

THE PLACE AND ROLE OF THE MANAGING AUTHORITY FOR OPERATIONAL PROGRAM FOR FISHERIES AND MARITIME AFFAIRS (AM-POPAM) IN THE ABSORPTION OF EUROPEAN FUNDS FOR THE PERIOD 2014-2020

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Abstract

This article analyzes the activity carried out by the Managing Authority for Operational Program for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (POPAM) within the Directorate General of Fisheries (AM-POPAM) in order to ensure the information and implementation process on accessing European funds granted by POPAM for the period 2014-2020 following the concluded contracts, measures implemented, the amounts that were allocated and the gain obtained by accessing them by the applicants as a result of the existing agreements between the European Community and Romania. The actions of DGP-AM-POPAM through its decision makers at central, regional and county level ensure information and communication, in accordance with the Regulation of Organization and Functioning of the Managing Authority for POPAM and the National Strategy of the Fisheries Sector for knowledge transfer for growth competitiveness and diversification and the need to modernize the fisheries sector, by processing and marketing fish products but also by developing markets by ensuring a wide and diversified range of products and services along with the use of renewable energy while protecting the environment. The methodology used consisted in studying the bibliographic sources, collecting, processing, analyzing and interpreting the data provided by the databases of DGP and MADR, as well as formulating conclusions on the status of projects submitted, amounts allocated, achievement of targets and measures that can be taken further to support fishing and aquaculture activities.

Key words: *DGP-(A.M-P.O.P.A.M), projects, programmes, measures, fishing, aquaculture, EU non-refundable funds for fishing and maritime affairs*

INTRODUCTION

Given the importance of the agricultural sector in the Romanian economy, the use of European funds an opportunity for care must continue to be taken advantage of and that will help reduce the gaps between our country and the rest of the European Union [5, 6].

The use of European funds also contributes to the efficient use of resources, the reduction of the budget deficit, the stimulation of investments, etc. [4, 7].

On 13.06.2012, the memorandum on "Approval of actions and documents on preparing to access and implement European funds in the period 2014-2020" is issued by the Government, through which the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) was appointed to hold discussions

with European Commission and to draw up the documents for the program financed by the European Fisheries and Maritime Fund (EMFF) on fisheries interventions. Following these negotiations, the Operational Program for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (POPAM) 2014-2020 was elaborated and the General Directorate for Fisheries (DGP) within MADR was designated as managing authority based on the Government Decision no. 1185/2014, to coordinate this program and to collaborate with other public institutions and bodies involved.

A similar Operational Program was developed in Poland for developing the fishery and maritime sector using substantial funds from EMFF [3].

Through the elaboration of the operational program, a multitude of concrete actions were

issued:

(1)The Ministry of European Affairs approved the document "Approval of actions and documents on preparing to access and implement European funds in the period 2014-2020", in June 2012, and created a partnership between the Interinstitutional Committee for the Partnership Agreement and 12 Advisory Committees.

(2)Within the MARD, the "Consultative Committee for Rural Development, Agriculture and Fisheries" and related working groups were established, involved with specific topics.

(3)The DGP developed a socio-economic analysis of the fisheries sector on the basis of which the National Strategy for the Fisheries Sector 2014-2020 (SNSP) was prepared and approved by the Working Group.

(4)The SNSP continued the National Strategic Plan 2007-2013 through national policies and the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The national strategy defined the strategic goal, objectives, priorities and achievement indicators for the period 2014-2020.

(5)During the implementation period of POPAM, it was desired the cooperation with the other programs financed by FESI through the Working Group and representatives of the central public institutions with attributions in the realization of the budgets and programming for the period 2014-2020.

(6)In August 2014, a contract was signed with the objective "Technical assistance for the development and consolidation of the institutional capacity of the DGP in order to develop and prepare the implementation of POPAM 2014-2020".

(7)Through the project, the Market Study for the Romanian fisheries sector and the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture were elaborated.

(8)From 29.10.2014, the ex-ante evaluation team was formed. The ex-ante evaluation is required by the EC Regulation for the period 2014-2020 according to Article 55 of Regulation (EU) no. 1303/2013 and Article 116 of Regulation (EU) no. 508/2014) on the FEPAM 2014-2020 programs.

