

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Lithuania

Lithuania – overview

Coast and ports

Lithuania has a coastal length of 90.6 km (less than 1 % of the EU's total coastline). This extends to 262 km when taking into account the Curonian Lagoon coastline. The Port of Klaipėda is the only multipurpose, deep-water port in Lithuania. Fishing vessels also use small ports like Nida and Šventoji. Lithuanian inland waters have much unexploited potential — their total area is 2 621 km² (4 % of the Lithuanian territory). There are 2 827 lakes with an expanse greater than 0.5 ha (87 359 ha), 1 589 ponds (24 434 ha) and 733 rivers longer than 10 km (32 601 ha).

Potential

The Lithuanian fishing catch comprises mainly round Sardinella, horse mackerel, sardine and Atlantic cod. Pond carp is the main aquaculture species (over 90 %), but several other species are being developed, often aided by closed water recirculation systems.

The processing sector is relatively large and export driven: its markets include both EU and non-EU countries, while it relies on imported raw material.



Economic performance and employment

Sea-related activities account for 2.6 % of the national gross domestic product (GDP). Shipping, coastal tourism and ship-building are the most important sectors in the maritime economy.

The fisheries and aquaculture sector (originating mostly from processing activities) makes up less than 0.5 % of Lithuania's GDP. It employs 4 458 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers: 491 in fisheries, 431 in aquaculture and 3 536 in processing. All three subsectors are profitable.

Lithuania's Operational Programme









Budget

Total (EU + national):
€81 608 150

EU contribution:
€63 432 222

The Operational Programme (OP) covers 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.  fostering the implementation of the **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**;
4.  increasing **employment and territorial cohesion**;
5.  fostering **marketing and processing**;
6.  fostering the implementation of the **Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)**.



1. Fisheries

What?

The Lithuanian fleet is highly diversified, with a broad range of vessel types targeting different species and fishing regions.

It consists of 142 registered vessels, which can be divided into 3 segments:

- small-scale: operating in the Baltic Sea coastal area;
- large-scale: operating in the Baltic Sea;
- long-distance fleet: the largest in terms of capacity and economic size by far, despite containing only five active vessels.

The latter segment operates in areas approved by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF). Less than half of the total numbers of vessels are active, and the average vessel age is 32. Lithuania's fleet has been reduced significantly in the past decade, and all fleet segments are reasonably or highly profitable.

OP aim

- The profitability of fishing activities and expansion into value-adding operations, through the uptake of innovative methods and technologies for the direct processing, marketing and sale of catches.
- The deployment of more selective and smart fishing gear, and ensuring that a balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities is promoted.

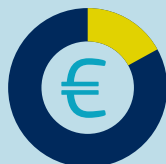
Key result

An environmentally sustainable and profitable fisheries sector, achieved by enhancing the competitiveness of fisheries businesses and reducing the impact of fisheries on the marine environment.

Budget

EMFF: €10 403 595

National contribution: €3 473 148
(17 % of the total OP allocation)



2. Aquaculture

What?

Comprising 40 enterprises, the Lithuanian aquaculture sector produces around 3 600 tonnes of fish, with a value of EUR 7.6 million. Most of the fish are produced in ponds, and about half hold organic certification. Production in recirculation systems is growing. There is no marine aquaculture in Lithuania.

Carp is the main species, representing over 90 % in weight and 80 % in value of total production. Other important fish species include sturgeon, rainbow trout, northern pike, and African catfish. Most fish produced from aquaculture are consumed within the country, and the main export markets are Poland and Latvia.

OP aim

- Increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy use in pond aquaculture and closed recirculation systems.
- Developing the aquaculture of species that can open new markets and fetch higher prices.
- Preserving traditional extensive aquaculture and organic production while delivering aquatic-environmental services.

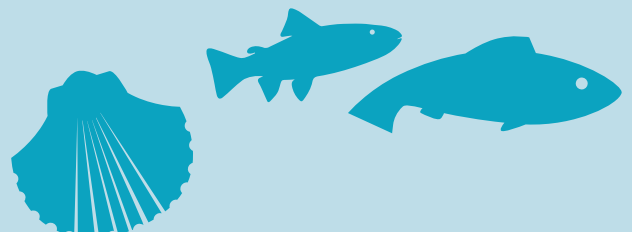
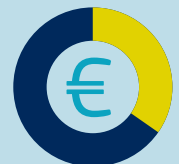
Key result

Thriving aquaculture enterprises, thanks to the creation of more added value and enhanced environmental protection.

Budget

EMFF: €21 219 022

National contribution: €7 073 008
(34.7 % of the total OP allocation)



3. Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)



What?

Responsible and long-term sustainable management of fisheries calls for decisions based on sound scientific data, and therefore data collection and control are critical aspects of the CFP. The main body responsible for implementing the control, inspection and enforcement system is the Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, which is also responsible for the collection of biological data under the Data Collection Framework. The Centre for Agriculture Information and Rural Business is responsible for the collection of social and economic data. The data collection coordinator works under the Ministry of Agriculture.

