

# **PILLAR RELATED STUDY**

## **REFERRING TO THE OBJECTIVE OF BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE RELEVANT TO THE FOUR STRATEGY PILLARS**



**STEMMING FROM CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO IDENTIFY  
THEMATIC STEERING GROUP EXPERTS (TSG EXPERTS) FOR  
PILLAR 3 OF THE ADRIAN  
MICRO-REGIONAL STRATEGY  
WITH THE PURPOSE OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE  
EUSAIR**

**DRAFT, 18.10.2018**

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# 1. BACKGROUND – Interreg ADRION FRAMEWORK

In the Strategic Interreg ADRION V-B 2014-2022 project- “EUSAIR FACILITY POINT”, within the Work Package 3, it is foreseen to monitor and evaluate the EUSAIR macro-regional strategy, the following activities are foreseen:

- 3.1 BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE RELEVANT TO THE FOUR STRATEGY PILLARS
- 3.2 ESTABLISHING EUSAIR MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK
- 3.3 CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PUBLIC AUTHORITIES/ ADMINISTRATIONS”

Related to the above mentioned **Activity 3.1** the objective of this first task is to collect reliable and, as far as possible, comparable data for the whole of the EUSAIR macro-region, the so called knowledge base. The objective is to:

- a) identify areas (thematic and/or geographical) with particular needs or particular potential,
- b) form the basis for a well-founded prioritization of projects/actions,
- c) set baseline values on which output and result indicators and targets can be based (d) set the basis for a further development of the macro-regional approach.
- d) Concerning the deliverables, building the necessary knowledge base will include: (a) An inventory of existing resources (already concluded or on-going studies or research, existing data bases at regional, national or European level etc.) and (b) the implementation, as necessary, of Pillar related studies.

Related to the previously mentioned **Activity 3.2**, the preparatory steps include the drafting of:

- a) A concise SWOT Analysis for the TSG concerned, outlining Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats in the thematic sector covered by the TSG. This Analysis will be conducted once and its results will be presented in the first TSG Annual Monitoring Report for the year 2018, in 2019.
- b) a concise multilevel examination of the internal cohesion of the relevant TSG’s operation (Findings of the TSG SWOT Analysis ↔ TSG Priority Actions ↔ project selection criteria ↔ projects selected for labelling/implementation). This analysis will be conducted for the first time immediately after the TSG Experts’ assumption of their duties, with the results to be presented in the TSGs’ Annual Monitoring Reports for the year 2018, and will be updated two years later, with the results presented in the TSGs’ Annual Monitoring Reports for the year 2020.

The above steps will pave the way for the creation of the EUSAIR’s monitoring and evaluation framework. The following two inter-related elements are included:

- a) The identification of the actors involved in monitoring and evaluation activities;
- b) The formulation of a TSG-specific monitoring and evaluation quantitative indicator system (including sources, baselines and targets), taking into account the availability of information and the target and indicator systems employed by relevant ESIF (national or transnational) or IPA II programmes in the context of which projects of EUSAIR/TSG interest are being (or might in the future be) implemented, as well as the work being done in the context of the ESPON tailor-made territorial monitoring tool.

The progress of the EUSAIR’s implementation at the Pillar/TSG level will be presented in Annual TSG Monitoring Reports. The exact content of the Annual TSG Monitoring Reports will be decided in cooperation and under the guidance of the TSG Experts’ Coordinator (TSG Expert for Pillar I of the EUSAIR), following consultation with the European Commission.

The first Annual TSG Monitoring Report will, as of necessity, have a transitional character, as some of the preparatory tasks (building the EUSAIR/TSG knowledge base, processing of studies submitted in the context of the inventory of existing resources, finalization of monitoring and evaluation framework etc.) will not as yet have been completed. This Report will therefore (a) contain the preliminary analyses (SWOT, Internal Cohesion) mentioned above, (b) present the progress achieved by the TSG till the end of 2017 in qualitative and, where possible, quantitative terms, (c) highlight possible capacity deficiencies and (d) propose any modifications, revisions etc. thought necessary in the TSG's internal operations, the mode of cooperation with other TSGs or the EUSAIR Action Plan. All subsequent Annual TSG Monitoring Reports will be submitted to full specification, as will have been decided in consultation with the European Commission.

Related to the previously mentioned **Activity 3.3**, the purpose of this activity is to build capacity of key actors in terms of understanding the trends and challenges in Pillar specific areas and identify potentials and steps for improved coordination of the policies and measures.

## Title: Deliverables of the FACILITY POINT project:

ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF THE TSG EXPERT				
ACTIVITY	DELIVERABLES	CONTENT	IMPLEMENTER	DELIVERY DATE
3.1 "BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE RELEVANT TO THE FOUR STRATEGY PILLARS"	1 Pillar-related Study	1 Study that will allow TSGs to better analyse and monitor the specific Pillar-related projects/actions.	TSG Expert from Slovenia	By 30/9/18
	Inventory of existing resources	Collection of studies and processing. The TSG Expert will inform the TSG on the most relevant and useful studies and research for building the EUSAIR/TSG knowledge base and for the attainment of the goals of the Pillar/TSG.	TSG Expert from Slovenia	1st collection by 30/9/18
3.2 "ESTABLISHING EUSAIR MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK"	1 Annual Pillar/TSG Monitoring Report	Annual monitoring reports will determine the progress made in the implementation of Action Plan and highlight any needs for modifications, revisions etc. Reports will include information on defined	TSG Expert from Slovenia	30/9 of each year, starting with year 2018 for TSG Reports.

		indicators, baselines and progress towards the targets.		
<b>ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE SUPPORT OF THE TSG EXPERT</b>				
3.2 "ESTABLISHING EUSAIR MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK"	Monitoring and evaluation framework	Identification of actors involved in monitoring and evaluation activities	TSG with the assistance of TSG Expert	By 30/09/18

The dates in the table are those foreseen in the Application form of the EUSAIR Facility Point. The dates will be updated in line with the WP leader action plan, which will be defined until the end of the 2018, when their external expert is expected to be operative.

