

Interreg  Co-funded by  
the European Union

IPA ADRIAN

FACILITYPOINT



EU Strategy for the  
Adriatic and Ionian Region  
**EUSAIR**



**EUSAIR**  
Greek Presidency 2024 - 2025

**m&e**  
factory

# EUSAIR CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF COHESION POLICY POST-2027

**12-13.02.2025**  
**PATRAS, GREECE**


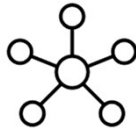

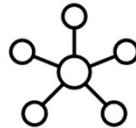


## Agenda

- Aim and methodology
- EUSAIR challenges and opportunities
- Key messages
  - Preconditions
  - EUSAIR in the current Cohesion Policy framework
  - EUSAIR in the post-2027 Cohesion Policy framework

## Aim

- **Summarise** the main findings from the consultations
- **Provide input** to be shared with DG REGIO, DG NEAR, MAs, EUSAIR governance bodies and stakeholders taking part in shaping the **post-2027 Cohesion Policy**
- **Provide recommendations** for EUSAIR's development (**current period**), addressing primarily the EUSAIR governance bodies

Data collection

					
Desk research	Interreg MA	External	Governance	Stakeholders	PC, FP, NC, REGIO, Interact, ADRION
	Interviews (4)	Interview (1)	Survey (38 responses)	Survey (88 responses)	Focus group
Policy papers, Interact harvesting reports, Revised Action Plan GAP...	IPA ADRION IPA South-Adriatic CBC IT-HR CBC IT-SI	Joannis Firbas, Former GD of Coordination Authority of mainstream programmes	Pillar and National Coordinators Thematic Steering Groups DG REGIO EUSAIR Govern. Support Projects	Government Industry Academia Civil society	Workshop in Corfu, with mainstream MAs, NIPACs, 2024

## Key messages

1

EUSAIR operates within a **complex landscape of internal, territorial and external challenges**.

Understanding these challenges is crucial for developing and implementing effective approaches to enhance EUSAIR's impact and ensure its long-term sustainability.

## EUSAIR challenges and opportunities

### Implementation

Insufficient consultation with project promoters

Difficulties finding interested project promoters

Different national procedures and systems

Staff changes

Different political agendas

SP4EUSAIR: Strategic projects

FP: PPs in all EUSAIR countries to better reach local/regional stakeholders

### Embedding

Focused on national and regional interests

Lack of mandatory requirements

Limited programme budget

Different funding programme systems

Beyond 'purely financial' activities

FP: PPs in EUSAIR countries to reach the MAs

SteP: MA/NIPAC networks

Growth Plan for WB/WBIF 

### Capitalisation

Low awareness of each other's results (EUSAIR-programmes)

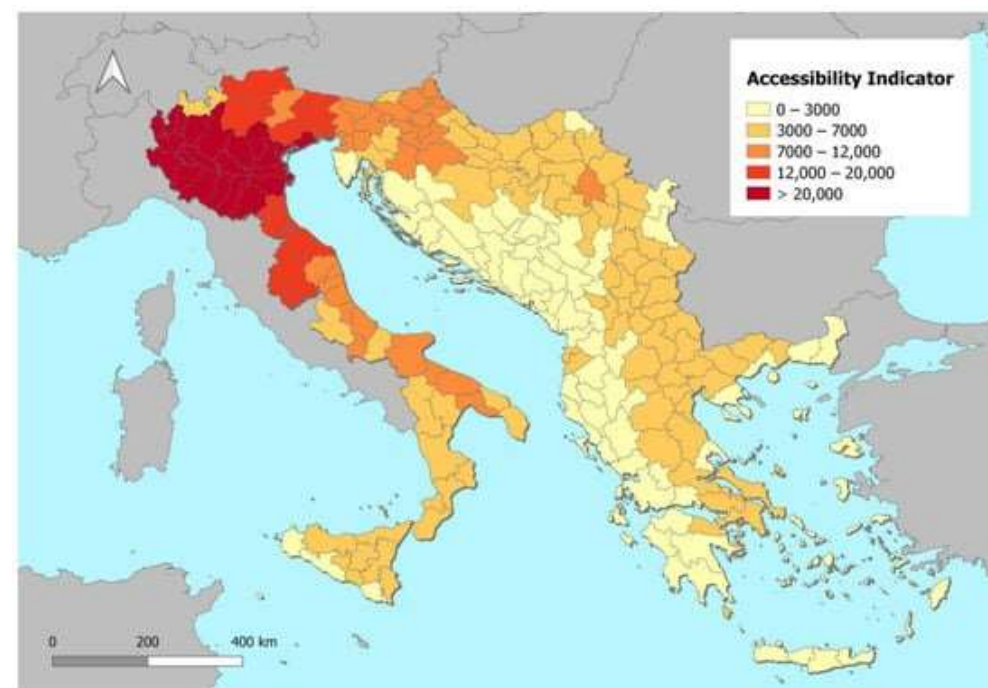
Capitalisation of EUSAIR/programme results (upstream, downstream)

EUSAIR cooperation formats (e.g. MA/NIPAC networks)