The thematic objectives are highlighted in specific priorities for each ESI fund and

themes 1-4 are key themes for the ERDF, while themes 8-11 are key themes for the ESF.

The so-called thematic objectives (TOs) have the following aims:

- strengthening research, technological development and innovation;
- improving access to and increasing the quality of ICT;
- improving the competitiveness of SMEs, agriculture (in the case of the EAFRD) and the field of fisheries and aquaculture (in the case of the EMFF);
- the transition to a low-carbon economy in all areas;
- adaptation to climate change through risk prevention and management;
- conservation of environmental protection through conservation and efficient use of resources;
- promoting sustainable transport systems and removing bottlenecks in major network infrastructure;
- developing the quality of jobs and supporting the diversification of the workforce;
- promoting social inclusion and combating poverty;
- investments in education and training;
- strengthening the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration.

Our country must ensure that the choice of thematic objectives responds to the needs of development and territorial challenge and ensures an integrated implementation of ESI funds.

Romania, supported by the European Commission, must implement EU investment support as efficiently as possible, coordinating ESI funds and other EU instruments, in order to manage the Common Fisheries Policy as efficiently as possible;

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is a set of rules that seeks to conserve marine biological resources, manage and monitor European fisheries in and out of EU waters. The main purpose of the CFP is to strengthen fishing and aquaculture activities by providing longer-term ecological, economic and social sustainability. Promoting the common

fisheries policy to ensure the traceability, safety and quality of products sold in the EU by promoting productivity, a fair standard of living in the fisheries sector (including small-scale fishing) and a stable market. The scope of the CFP includes the protection of aquatic resources and the management of the fisheries that use them. In terms of market and financial measures, the CFP also covers freshwater biological resources and aquaculture activities, as well as the processing and sale of fishery and aquaculture products.

The current CFP is based on four pillars:

1. Fisheries management
2. International politics
3. Market and trade policy
4. Financing policy.

The fourth element of the CFP is the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (2021-2027), which helps achieve the objectives of the CFP by funding eligible actions. The CFP stipulates that sustainable fishing quotas should be established and fish stocks should be maintained for a long time. The CFP takes a prudent approach and recognizes the impact of human activities on all components of the ecosystem. The aim is to make the fishing fleet more diversified in terms of catching techniques and to reduce unwanted catches as little as possible. The CFP has changed the way fisheries policies are managed, giving the regional groups of the Member States more control by introducing so-called regionalization. The CFP is stipulated in Articles 38-43 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). According to Article 3 TFEU, the conservation of marine biological resources is an "exclusive competence" which means that only the EU is able to legislate and adopt binding acts. Member States can only issue laws if they are empowered by the EU.

The implementation of SNSP will increase the production of fish and fish products produced domestically and will improve the quality of products in accordance with the sustainability rules of the department, thus contributing to food security and public health in Romania. At the same time, the implementation of this

strategy will increase the share of the fisheries sector in GDP. In order to achieve the expected results and turn the vision of the fisheries sector into reality, the SNSP proposed the overall objective of supporting the development of a competitive, sustainable and attractive fisheries sector. The impact of SNSP will be reflected in all areas of sustainable development:

-Economic, by developing the competitiveness of the fishing sector;

-Environmental protection, by strengthening environmental services, in particular extensive aquaculture and limiting the negative effects of activities in the fisheries sector, is in particular the sustainable management of resources;

- Socially, by creating new jobs and developing social and territorial solidarity.

1. The fisheries sector is a food resource and a natural heritage

The medium to long-term economic and social importance in the field of fisheries and aquaculture has the role of developing the area through the following actions:

-Promoting competitive fishing and aquaculture, supporting economically, socially and ecologically viable producer organizations and fish farms;

-Promoting policies that are conducive to the inclusive and balanced development of the fishing area, simplifies the management and sustainable development of aquatic biological resources;

-Maritime policy assimilated to the European Union in a subsidiary manner encourages the development of a common and cohesion policy in the field of fisheries;

-The role of species aquaculture in fisheries management, as an opportunity to promote local development, creates an active economy (work in rural areas, capitalization of low-yield land) and environmental benefits or services (wetlands, biodiversity, microclimate, etc.).

