The establishment of Member State Programmes under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) is a rigorous process with several stages of preparation and consultation both within the Member State and with the Commission. This ensures that the programmes provide an appropriate and well-justified framework to maximise the benefit of investing public money. Each programme is tailored to deliver on the EU priorities and the priorities of the Member State and its stakeholders.

Developing the programme is a complex exercise that involves several steps. Examples are: the establishment and approval of the Partnership Agreement with the Member State; analysing the needs and investment priorities, ensuring consistency with implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and national plans for aquaculture; incentivising energy transition and resilience of the sector; and coherence with the European Green Deal. All steps require rigorous consultation nationally and with the Commission. The time required by the Member States varies significantly depending on national procedures. The Commission and national authorities responsible for the fisheries funds have also been working on delivering financial support in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the current crisis of increased operating costs, as well as support under the Brexit Adjustment Reserve. The Commission expects to have all EMFAF programmes adopted by the end of 2022.