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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


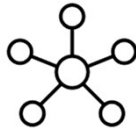

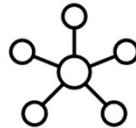


Agenda

- 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

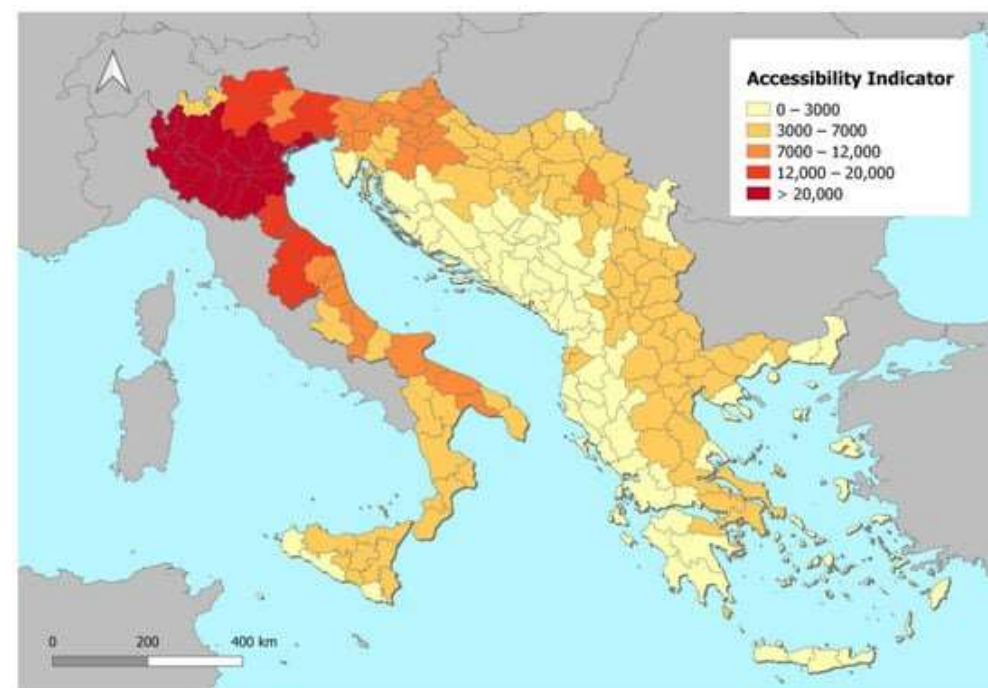
1

EUSAIR operates within a **complex landscape of territorial and external challenges** which require macro-regional responses