## EUSAIR challenges and opportunities – Territorial and external



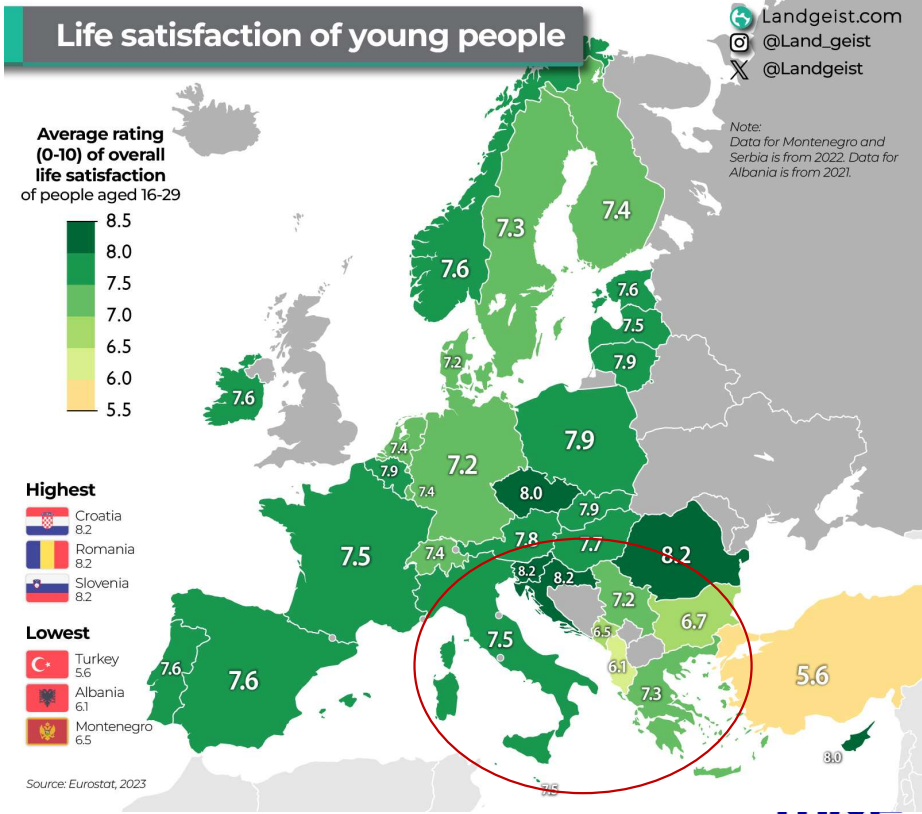
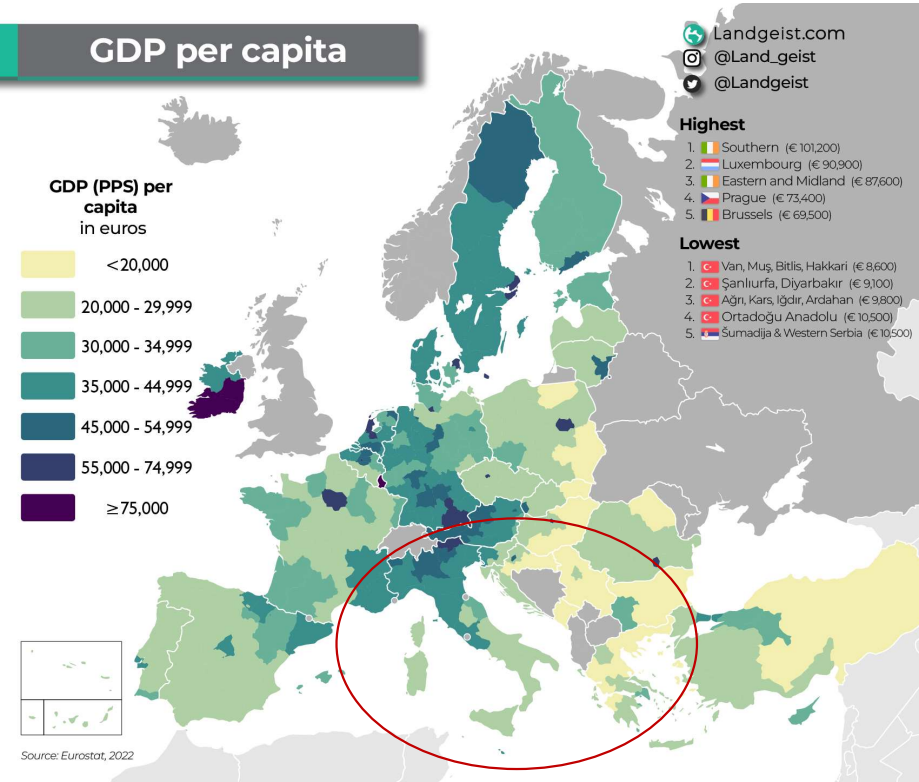
Source: *Italy: Deadly floods wreak havoc on Adriatic coast* – DW – 05/17/2023



Spatial Economic Impacts of the TEN-T Network  
Extension in the Adriatic and Ionian Region

