



## Annex – Citizen’s Summary

Numerous activities were carried out in 2019 as Managing Authority continued its activities to implement the Operational Program measures necessary for the operation of European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in the Republic of Slovenia in the period 2014-2020 (hereinafter: OP EMFF 2014-2020).

In 2019 Monitoring Committee held three meetings. The Monitoring Committee is composed of representatives of ministries, government departments, agencies and public institutions, economic and social partners, local communities, non-governmental organizations and scientific, professional and research institutions. The meetings approved the amendments to the OP EMFF 2014-2020 due to non-compliance, the annual report for the reference year 2018 and the amendments to the criteria for the selection of operations within the actions co-financed by the OP EMFF 2014-2020. Members were informed about the state of implementation of OP EMFF 2014-2020, the preparations for the future programming period 2021-2027 and the results of the mid-term evaluation of OP EMFF 2014-2020. All activities of the Committee are available on the website: [http://www.ribiski-sklad.si/Odbor\\_za\\_spremljanje/](http://www.ribiski-sklad.si/Odbor_za_spremljanje/).

The third amendment to the Regulation on the implementation of OP EMFF 2014-2020 actions carried out through public procurement has been published. This amendment stipulates that the eligible costs are to be incurred from the date of submission of the application, which means that applicants can start implementation immediately after submission of the application, thus accelerating the implementation of the actions.

In November 2019, an annual review meeting was also held between the Managing Authority OP EMFF 2014-2020, the European Commission implementation of the EMFF 2014-2020, the fulfillment of commitments and other activities to accelerate absorption.

All of the details and provisions on the implementation of measures under the EMFF OP 2014-2020 are set out in the following national implementing regulations:

1) Regulation 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 in line with the public procurement regulations (OGRS, Nos 14/17, 16/18 and 80/18), adopted on 23 March 2017 and last amended on 6 December 2018. This regulation governs the implementation of measures in which the beneficiary is not the MAFF and the operations are selected through public procurement procedures. These include the following measures:

- Fishing ports, landing sites, sales facilities and shelters
- Innovations
- Productive investments in conventional aquaculture
- Productive investments in organic aquaculture
- Promoting human capital and networking



- Environmental services related to aquaculture
- Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products

The measure "Fishing ports, landing sites, sales facilities and shelters" in which EUR 2 400 000 of public funds earmarked for coastal communities were tendered. Despite the interest shown, no applications were received. The level of public support is 100 percent of the total eligible expenditure for the operation. The individual beneficiaries contribute 10 percent of the funds with respect to eligible public expenditure. Despite the interest shown, no applications were received.

The measure Innovation in aquaculture was implemented, under which EUR 400 000 of public funding was tendered for aquaculture enterprises in cooperation with research institutes.

The measures Productive Investments in Classical Aquaculture and Productive Investments for aquaculture enterprises to carry out productive investments and to build closed systems Environmental Aquaculture have been implemented. In 2019, a further public tender was carried out for Productive Investments in Classical Aquaculture. EUR 3,928,770.00 in public funds was tendered. Two operations with a total value of public funds of EUR 254,824.25 were approved, of which the EMFF part amounted to EUR 191,118.19. The purpose of the operations was to make productive investments in the construction of new shellfish culture lines and in the purchase and installation of new shellfish culture lines. For the measure "Productive investments in organic aquaculture" 5 versions of public tenders were published, for which 1 application was submitted. In 2019, public funds amounting to EUR 143,813.07 were paid out, of which the EMFF part amounted to EUR 107,859.80. The purpose of the operation was to establish a closed RAS system.

Within the measure Aquaculture providing environmental services, two operations were selected in the amount of EUR 44,100.00 of public funds, of which EUR 33,075.00 was the EMFF contribution. In 2019, 44,100 were paid, EUR 00, of which the EMFF share is EUR 33,075. The aim of the operation is to compensate for the loss of income from aquaculture activities in areas of the NATURA 2000 caused by cormorants.

For the measure Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products, 5 versions of public tenders have already been published. In 2019, EUR 2,781,855.00 of public funds were tendered for the measure. In 2019, an operation was approved for EUR 50,467.50 in public funds, of which the EMFF amounted to EUR 37,850.62. The operation involved the purchase of mussel processing equipment with the aim of introducing improved products and processes. Other operations included the construction of a processing plant, the purchase of equipment and a truck with the aim of improving safety, hygiene, health and working conditions; the purchase of equipment and trucks with the aim of improving safety, hygiene, health and working conditions, the purchase of hardware and the purchase of trucks with the aim of introducing improved products and processing methods. Significant progress was made in 2019 with the completion of three operations.

