

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Bulgaria

Bulgaria – overview

Coast, lakes and ports

Situated in the south-east of Europe, Bulgaria has a coastline of 378 km. This makes up 0.57 % of the 66 000 km EU coastline.

The total length of rivers for inland fishing is 20 231 km, with a water area of 15 000 ha and about 65 different fish species.

Most fishing activities are carried out in territorial waters. The main ports used by fishermen for landing catches are in Baltchik, Burgas, Varna, Sozopol, Pomorie, Chernomorets and Nessebar.

Tradition and potential

According to the Bulgarian EMFF Operational Programme (OP), the fishing fleet consists of 2 005 fishing vessels (2 043 in 2013), of which 1 104 are active. A total reduction of 90 fishing vessels (1 522 GT and 6 881 kW) was achieved under EFF programming period.

A characteristic of the Bulgarian fishing fleet is that the size of 95.41 % (i.e. 1 913) of fishing vessels is up to 12 metres, as many use gill nets as their main fishing tool. The species composition of landings during the period from 2001 to 2011 includes 36 species of fish, molluscs and crustaceans. The most important target pelagic fish species are European sprat, Mediterranean horse mackerel and anchovy. Demersal fish species with commercial importance are turbot, gobies and picked dogfish. Due to the increasing commercial value of molluscs in the last decade, rapa whelks can also be included in this list.

Economic performance and employment

Economic importance of fisheries: In 2012, there were 184 fishing enterprises: the majority (68 %) owned a single vessel, and 30 % owned between two and five fishing vessels. Total employment in 2012 was estimated at 5 638 jobs.

Economic importance of the aquaculture sector: In 2012, Bulgarian aquaculture sector sales reached 2 500 tonnes, a 33 % decrease from 2009. The turnover was EUR 3.3 million, representing a decrease by 71 % from 2009, when the turnover was EUR 15 million. In 2012, the Bulgarian aquaculture sector had 151 companies with 5 or less employees, 8 companies with between 6 and 10 employees, and 4 companies with more than 10 employees. Total employment in 2012 was estimated at 454 jobs, corresponding to 321 FTEs.



About 90 % of aquaculture production in Bulgaria is cyprinids, trout species and Mediterranean mussel. The only marine aquaculture in Bulgaria is the Mediterranean mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*).

Economic performance of processing: The number of enterprises decreased to only 10 units, as compared with 33 units in 2011 and 21 units in 2008. Moreover, the number of employees decreased from 325 in 2011 to 252 in 2012. The turnover in 2012 was EUR 7.2 million and the gross added value was EUR 9.2 million.

Economic importance of coastal areas: The coastal areas employ around 805 000 people, representing 26.74 % of total employment in Bulgaria (BG National Statistical Institute, EUROSTAT, 2011).

Bulgaria's Operational Programme



Budget

Total (EU + national):
€113 543 227

EU contribution:
€88 066 622
(1.53 % of the total EMFF)

The Operational Programme (OP) covers the six 'Union Priorities' defined in the EMFF, namely:

1.  promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based **fisheries**;
2.  fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based **aquaculture**;
3.  fostering the implementation of the **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**;
4.  increasing **employment and territorial cohesion**;
5.  fostering **marketing and processing**;
6.  fostering the implementation of the **Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)**.



1. Fisheries

What?

Bulgaria's total catches amounted to 8 546.7 tonnes in 2014, according to the EMFF OP.

There are quotas for two Black Sea species in 2014: turbot and sprat. Quotas for sprat were 8 032.5 tonnes and the amount caught was 2 279 tonnes. Quotas for turbot were 43.20 tonnes and the amount caught was 39.45 tonnes.

On the other hand, since August 2012, no commercial fishing has been executed in the inland waterbodies of the country, excluding the Danube River, due to an amendment in the national legislation. In 2014, the Danube River fishing fleet caught 14 284 tonnes of fish, which represents 1.67 % of the total catch.

OP aim

EMFF funding will help improve infrastructure for:

- permanent cessation
- protection and restoration of marine biodiversity
- collection of marine litter
- increased gear selectivity
- development of complementary activities/new forms of income
- fishing ports
- landing sites
- shelters.