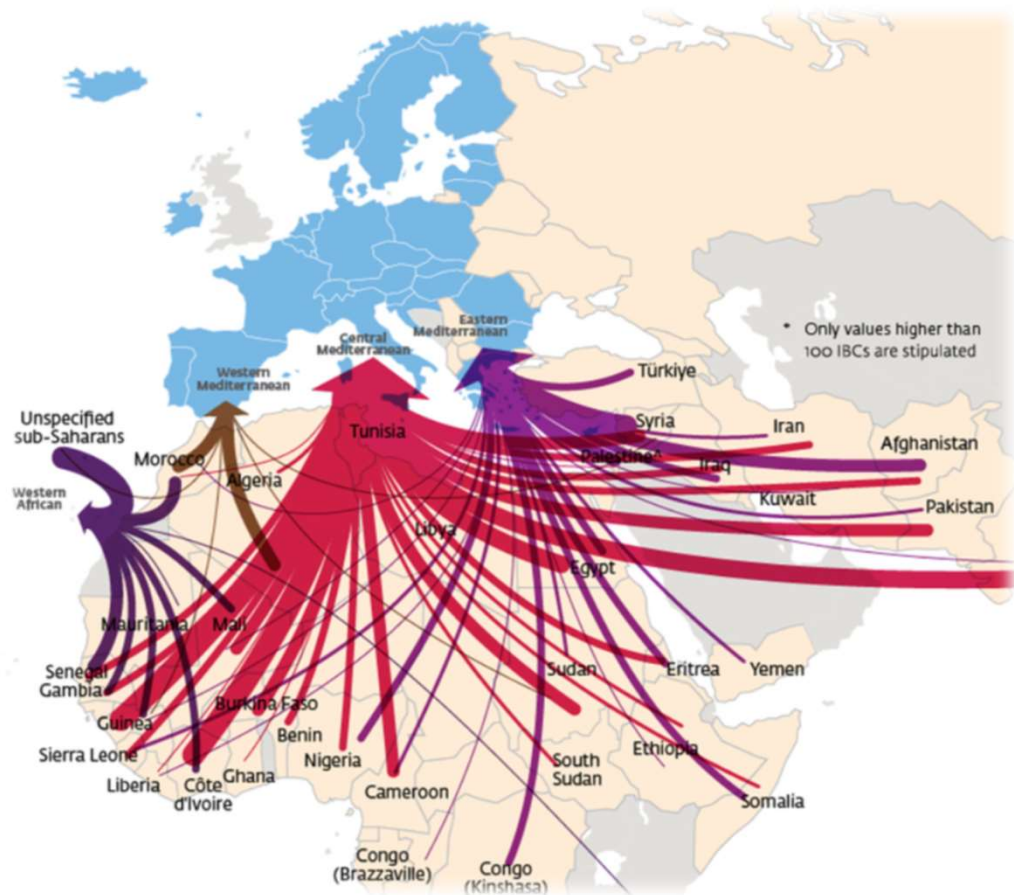


# EUSAIR challenges and opportunities – Territorial and external





## EUSAIR challenges and opportunities – Territorial and external



Source: Frontex 2023, Migratory routes



## Key messages

2

**Four preconditions** are key to ensure the success of EUSAIR in the current and future Cohesion Policy frameworks:

- a functional governance system,
- a stable yet flexible Action Plan,
- adequate monitoring and evaluation system,
- effective communication

## Preconditions



### Functional governance

- > Cooperation **mindset** (e.g. in bringing national positions to the GB and TSGs)
- > **Streamlined** decision-making
- > **Strong** EUSAIR PCY
- > **Single** Facility Point
- > Stable funding
- > EUSAIR **Youth Council**



### Action Plan as a strategic roadmap

- > **A stable yet flexible framework**
- > **Focused and realistic** Action Plan, considering resources
- > **Aligned** with EU policies and MFF
- > PCY agenda as a “**relevance/reality check**” on the Plan



### Adequate M&E system

- > Shows the **impact of EUSAIR** and **keeps track of progress**
- > Identifies good approaches & areas for improvements
- > **Informs the post-27 EUSAIR actions**



### Effective communication

- > **Successful projects** launched or facilitated by EUSAIR
- > Promotes **shared challenges addressed**
- > Promotes the **achievement of EU objectives**
- > Capacity building
- > **Tailored to various stakeholders**

