

**„EUSAIR perspective on innovation-
Activities done and - future“,
*23th of May 2023,***

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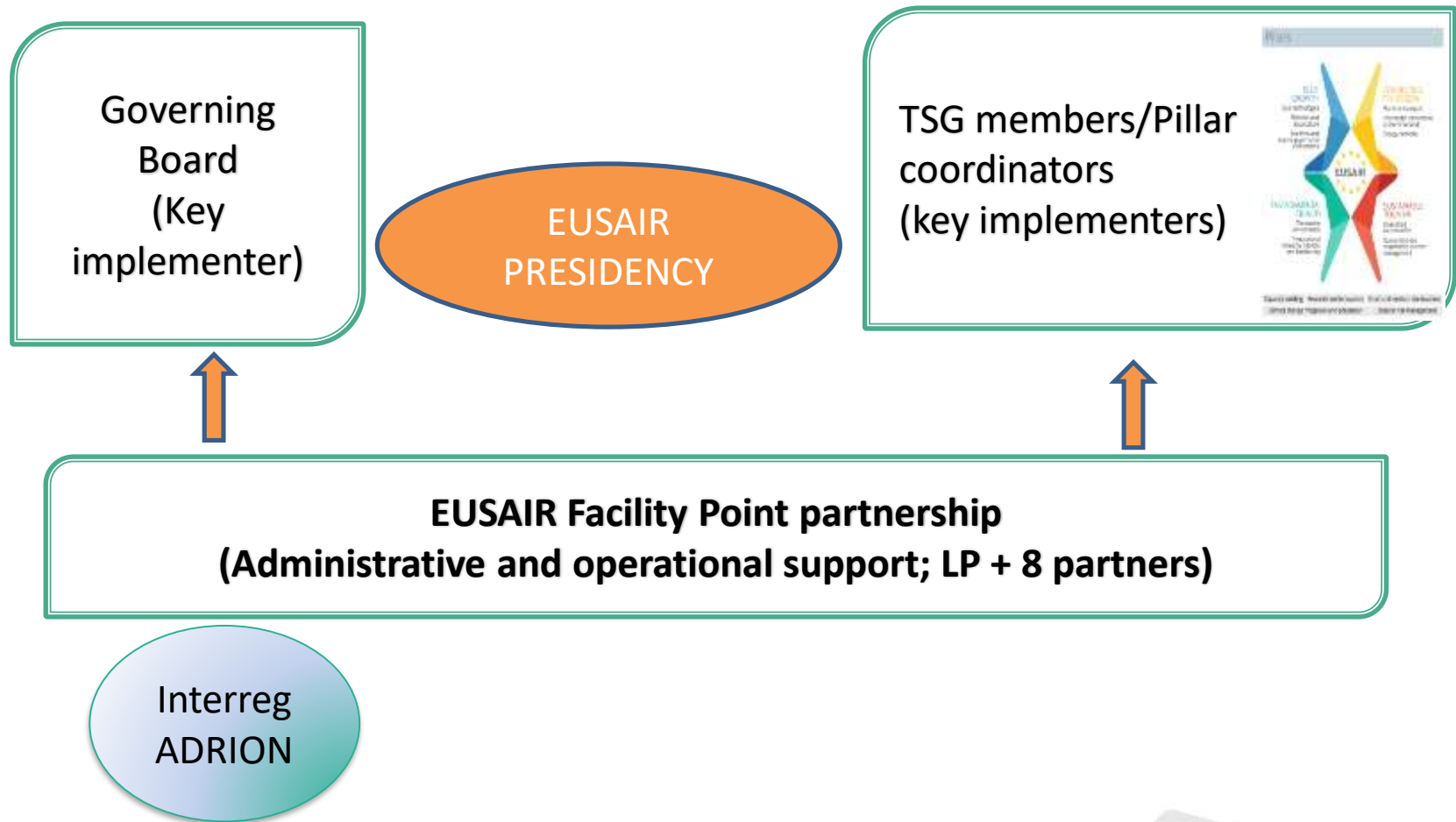


EUSAIR Facility Point project: supporting EUSAIR governance

- The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR): adopted in 2014 (**Project FP: 1.5.2016-31.8.2023**)
- General objective: „**To promote sustainable economic and social prosperity in the Region through growth and job creation** by improving attractiveness, **competitiveness**, connectivity (while preserving environment and ensuring healthy and balanced marine and coastal ecosystems)“
- EUSAIR covers **ten countries** (4 *EU Member States (Croatia, Greece, Italy, Slovenia)* and 6 *non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, San Marino, Serbia)*)).



