

1ST FORUM OF THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE ADRIATIC AND IONIAN REGION

DUBROVNIK, CROATIA
12-13 MAY 2016



#EUSAIR



Technical Meeting

Initiating a Sustained Dialogue between
ESIF/IPA Programme Authorities and
EUSAIR Key Implementers

12 May 2016, Dubrovnik

Moderated by: Baiba Liepa, Interact Programme



Presentation of Discussion Paper

Henriette Bastrup-Birk, DG REGIO



Three aspects will be addressed

1. Background

2. 'Labelling' procedure

3. Support via ESIF/IPA programmes to projects carrying a EUSAIR label

Background

1. No specific allocation of funds (either EU or national) to macro-regional strategies

Therefore:

Need for aligning and mobilising all relevant available funds in the macro-region

Background (2)

Two steps for existing ESI and IPA funds to support EUSAIR:

- a. Embedding the Strategy's objectives in programming documents*
- b. Funding projects joining up with - or complementing - projects in one or more participating countries prioritised ("labelled") by the EUSAIR Thematic Steering Groups*

Labelling procedure (assigning a EUSAIR label to projects)

1. Six broad criteria for projects to fulfil:

- 1. Address identified priorities, meet well substantiated needs and be widely supported;*
- 2. Transnational, if not macro-regional scope or impact;*
- 3. Realistic and credible;*
- 4. Build on existing initiatives and be fairly mature;*
- 5. Pay attention to cross cutting aspects;*
- 6. Be coherent and mutually supportive.*

Labelling procedure – i.e. assigning a EUSAIR label to projects (2)

- 2. Assessment against guiding principle/specific criteria set by the Thematic Steering Group*
- 3. In case of multiple candidates, ranking of projects where only the 'best' (according to agreed criteria) will be awarded the EUSAIR label.*

How to optimise prospects for EUSAIR projects to get ESI/IPA support

Cooperation between TSGs and relevant programme authorities at a very early stage in order to:

- *develop and apply specific project selection criteria, as and where appropriate, to integrate the macro-regional dimension*
- *Set criteria for assessing and selecting projects relevant to both the Strategy and ESIF/IPA programmes*

Three possible approaches

- 1. **EUSAIR-labelled projects identified ex-ante** by the TSG and the programme authorities as having visible added value for both the strategy and the relevant ESIF/IPA programme*
- 2. Design, in cooperation with TSGs, of scope, objectives, eligibility and selection criteria of **targeted calls for proposal** in support of projects of a macro-regional importance or impact within one or more programme Priority Axes and/or one duly justified limited geographical area*

Three possible approaches (2)

*3. Design, in close cooperation with the relevant EUSAIR TSG, of **open calls for proposals**, incl. definition of specific criteria for allocating extra (bonus) points to projects contributing to Strategy objectives.*

Variant: extra (bonus) points by default to projects (eligible under the call) to which the TSG awarded the EUSAIR label.

Practical Approaches and Examples of Embedding Macro-Regional Initiatives in Country/Region- Specific OPs and CPs

Erik Gløersen, Spatial Foresight GmbH

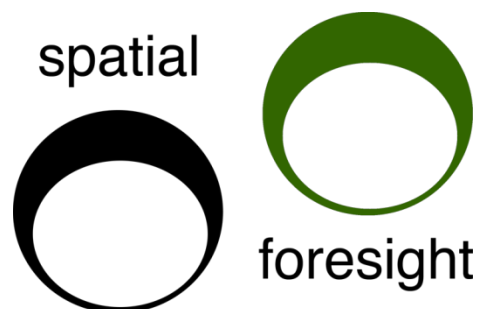


How to Approach Benefits of Macro-Regional Cooperation for ESIF/IPA Programmes?

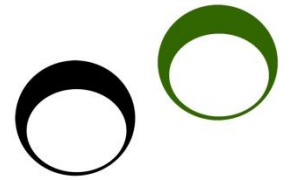
TECHNICAL MEETING

**"Initiating a Sustained Dialogue
between the ESIF/IPA Programme Authorities
and the EUSAIR Key Implementers"**

Dr Erik Gløersen

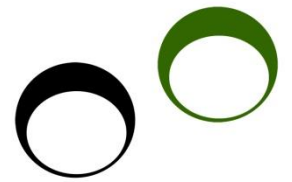




Two worlds of ESIF/IPA and MRS





- ESIF/IPA Programmes and Macro-Regional Strategies have so far **developed seperately**.
- EUSAIR can **capitalise on experiences** of other MRS, and especially the EUSBSR.
- A **dialogue** is needed for Macro-Regional Strategies to become useful for ESIF/IPA Programmes.
- For this dialogue to take place, the starting point must be the results that that ESIF/IPA Programmes are expected to deliver.