2) 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 adopted by the Slovenian Government in June 2016 (OGRS No 39/16). The

beneficiary of these measures is the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food. The measures concerned are:

- 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
- Measures for market and marketing research and the conducting of promotional campaigns
- Integrated maritime surveillance
- Promoting maritime conservation and the sustainable consumption of maritime resources
- Increasing awareness of the status of the maritime environment and technical assistance

Public procurement procedures for the measure Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems, the operation will monitor biodiversity and the abundance of non-native species in the Slovenian Sea. The operation to review the situation, assess the impact on the environment and examine possible measures to control the population of the nonindigenous species "Mnemiopsis leidyi" in the Slovenian Sea has been completed. No new measures were selected in 2019, but a public tender was launched for the next monitoring measure of marine habitat Natura 2000 in the Slovenian Sea 2020-2022, but payments of EUR 99 672.71 were made under this measure and the EMFF share amounted to EUR 74 754.53.

Under the measure Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites, which is carried out via public procurement procedures, three tenders were approved in 2018, two of which were abandoned due to a failed public procurement procedure (there was no application) and then successfully repeated. The operation to increase the potential of mariculture sites on the coast and in the Slovenian Sea started in 2018 and will end in 2020. Public funds in the amount of EUR 70,371.80 were provided. The operation on the possibilities of increasing the potential of aquaculture sites on the inland surface waters of the Republic of Slovenia was selected in 2019. Public funds in the amount of EUR 115,839.00 were allocated, of which EUR 86,879.25 were from the EMFF. The objective of the operation is to investigate the potential of existing aquaculture sites on inland surface waters and to identify potential sites where existing and new forms of aquaculture could be developed in the future. In 2019, EUR 52,778.85 in public funds were disbursed under this measure, of which EUR 39,584.14 came from the EMFF.

All activities related to the implementation of the data collection action went smoothly and in line with the planned dynamics. In 2019, the third operation was carried out, which related to the implementation of the work plan for the 2018-2019 data collection.

The activities related to the implementation of the control and enforcement action in 2019 were carried out in line with the planned momentum. In 2019, all the operations selected in previous years, a total of eight operations, were implemented for a total value of EUR 2,295,213.00 of which EUR 1,922,834 was funded by the EMFF.

Under the measure Integrated maritime surveillance (point 1(a) of Article 80 of Regulation 508/2014/EU), an operation worth EUR 48 690.20 was completed in 2017 to prepare a study to identify gaps in data exchange in maritime surveillance and to improve the connectivity of existing information systems that will contribute to integrated maritime surveillance. In 2019, activities were carried out to prepare extensive tender documents for the implementation of a

public tender for the development of electronic data exchange software "CISE - Common Information Sharing Environment".

Under the measure Protection of the Marine Environment and Sustainable Use of the Sea and Coastal Resources, one operation was approved each year in 2017, 2018 and 2019, a total of 3 operations with a total value of EUR 210 967,54, of which EUR 158 225,65 as EMFF contribution. The objective of the completed operations was the mapping of the marine habitat types Natura 2000 in the Slovenian Sea and the monitoring of dolphins in the Slovenian Sea for the reporting period 2013-2018 for the purpose of managing the Natura 2000 network. Another operation was selected for the activity of monitoring flock shelters in the Slovenian Sea, but it was abandoned as no contractor had applied for the contract. The procurement was therefore repeated.

Under the action "Improving knowledge of the state of the marine environment", which is intended to support the implementation of Marine Environment Management Plan, an operation of EUR 38.754,52 has been selected for 2017, of which EUR 29.065,89 is an EMFF contribution. This operation was completed in 2018 in the amount of the approved funds. The operation comprised a cartographic mapping and description of the benthic habitat types in the Slovenian Sea, including a mapping and definition of the most likely areas with habitat type impacts for the needs of Marine Environment Management Plan. In 2019, activities were carried out to prepare comprehensive tender documents for the implementation of the "Upgrade of knowledge of biotic and abiotic characteristics and the scope of benthic habitat types circalittoral coarse sediments (MC3), circalittoral mixed sediments (MC4) and circalittoral sands (MC5)".

