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List of Acronyms

AIR	Annual Implementation Report
CPR	Common Provision Regulation
DG MARE	Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
COM	European Commission
EU	European Union
MA	Managing Authority
MS	Member State
OP	Operational Programme
TO	Thematic Objective
UP	Union Priority

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

FAME (Fisheries and Aquaculture Monitoring and Evaluation) is a support unit to the European Commission, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE).

Through its network of experts, FAME provides support to the Commission and to the Member States for the monitoring and evaluation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

FAME produces background and working papers on EMFF topics, as well as reports and stories illustrating the use of the EMFF. FAME also provides hands-on support for the monitoring and evaluation community of the EMFF.

This includes the provision of support for drafting the annual implementation reports (AIRs). According to Article 50 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (CPR) each Member State (MS) has to submit an AIR every year between 2016 and 2023.

The AIR includes “key information on implementation of the programme and its priorities by reference to the financial data, common and programme-specific indicators and quantified target values, including changes in the value of result indicators where appropriate, and the milestones defined in the performance framework” (CPR Article 50).

The structure of the AIR of the EMFF is predefined in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1362/2014 in Annex “Model for the AIR of the EMFF”. It is divided into three parts:

- Part A includes the main parts of the AIR to be reported every year between 2016 and 2023,
- Part B includes only those aspects of the report only to be submitted in 2017 and 2019,
- Part C is relevant only to the AIR 2018 (submitted in 2019).

The AIR 2018 is the first and only report to include Part C. It consists of the following headings:

- Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) (AIR Section 14);
- Issues affecting the operational programme (OP) performance framework (Article 50(2) of CPR) (AIR Section 15).

FAME has already developed working papers on Part A (April 2018) and Part B (April 2017), which are available through the DG MARE website and the internal SharePoint. FAME has also developed a working paper on the EMFF performance framework (June 2018).

1.2 Purpose and target groups

The aims of this working paper are to:

- provide support to Managing Authorities (MAs) when completing the AIR 2018 Part C;
- ensure consistency and quality of the AIR 2018 Part C inputs of the MAs;
- support DG MARE geographic policy officers in the AIR acceptance process.

1.3 How to use this working paper

This working paper is structured along the two sections of the AIR 2018 Part C model. The information provided should comply with the AIR Part A.

For each section the working paper indicates the necessary information. The suggestions help streamline reporting by MSs and should enable a certain aggregation of AIR 2018 Part C content. This should facilitate understanding of the EMFF's contribution towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, as well demonstrating issues affecting the OP performance framework.

The working paper is not legally binding. Its use, however, is strongly recommended for the sake of consistency and comparability.

If you have specific questions please send them to the FAME Support Unit (FAME@fame-emff.eu).

2 Part C— reporting guidelines

2.1 Assessment of the implementation of the Operational Programme (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) – Part C Section 14

EC 1362/2014 Annex AIR template Part C Section 14: “Information and assessment should be provided on the OP’s contribution to achieving the objectives of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.”

Box 1: AIR 2018, Part C, Section 14 (<13.1 type=“S” maxlength=“17500” input=“M”>)

In this section MSs should provide information and assessment regarding the OP’s contribution to achieving the objectives of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (EUROPE 2020 A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth /* COM/2010/2020 final */) is based on three mutually reinforcing priorities:

- Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation. Among other things, this requires improving the quality of education, strengthening research performance, promoting innovation and knowledge transfer throughout the Union, making full use of information and communication technologies, and ensuring that innovative ideas can be turned into new products and services that create growth and quality jobs, and help address European and global societal challenges.
- Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource-efficient, greener and more competitive economy. In particular, it means developing new processes and technologies, including green technologies, to reinforce the competitive advantages of businesses, particularly within SMEs, and assist consumers to value resource efficiency. Such an approach will help the EU to prosper in a low-carbon, resource-constrained world while preventing environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and unsustainable use of resources. It will also underpin economic, social and territorial cohesion.
- Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. Inclusive growth means empowering people through high levels of employment, investing in skills, fighting poverty and modernizing labour markets, training and social protection systems. It is also essential for strengthening territorial cohesion. It is about ensuring access and opportunities for all throughout the lifecycle.

