

Programme Summary

Estonia - Programme for the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

2021-2027 - CCI 2021EE14MFPR001

1. Programme overview

Total allocation: 139 130 087 EUR

EU contribution: 97 391 060 EUR

National contribution: 41 739 027 EUR

Estonia will implement EMFAF Priorities 1, 2 and 3.

TA below is for Technical assistance.

Priority	Specific objective	Union contribution	
		Union contribution without TA	Union contribution for TA
1. Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.1.1. Strengthening economically, socially and environmentally sustainable fishing activities. All operations except those supported under Articles 17 and 19	12,197,851	731,871
1. Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.2. Increasing energy efficiency and reducing CO2 emissions through the replacement or modernisation of engines of fishing vessels	280,000	16,800
1. Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.4. Fostering efficient fisheries control and enforcement, including fighting against IUU fishing, as well as reliable data for knowledge-based decision-making	15,029,000	901,740
1. Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.6. Contributing to the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems	5,600,000	336,000
2. Fostering sustainable aquaculture activities, and processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products, thus contributing to food security in the Union	2.1. Promoting sustainable aquaculture activities, especially strengthening the competitiveness of aquaculture production, while ensuring that the activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term	9,982,000	598,920
2. Fostering sustainable aquaculture activities, and processing and marketing of fisheries and	2.2. Promoting marketing, quality and added value of fisheries and aquaculture products, as well as processing of those products	27,213,058	1,632,783

Priority	Specific objective	Union contribution	
		Union contribution without TA	Union contribution for TA
aquaculture products, thus contributing to food security in the Union			
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	21,576,450	1,294,587

2. Programme Summary

The programme aims to boost the resilience of the Estonian fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors, through promoting research, innovation and knowledge transfer, skills development and the use of modern technologies. The Estonian EMFAF programme will contribute to the EU policy priorities outlined in the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

The programme will implement EMFAF priorities 1, 2 and 3.

Priority 4 will not be included in the programme, but marine knowledge will be covered under Specific objective 1.6.

Research and innovation, resource efficiency, digitalisation and building resilience are types of actions applicable to all fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors.

The programme provides for emergency support for the seafood sector in case of significant market disruption.

Estonia will support sustainable aquaculture and processing of fisheries and aquaculture products with almost 40% of the programme budget, with a focus on innovation, investments in sustainable aquaculture, actions to increase the competitiveness of the processing sector, resource efficiency and using alternative sources of energy.

The Estonian EMFAF programme will support the development of the coastal economies and their diversification into other areas of the blue economy. This will be done through the implementation of the community-led local development (CLLD) strategies, which will support the coastal and island communities and the small-scale coastal fisheries (SSCF) in particular.

Contribution to EU horizontal priorities:

Resilience: The Estonian programme supports the resilience and recovery of fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors, by stimulating research and innovation and by promoting knowledge transfer, reducing the operating costs through investments in energy efficiency and the use of alternative energy.

The modernisation of fishing ports, improvement of working conditions and safety on board fishing vessels, the development of fisheries communities and the diversification of activities in the coastal areas will increase the resilience of the fishing sector, while structural investments will have the same effect on aquaculture and processing.

The programme addresses the need to strengthen collective crisis management capacity through support to producer organisations to anticipate and manage exceptional market disruptions.

Green transition: The Estonian programme puts significant emphasis on energy efficiency, decarbonisation, climate change mitigation and adaptation through new technologies and innovation. The circular economy and waste reduction principles established within the framework of the long-term national development strategy are taken into account in the EMFAF programme.

Estonia will support investments to reduce the ecological footprint of fishing and to increase energy efficiency of fishing vessels. Furthermore, investments will be made in fishing ports to reduce the negative environmental impact of fishing activities on ecosystems, to increase resilience to climate change and to facilitate the collection of marine litter. Developing innovative, sustainable and environmentally friendly technologies in aquaculture and processing will facilitate the transition to renewable energy sources in the production process.

As the Maritime Spatial Planning process has been completed and the coverage of Marine Protected Areas is close to the Biodiversity Strategy target, Estonia does not intend to use EMFAF for this type of actions. However, EMFAF will be used to protect and restore marine biodiversity by improving fish spawning conditions, both under Specific objectives 1.6 and 3.1. Especially the latter is important given the high EMFAF budget allocation to community-led local development initiatives.

Based on the budget allocation, the contribution to **climate change** and **environmental** objectives is significant and represents **47%** and **51%** respectively of the total EMFAF allocation, which is well above the 30% target for contribution to climate change objectives.

Support to **biodiversity** objectives amounts to **21%** of the planned budget allocation.

Digital transition: The Estonian programme aims to raise digital skills and keep the fishing sector informed of new technologies as well as to implement its digital transformation. The small-scale coastal fishers (SSCF) will receive support to develop their digital skills and to create and extend digital sales channels. Estonia will maximise the use of digital technology to reinforce its fisheries control and enforcement system, notably through digital catch reporting and traceability systems.

Added value of public investment: Estonia will continue to use financial instruments and other innovative methods to reduce the administrative burden, based on simplified cost models. Financial instruments will be available to aquaculture farms and processing enterprises for productive investments, while, as a general rule, grants will be used in case of investments with more limited economical return (i.e. investments related to environment, climate change mitigation, renewable energy or higher risk investments).

3. Partnership Agreement (PA)

The Irish Partnership Agreement was adopted on 16 September 2022.