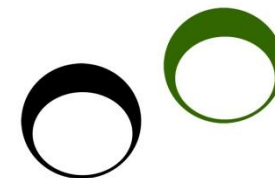
Potential Benefits of MR Cooperation








Benefit: convergence of positions	Relevance
Common understanding	
Diffusion of norms and principles	

Benefit: knowledge and information	Relevance
Transfers of good practice	
Data sharing and dissemination	

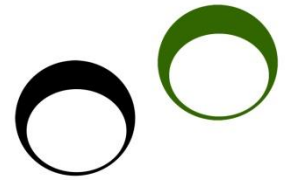
Potential Benefits of MR Cooperation





Benefit: operation of public policies	Relevance
Coherent objectives and actions	
Administrative alignment	
Management of transnational functional areas	

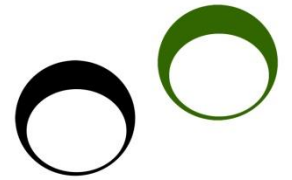
Benefit: improved economic dynamism	Relevance
Promotion of transnational functional integration	
Economies of scales	

Potential Benefits of MR Cooperation



Benefit: access to funding	Relevance
Access to EU funds	
International solidarity	

Which Relevance for ESIF/IPA?

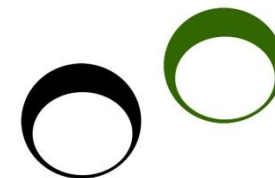


Central criterion: benefits should have a measurable positive impact on each programme's result indicators.

49 ERDF Common indicators can be grouped in 7 categories:

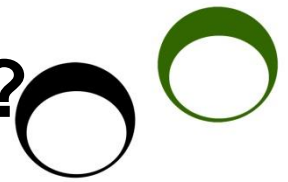
- Increase in economic activity
- Transport infrastructure
- Other infrastructure
- Energy
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Spatial Planning
- Governance

Which Relevance for ESIF/IPA?



		Thematic areas of ERDF common indicators						
		Increase in economic activity	Transport infrastructure	Other infrastructure	Energy production / consumption	Greenhouse gas emissions	Spatial planning	Governance
Benefits	Common understanding							
	Diffusion of norms and principles							
	Transfers of good practice							
	Data sharing and dissemination							
	Coherent objectives and actions							
	Administrative alignment							
	Management of transnational functional areas							
	Promotion of transnational functional integration							
	Economies of scales							

How could a relevance matrix be used?



Different steps:

- (1) Proposals for potential benefits at each line, given thematic objectives, investment priorities and intervention logics.
- (2) Identification of modes of cooperation that could be relevant to arrive at these benefits:
 - exchanges, study trips;
 - parallel projects;
 - complementary projects;
 - joint planning of projects;
 - ...

Practical Approaches and Examples of Embedding Macro-Regional Initiatives in Country/Region- Specific OPs and CPs

František Koločány, the Slovak Government Office





EU Strategy for the Danube Region

EUSDR governance structure and ESIF

František Koločány
Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic

Dubrovnik 12 May 2016

EUSDR management structure

Office of the Government – EUSDR National Coordinator –
Secretariat of the National Coordinator

Consultation group for the Danube Strategy

Slovak National Commission for coordination between the
transnational programmes and EUSDR

Slovak coordination of PA4, PA7

The Managing Authorities to evaluate complementarity and
synergy of individual calls with the activities of the EUSDR

EUSDR and Partnership Agreement

EUSDR and Partnership Agreement of the Slovak Republic 2014-2020:

Partnership Agreement 2014-2020 – includes mainstream operational programmes funded from the European Structural and Investment Funds.

The mainstream operational programmes include EUSDR priorities through their objectives and thematically relevant actions.

The Partnership Agreement directly states the areas for cooperation in the framework of macro-regional strategies:

- transport infrastructure, navigability of the Danube
- energy potential of the Danube River, diversification of energy sources
- competitiveness of enterprises
- cross-border cooperation networks
- European Research Area, Horizon 2020, innovation networks
- quality of water and the capacity of water sources
- environmental burdens, protection of biodiversity and habitats
- the NATURA 2000 system
- waste management

EUSDR synergies with OPs

Synergies between EUSDR and mainstream OPs in the programming period 2014-2020 in the Slovak Republic

Priority areas of the Danube Strategy	OP R&I	OP II	OP HR	OP EQ	IROP	OP EG	RDP
1. To improve mobility and intermodality		X			X		
2. To encourage more sustainable energy	X			X	X		
3. To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts					X		X
4. To restore and maintain the quality of waters				X	X		X
5. To manage environmental risks				X			
6. To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils				X	X		X
7. To develop knowledge society through research, education and ICT	X	X	X				
8. To support the competitiveness of enterprises, including development of groupings	X				X	X	X
9. To invest in people and skills	X		X		X	X	X
10. To step up institutional capacity and cooperation						X	
11. To work together to tackle security and organized crime						X	

EUSDR - conditions

OP Research and Innovation 2014-2020

OP R&I will contribute to the fulfilment of the EUSDR objectives:

- developing the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies,
- promoting the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development, and
- secondarily contributes also to Investing in people and skills, as well as to the implementation of measures defined by the EUSDR Action plan.

Contribution of research type projects to the objectives of the EUSDR **will be ensured in the project approval process in OP R&I by specific selection criteria** (extra points in approval of projects).

EUSDR - conditions

OP Integrated Regional Operational Programme 2014-202

EUSDR support through IROP projects in:

- PA 1 (To improve mobility and intermodality),
- PA 4 (Restoration and maintenance of the quality of waters) and
- PA 6 (Protection of biodiversity and landscape quality of the air and soil).

IROP activities contribute to the achievement of the EUSDR by:

- increasing the attractiveness of public passenger transport and non-motorized transport particularly in urban areas,
- preventing the negative effects of wastewater on the environment,
- improvement of environmental aspects in urban areas through building elements of green infrastructure, introducing systematic elements of reducing the air pollution and noise and regenerating of deprived areas,

Contribution of IROP projects to the objectives of the EUSDR will be ensured in the project approval process in OP IROP **by specific selection criteria** (extra points in approval of projects).

Thank you for your attention

Practical Approaches and Examples of Embedding Macro-Regional Initiatives in Country/Region- Specific OPs and CPs

Bartosz Kozicki, Marshall Office of Pomorskie Region





Fundusze
Europejskie
Program Regionalny



URZĄD MARSZAŁKOWSKI
WOJEWÓDZTWA POMORSKIEGO

Unia Europejska
Europejskie Fundusze
Strukturalne i Inwestycyjne



Pomorskie Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 – embedding the EUSBSR



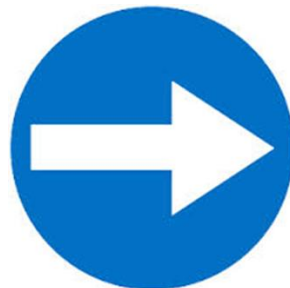
Bartosz Kozicki

Department of Regional and Spatial Development
Office of the Marshal, Pomorskie Region



EUSBSR in Polish OPs 2007-2013

- the implementation mostly **based on projects...**
...which would be implemented **ANYWAY**
- reporting procedure based on categories of intervention...
...so-called „**Baltic earmarking**”
- generally: **PASSIVE APPROACH**
(as EUSBSR was adopted in 2009, in the middle of the programming period) with only selected ETC Programmes actively involved
- 2014-2020 – „**time of no excuses**”...and time for in-depth analysis





EUSBSR & POM ROP 2014-2020

– 3 levels of relation

- ***Compliance* (+)** – refers to those thematic areas, in which ROP intervention **has only indirect relation** with implementation of EUSBSR objectives **[BASIC]**
- ***Coordination* (++)** – refers to those thematic areas, which are especially important from regional perspective and require assuring **complementarity** of ROP intervention with EUSBSR as well as **coordination** between actions taken under ROP and other EUSBSR implementation tools (e.g. ETC programmes) **[MEDIUM]**
- ***Direct relation* (+++)** – refers to those thematic areas which have **direct link** with EUSBSR and in which it is justified to organise EUSBSR-related calls for projects or promote projects directly supporting implementation of EUSBSR Action Plan through adequate preferences and also by giving the opportunity to implement projects outside the Programme area, but only when it is **strongly supporting the Programme's objectives** (in accordance with **CPR art. 70.2.a-d**) **[ADVANCED]**



3 levels of relation in practice

Pomorskie ROP Priority Axes	EUSBSR Priority Areas																
	Agri	Bio	Crime	Culture	Education	Energy	Hazards	Health	Innovation	Internal Market	Nutri	Safe	Secure	Ship	SME	Tourism	Transport
Commercialisation of Knowledge (<i>ERDF</i>)						+			+	+					+		
Enterprises (<i>ERDF</i>)	+					+			+	+					+	+	
Education (<i>ESF</i>)				+	+												
Vocational education and training (<i>ERDF</i>)					+												
Employment (<i>ESF</i>)					+			+		+							
Integration (<i>ESF</i>)				+	+			+									
Health (<i>ERDF</i>)								+									
Conversion (<i>ERDF</i>)		+		+												+	
Mobility (<i>ERDF</i>)																	+
Energy (<i>ERDF</i>)		+				+			+						+		
Environment (<i>ERDF</i>)	+	+		+	+	+	+				+					+	



Areas of DIRECT relation

- PA 1. *Commercialisation of Knowledge*
(mainly in the scope of R&I commercialisation)
- PA 2. *Enterprises*
(demand stimulation for business support institutions' services, strengthening regional attractiveness for investors and supporting export activity of Pomorskie enterprises)
- PA 8. *Conversion*
(touristic routes of regional/interregional significance and developing sailing/spa/recreation infrastructure and promoting natural and cultural heritage)
- PA 10. *Energy*
(promoting the production/distribution of energy derived from renewable sources)
- PA 11. *Environment*
(protecting/restoring biodiversity and coastal zone ecosystem and supporting eco-education)



Promoting EUSBSR projects in POM ROP – options

Concerns „direct relation” areas **ONLY**...

1. preference (**extra points**) in the strategic assessment of projects
or/and

2. EUSBSR-related **calls for projects**

...so far – **option 1**

- Option 1 bases on **assessment** of:
 - supporting EUSBSR PA **indicators** (1st step)
 - **partnership** with entities from BSR (2nd step)
 - **flagship projects** (maximum extra points for the criterion)



Embedding macro-regional strategy in the Operational Programme:

1.is a matter of **political commitment**:

→only **to some extent**, in the initial phase

2.needs strict **coordination**

→possibly, but the **flow of information** is the most important

3.is a matter of good **programming**

→yes, but even more is a matter of good **implementation**

4.depends on **managing authority**

→rather on well aware institutions implementing **focused projects**



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Thank You

www.pomorskie.eu

www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/good-practices

Progress in Identifying Priority Actions and in Assigning an EUSAIR Label to Projects under the Four Pillars

Sophia Loukmidou , Pillar 1 Coordinator

Tatjana Jovanović and Sergio Garribba, Pillar 2 Coordinators

Mitja Bricelj, Pillar 3 Coordinator

Sonia Popa, Pillar 4 Coordinator





PILLAR 1 “Blue Growth”

Pillar Coordinators:

Greece - Sofia Loukmidou
Montenegro - Milena Krasić

Presented by: Sofia Loukmidou



PILLAR TOPICS



1. Blue Growth (GR + ME)

Driving innovative maritime and marine growth in the Region by promoting sustainable economic growth, jobs business opportunities in the blue economy

Blue technologies

Fisheries
and aquaculture

Maritime and
marine
governance and
services



OUTCOMES OF THEMATIC STEERING GROUP'S WORK

- Adoption of TSG 1 Rules of Procedure.
- Agreement on 6 priority actions based on the Action Plan
- Agreement on a set of guiding questions and specific selection criteria for the identification of projects based on the six broader criteria defined in the Action Plan
- Mapping of possible financing possibilities offered by EU funds managed by the countries/regions, as well as EU funds directly managed by the Commission
- Inventory of databases, available in each country, in order to describe baseline situations and to identify indicators and targets
- Identification of procedures to embed the Strategy in the different programmes (bonus points, earmarking budget, ring-fencing by using selection criteria).
- Discussion on possible strategic projects corresponding to the identified priorities and to the specific selection criteria



PRIORITY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BY TSG

Topic 1: Blue Technologies

- R&D&I platforms on green sea mobility, deep sea resources, biosecurity and biotechnologies
- Macro-regional cluster development

Topic 2: Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Scientific cooperation on fisheries and fish stocks
- Diversification and profitability of fisheries and aquaculture
- R&D platform for seafood

Topic 3: Maritime and marine governance and services

- Governance of maritime space

Horizontal: Communication, capacity building and blue skill development.



PROGRESS TOWARDS IDENTIFICATION OF MACRO-REGIONAL PROJECTS - STATE OF PLAY

On the basis of the Action Plan a consolidated table with the national priorities provided by countries was created. Some information was also provided related to ongoing projects on transnational level.

Furthermore, a first discussion took place, on possible strategic projects corresponding to the priorities identified as well as to the specific criteria adopted by TSG1. During the discussion, it was made clear, that a cross-pillar coordination, especially on Marine Spatial Planning, is necessary.

In an effort to identify the details of a “labelling process” and to obtain information on submitted projects under ongoing open calls, TSG1 agreed that a common procedure for all four Pillars should be agreed on Governing Board level.



PILLAR 2. “Connecting the Region”

Pillar Coordinators:

Italy: Antonio Cancian (*Transport*)
Sergio Garribba (*Energy Networks*)

Serbia: Tatjana Jovanović (*Transport*)
Mirjana Filipović (*Energy Networks*)

Presented by:
Tatjana Jovanović and Sergio Garribba



PILLAR TOPICS



Connecting the Region
EUSAIR

2. Connecting the Region (IT + RS)

Improving transport and energy connectivity
in the Region and with rest of Europe

Maritime
transport

Intermodal
connections to
the hinterland

Energy networks



OUTCOMES OF TSG2 WORK (1)

- Specific nature of Pillar 2. encompassing two main domains has determined splitting in two Subgroups (2+2 Coordinators)
- 4 meetings took place:
 - 1) **First meeting (Trieste, 20-21 April 2015)** → more focused on functioning aspects, setting rules of procedures, introducing general criteria to select macroregional projects, financial support.
 - 2) **Second meeting (Belgrade, 6-7 July 2015)** → prioritization process of actions and projects, possible specific criteria and source of financing, available databases and involvement of stakeholders were debated. Absence of some Countries determined postponement of decisions.
 - 3) **Third meeting (Rome, 14-15 December 2015)** → endorsement of Priority Actions and Sub-Actions short list as well as a proposal of cross cutting issues by the TSG2 Sub-Groups. Proposal of work plan 2016 was adopted.
 - 4) **Fourth meeting (Belgrade, 5-6 April 2016)** → first discussion on *labelling* procedure (methodology and tasks), definition of possible specific criteria, organisation of periodical experts workshops and involvement of key stakeholders, technical proposal to map financial instruments available (crosschecking ESIF/IPA/EU/National Funds+IFI's)



OUTCOMES OF TSG2 WORK (2)

- The synergic interaction with the so-called “Berlin process” is deemed fundamental, and in addition
- in case of Transport, accomplishment of harmonisation and soft measures needed for each modality of transport:
 - INTERCONNECTIVITY, INTERMODALITY AND INTEGRATION (either at project and financial blending levels) in the Adriatic Ionian Region;
 - last mile" infra/info-structural connections between TEN-T corridors/axes and core nodes and the development of a modern and efficient intermodal transport model
- It was recognized the importance of building actions and projects on existing initiatives in order to exploit achieved results and create complementary interventions
- Regional surveys, technical and economic feasibility studies and comparative analyses were identified as essential components for moving into the implementation phase in both Transport and Energy sectors
- The private sector must be involved: creating some kind of industrial capability while understanding how different companies from different EUSAIR Members can work together is important



PRIORITY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BY TSG

Topics	Priority Actions	Priority Sub-actions
Maritime transport <i>(Specific objective: To strengthen maritime safety and security and develop a competitive regional intermodal port system)</i>	Improving and harmonizing traffic monitoring and management	1) Enhancement and simplification of the existing ADRIREP Mandatory Ship Reporting system and proposal for the amendment of the IMO Res. MSC n.139(76). Implementation of an integrated Adriatic and Ionian common VTMS, the related alerting system and the common training and certification schemes of the operators.
	Developing ports, optimizing port interfaces, infrastructures and procedures/operations	1) Adoption of a common framework for the development of Single Window systems (Directive 2010/65/EU) allowing exchange of information between the ship and the onshore competent authorities and operators for streamlining administrative procedures (e.g. customs clearance, phytosanitary controls, etc.).
		2) Adoption of a common framework for the development of internal and external port infrastructures (road/rail/berths/equipment) to support the ports' intermodality and related SSS transport flows by aligning them with TEN-T requirements.
		3) Adoption of a common framework for the development of green shipping solutions as the necessary facilities for bunkering with alternative fuels (LNG) and cold ironing in Adriatic-Ionian ports.



PRIORITY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BY TSG

Topics	Priority Actions	Priority Sub-actions
Intermodal connections to the hinterland <i>(Specific objective: To develop reliable transport networks and intermodal connections with the hinterland, both for freight and passengers)</i>	Developing the Western Balkans transport network	1) Supporting the TEN-T extension (Networks and Corridors) to the WB - taking in to account the so-called "Berlin process" - by identifying and developing infrastructure projects aimed at complementing the networks with intermodal and strategic links improving the connectivity in the Adriatic Ionian Region.
	Developing motorways of the sea	1) Identifying transnational IT tools for tracking and tracing of ITUs using MoS in the Adriatic Ionian Region, supporting intermodality through its integrated with inland terminals and port / inland operators and improving last mile connections.
	Cross-border facilitation	1) Adoption of common standardized administrative procedures at border crossings (e.g. for security, phytosanitary and custom controls) and implementation of small and target scale investments and joint training programmes. 2) Facilitation and implementation of rail services (passengers and freight) and simplification of crossing border procedures among Member State and non EU countries.



PRIORITY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BY TSG

Transport Cross-Cutting Issues	
(Specific objective: To improve the governance and build an efficient institutional and administrative capacity)	1) Removing of barriers for the mobilization of cross-border investments in transport networks by the definition of agreements and memorandums of understanding
	2) Development of a joint lifelong learning plan, training tools and methodologies



PRIORITY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BY TSG

Topic	Priority Actions	Priority Sub-Actions
Energy Networks (Specific objective: To achieve a well-functioning internal energy market supporting the three energy policy objectives of the EU: competitiveness, security of supply and sustainability)	Construction and establishment of a well-connected power system and well-functioning electricity market	1) Construction of new transmission capacities and smart grids to achieve a balanced, sustainable and timely development of an interconnected electricity system
		2) Development of a regional efficient, integrated and transparent electricity market (including a coordinated auction office) with the aim to provide competitive and secure power supply through the Region
		3) Integrate energy efficiency and development of conventional and renewable energy sources with aim at environmental concerns and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
	Construction and establishment of an integrated natural gas infrastructure and a well-functioning gas market	1) Diversification of natural gas sources, infrastructures, and routes (notably, TAP, IAP and other pipelines) to promote security of natural gas supply and competitiveness
		2) Development of interconnections, counterflows and natural gas storage along a regional perspective
		3) Establish an efficient gas trading hub towards an integrated natural gas market for the Region



PRIORITY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BY TSG

Topic	Priority Actions	Priority Sub-Actions
Energy Networks (Specific objective: To achieve a well-functioning internal energy market supporting: the three energy policy objectives of the EU: competitiveness, security of supply and sustainability)	Clean fuels for maritime transport and their logistics	1) Developing a master plan for the use of LNG and other clean fuels in the Adriatic and Ionian Seas with a view to an Environmental Controlled Area
		2) Establishing a few ports with infrastructure to allow fuel switching to LNG in shipping and wider LNG deployment (by the year 2020)
		3) Converting ship engines to dual fuel use (by the year 2020)
		4) Harmonizing security norms and technical standards for LNG deployment and direct use while adopting EU directives and reducing risk (by the year 2020)



PRIORITY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BY TSG

Energy Networks Cross-Cutting Issues		
Specific objective: To improve the governance and build an efficient institutional and administrative capacity while promoting participation and partnerships)	Simplification of border-crossing procedures among Member Countries and non-EU Member Countries, while removing of barriers to investments by the definition of agreements and common rules	1) Coordinate and align permits, technical standards and regulation (by the year 2020)
		2) Adopting rules and legal frameworks to protect cross-border investments (by the year 2020)
		3) Adoption of relevant EU Directives and policy frameworks (by the year 2020)
	Development of joint lifelong learning, training tools and industrial partnerships	1) Joint capacity building for implementing a common (energy) market 2) Development of small and medium-size enterprise partnerships across the Region while promoting private-public dialogue and collaboration on innovative technologies



PROGRESS TOWARDS IDENTIFICATION OF MACRO-REGIONAL PROJECTS - STATE OF PLAY

- The identification of specific projects (and measures) of macroregional value, of their possible actors and means for financing is currently underway
- Methodological proposal on selecting this type of project/measures according to the general and agreed specific criteria has been preliminary discussed and will be further developed

TRANSPORT:

- ✓ Common analysis on existing bottlenecks (at infrastructure and non-infrastructure level), ongoing and planned actions at regional/national level has been initiated;
- ✓ Experts seminars will be organized, in close cooperation with European Commission, to review the current situation of the transport system in the Region and in particular the existing bottlenecks which prevent its effective functioning



PROGRESS TOWARDS IDENTIFICATION OF MACRO-REGIONAL PROJECTS - STATE OF PLAY

- ✓ Regional experts (from both EU Member States and non-Member States) with high skills and recognized competences will be activated in the following domains:
 - Rail infrastructure planning and/or operations;
 - Maritime and/or inland waterway transport;
 - Multimodal transport and logistics;
 - Sea and/or inland port operations.

ENERGY NETWORKS

- ✓ Forms of co-operation can be envisioned with existing European and multilateral organizations having similar or converging objectives, in order to avoid overlaps and find synergies and complementarities



PILLAR 3 Environmental Quality

Pillar Coordinators:
Slovenia - Mitja Bricelj
Bosnia and Herzegovina - Senad Oprašić

Presented by: Mitja Bricelj



PILLAR TOPICS



3. Environmental quality (SI + BA)

Addressing environmental quality through cooperation
at the level of the Region

The marine environment

- a) Threats to coastal and marine biodiversity
- b) Pollution of the sea

Transnational terrestrial
habitats and biodiversity



PRIORITY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BY TSG

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

- Increasing marine knowledge in focus on MSP, ICZM and MPA beyond territorial waters
- Enhancing the protection of marine species by local/regional/national networking
- Implementing a life cycle approach to marine litter; drafting and implementation of a large scale pollution contingency plan