The delays are also consequence of the following points, external to the EUSAIR structure and within the project itself:

- The Project application form was approved under conditions in May 2016 and finally approved in July 2017. The project was submitted to the Managing Authority in April 2016.
- The Subsidy contract was signed on October 9, 2017.
- The Partnership Agreement was signed on December 20, 2017.
- Financial agreements signed in each IPA States need also to be considered.
- Last but not least, institutional changes (in the partnership) .

## 2. EUSAIR FRAMEWORK

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) is a macroregional strategy adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council in 2014. The Strategy was jointly developed by the Commission and the Adriatic-Ionian Region countries and stakeholders, which agreed to work together on the areas of common interest for the benefit of each country and the whole region.

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region is one of the four EU macroregional strategies, besides the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (2009), the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (2011) and the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (2016).

The EUSAIR covers eight countries: four EU Member States (Croatia, Greece, Italy, Slovenia) and four non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia).

The 'EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region' is described in two documents: (1) a Communication from the European Commission to the other EU Institutions, and (2) an accompanying Action Plan which complements the Communication.

The Action Plan is one of the outputs of the Strategy approach. Its aim is to go from 'words to actions' by identifying the concrete priorities for the macro-region. Once an action or project is selected, it should be implemented by the countries and stakeholders concerned. While implementation of the Action Plan is the responsibility of all, at country, regional, and local/municipal level, within each participating country, the Strategy's coordination mechanism will be in charge of coordinating and monitoring this implementation. For each pillar, this mechanism should be made up by two coordinators from relevant line ministries and representing two countries (one EU and one non-EU), working closely with counterparts in the Region, in consultation with the Commission, relevant EU agencies and regional bodies. This involves securing agreement on a plan associated to a timetable, and ensuring close contacts between project promoters, programmes and funding sources.

## 2.1 PILLAR RELATED OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS AND ACTORS

In line with the EUSAIR Action Plan<sup>1</sup>, the overall objective of the pillar is to address the issue of environmental quality, with respect to marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems in the Region. Environmental quality is essential for supporting human activities in the reference area and for ensuring economic and social well-being.

The specific objectives for this pillar are:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Two topics are identified as crucial in relation to environmental quality in the Adriatic- Ionian Region:

Topic 1 - The marine environment;

Topic 2 - Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity.

Taking suitable actions to address environmental issues faced by the EUSAIR macro-region will contribute to implementing the EU Marine Strategy Framework, Maritime Spatial Planning, Water Framework, Urban Waste Water, Nitrates, Waste, Birds, Habitats Directives as well the Green Infrastructure Strategy, all parts of the EU Environmental acquis. It will also contribute to achieving the goals set out in the Common Fisheries Policy, the EU Adaptation Strategy and the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> EC Action plan SWD (2014) 190 final, 17.6.2014, pages 37-51

Stemming from the territorial analysis and the results of the Study on macro-regional strategies and their links with cohesion policy <sup>2</sup>, the Adriatic and Ionian Region is vulnerable to disasters and to the impact of climate change and ample actions to adapt to those circumstances are needed. Cooperation by means of conducting adequate comprehensive risk assessment, implementing a disaster risk management policy, as well as developing a regional strategy on adaptation to climate change, will make the Region more resilient to such changes.

In terms of actors, it is important to involve actors from the private sector (fisheries and producers of packaging), social partners, the scientific community and civil society in a cross-sectoral and integrated approach.

## 2.2 THE PILLAR OBJECTIVES AND EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY AND LINKS WITH OTHER PILLARS

This pillar strongly supports the Europe 2020 Strategy:

- a) It contributes to **smart growth** by strengthening of technical and scientific capacities, and establishment of common platforms and innovative solutions for research, observation and monitoring;
- b) It contributes to **sustainable growth**, in particular to the objectives of ‘A resource-efficient Europe – Flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy’. The actions under the pillar will support efficient and sustainable use of natural resources including fish stocks, materials and water, preservation of biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems, and will contribute to minimizing the impact of climate change on marine and terrestrial ecosystems;
- c) It contributes to **inclusive growth** by promoting stakeholder involvement in exploring sustainable options, including the involvement notably of fishermen and farmers, thereby ensuring the economic and social sustainability of actions.

