

## Annex - Citizen's summary

As early as 2014, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (hereinafter referred to as the "MKGP") began its activities to prepare key documents for the absorption of funds from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in the 2014–2020 programming period. The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund is one of five European structural and investment funds under the common strategic framework defined by the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council dated 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013, laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Detailed provisions for the implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund are defined by Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, adopted by the European Parliament and of the Council on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014. European Maritime and Fisheries Fund funds are intended to fulfil the objectives of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and the Integrated Maritime Policy, based on the following goals: the promotion of sustainable and competitive fishery and aquaculture, the fostering of development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy by the EU in conjunction with cohesion policy and Common Fisheries Policy, as well as the promotion of balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries areas.

The fund supports fishermen in transitioning to sustainable fishery, supports coastal communities in diversification of their economy, as well as funds projects connected with employment and better quality of living of coastal communities.

During the preparation of the content, the Ministry actively cooperated with social partners and other interested parties. At the same time, content was prepared for the Partnership Agreement, which is the main document of the Republic of Slovenia for the absorption of European funds in the 2014–2020 programming period, containing an analysis of needs, differences and growth potential, based on which measures and expected results for the selected thematic objectives for the Operational Programme of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund for 2014–2020 (hereinafter referred to as "OP EMFF 2014–2020") have been identified. The Partnership Agreement was confirmed by the European Commission on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

At the same time, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, appointed, by means of a decision dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014, MKGP as the Managing Authority, the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Agricultural Markets and Rural Development as the Certification Authority, and the Budget Supervision Office of the Republic of Slovenia as the Auditing Authority. Each authority must also prepare a description of the management and control system as well as carry out its audit.

In August 2014, after the Operational Programme had been prepared by the working groups, a public discussion of the programme took place, followed by interdepartmental coordination between individual ministries. After the OP EMFF 2014–2020 had been introduced to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, it was also officially submitted to the European Commission on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014. In January 2015, the European Commission submitted its comments. An amended version of the Operational Programme was submitted for approval to the European Commission on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The OP EMFF 2014–2020 was confirmed by the European Commission Implementing Decision dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 C(2015) 5168, approving the Operational Programme, No. CCI 2014SI14MFOP001, and was the ninth programme to be confirmed out of altogether 28 programmes of the European Union member states.

For the implementation of the measures in the period from 2014 to 2020, the Republic of Slovenia received EUR 24,809,114.00 from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund; if budget funds of the Republic of Slovenia are added to this, there are EUR 32,647,364.00 in total available for the implementation of the measures.

Through this programme, the Republic of Slovenia will promote the carrying out of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy, the aim of which is the conservation and sustainable management of fish stocks, as well as the support of the fisheries sector in the Republic of Slovenia with the purpose of achieving competitive and sustainable development.

The programme measures follow the EUROPE 2020 strategy (smart, sustainable and inclusive growth), the selected thematic objectives of the Partnership Agreement (enhancing the competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the fishery and aquaculture sector, preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency, as well as promoting sustainable and quality employment and also labour mobility) and the following six EU priorities:

- **Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries:** Health and safety; Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures and regional cooperation; Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems along with compensation regimes in the framework of sustainable fishing activities; Added value; product quality and use of unwanted catches; and Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters;
- **Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture:** Innovations; Productive investments in aquaculture; Promotion of human capital and networking; Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites; Conversion to eco-management and audit schemes, and organic aquaculture; Aquaculture providing environmental services; and Public health actions;
- **Fostering the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy:** Data collection; and Control and enforcement;
- **Increasing the employment and territorial cohesion:** Preparatory support; Implementation of community-led local development strategies, including running costs and animation; and Cooperation activities;
- **Fostering marketing and processing:** Marketing measures; and Processing of fishery and aquaculture products;
- **Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy:** Integrated maritime surveillance; Promotion of marine environment protection; and The sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.

After the approval of the OP EMFF 2014–2020, the Managing Authority carried out the procedures for establishing a Monitoring Committee, which was established based on the decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the establishment, organisation, functions and appointment of members of the Monitoring Committee for the OP EMFF 2014–2020 dated 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015. At the same time, the Managing Authority prepared implementing rules for the measures, set the selection criteria for operations under these measures, carried out communication activities (creating the website, common graphic identity, brochures, etc.) and cooperated in preparing the common national Decree on the implementation of community-led local development, which involves three funds: The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the European Regional Development Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

In local areas, animation activities and activities for strengthening capabilities of all participants in the local area have also begun, aiming for carrying out community-led local development measures (hereinafter referred to as “CLLD”) within the scope of the fourth EU priority. In accordance with the approved Partnership Agreement, three funds have joined in carrying out the CLLD measures: The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the European Regional Development Fund, and

the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Additionally, the national geographic representative for Slovenia actively cooperated within the scope of EMFF topics. For the implementation of the measure, unified national legal bases and local development strategies were prepared.

The information on the beneficiaries who will receive the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund will be published on the Operational Programme website in the prescribed CSV format in Slovenian and English. The data will be published in accordance with national regulations, i.e. the Personal Data Protection Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 94/07-UPB) and the Information Commissioner Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. [113/05](#) and [51/07](#) – ZUstS-A).

All information on the implementation of the Operational Programme and the list of operations are available at:

<http://ribiski-sklad.si/>