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# Assessment of climate action

How to assess the mainstreaming  
of climate action in Operational  
Programmes

## EMFF

European Maritime and  
Fisheries Fund  
2014-2020

## Introduction

This Fact Sheet outlines the main issues to be considered when assessing the mainstreaming of climate action in the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Operational Programmes (OPs) for the period 2014–2020.

A separate Fact Sheet describes the potential for mainstreaming of climate action in the EMFF OPs.

The EMFF is one of the five European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). The Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)<sup>1</sup> for ESIF and EMFF Regulation<sup>2</sup> define the contents of the EMFF OPs.

A Commission Staff Working Document provides principles and recommendations for integrating climate change adaptation considerations under the EMFF OPs (SWD (2013) 299 final).

The parts of the OP of relevance to mainstreaming climate action will be subject to an assessment of climate action. The assessment will focus on the following areas of the programme document:

- SWOT and identification of needs
- Description of the strategy
- Information on Community Led Local Development (CLLD)
- Horizontal principles and programme implementation arrangements

It is essential that the assessment gives due regard to the specific context of the country, sector, region, and relevant climate mitigation and adaptation aspects. The assessment will investigate how climate action has been incorporated in the Programme, and indicate where further climate action would be relevant to address specific climate related needs.

The assessment will take stock of the conclusions of the relevant supporting documents, particularly the ex-ante evaluation, and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

## SWOT and identification of needs

The assessment will evaluate whether the SWOT analyses climate change issues in all SWOT tables adequately. In order to do so, it will focus on the SWOT tables for Chapter I, Chapter II and Chapter III of Title V of the EMFF Regulation. It will consider for each individual SWOT the extent to which relevant climate related strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats have been taken into consideration. Depending on the country specific context, this could relate to issues such as energy use and energy efficiency in fisheries, aquaculture, ports and landing sites and in processing. Reduced energy consumption and higher energy efficiency can contribute to mitigation objectives and possibly also improve the sector's competitiveness.

Climate change may, for example, influence the marine eco-system. It could put pressure on already fragile eco-systems, and it could affect the distribution, abundance, size and behaviour of fish. Climate change may also alter the conditions of aquaculture and imply an increased risk of climate change induced disasters, which could destroy or damage the production stock.

The assessment will evaluate whether the identified climate change oriented needs are coherent with the contents of the SWOT.

When assessing the identification of needs, the recommendations of the ex-ante evaluation and the conclusions of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be consulted.

## Description of the strategy

This part will concentrate on the strategy's logic. It will assess whether objectives related to climate change are contained in the strategy. This includes the objective to mitigate the effects of climate change and to increase energy efficiency, but could also include others that refer to climate change and which are defined by the country concerned. It will consider whether the established objectives respond properly to the identified climate related needs.

The assessment will consider whether the proposed measures constitute the appropriate response to the climate related objectives.

The assessment of the strategy will take into account relevant recommendations from the ex-ante evaluation and relevant observations from the SEA.

## Integrated approach

The assessment will consider whether climate change mitigation or adaptation objectives are among the aims to be achieved through Community-Led Local Development (CLLD).

## Horizontal principles and implementation arrangements

The assessment will evaluate how climate change adaptation and mitigation are taken on board in the framing and contents of the OP.

The assessment will verify that information is provided on the indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives.

The assessment will consider whether relevant competences in climate change are represented in the monitoring committee of the Programme. Depending on the scope of the specific Programme, competences may be needed in adaptation or in mitigation or in both areas.