### 2.2.1 LINKS WITH OTHER PILLARS

While being addressed as a separate pillar, this issue runs across the other three pillars of the Strategy. In line with the Strategy's emphasis on an integrated approach linking together different policy areas and sectors, this pillar is to be linked to the other three pillars on which the Strategy is built. In addition to supporting low-carbon developments and helping limit the ecological footprint of, for example, transport and energy programmes and projects, it directs attention to how environmental quality can ultimately enhance prospects for smart and inclusive growth under the three other pillars. It thus reinforces Blue Growth, through actions related to ensuring the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture. It also contributes to sustainable tourism by ensuring preservation of natural resources and cultural heritage on which tourism depends, and by addressing issues resulting in part from tourism, such as inappropriate coastal development and marine litter, and issues affecting tourism such as air emissions (e.g. from shipping and road

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<sup>2</sup> EC Study on macro-regional strategies and their links with cohesion policy, data and analytical report for the EUSAIR, November 2017 (Institute for Advanced Studies Vienna, M&E Factory, COWI)

transport). It also contributes to bolstering the resilience of the macro-region's economies and societies in the face of existing and/or potential impacts of climate change.

### 3. CONTRIBUTION TO THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

The objective of the present study is to better analyse and monitor the specific Pillar-related projects/actions. In order to do so, in line with the foreseen content, the preliminary list of topics/indicators has been added as annex to the present study along with an inventory of existing resources. The inventory of existing resources is a collection of studies and relevant documentation for the Pillar/TSG on Environmental quality.

While preparing the current study, the representatives of other Macro-regions gave feedback on the measures undertaken by other macro-regional strategies in order to analyse and monitor actions and later develop a set of indicators for the monitoring. We can point out the example of the AlpGov project – Interreg EUSALP. In the Interreg APLPINE SPACE program, we have similar strategic project to the Facility Point, with the AlpGov acronym and full title “Implementing Alpine Governance Mechanisms of the European Strategy for the Alpine Region” with the aim of supporting role to the Action Groups to involve relevant fields of expertise and society and strengthens the horizontal cooperation among the Action Groups (WP T.6), collect, spread and share knowledge by providing a professional tool, the joint EUSALP knowledge platform (WP T.5), establishes a dialogue with financing and funding instruments to boost implementation initiatives (WP T.4), promotes the further development of tailor-made governance approaches for the single Action Groups to improve their effects (WP T.3), triggers the development of concrete implementation initiatives by providing resources and clarifying political or financial frame conditions (WP T.2) in a transnational context with a view to securing a sustainable and liveable future of the Alpine Region.

There is a different approach in the two macro-regional strategies, in the AlpGov project, the implementation is monitored via quantitative indicators whereas in the EUSAIR the monitoring of the implementation includes also the monitoring of the impact on the area. The objective is to include also qualitative information. In the EUSAIR the monitoring of the implementation is already foreseen during the reporting of the strategic project to the Interreg ADRION Managing Authority. Moreover, in the AlpGov project there is not a specific activity of monitoring of the strategy, in the Facility Point EUSAIR on the contrary there is a specific WP dedicated to this activity.

### 3.1 PRELIMINARY LIST OF TOPICS AND INDICATORS

The basis for the preliminary list that is presented below is the EUSAIR Action plan with the more recent “Study on macro-regional strategies and their links with cohesion policy”<sup>3</sup> where the data from the World Bank, the OECD and ESPON have already been compiled.

Compared to the extensive description in both the above mentioned documents, the below table contains some modifications: although biodiversity is a topic “per se”, it has been split into two, focusing on one hand on marine areas and on the other hand on terrestrial habitats, as in the Action Plan.

Some additional topics have been proposed, mainly stemming from the “Study on macro-regional strategies and their links with cohesion policy” namely those on eco-innovation and resource efficiency. Concerning topics like those of “Quality of bathing water”, “Diversity of land use” and topics related to “Air quality and pollution” they have not been included on the list.

<b>BASIS FOR INDICATORS FOR THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGY TOPICS</b>
<b>A) CLIMATE CHANGE</b>
<b>1. Climate change adaptation monitoring</b> Those include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential Vulnerability Assessments</li> <li>- Environmental Impact Assessments</li> <li>- Economic Impact Assessments</li> <li>- Adaptive Capacity enhancement</li> </ul>
<b>2. Climate Change Mitigation monitoring</b>
<b>B) ENVIRONMENT</b>
<b>B1) THE <u>MARINE ENVIRONMENT</u> (the first pivotal topic of the macro-regional strategy in terms of environmental quality)</b>
<b>B1.1 Reducing the threats and protecting biodiversity in coastal and marine protected areas</b> This indicator is related to the following Indicative Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing marine knowledge</li> <li>- Enhancing the network of Marine Protected Areas</li> <li>- Exchanging best practices among managing authorities of Marine Protected Areas</li> <li>- Implementing Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)</li> </ul>
<b>Examples of targets from the EUSAIR Action Plan:</b>

<sup>3</sup> EC Study on macro-regional strategies and their links with cohesion policy, data and analytical report for the EUSAIR, November 2017, pages 86-118

- Establishment of a common infrastructure platform with participation of all countries for data collection, research, and laboratory analysis by end of 2015
- 10% surface coverage of Adriatic and Ionian Seas by Marine Protected areas
- Adoption of maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management strategies by EU Member State by 2017 and for coastal candidate and potential candidate Countries by 2018
- Achieving Good Ecological Status of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas by 2020
- Enhancement of a marine NATURA 2000 network and a coherent and representative network of MPAs under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive by 2020

