

WP4 – Deliverable 4.1.2

5 Transnational thematic focus groups with regional authorities for sharing a common vision

Deliverable Number D.4.1.2.

Project Acronym	INVESTINFISH
Project ID Number	10042901
Project Title	Boosting INVESTments in INnovation of SMEs along the entire FISHerY and aquaculture value chain
Priority Axis	1 – Blue innovation
Specific objective	1.1 – Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area
Work Package Number	4
Work Package Title	Testing innovative solutions and assessing effectiveness
Activity Number	4.1
Activity Title	Consultation network between INVESTINFISH partners and regional authorities to share common goals
Partner in charge	LP – T2i
Contribution by	All Partners
Partners involved	All Partners
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The INVESTINFISH project fosters the development of a competitive F&A production system through promotion of investment programs aimed at acquisition of innovation services.

It aims at facilitating innovation adoption in F&A sector, which is traditionally not enough inclined to innovation, through different pilot actions. Thanks to INVESTINFISH, up to 48 enterprises of the F&A chain have obtained ad hoc services for the introduction of innovative services and/or technological products. The service includes a technical feasibility analysis and an economic and environmental sustainability study to evaluate and measure the impacts of the pilots.

The Regional Smart Specialization Strategy (S3) is the guiding tool for Regions to concentrate industrial research and innovation in areas with the greatest potential for innovation and growth in the Region.

They can be areas that need to strengthen leadership or areas with high potential for the future, to be defined through a specific path of "entrepreneurial discovery".

The purpose of the S3 is to promote innovations to strengthen specialization and to encourage diversification in an innovative way to increase success at the level national and international.

This report deals with the results achieved in the framework of the INVESTINFISH project, regarding the meeting with the Referents of the European Fund for Maritime Policy, Fisheries and Aquaculture (EMFF) of the Apulia Region, organized by DARE Puglia during its Blue Innovation Living Lab.

After introducing the event in which this meeting was conducted, the report provides an overall view of the EMFF, its strategic objectives and, above all, the actions it finances. The Fund's funding lines are then specified in more detail.

Lastly, the report closes with an analysis of the results achieved so far by the EMFF in Apulia Region, which also represent the core topic discussed by the Fund's Referent during the event organized by DARE Puglia.

INVESTINFISH PROJECT

INVESTINFISH - “Boosting INVESTments in INnovation of SMEs along the entire FISHerY and aquaculture value chain” is a project funded by the Italy – Croatia CBC Programme under the Priority Axis 1 “Blue Innovation”, Specific Objective 1.1 (S.O.1.1) “Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area”.

INVESTINFISH sees the cooperation of n. 6 Partners from 5 Different Regions: T2I (LP – Italy – Veneto), Sviluppo Marche (PP1 – Italy – Marche), D.A.Re. Puglia (PP2 – Italy – Puglia), Punto Confindustria (PP3 – Italy – Veneto), Istrian Development Agency (PP4 – Croatia – Istria), Zadar County Rural Development Agency (PP5 – Croatia – Zadar).

INVESTINFISH main objective is strengthening of competitiveness of F&A production system through promotion of investment programs aimed at acquisition of innovation services. INVESTINFISH implements pilot actions providing some IT-HR F&A SMEs with a roadmap to innovation instruments & services, boosting creation of marketable innovative products and/or processes that will improve the SMEs potential market positioning.

Expected benefits for enterprises are: accelerate time to market, increase linkages with innovators, increase F&A enterprises R&D expenditures in new & greener components/technologies/services, to boost HR-IT competitiveness. INVESTINFISH intends also to offer to the F&A sector to substitute the value chain concept with value network, proposing a shift from traditional value chains towards more collaborative value networks.

Veneto Region

T2i held the focus group as a discussion on the INVESTINFISH project within the “**Tavolo Tecnico di Confronto Settore Primario**” (Primary Sector Technical Comparison Table) of Veneto Region, on February 25th 2021, that involves the Veneto Region and several key stakeholders of the primary sector, such as Universities, Regional Agencies for Agriculture and Fisheries, Regional agencies for environment. The preliminary feedback was definitely positive, as demonstrated by the fact that LP was later invited again to present the project as a success case in the SEArca Conference on the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), organised with the support of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, the Balkan and Black Sea Commission, DG MARE and DG REGIO.

