

**8th meeting of the Thematic Steering Group for
Pillar 3 – Environmental Quality
under the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
19th and 20th June 2018**

MINUTES

Venue: Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Bulevardi “Gjergj Fishta”, Tirana, Albania.

Chairs: Pillar 3 Coordinators: Mitja Bricelj (Slovenia), Senad Oprašić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Participants: The members of the EUSAIR Thematic Steering Group 3 (TSG 3), representatives of EUSAIR Facility Point Project partners Municipality of Izola (Slo) and Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Al).

The meeting began with the greetings from the Albanian EUSAIR national coordinator Ms. Elida. Five countries (SI, AL, IT, MNG, BiH) out of the eight were represented at the meeting. The two Co-Chairs verified that the quorum was reached and that decisions could therefore be taken provided there was consensus among all the countries represented.

Item 1: The Agenda was presented by the Co-Chair Senad Oprašić, BA PC for Pillar 3. After agreement on changing Item 5 and 10, proposed by Mr. Mitja Bricelj, the Agenda was adopted.

Conclusions under Item 1:

C.1: *TSG-3 agreed by consensus to re-arrange the agenda by switching the point 5 and 10.*

Item 2: The minutes of the 7th TSG3 meeting (Belgrade, December 2018) were subject to revision. Since there were no additional comments or amendments the minutes were adopted.

Conclusion under Item 2:

C.4: *TSG-3 agreed by consensus to adopt the amended minutes of 6th meeting of TSG 3 in Zagreb.*

Item 3: Mr. Mitja Bricelj presented the latest updates regarding the Matrix from the Pillars meeting at the last Governing Board (GB) (February, Brussels). As it is still not clear in which way the matrix will be used and no guidance on this issue came from the GB, Mr. Oliviero Montanaro (Italy) proposed to ask the GB whether there would be a common methodology for using the matrix in the future.

Mr. Senad Oprašić proposed to prepare a letter to the GB about the matrix with the request to express their position and to make proposals for further use.

Conclusion under Item 3:

C.5: *TSG 3 mandates the co-chairs to prepare and send a letter regarding the matrix to the GB, in order to get guidance on the use of the matrix and to express a clear position on this issue.*

Item 4: The labeling process was subject for discussion. After the adoption by the GB of the Guiding principles underpinning the labelling process and common to all TSGs, no further instructions about their use were given by the GB. Indeed, TSG 3, after reviewing the existing principle n. 2 (within Guiding Principles underpinning the labelling process and common to all TSGs), noticed that their usage depends on each TSG individually. Therefore, it is clear that no other clarification will be sent by the GB.

Conclusion under item 4:

C.4: *After reviewing Guiding Principles underpinning the labelling process and common to all TSGs - principle n.2 the TSG3 decides to apply them to the projects that are under discussion and to evaluate the labelling process application results, once concluded.*

Item 5 (partly presented on day 2): All four projects discussed at the TSG 3 workshop in Budva (May 2018) were subject to revision. Every project was reviewed accurately by the present TSG 3 members and further amended in the project concept templates. TSG 3 members agreed that all four projects are ideas and all detailed information for the project will be specified through the project development with external experts. Funds for all four project concepts for further development into bankable projects will be provided within WP 2 of the strategic project EUSAIR Facility Point.

The process of project development should include: Facility Point prepares the proposal for expertise needs for further development of the projects and submits it to the TSG3 members for endorsement; a possible plan of preparatory meetings for better understanding the project drafting¹; identification of financial needs for the preparatory meeting/s. Development of projects activities should be aligned with the overall timeline of the EUSAIR Strategy. Facility Point should be aware about possible financing chances and mechanism to be better aligned with the projects' achievements.

Although, in principle, the project concepts already take into account the Barcelona Convention and relevant EU directives through the national laws of each country², Facility Point will however double check the wording with the above mentioned international frame in order to ensure compliance with the existing, agreed wording.

Conclusions under Item 5:

C.5: *TSG 3 agrees and approves the four projects concepts and their project development within the Strategic project EUSAIR Facility Point, as reviewed and amended in the meeting.*

C.6: *TSG 3 gives mandate to Facility Point to develop the 4 project concepts into operational, "bankable" projects. FP reports to the co-chairs and the other members of TSG3 the expertise³ needed for external experts by 16.7.2018 with the aim to have the first drafts of projects by next TSG 3 meeting, November.*

Item 6 (discussed on day 2): The TSG 3 Annual progress report for years 2016 and 2017 was subject for discussion. After revision and no further amendments or comments to the text the report was adopted.

