih	Increased number of vessels moored in fishing ports	3	
Selektiivsed (sh hülgekindlad) püügivahendid	Selective (including seal-proof) fishing gear	830	703

MS specific result indicators	Specific result indicator (working translation)	RI target (ex-ante) value	RI cumulative (ex-post) value
Število ribičev vključenih v operacijo	Number of fishermen involved in the operation	15	
Taastatud kudealad (sh kunstkoelmud)	Restored spawning grounds (incl. artificial nests)	15	11
Variación del valor de la producción	Change in the value of production	2 000	
Variación en % de los buques en desequilibrio	Change in % of vessels in imbalance	-14	-79
Viden om og til fremme af reduktion af uønskede fangster og landingsforpligtelse	Knowledge and promotion of the reduction of unwanted catches and landing obligations	8	7
Zmiana odsetka podmiotów, która skorzysta z projektów wymiany doświadczeń	Change in the percentage of entities that will benefit from experience exchange projects	14	
Zmiana odsetka portów i przystani, w których zapewniono możliwość odbioru niechcianych połowów	Change in the percentage of ports and harbours where unwanted catches can be received	10	
Zmiana w % niezrównoważonych flot	Change in the percentage of unsustainable fleets	-31	
Zmiana zasięgu obszarów o ulepszonym zarządzaniu	Change in coverage of areas with improved management	7 361	
Zušu krājumu pārvaldības pasākumu īstenošana atbilstoši paredzētajam Zivju resursu mākslīgās atražošanas plānā 2017.–2020. gadam	Implementation of eel stock management measures in accordance with the planned Fish Resources Artificial Reproduction Plan 2017-2020. for the year	2	2
UP2			
Ændring i mængden af økologisk akvakulturproduktion	Change in the amount of organic aquaculture production	3 000	2 220
Ændring i mængden af produktion fra recirkulerede anlæg	Change in the amount of production from recirculation systems	15 000	7 856
Anlagen – Becken und Fließkanäle	Facilities – basins and flow channels	430 000	36 444
Anlagen – Gehege und Kreislaufanlagen	Facilities – closed and recirculation systems	7 000	13 907
Anlagen – Teiche	Facilities – ponds	1 900	322
Aquaculture farms providing environmental services		17 524	15 487
Asistentes que participan en las actividades de formación	Attendees participating in training activities	624	295
Beschäftigung in Aquakultur	Employment in aquaculture	240	330
Change in net profits		1 706	
Change in the value of production		16 500	23
Cuantificación de la energía renovable en el proyecto	Quantification of renewable energy in the project	500	328
Employment maintained		153	
Explotaciones afectadas	Affected holdings	5	
Ferme de acvacultură afectate de pierderi de venituri din vânzări în contextul epidemiei de Covid-19	Aquaculture farms affected by loss of sales revenue in the context of the Covid-19 epidemic	161	27

MS specific result indicators	Specific result indicator (working translation)	RI target (ex-ante) value	RI cumulative (ex-post) value
Förändrad produktionsvolym inom recirkulerande vattenbrukssystem genom startstöd	Changed production volume within recirculating aquaculture systems through start-up support	50	62
Innovaatilised tooted, protsessid	Innovative products, processes	4	2
Izstrādātas inovācijas	Developed innovations	6	2
Izveidoti konsultāciju pakalpojumi	Established consulting services	4	3
Množství vysazeného úhoře	Amount of eel planted	5 000	5 635
N° of businesses maintained		162	109
N° of jobs maintained		162	510
Number of trained people		2 400	1 846
Partnerlusvõrgustiku tegevustes osalevad ettevõtjad	Entrepreneurs participating in the activities of the partnership network	49	52
Počet rybochovných zariadení využívaných na hospodársky chov rýb	Number of fish farming facilities used for commercial fish farming	6	8
Počet udržaných pracovných miest na plný úväzok	Number of full-time jobs maintained	29	93
Production value of intensive aquaculture systems		2 152	1 322
Production volume of intensive aquaculture system		795	675
Projekte	Projects	10	2
reduction of energy consumption in aquaculture facilities incl. moving towards renewable energy		5	
Relación Privado / Público de los beneficiarios	Private / Public relationship of the beneficiaries	1	1
Tauidvaba staatuse saanud ettevõtete osakaal kogu sektori ettevõtete arvust	The share of companies with disease-free status out of the total number of companies in the sector	100	
Udržení objemu akvakulturní produkce	Maintaining the volume of aquaculture production	18 440	17 806
Zmena v počte rybníkov využívaných na hospodársky chov rýb	Change in the number of ponds used for commercial fish farming	5	
Zmena v počte rybochovných zariadení využívaných na hospodársky chov rýb	Change in the number of fish farming facilities used for commercial fish farming	29	
Zmiana odsetka podmiotów wdrażających innowacje		100	30
UP3			
Anzahl einschlägiger wissenschaftlicher Arbeiten	Number of relevant scientific papers	144	7
Festgestellte schwerwiegende Verstöße im Aquakulturbereich auf Basis der Analytik hinsichtlich Rückverfolgbarkeit	Identified serious violations in the aquaculture sector based on analytics with regard to traceability	5	
Procentní podíl proškolených kontrolorů v oblasti sledovatelnosti produktů v oblasti akvakultury	Percentage of inspectors trained in aquaculture product traceability	20	