INVESTINFISH was appreciated for directly engaging and involving SMEs in project activities, as well as the focus on Key Enabling Technologies in a sector that is considered not very much innovation-friendly.

Marche Region

The Marche Regions started the organization of regional meetings with local stakeholders on Feb 1st 2021, through the creation of the Regional S3 Observatory.

R&I key actors, start-ups and innovative SMEs, incubators, researchers and experts have been involved in thematic meetings following the scheduled meeting as follow:

- On Feb 12th 2021, Scavolini hosted the 1st thematic meeting on Home and Furniture.
- On Feb 17th, Simonelli Group hosted the 2nd thematic meeting on Mechanics & Engineering.
- On Feb 26th 2021, Malleus SME hoisted the 3rd thematic meeting on Educational & Cultural Services and Products.
- On April 14th 2021, the Urbino University hosted the 4th thematic meeting on Health.
- On May 14th 2021, The University of Macerata hosted the 5th thematic meeting on Innovation in Services.
- On June 11th 2021, Automa hosted the 6th thematic meeting on Industrial Automotive.
- On June 14th 2021, Teatro dell'Iride in Petritoli (FM) hosted the 7th thematic meeting on Agrifood.

- On July 7th 2021, the Horizon Hotel in Montegranaro (FM) hosted the 8th thematic meeting on Shoes & Fashion.
- On July 15th, the Compagnia del Denim SME hosted the 9th and last thematic meeting on Fashion & Personal Care.

Stakeholders discussed on how to face the new national and international market needs:

- Sustainability (Blue Economy, Bioeconomy, Energy and Circular Economy)
- Industry 4.0
- Wellness and life quality
- Social Inclusion
- Safety

A portfolio of opportunities have be given as meetings downstream. The Marche Regional S3 2021-2027 will face the following policy challenges:

- Digitalization/ Industry 4.0
- Wellness and life quality
- Social Inclusion
- Safety

How?:

- Through new digital innovation hubs and new infrastructures
- By driving the technological progress and focusing on personal needs
- Thanks to new opportunity of youth entrepreneurship.

Few cross-cutting issues have been underlined as the importance of:

- Promoting private as well as public capital investments;
- Streamlining bureaucracy and extend the participation in public tenders;
- Encourage the systematization of resources/innovative energies of the territory in order to identify an innovative strategy in the services sector;
- Simplifying personnel expenses rules for financing instruments beneficiaries.

In the framework of Regional meetings to study new mechanisms stimulating the access of funds and investments by the blue enterprises, Svim has organized an international seminar to analyze alternative financial instruments to combine to the traditional investment funds, in the sector of Blue Economy.

The sector - in accordance with the EU Report on the Blue Economy 2021 - shows a great market potential that needs liquidity injections, especially to strengthen the financing of innovative activities.

For this reason, it is particularly important to investigate alternative finance instruments to be combined with traditional ESI funds and, the opportunity to deepen this issue has been offered from the international seminar on “civic crowdfunding and match funding”, implemented as part of the activities of the Blue Crowdfunding Project, an initiative funded by the Interreg Mediterranean program of the European Commission with the general aim of improving and enhancing knowledge and capacities about crowdfunding in the Med area.

Puglia Region

During the **Blue Innovation Living Lab** organized by **DARe Puglia** on 20th December 2019 in Foggia at the premises of **University of Foggia - Department of Agricultural Science, Food and Environment** (not initially foreseen by the Application Form of the project) a strategic meeting was planned with one of the main stakeholders of the **Investinfish project**: the regional authorities.

During this event, indeed, DARe Puglia met Dr. **Aldo Di Mola**, Referent of the **European Fund for Maritime Policy, Fisheries and Aquaculture (EMFF)** of the Apulia Region and Dr. **Gianfranco Pazienza**, **FEAMP Responsible for the LAG of Gargano**.

This choice, following the indications provided at macro level by the project, has been aimed at collecting the feedback of those who best know the fisheries and aquaculture sector and, for this reason, able to provide an objective view of the real needs of these companies and the best operational strategies to be used in achieving the objectives of the project, exploring together -

during the Blue Innovation Living Lab - the voucher systems and funding lines related to the **EMFF**.