Territorial and external challenges

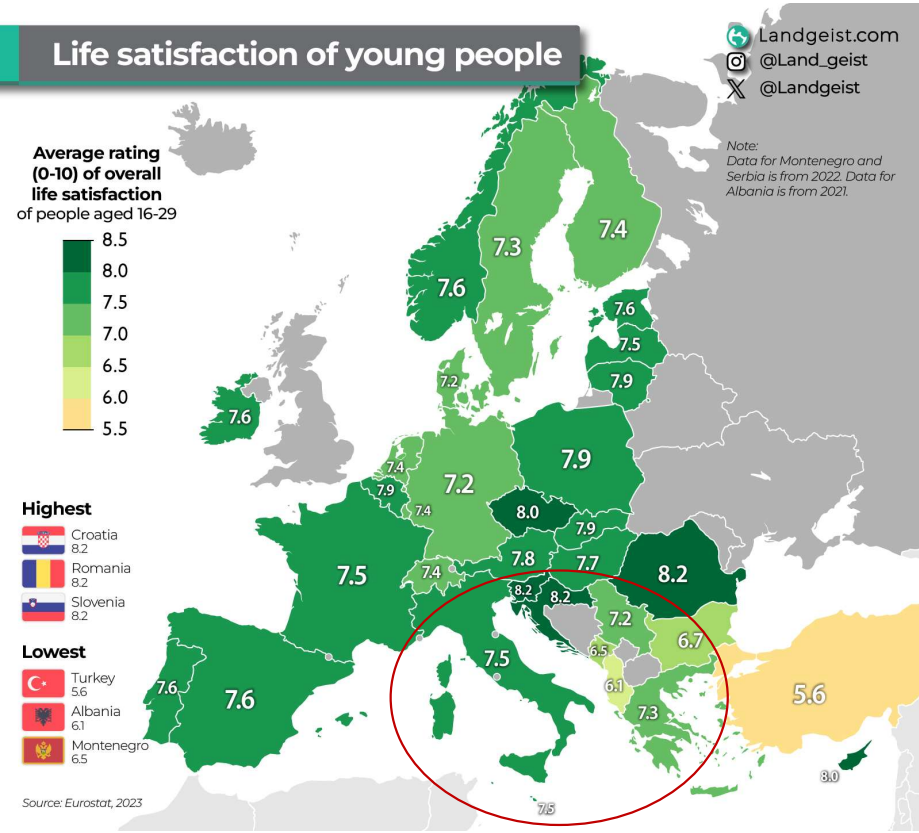


Source: *Italy: Deadly floods wreak havoc on Adriatic coast* – DW – 05/17/2023

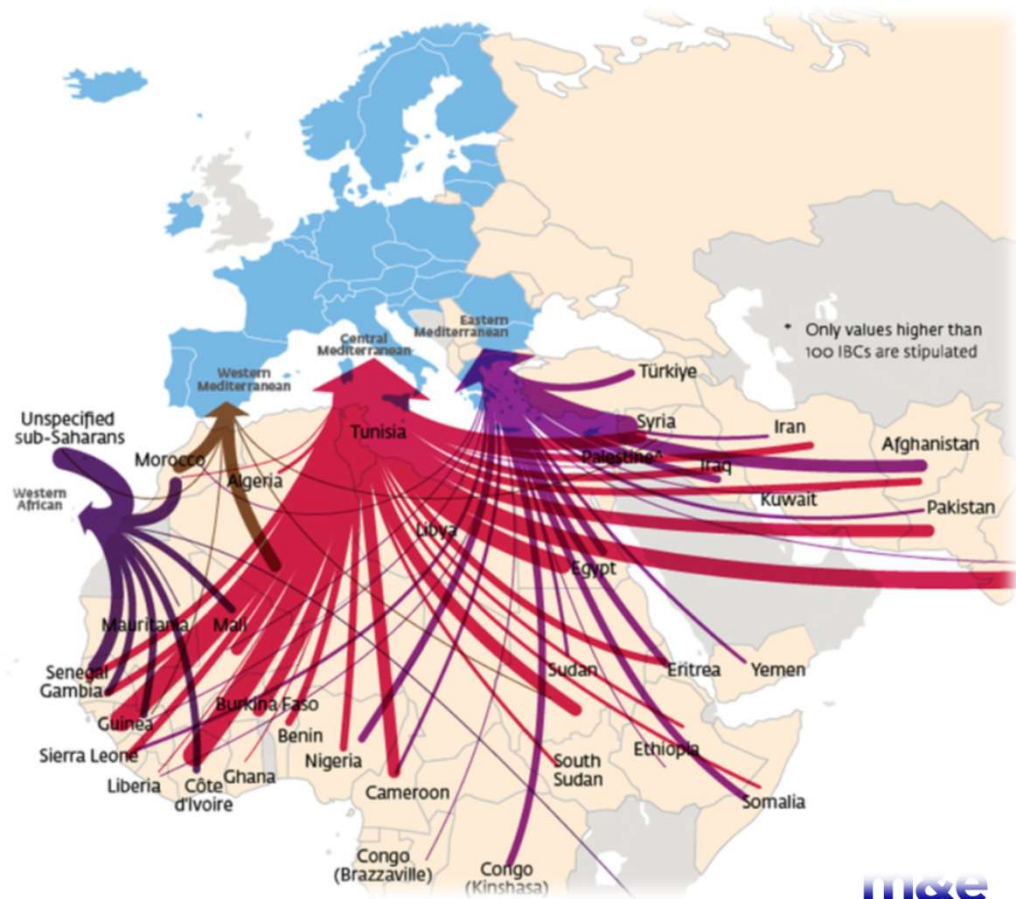


Spatial Economic Impacts of the TEN-T Network
Extension in the Adriatic and Ionian Region

Territorial and external challenges requiring macro-regional responses



7
Source: Eurostat, Life Satisfaction of Young People in Europe – Landgeist



Source: Frontex 2023, Migratory routes

Key messages

2

Four preconditions 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
- > **Well-coordinated** 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



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**
- > Promotes **shared challenges addressed**
- > Promotes the **achievement of EU objectives**
- > **Tailored** to various stakeholders

