

## *EUSAIR revision process: Pillar 3 thematic consultation*

**18<sup>th</sup> TSG3 meeting**  
**Hybrid, 24 November 2022**



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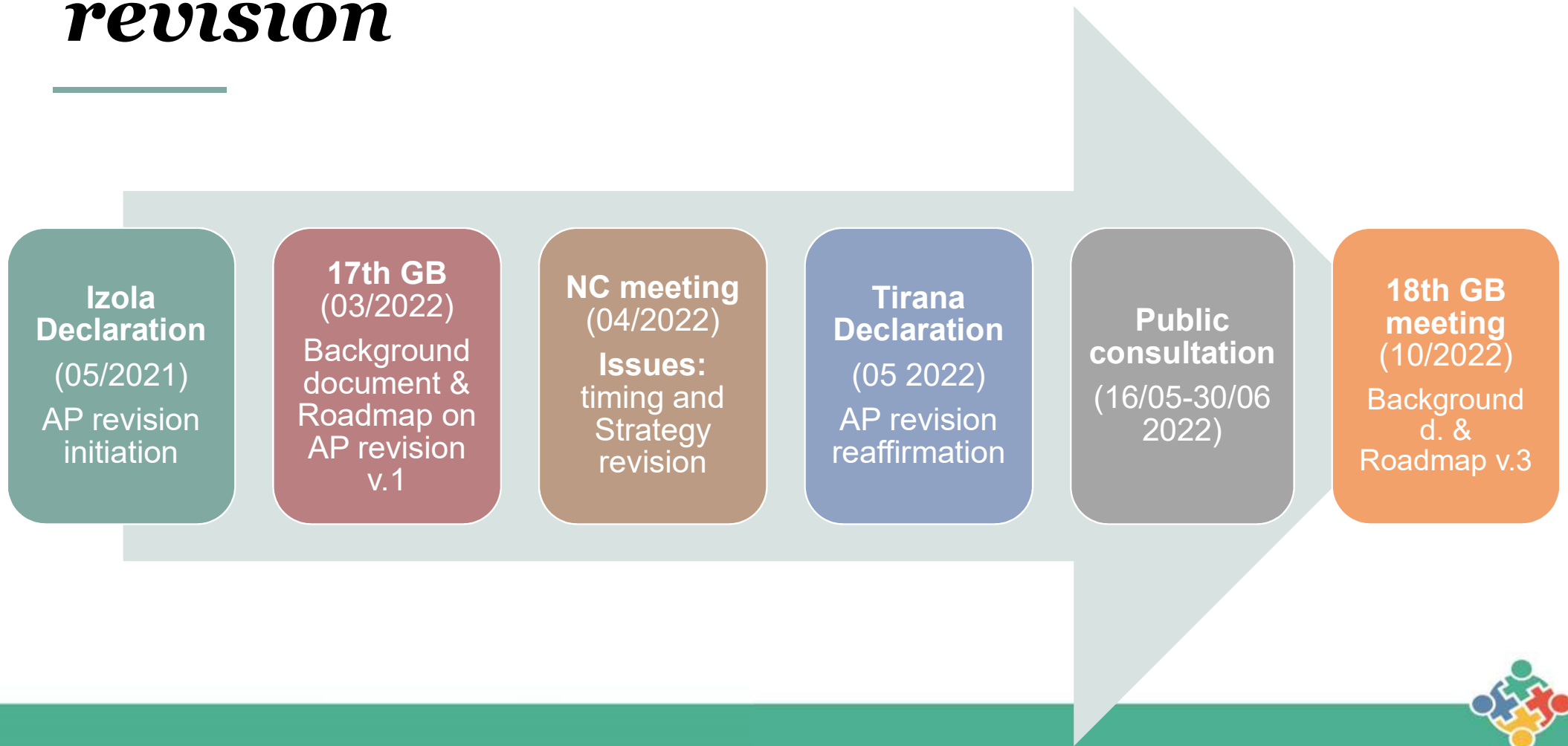
# *01 The role of TSGs in the revision process*

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# ***Steps towards EUSAIR Action Plan revision***

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# *Reasons for revision*

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- ➔ Harmonization with current EU policies (EU Strategic agenda 2019-2024, Green Deal + new/updated relevant sector policies)
- ➔ Transition from past to current multiannual financial framework (integration of flagships)
- ➔ New countries joining EUSAIR
- ➔ Facing emerging global challenges (COVID, migration, Ukraine, energy, supply chain crises)
- ➔ Addressing governance challenges/gaps (towards more focused and implementation-oriented approach)



# ***Key implementers and their role in the revision process 1/2***

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- ➔ EUSAIR Presidency: leads the process;
- ➔ EC (DG Regio): observes and advises the process, coordinates with other DGs;
- ➔ National Coordinators: adopt the Background document with Roadmap, coordinate and present strategic country positions on the Action Plan revision throughout the process, approve advancements in the drafting process - decide on Action Plan structure, governance implications and contents, provide feedback to the draft of input document for EC Action Plan Staff Working Document and finally approve the input document;



# ***Key implementers and their role in the revision process 2/2***

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- ➔ Pillar Coordinators: coordinate the thematic consultation in TSGs with the support of the EUSAIR Facility Point;
- ➔ TSG members: present country thematic inputs within TSGs on Pillar related topic;
- ➔ EUSAIR Facility Point: facilitates the process & ensures the transparency of the process;
- ➔ EUSAIR key stakeholders with special focus on youth: share their views regarding revision through public consultation on transnational and national levels.



# ***Key sources***

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- ➔ EU policies and strategies
- ➔ Western Balkan policies
- ➔ EUSAIR key sources (EUSAIR monitoring & evaluation, pillar related studies)
- ➔ EC reports and studies related to EUSAIR
- ➔ Furthermore, political declarations, studies and reports from key stakeholders related to Adriatic and Ionian Region





# ***Public consultation***

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- ➔ Launched at the Tirana EUSAIR Forum
- ➔ Online - published at EUSAIR website/invitation sent by FP LP to EUSAIR mailing list
- ➔ Running from: 16th May till 30th June 2022
- ➔ Solid response: a total number of 342 contributions was received



Report available at:  
<https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/2022/09/30/public-consultation-report-of-the-eusair-action-plan-revision/>





# ***Public consultation results 2/3***

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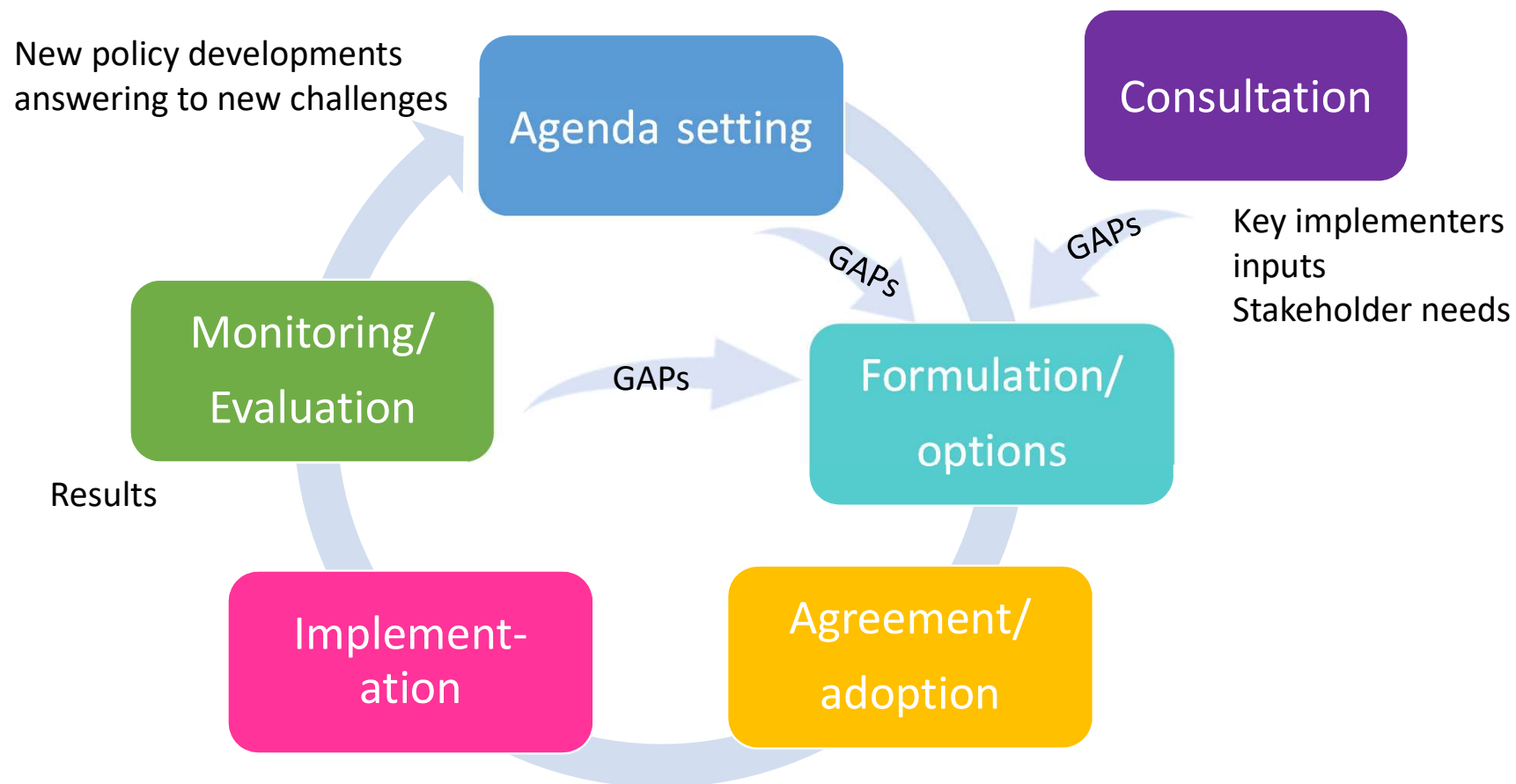
- **General Framework:** Peace and security priority; 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development; Ownership and commitment to the MRS, including the implementation of flagship projects; Mainstreaming of topics; Involve equally urban and the rural/peripheral areas
- **Governance:** Cross-pillar projects facilitating cooperation; Territorial observatory and strategy; Governance/policy/capacity building projects existing outcomes review and capitalization processes; Formal and informal horizontal coordination mechanisms; More involvement of local and regional governments in EUSAIR (co-creation and co-planning)
- **Cooperation:** Capacity building and voluntarism; involving more (and new) organizations; voice and role to the civil society; People-to-people links; focus on Youth



