

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Slovakia

Slovakia – overview

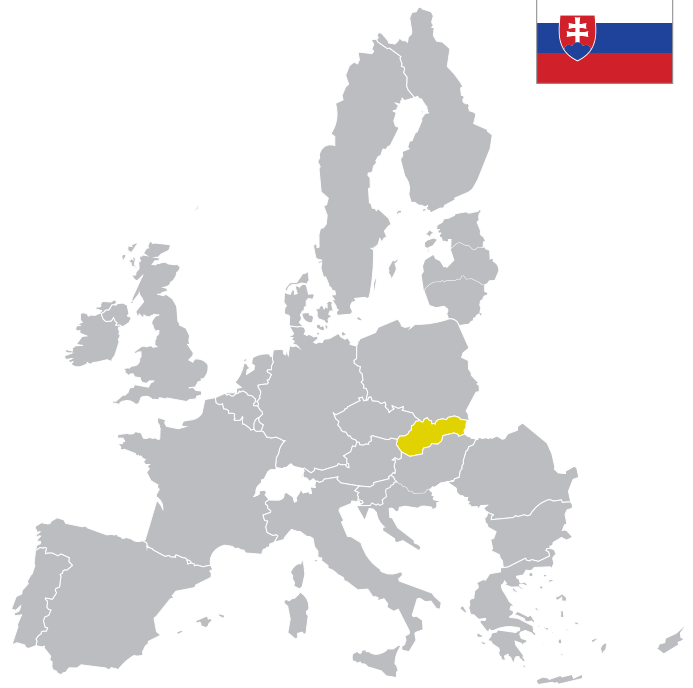
Coast, lakes and ports

Slovakia as a landlocked country has no marine fisheries or registered fleets of fishing vessels, nor any areas suitable for industrial inland fishing. However, Slovakia has a long tradition of commercial fish farming and recreational fishing.

Fish are produced in fish farming facilities (tanks, cages, nurseries, hatcheries and recirculation systems) with a capacity of 140 503 m³ and in 485 fish ponds, covering an area of about 2 000 ha.

Potential

- Favourable natural conditions for the development of aquaculture.
- High-quality breeding material (fry) solely from certified farms, used also for restocking of free waters.
- High quality of fish products, and systematic veterinary checks of fish farms and processing capacities.



Economic performance and employment

The Slovak aquaculture sector contributes 0.002 % of the gross domestic product (GDP), employing 0.00075 % of the entire Slovak workforce.

The aquaculture sector has a total of 1 032 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees: 403 are employed in aquaculture and 629 in the processing sector.

Slovak aquaculture production delivers 1 085 tonnes of freshwater fish per year, representing €3.2 million in value.

The fish processing sector produces around 320 tonnes of high-quality freshwater fish and 5 200 tonnes of seafood products every year.

Slovakia's Operational Programme









Budget

Total (EU + national):
€20 832 779

EU contribution:
€15 785 000
(0.27% of total EMFF)

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

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

1. Fisheries



Fisheries are not included in the Slovak OP.

2. Aquaculture



What?

Despite the aquaculture sector's relatively small contribution to the national economy, aquaculture has important non-production functions that are instrumental to environmental protection and enhancement. Examples are water management, flood control, landscaping, biodiversity preservation and recreational fishing.

There are some 81 Slovak aquaculture enterprises, predominantly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). A particular feature of these enterprises is that aquaculture is not their primary business activity; they engage in fish farming alongside other activities.

Aquaculture in Slovakia can be split into two groups: farming of salmonids (e.g. trout and grayling) and of lowland fish species (e.g. carp, pike, tench and catfish). Trout accounts for 70 % of both volume and value of total production, carp for 23 % of volume and 20 % of value, and other freshwater species for 7 % of volume and 10 % of value.

OP aim

Support modernisation of aquaculture farms and ponds via introduction of new technologies, improved infrastructure and environmentally friendly farming methods.

Increase aquaculture production and achieve self-sufficiency in freshwater fish production. Slovakia plans to construct new farms, acquire new equipment to protect farms from wild predators and promote sound silt removal methods.

Enhance competitiveness of the aquaculture sector. Slovakia will concentrate on diversifying aquaculture farms' sources of income by developing complementary activities such as angling tourism, environmental services related to aquaculture and direct sales.