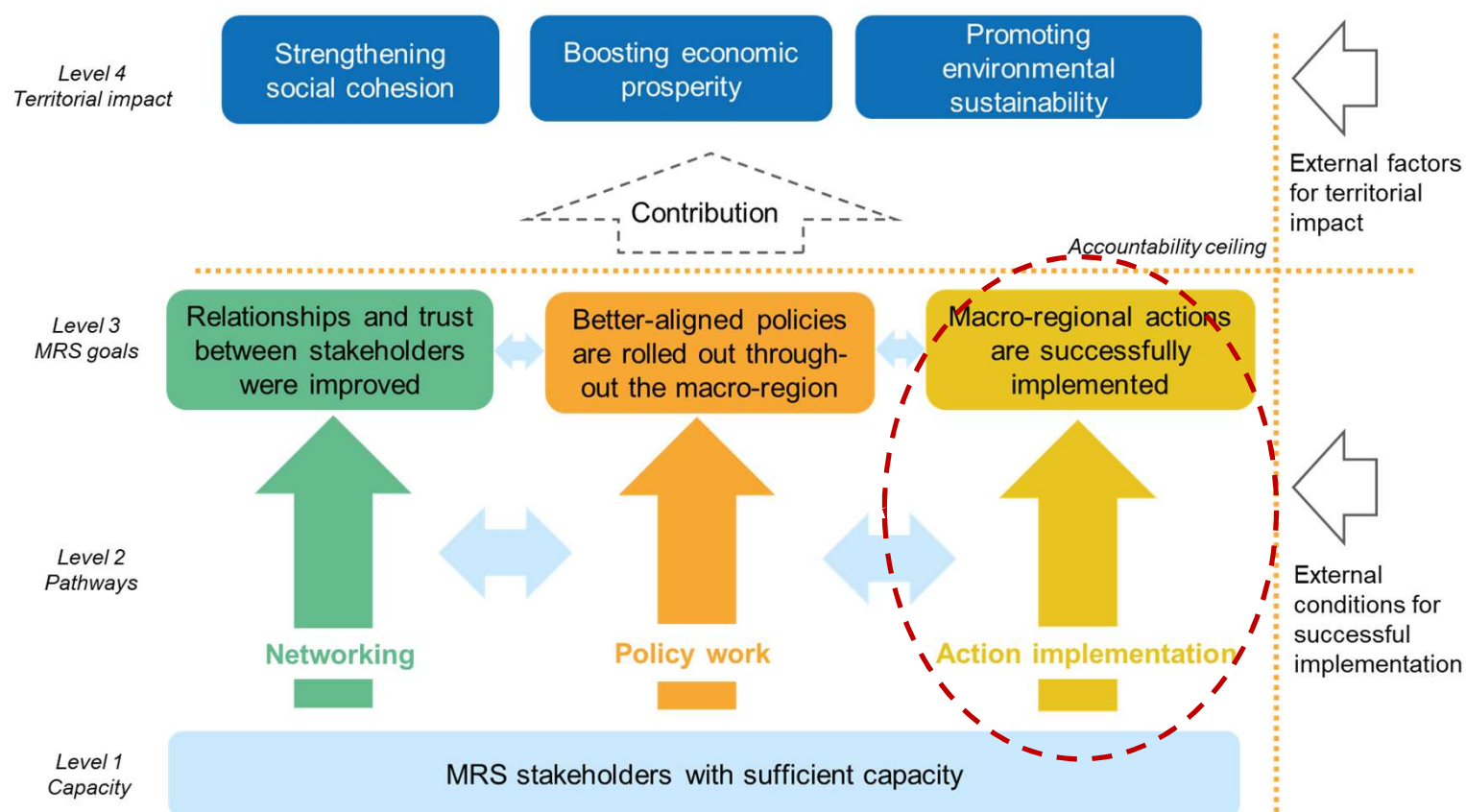
## Key messages

3

EUSAIR in the **current Cohesion Policy framework should focus on:**

- promoting a shared vision and mutual understanding,
- promoting multi-level governance,
- ensuring a place-based approach,
- actively embedding the EUSAIR priorities throughout the programme lifecycle,
- triggering synergies between different EU and national programmes
- and among macro-regional strategies

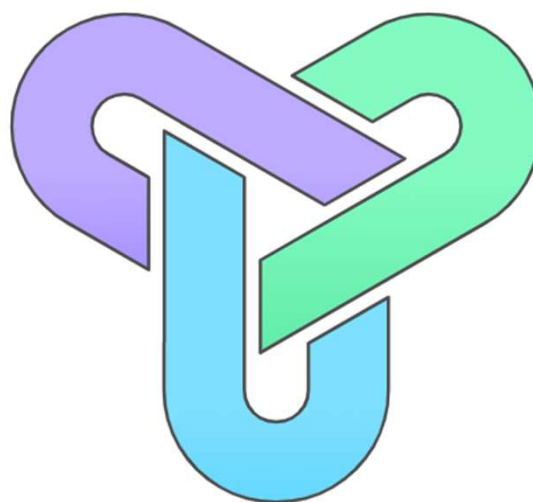
## Promoting a shared vision and mutual understanding of the EUSAIR



## Promoting EUSAIR ownership at all levels: multi-level governance and long-term partnerships

### Multi-level governance

- **Bottom-up & top-down**
- **National** coordination mechanisms (e.g. in EUSDR)
- **Macro-regional** thematic dialogues, multi-level consultations, agreements
- **Consistent involvement** of local/regional actors



