

Eligibility and Selection Criteria for the EMFAF Programme 2021 – 2027 actions, falling under Priority 1 SO1.4

Articles 22 and 23 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1139

Data Collection Multi-Annual Plan 2022 – 2029

Control and Enforcement Operations

Evaluation and Assessment

The Assessment and Selection of projects shall be undertaken by a Project Selection Committee. This call is envisaged to be a restricted call, issued to the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Applications will be assessed against the Eligibility and Selection Criteria by the Project Selection Committee and will proceed to be assessed against the Selection Criteria only if the application meets all the requirements of the Eligibility Criteria.

A project must achieve 50% of the marks to be considered for funding. However, the project must achieve the threshold for each of the relevant criteria in order to be considered further, even if the total points achieved exceed 50%.

The voting members shall decide how the project proposal addresses each of the below criteria and assign marking points according to the following guide:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| • Excellent | 81 to 100% of points |
| • Very good | 76 to 80% of points |
| • Satisfactory | 50 to 75% of points |
| • Very poor | 26 to 49% of points |
| • Unacceptable | 1 to 25% of points. |

Table 1: The table below delineates the eligibility and selection criteria being proposed

Eligibility Criteria Eligibility criteria are the essential criteria that all projects must meet in order to be admissible for a further qualitative assessment. Projects which do not comply with the gateway eligibility criteria will NOT proceed to full appraisal and scoring. Note: no numerical markings are involved in this section. Fulfilment of such criteria takes the form of Yes or No. Eligible projects should fulfil all criteria listed below.		Selection criteria		
Criterion	Assessment	Criterion	Marks (max)	Sub-criteria
Application Form Applicant must present an application form filled-in with relevant details ¹ and auxiliary documentation. Timely submission prior to defined deadlines defined in the call for applications.	Yes/No	The proposed project maximises the contribution to EU key priorities as expressed in the programme objectives and expected results	20	The assessment will include the following selection criteria, amongst others:
				The project improving the reliability, efficiency and effectiveness of control, enforcement and data collection and data management activities.
				The project supporting innovation and digitalisation of data collection and control and enforcement activities in line with the relevant policy framework
				The project supporting regional efforts on control, inspection and enforcement and data collection and data management ensuring the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of fisheries, as also highlighted in the <i>EC's Sea Basin Analysis (2020)</i> , the <i>Ministerial Declaration on a Regional Plan of Action</i>

¹ Relevant details are those required by the selection committee to evaluate the application and award points.

				<i>for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and the Malta MedFish4Ever Ministerial Declaration</i>
Capacity of beneficiary organisation Applicant must have adequate administrative capacity, competence and technical resources	Yes/No	Contribution of the project to the programmes types of actions, interventions and Member State Obligations and commitments	20	The assessment will include the following selection criteria, amongst others: The project addresses qualitatively and quantitatively the programme objectives and support the recovery, resilience, green transition, and digitalisation of the sector. The project delivers on the type of actions and interventions foreseen in the programme. The project contributes to the National and EU Fisheries and Aquaculture policies. The project addresses any improvements necessary in control, enforcement and data collection and data management to meet obligations under the Common Fisheries Policy as identified in reports, audits, plans and recommendations adopted by the European Commission, STECF and relevant regional bodies, such as RCG Med&Black Sea.

				For data collection activities, the project demonstrates it will implement the activities foreseen in the relevant work plan of Malta for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sector established pursuant to Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004.
Eligibility of Beneficiary Applicant is not in an exclusion situation in accordance with Art 136(1) and Art 141(1) of 2018/1046 Financial Regulation and Art 73(2)(i) of CPR <i>(if applicable)</i>	Yes/No/NA	Potential of the project to enhance innovation and partnership in the sector	5	If partners are involved, evidence of how they will contribute to the achievement of the Expected Results
				The ability of the project to mobilise complementary funding/actions to achieve the Expected Results
				Innovative solutions proposed in this project to achieve the Expected Results
Beneficiary in compliance with Common Fisheries Policy rules Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2022/2181 defines time periods and dates for the inadmissibility of applications in case of infringements and points system. The criterion is applicable where the applicant concerned is an 'economic operator' as defined in Article 2(30) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, thus a natural or legal person who operates or holds any undertaking carrying out any of the activities related to any stage of production, processing, marketing,	Yes/No/NA	Contribution towards indicators minimum beyond	10	Assessed in terms of contribution towards the programme indicators beyond the minimum required
				Adequate description of the selected indicators in the project proposal including an explanation of the method of quantification of targets and verification of their attainment ² .