<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, published in the Official Journal, OJ 347 20.12.2013

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) No 508/2014, published in the Official Journal, OJ 149, 20.05.2014

## EMFF Operational Programmes – assessment of climate mainstreaming

Programme part	Main areas of climate assessment	Reference <sup>1</sup>	OP model <sup>2</sup>
<b>SWOT and identification of needs</b>			
SWOT analysis	<p>Assess the completeness, consistency and appropriateness of the SWOT analysis with a focus on the chapters of particular relevance to climate change (I, II and III), taking into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Whether mitigation and adaptation issues are adequately reflected in the chapter-specific SWOT. Specific possible climate relevant issues could be: energy efficiency, energy consumption, use and/or production of energy from renewable sources, risks to aquaculture production due to extreme climatic events and for land-based aquaculture in drought-prone areas, and the effects on fisheries from climate induced changes to marine ecosystems</li> <li>- Verify that any climate change relevant Context Indicators are used and their values properly reflected in the SWOT</li> </ul>	CPR Article 27.6 EMFF Art. 18 (1) (a)	Sections 2.1 and 2.2
Needs assessment	<p>In the assessment of the identified needs, the assessment will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assess the adequacy of the specific needs that are identified concerning climate change mitigation and adaptation</li> <li>- Assess whether identified needs are a proper reflection of the contents of the SWOT</li> <li>- Assess coherence with relevant findings of ex-ante evaluations and the SEA</li> </ul>	CPR Article 8 CPR Article 27.1 EMFF Article 18 (1) (a)	Section 2.1
<b>Description of the strategy</b>			
Description of the strategy - objectives	<p>Assess the consistency and comprehensiveness of the logic of the strategy, the UPs and the selected objectives in relation to climate change issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assess identified needs related to climate change</li> <li>- Assess whether specific climate change related objectives are included in the strategy, particularly including the objective to 'mitigate the effects of the climate change and to increase energy efficiency' under UP1</li> <li>- Assess coherence of the selection and definition of objectives with relevant findings of the ex-ante evaluations and the SEA</li> </ul>	CPR Article 8 CPR Article 27.1 EMFF Regulation Article. 18 (1) (b)	Section 3.1
Description of the strategy - measures	<p>Assess whether the selected measures constitute an adequate response to the identified needs that concern climate change mitigation and adaptation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assess whether the proposed measures are the appropriate response to climate change related objectives</li> <li>- Assess for objectives with a potential for climate action, whether the proposed set of measures does allow for this</li> </ul>		
<b>Information on integrated territorial development</b>			
Strategy for Community led local development (CLLD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assess whether climate change adaptation or mitigation issues are among the selection criteria for CLLD strategies</li> </ul>	CPR Article 32 EMFF Regulation Article 18 (1) (h)	Section 5.1

<sup>1</sup> REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

<sup>2</sup> COM Implementing Regulation (EU) No 771/2014

Programme part	Main areas of climate assessment	Reference <sup>1</sup>	OP model <sup>2</sup>
<b>Horizontal principles and programme implementation arrangements</b>			
Sustainable development	- Assess how climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives will be taken into account in project operations; selection of projects	CPR Article 8	Section 9.1.2
Amount of support for climate change objectives	- Verify that information is provided on indicative amount of support for climate change related objectives and assess whether the amount of support is appropriate within the scope of the OP and the 20% climate expenditure target	CPR Article 8 CPR Article 27.6	Section 9.2
<b>Evaluation plan</b>			
Programme monitoring and evaluation:	- Verify whether the Managing Authority has the necessary administrative and technical capacity required for the monitoring and evaluation of climate change actions - Verify whether the Monitoring Committee includes relevant competences in the field of climate action	CPR Article 56 EMFF Regulation Article 18 (1) (j)	Section 10
<b>Programme implementing arrangements</b>			
Composition of the Monitoring Committee	- Assess whether the monitoring committee includes relevant competences in climate change to the extent required	CPR 27.1 EMFF Regulation Article 18 (1) (m)	Section 11.3

<sup>1</sup> REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

<sup>2</sup> COM Implementing Regulation (EU) No 771/2014

## Background information

### Why do we need to take climate action?

Tackling climate change is one of the great challenges facing the EU and its global partners.

The need for urgent action is clearly reflected in the Europe 2020 Strategy and the EU's ambitious 20/20/20 targets for climate change mitigation, i.e. to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20% (30% if the conditions are right); reduce energy consumption by 20% through increased energy efficiency; and to meet 20% of energy needs from renewable sources.

