



European
Commission

EMFAF 2021-2027 and Fisheries Local Action Groups

#EUGreenDeal

FARNET Seminar, 24/3/2021

Overview

- Overall context
- European Green Deal and recovery
- EMFAF 2021-2027 and recovery
- Future for FLAGs in Baltic coastal and inland fisheries communities

A lot happened since 2018...

- Commission proposal for EMFF 2021-2027: 18/6/2018
- End 2019: new Commission – European Green Deal
- 2020: Covid-19 crisis hit hard and changed our perspective
- 2021: EU at 27 Member States

Policy drivers for EU recovery

- **European Green Deal** at the heart of the EU's recovery strategy
- Strengthen the **Single Market** and adapt it to the **digital** age
- **Fair and inclusive** recovery for all

 Build a **more resilient EU**

 **EU as global driver**



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The European Green Deal is one of the key components of the European Union's growth strategy and a path to a green, robust and durable recovery from the health pandemic and its economic impact.

#EUGreenDeal





EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Let's take care of our nature

Climate change, the unprecedented loss of biodiversity and infectious diseases are sending a clear message: **it is time to fix our broken relationship with nature.**



https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/eu-biodiversity-strategy-2030_en

A coherent Trans-European Nature Network

1 Establishing protected areas for at least:



30%
of land in Europe



30%
of sea in Europe



Incl. **10%**
no take zones

An EU Nature Restoration Plan

- 2 Restoring degraded ecosystems at land and sea across the whole of Europe by e.g. :



Restoring at least
25 000 km of EU
rivers to a free
flowing state



Reducing the use
and risk of
chemical
pesticides by 50%
by 2030

Legally
binding
nature
restoration
targets in
2021

A close-up photograph of a green leaf, showing the intricate network of veins. The leaf is a vibrant green color, and the veins are a lighter shade, creating a complex, organic pattern. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the leaf's surface.

| Farm to Fork Strategy

Transition to a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system

- Have a neutral or positive environmental impact
- Mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts
- Reverse the loss of biodiversity

Our food systems account for nearly one-third of global GHG emissions and consume large amounts of natural resources

- Ensure food security, nutrition and public health, making sure that everyone has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, sustainable food
- Preserve affordability of food while generating fairer economic returns, foster competitiveness of the EU supply sector and promote fair trade





European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

EMFAF 2021-2027

EMFAF – State of play

- Commission proposal for EMF(A)F : 18/6/2018
- Provisional agreement between the Council and European Parliament: 4/12/2020
- Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027: adopted on 17/12/2020
- Next steps:
 - Adoption by the Parliament and the Council (« early second reading »)
 - Publication in the Official Journal (June tbc)
 - Adoption depending also on Common Provisions Regulation for all European Structural and Investment Funds (June tbc)

EMFAF - 4 Priorities

- 1) Fostering *sustainable fisheries* and the *restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources*
- 2) Fostering *sustainable aquaculture* activities, and *processing and marketing* of fisheries and aquaculture products, contributing to food security in the Union
- 3) Enabling a sustainable *blue economy* in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the ***development of fishing and aquaculture communities***
- 4) Strengthening *international ocean governance* and enabling *safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans*

EMFAF in the wider EU context

- Recovery and resilience building
- Green transition
- Digital transformation and innovation
- Maximum impact of public support

Recovery and resilience

➤ What is the issue?

- Recovery from the economic crisis
- Adaptation of the sector to changing global context
- Providing conditions for an economically viable activity and a strong crisis management capacity

➤ What can the EMFAF do?

- Structural investment to reduce operating costs (e.g. through energy efficiency)
- Capacity building, collective organisation (e.g. producer organisations), skills, dissemination of innovation
- Diversification of activities and income (e.g. of fishers as « shepherds of the seas »)
- Structural adaptations: restructuring of the fleet, reorganisation of markets, diversification

Green transition

➤ What is the issue?

- Achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal (Biodiversity Strategy and Farm to Fork Strategy)
- Targeting 30% of EMFF expenditure to climate actions
- Achieving the objectives of the CFP towards sustainable fishing (MSY, low-impact fishing)

➤ What can the EMFAF do?