Istria County

IDA had the opportunity to discuss with the representatives and stakeholders of Istria region that Investinfish. IDA team members participated at the meetings that were held in Poreč (Croatia) on May 26th 2020. and June 3rd 2020, the meetings were attended by representatives from:

1. Region of Istria (Department for Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting and Water Management):
 - Ezio Pinzan- Head of the department
 - Graciano Prekalj – Professional collaborator of the department
 - Petra Perhat - Professional collaborator for international projects and development
2. Istrian Chamber of trades and crafts –
 - Robert Momić – President of Istrian Chamber of trades and crafts
3. AZRRI – Agency for Rural Development of Istria and Fishing Cooperative Istra
 - Igor Merlić – director of the agency
 - Jasenka Kapuralin - Head of the Center for Education, European and Institutional Cooperation

IDA team members participated at the networking workshop that was held in Pazin (Croatia) on June 30th 2020. The workshop was attended by representatives from:

1. Head of the Administrative Department for Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting, Fisheries and Water Management of Istria County; Ezio Pinzan
2. President of the Fishermen's Guild, representative from Istrian Chamber of trades and crafts; Robert Momić
3. AZRRI – Agency for Rural Development of Istria; Igor Merlić, Jasenka Kapuralin, Iris Pentek, Sara Josipović, Sanja Terlević, Petra Maleković Šušnjić

and as well

4. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, who held a presentation titled “Catch and market of small blue fish in Croatia and the EU”; Danijela Mioković

Zadar County

The focus meeting was held on June 25th 2021, in combination with the regional meeting

The participant included:

- Šime Mršić (Ministry of Agriculture)
- Tomislav Sokol (European Parliament)
- Božidar Longin (Zadar County)
- Antonio Vučetić (Zadar County)
- Zoran Šikić (Zadar County)
- Daniel Segarić (Zadar County)
- Martina Glavić (Zadar County)
- Davor Čerkuč (Zadar County)
- Ivan Župan (University of Zadar)
- Tomislav Šarić (University of Zadar)
- Petar Pedišić (Croatian Chamber of Commerce)
- Marijana Pirović (FLAG Lostura)
- Ante Miletić (FLAG Tri mora)
- Ante Župan (Zadar County)

FOCUS: The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

The **(EMFF)** is indeed one of the five European structural and investment funds (EIS funds) aimed at promoting a recovery based on growth and employment in Europe. More specifically, the EMFF aims to contribute to the achievement of the smart, sustainable and inclusive growth goals

(whose foundations have been established by the European Commission within the Europe 2020 Strategy), operating within the regulatory framework of the guidelines established by the Common Fisheries Policy ¹and Blue Growth².

The Fund can also be seen as a strategic tool to be used for the achievement of larger goals such as Sustainable Development Goal 14 aimed at conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

In this sense, the EMFF Fund represents a support to all those actions aimed at favoring the achievement of a better and more sustainable management of the oceans, promote actions aimed at achieving good environmental status, fight against illegal fishing unregistered and regulated, intervene on the reduction of fishing overcapacity and the implementation of the European Strategy for Plastics in the Circular Economy and fight against climate change.

The EMFF actually contributes to the Commission's recovery program regarding the European Green Deal, the "producer-to-consumer" strategy and the biodiversity strategy, introducing all those actions aimed at encouraging (both for fisheries and aquaculture) the transition to new and more sustainable methods of production.

With reference to these objectives, the EMFF Fund aims to implement and finance all those actions aimed at the diffusion of renewable energies, the reduction of polluting conditions in production processes, the development of quality productions for a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system, the promotion of biodiversity and the diffusion of circular economy.

More specifically, at a strategic level, the EMFF operates essentially on four pillars:

- Smart and environmentally friendly fishing, in order to facilitate the transition to sustainable fishing;
- Smart and eco-friendly aquaculture, ensuring healthy and nutritious food for EU consumers;
- Sustainable and inclusive development of fisheries-dependent communities;

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/index_en

² https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/blue_growth_it

- Cross-sectoral maritime policies that generate savings and growth.

At operational level, instead, these pillars are divided into six Priorities, each of which foresees a series of operational Measures³ aimed at supporting interventions for sustainability and inclusive growth of fishing and aquaculture sectors.

The **first priority** focuses on promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries; the **second** on promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture; and the **third** on promoting the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy. The **fourth priority** aims to increase employment and territorial cohesion, the **fifth** to promote marketing and processing and finally through the **sixth** will seek to promote the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP).

