

Programme Summary

European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund - Programme for Bulgaria

CCI: 2021BG14MFPR001

1. Programme overview

Total allocation: 121.349.568 EUR

EU contribution: 84.944.698 EUR

National contribution: 36.404.870 EUR

BG implements all four EMFAF Priorities

Priority 1: 27.174.305 EUR (32%)

Priority 2: 34.627.372 EUR (40.8%)

Priority 3: 16.988.940 EUR (20%)

Priority 4: 1.057.400 EUR (1.2%)

Technical Assistance: 5.096.681 EUR (6%)

Priority	Specific objective	Union contribution
1. Promoting sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.1 Strengthening economically, socially and environmentally sustainable fishing activities 1.1.1 All operations except those supported under Art 17 & 19	7.766.500
1. Promoting sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.3 - Promoting the adjustment of fishing capacity to fishing opportunities in cases of permanent cessation of fishing activities and contributing to a fair standard of living in cases of temporary cessation of fishing activities	4.116.500
1. Promoting sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.4. Promoting effective control and enforcement of fisheries rules, including in the fight against IUU fishing, as well as reliable data for knowledge-based decision-making	12.741.705
1. Promoting sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.6. Contribute to the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems	2.549.600

2. Promoting sustainable aquaculture activities and the processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products, thereby contributing to food security in the Union	2.1. Promoting sustainable aquaculture activities, in particular enhancing the competitiveness of the aquaculture industry, while ensuring that activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term	24.357.372
2. Promoting sustainable aquaculture activities and the processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products, thereby contributing to food security in the Union	2.2. Promoting the marketing, quality and added value of fishery and aquaculture products and the processing of such products	10.270.000
3. Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities	3.1 Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the sustainable development of fishing and aquaculture communities	16.988.940
4. Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling seas and oceans to be safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed	4.1 Strengthening sustainable sea and ocean management through the promotion of marine knowledge, maritime surveillance or coast guard cooperation	1.057.400
5.1. Technical assistance in accordance with Article 36(4) CPR	5.1. Technical assistance in accordance with Article 36(4) CPR	5.096.681

2. Programme Summary

Bulgaria will implement all four EMFAF Priorities. The Programme is largely built on the priorities and activities supported during the EMFF period and contributes to achieving objectives of the **EU horizontal priorities** outlined in the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

Under the **Priority 1**, Bulgaria will invest in sustainable fishing activities, such as greening of fishing ports and improving their infrastructure to facilitate landing and storage of unwanted catches; investments in on-board safety equipment/working conditions; skills and capacity building of fishers; diversification of activities; investments in gear selectivity and de-carbonisation of the sector without change in gross tonnage/engines; collection of marine litter as well as permanent and temporary cessation to help achieve balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities and the extension and management of marine protected areas (MPAs), while MPAs creation remains in the remit of Ministry of Environment. The first acquisition of a fishing vessel and engine replacement will be supported as soon as segments of Bulgarian fleet become balanced. The effective control and enforcement of fisheries rules, including the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and comprehensive data collection activities will also be supported as well as the activities contributing to the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems. Innovation related to

the circular economy and green transition is foreseen and the small-scale coastal fisheries are presented as a priority.

Priority 2 covers aquaculture and processing and focuses on supporting green production and technologies as well as innovation and digitalisation of both sectors. Developing circular economy to give value to seafood waste, organic and algae production will also be supported, together with decarbonisation, diversification and compensation activities. Funding will be provided also for communication and marketing activities, including the creation of producer organisations (POs) and implementation of production and marketing plans.

Priority 3 covers development of coastal and inland areas by supporting fishery and aquaculture communities across Bulgaria. This will be done via community-led local development strategies, a bottom-up approach to policy development that encourages local people to form local action groups (LAGs) and get involved. The number of LAGs will increase from 9 to 15, thus covering the entire territory of Bulgaria. The Smart Specialisation Strategy will also be taken into account.

Priority 4 will support activities to strengthen sustainable Black Sea management by improving knowledge on the state of marine environment, including offshore renewable energy production opportunities; increasing the data quality and sharing via EMODnet; continuing in development of a joint real-time information exchange system for maritime surveillance (InBulMarS) under CISE; and promoting coastguard cooperation.

Programme's contribution to the EU horizontal priorities

Resilience: creation of POs; restructuring of fleet segments with overcapacity via permanent cessation; enhancing knowledge, skills and capacity building of workers in fisheries, aquaculture and processing; diversifying business activities and sources of income; ensuring energy efficiency, waste reduction and quality products; improving health and hygiene conditions; modernisation of fishery, aquaculture and processing facilities; diversification of products; development of short supply chains; compensations for unforeseen events.

Green transition: waste and marine litter collection (including raising awareness among public authorities and citizens); investments in waste and wastewater management (port waste management facilities); shift to low-impact fishing techniques, gears and low-carbon fuels; ensuring resource and energy efficiency of fisheries, aquaculture and processing; recirculating aquaculture systems; organic aquaculture; algae farming;

aquaculture providing environmental services to protect biodiversity and habitats in line with Natura 2000 requirements; research and innovation into low-carbon technologies; activities to improve conservation status of maritime natural habitat (analyses and studies); diversification of production to reduce dependence on a limited number of species; improving animal health and welfare practices; modernising fishing ports; partnerships with stakeholders (POs, local communities/authorities, fishers, scientists); managing and extending marine protected areas.

Digital transition: enhanced and modernised data management and fisheries monitoring technology (to improve checks of landing obligation, data management and reporting, surveillance at sea and inland waters, monitoring of SSCF); investing in digital tools for better control and monitoring (CCTVs, remote electronic monitoring systems); development of a joint real-time information exchange system for maritime surveillance (InBulMarS) under CISE; use of EMODnet; improving digital skills of workers; transfer of innovation into private investment; promoting innovation in all stages of supply chain in CLLD; support of direct sales and short supply circuits; electronic traceability; administrative digitalisation.

Added value of public investment: Financial Instruments will be used in the Specific Objectives 1.1, 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1. **SCOs** will be used for all compensations, i.e. temporary and permanent secession, collection of marine litter, preservation of biodiversity in Natura 2000 areas, damage caused by fish-eating predators and unexpected events, like Covid-19 and Ukrainian crisis.

3. Partnership Agreement (PA)

Bulgarian PA was formally submitted to the Commission on 11 May 2022 and **adopted on 6 July 2022.**

The EMFAF is directly mentioned under the PA Policy Objective 2 and 5, including clear commitments and areas of intervention that contribute to the objectives of the CFP, key EU horizontal priorities as well as the Biodiversity and Farm to Fork Strategies. The synergies and links with the MARE policies are specified under the PA Policy Objectives 1, 3 and 4 (sustainable blue economy; blue skills and careers; maritime transports, including ports; de-carbonisation; circular economy; preservation of biodiversity; EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030; cooperation with the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea; etc.).