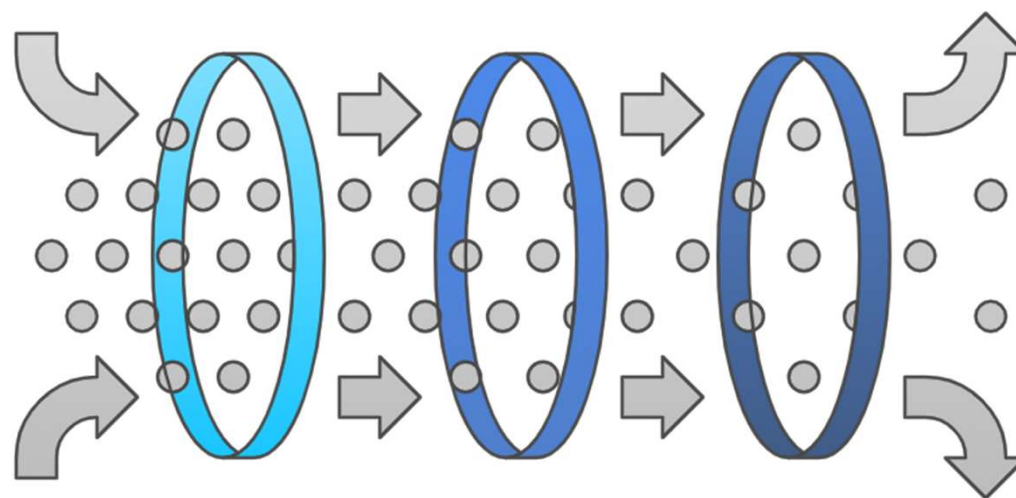
**Multi-helix approach:** Academia, Government, Civil Society, Industry

### Roles (in practice)

- Who should **coordinate, support** actions/partnerships?
- Who should **trigger** actions/partnerships?
- Who should/can **implement** macro-regional cooperation actions?
- Are there **sufficient resources** (e.g. TSGs, governance support)?



## Linking EUSAIR to territorial development for a place-based approach



### Territorial development based on data

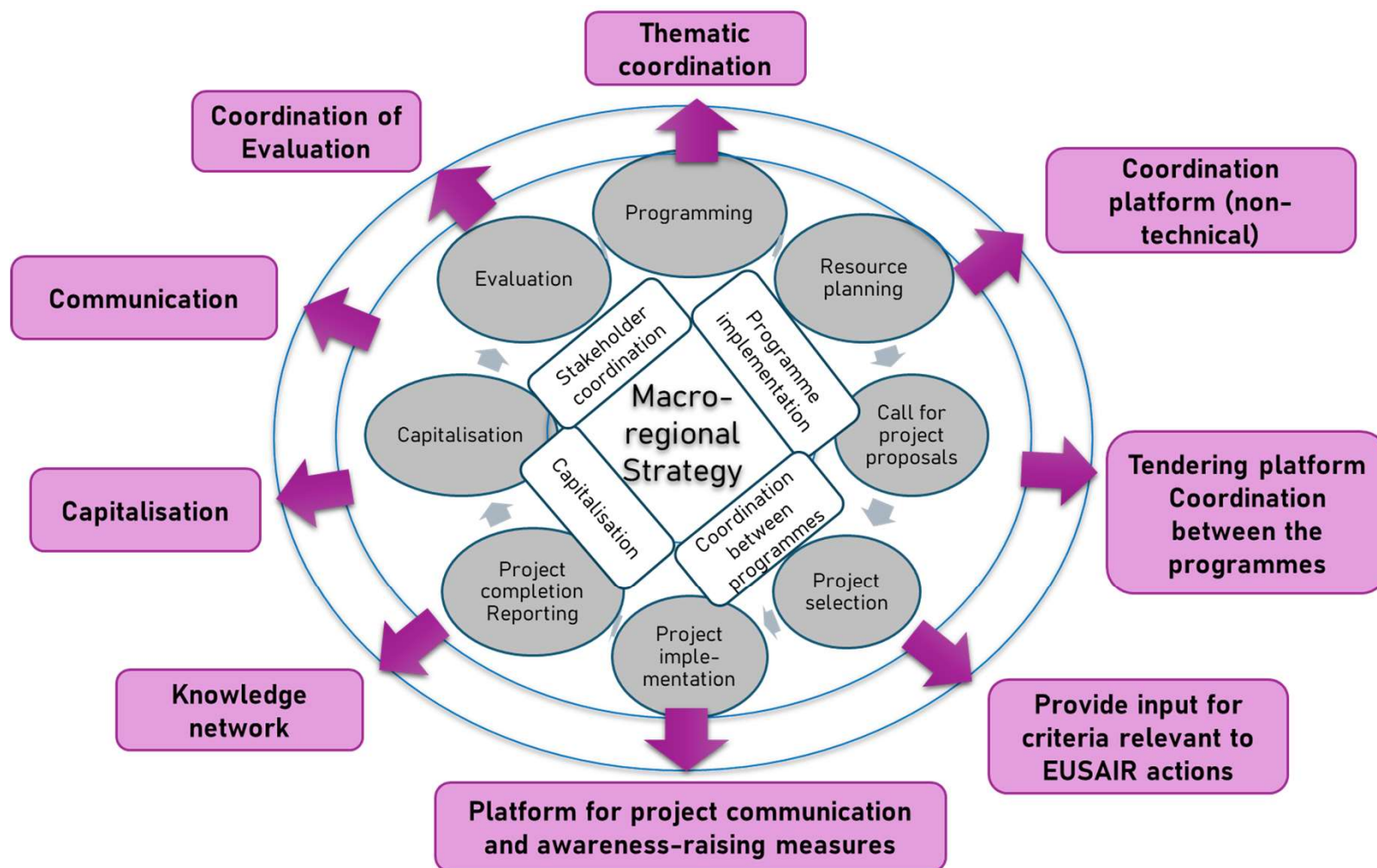
- **Harmonise** statistical methodologies
- **New indicators** on transnational context (e.g. commuters, baseline data etc.)
- **Know-how, cross-sectoral discussions** on territorial development