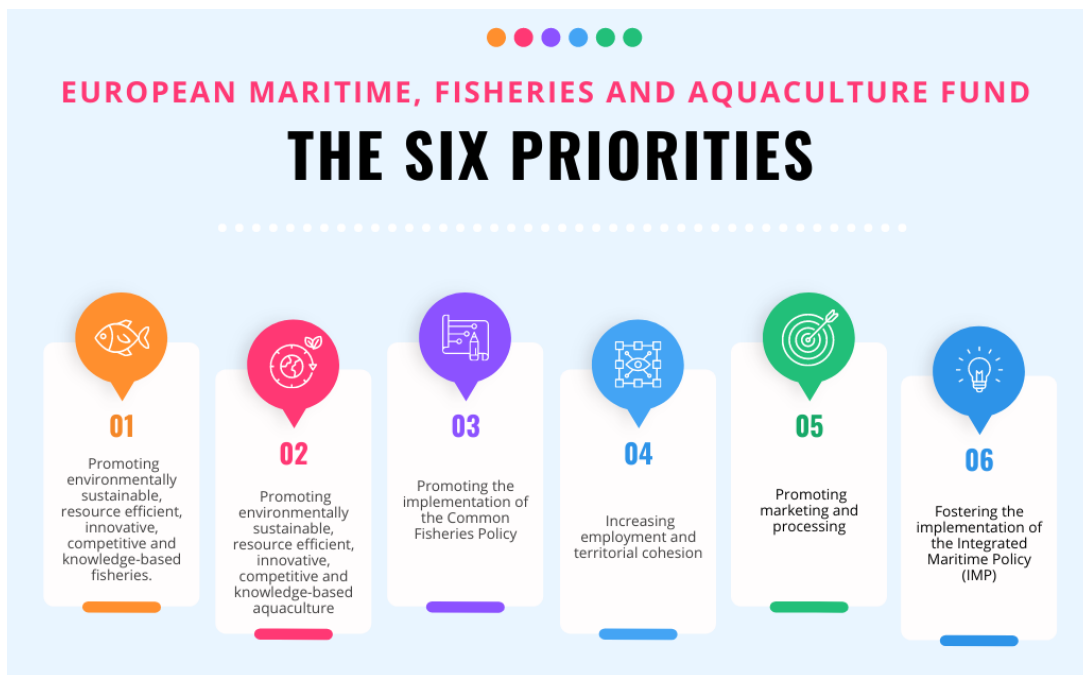


Figure 1 - The Six Priorities

³ For an exhaustive view of the Fund's measures, please refer to the list here provided: <https://pofeamp.politicheagricole.it/it/il-programma/misure/>

EMFF funding measures

The EMFF Fund, also according to the words of the Minister of Agricultural Policies **Teresa Bellanova**, is one of the most important levers to be used for the recovery of the fishing and aquaculture sector from the crisis and for its leading role in the sustainable development of the country.

Its investments, indeed, are mainly focused on innovation and the improvement of production processes. It also foresees important actions aimed at guaranteeing the generational change of the sector and the acquisition of new professional skills aimed especially at strengthening the diversification of fishing activities.

In addition, always in view of innovation, it is important to emphasize that these funds are aimed primarily at digital transformation, facilitating the transition of the fisheries sector through the financial support needed for the introduction of technological tools such as blockchain and smart packaging and the strengthening of ICT skills required for the collection of quality data, to facilitate their use through the European Marine Observation and Data Network.

At the same time, in the aquaculture sector, the EMFF Fund encourages investments in sustainability by rewarding productive diversification, innovative practices with low energy consumption systems and all those processes aimed at providing added value to breeding productions through, for example, the development of brands or consumer information transfer systems, able to increase its confidence in this type of products.

At the economic level, these objectives are pursued through a **total economic contribution of € 537,262,559.00** (obtained as € 505,026,805.00 of the main endowment of the EMFF and € 32,235,754.00 for the performance reserve of the implementation of the EMFF) divided by year and measure funded as follows.

