

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Hungary

Hungary – overview

Coast, lakes and ports

Hungary is a landlocked country with a long tradition of fish farming. Lake Balaton is the largest lake in central Europe; the two main waterways, the Danube and Tisza rivers, define the country's geography. Fish are produced mainly in ponds (24 000 ha) but also in flow-through systems and recirculation systems.

Potential

Hungary's aquaculture sector has several strengths:

- pond aquaculture is based on professional experience spanning centuries;
- extensive fish production guarantees a high level of food safety to customers;
- rich geothermal resources allow for reduction in energy demand;
- exotic species with high export potential are produced in recirculation systems.



Economic performance and employment

The aquaculture and processing sectors account for 0.03 % of the gross domestic product (GDP). These sectors provide work for approximately 1 500 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees.

Hungary's freshwater aquaculture production amounts to 22 000 tonnes per year, of which 15 000 tonnes are fish for human consumption, representing €29 million in value.

The processing sector provides around 5 300 tonnes of high-quality processed freshwater and marine fish.

Hungary's Operational Programme



Budget

Total (EU + national):
€51 826 896

EU contribution:
€39 096 293
(0.68% of the total EMFF)

The Operational Programme (OP) covers four of the six 'Union Priorities' defined in the EMFF, namely:

1. promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based **fisheries**;
2. fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based **aquaculture**;
3. implementation of the **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**;
4. increasing **employment and territorial cohesion** (this priority is not covered by the OP);
5. fostering **marketing and processing**;
6. implementation of the **Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)** (this priority is not covered by the OP).



1. Fisheries

What?

With the future discontinuation of commercial fishing, attention must be focused on the restoration of natural stocks, the rehabilitation of natural habitats and the development of integrated floodplain management.

OP aim

Restoration of biodiversity, by promoting the development, creation and restoration of spawning habitats.

Ensuring the migration routes of migratory fish species.

Rehabilitation of natural waters, through activities aimed at suppressing of invasive alien species.

Extending support for good fisheries management of natural waters.

Key result

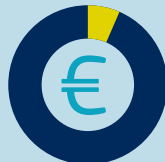
Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.

Budget

EMFF: €2 540 519

National contribution: €846 840

(6.5 % of the OP allocation)



2. Aquaculture



What?

Fish pond aquaculture is the predominant production method, accounting for 85 % of national fish production, both in volume and value. It also serves significant non-production functions such as water management, preservation of biodiversity, flood control, landscaping and recreational fishing. Due to its geothermal potential, Hungary can produce fish safely and cost-efficiently throughout the year.

There are some 390 registered fish farms, the majority of which are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Most of the fish farms have diversified their activities beyond aquaculture.

The main farmed fish is carp (67 %), followed by North African catfish (14 %) and silver carp (9 %).

OP aim

Improving the competitiveness of traditional pond farming, while preserving or increasing biodiversity.

Developing aquaculture based on recirculation systems, by applying innovative intensive technologies.

Promoting aquaculture diversification and production of new species.

Encouraging first-time aquaculture farmers to practise sustainable aquaculture.

Improving the sustainability of aquaculture, by using alternative energy sources and reducing the environmental load.

Key result

A 25 % increase in volume of total aquaculture production, including the growth of intensive aquaculture.

Production growth of recirculation aquaculture systems by 90 % in volume and by 170 % in value.

Develop technical, scientific and organisational knowledge in the fish production sector, which places new or significantly improved products on the market, provides efficient use of resources and reduces environmental impact.

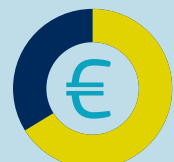
Preserving and improving nature and biodiversity, as well as protecting landscape elements, by supporting traditional aquaculture providing environmental services.

Budget

EMFF: €25 768 125

National contribution: €8 589 375

(66.3 % of the OP allocation)

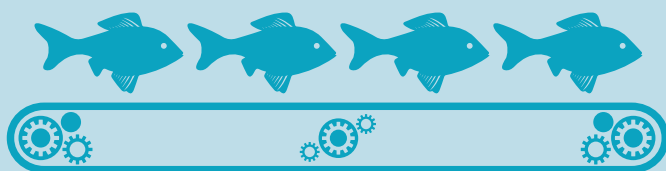


3. Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)



What?

Hungary currently provides data on aquaculture production in line with EU regulations on statistics. Following revision of the Data Collection Framework (Regulation (EC) No 665/2008), land-locked countries will also be obliged to collect data on aquaculture and processing. To ensure control and enforcement, the country will focus on implementing traceability measures for fishery and aquaculture products, resulting in updated information technology and improved labelling of aquaculture products.