Key result

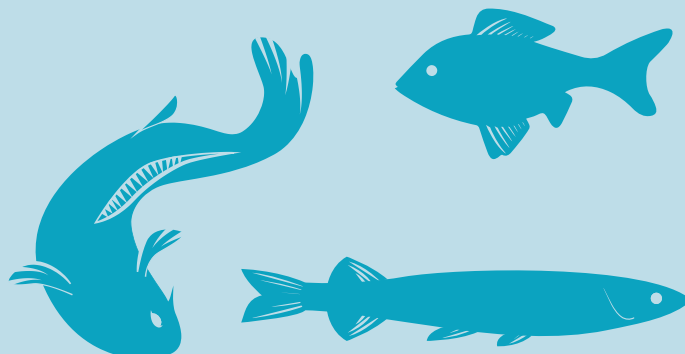
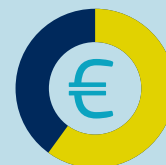
- Enhanced, more complete and viable aquaculture enterprises.
- Modernised and diversified production.
- Environmentally sustainable aquaculture.
- Increased production.

Budget

EMFF: €9 406 530

National contribution: €3 135 510

(60 % of the OP allocation)



3. Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)



What?

Slovakia currently provides data on aquaculture production in line with EU regulations on statistics. Following revision of the Data Collection Framework, landlocked countries will also be obliged to collect data on aquaculture and processing. To ensure control and enforcement, Slovakia will concentrate on implementation of the catch certification schemes and traceability of fishery and aquaculture products. This will be achieved by installing updated information technology, by training inspectors and partner organisations, through exchange programmes with other EU Member States and through development of innovative control and monitoring systems (including fish DNA analysis).

OP aim

EMFF funding will contribute to:

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



Key result

Data collection:

- improved availability and quality of data;
- identification of sectoral problems in a timely manner, facilitating solutions;
- strengthened regional cooperation and coordination.

Control and enforcement:

- ensured sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources;
- ensured product traceability at all stages of production, from catch to processing and marketing.

Budget

EMFF: €1 400 000

National contribution: €252 778

(7.9 % of the OP allocation)



4. Community-led local development (CLLD) strategies



CLLD is not included in the Slovak OP.

5. Marketing and processing



What?

There are 11 fish processing plants distributed evenly throughout Slovakia, and they are mostly medium-sized enterprises. Their capacity is higher than their production.

The larger part of production is sold through single-phase marketing, but recent years have seen a gradually increasing trend for end consumers to buy fish directly from fish farms.

Through enhanced communication with consumers, Slovakia aims to boost current low domestic consumption of fish throughout the year, and thereby also address the seasonability of fish consumption in the country.

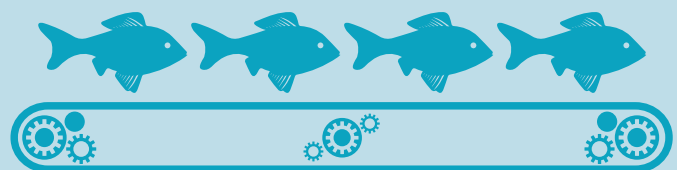
OP aim

Modernise and increase productivity of the processing sector. The planned activities will also contribute to energy savings and improved safety, hygiene, health and working conditions.

Improve market organisation, and increase profitability and sustainability of the entire market chain.

Organise targeted communication and promotional campaigns designed to raise Slovak public awareness of sustainable fishery and aquaculture products.

EMFF funding will also support marketing measures aimed at finding new markets and improving conditions for market placement of fishery and aquaculture products.



Key result

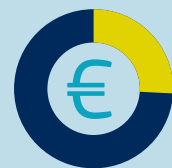
- Modernised processing sector with increased productivity.
- Improved market organisation and reinforced position of Slovak fish producers on local as well as foreign markets.
- Better promotion of aquaculture and increased fish consumption.
- Well-informed consumers, aware of the advantages of sustainable and locally farmed fish.

Budget

EMFF: €4 041 370

National contribution: €1 347 124

(25.8 % of the OP allocation)



6. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)



The IMP is not included in the Slovak OP.



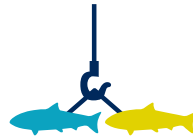
Success stories

1. New multifunction equipment for environmentally friendly pond maintenance leading to improved retention of ponds, breeding conditions and increased productivity



Total cost of the project: €211 203
EFF contribution: €95 041

2. Construction of new facilities resulting in modernisation and increased quality and capacity of freshwater fish production and processing, product diversification and bigger market share



Total cost of the project: €222 474
EFF contribution: €83 428

3. Modernisation of fish processing technology resulting in lower maintenance cost, increase of efficiency and product quality, better utilisation of by-products and waste and enhanced competitiveness of the company on market



Total cost of the project: €31 140
EFF contribution: €11 677

4. New technologies and equipment leading to increased packaging capacity, raised hygiene standards, and wider range and quality of products (high filling accuracy, hygienic repositioning of semi-processed fish products, hermetically sealed packaging and new refrigeration boxes)



Total cost of the project: €400 000
EFF contribution: €150 000

More information

- European Commission Fisheries
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Slovakia
- Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU
- Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia
- Aquaculture multiannual national plan