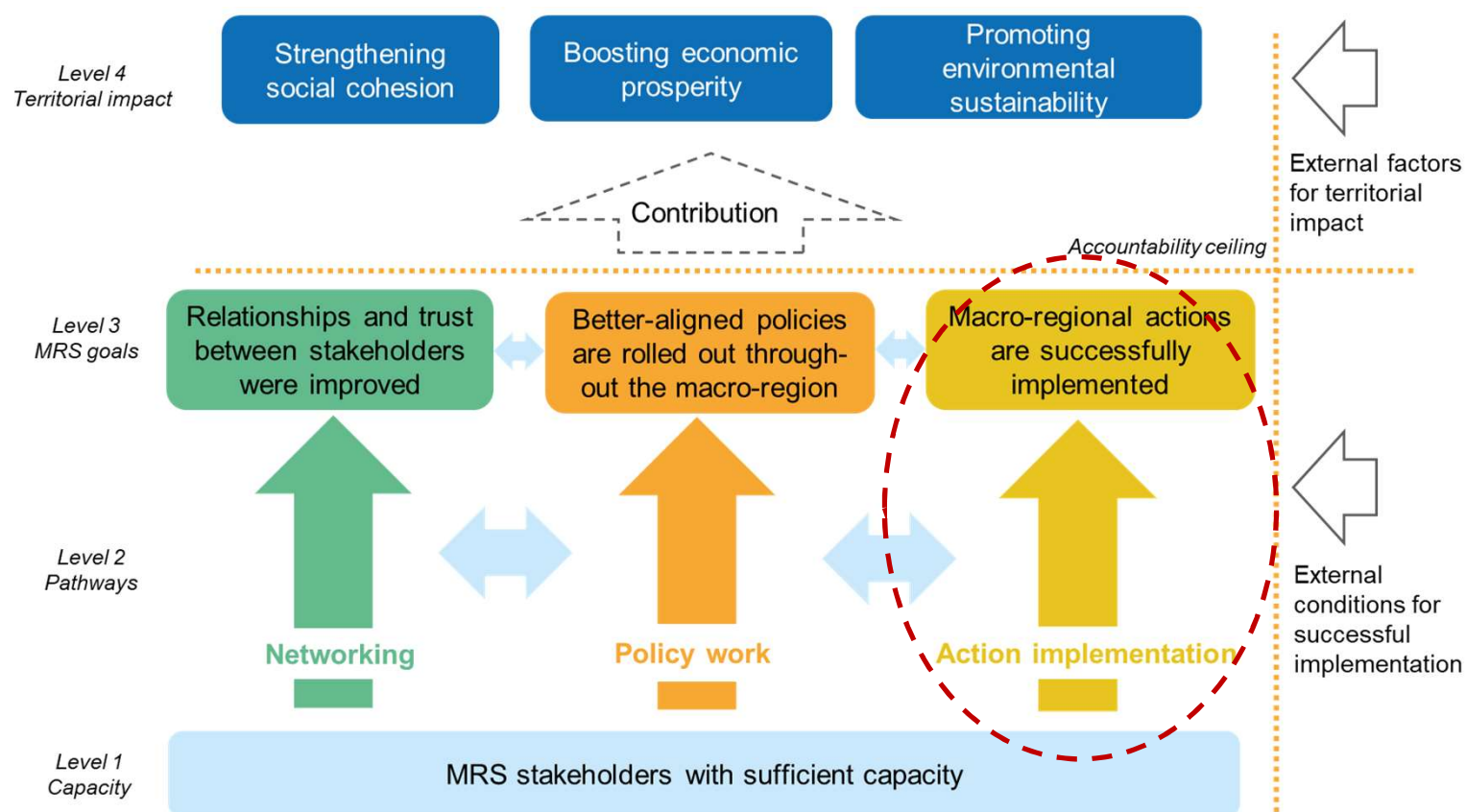
Key messages

3

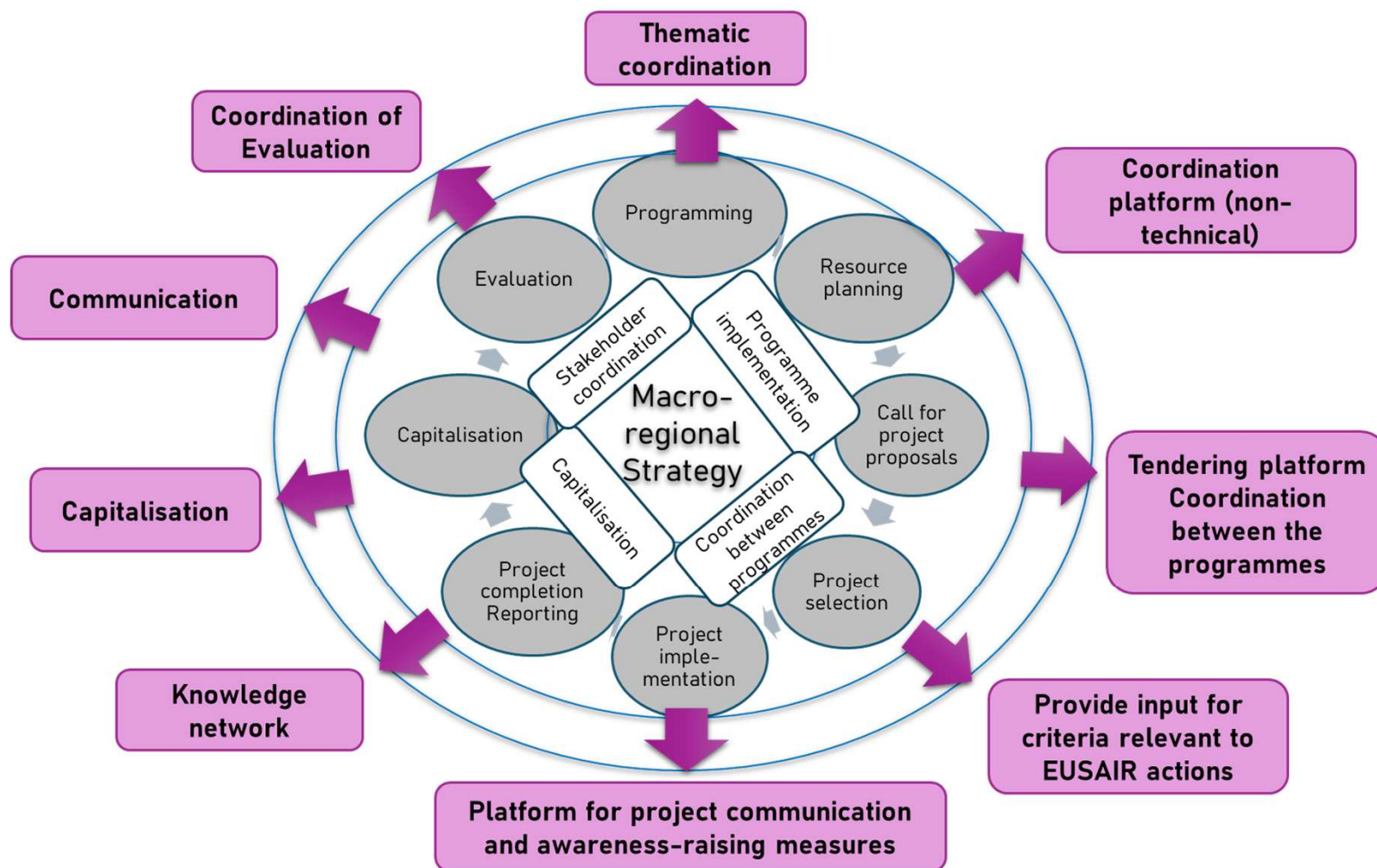
EUSAIR in the **current Cohesion Policy framework should focus on:**

- promoting a shared vision and mutual understanding,
- promoting multi-level governance,
- ensuring a place-based approach,
- embedding the EUSAIR priorities throughout the programme lifecycle