OP aim

The CFP sets out rules for managing European fishing fleets and conserving fish stocks. Lithuania implements these by improving and supplying scientific knowledge, collecting and managing data, and providing support, monitoring, control and enforcement.

Key result

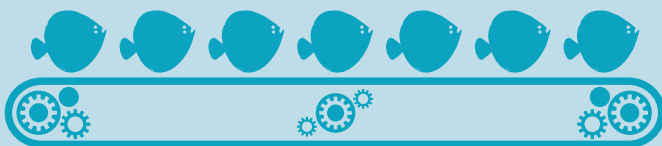
Part of the EMFF funding is earmarked to support the collection, management and use of data, as well as the implementation of the control, inspection and enforcement system, as required by the CFP.

Budget

EMFF: €7 440 117

National contribution: €1 234 652

(10,63 % of the total OP allocation)



4. Community-led local development (CLLD) strategies



What?

Even more than in the past, this effort involves communities significantly dependent on fisheries and aquaculture activities; synergies and cooperation with rural action groups will also be enhanced.

OP aim

The focus will be on strengthening and diversifying local economic activities, promoting social inclusion, and preserving natural and cultural heritage.

Key result

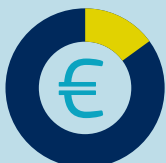
The creation and preservation of jobs for local communities, with value-adding initiatives and diversification of economic activities.

Budget

EMFF: €10 395 562

National contribution: €1 834 511

(15 % of the total OP allocation)



5. Marketing and processing



What?

Most economic operators are covered by the three producers' organisations which account for over 90 % of the sector's production value.

The processing subsector is the most important in terms of economic size and employment; it is competing successfully at international level, and relies significantly on imports of raw materials.

OP aim

- Providing support for production and marketing plans drafted by the producers' organisations as well as marketing research and publicity campaigns.
- Enhancing productivity, energy savings, safety, hygiene, health and working conditions in the processing industry, and encouraging its use of local fisheries and aquaculture products.

Key result

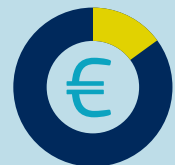
- Improved market organisation, and increased profitability and sustainability of the entire market chain.
- Reduced dependency on imported raw materials.

Budget

EMFF: €9 301 560

National contribution: €3 003 153

(15 % of the total OP allocation)



6. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)



What?

The IMP seeks to provide a more coherent approach to resolving maritime issues, with increased coordination between different policy areas. The Baltic Sea has a unique ecosystem which is determined by its specific geographical and hydro-morphological conditions.

OP aim

EMFF funding will help Lithuania develop and implement the programme of measures under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC), will contribute to the conservation of the marine environment and will prevent its deterioration.

Key result

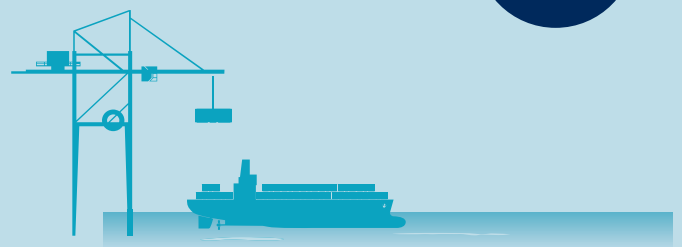
Preservation of the Baltic Sea's sound environmental status.

Budget

EMFF: €1 000 000

National contribution: €333 334

(1.6 % of the total OP allocation)





Simplification

Simplified costs, increased digitalisation and the use of data from other institutions' databases will reduce the administrative burden for beneficiaries. Very small projects will undergo a shortened procedure.

Synergies

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the EMFF will join forces to implement integrated bisectorial CLLD strategies in some parts of Lithuania.

A share of EMFF can be used to contribute to financial instruments jointly set up and administered with the EAFRD.

Success stories

Modernisation of fishing vessel

New on-board refrigeration system and thermic isolation to preserve the quality of the catches

Total project value: €21 378.15
EFF contribution: €6 413.49
National budget: €2 137.83

Fisheries and scientists cooperation

Researching best methods along the entire production chain to best preserve fisheries products

Total project value: €103 157
EFF contribution: €77 368
National budget: €25 789

Modern equipment for pond aquaculture

Heavy-duty machinery to boost productivity and competitiveness of pond aquaculture business, expanding production and creating new jobs

Total project value: €379 783.36
EFF contribution: €170 902.60
National budget: €56 967.53

Diversification of economic activities

Small-scale processing unit components. Expanding the range of activities of a local aquaculture operator to diversify production and increase its added value, securing the presence of a sustainable economic operation in the community, with positive impact on employment.

Total project value: €92 767.90
EFF contribution: €55 660.7
National budget: €18 553.64

More information

- European Commission Fisheries
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
- The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania
- Aquaculture multiannual national plan