### **B1.2 Tackling pollution of the sea**

This indicator is related to the following Indicative Actions

- Implementing a life cycle approach to marine litter
- Supporting Clean-up programmes for both floating and sunken litter
- Drafting and implementation of a joint contingency plan for oil spill and other large-scale pollution events
- Identifying hotspots
- Ensure prioritization of investments to reflect the contribution to pollution of the sea
- Address diffuse sources

#### **Examples of targets from the EUSAIR Action Plan:**

- Reduction of marine litter in line with Marine Strategy Framework Directive and 7th Environment Action Programme targets by 2020
- Reduction of anthropogenic nutrient flows to the Adriatic and Ionian seas to ensure that by 2021 eutrophication is minimized
- A joint contingency plan for oil spills and other large scale pollution events adopted by 2016 and measures to enable joint and coordinated emergency response implemented by 2020

## **B2) TRANSNATIONAL TERRESTRIAL HABITATS AND BIODIVERSITY (the second pivotal topic of the macro-regional strategy)**

### **B2.1 Safeguarding biodiversity by focusing on the Natura 2000 sites**

This indicator is related to the following Indicative Actions

- Development of joint management plans for cross-border habitats and ecosystems
- Joint population level management plans for large carnivores
- Harmonization and enforcement of national laws
- Protection and restoration of coastal wetland areas and karst fields
- Awareness- raising activities on the implementation and financial aspects of environmentally friendly farming practices

Concerning the latter, attention needs to be given to Agricultural impact (soil erosion by water and gross nutrient balance)

#### **Examples of targets by 2020 from the EUSAIR Action Plan:**

- Establishment of transnational management plans for all terrestrial eco-regions, shared by two or more participating countries
- Enhancement of NATURA 2000 and Emerald networks in the Region

C) POTENTIAL OTHER TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR INDICATORS
<p><b>1. Eco-innovation</b> It would add elements to identifying impacts on the cross-cutting issue “Research and Innovation, and SMEs” identified in the EUSAIR Action Plan.</p>
<p><b>2. Resource efficiency</b></p>
<p><b>3. Governance (transversal indicator, applicable also to other pillars)</b> The focus should be on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The involvement of the Public institutions competent <u>in the field of environment</u></li> <li>- Giving voice and ensuring <u>accountability in the field of environment</u> (by strengthening the involvement of the general public and the NGOs)</li> </ul> <p>These 2 actions would contribute to the cross-cutting issue “Capacity building and communication”, identified in the EUSAIR Action Plan. Moreover they respond to the need of building capacity of key actors in terms of understanding the trends and challenges in Pillar specific areas and identify potentials and steps for improved coordination of the policies and measures on EUSAIR level, as envisaged in the EUSAIR Action Plan.</p>
<p><b>4. Greening measures undertaken, including greening infrastructure</b></p>
<p><b>5. Others?</b></p>

## 3.2 AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

Stemming from the “Study on macro-regional strategies and their links with cohesion policy” it is clear that very few baseline data collections are available for all the EUSAIR countries, for almost all the topics listed under section 2.3 of this study, the data has been collected at most for the Member States, there is the difference in the datasets because many times the data is aggregated on national level and sometimes it is available on NUTS 2 or NUTS 3 level.

### 3.2.1 CLIMATE CHANGE

The topic of Climate Change Adaptation is related to the part A of the table under chapter 3.1

Title: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

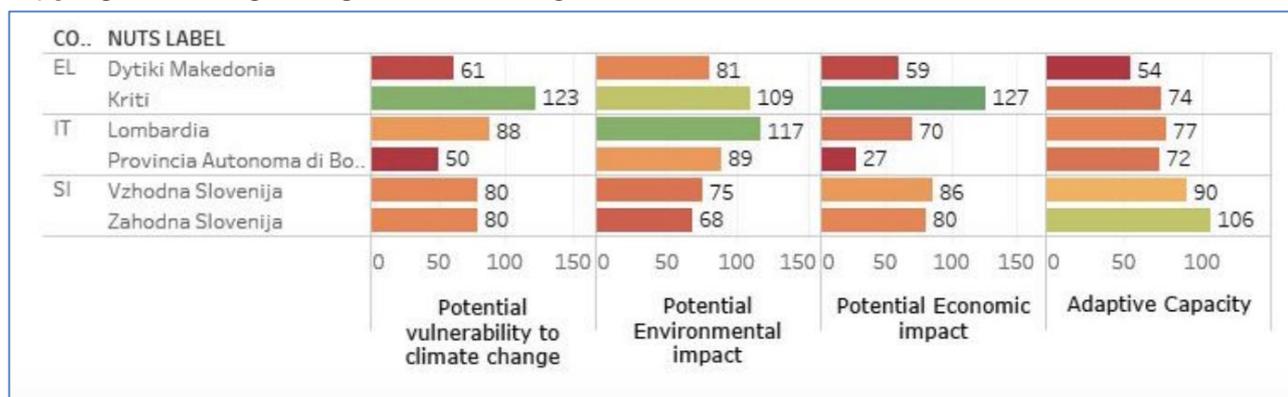


Figure: Potential Climate Change Vulnerability by NUTS-2, Projections 2071-2100, source ESPON Climate project (Source: EC Study on macro-regional strategies and their links with cohesion policy, data and analytical report for the EUSAIR, November 2017, page 86)

Same as above, the topic of Climate Change Mitigation is related to the part A of the table under chapter 3.1