MS specific result indicators	Specific result indicator (working translation)	RI target (ex-ante) value	RI cumulative (ex-post) value
Value of first sales of POs		415	382
Volume of first sales of POs		70	99
Volume of processed fish of domestic origin		80	128
UP4			
Población total abarcada por el GALP	Total population covered by the FLAG	2 710 845	3 453 878
Proyectos de diversificación de las actividades económicas en la zona	Projects for the diversification of economic activities in the area	300	232
UP5			
Ændring i mængden af akvakulturproduktion, der er certificeret (ASC)	Change in the amount of aquaculture production certified (ASC)	15 000	
Annual value of turnover of EU-marketed production		26 600	14 020
Area of fish farms providing environmental services		1 600	399
Beschäftigte in Verarbeitung und Vermarktung	Employees in processing and marketing	290	115
Bevaret beskæftigelse	Preserved employment	30	624
Employment (FTE)		1	1
Empresas beneficiadas	Companies benefited	250	259
Empresas y otras entidades que se benefician de la operación	Companies and other entities that benefit from the operation	20 244	34 180
Erhaltene Arbeitsplätze	Employment maintained	366	613
Fish consumption		2	
Geschaffene Arbeitsplätze	Employment created	126	15
Hodnota produkcie v spracovaní produktov rybolovu a akvakultúry	Production value in the processing of fishery and aquaculture products	106	
Increase in the estimated per capita fish consumption		1	258
Lisandväärtus töötaja kohta	Value of employee	10	31
N° of businesses maintained		30	35
N° of jobs maintained		30	760
Objem produkcie v spracovaní produktov rybolovu a akvakultúry	Volume of production in the processing of fishery and aquaculture products	27	
Pro Kopf Verbrauch	Per capita consumption	8	1
Produkce zpracovaných ryb	Production of processed fish	380	672
Proyectos subvencionados	Subsidized projects	526	479
Unități de procesare afectate de pierderi de venituri din vânzări în contextul epidemiei de Covid-19	Processing units affected by loss of sales revenue in the context of the Covid-19 epidemic	6	1
Volumen de la producción compensada	Compensated production volume	265 671	240 318
Zmena v spotrebe rýb a rybích produktov na obyvateľa	Change in consumption of fish and fish products per capita	1	
Zmiana w zysku netto	Change in net profit	1 856	408

MS specific result indicators	Specific result indicator (working translation)	RI target (ex-ante) value	RI cumulative (ex-post) value
Zvejas un akvakultūras produktu apstrādes uzņēmumi, kas veikuši investīcijas	Fishery and aquaculture product processing companies that have made investments	25	31
UP6			
Development of a database on the marine environment		1	1
Kvalitatīvie raksturlielumi laba jūras vides stāvokļa noteikšanai, kuros uzlabotas zināšanas par jūras vides stāvokli	Qualitative characteristics for determining good marine environmental status in which knowledge about marine environmental status is improved	11	
Número de Km ² cartografiados de superficie marina	Number of km ² mapping of marine surface	125 000	126 339
Sprememba v pokritosti z izboljšanim statusom upravljanja/ohranjanja	Change in coverage with improved management/maintenance status	1	
Zmiana zasięgu obszarów o ulepszonym zarządzaniu	Change in coverage of areas with improved management	3 060	

