

**EMFF MEASURES OF RELEVANCE FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN FISHERIES**  
**08.12.2014**

**RELEVANT PROVISIONS IN THE EMFF REGULATION (EU) NO 508/2014**

*Article 26: Innovation (UP1, TO3)*

*Article 27: Advisory services (UP1, TO3)*

*Article 29: Promotion of human capital, job creation and social dialogue (UP1, TO8)*

*Article 30: Diversification and new forms of income (UP1, TO3)*

*Article 32: Health and safety (UP1, TO3)*

*Article 42: Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (UP1, TO3)*

*Article 44: Inland fishing and inland aquatic fauna and flora (UP1, TO3)*

*Article 49: Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms (UP2, TO3)*

*Article 50 Promotion of human capital and networking (UP2, TO8)*

*Article 63: Implementation of community-led local development strategies (UP4, TO8)*

*Article 68: Marketing measures (UP5, TO3)*

*Article 69: Processing of fishery and aquaculture products (UP5, TO3)*

***DISCLAIMER:*** *This working document has been prepared by the Commission services. On the basis of the applicable EU law, it provides technical guidance to the attention of public authorities, practitioners, beneficiaries or potential beneficiaries, and other bodies involved in the monitoring, control or implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund on how to interpret and apply the EU rules in this area. The aim of this document is to provide Commission services' explanations and interpretations of the said rules in order to facilitate the implementation of operational programmes and to encourage good practice(s). However this guidance note is without prejudice to the interpretation of the Court of Justice and the General Court or decisions of the Commission.*

The purpose of this note is to present a list of EMFF measures and the most relevant types of actions eligible within these measures, under which gender equality may be promoted. This non-exhaustive list provides an indication of which EMFF measures can contribute to ensuring the principle of gender mainstreaming within EMFF Operational Programmes 2014-2020. It provides some guidance to MS on which measures they can select under the principle of shared management and on the basis of a SWOT analysis and of the identification of their needs within the framework of their overall strategy.

## **1. WOMEN INVOLVEMENT IN THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR**

Women's involvement in the fisheries sector can take a variety of forms according to which branch of the sector one considers. Women can, for example, take up tasks such as representing the family enterprise, doing the administrative work (accounting, relations with banks and fisheries administration and organisations, etc.). They can also undertake activities directly related to fishing (cleaning vessels, mending nets, baiting long lines, etc.) or fish farming (particularly in shellfish farming). Women (spouses, life partners, mothers and/or sisters of fishermen) often process fish and deal directly with the consumers (selling fish, running restaurants and/or dealing with tourists). These activities add value to the fish product and increase family income. Finally, women comprise a significant part of the work force in the processing sector.

Although both men and women can benefit from EMFF measures since these are targeted at natural persons, there are certain difficulties to promote women's involvement in the fisheries sector for measures requiring beneficiaries to have a recognized status, for example, when they have to be formally recognized as engaging in a commercial activity by MS legal structures. This makes the formalisation of women's work, through the transposition into national legislation of the Directive 2010/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on "*the application of the principal of equal treatment of men and women engaging in an activity of self-employment capacity*", all the more relevant, especially for "collaborative partners or spouses".

## **2. GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE EMFF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES**

Article 7 of the Common Provisions Regulation expresses a commitment to gender equality and the integration of the gender mainstreaming strategy: "*The Member States and the Commission shall ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of gender perspective are taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation and implementation, in relation to monitoring, reporting and evaluation of programmes.*"

Horizontal principles, gender equality and non-discrimination are clearly required to be mainstreamed: "*Promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination. In accordance with Article 7, Member States shall pursue the objective of equality between men and women and must take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination and to ensure accessibility during the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of operations in the programmes co-financed by the CSF Funds. When pursuing the objectives of Article 7, Member States shall describe in detail actions to be taken, in particular with regard to selection of operations, setting of objectives for interventions, and arrangements for monitoring and reporting. Member States shall also carry out gender analyses where appropriate.*"

### **3. NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF EMFF MEASURES WHERE GENDER EQUALITY CAN BE PROMOTED**

#### **3.1 Article 29 for the promotion of human capital, job creation and social dialogue**

This measure can contribute to improve the involvement of women in the fisheries sector via professional training, job creation and networking, which can all contribute to women's professionalization, as well as their participation in decision-making and their involvement in the running of fisheries undertakings.

#### **3.2 Article 26: Innovation**

Funding for developing or introducing new or substantially improved products and equipment, new or improved processes and techniques, and new or improved management and organisation systems, including at the level of processing and marketing, can all increase women's active participation in the fisheries sector.

#### **3.3 Article 27: Advisory services**

Some advisory service providers (scientific, academic, professional or technical bodies) specifically target increasing women's participation in the sector.

#### **3.4 Article 30: Diversification and new forms of income**

Since the family income in the small-scale fisheries sector (including “invisible” female contribution) is often complemented by women's participation in the family business, diversifying and finding new forms of income, such as tourism, restaurants and education activities concerning fisheries, can promote gender mainstreaming in fisheries.

#### **3.5 Article 32: Health and safety**

Although only a small number of women (in overall terms) work on board fishing vessels, difficult working conditions prevent more women from taking jobs on board. Providing protection from adverse weather conditions, improving safety and comfort of living quarters, introducing equipment to reduce heavy manual lifting, can help to attract more women to the sector and improve working conditions for those already employed on board.

#### **3.6 Article 42: Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches**

Given that many women are employed (mostly on a part-time basis) in processing fish and dealing directly with consumers (selling fish, running restaurants and/or dealing with tourists) funding for increasing added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches can increase women's active participation in the fisheries sector.

#### **3.7 Article 44: Inland fishing and inland aquatic fauna and flora**

All the activities which can promote women's participation in the marine fisheries sector can also be developed in inland fisheries. This applies to the promotion of human capital, equipment to facilitate physically demanding tasks, promoting business start-ups and innovations of all sorts, whether in catching, processing or marketing inland fish.

#### **3.8 Article 49: Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms**

Some advisory service providers (scientific, academic, professional or technical bodies) specifically target increasing women's participation in the sector.

### **3.9 Article 50: Promotion of human capital and networking (in aquaculture)**

Given women's involvement in aquaculture, particularly in shellfish aquaculture, projects contributing to their professional training, lifelong learning, the improvement of their working conditions, networking, the exchange of experiences and best practices can contribute to their professionalization as well as their involvement in decision-making and in the management of aquaculture undertakings.

### **3.10 Article 63: Implementation of community–led local development strategies**

Support provided through CLLD can contribute to the promotion of gender equality in most of the ways mentioned for the other measures as well as through the development of alternative activities contributing to the diversification of coastal economies both inside and outside commercial fisheries or aquaculture.

### **3.11 Article 68: Marketing measures**

Because women (spouse, life partners, mothers and/or sisters of fishermen) often deal directly with consumers (selling fish, running restaurants and/or dealing with tourists) support provided through marketing measures can enhance their involvement in the sector, in particular through their involvement in the direct marketing of the fishery products landed by small-scale fishermen or gathered by on-foot fishermen.

### **3.12 Article 69: Processing of fishery and aquaculture products**

Because of the importance share of women in the labour force of the processing sector, EMFF support for the processing industry (through grants for SMEs; through financial instruments for non SMEs) is more likely to benefit women, in particular through the improvement of safety hygiene, health and working conditions. This applies also to the promotion of human capital in this sector via professional training, lifelong learning and the acquisition of new professional skills.