Year	Main EMFF budget	Reserve for the implementation of the EMFF
2014	0,00	0,00
2015	139.332.339,00	8.893.554,00
2016	70.749.204,00	4.515.907,00
2017	71.895.902,00	4.589.100,00

2018	73.568.844,00	4.695.884,00
2019	74.071.891,00	4.727.993,00
2020	75.408.625,00	4.813.316,00
Total	505.026.805,00	32.235.754,00

Table 1 - Total EMFF contribution planned for each year (in EUR)

Union Priorities	Measure within the Union priority	Total support			Core funding		Implementation performance reserve		Amount implementation performance reserve as a % of total Union
		EMFF contribution	National counterpart	EMFF co-financing rate	EMFF support	National counterpart	EMFF implementation performance reserve	National counterpart	
		a	b	$c = a / (a + b) * 100$	$d = a - f$	$e = b - g$	f	$g = b * (f / a)$	
Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries.	1 - Article 33(1)(a), (b), (c), Article 34 and Article 41, paragraph 2 (Article 13(2) EMFF)	52.846.573,00	52.846.573,00	50,00%	48.611.159,00	48.611.159,00	4.235.414,00	4.235.414,00	6,64%
Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries. knowledge	1.b - Article 33(1)(d) and Article 44(4a)	9.601.364,00	9.601.364,00	50,00%	9.601.364,00	9.601.364,00	0,00	0,00	
Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries	2 - Financial allocation for the remaining part of Union priority 1 (Article 13(2) EMFF)	122.006.347,00	122.006.347,00	50,00%	114.002.859,00	114.002.859,00	8.003.488,00	8.003.488,00	
Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	-	75.373.142,00	75.373.142,00	50,00%	75.373.142,00	75.373.142,00	0,00	0,00	0,00%
Promote the implementation of the CFP	1 - Improving and providing scientific knowledge, data collection and management	62.585.079,00	15.646.270,00	80,00%	58.691.298,00	14.672.825,00	3.893.781,00	973.445,00	6,90%
Promoting the implementation of the CFP	2 - Supporting monitoring, control and enforcement, strengthening institutional capacity and promoting efficient public administration without increasing administrative burden (Article 76(2)(a) to (d) and (f) to (l)) (Article 13(3) EMFF)	39.843.892,00	4.427.099,00	90,00%	36.668.298,00	4.074.255,00	3.175.594,00	352.844,00	
Promote implementation of CFP	3 - Support monitoring, control and enforcement, strengthening of institutional capacity and promotion of efficient public administration without increasing administrative burdens administrative burden (Article 76(2)(e)) (Article 13, paragraph 3 of the EMFF)	0,00	0,00		0,00	0,00	0,00		
Increase employment and territorial cohesion	-	42.802.124,00	42.802.124,00	50,00%	42.802.124,00	42.802.124,00	0,00	0,00	0,00%
Supporting marketing and processing	1 - Aid for storage (Article 67) (Article 13(6) EMFF)	6.088.028,00	0,00	100,00%	6.088.028,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	13,02%
Promotion of marketing and processing	2 - Compensation for the outermost regions (Article 70) (Article 13(5) EMFF)	0,00	0,00		0,00	0,00	0,00		
Supporting marketing and processing	3 - Financial allocation for the remaining part of Union priority No 5 (Article 13(2))	90.823.650,00	90.823.650,00	50,00%	78.207.362,00	78.207.362,00	12.616.288,00	12.616.288,00	
Supporting the implementation of the	-	3.045.560,00	2.267.783,00	57,32%	2.734.371,00	2.036.066,00	311.189,00	231.717,00	10,22%
7 - Assistenza tecnica	-	32.246.800,00	26.439.660,00	54,95%	32.246.800,00	26.439.660,00	0,00	0,00	0,00%
Totale		537.262.559,00	442.234.012,00		505.026.805,00	415.820.816,00	32.235.754,00	26.413.196,00	6,00%

Table 2 - EMFF contribution and co-financing rate for Union priorities, technical assistance and other forms of support (in EUR)

EMFF funding tools

Regarding the funding, the EMFF uses a wide range of financial instruments which allow to sustainably and efficiently invest resources in the growth and development objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy for the F&A sector, as well as to provide an important support to the development of the Integrated Maritime Policy, for the benefit of a wide range of recipients.

The use of these financial instruments has been considered (on an experimental basis) especially in view of the severe difficulties of access to credit and undercapitalization of companies operating in the F&A sector. Furthermore, the EC needs to boost these instruments within the EIS Funds in order to significantly increase the overall support of the Union through financial instruments with leverage effect for SMEs in 2014-2020 must be considered.