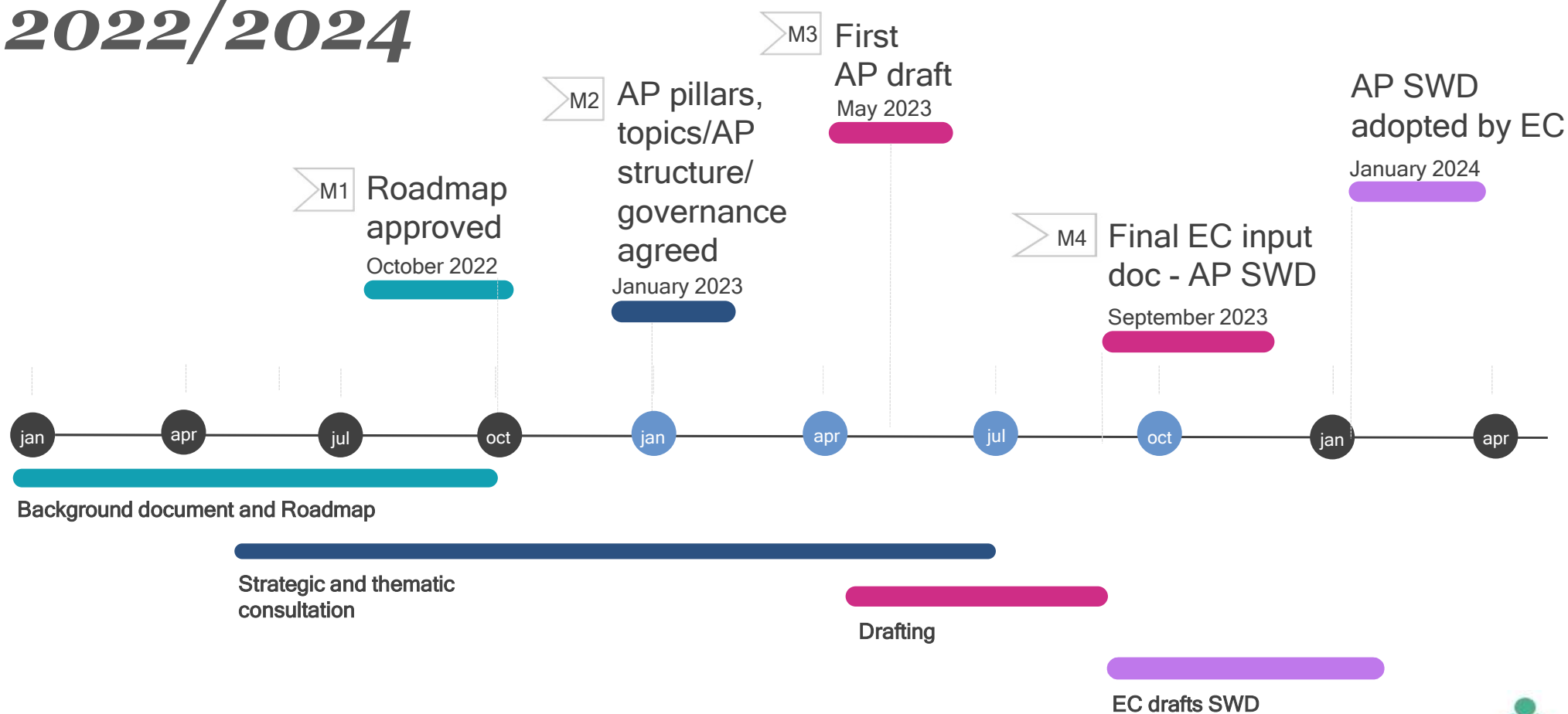
# *Public consultation results 3/3*

Sustainable Tourism EUSAIR	Environmental Quality EUSAIR	Connecting the Region EUSAIR	Blue Growth EUSAIR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cultural and creative industries</li><li>• Cultural heritage</li><li>• Innovation in tourism</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bring forward sust. agriculture and link to « farm-to-fork » strategy</li><li>• Circular economy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AI infrastructure</li><li>• Renewable energy sources/energy efficiency/saving</li><li>• Soft mobility (walking, cycling, public transport) and e-mobility</li></ul>	Blue economy and blue