

Programme Summary

European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) - Programme for Croatia

CCI: 2021HR14MFPR001

1. Programme overview

Total allocation: 348,124,355.00 EUR

EU contribution: 243,687,047.00 EUR

National contribution: 104,437,308.00 EUR

Croatia implements all four EMFAF Priorities

Priority 1: 113,076,661.00 EUR (46,4%)

Priority 2: 96,466,471.00 EUR (39,6%)

Priority 3: 33,242,915.00 EUR (13,6%)

Priority 4: 901,000.00 EUR (0, 4%)

Technical assistance (Art 36(5) CPR): 6% per each Specific objective/Priority.

Priority	Specific objective	Union contribution (with 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	36,243,132.00
1. Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.1.2. Strengthening economically, socially and environmentally sustainable fishing activities. Operations supported under Articles 17 and 19	806,649.00
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	403,326.00
1. Fostering 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	32,661,314.00

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	38,746,241.00
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	4,215,999.00
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	47,104,770.00
2. Fostering sustainable aquaculture activities, and processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products, thus contributing to food security in the Union	2.2. Promoting marketing, quality and added value of fisheries and aquaculture products, as well as processing of those products	49,361,701.00
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	33,242,915.00
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	901,000.00

1. Programme Summary

Croatia will implement all four EMFAF Priorities. The Programme will contribute to achieving the **EU horizontal priorities** outlined in the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

Croatia will implement all EMFAF Priorities with big range of types of actions.

Under the **Priority 1**, Croatia will invest in sustainable fishing activities, such as permanent and temporary cessation, to help achieve balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities. Croatia will also purchase fishermen' right to fish with certain gears and thus phase out types of fisheries that could be harmful for the marine environment. Croatia will also invest in fishing ports to improve reception facilities and on-board of vessels to collect waste and improve working conditions. Investments in gear

selectivity, avoidance of unwanted catches and de-carbonisation of the sector are also planned. The extension and management of marine protected areas (MPAs) and collection of marine litter to comply with environmental obligations have a prominent place in the programme. Croatia's strategy refers to promoting actions to prevent/reduce pollution and pressure on the marine environment. The first acquisition of a fishing vessel will empower a new generation of qualified young fishermen to support sustainable fishing practices. Engine replacement will be supported for the segments of Croatian fleet which are balanced. The effective control and enforcement of fisheries rules, including the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and comprehensive data collection activities will also be supported. Innovation related to circular economy and green transition are foreseen.

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 by-products and waste, promoting organic production, together with decarbonisation, diversification and compensation activities will also be supported. Funding will be provided for marketing activities, including the creation of producer organisations (POs) and implementation of their production and marketing plans. The EMFAF will build resilience towards unexpected events via aquaculture stock insurances.

Priority 3 aims at the development of fisheries dependant areas by supporting fishery and aquaculture communities across Croatia. This will be done via community-led local development (CLLD) 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 to cover areas which were not part of CLLD implementation in the 2014-2020 period. Smart Specialisation Strategies will be taken into account for the design of community-led local development strategies.

Priority 4 will contribute to promotion of the protection of marine environment and maritime surveillance, the EU Maritime Security Strategy and its Action Plan, as well as to the achievement of the objectives of the Common Information Sharing Environment. Furthermore, activities related to European cooperation on coastguard functions and the promotion of coastguard cooperation are envisaged.

Programme's contribution to the EU horizontal priorities

Resilience:

Croatia will promote the recovery of the economy while strengthening the ability to withstand and overcome future crises, in a way that is consistent with the objectives of the European Green Deal by: fostering collective organisation and establishment of POs; restructuring fleet segments with overcapacity via permanent cessation; enhancing knowledge, skills and capacity building of workers; improving working conditions; diversifying business activities and sources of income; ensuring energy efficiency, waste reduction and management; modernising fishery, aquaculture and processing facilities; diversification of products; compensations for unforeseen events; insurances schemes.

Green transition:

There is a clear support to the objectives of the European Green Deal and the EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030 by: delivering conservation measures with temporary cessation support; shift to low-impact fishing techniques and gear selectivity; phasing out of certain types of fisheries via support for gears purchase; investments in waste and wastewater management; energy efficiency, engine replacement, prevention and collection of marine litter; investments in aquaculture for increased sustainability, better utilisation of water resources and reduction of pollution; aquaculture providing environmental services to protect biodiversity and habitats in line with Natura 2000 requirements; research and innovation into low-carbon technologies; modernising fishing ports to facilitate the implementation of the landing obligation; managing and extending MPAs.

Digital transition:

The Croatian Programme taps into the potential of digital technologies and innovation to boost economic competitiveness, enhance resource efficiency and enable the green transition by i.e: innovative and sustainable fisheries management via partnerships between fishermen and scientists; better gear selectivity and avoidance of unwanted catches through innovation and digitalisation in fisheries; investing in digital tools for better control and monitoring (CCTVs, remote electronic monitoring systems); development of CISE; use of EMODnet; improving digital skills of workers; promoting innovation in private investment and in all stages of supply chain in CLLD; electronic traceability; administrative digitalisation.

Added value of public investment: Financial Instruments will be used to support fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors. **SCOs** will be used for all compensations, i.e. temporary and permanent cessations; collection of marine litter; preservation of biodiversity in Natura 2000 areas; unexpected events, like Covid-19 and Ukrainian crisis.

2. Partnership Agreement (PA)

The Croatia PA was formally submitted to the Commission on 1 July 2022 and **adopted on 24 August 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 DG 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; etc.).