Source: AIR 2021

11.8 Annex 8 EMFF Articles

EMFF Article (short name)	EMFF Article (long name)
Article 26	Article 26 Innovation (+ Article 44(3) Inland fishing)
Article 27	Article 27 Advisory services (+ Article 44(3) Inland fishing)
Article 28	Article 28 Partnerships between fishermen and scientists (+ Article 44(3) Inland fishing)
Article 29(1)(2)	Article 29(1) + 29.2 Promoting human capital and social dialogue – training, networking, social dialogue; support to spouses and life partners (+ Article 44(1)(a) Inland fishing)
Article 29(3)	Article 29(3) Promoting human capital and social dialogue – trainees on board of SSCF vessels/social dialogue (+ Article 44(1)(a) Inland fishing)
Article 30	Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ Article 44(4) Inland fishing)
Article 31	Article 31 Start-up support for young fishermen (+ Article 44(2) Inland fishing)
Article 32	Article 32 Health and safety (+ Article 44(1)(b) Inland fishing)
Article 33	Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities
Article 34	Article 34 Permanent cessation of fishing activities
Article 35	Article 35 Mutual funds for adverse climatic events and environmental incidents
Article 36	Article 36 Support to systems of allocation of fishing opportunities
Article 37	Article 37 Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures
Article 38	Article 38 Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species (+ Article 44(1)(c) Inland fishing)
Article 39	Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ Article 44(1)(c) Inland fishing)
Article 40(1)(a)	Article 40(1)(a) Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter
Article 40(1)(b-g,i)	Article 40(1)(b)-g, i Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – contribution to a better management or conservation, construction, installation or modernisation of static or movable facilities, preparation of protection and management plans relate
Article 40(1)(h)	Article 40(1)(h) Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – schemes for the compensation of damage to catches caused by mammals and birds
Article 41(1)(a) to (c)	Article 41(1)(a), b, c Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – on board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ Article 44(1)(d) Inland fishing)
Article 41(2) and Article 44(1)(d)	Article 41(2) Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ Article 44(1)(d) Inland fishing)
Article 42	Article 42 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ Article 44(1)(e) Inland fishing)
Article 43(1) and (3)	Article 43(1) + 3 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments improving fishing port and auctions halls infrastructure or landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters to improve safety of fishermen (+ Article 44(1)(f) Inland fishing)
Article 43(2)	Article 43(2) Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches
Article 47	Article 47 Innovation
Article 48(1)(a-d,f-h)	Article 48(1)(a-d,f-h) Productive investments in aquaculture
Article 48(1)(e,i,j)	Article 48(1)(e,i,j) Productive investments in aquaculture – resource efficiency, reducing usage of water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use

EMFF Article (short name)	EMFF Article (long name)
Article 48(1)(k)	Article 48(1)(k) Productive investments in aquaculture – increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy
Article 49	Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms
Article 50	Article 50 Promoting human capital and networking
Article 51	Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites
Article 52	Article 52 Encouraging new sustainable aquaculture farmers
Article 53	Article 53 Conversion to eco-management and audit schemes and organic aquaculture
Article 54	Article 54 Aquaculture providing environmental services
Article 55	Article 55 Public health measures
Article 56	Article 56 Animal health and welfare measures
Article 57	Article 57 Aquaculture stock insurance
Article 62(1)(a)	Article 62(1)(a) Preparatory support
Article 63	Article 63 Implementation of local development strategies
Article 64	Article 64 Cooperation activities
Article 66	Article 66 Production and marketing plans
Article 67	Article 67 Storage aid
Article 68	Article 68 Marketing measures
Article 69	Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products
Article 70	Article 70 Compensation regime
Article 76	Article 76 Control and enforcement
Article 77	Article 77 Data collection
Article 78	Article 78 Technical assistance, MS initiative
Article 80(1)(a)	Article 80(1)(a) Integrating Maritime Surveillance
Article 80(1)(b)	Article 80(1)(b) Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources
Article 80(1)(c)	Article 80(1)(c) Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment