



4PILLARS

For **P**romoting an **I**nnovative **mu**Lti-**L**evel
goveRnance **S**ystem of EUSAIR

Online Magazine

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The IPA Adriatic CBC Programme is co-financed
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EUSAIR Strategy

Bruxelles, 12 October 2016 Delivering Eusair: Time to Invest



In the framework of 4PILLARS project it has been organized a debate which included different panels, one political (“Unlocking the potential of the Adriatic-Ionian region: One year after”) and one technical (“Implementing EUSAIR through new projects and ideas in common”), on jobs and growth in the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion, in the context of the four EUSAIR pillars. The debate brought together political representatives, experts in regional policy and the EU institutions. The conference aimed to discuss the implementation of the EUSAIR and how to make the region more attractive to investors. The role of investment in human capital and the importance of mobility was the most important themes of this event.

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) is a macro-regional strategy adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council in 2014. The Strategy was jointly developed by the Commission,

together with the Adriatic-Ionian Region countries and stakeholders, in order to address common challenges together. The Strategy aims at creating synergies and fostering coordination among all territories in the Adriatic-Ionian Region.

Target audience:

- European, national, regional and local representatives;
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects’s managers;
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions and similars.

Debora Serracchiani, President of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, spoke about the important role of the Eusair strategy in terms of immigration processes. She told that the European Commission has to invest other financial resources on this central policy, because the Balkan route became a popular passageway into the EU. By the end of October, nearly 700,000 people had travelled along the We-



stern Balkans route from Greece to Central Europe. With a lack of coordination and communication between neighbouring countries, the European Commission, to address the unfolding emergency situation, have to implement the Macro Regional Strategies’s budget. During the event the Republic of Srpska was represented by Minister Zlatan Klokicić spoke about the Republic of Srpska activities in line with EUSAIR aims. He noted that “Since 2014, when we become members of this network, we have achieved significant results, through the access to the various regional cooperation opportunities”.





Montenegro, 20 October 2016 Local workshop 4 Pillars Project



The University of Montenegro, Institute of Marine Biology, as partner of the project “4PILLARS: For Promoting an Innovative multi-Level governance System of EUSAIR” organized the local workshop “Diversification and

profitability of fishery and aquaculture sectors (Blue Growth)”. The workshop was held on 20th of October 2016 in the conference room of the Institute of Marine Biology, in Kotor. The workshop was attended by professional fishermen from the Municipality of Kotor, Tivat, Herceg Novi and Budva, shellfish farmers from the area of Boka Kotorska Bay, representatives of the Municipality of Kotor and Tivat, as well as representatives of the Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management. Part of the workshop was dedicated to the presentation of the results of IPA DEFISHGEAR and

ECOSEA projects as well as it was made an overview regarding the Blue Growth Strategy, its focus areas, the territorial dimensions and blue growth needs and potentials per country.



Brussels, 27 October 2016

Focus Group - Added value of EU macro-regional strategies

The EU macro-regional strategies:

- 1) EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
- 2) EU Strategy for the Danube Region
- 3) EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
- 4) EU Strategy for the Alpine Region

Interact has commissioned a study on the added value of these strategies and how macro-regional projects can help funding programmes to achieve their own programme objectives.

The focus group’s themes are the following:

- the study to consolidate and quality check the findings;
- recommendations of how to better use the benefits macro-regional strategies;
- the benefits various kinds of funding programmes from contributing to a macro-regional strategy;
- the tangible benefits concrete

projects from contributing to a macro-regional strategy;

- the benefits that macro-regional strategies for programmes and projects.

At the event, they discussed these questions with persons involved in the day-to-day management of ESIF and other EU funding programmes, persons involved in discussion about the future of EU Cohesion Policy post 2020, as well as representatives from the European Commission following relevant ESIF programmes.

www.spatialforesight.eu/added-value-study



INTERACT Strategy



1) Raising project quality

Rome, 4/5 October 2016

Interact organised a workshop to explore the possibilities for improving the quality of Interreg Projects, based on a number of requests from Interreg Programmes and their Monitoring Committee members, as assumptions for a substantial improvement in the quality of projects. The idea of this event was to give programmes an opportunity to take a step back and think about what they are really looking for and what kind of projects do we need to support compared to those that have been implemented. The event was based on presentations that highlight examples of best practices and facilitated discussions. The outcomes of these discussions will be presented in a fact sheet. The target groups for this event was staff of Interreg JTS and Managing Authorities.

2) Interact workshops at the 14th European Week of Regions and Cities

(Different Events) - Brussels, 10/13 October 2016

The EWRC represented more than 100 working sessions, held on 10-13 October in Brussels, Belgium. The themes of the events was revolved around sustainable economic growth, inclusive economic growth and similar.