Title: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

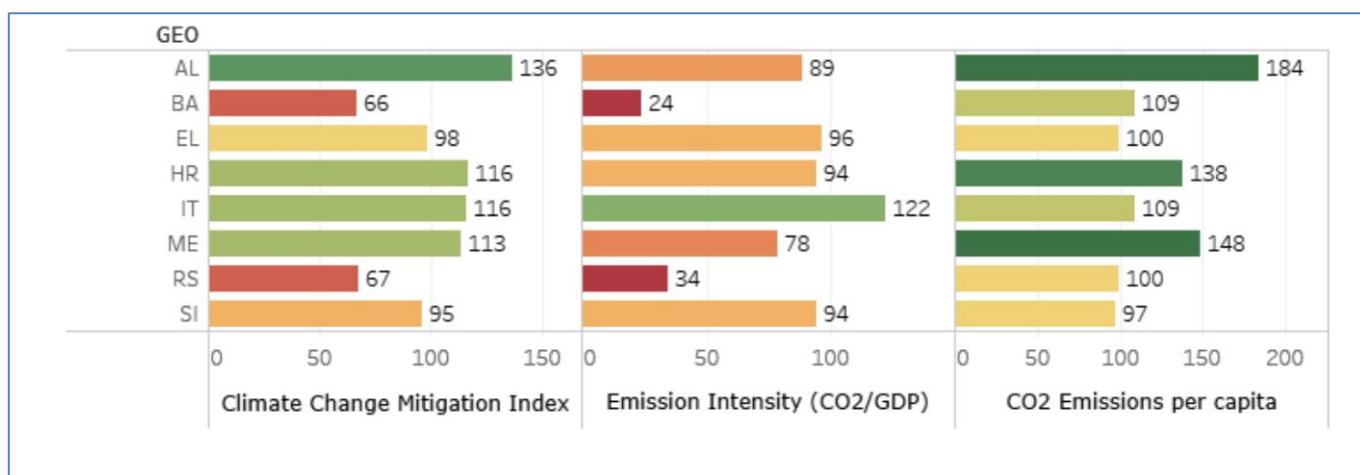


Figure: Climate Change Mitigation by Country, source: EC Study on macro-regional strategies and their links with cohesion policy, data and analytical report for the EUSAIR, November 2017, pages 89

In the Adriatic and Ionian macro-region countries, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita are mostly around or below the EU-median (see Figure 2-32). Only in Slovenia the value is somewhat higher. On the other hand, Albania's value is in fact lower than the lowest emission per capita value in the EU. The region as a whole performs very well on this indicator.

## Recap 1: AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE AND PERFORMANCE

Country	CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION				CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION		
	Pot. Vulnerab.	Pot. env. impact	Pot. Ec. impact	Adap. capacity	Mit. index	E. intensity	CO2 per capita
Albania	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Green	Orange	Green
Bosnia and Herzegovina	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Orange	Orange	Green
Greece	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Yellow
Croatia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Green	Orange	Green
Italy	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Green
Montenegro	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Green	Orange	Green
Serbia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Orange	Orange	Yellow
Slovenia	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Yellow

N/A= data non available, green=rather good, yellow=medium, orange= rather weak performance

The above table clearly shows that there is a difference in the availability of data on climate change between the Member States and the other Partner States of the Programme area. Even though the data is available for climate change adaptation for Member States, the performance is medium to rather weak. Even though climate change is not directly mentioned in the EUSAIR Action Plan, it would be useful to consider it in terms of the influence it can have on habitats and the environment in the Adriatic-Ionian region.

### 3.2.2 THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The topic of the Marine Environment is related to the part B1 of the table under chapter 3.1

It is important to understand the differences and compare the situation between the different seas, to this end the following table might give more information.

## COVERAGE OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPA) IN EUROPEAN SEAS

Macro-region	MPA assessment area regions and sub-regions	% of 0-1 NM zone covered by MPAs	% of 1-12 NM zone covered by MPAs	% of 12 NM-END zone covered by MPAs
Baltic Sea macro-region	<b>Baltic sea</b>	36,1	16,4	3,9
	<b>North-east Atlantic Ocean</b> (excl. Icelandic, Norwegian & Barents seas)	52,1	16,4	2,3
	Celtic Sea	47,5	8,9	2,3
	Greater North Sea	63,4	32,4	11,2
	Bay of Biscay and Iberian coast	48,9	15,8	1,7
	Macaronesia	28	4	0,6
Adriatic Ionian macro-region	<b>Mediterranean Sea</b>	30,6	14,2	6,1
	Western Mediterranean Sea	60,4	29,6	10,1
	Ionian and Central Mediterranean Sea	30,5	2,7	0
	Adriatic Sea	17	1,4	0
	Aegean and Levantine Sea	14,2	2,4	0
	<b>Black Sea</b>	77,9	19,3	0

Table: Coverage of marine protected areas in 2012, source: EEA; NM-nautical miles

The first category, the closest to the shore, is that with the highest proportion of Marine Protected areas. The seas bordering Adriatic-Ionian Sea region have 14-30% of that area designated as MPAs, which is lower compared with the Baltic Sea, as well as the Western Mediterranean Sea and Great North Sea which both have more than 60% of the area closest to the coastline designated as Marine Protected Areas.

The next category refers to the zone between one and twelve nautical miles from the coast. The coverage of the marine protected areas in this category is around 1-3% for the seas bordering on the Adriatic Ionian region. This is low compared to other seas. Again the Western Mediterranean and the Great North Sea are the leaders in this respect.

In the third category, more than twelve nautical miles from the coast, there are no designated MPAs in the seas bordering the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region. Overall, further from the coast the values drop for all seas, but the tendency is more pronounced in the Adriatic-Ionian region seas.

## TACKLING POLLUTION OF THE SEA

### Sea General Status

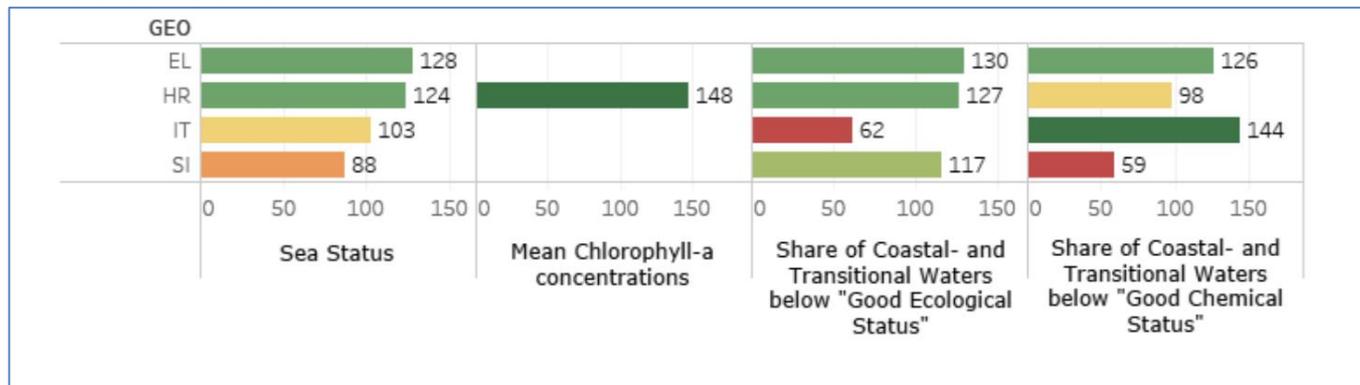


Figure: Sea status, source: EC Study on macro-regional strategies and their links with cohesion policy, data and analytical report for the EUSAIR, November 2017, pages 99

### AGRICULTURAL IMPACT

The agricultural impact is usually measured by measuring the soil erosion by water and the gross nutrient balance in soil. Due to the geography and the fact that agriculture contributes to pollution by spills in rivers that confer waters to the sea, the gross nutrient balance could be added among the indicators of river- or sea-water quality.

As means for comparison GROSS NUTRIENT BALANCE IN SOIL

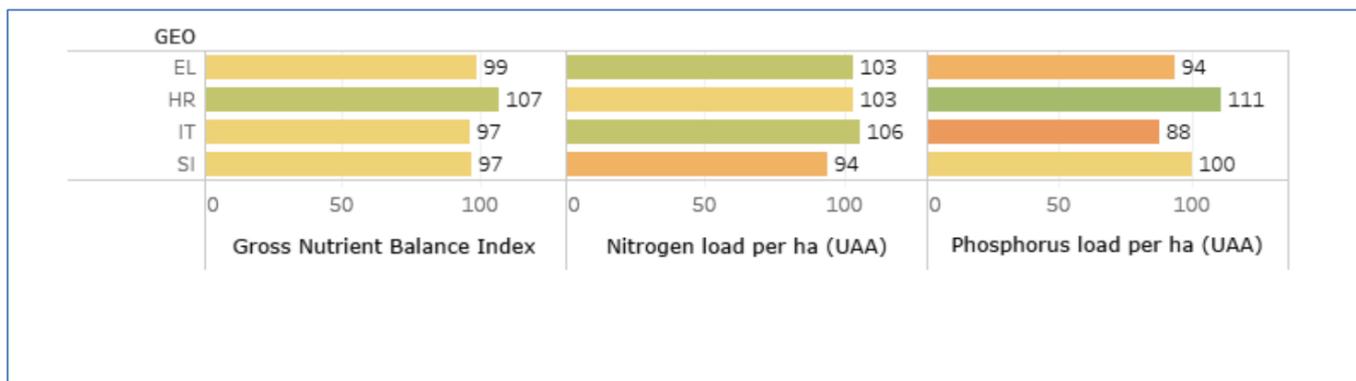


Figure: Gross Nutrient Balance by country in 2014, source: EC Study on macro-regional strategies and their links with cohesion policy, data and analytical report for the EUSAIR, November 2017, pages 117

### MARINE LITTER

Information on this topic is not available. More information should be collected from the Member States and Partner States, especially because being this topic part of the targets of the EUSAIR Action Plan, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and 7th Environment Action Programme targets by 2020, it is important to show the state of the art and the progress in the area of the macro-regional strategy.

Since there are a lot of projects on marine litter Under other Interreg Programmes and in ESPON (in the old Programming period) we would suggest to proceed with the capitalisation of their results and potentially try to involve NGOs that operate in the prevention of marine litter.