Marketing activities, notably in public procurement, have also been carried out to promote the fisheries and aquaculture sector and its products and will continue. The total planned value is around EUR 1 million. The following activities have been carried out in 2019 as part of the marketing measures: 11. International Fisheries Fair (12.-14. April 2019, Gornja Radgona), strategic consultancy for an advertising campaign, ordering of advertising materials and refrigerators for the implementation of promotional activities at the AGRA 2019 Fair and other fairs and events, production of an advertising pillar with an aquarium, selection of a contractor for culinary promotional activities at the AGRA 2019 Fair, organization of the third workshop within the framework of strategic consultancy for an advertising campaign on fisheries and preparation of learning boards on sustainable fishing reading content for the third primary school classes.

The regional cooperation measure, which was carried out in accordance with public procurement rules, was prepared for implementation, but there was no need for implementation in 2019 - Slovenian fisheries were exempted from the landing obligation on the basis of "de minimis" derogations for small pelagic species and species defining fisheries; furthermore, at European Union level there was no management plan for the northern Adriatic and therefore no initiatives for joint recommendations in this context.

Under technical assistance, seven operations are implemented through public procurement, representing a total of EUR 2,646,306.00 of the total eligible funds. Over the whole period until the end of 2019, public funds amounting to EUR 1,310,619.42 and the EMFF contribution of EUR 982,955.28 have been disbursed.

3) The Decree on the implementation of community-led local development in the 2014-2020 programming period (OGRS, Nos 42/15, 28/16, 73/16, 72/17, 23/18 and 68/18) was adopted on 12 June 2015, and most recently amended on 25 October 2018. Community-led local development measures are being carried out within the framework of three European structural and investment funds in the 2014-2020 programming period: the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and European Regional Development Fund. These include the following measures:

- Preparatory support
- Implementation of community-led local development strategies, including running costs and animation
- Cooperative activities

As early as 2016, four local fisheries action groups and their strategies, which include the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, were approved by decision: the Soča Valley LFAG, Posavje LFAG, Istria LFAG and Gorenjska Košarica LFAG. A total of EUR 6,661,314.50 was approved. The approved local strategies pursue the objectives of the EMFF OP 2014-2020, with a particular emphasis on job creation and preservation and the establishing of companies in selected local areas. In 2019, all approved local action groups implemented the planned activities. They carried out activities that contributed to supporting the running costs and animation of the ISTRIA Local Action Group, diversifying the fishing profession and preserving small-scale coastal fishing, promoting local food products from marine organisms, raising awareness of the importance of reducing plastics in the sea, educating about the maritime heritage, promoting ecology, introducing new aquaculture products, raising public awareness of locally farmed shellfish, training fishermen and enabling them to acquire boat management skills at national level, Radio communication and basic skills for working on a fishing vessel and other vessels, the establishment of a local certification system, the activation of self-help for vulnerable groups and lifelong learning programs based on increasing knowledge of freshwater aquaculture, the preparation and consumption of locally produced fresh fish that allows for healthy eating, and the implementation of socialization programs in the form of fishing camps that provide mental health care. The financial allocations represent 56% of all allocations in the 4th PNU, according to the new proposal of OP EPSR 2014-2020. In 2019, EUR 979,045.61 was paid out in public funds, of which EUR 734,284.18 was part of the EMFF. In 2019, EUR 734,284.18 of the EMFF funds were paid to European Commission under the 4th PNU. PNU. In total, all applications submitted to European Commission from the start of implementation until the end of 2019 amounted to EUR 898,927.88 in EMFF funds.

The third, fifth and sixth priorities of the Union, which aim to implement Common Fisheries, processing and marketing and Integrated Maritime Policy, have been implemented most effectively. It is also a successful implementation of the Union's fourth priority, which aims to increase employment and territorial cohesion within the framework of the Community run Local Development Mechanism. Activities were carried out for other priorities of the Union, but it turned out that the interest of potential investors, who were actively involved in the preparation of the operational program and showed interest in investments due to different working days, was no longer there. Accordingly, Managing Authority will in future consider reallocating funds to activities where there is interest, so that EMFF funds can be used efficiently in accordance with the established plans.

Information on all beneficiaries and selected operations that received funds from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund is available on the website of the operational programme in the prescribed CSV format in Slovene and English. Data on beneficiaries, legal entities and natural

persons are published in accordance with the Personal Data Protection Act (OGRS, No 94/07 [official consolidated version]) and the Information Commissioner Act (OGRS, No [113/05](#) and [51/07](#) – ZUstS-A).

Detailed information on the implementation of the Operational Programme is accessible on the website:

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