TRANSNATIONAL TERRESTRIAL HABITATS AND BIODIVERSITY

- Developing joint management plans for transboundary habitats and ecosystems
- Protection and restoration of wetlands and karst fields

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

- Implementation of guiding principles for labeling projects
- TSG3 started cooperation with TSG1 on matrix and MSP document; need to continue dialogue with other TSGs

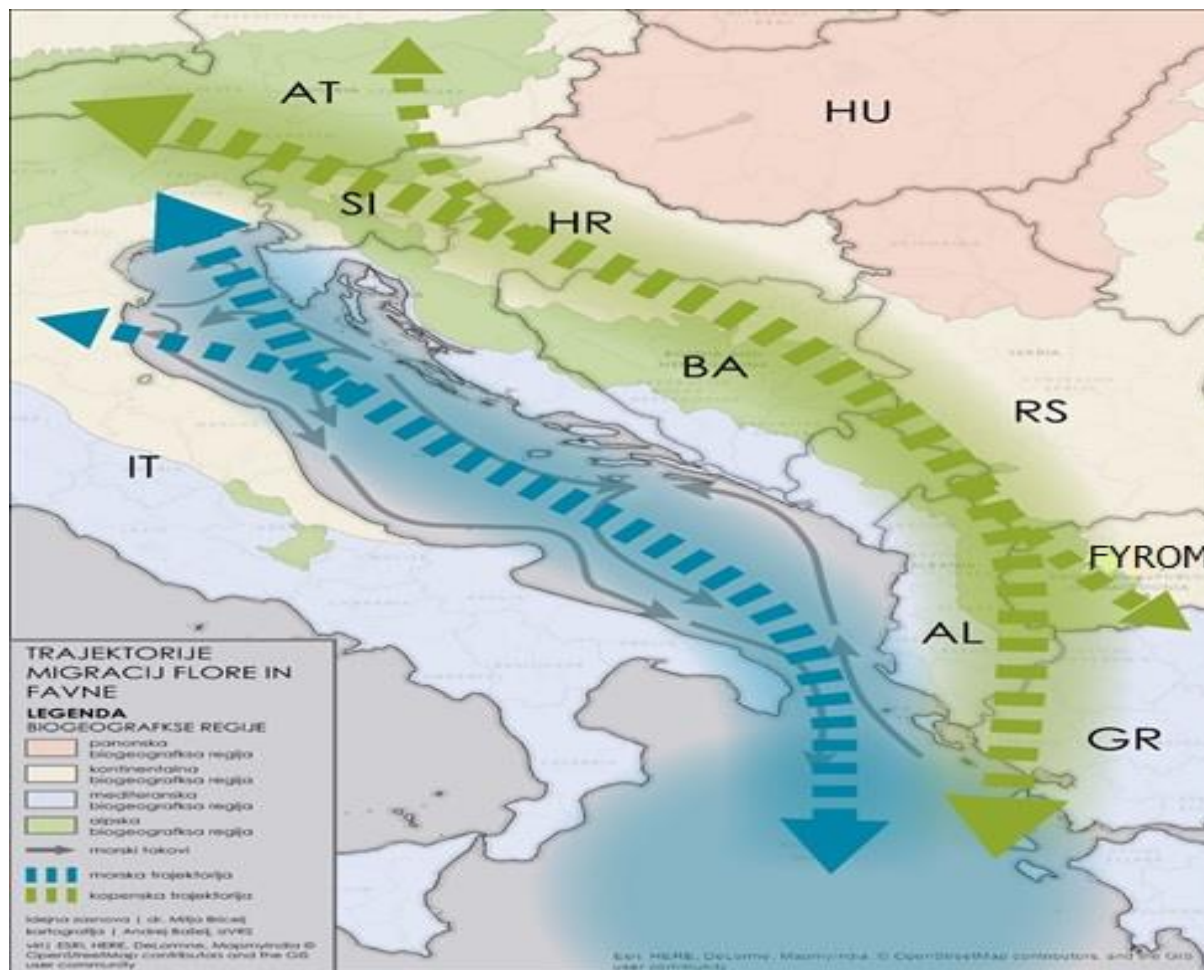


PROGRESS TOWARDS IDENTIFICATION OF MACRO-REGIONAL PROJECTS - STATE OF PLAY

- Transnational/regional project for implementation of MSP, EIA, SEA and ICZM approach in Adriatic-Ionian Region
- Development of blue and green corridors to enhance the ecological connectivity
- Apply the ecosystem approach in synergy with projects under the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and EU Strategy for the Alpine Region



Green and Blue Corridors in AIR





PILLAR 4 Sustainable Tourism

Pillar Coordinators:

