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**Report**

**EUSAIR TSG 3 Workshop: “How to progress from TSG 3 priorities towards EUSAIR macro-regional projects”**

**DATE:** 19 – 20 September 2019

**PLACE:** Manzioli Palace, Izola – Slovenia

**PRESENT PARTICIPANTS:** See list of participants Annex 2.

**PROGRAMME:** See Annex 1.

The workshop TSG 3 EUSAIR took place in Manzioli Palace, Izola – Slovenia on the 19th-20th September 2019.

After welcome of **Danilo Markočič**, Mayor of Municipality of Izola, TSG 3 coordinators, **Mitja Bricelj**, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, SI, and **Senad Oprašić**, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, BiH, made a brief introduction to the workshop. TSG 3 coordinator Senad Oprašič emphasized the importance of more support of Ministers in implementation of EUSAIR strategy, which is very important for non-EU countries. He also presented briefly the TSG 3 project and their development.

Following the introduction **Ivana Stojanović**, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism Montenegro, TSG 3 member, **presented the outcomes of 4th EUSAIR Forum**, Budva, May 2019. The outcomes were stressed: - on the DRAFT EU Guidance Document on Strategic EU level as useful reference documentation for integration of ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure; - that EUSAIR represents a key context for contribution to fill some of the gaps identified as well as supports science and innovation; - on EU MSP platform as important data gateway; - on the importance of sub-regional and regional cooperation for the Adriatic-Ionian region (hereinafter AIR); - on MSP as tool/process for the implementation of the ICZM; - that ICZM protocol provides the overall framework for implementation of ICZM and MSP policies; - that EUSAIR Facility Point is the opportunity to monitor the TSG 3 action plan target value (see Annex 3).

Next presentation was dedicated to potentials and opportunities **of Monitoring and Evaluation for TSG 3** presented by **Miha Jazbinšek**, external expert of Municipality of Izola. He presented the specific objectives and topics of TSG 3 as well information about monitoring tools (e.g. ESPON). Also he presented preliminary studies and networking in monitoring and evaluation (see Annex 4).

Next session was dedicated to the presentation of agreed TSG 3 strategic mono-pillar project ideas. The foreseen activities and outcomes of the **project idea ASOSCoP**, Adriatic Ionian Sub-Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan, were presented by **Ana Udina**, Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, CRO (see Annex 5). Afterwards **Dušan Ognjanovič**, Ministry of Environmental Protection Republic of Serbia, TSG 3 member Serbia, presented foreseen activities and outcomes of the **project idea PET HAB ECO**, Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems (see Annex 6). He emphasized also that a lot of project already tackled the issue of large carnivores in the region and is important to capitalize their knowledge in order to avoid overlapping. **Mitja Bricelj, TSG 3 coordinator, SI, suggested that a workshop dedicated to the overview the already established solutions and how to capitalize it will be organized in Serbia before the next Forum, May 2020.**

A special session as a workshop (**see detailed report Annex 7**), facilitated by **Ana Štrbenac**, CRO, EUSAIR’s external expert of Municipality of Izola, was organized with the objective to identify in cooperation with relevant stakeholder concrete ideas for future project under the priority topic on monitoring and management of marine protected species (3MPS), which will be further submitted for funding from the available EU funds. Initially, focus was given on marine protected areas (MPA), as important mechanism for protection of marine species. **Iztok Škerlič**, EUSAIR’s Facility point PP, made introduction to the workshop with a reminder about **importance of the chosen 3MPS priority**. The workshop further continued, organized in three main parts: overview of state of MPAs in the AIR, overview of initiative related to data management and availability and elaboration of the future 3MPS project ideas. The first part of the workshop included **presentations of state of marine protected areas in AIR countries and at regional level**. **Gordana Zwicker Kompar** (see Annex 8), Croatian Ministry for Environment and Energy and **Robert Turk** (see Annex 9), Slovenian Institute for Nature Conservation respectively, provided good insight into situation with MPAs[[1]](#footnote-1) in each country. Important aspects of MPAs management and nature conservation in general are **data, information and knowledge.** Hence, **Branko Čermelj** (see Annex 10), National Institute of Biology, SI, presented European Marine Observation and Data Network – EMODnet. The EMODnet is a network of organisations supported by the EU’s integrated maritime policy, that cooperate to observe the sea, process the data according to international standards and make that information freely available as interoperable data layers and data products. Based on presentations of the state of MPAs, Ana Štrbenac, prepared and presented a SWOT analysis of MPA network in the AIR (see Annex 7). In order to improve effectiveness of MPAs, based on results of SWOT, several potential themes are proposed, to be address under the future project (see Annex 7). The themes range from improvement of knowledge, addressing and mitigating the pressures, to human and financial capacity building and awareness raising. In addition, a general draft log-frame for the future 3MPS project that was prepared in the scope of the TSG3 so far was distributed to the workshop participants. In this regard, **participants agreed to focus on particular species and habitats of the EU interest,** rather than to MPAs only. Accordingly, as a general project’s objective it was agreed to*:* ***improve conservation status of priority marine protected species in the AIR region.***Several species of interest were identified, representing benthic and pelagic part of marine ecosystem. It was further agreed to **focus on two primary species: *Posidonia oceanica* and *Caretta caretta* and to two themes: knowledge on selected species and addressing the threats through implementation of concrete conservation actions.** Participants, divided in 4 working groups, already proposed ideas/actions on how to achieve improvement of knowledge and mitigate threats (Annex 11). One of the experts also proposed to put proposed conservation activities in the context of addressing climate change, for which it is important to improve resilience of the marine environment. ***Further steps:*****The existing 3MPS projects’ log-frame would be updated based on results of the workshop (see Annex 12) and it will be submitted for approval at the next TSG 3 meeting. Project proposal will be then further elaborated in the form required by the specific tender for the EU funding and communicated with interested parties – projects participants.**

