



European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Latvia

Latvia – overview

Coast, lakes and ports

Situated in the north-east of Europe, on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea, the Republic of Latvia has a **coastline of 494 km** (accounting for 0.7% of the EU's 66 000 km coastline).

Inland waters in total cover 2 340 km² or 3.6% of Latvia's territory.

Riga, Ventspils and Liepaja are the largest ports in Latvia. Fishing vessels use also small ports like Skulte, Mersrags, Salacgriva, Pavilosta, Roja and Engure.

Potential

Latvia's fisheries sector is steeped in longstanding traditions and history.

The fishing fleet comprises 703 fishing vessels - 68 fish offshore in the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga, 7 high seas vessels and 628 small scale coastal fishing vessels.

High seas fishing takes place in the areas approved by the North-West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO), the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), and the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF).



Economic performance and employment

Maritime employment represents 5.36% of national employment.

Maritime activities, mainly shipping, represent 7.71% of national GDP - fisheries account for less than 1% of this.

The Latvian fishing fleet has been profitable since 2008. Productivity in fisheries (measured in terms of GVA/full time employee) is 86% of the EU average. Productivity in fish processing and aquaculture is also below the EU average.

Latvia's Operational Programme








Budget

Total (EU + national):
€183 639 193

EU contribution:
€139 833 742
(2.43 % of total EMFF)

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

-  Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based **fisheries**;
-  Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based **aquaculture**;
-  Implementation of the **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**;
-  Increasing **employment and territorial cohesion**;
-  Fostering **marketing and processing**;
-  Implementation of the **Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)**.



1. Fisheries

What?

During 2013, total catches amounted to 60 997 tonnes.

In the Baltic Sea, bottom set gill nets and trawls are the key gear, while fleets target herring, sprat and cod. In high seas, mackerel, horse mackerel, sardinella and redfish account for most of the catches;

OP aim:

EMFF funding will help improve infrastructure for

- fishing ports;
- landing sites;
- shelters.

By further improving the port infrastructure, EMFF is supporting Latvia's aims to improve the **quality, control and traceability** of products landed.

Latvia also plans to invest in selective and smart fishing gear and to ensure a balance between **fishing capacity and fishing opportunities**.

Key result:

Environmentally, economically and socially sustainable fisheries.

Budget:
€41.9 million
(22,8% of the OP allocation)



2. Aquaculture

What?

Land resources and the availability of inland waters provide Latvia with the perfect conditions to develop aquaculture.

In 2014, 145 farms were registered. Total production is increasing and reached 643 tonnes in 2013.

Traditional pond fish farming is the main method used, and carp account for 80% of total production in volume. Support is foreseen also for aquaculture providing environmental services.

OP aim:

EMFF funding will support the production of those aquaculture species in market demand, in particular by developing production in recirculation systems.

Key objective:

By 2023, aquaculture activities are expected to treble, contributing to food supply, environmental protection and employment.

Budget:
€46.3 million
(25,2% of the OP allocation)



3. CFP implementation

What?

Latvia's Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment (BIOR) is responsible for the scientific assessment of fish stock, and for analysing biological and fishing data on catch levels for key commercial species. It is also responsible for analysing the sector's economic situation, and for data collection.

OP aim:

The CFP sets out rules for managing European fishing fleets and conserving fish stocks. Latvia implements them by:

- improving and supplying scientific knowledge; collection and management of data;
- supporting, monitoring, control and enforcement.

Key result:

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

Budget:
€13.1 million
(7,1% of the OP allocation)

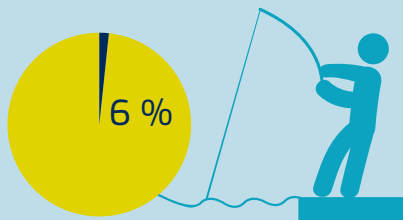


4. Community-led local development strategies



What?

The majority of fisheries activities take place in the coastal regions of the Baltic Sea and the gulf of Riga; those regions **cover 6% of Latvia's total territory**. The new approach - to only support coastal areas - will allow a substantial reduction in the number of local action groups and a more efficient concentration of the resources available.



OP aim:

EMFF funding will help increase employment and territorial cohesion in fisheries-dependent areas by:

- diversifying activities;
- promoting social well-being and cultural heritage;
- enhancing and capitalising on environmental assets.

Key result:

Helping coastal communities who depend on fisheries to diversify their economies and add value to their fishing activities.

Budget:

€15 million
(8,2% of the OP allocation)



5. Marketing and processing



What?

Latvia's fish processing industry is well developed. The sector employed more than 5 700 people, and there were 106 companies registered in 2013. Fish products and canned fish were exported to 54 countries. Total exports, including canned fish, totalled €223 million, or 2.2% of total country's exports.

Locally caught fish (sprat, herring) accounts for the majority of raw material sent for processing.

OP aim:

EMFF funding will be invested in new or improved products, processes, new technology, management systems and marketing measures for fisheries and aquaculture products.

Key result:

The processing sector will be modernised and made more competitive through the development of new products and the acquisition of new markets.



Budget:

€54 million
(29,4% of the OP allocation)



6. IMP implementation



What?

The Integrated Maritime Policy seeks to provide a more coherent approach to maritime issues, with increased coordination between different policy areas. The Baltic Sea has a very unique ecosystem, determined by its specific geographical and hydromorphological conditions.

OP aim:

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

Key result:

Preservation of the Baltic Sea's sound environmental status.

Budget:

€3.3 million
(1,8% of the OP allocation)



Simplification

The electronic submission of applications via the Electronic Application System will reduce the administrative burden for beneficiaries, as well as widening the range of services provided by Customer Service Centre and shortening the time allowed for examining payment claims submitted by beneficiaries.

Synergies

Financing from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (main fund) and the EMFF will help Latvia implement Community Led Local Development (CLLD). An initial CLLD taking in to account the interests of farmers and fishermen is planned. The running costs of the joint Local Action Groups will be financed from the EAFRD.



Success stories

Cod filleting and packaging

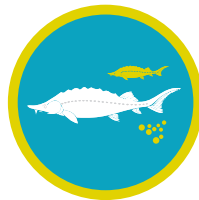


New processing facilities are generating new job opportunities.



Total cost: €1.28 million
(including EFF funding €1.14 million).

Production facility for sturgeon breeding



A modern and highly productive recirculation system for sturgeon breeding has been created using innovative technology.



Total cost: €1.3 million
(including EFF funding €0.78 million).

Development of new products and processes

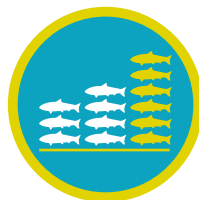


Two new canning line systems have been developed, producing a new product in unconventional packaging.



Total cost: €4.3 million
(including EFF funding €2.56 million).

Fisheries development in the Pape Lake (Community Led Local Development)



A boat equipped with two cane cutting machines was purchased. It helped to increase fish resources and develop tourism around Pape Lake.



Total cost: €13 600
(including EFF funding €12 200).

More information

- European Commission Fisheries
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
- Fisheries sector in Latvia
- Representation of the European Commission in Latvia
- Aquaculture multiannual national plan