**Croatia – Blanka Belošević
Albania- Sonia Popa**

Presented by: Sonia Popa



PILLAR TOPICS



Sustainable Tourism
EUSAIR

4. Sustainable tourism (HR + AL)

Developing the full potential of the Region in terms of innovative, sustainable, responsible quality tourism

Diversified tourism offer
(products and services)

Sustainable and responsible
tourism management
(innovation and quality)



OUTCOMES OF THEMATIC STEERING GROUP'S WORK

- ❖ In 2015 three meetings of TSG 4 were held.
- ❖ The 1st TSG 4 meeting (Tirana, March 2015) was actually more the introduction and guidelines about what needed to be accomplished (launching of RoP for GB and TSG 4, starting the process of selection of top priorities and selection criteria for TSG 4, mapping sources of financing, identifying baseline indicators/databases, further pursuing steady political and administrative commitment).
- ❖ The 2nd TSG 4 meeting (Zagreb, June 2015) focused on accepting the RoP for TSG 4, agreed on the deadlines for submitting the necessary inputs from the members (further designation of TSG members/deputies- including the Italian regions, prioritization of actions and projects, comments on proposed criteria and template for project concepts presented, databases, mapping of the existing products and services).
- ❖ The 3rd TSG 4 meeting (Zagreb, November 2015) defined the top six priorities, accepted the specific criteria and the project concept template. Albania was given the task to coordinate IPA countries as they have different situation/rules for financing projects.



OUTCOMES OF THEMATIC STEERING GROUP'S WORK, cntd

4th TSG4 meeting (14-15 April 2016, Ljubljana, Slovenia) was focused on annual reporting to the Governing Board, EUSAIR Forum, screening of projects, possibility of changing the advisory role of DG GROW to a higher responsibility role, IPA Countries Report – cooperation with NIPAC's



OUTCOMES OF THEMATIC STEERING GROUP'S WORK

In the interim periods:

- Croatia undertook a task to create a basket of EUSAIR tourism products and services starting with the national basket first and then combined it with the input from other TSG member countries as a sort of quick analysis of what common projects might be realized;
- Member countries sent proposals for concrete actions for all selected priorities;
- Member countries identified nationally projects to be sent for evaluation as EUSAIR Sustainable tourism relevant projects;
- Member countries (EU member) started a coordination process trying to align regional ESIF Programmes (regional ESF and ERDF Programmes) and EUSAIR priorities;
- Member countries (IPA countries) started a coordination process trying to identify the similarities on the EU financial instruments and how can better leverage their impact toward the EUSAIR priorities;
- In different countries, regular inter-ministerial meetings are being convoked by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (National Coordinator for EU macro-regional strategies) where experiences from participation in TSG meetings and work are regularly exchanged, including a meeting devoted to possibilities of project funding and locating/screening potential projects for the EUSAIR support;



PRIORITY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BY TSG

❖ *The priority actions selected on which the TSG will focus its initial activities.*

Topic I-Diversified tourism Offer (products and services)

- *development of sustainable thematic routes,*
- *fostering Adriatic-Ionian cultural heritage,*
- *improvement of SMEs performance and growth-diversification*

Topic II-Sustainable and responsible tourism management (innovation and quality)

- *R&D, training and skills in the field of tourism businesses (vocational and entrepreneurial skills),*
- *expanding the tourist season to all-year round*
- *developing a network of sustainable tourism businesses*



PROGRESS TOWARDS IDENTIFICATION OF MACRO-REGIONAL PROJECTS – STATE OF PLAY

List of screened projects:

Nbr.	Project Concept Name	Lead Partner	Potential Partners
1.	Development of Gastro tourism in the Adriatic and Ionian Region	BIH	SLO, ITA, CRO, SRB, ALB, GRE
2.	Construction of artificial lake on the top of the mountain Jahorina	BIH	SLO, SRB
3.	Innovative region for an innovative tourism- Enhancing the regional SME skills and competitiveness	CRO	ITA, SLO, CRO, SRB, BIH, MNE, ALB
4.	The Adventure Tourism – a smart economic drive for Adriatic –Ionian Region	CRO	ITA, SLO, CRO, SRB, BIH, MNE, ALB
5.	Cultural routes of ancient theaters of Epirus	GRE	
6.	Experimentation of Tourism Policies in the Framework of Welcoming and Attractiveness Policies in Adriatic and Ionian Rural Areas	GRE	CRO, ALB SRB, BIH, MNE
7.	WineSenso	GRE	ITA, SLO, CRO, SRB, BIH, MNE, ALB
8.	AITIS, Adriatic-Ionian Initiative for Tourism Innovations and Sustainability	SLO	CRO, BIH, MNE, ITA, SRB