

## HOW TO EXPLORE SYNERGIES AND COMBINE FUNDS IN THE 2014-2020 PERIOD

The EMFF is one of the five European Structural and Investment funds which all complement each other and seek to prioritise a growth and job based recovery in Europe. The aim for this new programming period is to maximise synergies between the funds in order to improve coordination and efficiency and to avoid double funding.

Coordination with other EU financing instruments is also possible

Combining different ESI Funds or the ESI Funds with other EU (typically directly managed) financing instruments ensure more impact on competitiveness, jobs and growth in the EU as a whole as well as in the Member States and regions.

Synergies can be achieved:

- By bringing together financial resources from different EU funds in the same project
- Through successive projects that build on each other or
- Through parallel projects that complement each other.

### 1. COMPLEMENTARITY AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE EMFF AND THE OTHER EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS (ESIF)

When preparing *Operational Programmes (OP)*, the Member States should consider projects that can be funded under different EU programmes.

- *Community-led local development (CLLD)*: Since 2007, Priority Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) has provided support for the sustainable development of fisheries areas. Actions undertaken by the Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) build on strengths and opportunities of each fisheries area; help exploit new markets and products; and incorporate the knowledge, energy and resources of local actors from all sectors. CLLD projects are area-based and can be financed by the different ESI Funds; they offers good opportunities for building linkages between urban, rural and fisheries areas.
- *Integrated territorial investment (ITI)*: ITI is a new tool to implement territorial strategies in an integrated way (planned with a top-down approach). ITI allows Member States to implement Operational Programmes in a cross-cutting way and to draw on funding from different sources to ensure the implementation of an integrated strategy for a specific territory. As an example, an ITI could be implemented in a coastal region and include investments in renewable off-shore energy (ERDF) and sustainable tourism (ERDF) while training/skills updating is provided through the ESF. Within the Integrated Maritime Policy, some Member States and regions might propose the use of ITIs to implement maritime strategies through the combination of several ESI Funds .
- *European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)* and its transnational strand in particular, allows for the implementation of cross-sectoral initiatives at territorial level, for example a sea-basin. An example is the network of centres of excellence for maritime training within the Baltic Sea Region.

Example of project funded through different ESI funds:

Implementation of a local development programme around a port, including investments in infrastructure linked to landing all catches, traceability and safe working conditions (EMFF), tourism (ERDF and EMFF) investments to ensure access to public services (health, education) in the area and vocational training, including for fishermen (ESF)

## 2. COMPLEMENTARITY AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE ESI FUNDS AND OTHER EU FINANCING INSTRUMENTS

- ***LIFE*** is the EU's financial instrument in support of the environment and of nature conservation projects throughout the EU. The 'Environment' strand of the new programme covers three priority areas: environment and resource efficiency; nature and biodiversity; and environmental governance and information. The 'Climate Action' strand covers climate change mitigation; climate change adaptation; and climate governance and information. The programme also includes a new category of projects, "integrated projects", which can be funded through different financing instruments. These projects aim to better integrate environmental policies into other policy areas.
- ***Horizon 2020*** supports the implementation of the Innovation Union, aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. Running from 2014 to 2020 with a EUR 70.2 billion budget (in constant prices), this programme is part of the drive to create new growth and jobs in Europe. Horizon 2020 will focus on industrial leadership, maximising the competitiveness impact of research and innovation and raising and spreading levels of excellence in R&I. Horizon 2020 includes maritime research priorities and covers the launch of blue growth calls as from 2014.
- The new Programme for the ***Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME)*** will run from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of EUR 2.3 billion, of which 60% shall support instruments on financial markets via the EIB/EIF and 350 million shall support the operations of the Enterprise Europe Network in all regions. It is focused on projects strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of the Union's enterprises, particularly SMEs and encouraging, entrepreneurial culture and promoting the creation and growth of SMEs.
- ***Erasmus+*** is the EU's new programme for education, training, youth and sport with a budget of around EUR 14.5 billion. It will support learning opportunities for individuals, cooperation between educational institutions, youth organisations, businesses, local and regional authorities and NGOs, to encourage the development and implementation of innovative practices in education, training and youth activities and to promote employability, creativity and entrepreneurship. A specific feature under the Erasmus+ programme is the Sector Skills Alliances (SSA). SSAs structure a dialogue between industrial sectors and bodies involved in designing, accrediting, implementing and evaluating education and training systems and could help in bridging the gap between education/training and the demand of the labour market.
- ***Connecting Europe Facility*** (CEF) shall enable the preparation and implementation of projects of common interest within the framework of the trans-European networks (TEN) in the sectors of energy, transport and telecommunications. In particular the Connecting Europe Facility shall support the implementation of projects aiming at the

development and construction of new or upgrading of existing infrastructure in the field of transport, energy and telecommunications.

- Other funding sources such as loans from the *European Investment Bank* could provide a significant contribution to the implementation of EU policies by supporting both public and private sector investments.

### 3. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Commission provides information on how to access the ESI Funds, and on how to exploit complementarities with other EU financing instruments. The following guidance documents are available:

- "Guidance for beneficiaries": an overview of the available instruments at EU level with sources of information, examples of good practice, a description of relevant authorities and bodies involved in the management of each instrument, and a checklist for potential beneficiaries to help them identify the most appropriate funding sources. (by DG REGIO, in cooperation with EMPL, AGRI and MARE).

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/guides/synergy/synergies\\_beneficiaries.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/synergy/synergies_beneficiaries.pdf)

- "Guidance for applicants on LIFE programme": a guidance to help applicants prepare the content of the project proposal including information about the administrative process, general recommendations and details about the priority actions and projects co-funded by LIFE (by DG ENV).

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2014/index.htm>

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