

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

In 2020, the Managing Authority continued the activities for the implementation of the Operational Programme for the Implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund of the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2014–2020 (hereinafter: EMFF OP 2014–2020). The implementation of the EMFF OP 2014–2020 was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, all authorities put in all efforts to ensure as smooth operation of the management and control system as possible in the extraordinary situation. The Managing Authority reduced the unassumed commitments and submitted refund applications to the European Commission in the amount of EUR 2,124,167.12.

Due to changes in the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, the heads of the Managing Authority and the Monitoring Committee were also replaced. All activities of authorities to implement, monitor, report and control were carried out uninterruptedly. The Managing Authority successfully reported on data on operations by 31 March 2020, and drafted the 2019 annual report. The Monitoring Committee held two meetings by correspondence. All activities of the Committee are available on the website: http://www.ribiski-sklad.si/Odbor_za_spremljanje/. A meeting of the Monitoring Committee responsible for monitoring the system operation was also held. In September, the fifth amendment to the EMFF OP 2014–2020 was approved by the European Commission. The annual review meeting was held with the European Commission, at which the Managing Authority presented implementation and further steps.

All the details and provisions on the implementation of the measures of the EMFF OP 2014–2020 for the year 2020 are defined by the following national implementing regulations:

1) Decree on the implementation of measures from the Operational Programme for the Implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2014–2020 carried out through public tenders (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos. 14/17, 16/18, 80/18 and 78/19). This Decree governs the implementation of measures where the beneficiary is not the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, although the beneficiaries are selected at public tenders. These measures include:

- Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters;
- Innovation in aquaculture;
- Productive investments in conventional aquaculture;
- Productive investments in environmental aquaculture;
- Aquaculture providing environmental services;
- Processing of fishery and aquaculture products.

The 'Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters' measure was carried out, under which EUR 2,400,000 of public funds were tendered and intended for coastal municipalities. The public support rate amounts to 100% of the total eligible expenditure per operation. An individual beneficiary contributes 10% of the funds within eligible public expenditure. The Municipality of Izola submitted an application to the tender in December 2020 and obtained all funds available for the measure.

The 'Innovation in aquaculture' measure was carried out, under which EUR 400,000 of public funds were tendered and intended for companies in aquaculture in cooperation with research institutions. No applications were received for this measure.

Under the 'Productive investments in traditional aquaculture' measure, two operations with a total value of EUR 263,586.49 of public funds with the EMFF share of EUR 97,689.87 were selected in year 2020. EUR 76,338.50 were paid. Two more applications were received in the total value of EUR 142,378.75, which were till end of 2020 in selection process by the Intermediate Body.

No operations were selected under the 'Productive investments in environmental aquaculture' measure in year 2020. One operation for an investment in a closed system in the amount of EUR 144,000 was completed. Two more applications were received in the total value of EUR 396,465, which were till end of 2020 in selection process by the Intermediate Body.

Under the 'Aquaculture providing environmental services' measure, two operations with a total value of EUR 44,100.00 of public funds with the EMFF share of EUR 33,075.00 were selected in year 2020. EUR 44,100.00 were paid with the EMFF share of EUR 33,075.00. The implementation of the measure is being completed. Two more applications were received in the total value of EUR 44,286, which were till end of 2020 in selection process by the Intermediate Body.

Two applications were selected for the 'Processing of fishery and aquaculture products' measure. The value of the selected applications is EUR 178,980.95 of public funds with the EMFF share of EUR 134,188.46. EUR 95,000.00 were paid with the EMFF share of EUR 71,250.00 in year 2020. Another 1 application in the total value of EUR 2,474,783 was received , which were till end of 2020 in selection process by the Intermediate Body

2) The Decree on the implementation of the measure Health and Safety from the Operational Programme for the Implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2014-2020 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. [89/20](#)) was adopted and a public tender for the measure in the amount of EUR 160,000 was published. The Decree was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia on 19 June 2020. The first public tender was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia on 11 September 2020. After the publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, a public presentation was held in Izola. It was attended by 17 potential investors. Three applications to the tender were received by the end of 2020 in the total value of EUR 74,664, which were till end of 2020 in selection process by the Intermediate Body..

3) Regulation on the implementation of measures and technical assistance from the Operational Programme for the implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2014–2020 carried out in line with the public procurement regulations (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 39/16), which was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in June 2016. The beneficiary of these measures is the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food. The measures include:

- Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures and regional cooperation;
- Data collection;
- Control and enforcement;
- Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites;
- Marketing measures – market research and conducting promotional campaigns;
- Integrated maritime surveillance;

- Promotion of the protection of the marine environment and the sustainable use of marine resources;
- Increasing knowledge of the status of the marine environment.

Under the 'Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems' measure, payments in the amount of EUR 80,950.07 with the EMFF share of EUR 60,712.55 were made in year 2020. Three operations were selected under this measure.

