



Annex – Citizen's Summary

Numerous activities were carried out in 2018 to facilitate the effective implementation of the Operational Programme for the Development of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in Slovenia 2014-2020 (hereinafter: EMFF OP 2014-2020).

The Regulation amending the Regulation on the implementation of measures under the EMFF OP for the period 2014-2020 carried out in line with the public procurement regulation was published at the beginning of 2018. It was supplemented by the draft Agriculture Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia Nos 45/08, 57/12, 90/12 (ZdZPVHVVR), 26/14, 32/15 and 27/17) regarding the application selection procedure. On the basis of the above, semi-open public procurement procedures were conducted, in which the applications are opened in certain time periods until the available funds are exhausted. The invitations to tender related to Union priorities 1, 2 and 5 in the area of fishing ports, productive investments in aquaculture (conventional and organic), innovation and processing.

In May 2018 the 4th session of the Monitoring Committee was held, at which the annual report for reference year 2017 and the amendments to the EMFF OP 2014-2020 were approved. The members of the monitoring committee were briefed on the operation of the EMFF system and the planned conducting of the mid-term evaluation of the EMFF OP 2014-2020. The monitoring committee is comprised of representatives of the ministries, government services, offices and public institutions, economic and social partners, local administrative units, non-governmental organisations and scientific, professional and research bodies. The Decree on the Establishing of the Monitoring Committee and all of the committee's activities are accessible at: http://www.ribiski-sklad.si/Odbor_za_spremljanje/

In the second half of the year the mid-term evaluation of the EMFF OP 2014-2020 was carried out, the purpose of which was to establish, with the help of an independent external evaluator, the progress made under the EMFF 2014-2020 towards reaching the result indicators, assess the reasons for the current level of realisation and on the basis of the findings make recommendations for increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the EMFF 2014-2020.

A second Regulation amending the Regulation on the implementation of measures under the EMFF OP for the period 2014-2020 carried out in line with the public procurement regulation was published in December 2018. Through this amendment it was determined that beneficiaries of measures intended for aquaculture and processing of fishery and aquaculture products can include all legal and natural persons that are companies or sole traders and at the time of submission of the application are registered to conduct the commercial activity of cultivation and processing of aquatic organisms in the Republic of Slovenia, and not only micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. In accordance therewith, the financial provisions were also changed, as the level of intensity for companies that are not SMEs was reduced by 20% in line with the provisions of Annex I to Regulation 508/2014/EU. The scale for reimbursement of funds if the beneficiary fails to fulfil its obligations with respect to achieving the values of the result indicators within the specified time limit was also changed.



The annual review meeting between the Managing Authority and the European Commission was held in December 2018 in order to review the implementation of the EMFF OP 2014-2020, the reaching of milestones and fulfilment of obligations, and further activities to promote the drawdown of funds.

The 5th meeting of the EMFF OP 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee was also held in December, which focused on a review of the current status of the implementation of the EMFF OP 2014-2020, the reaching of milestones, the utilisation of assumed n+3 obligations by the end of 2018 and the change to the financial milestone under Union priority 4. The Monitoring Committee also approved an amendment to the Criteria for the selection of operations within the framework of measures co-financed through EMFF OP 2014-2020. The progress of the implementation of the mid-term evaluation of the EMFF OP 2014-2020 was presented and a representative of the European Commission presented a proposal for a new fund for the new financial perspective.

On the basis of the amendment to the Regulation amending the Regulation on the implementation of measures under the EMFF OP for the period 2014-2020 carried out in line with the public procurement regulation and the amendment to the Criteria for the selection of operations within the framework of measures co-financed through EMFF OP 2014-2020, new public procurement procedures were prepared, and were published at the beginning of 2019.

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
- Transition to eco-management and audit schemes and organic aquaculture
- Environmental services related to aquaculture
- Public health measures
- Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products

The measure “Fishing ports, landing sites, sales facilities and shelters” was implemented in 2018. One tender was published at a value of EUR 2,400,000, for which 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. The tender is planned to be republished in 2019.

Two tenders were published for innovation in the area of aquaculture in 2018, for which no applications were received.

In 2018 two tenders were published for the measures of productive investments in conventional aquaculture and productive investments in organic aquaculture. Under the measure Productive investments in organic aquaculture, one operation was approved at a total value of EUR 144,525.03 in public funds. No applications were received for the measure Transition to eco-management and audit schemes and organic aquaculture at a value of EUR 133,333.00. Similarly, no applications were received for the two published tenders for the measure Innovations at a value of EUR 400,000.00. After making enquiries in the field and receiving expressions of interest, these tenders are planned to be republished in 2019. Two tenders were also published for the measure Environmental services related to aquaculture, but despite receiving one application, no operations were selected in 2018. However, in view of information received from potential beneficiaries, operations under this measure will be selected in 2019.