OP aim

The EMFF funding will contribute to:

- improving and supplying scientific knowledge;
- collecting and managing data;
- providing support for monitoring, control and enforcement.

Key result

The collection of data is to:

- improve the availability and quality of data;
- identify sectoral problems in a timely manner, and facilitate solutions.

The control and enforcement obligations are to:

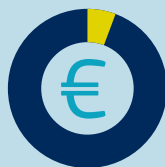
- ensure the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources;
- ensure that fisheries products can be traced back and checked throughout the supply chain.

Budget

EMFF: €2 451 293

National contribution: €515 602

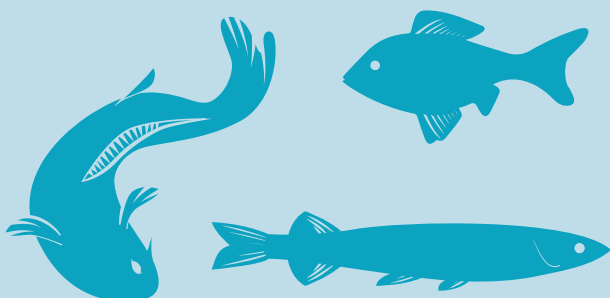
(5.7 % of the OP allocation)



4. Community-led local development (CLLD) strategies



CLLD is not included in the Hungarian OP.



5. Marketing and processing



What?

The operating licence for fish processing has been provided to 23 companies, the majority of which are medium-sized enterprises. Nearly half of the processed fish are derived from freshwater aquaculture.

Hungary has one of the lowest fish consumption ratios per capita in the EU. Targeted marketing and availability of ready-to-cook products from aquaculture can contribute to the popularisation of fish, and increase its consumption.

OP aim

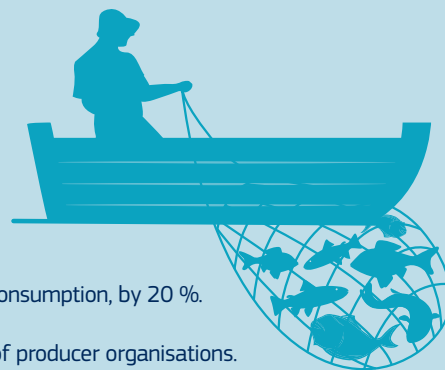
Assistance in finding new markets and improving conditions for market placement of (new) species with good market potential, fisheries and aquaculture products produced by low-impact methods or organic aquaculture.

Conducting national communication and promotional campaigns to raise public awareness of sustainable fishery and aquaculture products.

Supporting the establishment of producer organisations, associations of producer organisations or inter-branch organisations.

Supporting activities leading to new or improved products, or new or improved processing technologies.

Promoting the production of ready-to-cook, boneless, processed fish products with high added value.



Key result

Increased fish consumption, by 20 %.

Establishment of producer organisations.

Raised consumer awareness of the advantages of sustainable and locally farmed fish.

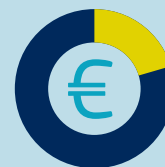
Introduction of new ready-to-cook processed fish products with high value added.

Budget

EMFF: €7 984 490

National contribution: €2 661 497

(20.5% of the OP allocation)



6. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)



The IMP is not included in the Hungarian OP.



Success stories

Pond-wetland ecosystem

Pond-wetland ecosystem: new environmentally-friendly mechanical wastewater treatment system on intensive aquaculture farm.

Total cost of the project: €136 287
EFF contribution: €102 215

Asian sea bass/barramundi

Development of an eco-friendly and cost-efficient recirculation system equipped with high-tech features for farming of Asian sea bass. Construction of a new fish farm with rearing and breeding pools.

Total cost of the project: €338 026
EFF contribution: €253 519

African catfish

New hatchery, feed store facilities and modernised processing plants that contributed to increased production of African catfish.

Total cost of the project: €189 075
EFF contribution: €141 806

"SELFISH" brand trout

Development of new packaging equipment and new product brand 'SELFISH' that won an international award for the most innovative product of year 2012 as well as several national awards. Increased competitiveness of the company on the market.

Total cost of the project: €47 696
EFF contribution: €23 848

More information

• [European Commission Fisheries](#)

• [National website](#)

• [European Maritime and Fisheries Fund](#)

• [Aquaculture multiannual national plan](#)