The Interact Programme, in cooperation with the European Commission organised four workshops:

a) 11 October 2016

The work of the Interact Programme on harmonised tools for the Interreg community

Description: The synergies between the different bodies at the beginning of the programming period

2014-2020 offers a great opportunity for Interreg programmes and Member States to maximise. Simplification and improvement of capacity in Interreg programmes. (Design of harmonised tools).

b) 12 October 2016

Pathways to a circular economy in cities and regions

Description: European agenda. The transition to a circular economy as important priority. Economic patterns to a more sustainable closed-loop system of production, distribution and consumption, and at the same time to develop the green economy in their cities and regions. ESPON, Interact, Interreg Europe and URBACT have joined forces to explore and share with participants in an interactive session: the European diversity of challenges and potential for moving to a circular economy.





c) 12 October 2016

How Interreg-IPA CBC has coloured the grey spots of the Western Balkans on the map of Europe

Description: The cooperation between Member States and Accession countries looks at the projects level. At the workshop ‘How Interreg-IPA cross border cooperation has painted grey spots on the Western Balkans map of Europe’ not only learned about the concrete examples of cross-border cooperation projects in the Western Balkans financed by the Instrument for Pre-Accession. Finally, the workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss the future improvements of cooperation between these countries and Member States.

d) 12 October 2016

The use of ESI funds tackling labour market inclusion, migration and refugee crisis

Description: The workshop focused on labour market and social inclusion policies for disadvantaged sections of the population (migrants and refugees); sharing experiences on the use of ESI funds to address issues such as the migration and refugee crisis. The workshop aimed to promote Interreg results and the added value of cooperation.

3) Audit Authority / Managing Authority (JS) working group on simplified cost options

Valencia, 13/14 October 2016

Reporting on costs and activities of the projects. First audits followed. Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) were implemented for this programme period to help reduce the administrative burden for programs and projects. However they discussed of the many uncertainties and different approaches regarding the application and audit of SCOs, to reduce the risk of misunderstanding, and how to harmonize the view of SCOs.

4) Transnational communication network

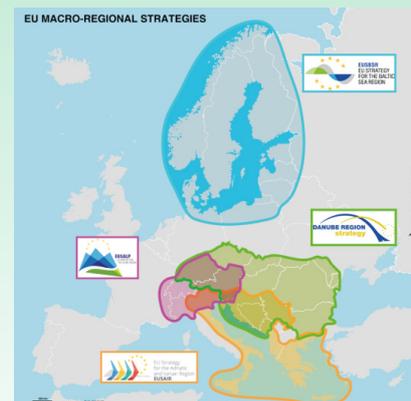
Brussels, 18/19 October 2016

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss some of the current hot topics of Interreg Transnational programmes including branding, thematic networks, evaluation of communication and more.

5) Focus group to discuss macro-regional added value.

Brussels, 27 October 2016

Interact launched a study (Added value of macro-regional cooperation: collecting practice examples - cases). One part of the study is to call upon a small focus group to test the preliminary conclusions and recommendations. The aim of the focus group was to debate the draft results of the study and make recommendations on how programmes and projects could make better use of the macro-regional strategies.



European Parliament's Activities in October 2016 - Plenary Sessions

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon addressed EP plenary on the Paris Agreement.

3 October 2016 - Institutions/Environment

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon travelled to Strasbourg to attend the final vote of the European Parliament on whether to grant consent to the ratification of the Paris Agreement by the EU. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon addressed the plenary of the European Parliament on the occasion of the vote. The President of the UN Climate Change conference Ségolène Royal has also been invited at the vote. There was a round of one-minute speeches by group leaders right before the vote and a press conference held afterwards.

Torture products: "Europe cannot just stand by"

3 October 2016 - Human rights/External-International trade

Torture and the death penalty still take place in many countries around the world and the EU should play no part in delivering services or goods to make this possible. The Dutch ALDE MEP is in charge of steering an updated version of the EU's anti-torture regulation through Parliament. MEPs debated her report and then vote on it the same day. We talked to her about why the regulation is necessary ahead of the vote. "We need to have the legal tools that if a truck full of torture goods is found we can do something. And even if it's in transit to a country outside the EU, Europe cannot just stand by. We also look to create a legal foundation from which it is possible to act when it's necessary. Of course this is not happening every day but in the instances that it does happen it has huge consequences for individuals". Discussion theme.

MEPs approve €1.65m in EU aid to repair 2015 earthquake damage on Ionian Islands

4 October 2016 - Plenary Session Budget

Parliament approved €1,651,834 in EU Solidarity Fund aid to help Greece to repair damage caused by

an earthquake that hit the Ionian Islands region, and in particular Lefkada, northern parts of Ithaki and Kefalonia, on 17 November 2015.

The earthquake measured 6.1 on the Richter scale. Two people lost their lives, eight were wounded, and 120 houses were damaged. The Greek authorities reported extensive damage to infrastructure networks, buildings and cultural sites, with some of the most important tourist beaches destroyed on Lefkada. The aid will help restore infrastructure, reimburse the cost of emergency measures and cover some of the clean-up operations. In April, Greece was paid a 10% advance on the expected aid. The Council of Ministers approved the funding on 20 September.

The European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) was set up to respond to major natural disasters and express European solidarity to disaster-stricken regions within Europe. The Fund was created in response to severe floods in Central Europe in the summer of 2002. Since then, it has been used for 70 disasters, including floods, forest fires, earthquakes, storms and drought. The EUSF has contributed more than €3.7 billion to 24 European countries to date.