The protection of the aquatic environment and the protection of the fish heritage have a universal significance for the following aspects:

-Creation and maintenance of wetlands and protection of the biodiversity of fish and birds,

-Contributing to ensuring national food security through the potential of food resources represented by aquatic biological resources at any stage of the biological cycle.

The hydrographic network of our country is 843,710 ha, representing over 3.5% of the total area of the territory. Fishing and aquaculture, along with fish processing and sales, are concerns in all parts of the country. The most valuable species of fish are 5 species of sturgeon, all threatened with extinction that we share with our neighbors Bulgaria and Serbia along the Danube but also with Turkey, Ukraine, Georgia, Russia and Bulgaria near the Black Sea.

2. Fishing

Commercial sea fishing

Romania's fishing zone is located between the Musura arm and Vama Veche on the Danube and the coastline is approximately 243 kilometers long and can be divided into two main geographical and geomorphic regions:

a) The northern region, with a total length of 158 kilometers, located between the subdelta of the Musura arm and Constanța;

b) In the south, the length between Constanța and Vama Veche is 85 kilometers.

According to the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, the main species caught in the Black Sea are small fish: mackerel, anchovy, horse mackerel. Therefore, the basis of fishing is formed by sprat, which is mainly used in the form of "salt sprat". Other species present in the catch, but in smaller numbers, are: mullet, shark, turbot and guavids

Commercial inland fishing

Commercial fishing in inland waters takes place in the natural waters that constitute the country's public domain: the Danube, the Danube Delta and the Razim-Sinoie Lagoon Complex - including the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, the Prut River, lakes, etc. The main inland fishing areas are the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and the Danube.

The species caught in inland waters are as follows: crucian carp, bream, Danube mackerel, carp, babushca, catfish, salamander.

3. Aquaculture

In the field of aquaculture, the main activity is freshwater fish farming, while the growth of other freshwater aquatic organisms (crayfish, shells, aquatic plants) or seawater almost does not exist. From a technical point of view, freshwater fish farming in Romania is characterized by two directions: intensive breeding (especially trout) and extensive and semi-intensive growing of carp in polyculture in terrestrial basins (ponds and lakes). There is not enough geographical and meteorological area for aquaculture in the Black Sea. Due to the lack of coastal relief elements that form protected areas, such as gulfs of strong winds, high waves and extreme temperatures in winter, aquaculture units in most areas of the Romanian Black Sea coast are in danger. Applicably, the only feasible alternatives for terrestrial fish farms fed by sea water are for fish (turbot) one area and four areas of farms with mollusks (mussels, oysters).

4. Fish processing

In Romania, fish processing is a traditional activity in the fishing sector. It plays an important role in the processing of fish obtained through fishing and aquaculture to use high quality raw materials to provide consumers with a wide range of fish products and through which producers bring added value. The local species commonly used for processing are: carp, blood, novac, bream, catfish, saddle, pike and trout. The most used marine species for processing are salmon, herring, sprat and mackerel. The fish is processed in several forms: decapitated, eviscerated, portioned, filleted, salted, smoked, marinated and salads.

5. Trade in fish and fish products

Imported products occupy a large share on the Romanian fishery products market. Only in recent years, several Romanian companies have begun to provide competitive products produced domestically (especially semi-prepared). Mackerel and herring are species that have a share in both import and processing. The appearance of imported species on the Romanian market determines the diversification of offers and consumer preferences for new species of fish and forms

of presentation, as well as changes in the growing demand for fish and fish products.

6. Education, training and research

Due to the long-term lack of public and private sector funding and insufficient technology transfer processes, scientific research has been affected and private sector research and infrastructure are insufficient to apply research results to innovation.

The human resources involved in the research and the experience of the researchers are a huge advantage that has not been fully utilized so far.