The 'Regional cooperation' measure, which is carried out in accordance with the regulations on public procurement, was prepared in 2017, but there has been no need for its implementation. The Slovenian fisheries were exempt from the landing obligation on the basis of *de minimis* exemptions for small pelagic fisheries and species defining fishing. Furthermore, no management plan at the level of the European Union was prepared for the area of Northern Adriatic, resulting in no incentives for common recommendations within this framework.

Three operations were selected under the 'Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites' measure, EUR 87,845.67 were paid with the EMFF share of EUR 65,884.25 in year 2020. The implementation of the measure is being completed. A study of the potential of mariculture has been made, and a study of the potential on inland waters will be completed in February 2021; the 'Aquaculture potential for groundwater' operation will be completed in March 2021.

Six operations with a total value of EUR 1,594,258.11 of public funds with the EMFF share of EUR 1,275,406.47 have so far been selected under the 'Data collection' measure. EUR 312,277.53 of public funds with the EMFF share of EUR 249,821.87 were paid.

Nine operations with a total value of EUR 2,030,770.00 of public funds with the EMFF share of EUR 1,702,835.60 were selected under the 'Control and enforcement' measure. In 2020, EUR 42,221.79 of public funds were paid with the EMFF share of EUR 37,999.68.

Under the marketing measures, two operations with a total value of EUR 52,948.00 with the EMFF share of EUR 39,711.00 were selected in year 2020. 24 operations with a total value of EUR 231,206.53 with the EMFF share of EUR 173,404.90 were carried out. EUR 6,100.00 were paid with the EMFF share of EUR 4,575.00.

One operation with a total value of EUR 279,990.00 with the EMFF share of EUR 209,990.50 was selected in year 2020 under the 'Integrated maritime surveillance' measure. Two operations with a total value of EUR 328,680.20 of public funds with the EMFF share of EUR 246,510.15 were selected. The first operation has completed, while the second is in the phase of contract signing. No payments were made.

One operation with a total value of EUR 74,440.69 with the EMFF share of EUR 55,830.52 was selected in year 2020 under the 'Protection of the marine environment' measure. Two operations with a total value of EUR 140,736.04 with the EMFF share of EUR 105,552.02 were carried out. EUR 37,220.34 were paid with the EMFF share of EUR 27,915.25. No payments were made.

One operation with a total value of EUR 90,115.30 with the EMFF share of EUR 67,586.47 was selected under the 'Increasing knowledge of the status of the marine environment' measure. One operation with a total value of EUR 38,754.52 with the EMFF share of EUR 29,065.88 was carried out. No payments were made.

Seven operations with a total value of EUR 2,646,306.00 with the EMFF share of EUR 1,984,729.75 are in progress under the 'Technical assistance' measure. Numerous activities are carried out as part of these operations. In 2020, EUR 344,303.85 with the EMFF share of EUR 242,652.90 were paid.

4) The measures of the community-led local development in the 2014-2020 programming period are carried out under three European structural and investment funds: The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Regional Development Fund according to the Decree on the implementation of community-led local development in the programming period 2014–2020 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos. 42/15, 28/16, 73/16, 72/17, 23/18, 68/18, 68/19 and 157/20). These measures include:

- Preparatory support;
- Implementation of community-led local development strategy including running costs and animation; and
- Cooperation activities.

In 2016, four fisheries local action groups and their strategies which include the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund were confirmed by means of a decision: FLAG DOLINA SOČE, FLAG POSAVJE, FLAG ISTRE and FLAG GORENJSKA KOŠARICA. Local strategies follow the objectives of the EMFF OP 2014–2020 with particular emphasis on creating and preserving jobs and setting up enterprises in selected local areas. The confirmed local action groups carried out the foreseen activities in 2020. Within UP4, numerous operations were carried out, which fostered a positive experience of the CLLD implementation in local areas, increasing the interest of potential project applicants. EUR 182,611.44 were paid for running costs and animation with the EMFF share of EUR 136,958.85. 27 operations were selected, EUR 1,368,859.27 were paid with the EMFF share of EUR 1,026,644.34. Three cooperation activities with a total value of EUR 69,818.18 with the EMFF share of EUR 44,509.08 were carried out.

The measures from Union Priorities 3, 4, 5 and 6 intended for the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, local community-led development, the processing and marketing of fishery products and support for the Integrated Maritime Policy were carried out most effectively. The measures of the EMFF OP 2014–2020 are progressing towards the set objectives of the programme despite initial challenges. In the second half of the year in particular, interest of investors in higher investments was detected, which will enable the Managing Authority to suitably plan the programme until its completion in 2023.

Information on all beneficiaries and selected operations that have received funding from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund is available on the website of the Operational Programme in the prescribed CSV format in Slovenian and English. Information on beneficiaries, legal persons and natural persons is published in accordance with the Personal Data Protection Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 94/07-UPB) and the Information Commissioner Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos. [113/05](#) and [51/07](#) – ZUstS-A).

All details on the implementation of the Operational Programme are available on the following website:

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