In 2018 there were no expressions of need for or interest in the publication of a tender for the measure Public health measures, the subject of which was the payment of compensation in the event of shellfish infections due to plankton blooms that produce toxins or biotoxins that are poisonous for humans, due to which a temporary ban on sales of shellfish would be imposed. This can be ascribed to the fact that no longer-lasting occurrences of biotoxins in shellfish were recorded from 2015 to 2018. Furthermore, no interest was shown during this period in the measure Promoting human capital and networking.

Two tenders were published in 2018 for a measure whose subject is investments in the processing of fisheries and aquaculture products, at a value of around EUR 3 million. A total of one application was received for these two tenders, which was approved.

Each time a tender was published it was accompanied by presentations and workshops, to which potential investors in the aquaculture sector and representatives of the processing industry and the coastal municipalities were personally invited. The invitations were also published on the websites of the Fisheries Fund, the Agency for Agricultural Markets and Rural Development and the Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry.

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 were begun to be implemented in 2018. Two tender award

procedures were carried out, through which around 30% of the available funds for the measure were allocated. No payments under this measure were made in 2018.

Under the measure Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites, which is carried out via public procurement procedures, three tenders were prepared for the areas of offshore and land-based aquaculture and the possibility of using groundwater for aquaculture. Of the three public contracts, only one was awarded in 2018, while the other two will be repeated in 2019.

All activities relating to the implementation of the Data collection measure proceeded smoothly and in accordance with the planned dynamics. The third operation was carried out in 2018, which related to the implementation of the Working plan for the collection of data 2017-2019.

Activities under the implementation of the measure Control and enforcement proceeded in accordance with the planned dynamics in 2018. All operations selected in 2016 and 2017 were carried out in 2018, a total of 8 operations, at a total value of approved funds of EUR 2,295,213.00, of which EUR 1,922,834 in support from the EMFF.

Under the measure Integrated maritime surveillance (point 1(a) of Article 80 of Regulation 508/2014/EU), one operation was completed in 2017 at a value of EUR 48,690.20, for the conducting of a study to identify gaps in knowledge exchanges in the area of maritime surveillance and improving the connectivity of existing information systems that will be included in integrated maritime surveillance. One more operation is expected to be selected under this measure in 2019.

Under the measure Promoting maritime conservation and the sustainable consumption of maritime resources (point 1(b) of Article 80 of Regulation 508/2014/EU), one operation was concluded, which was designed for charting the Natura 2000 maritime habitat types at a value of EUR 84,820.50 of total eligible costs. In addition, the operation Monitoring dolphins in Slovenian waters for the 2013-2018 reporting period was selected, at a total value of EUR 55,915.54, and is expected to be completed in mid-2019.

One operation was completed under the measure Increasing awareness of the status of the maritime environment (point 1(c) of Article 80 of Regulation 508/2014/EU). It was designed to create a cartographic display and description of benthic habitat types in Slovenian waters, including a cartographic display and description of the most likely areas of influence on habitat types. The value of the operation was EUR 38,754.52 of total eligible costs.

Activities were also carried out in 2018 under marketing measures, including the promotion of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and products. In 2019, the promotion of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and products will be carried out based on market research to confirm the input information and provide additional information in connection with public awareness of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

A regional cooperation measure, carried out in line with the public procurement regulations, was prepared for implementation, but there was no need for its implementation in 2018 – Slovenian fisheries were exempted from the landing requirement based on a “de minimis” exception for small pelagic species and species that define fisheries; in addition there was no management plan for the Northern Adriatic at the European Union level, and thus no initiative for joint recommendations in this context.

Under technical assistance, seven operations are being carried out via public procurement procedures, at a total value of EUR 2,646,306.00 of total eligible funds. The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority and reviewed amounted to EUR 513,847.63 of all eligible expenditure.

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. Therefore, all four groups were operational and active in 2018. The selected operations were carried out. Twenty operations were carried out and fully concluded in 2018 under Implementation of local development strategies (including running costs and animation), and three operations were approved under Cooperative activities, while preparatory support was paid to all four LFAGs already in 2017.

The most effective measures were measures carried out under Union priorities 3 and 6, and are designed to foster the implementation of the common fisheries policy and integrated maritime policy, and measures under Union priority 4, which are designed to increase employment and territorial cohesion. Activities were carried out under all of the other Union priorities, but it turned out that a certain startup period is required for investors, as this is a different approach to that used in the 2007-2013 period, as it focuses on results-oriented operations. The objectives of the common fisheries policy and integrated maritime policy are thus pursued in accordance with the strategy of the EMFF OP 2014-2020 and the established result indicators. The milestones for 2018 were reached under Union priorities 3, 4 and 6.

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/>