Promoting a shared vision and mutual understanding of the EUSAIR



Active EUSAIR embedding throughout the programme lifecycle



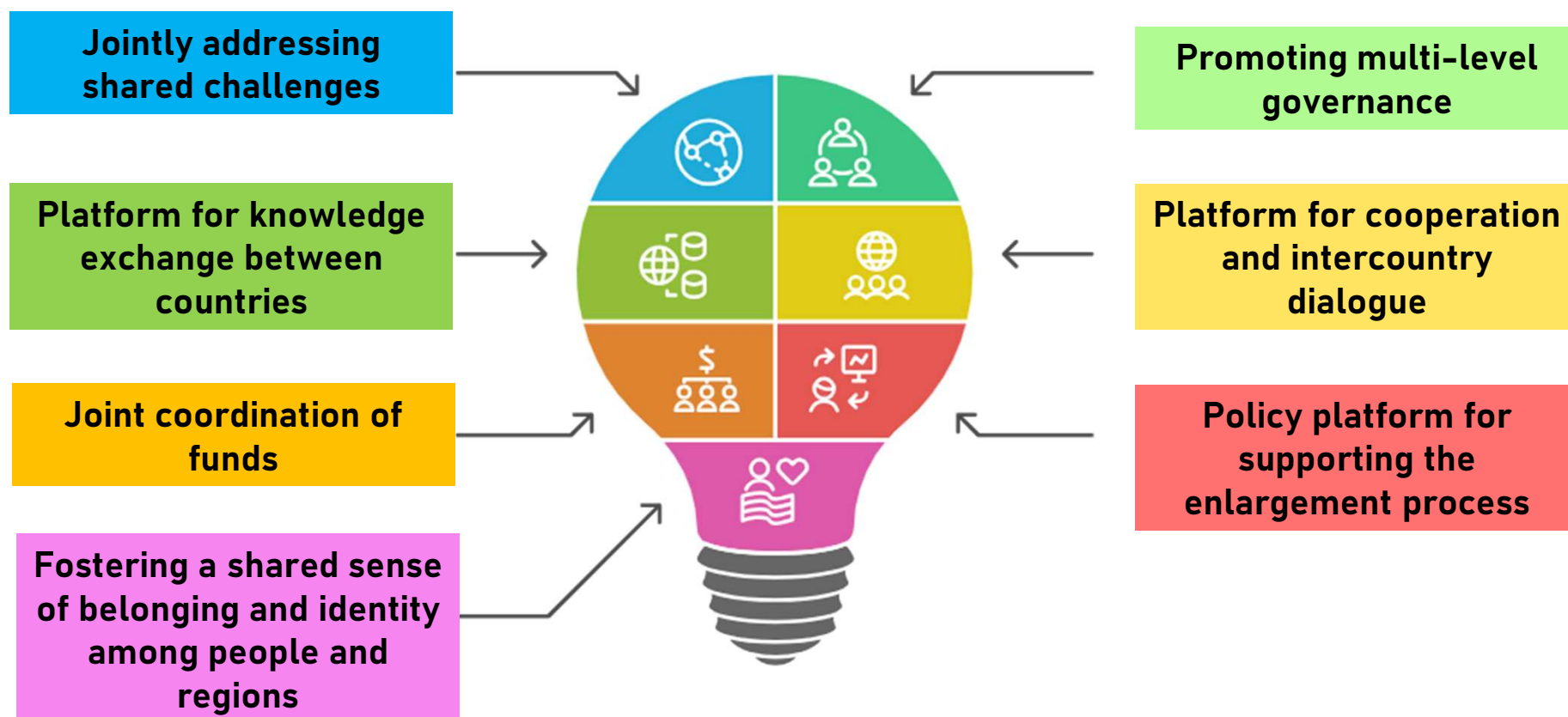
Key messages

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

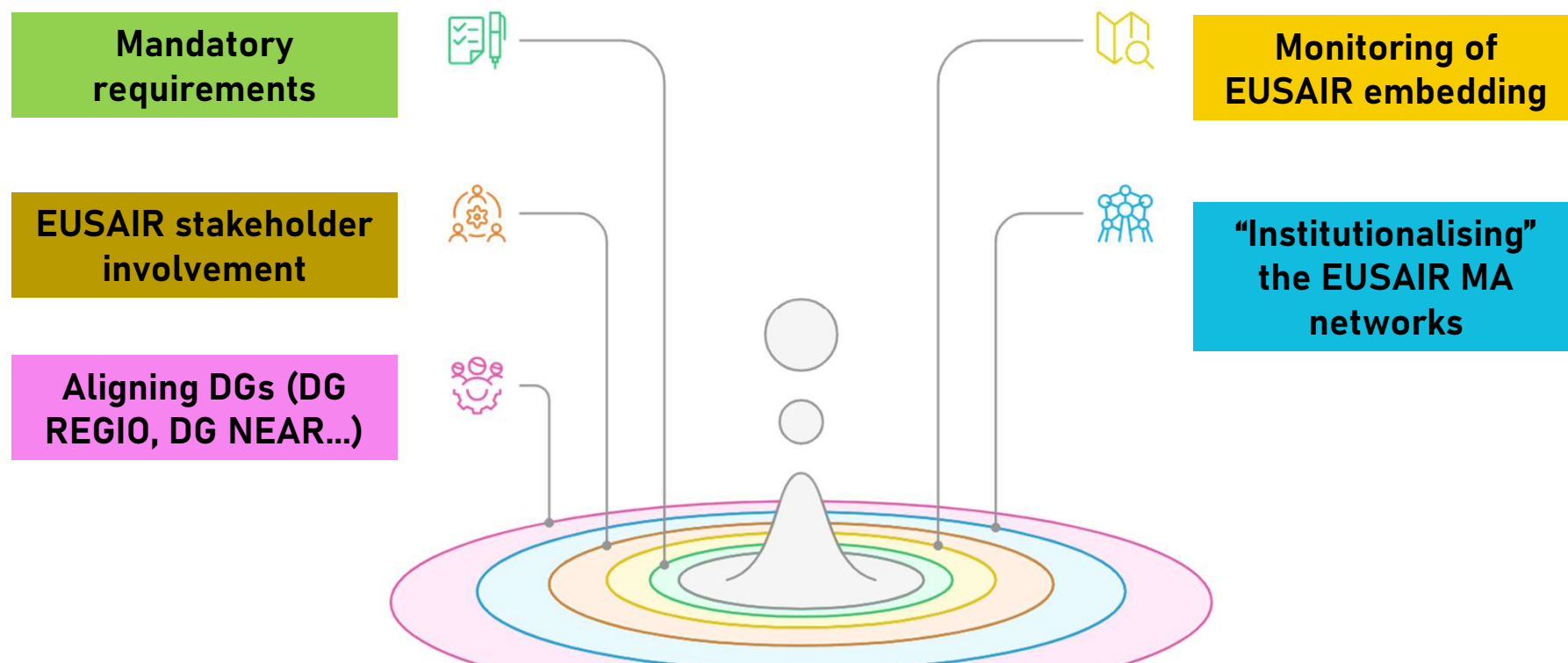
- **shifting from national to European perspectives to** address transnational challenges and strengthen territorial cohesion,
- triggering **synergies** along the cooperation value chain,
- **accelerating** EU enlargement.