Accordingly, the EMFF implemented the following financial instruments for the 2014-2020 period:

- **Loans:** which are granted when not offered by the financial system or granted at more advantageous conditions. They can be used to improve the added value and quality of catches, to encourage investments on board aimed at energy efficiency, to support productive investments in aquaculture, to invest in product processing;
- **Microcredit:** i.e. small loans granted to subjects usually excluded from access to credit, which can be used by fishermen and their families to diversify income sources with complementary activities, as well as to provide support to young people for the first acquisition of a fishing vessel;
- **Guarantees:** which assure the lender that their capital will be repaid. These can be used to release loans for investments considered too risky, such as those related to innovation, aquaculture or the conservation of marine biological resources;

- **Equity:** in which the investor can take over the management of the company and participate in profit sharing, being able to intervene in one of the different phases of the life cycle of a company. This typology could be used for high-risk, high-growth-potential companies such as pilot initiatives in innovative technologies for aquaculture and production processes.

Given the experimental nature of this action, according to the **EMFF Operative Plan**, the financial instruments provided by the EMFF have been addressed only to those measures that have a discrete financial capacity, in a complementary manner to the other modes of financing provided, so as to understand the financial instrument as one of the possible modes of implementation.

These measures are:

- **Measure 02** - Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ Article 44(4) Inland fishing);
- **Measure 03** - Article 31 Start-up support for young fishermen (+ Article 44(2) Inland Fisheries);
- **Measure 04** - Article 32 Health and safety (+ Article 44(1)(b) Inland Fisheries);
- **Measure 08** - Article 42 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ Article 44(1)(e) Inland Fisheries);
- **Measure 03** - Article 41(1)(a), (b) and (c) Energy efficiency and climate change mitigation - investments on board; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull design (+ Article 44(1)(d) Inland Fisheries);
- **Measure 04** - Article 41(2) Energy efficiency and climate change mitigation - replacement or modernisation of main or auxiliary engines (+ Article 44(1)(d) Inland Fisheries);
- **Measure 01** - Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h) Productive investments in the aquaculture sector;
- **Measure 02** - Article 48 (1) (e), (i) and (j) Productive investments in aquaculture - efficient use of resources, reduction of the use of water and chemicals, recirculation systems that minimize the use of water;
- **Measure 01** - Article 69 Processing of fishery and aquaculture products.

EMFF results and opportunities in Apulia

Focusing on the **Apulian territory**, according to the comments of Dr. **Aldo di Mola** during the DARE Puglia Blue Innovation Living Lab, **the Fund granted a total budget of 89.8 million euros**, providing 24.3 million for sustainable fishing (Priority 1), 35 million for sustainable aquaculture (Priority 2), 13.2 million for the development of fish and aquaculture areas (Priority 4), 13.2 million for processing and marketing (Priority 5) and 4.1 million for technical assistance activities (also financed by the fund).

The budget per measure was reallocated as follows:

Measure		Budget	Measure		Budget
1.26	Innovation	1.964.794	2.47	Innovation	1.940.331
1.29	Promotion of human capital	1.552.363	2.48 (OT3)	Productive investments aquac.	17.613.839
1.30	Diversification	500.000	2.48 (OT6)	Productive investments aquac.	5.700.000
1.31	Young fishermen	402.554	2.48 k)	Energy efficiency	2.277.904
1.32	Health and Safety	2.015.000	2.50	Promotion of human capital	593.802
1.38	Limitation of fishing impact	942.030	2.51	Aquaculture Sites	1.442.030
1.40.1 (a-g,i)	Biodiversity Protection	3.848.091	2.54	Environmental Services	740.242
1.41.1	Energy Efficiency	777.432	2.55	Health measures	1.597.790
1.41.2	Energy Efficiency (engine subst.)	579.799	2.56	Animal health and welfare	524.707
1.42	Added Value	1.947.199	Total priority 2		32.430.646
1.43	Ports, landing places	7.419.592	4.62	Participatory local development	-
1.44.1 a)	Promotion of human capital	292.282	4.63	Participatory local development	12.000.000
1.44.1 b)	Investments on board	625.000	4.64	Cooperative activities	1.170.492
1.44.1 c)	Investments	625.000	Total priority 4		13.170.492
1.44.1 d)	Energy efficiency	312.347	5.68	Marketing	2.491.304
1.44.3	Interventions as per art. 26- 28	512.000	5.69	Processing	12.671.822
1.44.4	Diversification	312.000	Total priority 5		15.163.127
1.44.6	Aquatic fauna and flora	312.000	Art. 78	Technical assistance	4.124.387
Total priority 1		24.939.482	Total		89.828.134

