

POST-2020 EU FUNDING FOR AQUACULTURE



WHY SHOULD EUROPEAN AQUACULTURE RECEIVE STRUCTURAL FUNDS POST-2020?

The following opinions have been provided by individual Member Associations of the FEAP that represent professional fish farming within the European Union and compiled by the FEAP Secretariat.

Recent European livelihoods, reports and opinions have clearly indicated the need for and the potential of contributions from European aquaculture to:

1. Providing high quality, safe and highly nutritious food for the European consumer
2. Sustaining and creating jobs in rural and coastal areas, creating prosperous communities
3. Offsetting impacts of land use within the EU rural belt
4. Contributing to European food security, a position of increasing importance

Such aspects are already recognised within several European strategies and policies, where sustainable growth is favoured, underlining aquaculture's resource efficiency and key contributions both to the Blue economy and the Circular Economy.

Independent of European support funding opportunities, European aquaculture's potential has been restricted by a range of issues, its falling – at national levels – from accurate red tape and the administrative unsustainability of aquaculture sites. Governance improvements in many Member States appear to open new opportunities for the sustainable development of European aquaculture.

Many improvements in aquaculture require investment – in materials, skills and skills – and innovations, new products and processes, all require attention for markets and management (e.g. Product Life Cycle and Supply chain). Funding is essential to secure a supportive, growth approach to such investments and developments.

The interpretation and application of European and national laws affecting aquaculture, directly or indirectly, have fluctuated considerably – leading to a lack of vision for the sector, preventing strategic planning by the economic actors of the aquaculture value chain.

Many who are active in EU fish aquaculture are young enterprises – which need support that enables EU aquaculture development. The delivery of positive socio-economic and environmental contributions of the smaller farms, notably freshwater ones, are essential to long-term goals that will require financial support to achieve these contributions.

Establishing a level playing field for European aquaculture is of the highest priority for the production. Structural funding is needed to assist development and adaptation of the sector within a highly competitive marketplace to secure its contribution to food security, jobs and Blue Growth.