In order to improve the level of education of all workers in the fisheries sector, it is necessary to develop vocational schools and high schools with a profile in fishing, aquaculture and fish processing [8].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The paper is based on numerous documents of existing legislation, published reports and articles on this topic. The methods used include research of the literature, collection, processing, analysis and interpretation of data provided by the Directorate General of Fisheries (DGP) and the database of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) to implement the POPAM 2014-2020 project stage submitted. The amount allocated, the objectives achieved and the measures taken to support the fisheries and aquaculture sector by balancing fisheries management, fishery resources and the development of units to protect the fishery fund, fisheries and aquaculture.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

POPAM 2014-2020 mainly hopes to develop aquaculture production and fish processing. Other objectives include the following measures formulated by the European Union and translated into specific national objectives for the development of operators in this field, the protection and maintenance of biodiversity, the creation of employment opportunities and the protection of the environment in the fisheries sector through the following programs:

PU 1 Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fishing

SO 1.1 Reducing the environmental impact of fishing, including avoiding and reducing unwanted catches as far as possible

M I.15 Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species

M I.17 Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity - collection of lost fishing gear and other marine litter

SO 1.4 Increasing the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including the small-scale coastal fleet, and improving safety or working conditions

M I.6 Income diversification and new forms of income

M I.23 Fishing ports, landing places, auction halls and shelters

M I.2 Counseling services

M I.22 Value added, quality of products and use of unwanted catches

SO 1.5 Providing support for strengthening technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer

M I.1 Innovation

M I.21 Energy efficiency and climate change mitigation - Replacement or upgrading of main or auxiliary engines

These projects aim at introducing innovative technologies for marine and / or inland fishing.

The financing of the projects was transposed through:

Providing professional advice for commercial and marketing strategies, feasibility studies and consulting services for assessing the feasibility of the project.

Provide professional advice on environmental sustainability to limit and, where possible, eliminate the negative impact of fishing activities on marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.

Promovarea dezvoltării unor activități complementare pescuitului comercial pentru creșterea și diversificarea veniturilor.

Investiții în echipamente diverse în funcție de dimensiunea sau tipul uneltelor de pescuit.

Reducea pescuitului fantomă și a poluării habitatelor acvatice și contribuind la protecția biodiversității și a ecosistemelor acvatice prin colectarea deșeurilor marine, în special a uneltelor de pescuit pierdute sau aruncate.

Prelucrare, vânzare sau vânzare directă de către pescari.

Modernizarea infrastructurii specifice activităților de pescuit comercial și anume porturi, puncte de debarcare și a adăposturilor pescărești.

PU 2 Stimulating environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture

SO 2.2 Increasing the competitiveness and viability of enterprises in the aquaculture sector, including improving safety or working conditions, especially of SMEs

M II.2 Productive investments in aquaculture

M II.5 a Establishment of management, replacement and advisory services for aquaculture farms

M II.5 b Procurement of advisory services for aquaculture farms

M II.1 Innovation

M II.3 Productive investments in aquaculture - resource efficiency, reduction of water and chemical use, recirculation of water use minimization systems

M II.4 Productive investments in aquaculture - increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy

M II.7 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites

SO 2.4 Promoting aquaculture with a high level of environmental protection and promoting animal health, as well as public safety and health

M II.10 Aquaculture providing environmental services

M II.12 Animal health and welfare measures

The following projects were supported:

Introduction of new categories of fish to diversify production.

Profitable investments in aquaculture, modernization of aquaculture farms, improvement of working conditions and safety of workers in the aquaculture sector, variation of aquaculture production and types

of crops, diversification of income sources and development of tourism and recreation.

Increasing the profitability of farms through fishing and sports.

Surveying the most suitable areas for aquaculture or support infrastructure improvements.

Transforming traditional methods of aquaculture production into organic aquaculture.

Expenditure related to the control and elimination of diseases in the aquaculture sector, implementation of general and specific procedures for certain species or issuance of codes of conduct related to biosecurity or animal health and welfare requirements in aquaculture.

PU 3 Encourage the implementation of the CFP

SO 3.1 Improving and providing scientific knowledge and improving data collection and management

SO 3.2 Ensuring support for monitoring, control and enforcement, strengthening institutional capacity and efficiency of public administration, without increasing administrative burdens

M VI.1 Control and execution

M VI.2 Data collection

M VI.1 Control and enforcement - non-competitive appeal

The following measures were supported:

Fulfilling the commitments made by EU regulations by implementing controls and inspections on the activities of economic operators.

By creating an interoperable central database, the coordination between the scientific partners and the authorities responsible for implementing the data collection framework and improving the computerized database has been strengthened.