### Support EU candidate countries

- Improving statistical data collection
- Public administration reforms



## Active EUSAIR embedding throughout the programme lifecycle



## Key messages

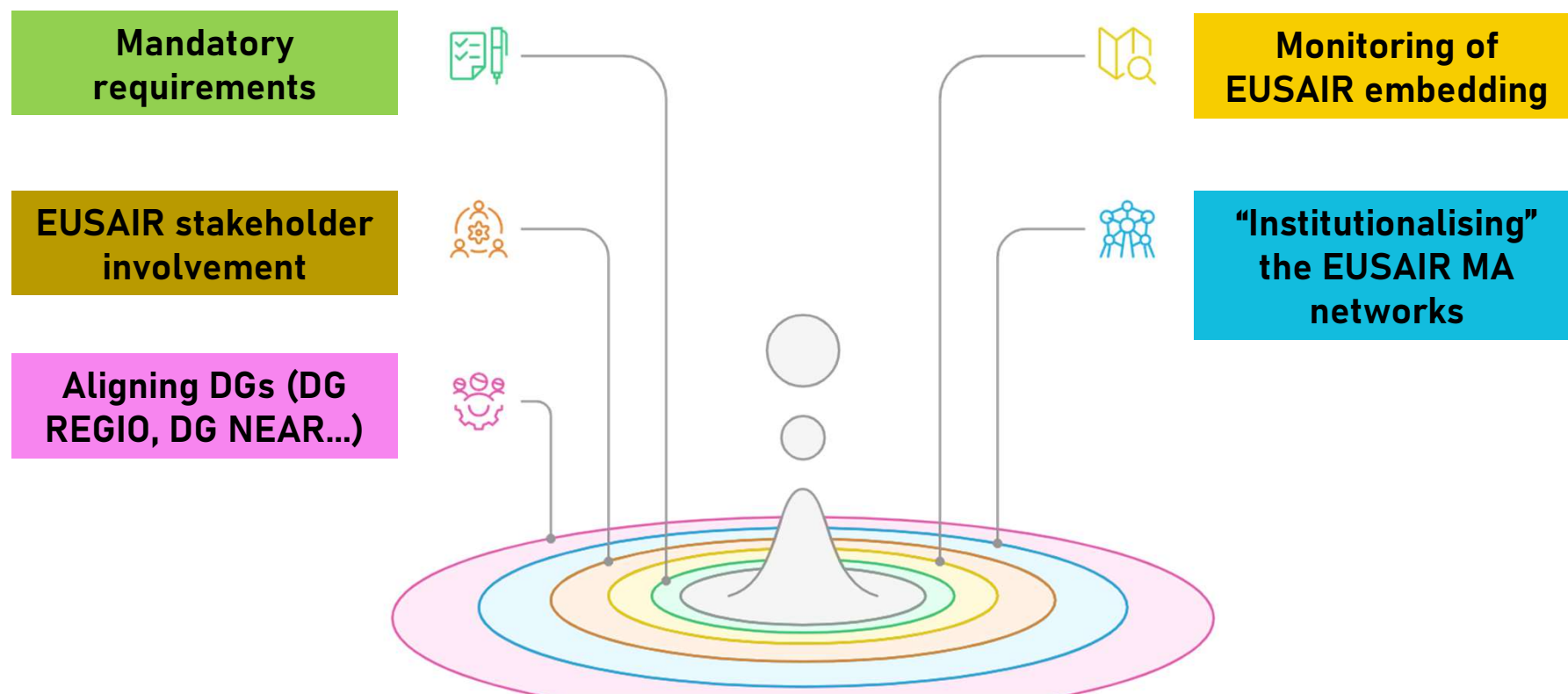
4

The **post-2027 Cohesion Policy** framework **should explicitly recognize and better integrate EUSAIR** (and other MRS) as a crucial instrument for