Facility Point project partners: Supporting key implementers



Innovation in FP project:

Within Activity T1.2 (Deliverables):

- „Innovation **expert support** in each Pillar “ (*to align work of TSG on inn.*)
- „Innovation as a **horizontal topic** on TSG Agenda“ (*to be discussed at least once in each TSG*)
- „**Innovation capacity building**“ (*„Establishment of cooperation with S3 teams to develop harmonised internationalization“*)

Specific objectives on innovation in 2 Pillars:

- **Pillar 1:** „To promote research, innovation and business opportunities in blue economy sectors,...“ (*in all 3 Topics*)
- **Pillar 4: One of 2 objectives was:** Improving the quality and innovation of tourism offer... (*In topic 2: Sustainable and responsible tourism management (innovation and quality)*)



Results of Pillars on innovation:

- Pillar 1: Two (2) thematic papers (*Multilevel use of marine space AND Cross-border monitoring and recording for early detection of climate changes*)
 - **International Scientific Conference** on Blue Growth „Swimming forward“
 - Two (2) **capacity building training sessions** for TSG1 members
- Pillar 3: Study on how to stimulate eco-innovation and Circular economy, Circular Economy event in 2023 (BIH)
- Pillar 4: Three analysis created:
 - *Overview of innovative projects funded by the European funds*
 - *Detailed analysis of 88 projects including innovation in sustainable tourism*
 - *Report for policy recommendations*



Innovation in FP- project partners:

- Strengthen innovation capacity,
- Boost development, cross sectoral cooperation,
- **Exchange of good practices: Connecting countries and pillars**

Specific objectives:

- Create networking opportunities: Innovation community building
- To be up to date (current challenges in the EU)
- To connect countries on funding available
- **FOR POLICY MIX RECOMMENDATIONS!**



June 2020

EUSAIR Flagship priorities identification



October 2020

EUSAIR S3 Representatives 1st meet up



November 2021

Best practices in environment protection and sustainable tourism



March 2022

Creation of EUSAIR Community 3rd meet up



September 2022



July 2022

Options of innovative flagship financing- TSG4

March 2023

Study visit to EUSBSR

Green transition in makro regions event with DG Mare



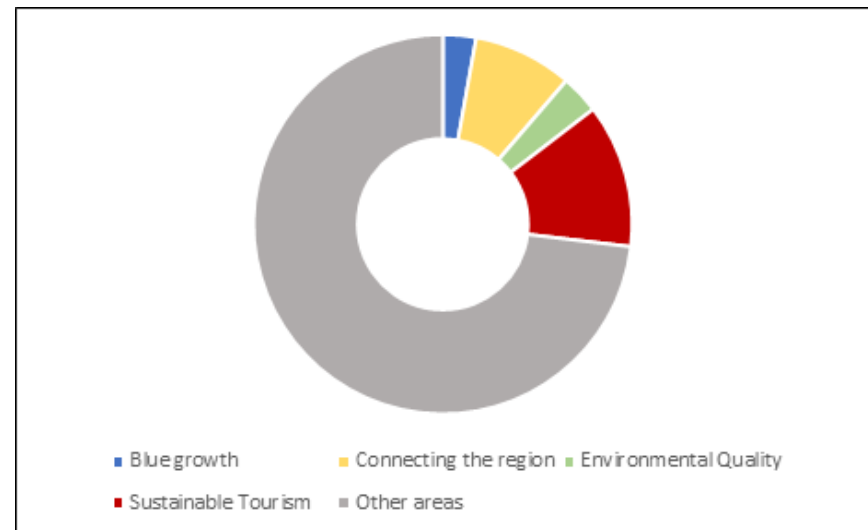
S3 Events: FP LP

- Presentations of JRC, OIS-AIR project, good practices of S3 implementation
- **Identification of flagships with most added value** for cross regional cooperation: *environment protection, sustainable tourism*)
- Created **Innovation community**
- **Main findings at events:** Need for creation of more connections and exchange of experience between innovations of all kinds. Workshops to be thematically focused; Events to create complementary initiatives;
- Event on **Circular Economy** with other MRS and **DG Mare** on S3 for Sustainable Blue Economy
- Joint visit with Blueair project to EU Strategy for Baltic Sea Region (**EUSBSR**)



Research on Smart Specialisation Strategies in EUSAIR:

25% S3 specialisation areas of EUSAIR countries referring to the EUSAIR pillars in 2014-2020



Donato Iacobucci Roberta Ruggeri, European Strategy for the Adriatic- Ionian Macroregion and Regional Innovation Strategies: Overlapping and Synergies, *Scienze Regionali*, DOI: 10.14650/106225



Commitment (Italy):

Matching of EUSAIR pillars in the S3 of Italian regions 2021-2027

Italian Regions belong to EUSAIR	Mention EUSAIR	Overlap with at least 1 EUSAIR pillar themes	Indicate Blue Growth in S3 priorities
Abruzzo			
Basilicata			
Calabria			
Emilia-Romagna			
Friuli-Venezia Giulia			
Lombardia			
Marche			
Molise			
Puglia			
Sicilia			
Trento			
Bolzano			
Umbria			
Veneto			

Source: Elaborations on S3 documents



Motivation for inter- regional cooperation

WHY?