PU 4 Increasing employment and increasing territorial cohesion

SO 4.1 Promoting growth, social inclusion and job creation and providing support to increase employment opportunities and labor mobility in coastal and inland communities, dependent on fishing and aquaculture, including diversification

M III.1. Establishing public-private partnerships and developing strategies for integrated development of fisheries areas

M III.2 DLRC Strategies - Selection of FLAGs

The following measures have been funded:

Job creation, attracting young people and promoting innovation at all stages of the supply chain of fishery and aquaculture products.

Promoting social welfare and cultural heritage in fisheries and aquaculture.

Strengthen the role of fishing communities in local development and governance of local fisheries resources and marine activities;

Interregional or transnational cooperation and technical support;

Establishment of a public-private partnership called the Local Fisheries Action Group-FLAG and a public-private partnership without legal personality.

PU 5 Stimulation of marketing and processing

SO 5.1 Improving market organizations for fishery and aquaculture products

M IV.1 Production and marketing plans

M IV.3 Marketing measures

SO 5.2 Encourage investment in the marketing and processing sectors M

IV.4 Processing of fishery and aquaculture products

The following measures have been implemented:

Supports the formulation and implementation of production and marketing plans;

Establishment of producer organizations, producer associations or professional organizations;

Identify new markets and improve conditions for the placing on the market of fishery and aquaculture products;

Promote transparency in production and markets and conduct market research and research on EU import dependence;

Development of alliance eco-labels for fishery and aquaculture products, formulation of standard contracts for small and medium-sized enterprises complying with EU law and carrying out regional, national or transnational advertising and communication activities to

raise public awareness of sustainable fishery products and aquaculture;

Encouraging the necessary investments for the development of the competitiveness of the economic agents from the activity of processing the fishery and aquaculture products;

Development and modernization of production capacities and favoring market access.

PU 6 Encouraging the implementation of the IMP

SO 6.1 Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy

The program was highlighted by the following actions:

Establish and manage the electronic platform needed to interconnect all parties involved in the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Integrated Management System and pre-commercial procurement [10, 2].

Result indicators by PU Program

Result indicators for PU1

In order to achieve the results required by FEPAM Regulation (EU) 1014/2014, it is in principle necessary to complete the operation and perform one or more production cycles, which means a contract lasting several years from the signing of the contract.

The MA procedure provides for the verification of the values of the monitoring results indicator in the last year.

The first contracts have been signed since the year and the results of the verification have not yet been obtained for reporting.

Jobs created – 16

Jobs maintained -66

Table 1. Result indicators for PU1

Process	Period 2014-2020	
	PU1	
	OS 1.4	
	MI.23	MI.22
Applications	10	3
Contracts	8	2
Contract value (Euro)	2,894,853	128,207
Payments made (Euro)	944,620	128,207

Source: Own format.

Identified problems and measures to solve

In 2017, at a meeting of the Monitoring Committee, representatives of fishermen from the Danube Delta expressed interest in obtaining compensation, such as compensation for the temporary suspension of fishing activities.

Local public authorities have a low interest in port fishing infrastructure, as only the modernization of existing infrastructure can obtain funding, and cannot set up new fishing ports, landing places or auction centers.

In this case, private beneficiaries, ie commercial fishermen, do not have sufficient income to support such investments (their income is limited to the fishing quota allocated to the fishing authorization) and the co-financing quota is 50%.

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In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the POPAM will be reviewed at the end of 2020, and measures I.9 Article 33 and Article 44 (4a) will be temporarily suspended to compensate economic operators in the fisheries sector for the losses suffered, and 2,000,000 euros will be allocated to this area. It also created the possibility for the beneficiary to suspend the execution of the contract for two months.

In view of the extremely low requests, DGP-AMPOPAM decided to cancel these measures and redistribute the relevant amount to measure I.23.

Result indicators for PU2

The results are obtained after several production periods and after a few years from the signing of the contracts. In order to obtain the results, as established for FEPAM by Regulation (EU) 1014/2014, it is necessary, in principle, to complete the operation and carry out one or more production cycles, which means a period of several years from the signing of the contract. financing. The Managing Authority validates the values resulting from the last year of monitoring, except for measure 11.10, where the values

will be validated at the end of contracts. The first contracts were signed starting with 2016 and the validated results were included only in measure 11.10.