Unique values of the EUSAIR

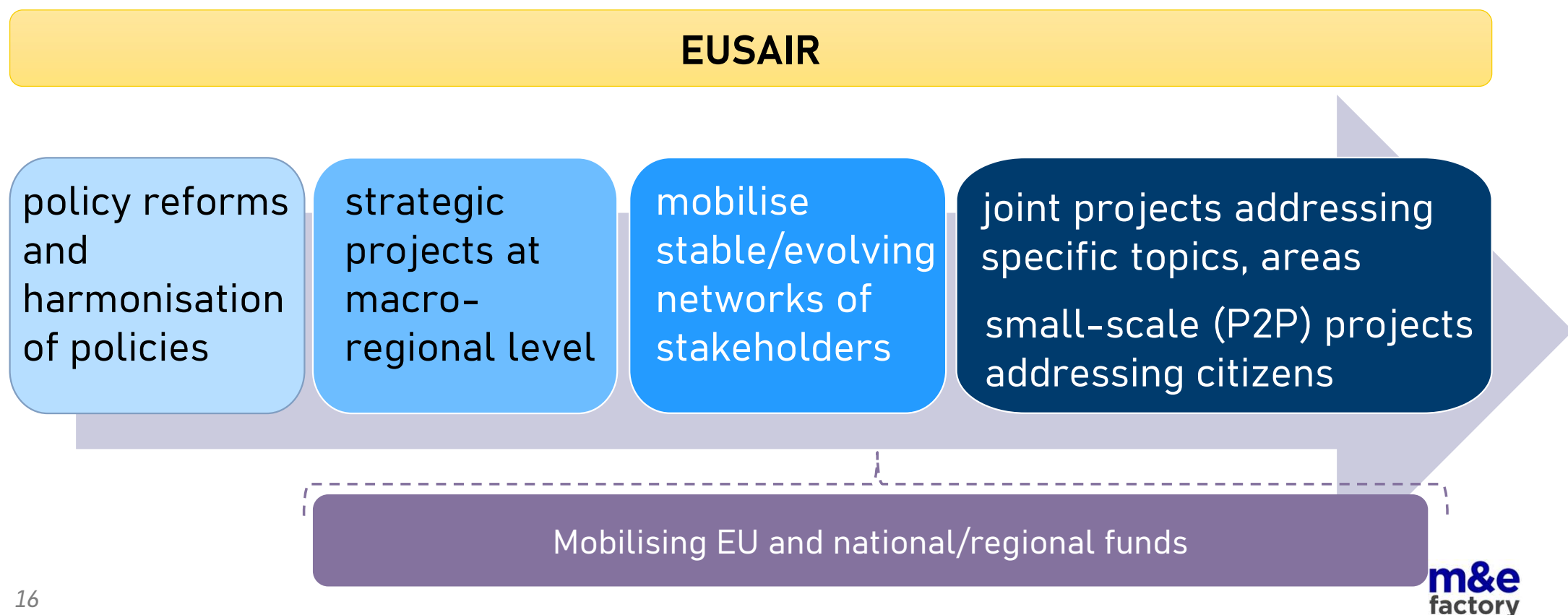


A shift from national to European perspectives

- Some challenges/reforms require transnational cooperation
- Embed EUSAIR into the regulatory framework of the future Cohesion Policy