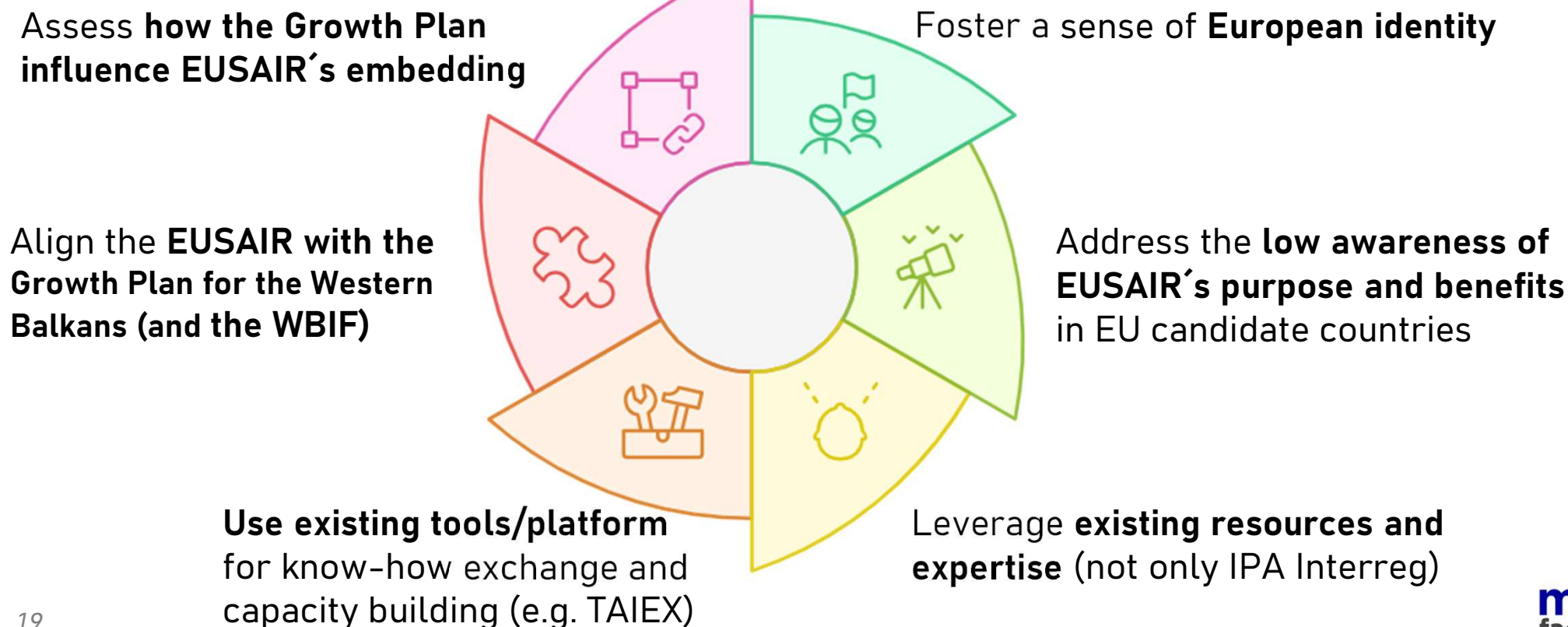
- strengthening territorial cohesion,
- interregional cooperation fostering complementarity and synergies between funding instruments through strategic thematic alignment,
- accelerating EU enlargement and driving macro-regional development.

## A shift towards a more European perspective

- Strong **territorial approach** and multi-level governance
- **Embed EUSAIR** into the regulatory framework of the future Cohesion Policy instruments