Bulgaria intends to further **restructure its fishing fleet** by means of permanent cessation, following promising steps undertaken under the EFF.

Through further improving its port infrastructure, with EMFF support Bulgaria also aims to improve the **quality, control and traceability** of products landed.

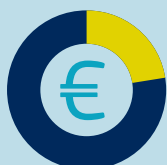
Moreover, Bulgaria targets investments to improve the selectivity of fishing gear as well as to ensure a balance between **fishing capacity and fishing opportunities**.

Key result

Environmentally, economically and socially sustainable fisheries.

Budget
€25.5 million

(22.47 % of the OP allocation)



2. Aquaculture

What?

The country's land resources and availability of inland waters provide perfect conditions for the development of aquaculture.

Active farms increased from 347 in 2010 to 388 in 2012, while the number of workers (calculated as FTEs) rose from 218 in 2010 to 764 in 2012.

The only marine aquaculture product in Bulgaria is the Mediterranean mussel. In 2014, there were 45 marine aquaculture farms, with a total annual production of 2 520.17 tonnes.

Under the EFF, cultivated species were further diversified. Recent years have seen an increase in the production of sturgeon species, catfish species, algae and Mediterranean mussels.

Mostly, the traditional pond fish farming method is used, and thus carp make up 80 % of the total production by volume.

OP aim

EMFF funding will support the production of aquaculture species to meet market demand. Support is also envisaged for aquaculture to provide environmental services.

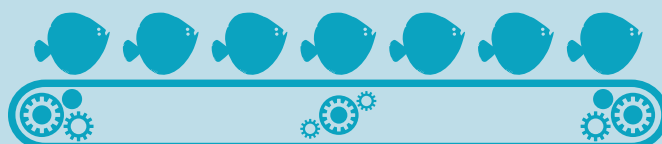
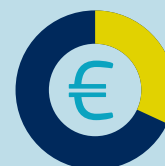
Key objective

By 2023, the production volume of aquaculture activities is expected to increase by 60 %, contributing to food supply, environmental protection and employment.

Budget

€36.2 million

(31.89 % of the OP allocation)



3. Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)



What?

The National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Bulgaria will be responsible for the collection and management of data, for supporting the monitoring, control and procedure of data collection, and for implementing Union control.

OP aim

The CFP sets out rules for managing European fishing fleets and conserving fish stocks.

Bulgaria implements them by:

- improving and supplying scientific knowledge;
- collecting and managing data;
- supporting, monitoring, control and enforcement.

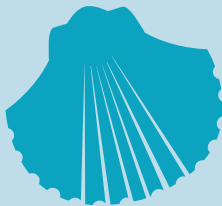
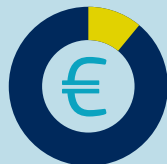
Key result

EMFF funding will support the collection, management and use of data required under the CFP, as well as the implementation of the EU's control, inspection and enforcement system, as required by the CFP.

Budget

€12.4 million

(10.93 % of the OP allocation)



4. Community-led local development strategies



What?

During the 2007-2013 programming period (and for the first time), Bulgaria supported local development through a bottom-up approach, financed by the EFF. Six fishing local action groups (FLAGs) were set up and began operating, covering the territories of 17 municipalities, most of which are rural areas in the country. Despite the late start, implementation of local development strategies improved, showing considerable progress.

OP aim

EMFF funding will help increase employment and territorial cohesion in fisheries-dependent areas by:

- diversifying activities;
- promoting social well-being and cultural heritage;
- enhancing and capitalising on environmental assets.

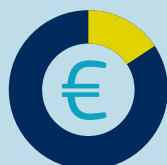
Key result

Help fishing areas and communities that depend on fisheries to diversify their economies and add value to their fishing activities. Bulgaria also intends to increase the number of FLAGs to eight.

Budget

€17.8 million

(15.72 % of the OP allocation)



5. Marketing and processing



What?

In line with the EMFF OP, Bulgaria currently has 55 fish processing factories on record. In the period from 2007 to 2013 in Bulgaria, the EFF supported 17 projects with a processing capacity of 9 899 tonnes.