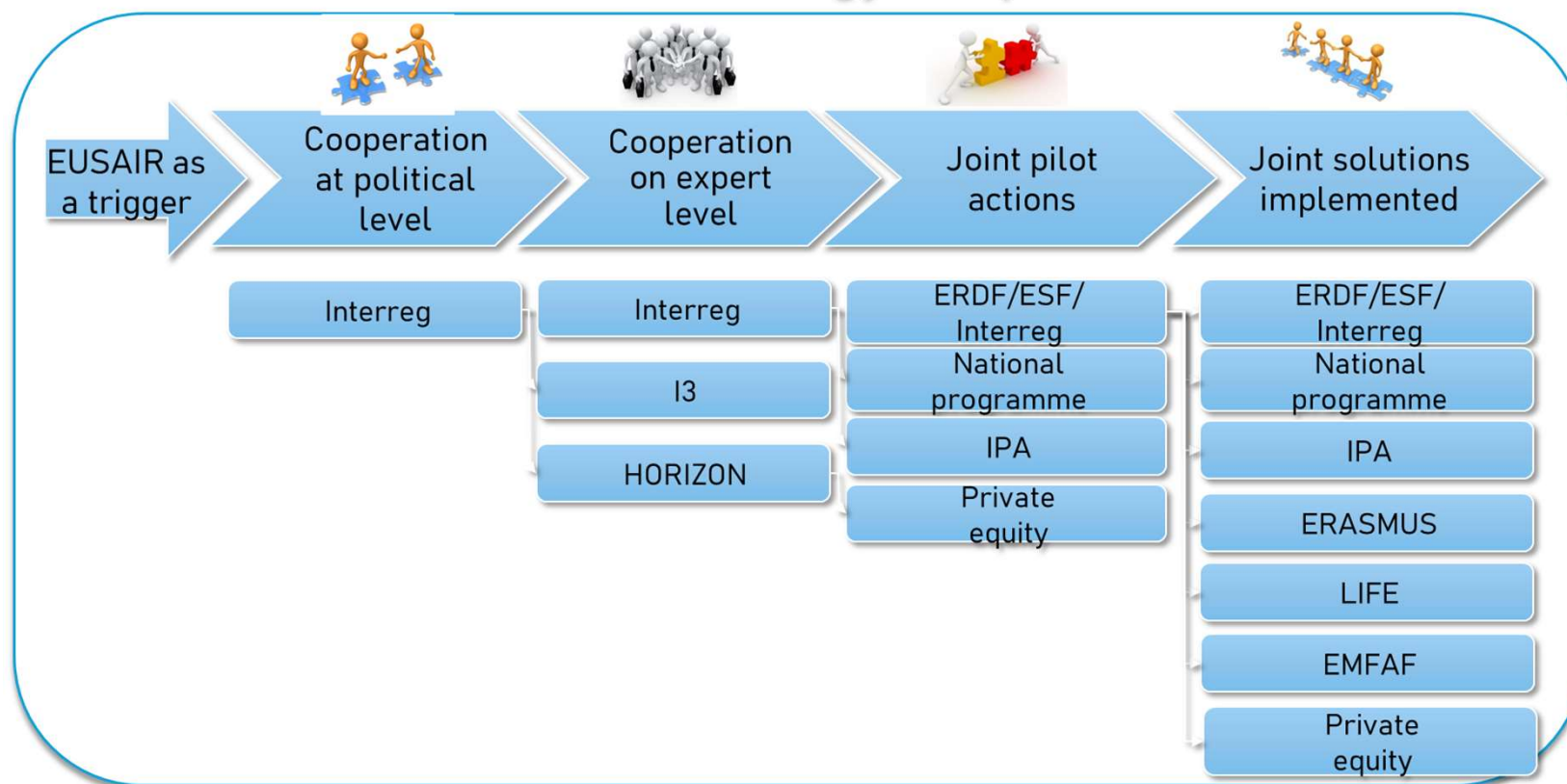


EUSAIR as a platform that triggers synergies along the cooperation value chain



EUSAIR as a platform that triggers synergies along the cooperation value chain

EUSAIR as a strategy and platform

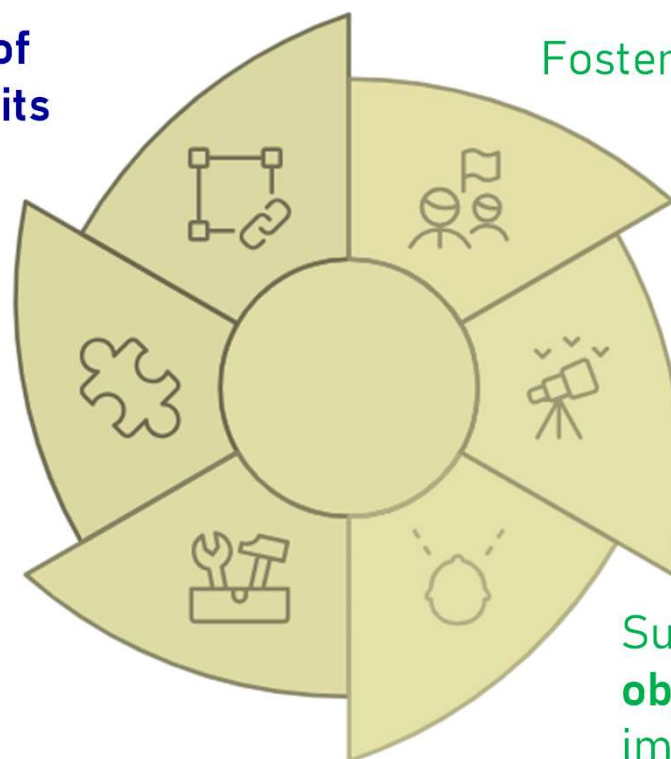


EUSAIR as a "laboratory" for accelerating the EU enlargement

Address the **low awareness of EUSAIR's purpose and benefits** in EU candidate countries

Use existing tools/platform for know-how exchange and capacity building (e.g. TAIEX)

Align the **EUSAIR with the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans (and the WBIF)**