² The CR12 for Data collection will be verified through the publication of the STECF evaluation of Data Collection and Data transmission according to the programme (see p.129 of the EMFAF OP)

distribution and retail chains of fisheries and aquaculture products <i>(if applicable)</i>				Relevant to Control and Enforcement The result indicators to be identified in the call for proposals: - Control means installed or improved - Actions to improve governance capacity Relevant to Data Collection and processing The result indicators to be identified in the call for proposals: - Effectiveness of the system for “collection, management and use of data” based on STECF report - Datasets and advice made available (data submissions) Assessment of whether there are any unrealistic project indicator targets which are not achievable The contribution of the proposed indicators towards achieving Programme targets as outlined in the call
Remit of beneficiary organisation Applicant organisation has remit to implement the project within its mandate	Yes/No	Readiness	5	Risk associated with the timeline of the project as proposed by the Applicant Readiness, assessed on the basis of tenders, planning and environmental permits, recruitment procedures and, discussions amongst the relevant stakeholders, mandate, amongst others,

				depending on the nature of the published call and the nature of the proposal
				Other risks
Project implemented within the eligible territory and its direct benefit Reference goes to the Republic of Malta or for its direct benefit	Yes/No	Project Sustainability and Cost-Effectiveness	15	Magnitude of post operating costs against total project costs and how the benefits will continue to be enjoyed after the project financing has actually ended
				The proposal includes a qualitative description on how the operations will respect requirements on durability under Article 65(1) of the CPR
				Extra marks given on the basis of added value, project effectiveness and also the justification of planned expenses. Co-financing necessitates obtaining the best return and added value possible on EU funds invested.
Verification of co-financing (where applicable) In cases where Government is not co-financing the project from national funds, the entity committing itself to provide co-financing (public or other organisations) must produce proof that resources for the whole duration of project are available	Yes/No	Horizontal principles - Fundamental rights, Equal opportunities, non-discrimination, and accessibility	5	Effective measures addressing Fundamental rights and compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
				Effective measures addressing gender equality
				Effective measures addressing equal opportunities for all
				Effective measures ensuring the principle of non-discrimination
				Effective measures ensuring accessibility

Proposal demonstrates the contribution to specific objectives in line with Article 14(1)(d) of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139 Contributing to the achievement of Programme objectives and targets is essential	Yes/No	Sustainable Development	10	Effective measures that contribute towards economic growth of the fisheries and/or the aquaculture sector
				Effective measures that contribute towards social cohesion of the Small Scale Fishers
				The proposal includes an adequate description on how environmental sustainability within the framework of the CFP and EU environmental legislation is permitted
Project Leader from beneficiary organisation Such officer carries monetary and legal responsibility for implementing a project on behalf of the beneficiary. The persons' direct association with the beneficiary is crucial especially with a view to ensure that the grant is exclusively used for the agreed purpose	Yes/No	Quality of application form	5	General presentation and overall coherence between different sections of the proposal
				Proposed budget is in line with the proposed activities, demonstrating sound financial management and the absence of 'Double Funding'
Status of operation Status of operation is either ongoing or not yet started, unless otherwise allowed by the Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 Article 63 (6)	Yes/No			Adequate description and purpose of each activity being proposed including a work plan/Gantt chart with regards to the implementation of these activities
				Proposal identifies communication strategies/actions showing how the use of public funds will be effectively publicised and communicated with the relevant target groups of the proposed project and the general public

Compliance with Article 11 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139 The application form must be in line with applicable criteria identified under Article 11 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139 <i>(if applicable)</i> ³	Yes/No/NA	Complementarity	5	Proposal identifies complementarity with actions and results of other EU-funded projects, including projects under relevant Horizon Europe call under the EU mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030'
Compliance with Article 13 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139 The operation/proposal does not fall under Article 13 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139	Yes/No			
Compliance with Article 22 or Article 23 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139 The operation/proposal must be in line with either Article 22 or Article 23 of the EMFAF Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139 ⁴	Yes/No			

³ Not Applicable for Data Collection and Control (Priority 1, SO 1.4)

⁴ Applicable for Control and Enforcement and Data Collection calls