innovation (not traditional sectors, rather emerging sectors)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More innovation, research and development (quadruple-helix approach)</li><li>• Accent on sustainability (in every joint action), green and digital transition</li><li>• Joint work on decarbonisation and climate change adaptation measures</li><li>• Joint work on Smart specialization topics</li><li>• Work on Skills (e.g. blue skills for youth), student and labour mobility</li><li>• More actions for Youth, stronger Youth involvement in EUSAIR and youth exchange programmes</li><li>• Cultural dialogue</li></ul>			

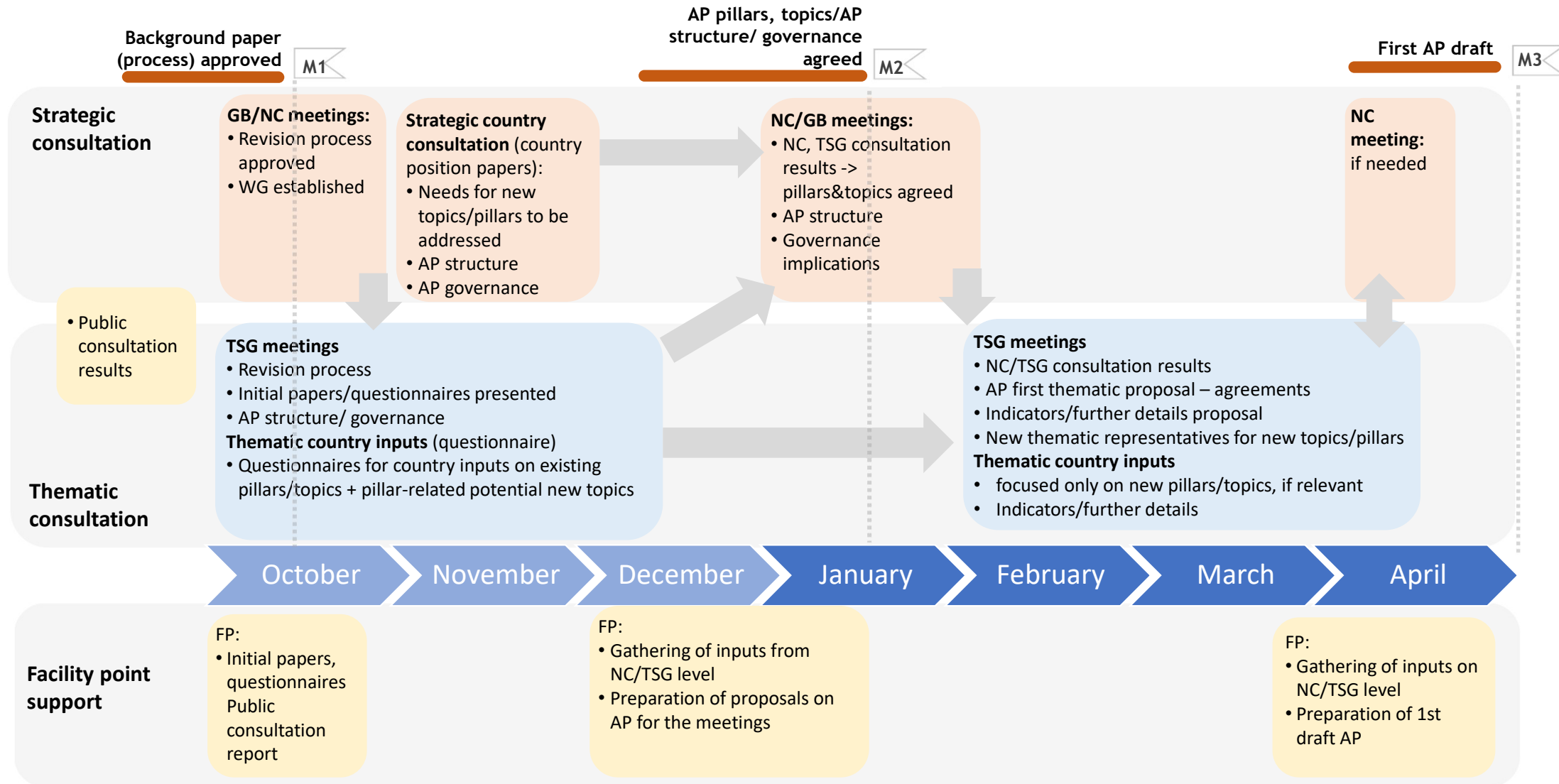
# ***Policy development cycle - revision***