Fosters a sense of **European identity**

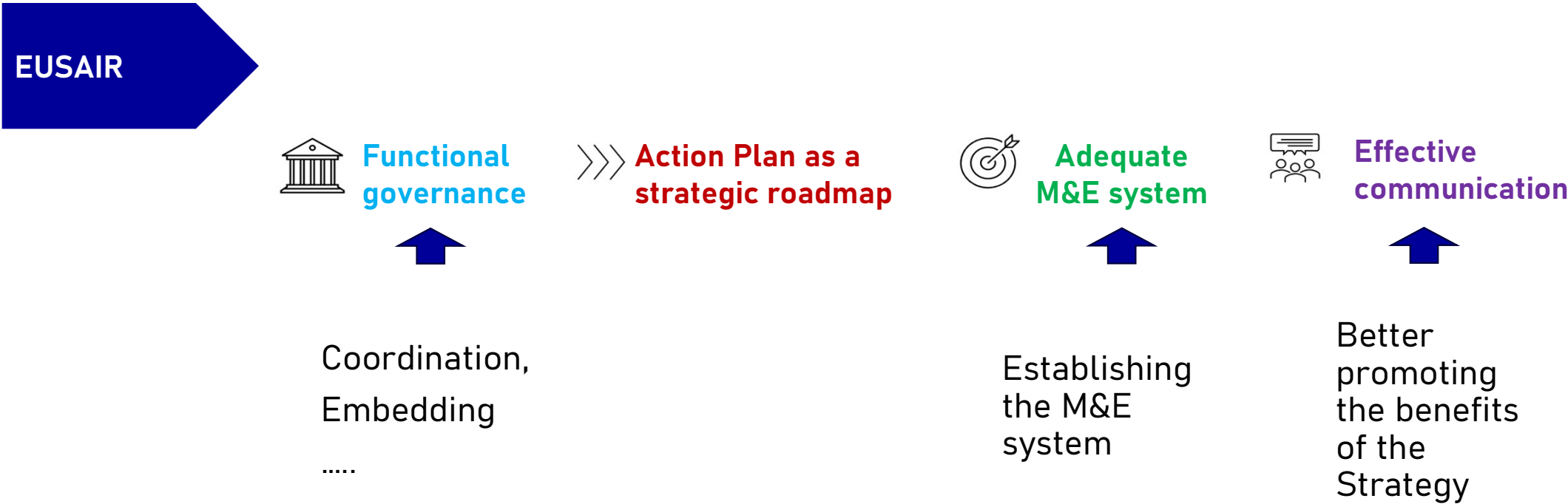
Builds the capacities of EU candidate countries – **cooperation on equal footing**

Supports the **enlargement objectives** (e.g. Growth Plan implementation)



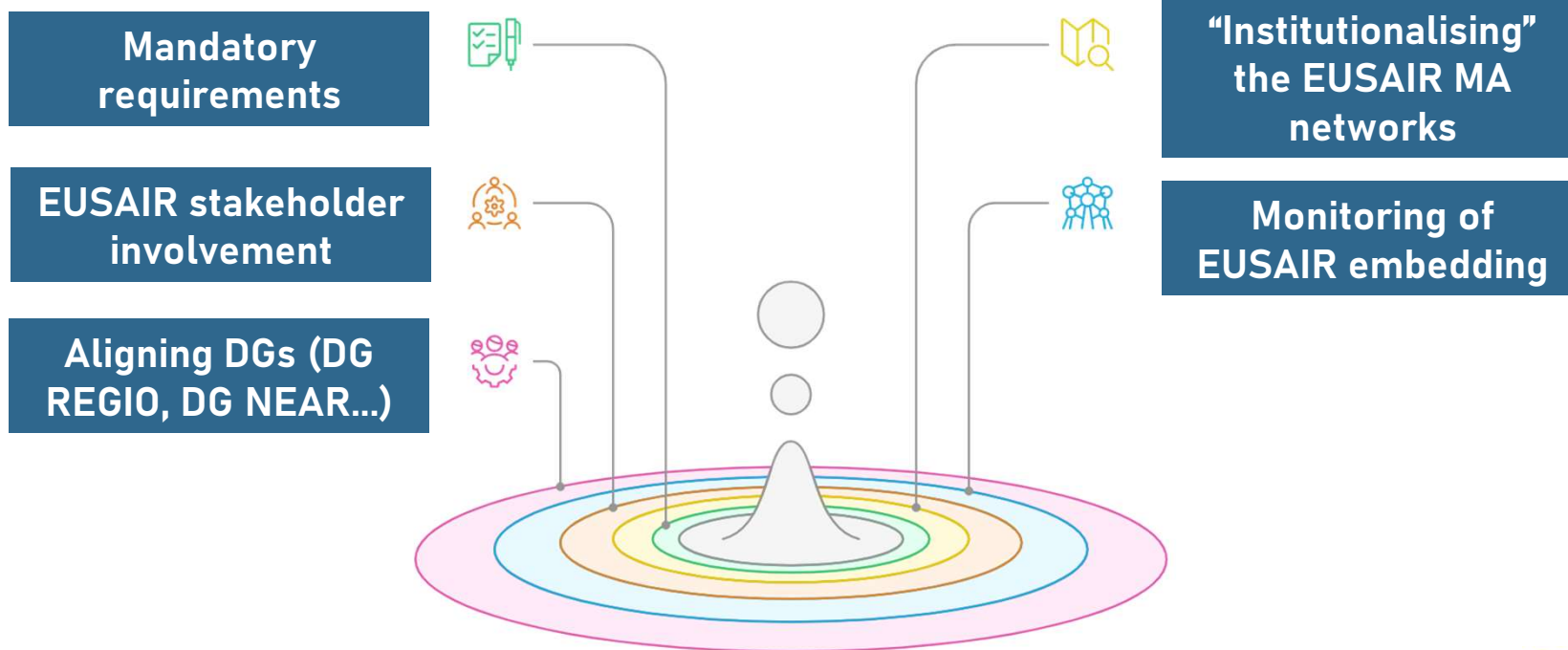
Recommendations

Scenario 0: No changes in the post-2027 Cohesion Policy/IPA



Scenario 0: No changes in the post-2027 Cohesion Policy/IPA

EU level



Scenario 1: Sectorial/reform-oriented post-2027 Cohesion Policy/no IPA changes

EUSAIR



Functional
governance



Adjusting the
embedding,
Stronger role of
TSGs (sectorial
ministries)
.....