Green light for Paris climate agreement to trigger its entry into force. MEP

4 October 2016 - Environment

The UNFCCC Paris Agreement on fighting climate change, the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal, in November, having met the necessary





conditions much earlier than predicted, as the European Parliament agreed to its ratification by the European Union in a historic vote. The EU will join the US, China and India, other global players and major greenhouse gas emitters, at a November meeting of Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) in Marrakesh.

Climate deal approved and signed by Parliament
4 October 2016 - Environment

The ceremony surrounding Parliament's historic vote in favour of the Paris climate agreement and the signature paving the way for it to enter into force. The highlights of the ceremony, including UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, COP21 President Ségolène Royal and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, a short round of speeches, the vote by MEPs and the formal signature by Parliament President Martin Schulz.

Foreign affairs MEPs call for common EU defence policy

24 October 2016 - External relations/Security and defence

The EU tackled deteriorating security in and around Europe by helping its armed forces to work together better, as a first step in building a common defence policy, say Foreign Affairs Committee MEPs in two resolutions voted on Monday. Ideas included establishing an EU operational headquarters to plan, command and manage crisis management operations, setting a defence spending target of 2% of GDP and launching Common Defence and Security Policy training operation in Iraq.

Commission Work Programme: Parliament debates EU priorities for 2017

25 October 2016 - Institutions

MEPs want an EU work programme in line with genuine concerns and expectations of the Europeans. In their debate with Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmerman, they focused on the social dimensions of EU policies, investment, trade, migration and security. For the first time, aims and priorities agreed between Parliament, Council and Commission for the year to come will be written down in a joint declaration to be signed in December.

26 October 2016 - Immigration

Migrant children, and especially those travelling alone, are among the most vulnerable people on earth. MEPs discussed how the EU can guarantee their rights and protection in a debate with Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos. The consequences of the dismantlement of the Calais "jungle", where there were several unaccompanied asylum-seekers, are likely to be raised.

www.europarl.europa.eu

Dubrovnik, 28 October 2016

“Citizens’ Dialogue: Reflecting On The Eu - from the perspective of Cities and Region” and Conference: “The role of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Regions (EUSAIR) in increasing prosperity and security in Europe”



On 28th October in Dubrovnik took place the “local event”, in the framework of the European Project 4 PILLARS, co-financed by IPA Adriatic CBC Programme, in the form of a “flagship Citizens dialogue”. Target audience were citizens from the Region, students, young people, representatives from academia, NGO’s, local and regional authorities, business sector. Upon the initiative and invitation of Nikola Dobroslavić - President of the Dubrovnik-Neretva Region in Croatia, Head of Croatian delegation and an EPP-CoR Member, the event has been combined with an external meeting of EPP group

in Dubrovnik, with the lead of EPP-CoR President Michael Schneider, entitled “The role of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Regions (EUSAIR) in increasing prosperity and security in Europe”.

The external meeting had the key note speeches of important speakers such as: CoR President Markku Markkula, EPP-CoR President Michael Schneider, Mr. Dobroslavić and Andrea Mairate, Head of Unit Macro-regions and European Territorial Cooperation, DG for Regional policy, European Commission.

The event had 2 sessions: “Challenges and opportunities for the Adriatic-Ionian region” and “Strengthening regional cooperation and security in the Adriatic-Ionian region”.

The first session focused on identifying the main obstacles faced by the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region and proposed solutions to them by enhancing cooperation through the exchange of best practices, experiences and expertise between partners from all level of governance. It has been also examined the existing EU funding instruments and technical assistance available as well as different investment initia-



tives which aid the implementation of projects.

The session 2 explored the opportunities offered by the macro-regional approach in promoting cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation as well as in the development of cross-border strategies in the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region. It has been also debated the possibilities for strengthening cooperation at all levels of governance to contribute to address the common security and migratory challenges facing the region.

During the event, President Dobroslavčić commented that the strategy offers four EU Member States and four EU candidate and potential candidate countries the chance

to work along side their neighbors on areas of common interest. In this respect, the cross-border cooperation has been considered by the President as a key element in the development of border areas.

After the event, a citizens' open and interactive dialogue was organised with CoR President Markku Markkula, EPP-CoR President Michael Schneider and Mr. Dobroslavčić about the following topics:

- Territorial Investment and Future of regional policy with the attention to the urban challenges and the role of local and regional for addressing economic, Social and environmental issues;
- Migration and Emigration;
- Future of Europe after Brexit and citizens' participation and de-

- democratic accountability;
- Security in an unstable and changing environment.

President Dobroslavčić stressed the need to organize such meetings with representatives of the citizens of the EU institutions where in direct conversation it can be possible to share information, experiences, and listen to the opinions and needs of citizens. These meetings allow an open and interactive exchange of views on the future of the European project, its tangible achievements and challenges based processes for which solutions and implementation should try to find common solutions at all levels.

www.edubrovnik.org/novosti/gradani-perspektivi-gradova-regija-eu

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