# *EUSAIR revision timeline 2022/2024*



# Detailed EUSAIR Action Plan revision till spring 2023





*Any  
questions?*



A top-down view of a collaborative workspace. Several people are gathered around a table, their hands and arms visible as they work. The table surface is covered with hand-drawn diagrams and sketches. A large central yellow circle contains a lightbulb icon with three lightning bolts above it. To the left, a red circle contains an open book icon. To the right, a blue circle contains an eye icon. Below the central circle, there are two green circles, one labeled 'A' and one labeled 'B', each containing a coffee cup icon. Further down, a green circle contains a computer monitor icon. The words 'DESIGN' and 'RESEARCH' are written in black capital letters on the table. Various other icons like gears, puzzle pieces, and stars are scattered around. Dashed lines connect different parts of the diagrams, suggesting a flow or relationship between the concepts. The overall atmosphere is one of creative collaboration and brainstorming.

## *02 Initial policy paper & questionnaire*

# ***Initial policy paper - principles***

- Starting point for thematic consultation on EUSAIR Action Plan revision
- Same format and methodology in all 4 pillars (except TSG2 Transport)
- Intended for TSGs and relevant policy owners in the EUSAIR countries
- Accompanied by a questionnaire to collect country inputs
- Implementation-oriented approach
- Building on the 2014 Action Plan and existing work done through the flagships process
- Suggestions for actions reflecting the EU policies, trends and initiatives



# ***Initial policy paper structure***

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The content is presented in a table form:

- the columns represent stages in the Action Plan revision
  - the first column summarises the relevant content of the Action Plan 2014,
  - the second presents the input from the Flagships document and
  - the third represents the **suggested updates** (flagships + revision sources)
- the rows in the table present the suggested categories of the revised Action Plan (similar to other MRSs)
  - **Topics** (challenges, objectives, policy framework, key stakeholders)
  - **Actions** (so far just short descriptions/possible activities)



# *Initial policy paper – logic 1/2*

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# ***Initial policy paper – logic 2/2***

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- Actions are planned to contribute to the set objectives through activities described under each action.
- The format of the activities to be implemented under each action is decided to best suit the needs of the action. Activities under an action can be - but are not limited to - flagships, projects (single or grouped in clusters), processes, networks or platforms.
- Flagships are having both policy and practical impact. Flagships are driven by a vision of policy impact. Flagships gather all possible stakeholders in a long-term process of co-creation of both policy and action. Flagships become 'home' for projects and any other forms of action, such as policy dialogues, policy-making workshops, public consultations and become areas for alignment of funding, too.



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 1 – Sub-topic 1***

*The Marine  
Environment -  
Threat to coastal  
and marine  
biodiversity*



 International Institute for Sustainable Development





# ***Initial policy paper Topic 1 - objective***

2014

- To ensure a good environmental and ecological status of the marine and coastal environment by 2020 in line with the relevant EU acquis and the ecosystem approach of the Barcelona Convention.
- To contribute to the goal of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restore them in so far as feasible, by addressing threats to marine and terrestrial biodiversity.
- To improve waste management by reducing waste flows to the sea and, to reduce nutrient flows and other pollutants to the rivers and the sea.