The volume of aquaculture production had the following values: 6,374.58 tons by 77.83% less than the proposed target of 8,190 tons;

The variation of the production volume with recirculation system was 95.1 with 36.44% less than the proposed target of 261.

Aquaculture farms that deliver environmental services: they represented 67.74 with 63% less than the target of 67.

Table 2. Result indicators for PU2

Period 2014-2020				
Process				
PU2	Applications	Contracts	Contract value (Euro)	Payments made (Euro)
OS 2.2.				
M II.2	213	93	68,019,528	20,379,127
M II.5	10	5	630,026	600,023
M II.3	10	3	802,432	566,762
M II.4	6	2	132,026	132,026
OS 2.4.				
M II.10	112	45	24,280,059	24,280,059
M II.12	4	3	241,503	121,821

Source: Own format.

Identified problems and measures to solve:

-private beneficiaries do not have enough income to support such investments, and the co-financing rate is 50%.

- during the meeting with the potential beneficiaries, the convenience created for the payment of the invoice and the advance payment of the free financial support of up to 50% was introduced.

In 2019, the implementation strategy of POPAM and the financial allocation related to its measures were reconsidered, as well as the reallocation of performance reserves. The standard used is the level of demand for the relevant measures in 2019. II.9 (Article 53), but no application for funding has been submitted. Due to lack of interest, DGP-AMPOPAM decided to cancel these measures. The value of the result indicator assumed by ANPA at the end of the implementation of the selected project is the value provided in POPAM 2014-2020.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, POPAM introduced measure 11.11 called Public Health Measures, which introduced

compensations for economic operators in the field of aquaculture and issued calls for applications for funding. This measure is still in force. This measure also introduced the possibility for beneficiaries to suspend the execution of contracts for a period of 2 months. The Managing Authority has regulated the over-contracting of investments and the possibility to simulate simple acquisitions in calls for contributions to aquaculture leading to increased absorption.

Result indicators for PU3

The values of the indicators resulting at the end of the implemented projects are those assumed by the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture and provided in POPAM 2014-2020.

Table 3. Result indicators for PU3

Process	Period 2014-2020	
	PU 3	
	OS 3.2	
	M VI.1	M VI.2
Applications	5	1
Contracts	2	1
Contract value (Euro)	3,753,693	2,484,866
Payments made (Euro)	2,320,790	2,484,866

Source: Own format.

Result indicators for PU4

The managing authority applies the procedure by which it validates the values of the result indicators at the end of each monitoring year. Validated results did not start to appear because the first contracts for this program were signed in 2018.

Jobs created – 16

Jobs maintained -66

Table 4. Result indicators for PU4

Process	Period 2014-2020	
	PU 4	
	OS 4.1	
	M III.1	M III.2
Applications	48	272
Contracts	28	266
Contract value (Euro)	490,728	99,510,615
Payments made (Euro)	490,728	14,186,973

Source: Own format.

Identified problems and measures to solve:

The requests in 2020 have doubled compared to 2019 for this program. With the Covid-19 pandemic, the acquisitions of the beneficiaries were affected due to the lack of bidders or due to non-compliant offers or products from late import construction works by reducing them during emergencies and national alert. Environmental permits were maintained but could not be implemented.

The implementation of the contracts whose objective was the organization of festivals was affected due to the restrictions imposed during the states of emergency and alert. The beneficiaries had the possibility to suspend the execution of the contracts for a period of 2 months and in case of termination of the contracts, FLAG has the possibility to open new sessions for the value of the terminated contracts.

Result indicators for PU5

Regulation (EU) 1014/2014, provides that for the issuance of the results of the program, as mentioned in the EMFF, it is necessary, the completion of the operation and the development over several years of production, from the signing of the financing contract. The resulting indicators are valid only in the last year of monitoring. The first contracts were signed in 2016 and no data were reported. Implementation of projects for OS 5.2. it went like this: Change in the sales value of entities that are not producer organizations to 19,926.72 units, with an increase of 773.55% of the proposed target of 2,576.00; Modification of the sales volume of non-producing entities to 2,848.81 units with an increase of 406.97% compared to the proposed target of 700.00.