Based on the EMFF Regulation, the linkage between Europe 2020 and EMFF thematic objectives as indicated in Annex I, and the description of the Union strategy pillars, FAME has assessed the extent to which each EMFF measure contributes to the Union strategy pillars. As a result, all measures can be divided into two groups: those that have a direct impact on Union strategy, and those with only an indirect influence.

Consequently, Articles 26, 28, 31, 47 and 52 are considered having a direct impact on the smart growth pillar. Articles 27, 30, 32, 33, 35, 40.1.h, 42, 43.1 + 3, 48.1.a-d, f-h, 49, 55, 56,

57 66, 67, 68, 69 and 70 tend to have only indirect influence.

All EMFF measures contributing to Thematic Objective (TO) 4 and TO6 should be considered as having direct impact on the pillar of sustainable growth. Similarly, all EMFF measures attributed to TO8 are considered to have a direct impact on the Union strategy of inclusive growth.

MSs should provide information on the OP's contribution to each pillar of Union strategy:

- number of operations;
- EMFF funding allocated,
- EMFF funding committed
- EMFF funding paid;
- any other specific features of the operations that need to be accentuated.

As a minimum, data on the measures with direct impact should be taken into account in the case of the smart growth pillar. Optionally, a separate dataset for measures with indirect impact could also be presented. A differentiation between TO4 and TO6 for measures contributing to the sustainable growth pillar is also recommended.

2.2 Assessment of the implementation of the Operational Programme (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) – Part C Section 14

EC 1362/2014 Annex AIR template Part C Section 15: “Issues affecting the performance of the programme-performance framework (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)”

Box 2: AIR 2018, Part C, Section 15 (<14.1 type=“S” maxlength=“7000” input=“M”>)

In this section MSs should include the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework. For the sake of consistency MSs are advised to follow the FAME working paper on the EMFF performance framework provided in June 2018.

If applicable, MSs should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve milestones and targets. To allow for aggregation of information, MSs are advised to streamline the choice of reasons for underperformance to the following list:

- Demand-driven issues, for example:
 - Lack of interest by potential beneficiaries towards certain measures
 - Saturation with EFF funding at the beginning of the EMFF implementation
- Supply-driven issues, for example:
 - Late or seasonally unfavourable launch of calls for proposals
 - Complicated administrative procedures (at EU level / at MS level)
- Context-driven issues, for example:
 - Significant change of social, environmental or economic issues
 - Change of legal environment.

MSs could also describe the measures taken to assure sufficient timely absorption of the

planned allocated resources and to meet the milestones and targets of output and financial indicators. Where applicable, MSs could note the intended re-allocation of performance reserve from UPs where the milestones are not achieved.

Please avoid repeating information already provided in AIR Section 4.2 - Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the corrective measures taken.

Annex 1.

Table 1: Link between Europe 2020 and EMFF thematic objectives

Europe 2020	Europe 2020 Targets	Thematic objectives relevant to EMFF	EC 508/2014 Articles * ¹	UP
Smart Growth	Research and development (R&D): 3 % of the EU's GDP to be invested in R&D	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, 52, 55, 56, 57	2
			66, 67, 68, 69, 70	5
Sustainable Growth	Climate change and energy: greenhouse gas emissions 20 % lower than 1990 levels 20 % of energy from renewables 20 % increase in energy efficiency	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, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40.1.a, 43.2, 40.1.b-g, i,	1
			48.1.e, i, j, 51, 53, 54	2
			77, 76	3
			80.1	6
	Inclusive Growth	Employment: 75 % of people aged 20–64 to be in work	TO8: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	29.1a + 29.1.b, 29.2, 29.3
50				2
62.1.a, 63, 64				4

**Articles in bold are considered to have a direct impact on Europe 2020 strategy pillars.*

¹ including Art. 44.4 Inland fishing