Table 3 - Budget of Apulia Region (by Measure)

The region showed a positive response from companies, which seem strongly interested to apply. To date, indeed, **Apulia Region admitted 114 applications, granting a total contribution of € 24.884.706,90**, equal to 28% of available funds. Among these, the highest demand for funding is related to the:

- **Measure 2.48 | Productive investments for aquaculture:** aimed at supporting productive investments; diversification of production; modernization of units also for the safety of workers; improvement of health and animal welfare; reduction of environmental impact; improvement of quality and value addition to products; rehabilitation of ponds and lagoons; diversification of business income; reduction of the use of chemicals, antibiotics and medicines; promotion of closed circuit aquaculture systems; increase of energy efficiency.
- **Measure 5.69 | Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products:** for the financing of interventions for the processing of products that contribute to energy savings; improve safety and hygiene; support the processing of fish not intended for human consumption; implement the processing of by-products of the main activities; refer to the processing of products from organic aquaculture; that create new or improved products, processes, management systems and organization.
- **Measure 1.42 | Added value, quality of products and use of unwanted catches:** to improve the added value or quality of the through investments that allow fishermen to directly process and market their catches as well as investments in innovations on board aimed at increasing quality.
- **Measure 1.32 | Health and Safety:** for the financing of investments to improve hygiene, health and safety on board, provided they go beyond the requirements imposed by law.

PUBLIC CALL	ADMITTED APPLICATIONS	AMOUNT TO CALL (RESERVATION)	GRANTED CONTRIBUTION
Measure 5.69 Processing of F&A products	19	€ 10.671.822,00	€ 8.107.507,44
Measure 2.48 - Productive investments in aquaculture	11	€ 5.622.268,19	€ 2.546.326,14
Measure 2.48 - Productive investments in aquaculture	16	€ 4.000.000,00	€ 6.601.369,96
Measure 1.32 - Health and safety	15	€ 1.874.089,40	€ 316.377,77
Measure 1.41 - Energy efficiency and climate change mitigation (par. 1)	1	€ 1.777.433,00	€ 9.240,00
Measure 1.42 - Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches	19	€ 1.874.089,00	€ 552.023,15
Measure 1.26 - Innovation	11	€ 937.045,00	€ 1.964.794,06
Measure 2.47 - Innovation	6	€ 312.348,23	€ 1.078.158,96
Measure 4.63 - Local development (LAG) - TITULARITY	10	€ 2.040.000,00	€ 1.790.000,00
Measure 4.63 - Local development (LAG) - A REGIA (Notices)	6	€ 9.960.000,00	€ 1.918.909,42
Measure 2.54 - Provision of environmental services by the	0	/	/
Measure 1.40 - Protection and restoration of biodiversity and marine ecosystems		€ 1.500.672,59	
Measure 1.32 - Health and safety (2018)		€ 1.698.622,40	
Measure 1.43 - Ports, Landing Places, Auction Rooms, and Fishing Shelters (par. 1)		€ 7.419.591,69	
Measure 1.41 - Energy efficiency and climate change mitigation (par. 1 - 2018)		€ 768.191,61	
Measure 1.44 - Investments referred to in Art. 43 (par. 1 - letter f)		€ 625.000,00	
Measure 2.48 - Productive investments for aquaculture - a) and c) (2018)		€ 3.000.000,00	
TOTAL	114	€ 47.989.359,11	€ 24.884.706,90

Table 4 - Measures activated and requested so far in Apulia

During the meeting, moreover, the EMFF referent of the Apulia Region underlined the most widespread territorial difficulties including the **need for an intelligent planning** that allows the region to maintain its ranking as the second largest fishing fleet in Italy and the first region to move at system level.



This "system-wide" strategy implies the creation of a strong dialogue with the world of research, providing an important input for a multidisciplinary approach aimed primarily at strengthening the aquaculture sector in view of an improvement in sustainable business that, through the use of sustainable feed, can also improve the quality of the final product.

A need that also emerged from the intervention of **Dr. Gianfranco Pazienza, FEAMP Responsible for the LAG of Gargano**, who described the entrepreneurial situation of the F&A sector in the region and the changing market conditions to which companies had to react as a result of the change in environmental conditions and customer needs.

The event concluded with the announcement of the imminent publication of new calls for proposals by the Region financed by the EMFF to support small and medium-sized enterprises in the F&A sector.

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