2022

- To ensure a good environmental and ecological status of the marine and coastal environment **in line with post-2020 biodiversity targets**, the relevant EU acquis and the ecosystem approach of the Barcelona Convention.
- To address threats to marine biodiversity and contribute to the aim of EU Biodiversity Strategy that Europe's biodiversity will be on the path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people, the planet, the climate and economy, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with the objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- To improve **solid and water** waste management to reduce waste flows to the sea and nutrient flows and other pollutants to the rivers and the sea.



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 1 – challenges/needs***

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- Climate Change adaptation, with the Mediterranean identified as a hotspot by the IPCC;
- Increasing number of invasive alien species from aquaculture and ballast water discharge threaten ecosystem functions;
- Insufficient waste water treatment in several participant countries leads to pollution from rivers, exacerbated by use of nitrates on agricultural lands. Pollution is also caused by ecologically-unsound aquaculture practices and excessive use of chemical and pharmaceutical products.





# ***Initial policy paper Topic 1 – Action 1.1.1***

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## **Coastal and marine biodiversity information network**

- The use of European Environment Information and Observation Network (and focal points) to gather macro-regional information relevant for the implementation of Actions under subtopic 1.1 and subtopic 1.2.
- The use of Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) to gather macro-regional information relevant for the implementation of Actions under subtopic 1.1 and subtopic 1.2.



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 1 – Action 1.1.2***

## **Enhancing the network of marine protected areas**

- Support for designation of **new areas** in coordination with the processes of designation of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (UNEP MAP); of Fisheries Restricted Areas under the GFCM, by completing marine NATURA 2000 network and by designating further protected areas to form a coherent and representative network of MPAs according to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- Establishment of **AIR marine protected areas network**
- Cooperation and harmonisation of protected areas management planning & **exchange of best practices** among managing authorities of Marine protected areas



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 1 – Action 1.1.4***

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## **Promotion of sustainable growth of the AI region by implementing ICZM and MSP**

- Support in drawing-up and implementation of coherent MSP/ICZM following the ecosystem approach, addressing land-sea interaction and adaptation to climate change as a tool to manage potential conflicts among various sectoral policies
- Evaluation of implementation of ICZM and MSP on macro-regional level
- Share experiences in guiding sectoral development to minimize economic losses and the weakening of ecosystem services
- Exchange of best practice



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 1 – Action 1.1.5***

## **Cooperation in management of marine protected species**

- Measures for monitoring and management of marine protected species
- Identification of hot spot marine biogenic formations that are excluded from Marine protected areas or are not adequately managed
- Improve data collection and sharing
- Evaluating the status of the selected marine protected species due to risks related to pollutants (e.g. marine litter, microplastics) and climate change
- Capacity building for relevant sectors



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 1 – Action 1.1.6***

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## **AIR management of Invasive and Alien Species (IAS)**

- Coordination of action plans to address the priority pathways in line with IAS Regulation
- List of IAS of transboundary concern
- Transboundary eradication plans
- Improve data collection and sharing



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 1 – subtopic 2***

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*The Marine  
Environment*

*Pollution of  
the Sea*



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 1 – Action 1.2.1***

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## **AIIR cooperation in marine litter management**

- Best practice sharing, capacity building and coordination
- Cooperation in assessment of the status, target setting, monitoring, reporting and implementation of measures related to marine litter and micro-litter carried out in accordance with relevant MSFD provisions
- Cooperation in drawing up and implementation of Land-based Source (LBS) National Action Plans
- Definition of joint measures (e.g. clean-up programmes) provide data collection and sharing



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 1 – Action 1.2.3***

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## **Development and implementation of AI sub/regional oil spill contingency plan (ASOCSOP)**

- need of examination and extension of the contingency plan for Northern Adriatic to other AI countries;
- Risk assessment (possible risks and future events or circumstances that could damage the AI macro-region environment);
- Prevention measures
- Damage control measures
- Cross-cutting aspects: Capacity building in EUSAIR area, including communication to interested stakeholders and decision makers.





# ***Initial policy paper Topic 1 – Action 1.2.6***

**AIR cooperation in reduction of nutrients, chemicals and farmaceuticals from diffuse and point sources on land**

- Support for development of suitable measures, practical solutions and policy recommendations for reduction of chemical and pharmaceutical substances, such as: Knowledge transfer and capacity building, Testing of solutions and practical measures through cooperation in projects & Policy recommendations from lessons learnt to relevant policy makers and other stakeholders.
- Support to cross-sectoral activities and measures that reduce nutrient discharges to the Sea from diffused (agriculture) and point sources (urban areas, aquaculture), such as: Develop innovative and nature based solutions (nutrient trapping structures/methods); Improve monitoring and the knowledge base of nutrient flows and load & Raise awareness



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 2***

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*Transnational  
terrestrial  
habitats and  
biodiversity*



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 2 - objective***

2014

To contribute to the goal of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restore them in so far as feasible, by addressing threats to marine and terrestrial biodiversity.