### 3.2.3 TRANSNATIONAL TERRESTRIAL HABITATS AND BIODIVERSITY

The topic of Transnational Terrestrial Habitats and Biodiversity is related to the part B2 of the table under chapter 3.1

#### **Title: Information about terrestrial Natura 2000 sites**

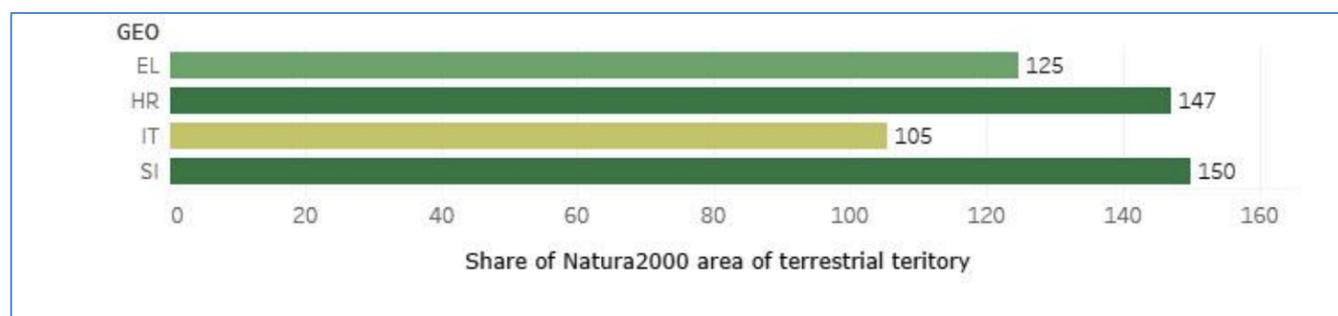


Figure: BIODIVERSITY: NATURA 2000 SITES, source: Natura 2000 Barometer

The indicator shows what proportion of territory is covered by terrestrial Natura 2000 sites at the country level. This gives an indication of a country's efforts towards biodiversity, conservation and sustainable use of its territorial areas. It includes both sites designated under the Birds and the Habitats Directives, and accounts for any overlaps.

The marine areas are not included in the proportion of land area, although some countries have designated substantial marine zones as Natura 2000 sites.

#### **B2.1.2 Location of coastal wetlands and Karst areas**

Information on this topic is not available. More information should be collected from the Member States and IPA Partner States. This could be very useful for the Action Plan target related to the "Establishment of transnational management plans for all terrestrial eco-regions". Therefore this indicator should be taken into consideration to show the state of the art and the progress in the implementation of the macro-regional strategy.

We would suggest to contact the IUCN in Spain to gather more information, since their competence includes also non-Member States, we could this way retrieve homogeneous information for all the EUSAIR States.

#### **B2.1.3 Location of areas/implementation of environmentally friendly farming practices**

As for the above mentioned indicator on the "Location of Coastal Wetlands and Karst Areas", information on this topic is not available. More information should be collected from the Member States and IPA Partner States. This could be very useful for the Action Plan target related to the "Establishment of transnational management plans for all terrestrial eco-regions". Therefore this

indicator should be taken into consideration to show the state of the art and the progress in the implementation of the macro-regional strategy.

We would suggest to contact the UN office IUCN in Spain to gather more information, since their competence includes also non-Member States, we could this way retrieve homogeneous information for all the EUSAIR States. Furthermore, the IUCN has recently been involved in several projects on environmentally friendly farming in other Interreg PRogrammes, so their involvement could be very useful.

## AGRICULTURAL IMPACT

### Title: SOIL EROSION BY WATER

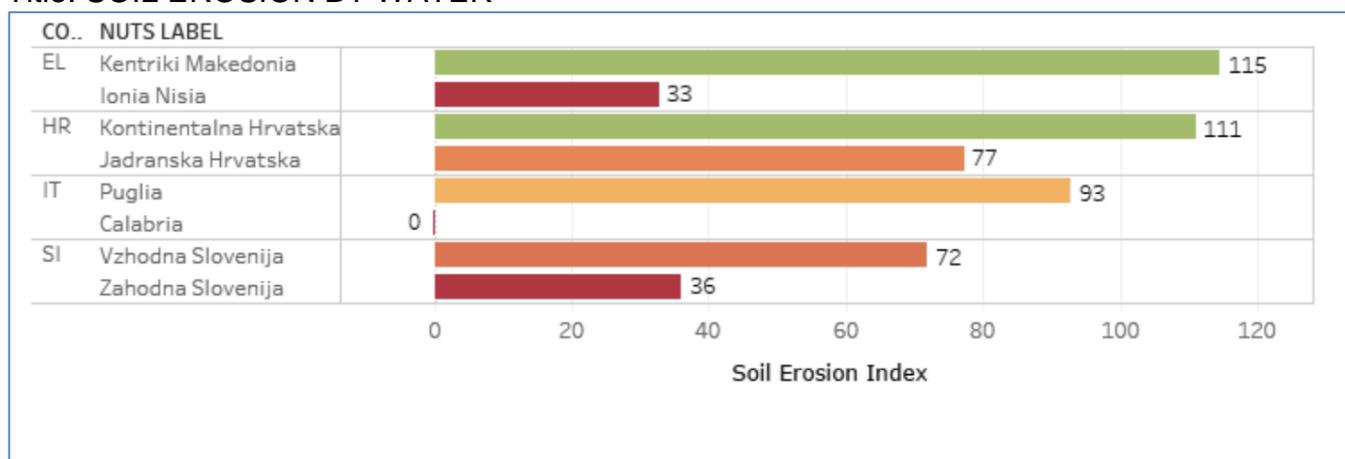


Figure: Soil erosion by NUTS-2 in 2012. Source: EC Study on macro-regional strategies and their links with cohesion policy, data and analytical report for the EUSAIR, November 2017, pages 114

