

## Programme Summary

### European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund - Programme for Malta

CCI: 2021MT14MFPR001

#### 1. Programme overview

Total allocation: 31.178.987 EUR  
EU contribution: 21.825.290 EUR  
National contribution: 9.353.697 EUR

#### MT's programme prioritised support for EMFAF Priorities 1 and 2

Priority 1: 24.750.000 EUR (79.4%)  
Priority 2: 4.558.248 EUR (14.6%)  
Technical Assistance: 1.458.248 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. All operations except those supported under Articles 17 and 19	5.180.000
1. Promoting 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	140.000
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	280.000
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	6.300.000
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	5.425.000

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	2.170.000
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	1.020.773
5.1. Technical assistance in accordance with Article 36(4) CPR	5.1. Technical assistance in accordance with Article 36(4) CPR	1.309.517

## 2. Programme Summary

Malta will focus support on two EMFAF Priorities. The Programme is built on the previous periods to build on previous investments, better meet the local needs and contribute to the European Green Deal, Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies.

Under **Priority 1** the programme will invest in capacity building of the fisheries sector by improving fishers skills, knowledge and ability to innovate, while giving them access to professional advisory services. Building on past experience more accessible funding opportunities will be made available for diversification of activities and investments on-board vessels improving efficiency, gear selectivity and product quality. Investments in key fisheries ports will improve health & safety for fishers and support implementation of the landing obligation. The programme will also allow support for collective interest and pilot projects and foresees an inclusive approach to management of marine space. On Marine Protected Areas (MPA) the programme will support the implementation of MPA management and restoration measures in Malta's Natura 2000 sites, while also supporting passive marine litter collection actions. The programme will support fisheries conservation with investments in selective fishing gear, enhanced local fisheries research and temporary cessation. The decarbonisation efforts will be supported through measures for engine replacement. The programme will invest further in the digitalisation of control, enforcement and data collection to enhance these activities.

For **Priority 2** the programme will support the public sector to strengthen the knowledge, research and innovation enabling sustainable development of the sector

in line with Malta's aquaculture plan and smart specialisation strategy. The investments will also advance research and innovation initiatives, diversification and circularity. The programme will support an extended awareness and promotional campaign to widen public awareness and foster ocean literacy. Programme's contribution is 62% for climate change and 37% for biodiversity

### **Programme's contribution to the EU horizontal priorities**

**Resilience:** Capacity building efforts, actions on skills, knowledge development, innovation, advisory services on business planning/marketing, diversification, upgrading health and safety in ports, temporary cessation and enhanced research on fisheries sector. The programme introduces support for collective initiatives and pilot projects. The involvement of fishers (inc. SSCF) in management of marine space and knowledge sharing is also foreseen. The aquaculture sector's resilience will be supported through public-sector driven research and innovation actions with an Operation of strategic importance focused on species diversification.

**Green transition:** Management and restoration actions in Malta's MPAs (35% of MT waters) to achieve good environmental status. Marine litter collection scheme and possible prevention investments. On-board vessels investments to improve fishing gear selectivity, eliminate discards and bycatch linked to the landing obligation, participatory management in management of marine waters (inc. MPAs), investments with engine replacement and other energy efficiency actions supporting energy transition, enhanced local research on fisheries sector and advisory services on environmental sustainability. Aquaculture support to improve circularity and environmental performance to improve sustainability and public acceptance.

**Digital transition:** Investments in the digital transition with control and enforcement actions, including implementation of e-logbook (phasing out of paper-based logbooks), provision of reporting devices for control purposes, creation of new fisheries information system, traceability and further digitalisation efforts. Similar enhancements in data collection are foreseen to transition to paperless systems. Digital transition is supported in aquaculture where R&I enable new technologies, products or processes.

**Added value of public investment:** The use of Simplified Cost Options will build on the previous programme and possibility foreseen to expand them. An ex-ante assessment for Financial Instrument in aquaculture sector will be carried out.

Compensations for significant market distortions, such as Covid-19 outbreak and Russia's war on Ukraine, are also foreseen.

### **3. Partnership Agreement (PA)**

**The Maltese PA was formally submitted to the Commission on 26 July 2022 and adopted on 16 September 2022.**

The EMFAF is mentioned under the PA Policy Objective 2. The areas of intervention are well represented with support for SSCF, innovation and diversification in aquaculture through process/product development and on environmental performance, increased focus on protection and restoration on marine environment, enhanced conservation measures, data collection and control and enforcement, as well as action on marine litter that contribute to the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy, EU Horizontal Priorities, the Biodiversity and Farm to Fork Strategies.

The MT EMFAF Programme's synergies with other ESIF programmes, funds and Union instruments are outlined in the PA, which include complementarity with the ERDF (Smart Specialisation Strategy in areas of the blue economy), Cohesion Fund and Just Transition Fund (ports decarbonisation), ESF+ (blue skills) and Interreg Italia-Malta (upskilling, research cooperation on environment and disaster response). The complementarities are further developed in the EMFAF programme.