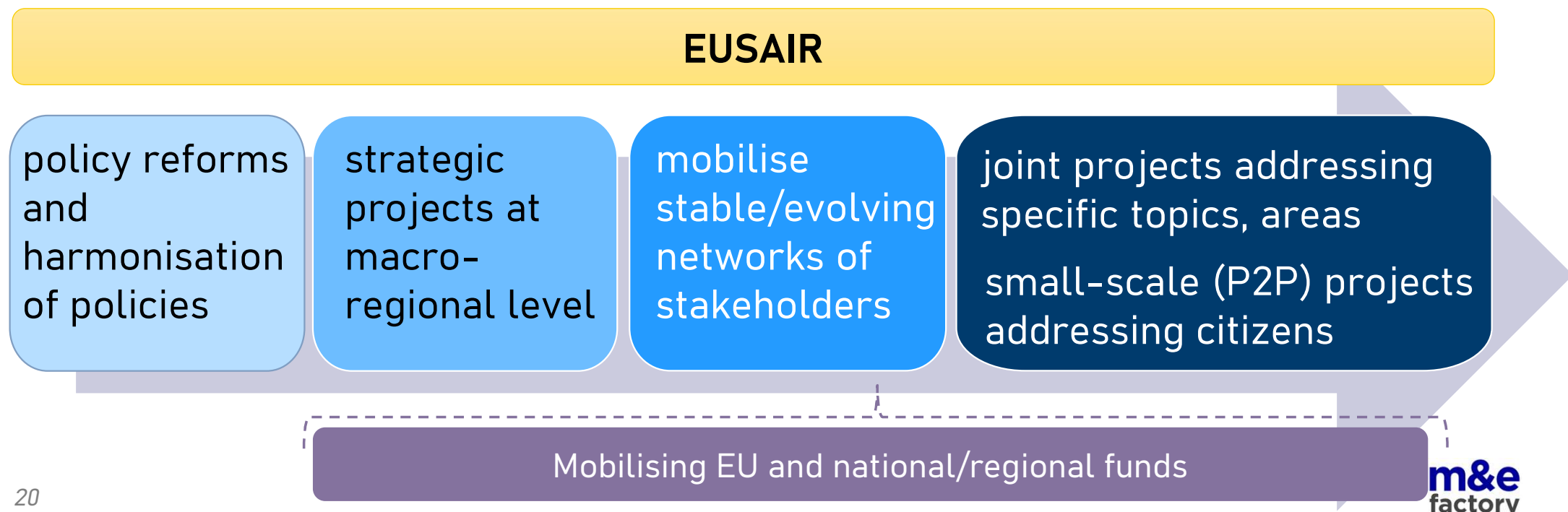


## EUSAIR as a "laboratory for EU enlargement"



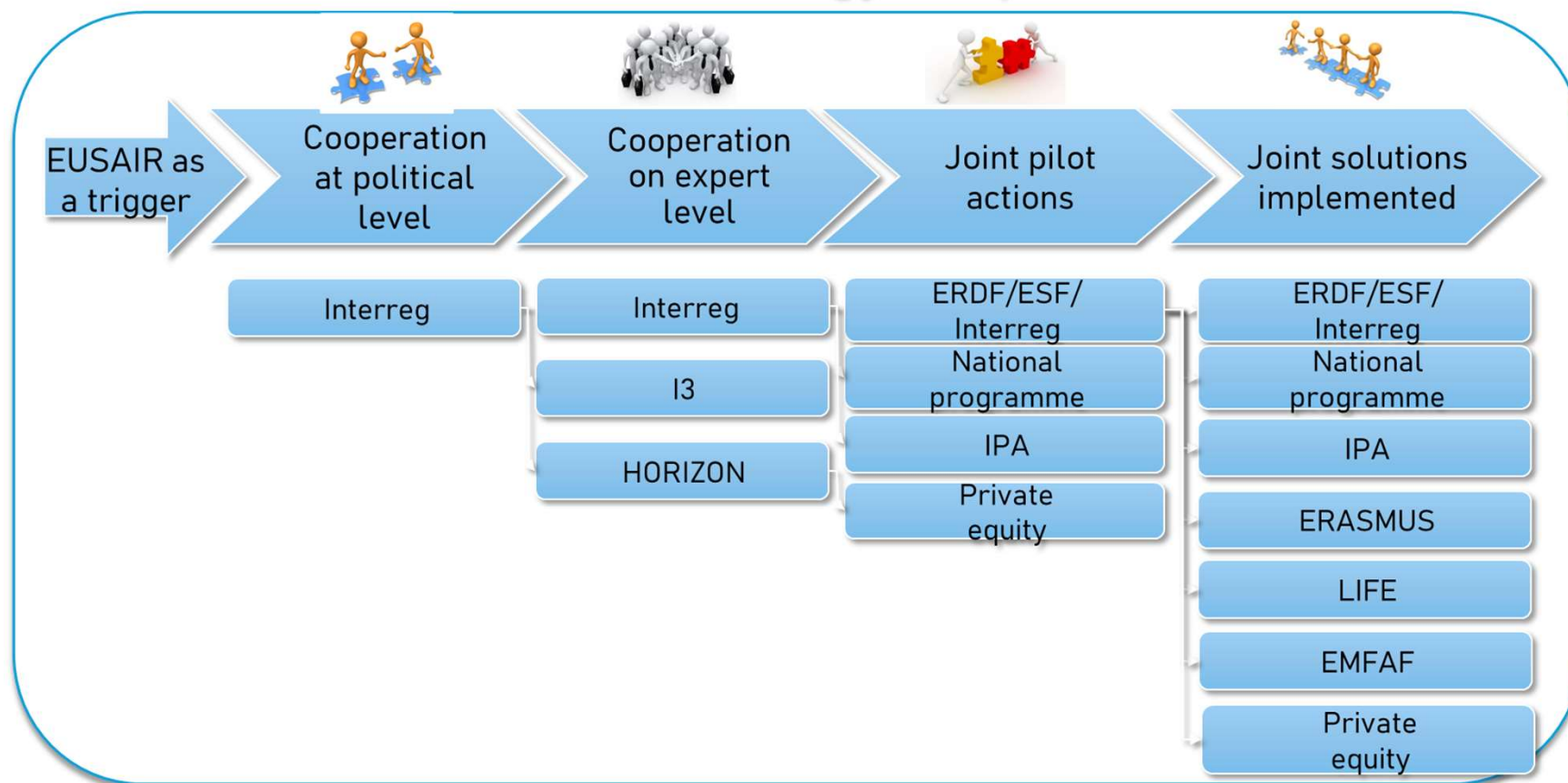
## Macro-regional thematic relevance

- EUSAIR should focus on those **topics with a transnational relevance**
- **Follow a value chain/cascade approach**



## Synergies between programmes along the cooperation value chain

### EUSAIR as a strategy and platform



## MRS synergies for greater impact



### Strategic level:

MRS TRIO Presidencies meetings to be leveraged to develop common requests for the post-2027 policy frameworks



### Thematic level:

Explore synergies/capitalisation between overlapping MRS



### Technical level:

Interact MRS working groups to be utilised to enhance the capacities of governance bodies, share experiences



Interreg  Co-funded by  
the European Union

IPA ADRION

FACILITYPOINT



EU Strategy for the  
Adriatic and Ionian Region  
**EUSAIR**



**EUSAIR**  
Greek Presidency 2024 - 2025

**m&e**  
factory

# THANK YOU !

[www.me-factory.eu](http://www.me-factory.eu)