



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE/D3/PCO/mb/Ares (2020)

**To all Advisory Councils**

**Subject: Joint ACs advice on EMFF funding for scientific research projects**

Ref: 1920/PAC15

Dear Advisory Councils,

Thank you for your joint letter of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 regarding EMFF funding for scientific research projects. We take note of the fact that this letter is addressed to Member States, and not to the Commission.

We wish to remind you that, as already mentioned in our letter to PELAC on the same issue<sup>1</sup>, Advisory Councils may benefit from other strands of the EMFF for other projects in addition to Article 40 of the Commission's proposal on functioning costs of Advisory Councils,

Under the current EMFF, this is possible under direct management as foreseen under Article 86 of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014, subject to call for tenders or call for proposals by DG MARE or our executive agency EASME. Another possibility exists under shared management in accordance with national programmes and selection procedures. Under both management modes, the Commission proposes that support is granted to projects contributing to sustainable fisheries, food security, the growth of a sustainable blue economy as well as a sustainable management of seas and oceans.

We encourage you to take contact with national authorities in your countries in order to see how you could benefit from EMFF support under shared management. Contact details of national Managing Authorities are available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/body/national\\_authorities.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/body/national_authorities.pdf).

We also invite you to closely follow calls for proposals for projects under direct management available at [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-opportunities-maritime-affairs-and-fisheries\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-opportunities-maritime-affairs-and-fisheries_en). This is particularly the case for projects under Article 86 of the current EMFF that you mention in your letter.

As already pointed out, the future EU research programme ("Horizon Europe") is a significant source of funding for research projects in the field of fisheries that will succeed Horizon 2020 in the next programming period. An application to the calls

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<sup>1</sup> Ares(2019)44126 dated 07/01/2019

launched by our Executive Agency EASME for Horizon 2020 is still possible. You will find below:

- the participants portal:

[https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/index_en.htm)

- eligibility criteria:

[https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2018-2020/annexes/h2020-wp1820-annex-c-elig\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2018-2020/annexes/h2020-wp1820-annex-c-elig_en.pdf)

- deadlines for the 2020 calls:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search;freeTextSearchKeyword=;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502;programCode=H2020;programDivisionCode=31047972;focusAreaCode=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;callCode=Default;sortQuery=openingDate;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState>

As already pointed out, should one Advisory Council benefit from EU financial support as described above, this would require it to clearly separate in its accounts the operating costs (covered by the EU operational grant) from any other costs in relation to the project for which it received other specific support.

I am looking forward to our continued cooperation. Should you have any question regarding this letter, you may contact Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the ACs, ([pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu](mailto:pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu); + 32 2 29 56273).

Yours sincerely,



**Bernhard FRIESS**  
Acting Director-General