

Aquaculture Advisory Council

Answers received from the Member States to the AAC letter on raising aquaculture production costs

MALTA

9 September 2022, Dennis Calleja, Director Aquaculture

I confirm that Malta shall be making use of points 2 and 3 (technically are the same process) as mentioned in the disseminated document.

Currently we are undergoing studies to determine how the Russia/Ukraine situation is impacting the Maltese Aquaculture sector. Following this study, we shall then initiate the process with our Managing Authority for EU Funds to issue potential aid schemes exclusively aimed at helping the sector. EMFAF funds shall be used in this case.

Re Temporary framework this has also been used on a local level, but primarily targetted the fishing community not the Aquaculture Sector per se.

GERMANY

15 September 2022, Constanze von Oppeln-Bronikowski, EMFF/ EMFAF Contact Point
Federal Ministry

In Germany, support to aquaculture falls under the exclusive responsibility of the 16 Länder/ federal states.

It is important to note that not all federal states participate in the implementation of the EMFF/ the EMFAF.

However, the majority of those federal states that participate in the implementation of the EMFF intend to make use of the newly introduced EMFF crisis mechanism to provide financial support to aquaculture. The German EMFF Operational Programme will be adjusted accordingly.

It is planned to provide compensation payments to aquaculture farms that are affected by an increase in operational costs due to Russia's war against Ukraine and its economic impacts. The calculation of the compensation payments will be based on a comparison of operational costs in 2021 and 2022 and will take into consideration the major cost factors of aquaculture farms (energy, feed, oxygen).

The compensation calculation methodology has recently been transmitted to the EU Commission for pre-approval.



The amount of funds required to implement this support measure across all federal states that are planning to make this support available is still being assessed.

We remain available for any further information you may need

We would appreciate if AAC could share the information received from the different Member States at some point to gain some insights on how the different aid regimes have been used across Europe to support aquaculture.

CZECH REPUBLIC

16 September 2022, Mgr. Jakub Mořický, Ministry of Agriculture

Following discussions with colleagues in the fisheries sector, we have not introduced a temporary state aid framework.

According to EMFF - funding is no longer available for this period.

As far as EMFAF is concerned, mechanisms will be put in place if necessary in the future, but for the time being the fishing sector prefers to concentrate funds on productive investments, processing, non-productive functions, etc.).

FLANDERS

15 December 2022, Karel Vanhulle, Government of Flanders, Fisheries agency

In the case of Flanders (thus, not Belgium) there is a general scheme of support for businesses confronted with higher costs for electricity and gas in the 4th quarter of 2022. In this case, they can get up to 25% or 35% of the additional costs in return.

Specific requirements:

- They need to have an operational loss in that quarter
- Their prices for gas and/or electricity need to have doubled in the 4th quarter of 2022 compared to 2021
- They need to have had at least for 7.500 EUR costs of gas and/or electricity in 2021

This scheme has been recently adopted by the Flemish government (9/12/2022). More information can be found on: [Energiesteun | Agenschap Innoveren en Ondernemen \(vlaio.be\)](https://www.vlaio.be/energiesteun)

The support is fully funded by Flanders (125 mio EUR in total).