- Improve scientific knowledge on marine ecosystems and biodiversity to allow efficient management decisions
- Innovation and investment in low-impact fishing and aquaculture
- Reduction of the carbon footprint of fisheries and aquaculture and adaptation of fisheries to the consequences of climate change
- Management of marine protected areas and other protection measures for biodiversity and ecosystems

Digital transformation and innovation

➤ What is the issue?

- Wide use of innovation for competitiveness and sustainability (technology saves resources and reduces operational costs)

➤ What can the EMFAF do?

- Support innovation and pilot projects
- Facilitate the transfer of innovation to private investment (notably through collective projects)
- Enhance digital skills
- Use technology to improve the supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products (e.g. direct sales, short circuits) and enhance traceability and consumer information

Optimal value added of public support

➤ What is the issue?

- Public money should generate collective benefits
- Public money should enable private investment, not replace it
- Sound financial management should go hand in hand with administrative simplification

➤ What can the EMFAF do?

- Promoting financial instruments as a way to leverage private investment
- Moving towards results-based payments (« financing not linked to costs ») and simplified cost options (focus on results and reduce checks on invoices)

Sea Basin Analyses

To guide EMFAF programming of MS, European Commission prepared **Sea Basin Analyses**:

- *main **common challenges** for common fisheries policy across the EU*
- ***regional challenges** for achieving the CFP objectives : Baltic, North Sea, Atlantic, Mediterranean, Black Sea, EU Outermost Regions, Inland areas*
- ***EMFF Toolbox** : possible actions for EMFF support (not prescriptive/exhaustive)*

https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/swd-2020-206-a-sea-basin-perspective-to-guide-emff-programming_en.pdf

Opportunities for FLAGs



EMFAF 2021-2027

Challenges in the Baltic

- the decline of commercial fisheries, especially small-scale coastal fisheries
- ageing population in the fisheries sector and depopulation of remote coastal areas and islands
- marine pollution, eutrophication and coastal erosion
- usage conflicts between fishermen and predatory protected species such as seals and cormorants
- lower fish consumption per inhabitant than the European average
- underdeveloped tourism infrastructure

Opportunities for FLAGs in the Baltic

- cooperate between fisheries-dependent communities for Baltic wide approach to the blue economy and environmental challenges
- actions in favour of the (marine) environment, against marine litter
- promote the consumption and processing of local seafood
- increase social acceptance of aquaculture
- develop coastal tourism in relation to fishing and to benefit from climate change opportunities
- support the entry of younger fishers into the sector and attract young people and skilled youth to aquaculture production
- promote blue biotechnology as an alternative and innovative sector

Challenges for inland communities

- lack of integration of fisheries with the rest of the territory, usually a rural area
- lack of networking opportunities due to the marginal importance of fishing in the local economy
- competition from recreational fishing and other forms of tourism linked to fishing
- lack of marketing opportunities for freshwater fish species, which are less in demand than seawater species
- insufficient processing of products to meet consumers' new demand for processed products

Opportunities for inland FLAGs

- cooperation with other similar inland areas
- exchanges of experience and best practices
- better links with the tourist industry by offering specific products – quality labels for local fish products, B&B, recreational fishing, ...
- better marketing of freshwater fish species
- promote innovation and diversification of species and products

What can your FLAG do now?

- **Build on good experience** under EMFF and **prepare timely** for transition
- Focus on **local needs** and **fit them into** the European Green Deal, the Biodiversity and Farm to Fork Strategies
- **Think and plan strategically:**
 - use EMFAF to help the local community and businesses recover from the crisis and build resilience for the future
 - green local economic activities
 - support creativity, innovation and digital modernisation
 - cooperate with other FLAGs
 - link up with a regional Smart Specialisation Strategy - with EU Baltic Sea Basin Strategy
 - increase the collective impact of your FLAG
 - reinforce your FLAG: renew and attract people and organisations that will increase your positive impact



The future is now

#NextGenerationEU

#StrongerTogether

*Alenka KAMPL, MARE.C2
Structural support Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and Outermost Regions*