2022

- To address threats to terrestrial biodiversity and contribute to the aim of EU Biodiversity Strategy that Europe's biodiversity will be on the path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people, the planet, the climate and economy, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with the objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- To protect and enhance natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems with particular attention to the ecological connectivity of blue and green corridors/infrastructure.



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 2 – challenges/needs***

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- There is a strong need to counteract negative effects of human activities through integrated environmental management approaches
- Long term viability of large carnivores (LC) and the public image of LC and related poaching results from increasing conflicts between LC and humans
- Need to harmonise national and transnational policies on management and conservation of large carnivores.
- Increasing pressures and land-use intensification resulting in habitat loss for migratory bird species (agriculture, water management, hydropower exploitation, gravel and sand exploitation, infrastructure/tourism/residential development etc.)
- Although countries in the region all reaffirmed their zero-tolerance approach to illegal bird killing in 2020, the implementation is lacking.



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 2 – Action 2.1***

Joint population management for LC and awareness rising activities, protecting the habitats and working towards quality of life+ coexistence

- joint population management plans for LC. Coordinate and exchange, national and regional management plans, aim of achieving population-level objectives)
- support for international networking and exchange of experience between key stakeholders and authorities + capacity-building
- increased cross-border collaboration on monitoring
- cross-sectoral cooperation etc.



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 2 – Action 2.4***

Conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats (Support for implementation and enforcement of AEWA)

- identify sites and habitats for migratory waterbirds occurring within their territory and encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites
- harmonization of research and monitoring methods
- improvement of the hunting legislation and its proper implementation
- capacity building
- Cross-sectoral cooperation (agriculture, hunting, spatial planning), stakeholder engagement and awareness raising for improvement of sectoral plans and practices



# ***Initial policy paper Topic 2 – Action 2.4***

Conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats (Support for implementation and enforcement of AEWA)

- identify sites and habitats for migratory waterbirds occurring within their territory and encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites
- harmonization of research and monitoring methods
- improvement of the hunting legislation and its proper implementation
- capacity building
- Cross-sectoral cooperation (agriculture, hunting, spatial planning), stakeholder engagement and awareness raising for improvement of sectoral plans and practices