In 2011, the value of the annual turnover of produce from Bulgarian fisheries placed on the European market amounted to EUR 12.7 million, of which EUR 10 million were derived from aquaculture and EUR 2.7 million from fisheries.

Based on data from the Bulgarian National Statistical Institute included in the EMFF OP, the export of fish and fish products to third countries in 2013 was 2 266 tonnes, which represents an increase by 14.3% compared to 2012, due to an increase of the catch of Rapana, a product in demand on the Asian market.

OP aim

EMFF funding will be invested in new or improved products, processes, technology, management systems and marketing measures for fisheries and aquaculture products.

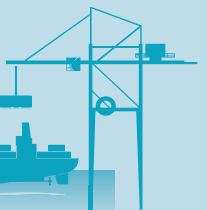
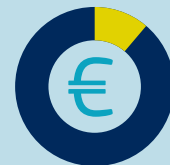
Key result

The processing sector will be modernised and made more competitive, through development of new products and acquisition of new markets.

Budget

€12.7 million

(11.19 % of the OP allocation)



6. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)



What?

The IMP seeks to provide a more coherent approach to maritime issues, with increased coordination across different policy areas. The Black Sea is a unique ecosystem, determined by its specific geographical and hydromorphological conditions.

OP aim

EMFF funding will help foster the development and implementation of the programme of measures under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (Directive 2008/56/EC), and will contribute to the conservation of the marine environment and prevent its deterioration.

Key results

Improved surveillance and preservation of the good environmental status of the Black Sea.

Budget

€3.3 million

(2.93 % of the OP allocation)



Simplification

The administrative burden for beneficiaries will be reduced by simplifying the application process and project implementation, including through implementation of a simplified cost approach. Procedures for reporting operating costs of the Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) will also be simplified.

Synergies

Bulgaria will implement Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) by attracting financing from two funds, i.e. the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EARD) and the EMFF, where the EAFRD has been selected as a leading fund. CLLD may be implemented, taking into account the interests of farmers and fishermen. The running costs of the joint local action groups will be financed by the EAFRD.

Success stories

Construction of a farm for the underwater production of cultivated mussels

The project's aim is to construct a farm for the production of cultivated Black Sea mussels with a total area of 2 080 square metres. The mussel farm is located in the Black sea aquatoria, in the "Deep" region of Kavarna. Dulboka OOD is continuing the expansion of its farmed production of Black Sea mussels to achieve the planned capacity of 34 100 square metres by 2017, with which it aims to become a major producer of Black Sea mussels in Bulgaria.

Total paid public aid: €299 524.12 including EFF funding of €224 643.09

Reconstruction and modernisation of Sarafovo fishing port

The main purpose of the construction of a modern fishing port in the municipality of Burgas is to significantly increase the control over illegal fishing activities. The establishment of a market for first sale of fish at the Sarafovo port provides fishermen with the opportunity to directly sell their catches. At the same time this serves as a regulator of fish sales as the end user is provided with fish without any resellers being involved. Burgas Municipality, in its capacity as a port operator, exercises control over the fish market in view of sales transparency and balance.

Total paid public aid: € 4 678 508.72 including EFF funding of € 3 508 881.54

Reconstruction and modernisation of fishing port – town of Pomorie

The modernization of the fishing port in Pomorie is of great regional significance since there is no other fishing port, except for the Burgas port, where larger vessels can be housed in the case of both routine operations and in complex weather conditions and emergencies. The main objective of this project is to reconstruct and modernise the fishing wharf equipment in view of its transformation into a fishing port with sufficient capacity for port facilities.

Total paid public aid: € 4 869 205.44 including EFF funding of € 3 651 904.08

Investment in existing fishing port in the town of Chernomorets, municipality of Sozopol

The project includes constructing a new port infrastructure- extension of the existing quay front to 600 m., increased capacity of shelters (up to 110), qualitatively new safety conditions for both vessels and fishermen, as well as the establishment of a market structure for first sale of fish, which will ensure the quality of the caught fresh fish.

Total paid public aid: € 4 684 047.46 including EFF funding of € 3 513 035.59

More information

- European Commission Fisheries
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
- Representation of the European Commission in Bulgaria
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Bulgaria
- Aquaculture multiannual national plan