- **Pooling resources** in similar activities: To reach economies of scale and raise the efficiency and efficacy of innovation investment
- **Exploiting complementarities** in technological development and innovation
 - Horizontal complementarities (related variety)
 - Vertical complementarities (user-producer interaction)

(Source: Prof. Donato Iacobucci)



To sum up: Innovation in EUSAIR FP

- The topic of innovation has been **analysed/explored/also considered** in flagships
- Networks/cooperations established (DG, JRC, MRS)
- *(Smart ERA project: On digitalisation in rural areas (Associated partner))*
- *(DG MARE: S3 crucial for implementation of EC Communication on Sustainable Blue Economy)*
- However: A horizontal topic, diversified (information, effort, contacts)
(many opportunities and experts available, too little connected?).



IN THE FUTURE:

Innovation is key for EUSAIR!

- To strengthen the role of networks: **Innovation ecosystems**
- Better integrate S3 strategies and EUSAIR (Concrete **interregional/cross macro regional** cooperation/pilot projects)- key role of S3 in the future
- **To involve industry/ SME's/regional authorities- cities more**
(Very good suggestions from MRS Week)
- **Support creation of value chains (Circular Economy), clusters**
- To capitalise on Interreg ADRION projects more
- „Innovation Secretariat“ (coordinating, communicating, capacity building)

In essence: To be more constant, focused (on results), connected, operational



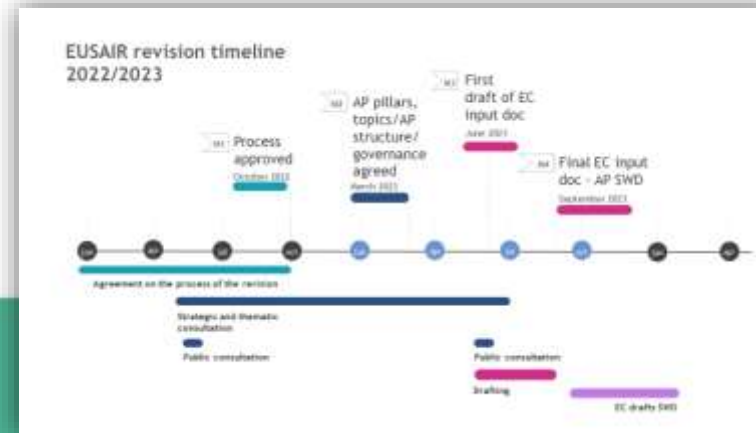
INNOVATION IN OTHER MRS:

- EUSDR: Innovation dealt with by PA 7 Knowledge Society, via the following actions: *ACTION 1: To promote coordination of national, regional and EU funds to stimulate excellence in R&I, in research areas specific for Danube Region; ACTION 2: To promote participation of Danube countries in EU R&I Programmes, in particular in Horizon Europe; ACTION 3: To strengthen cooperation among universities, research organisations and SMEs in the Danube Region; ACTION 4: To increase awareness and visibility of science and innovation in the Danube Region; ACTION 5: To support exchange of information and experience sharing for the purpose of preparation of future strategic R&I documents applicable in the new programming period; ACTION 6: To promote horizontal cooperation in science and technology across all PAs and other MRS*
- **EUSBSR: Policy area (PA) dedicated to Innovation (Supporting flagships in project development), creating project applications.**



INNOVATION IN EUSAIR- Future:

- Revision of the **EUSAIR Action Plan (And Strategy)**: Research and Innovation as a horizontal topic (and Capacity building and Enlargement), to include also Smart Specialisation more concretely (*TSG members to define activities, measures*)
- However: **Will this be enough for dedicated, constant work on (Research and) Innovation?** (Suggestion: Working group on Innovation/Digitalisation/Circular Economy supporting Pillars/experts, trends, MRS- meeting on 2-3 months, cross Pillar?)



Thank you!

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Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development



**For a Prosperous and Integrated Adriatic and
Ionian Region**