Action Plan as a
strategic roadmap



Adjusting the
Action Plan



Adequate
M&E system



Adjusting the
M&E system



Effective
communication



Better
promoting the
benefits of the
Strategy
Adjusting the
Communication
Strategy

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Scenario 1: Sectorial/reform-oriented post-2027 Cohesion Policy/ no IPA changes

EU level

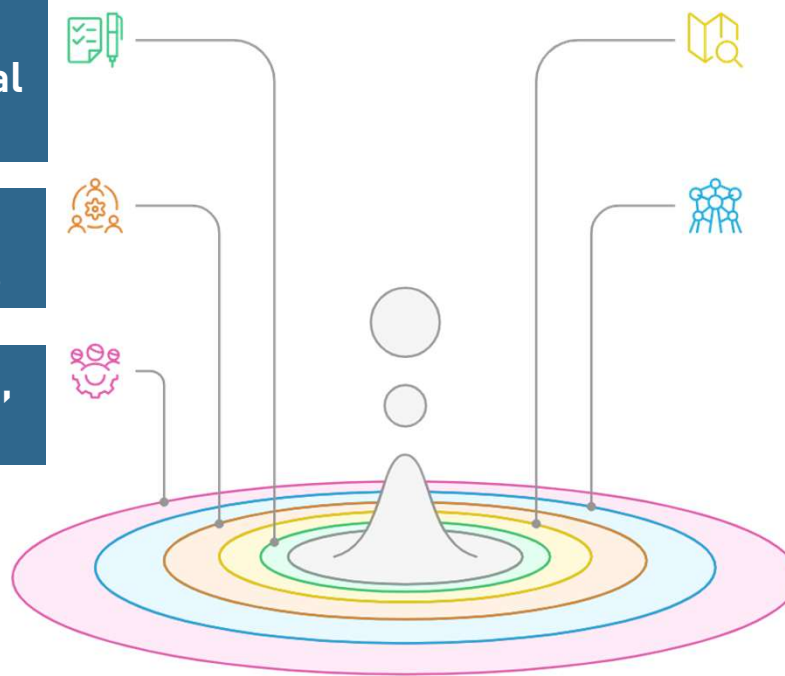
Mandatory requirements
to address EUSAIR
objectives within sectoral
programmes

Targeted funding for
macro-regional actions

Aligning DGs (DG REGIO,
DG MARE...)

Promoting integrated
territorial development

Mandatory involvement of
the EUSAIR stakeholders
in the cooperation
mechanisms of sectorial
programmes



Scenario 1: Sectorial/reform-oriented post-2027 Cohesion Policy/“new” IPA

EUSAIR



Functional
governance



Adjusting the
embedding,
Stronger role of
TSGs (sectorial
ministries)
.....



Action Plan as a
strategic roadmap



Adjusting the
Action Plan,
enlargement a
key role



Adequate
M&E system



Adjusting the
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Effective
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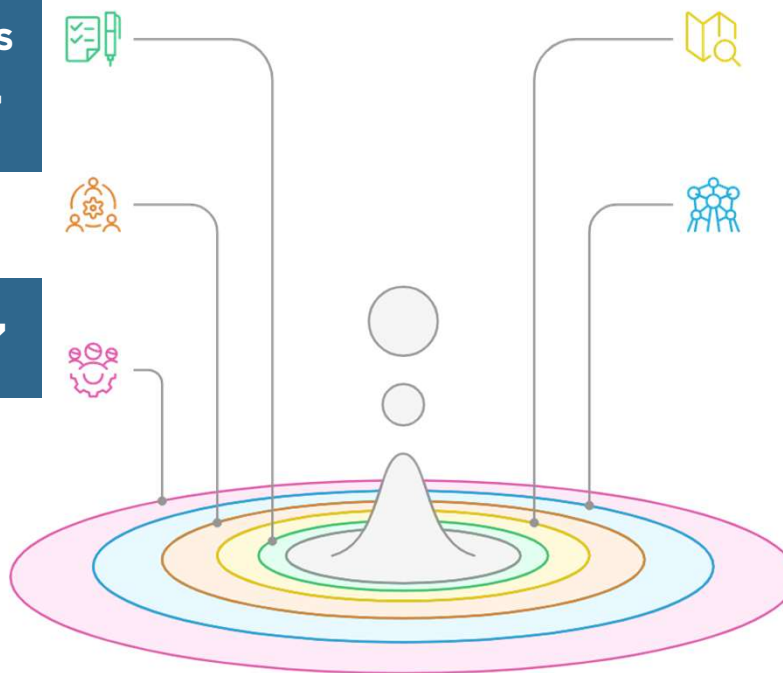
Scenario 1: Sectorial/reform-oriented post-2027 Cohesion Policy/ “new” IPA

EU level

Mandatory requirements
to address EUSAIR
objectives within the new
enlargement instruments
and Plans (Growth Plan,
etc.)

Aligning DGs (DG REGIO,
DG NEAR...)

Targeted support for
supporting capacity
building in IPA candidate
countries



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