Day two begin with the session dedicated to mono-pillar project idea MSP&ICZM, where **Lenča Humerca-Šolar**, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, SI, presented and explained the Slovenian approach to the coast and **Marine spatial planning in Slovenia** and its state of the art (see Annex 13). Afterwards **Robert Turk** presented the **project PHAROS4MPA**, Blue Economy & Marine Conservation: Safeguarding Mediterranean MPAs in order to achieve Good Environmental Status. The project is a capitalisation project which aims at observing and advising on the interactions between Mediterranean marine protected areas (MPAs) and 8 maritime activities (see Annex 14). The last of this session was **Borut Jerman**, PiNA, who presented the **results of the analysis from data gathering at the last year event Draw the Coast**. The results showed that people see the area as a community area. It stands out due to the frequency of people appearing as moving objects. On most of the proposal there are no motorized vehicles on more than half of the drawings. These include a bike lane, footpath, pier, public playground, outdoor sports facilities, special sports infrastructure, the presence of grass, trees and aisles (see Annex 15).

Following the presentation was a guided discussion moderated by **Nadja Furlan Štante**, Science and Research Centre Koper, **about European Group for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)** as effective tool for Cross-border MSP. At the discussion participated **Tomaž Konrad** (see Annex 16), Municipality of Nova Gorica, who **presented how their EGTC – Gorica, IT, Nova Gorica and Šempeter-Vrtojba, SI, function**, all positive effects and what can be improved, as well why such cooperation is important – for better cooperation within SI and IT. Such cooperation is embraced as important from all participants to improve cooperation among countries and planning joint actions to develop the region. **Andrea Barbanti**, National Research Council, Institute of Marine Sciences, Venice, IT, presented **other information about other existing EZTS in the area**. At the discussion was also presented the initiative from Municipality of Koper of establishing a new EZTS including SI, CRO and IT.

At the event, **SEADRION project was presented** to the participants. Presented were the main goals and aims of the project and also some concrete results that were achieved so far. **Boris ĆOSIĆ**, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Zagreb, presented **pilot projects SEA PUMP in Croatia** (see Annex 17) followed by **Chrysovalantis Ketikidis**, Centre for Research & Technology Hellas (CERTH) who presented **pilot projects SEA PUMP in Greece** (see Annex 18). Afterwards **Špela GUŠTIN**, Municipality of Izola **and Tomaž LOZEJ**, GOLEA Nova Gorica, presented **feasibility study of Izola (see Annex 19 and 20)**.

The last part was dedicated the **inter-pillar TSG 3 and TSG 1 project on MSP&ICZM**. The project idea was with foreseen activities and outcomes **was presented by Andrea Barbanti**. The project idea was submitted under FP+ and was administratively approved (see Annex 21). The workshops presentations ended with **Marko Starman**, Municipality of Izola, coordinator of the Slovenian Council for the Adriatic Sea, who **presented** the initiative of bounding municipalities of **North Adriatic** in an **initiative as new structure for the coastal and MSP and management**. A non-formalized form of this initiative was established at the beginning of 2019. The aim of this initiative is to strengthen collaboration among municipalities in developing coastal zone – a coordinated development of marine and off-shore area of North Adriatic, collaboration in preparation of marine spatial planning.

**Conclusions and recommendations:**

**DAY1:**

* **The proposed objective of the future project on monitoring and management of marine protected species (3MS) is ‘’*To improve conservation status and ecosystem status of selected species – Posidonia oceanica and Caretta caretta*.’’**
* **Focus is on improvement on knowledge about these two species, with emphasis on monitoring, and implementation of concrete conservation measures to address threats.**
* **Threats to particularly address with the project are anchoring (for *Posidonia o.*), as well as by-catch, underwater noise, marine litter and pollution, including light pollution for existing and potential nesting sites (for *Caretta c.*)**
* **The existing 3MPS projects’ log-frame would be updated based on results of the workshop and it will be submitted for approval at the next TSG 3 meeting.**
* **Project proposal will be then further elaborated in the form required by the specific tender for the EU funding and communicated with interested parties – projects participants.**
* **Beyond the scope of the proposed future 3MS project, it was recognized that MSP is important tool for conservation of migratory species, since it is able to address threats at larger scale then f.e. MPAs (particularly threats such as transport etc.). This fact should be taken into account when planning cross-pillar projects.**

**DAY 2:**

* **Further multilevel governance approach is needed.**
* **Share multilevel governance on transboundary level to focus and be concrete in actions for better quality of life in future on shared coast and sea and to capitalize what is already achieved and known and use it in further projects, actions.**
* **A workshop dedicated to the overview of already established solutions for the issue of large carnivores and how to capitalize it will be organized Serbia before the next Forum, May 2020.**
1. For this session, MPAs are considered as marine protected areas designated in national categories, as well as NATURA 2000 sites. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)