Climate change is already happening and its effects will become more severe in coming years. So we need to take action on mitigation, and we also need to act to protect people, buildings, infrastructure, businesses and ecosystems from the impacts. These adaptation measures, which will make us more resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change, will become increasingly important. Adaptation measures can be taken at national, regional and local levels. Adaptation measures include for example actions that can stimulate more efficient water use, and development and use of design standards that protect constructions against the impacts of future climate conditions and extreme weather events. Other examples include the building of flood defences, raising the levels of dykes, and replacing exposed power overhead lines with underground cables. It also includes measures to take advantage of possible opportunities arising from climate change. The aim of the EU's Strategy on adaptation to climate change is to help make Europe more climate resilient and enhance its preparedness and capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change.

Building a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy will enhance Europe's competitiveness, create new, greener jobs, improve energy security and bring health benefits to Europe's citizens by improving air quality.

### EU funding over the period 2014-2020

The EU budget has an important role to play in promoting climate action in all sectors of the European economy and in catalysing the investment needed to meet the climate targets and ensure climate resilience. Investment is needed in a wide range of technologies that improve energy efficiency, in renewable energy sources and related infrastructure, and in the adaptation to climate change.

Based on a proposal put forward by the Commission, the European Council concluded on 7-8 February 2013 that 'Climate action objectives will represent at least 20% of EU spending in the period 2014-2020 and therefore be reflected in the appropriate instruments to ensure that they contribute to strengthen energy security, building a low-carbon, resource efficient and climate-resilient economy that will enhance Europe's competitiveness and create more and greener jobs'.

### European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

ESIF include the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

The ultimate responsibility for implementing the EU budget lies with the European Commission, but the ESIF are implemented under 'shared management', with individual EU countries actually distributing the funds and managing expenditure. Checks and balances are in place to ensure the funds are managed properly and in accordance with the rules.

The Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) sets out the means to achieve consistency with the economic policies of the EU and its Member States, coordination mechanisms among the ESI Funds and with other EU policies and instruments, horizontal principles and cross-cutting policy objectives. It lays down arrangements to address territorial challenges, suggests action with high European added value, and sets out the principles and the priorities for action.

Each Member State will prepare a Partnership Agreement, in cooperation with its partners and in dialogue with the Commission. In preparing the Partnership Agreement, each Member State translates the elements set out in the CPR into the national context and sets firm commitments to achieve the EU's objectives through the programming of the ESIF.

ESIF will be implemented through programmes in accordance with the Partnership Agreement. Each programme will cover the period 2014-2020. It will set out a strategy explaining how the programme will address the national and/or regional needs and contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, in line with the applicable regulations and the Partnership Agreement.

The CPR defines eleven Thematic Objectives (TOs), which will contribute to the implementation of the EU's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The eleven TOs are:

1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
2. Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies
3. Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)
4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management
6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency
7. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures
8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility
9. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination
10. Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning
11. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration

The fund-specific regulations define for each TO the corresponding investment priorities (for the structural funds) and Union priorities for the EMFF and EAFRD.

TO4 and TO5 are dedicated to climate change mitigation and adaptation. In addition, climate action issues can be mainstreamed into other TOs. Hence, ESIF can significantly contribute to the achievement of the climate objectives and the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) will make an important contribution to the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient Europe.

This Fact Sheet outlines the key issues to be considered when assessing the climate mainstreaming in EMFF Programmes.

The EMFF is one of the five European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) under the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR). These funds have a key role to play in achieving the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The five funds will contribute to the target that climate-related expenditure will represent at least 20% of EU spending in the period 2014-20, while helping to improve energy security, build a low-carbon, resource-efficient and climate-resilient economy that will boost Europe's competitiveness and create more and greener jobs.

The CPR defines eleven Thematic Objectives that will contribute to the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The EMFF translates the Thematic Objectives into Union Priorities. There is potential for mainstreaming in all of the Union priorities. By doing so, the EMFF can contribute towards reaching at least 20% climate-related expenditure out of the overall EU budget.

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#### Further information

[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/index_en.htm)

DG Climate Action: <http://ec.europa.eu/clima>



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