



EMFF support for inland fisheries

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Priorities

- **The European Union is considering work linked to Danube and the Black Sea as one of its political priorities.**
- **European Union will continue its efforts towards protecting the Danube ecosystem and the environment in the Black Sea, promoting regional cooperation.**

Aims of the presentation

- **Policy context**
- **EMFF 2014 – 2020 and its role**
- **EMFF funding for inland fishing**
- **Conclusions**

Policy context of EU (inland) fisheries

- Inland Fishing - a realm of national policy
- The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP):
 - A set of rules for managing European fishing fleets and for conserving fish stocks. Designed to manage a common resource, it gives all European fishing fleets equal access to EU waters and fishing grounds and allows fishermen to compete fairly.
 - Limited influence on inland fisheries as it is applicable only to certain species for the marine part of their lifecycle.
- Other EU (Environmental) legislation: Water Framework Directive; Birds and Habitats Directives; LIFE Regulation

EU Strategy for Danube River

- Better coordination and cooperation to address existing challenges.
- 9 EU countries (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia) and 5 non-EU countries (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Ukraine and Moldova).
- Funding received via EU cohesion policy and other EU programmes and financial instruments (including EMFF).



European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020

- *One of the five European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds together with EAFRD (rural development) and Structural Funds (CF, ERDF and ESF). Total allocation: 6.400 M Euro for 2014-2020*
- *The Fund is used to co-finance projects, along with national funding.*
 - Each country is allocated a share of the total Fund, based on the size of its fishing industry;
 - Each country then draws up an Operational Programme (OP), saying how it intends to spend the money;
 - Once the Commission approves this programme, it is up to the national authorities to decide which projects will be funded;
 - The national authorities and the Commission are jointly responsible for the OP implementation.

EMFF support for inland fisheries (I)

- *Article 44 "Inland fisheries and inland aquatic flora and fauna" of the EMFF Regulation.*
- *'Vessels operating exclusively in inland waters' = meaning those engaged in commercial fishing in inland waters and not included in the Union fishing fleet.*
- *The support for inland fishing is done under the same conditions as for marine fishing (exceptions: temporary cessation and permanent cessation applicable only to fishing vessels at sea).*

EMFF support for inland fisheries(II)

- *Funding opportunities are provided in consideration of the impact of human activity on all components of the **ecosystem and the need for mitigating actions.***
- *Types of supported investments for inland fishermen:*
 - Partnerships fishermen – scientists;
 - Advisory services and feasibility studies for fishermen;
 - Job-creation, human capital and promoting the role of women;
 - Diversification of income including investments on board, angling tourism, restaurants, environmental services related to fishing; re-assignment of fishing vessels etc.
 - Investments in start-up for young fishermen;

EMFF support for inland fisheries(III)

- *Types of supported investments for inland fishermen (continued):*
 - Eco-innovation for introducing new techniques for fishing;
 - Investments on boards meant to mitigate the effects of climate change and to improve the energy efficiency of the fishing vessels, reduce the emission of pollutants, replacement and modernisation of engines;
 - Added-value, product quality and use of unwanted catches;
 - Equipment to improve selectivity, eliminates discards, eliminates impact of fishing etc.
 - Support for the construction of fishing ports and shelters.
- *Aid intensity:* max 50% with thresholds in some cases – for example: max. 75.000 for young fishermen and diversification of income.

EMFF support for Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)

- *Local development*
 - Support for local strategies, networking and community activities
 - Creation of Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs): partnerships of local actors (public, private, civil society, community representatives) responsible for design & implementation of LDS (animation & selection of local projects)
 - Multi-funding option: access to multiple funds
- *Local Development Strategies (LDS) to support:*
 - Diversification inside or outside fisheries & job creation in fisheries areas
 - Enhancing environmental assets (incl. mitigation of climate change)
 - Strengthening role of fisheries communities in local development
 - Adding value and promoting innovation along supply chain

Conclusions

- ***Implementation of the EMFF support for inland fisheries had mixed results so far. The fishermen demand higher aid-intensity.***
- ***CLLD - a successful funding tool.***
- ***An imperative need of national authorities and the sector to work together towards common objectives.***
- ***The new COM proposal for EMFF post-2020 will continue funding for inland fishing under the same conditions as marine fishing (Article 14).***



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Thank you!