Conclusion under Item 6:

C.7: *TSG-3 adopted the Annual progress report for year 2016 and 2017.*

Item 7: Mr. Oliviero Montanaro presented the outcomes of the 3rd EUSAIR Forum in Catania (May, 2018) – parallel session Environmental Quality (TSG 3). The main theme was the issue of financing elements where experts expressed and shared their points of view. A positive impact was that awareness of the financing situation was stressed out and also focus messages about TSG 3 and financing opportunities with question rose although no specific answers were formulated. Ms. Olga

¹ With stakeholders, scientific public ... Also Stakeholders platform that will be developed within strategic project EUSAIR Facility Point (responsible of the development FP Regione Marche, Italy) should be used.

² The implementation of project activities in Slovenia will take into account ZUREP-2 IS MSP.

³ What kind of experts are needed, money, timetable for the first draft of the projects?

Sedioli (Italy) stressed that more efforts should be made to engage stakeholders and wider public in the Forum itself as mostly EUSAIR people are present.

Conclusions under Item 7:

C.8: TSG 3 gives mandate to the Co-chairs to present at the next GB the 3rd EUSAIR Forum conclusions and to seek guidance from the GB on next steps about TSG 3 activities regarding the financing possibilities/issues.

Item 10: Multi-pillar projects. Proposed multi –pillar projects were subject to discussion. Mr. Škerlič briefly presented the FP + mechanism for multi-pillar project development (FP + open call and how to apply for funds for project development) pointing out that the time for the submission for the inter-pillar project is 10th December 2018. Multi-pillar project:

1. “Managing tourist flows in protected areas” – TSG 3/4 project. After discussion TSG 3 agreed that in general TSG 3 is interested to the idea, but more things at scientific and institutional level must be amended in the presented project concept for FP+. More institutions/country should be asked to help Facility Point into preparation of the project idea.
2. “Sustainable Infrastructure: promotion of a quality-oriented, sustainable tourism offers in the EUSAIR destination” – TSG 2/3/4 project. After discussion TSG 3 agreed that since one project with TSG 4 will be developed jointly with TSG 3 the latter project is of no interest to TSG 3.
3. TSG 3/2 potential project ideas for further development were briefly subject for discussion. During the discussion no new joint TSG3/2 projects ideas were identified.
4. “Promotion of a quality-oriented, sustainable offer in protected areas” – TSG 2/3/4 project: for further discussion, an official request from Pillar 2 or 4 is needed.
5. TSG 3/1 project idea based on MSP was subject for discussion. The project should be on common based and jointly developed by TSG 3/1 and including national authorities in each country. Mr. Oliviero Montanaro proposed to officially submit to TSG 1 the TSG3 project proposal on MSP with the aim to develop an inter pillar project leaded by TSG3. The TSG 1/3 will upgrade the mono-pillar MSP and ICZM project.

Conclusions under Item 10

C. 9: TSG 3 gives mandate to the Co-chairs to present TSG 3 interest to develop the TSG 3/4 multi-pillar project *Managing tourist flows in protected areas aligned with the general objective of project idea, with the understanding that project details should be jointly discussed, prepared and submitted under FP+.*

C.10: The project proposal “Sustainable Infrastructure: promotion of a quality-oriented, sustainable tourism offer” is of no interest to TSG 3.

C.11: Since no propositions for multi-pillar projects TSG 2/3 were identified no further steps were defined.

C.12: For multi-pillar project “Promotion of a quality-oriented, sustainable offer in protected areas” – TSG 2/3/4, the TSG 3 members agreed that an official request from Pillar 2 or 4 is needed as a condition for any further discussion.

C.13: TSG 3 agreed that mono-pillar project “To promote a sustainable growth of the AI region by implementing ICZM and MSP also to contribute CRF on ICZM of Barcelona convention” can be used as bases for preparation of a joint multi-pillar project with TSG 1.

C.14: TSG 3 mandates the co-chairs to officially submit to TSG1 the proposal to develop a multi-pillar project based on the mono-pillar project on MSP and ICZM. The official request should be sent by the end of July. The Facility Point will assist the co-chairs in drafting the proposal by using the format for multi-pillar project.

Item 11: Under any other business Mr. Mitja Bricelj briefly presented the Side-event Eco-connectivity held at the 3rd EUSAIR Forum in Catania. Also detailed presented the proposal of TSG 1 and 3 workshop and TSG 3 workshop within the Mediterranean Coast and EU Macro-regionally Strategies Week, which will be held in Izola, September. Both workshops will be dedicated to project development. Also mentioned that on Intranet is uploaded also the documentation regarding the issue of non-participating countries sent to GB.