

EU Newsletter

Date: 20/01/2009

Subject: **Measure 2.1. – Productive investments in aquaculture
Measure 1.3. – On-board investments and selectivity
Programme for the Bulgarian Fisheries Sector**Deadline **Open**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (NAFA) have announced a call for proposals under two measures of the Programme for the Bulgarian Fisheries Sector.

Measure 2.1. “Productive investments in aquaculture”

1. Purpose: Support will be granted to projects aimed at construction, extension, equipment and modernization of production facilities (farms and hatcheries) for aquaculture breeding.

2. Grant Aid

- ★ Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises – **60%** of the approved project expenditure;
 - ★ Interim enterprises – **30%** of the approved project expenditure
- Maximum amount of the grant aid – **EUR 1 000 000**¹, minimum amount – **EUR 10 000**

Grant aid payment – the beneficiary can receive:

- ★ advance payment – up to 20% of the approved grant aid against a bank guarantee at 110% of the requested advance payment;
- ★ interim payment – not more than once; and
- ★ final payment

3. Eligible applicants

Physical persons, registered as agricultural producers, **Legal entities or sole proprietors**, registered under the Commercial Law or Law on Cooperatives, which:

- ★ are registered as producers of fish or other aquaculture species;
- ★ for existing facilities, subject to grant support, to be registered under art. 137 of the Law on Veterinary and Medical Work;
- ★ are micro, small or medium-sized enterprises²; or
- ★ interim enterprises³.

4. Eligible activities

- ★ Construction works;
- ★ Purchase and installation of new machinery and equipment, instruments and etc.;

¹ The maximum amount of the grant aid for the period 2007-2013 for a single applicant is under given measure is **EUR 2 000 000**.

² 1) Small and Medium enterprises are those that have:

1. full-time personnel (the previous year average) less than 250 employees, and
2. annual turnover not exceeding BGN 97 500 000, and/or balance sheet amount not exceeding BGN 84 000 000.

(2) Out of the enterprise under para. 1. small enterprises are those that have:

1. full-time personnel (the previous year average) less than 50 employees, and
2. annual turnover not exceeding BGN 19 500 000, and/or balance sheet amount not exceeding BGN 19 500 000.

(3) Micro enterprise, under para.1, are those that have:

1. full-time personnel (the previous year average) less than 10 employees, and
2. annual turnover not exceeding BGN 3 900 000, and/or balance sheet amount not exceeding BGN 3 900 000

³ Interim enterprises have personnel less than 750 employees and annual turnover not exceeding EUR 200 000 000.

- * Specialized warehouse equipment and warehouse transport vehicles;
- * Purchase of know-how, patent rights and licenses, software;
- * Overheads expenditure – feasibility studies, engineering studies, evaluations, analyses – *up to 5% of the approved expenditure, but not more than EUR 25 000*;
- * Purchase of land for production activities – *up to 10% of the approved expenditure*;
- * Investments in renewable energy sources (RES) for power generation needed for the production activity;
- * Service vessels for the aquaculture production;
- * Introduction of quality assurance systems, safety working conditions, protection of the environment and waters and achieving compliance with internationally recognized standards;
- * Points of sale of the own production in aquaculture farms;
- * Training of the personnel with regard to project activities;
- * Equipment for improving safety and working conditions;
- * Investments waste water treatment facilities and equipment environmental protection.

The period for realization of the project activities **must not exceed 24 months**.

5. Where to apply

The project applications shall be submitted at the Regional Offices of NAFA in the 27 regional cities in the country.

The full set of application documents are published [here](#).

Measure 1.3. “ On-board investments and selectivity ”

1. Purpose – support will be granted to projects aimed at:

- * improving human safety, working conditions and hygiene on board fishing vessels;
- * improving the selectivity of fishing instruments;
- * improving product quality and storage facilities;
- * improvement of energy efficiency and replacement of the principal engines.

2. Grant Aid

Amount – 40% of the approved project expenditure⁴, except for:

- * replacement of the main engine of the fishing vessel – **20%** of the approved project expenditure;
- * small-scale coastal fishing – **60%** of the approved project expenditure;
- * small-scale coastal fishing and replacement of the main engine – **40%** of the approved project expenditure

Grant aid payment – the beneficiary can receive:

- * advance payment – up to 20% of the approved grant aid against a bank guarantee at 110% of the requested advance payment;
- * final payment

3. Eligible applicants:

- * Legal entities or sole proprietors registered under the Commercial Law or Law on Cooperatives;
- * Owners of fishing vessels registered in the Register of the fishing vessels with the NAFA;

4. Eligible activities

The investments should be realized for the fishing vessels registered in the Register of the fishing vessels.

- * Purchase of equipment for improving human safety on board fishing vessels;
- * Purchase of equipment for improving working conditions on board fishing vessels;
- * Purchase of equipment for improving hygiene on board fishing vessels;
- * Purchase of equipment for improving product quality fishing vessels – the catch;
- * Purchase of equipment for improvement of the energy efficiency;

⁴ Minimum amount of the grant aid for one fishing vessel – not less than **EUR 1 000**;
Maximum amount – to be determined on the basis of a formula according to the Ordinance on the application procedure

- * Purchase of equipment for selectivity of the catch;
- * Replacement of engines;
- * Replacement of fishing instruments;
- * Other investments on board fishing vessels and selectivity

The period for realization of the project activities **must not exceed 12 months**.

5. Where to apply

The project applications shall be submitted at the Regional Offices of NAFA according to the vessel registration.

The full set of application documents are published [here](#).

For further information:
European Funds Section
ecc@unicreditgroup.bg

Ivan Peev
Section Manager
European Funds

Daniel Enchev
Expert
European Funds