Table 5. Result indicators for PU5

Process	Period 2014-2020	
	PU 5	
	OS 5.2	
	M IV.4	
Applications	25	
Contracts	18	
Contract value (Euro)	10,264,073	
Payments made (Euro)	6,897,232	

Source: Own format.

Identified problems and measures to solve:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, POPAM was modified by supplements intended for measure IV.4, by granting compensation for damages caused to economic operators in the field of fish processing.

Result indicators for PU6

Identified problems and measures to solve:

Among the EU-27 Member States, Romania has the largest diverse biogeographical area (5 out of 11 European biogeographical regions), which is mainly in a favorable state of conservation. In order to ensure special measures for the protection and conservation of natural heritage assets "in situ", differentiated systems of protection, maintenance and use have been established on the following categories of nature reserves specified in the Statistical Yearbook 2008 and INS - 2011 data and has the following characteristics:

It is of national interest,

- a) 64 scientific reservations occupying an area of 218,145 ha;
- b) 13 national parks occupying an area of 316,872 ha;
- c) 206 natural monuments occupying an area of 15,406 ha;
- d) 699 nature reserves occupying an area of 346,933 ha;
- e) 15 natural parks occupying an area of 772,810 ha;
- f) 148 special avifauna protection areas occupying an area of 3,694,394 ha;
- g) 383 sites of Community importance occupying an area of 4,152,153 ha,
- h) biosphere reserves, designated on the basis of the criteria established by the MAB/ UNESCO - 3 Committee occupying an area of 664,446 ha: Delta
- i) 19 wetlands of international importance, designated on the basis of the criteria established by the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention occupying an area of 1,156,448 ha
- j) World Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites, designated on the basis of criteria established by the Paris Convention
- k) Danube Delta (1991), occupying an area of 580,000 ha [1, 9].

Table 6. Result indicators for PU6

Process	Period 2014-2020
	PU 6
	OS 6
Applications	1
Contracts	1
Contract value (Euro)	2,389,865
Payments made (Euro)	584,601

Source: Own format.

Table 7. Result indicators for technical support

Process	Period 2014-2020
	Technical support
	Applications
Contracts	10
Contract value (Euro)	16,779,992
Payments made (Euro)	13,846,532

Source: Own format.

CONCLUSIONS

Protecting the fishery heritage means the balanced management of fishing activities with fishery resources as the main element and the sustainable management of aquaculture units. Given that these activities have social and economic characteristics, ownership is stable and industry is developing. Until 2005, the structure of Romania's fish production was dominated by cyprinids, which came from the European continent and Asia, representing 85% of the total, and the remaining 15% consist of trout, pikeperch, pike, perch, catfish, sturgeon, etc. Romanian aquaculture must be in line with European aquaculture. European aquaculture has a high level of technology and environmental sustainability and offers high quality fish. The production meets the highest standards of animal health and consumer protection. It has an advantage and is the main competition for aquaculture in the EU. At the same time, Romanian aquaculture must promote its specific characteristics and bring it closer to sustainable conditions through the type of technology used (extensive and semi-intensive growth of polyculture).

The problems reported by the beneficiaries can be divided into two categories:

⊗ With regard to the activities of the managing authority, the necessary opinions are not clearly specified;

-Complex procedures and long settlement or repayment time;

-The guide is not easy to understand;

-Evaluation and subjective selection;

-Different opinions on similar cases;

- Late payment;

-Long time between approval and signing of the contract and long time for reimbursement of expenses.

-The funding application is completed with data irrelevant for the project submission stage;

-The need for cost criteria to avoid unjustified repetitive auctions.

-The deadline for submitting technical projects is too short, the designers are inconsistent and the builders are missing.

⊗ With regard to the activities of the managing authority, the necessary opinions are not clearly specified;

-Complex procedures and long settlement or repayment time;

-The guide is not easy to understand;

-Evaluation and subjective selection;

-Different opinions on similar cases;

- Late payment;

-Long time between approval and signing of the contract and long time for reimbursement of expenses.

-The funding application is completed with data irrelevant for the project submission stage;

-The need for cost criteria to avoid unjustified repetitive auctions.

-The deadline for submitting technical projects is too short, the designers are inconsistent and the builders are missing.

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