# ***Final observations***

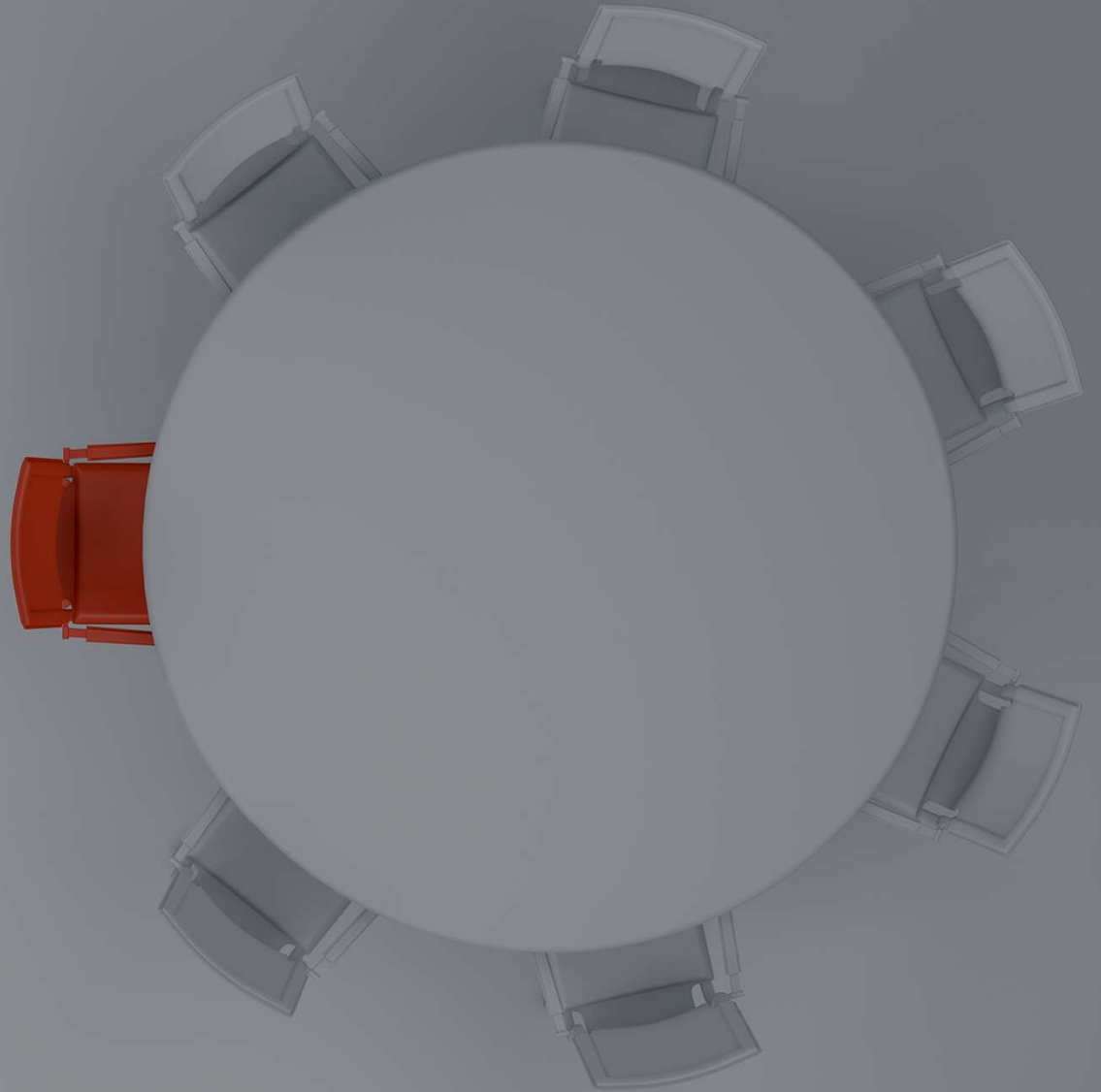
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- Joint work on decarbonisation and climate change adaptation measures has been added under the objective (including the reference to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with the objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change);
- Awareness rising on environmentally friendly farming practices (EU Green Deal-Farm to Fork strategy) included in Actions 1.2.6, 2.3 and 2.4
- The follow-up project of the flagship project ASOSCoP - a regional action plan for oil spills (...), the NAMIRS project was funded from DG ECHO. The NAMIRS project is implementing a flagship project in the Northern Adriatic.
- Accent on sustainability, also in other Pillars





## *03 Tour de Table*



# ***Thematic consultation questionnaire***

- To be used with the initial policy paper
- To be addressed to environment governance structures
- TSG members gather all relevant inputs from their country so that only one questionnaire is submitted from one country

## **Questions on content**

- *First impression on initial policy paper and questionnaire*
- *Your views on necessary revisions of Pillar 3 based on your experience and work in EUSAIR*



# ***Thematic consultation questionnaire - use***

- Suggestion on how to use the questionnaire:
- The questionnaire is not meant to be circulated to the possible participants of the workshop or meeting organised to collect the country inputs.
- We propose to share the Initial policy paper with participants, while the questionnaire is to be used by the organiser to lead the discussion at the workshop/meeting using the prepared questions or their simplification.
- The questionnaire should be completed by the organiser at the end of the workshop/meeting to summarise the information provided and agreed by the participants.
- Any new inputs can be noted down at the very end of the questionnaire.



# *Questions on Governance*

- Should there be a definition of a mission for each Pillar?
- Should **objectives** be set per Topics? Should **targets** to be achieved be set as well?
- Should **indicative/possible Actions** as defined in the current Action Plan be skipped and only agreed Actions shall be included?
- Should the **existing, new flagships and/or project examples** be included in the Actions?
- Should **indicators for each Action** and targets to be achieved be included in the Action Plan?
- Any other relevant comments to the Action Plan structure and governance concerning the work in your Pillar and sub-group?



A photograph of a coastal landscape featuring a wooden boardwalk that curves through tall grass and dunes. The sky is overcast and grey. The text "04 Conclusions and next steps" is overlaid in a white, italicized serif font.


## *04 Conclusions and next steps*

# *Conclusions and next steps*

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- ➔ FP LP receives feedback from National Coordinators on Pillar 3 Initial policy paper and questionnaire (in 5 days)
- ➔ Finalised Pillar 3 Initial policy paper and questionnaire sent to Pillar 3 PCs (mid-December)
- ➔ Country inputs sent to PCs till end of November
- ➔ FP LP prepares proposals together with revision working group by January 2023
- ➔ NCs decide on AP pillars/topics, structure, governance in January 2023
- ➔ TSG meetings in February (agreement on content, new action plan elements, further thematic details)





Thank you for a  
constructive  
meeting!