## RECAP 2: AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING ENVIRONMENT – MARINE ENVIRONMENT

B1) MARINE ENVIRONMENT									
Country	COVERAGE OF MPA (aggregated level, the whole area) In nautical miles =NM			SEA GENERAL STATUS				MARINE LITTER	AGRICULTURAL IMPACT
	0-1 NM	1-12 NM	>12 NM	General status	Chlorophille	Share below good eco. Status	Share below good chem. Status		
Albania				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bosnia and Herzegovina				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greece					N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A
Croatia								N/A	N/A
Italy					N/A			N/A	N/A
Montenegro				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Serbia				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Slovenia					N/A			N/A	N/A

N/A= data non available, green=rather good, yellow=medium, orange= rather weak performance

The topic of “Marine Environment” is related to the part B2 of the table under chapter 3.1

The table shows that the information concerning the marine protected areas is available and that the coastal marine protected areas are well preserved, it is not so for the marine protected areas with a bigger coverage. Concerning the status of the sea, there is lack of data for both Member States and Partner States, where data is available, the status is rather good but it is hard to generalize given the lack of information. There is a complete lack of information both on marine litter as for the agricultural impact and these aspects should be tackled, being part of the targets of the EUSAIR Action Plan, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and 7th Environment Action Programme targets by 2020.

### 3.2.4 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

#### ECO-INNOVATION AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

The topic of “Eco-innovation’ and “Resource efficiency” are related to the potential new indicators suggested in the table under chapter 3.1

##### Title: ECO-INNOVATION

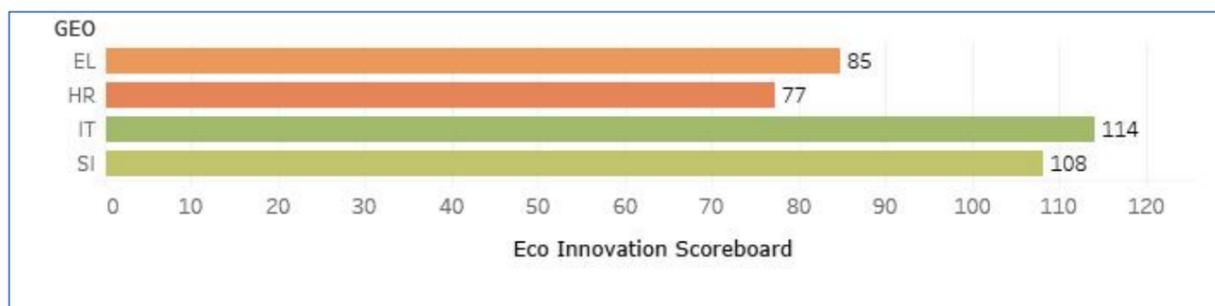


Figure: ECO-INNOVATION SCOREBOARD, 2015. Source: Eurostat

The Eco-Innovation Scoreboard (Eco-IS) and the Eco-Innovation Index measure the eco-innovation performance across the EU Member States. Different aspects of eco-innovation are measured by using 16 indicators grouped into five dimensions: eco-innovation inputs, eco-innovation activities, eco-innovation outputs, resource efficiency and socio-economic outcomes. The Eco-Innovation Index pictures the performance of individual Member States in different dimensions of eco-innovation compared to the EU average by stressing their strengths and weaknesses. The Eco-IS and the Eco-Innovation Index show a picture on economic, environmental and social performance.

The topic of ‘Resource Efficiency’ is related to the potential new indicators suggested in the table under chapter 3.1

##### Title: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

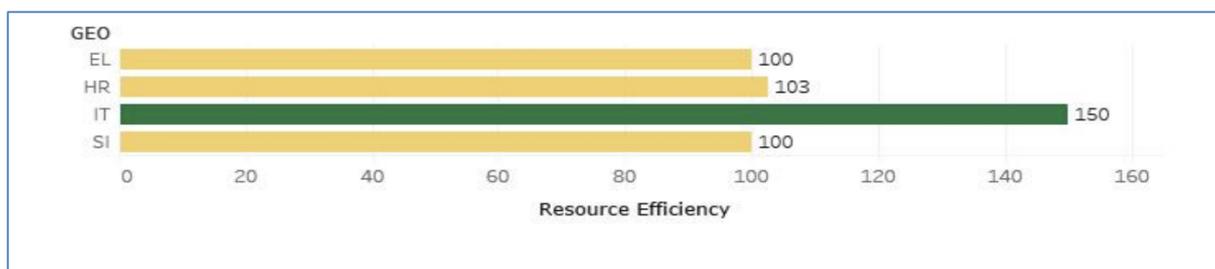


Figure: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY, 2015. Source: Eurostat

The component of resource efficiency outcomes puts eco-innovation performance in the context of a country's resource efficiency. The four indicators in the component of resource efficiency outcomes are: Material productivity (GDP/Domestic Material Consumption), Water productivity (GDP/Water Footprint), Energy productivity (GDP/gross inland energy consumption), GHG emissions intensity (CO<sub>2</sub>e/GDP).

### 3.2.5 GOVERNANCE

The topic of 'Governance' is related to the potential new indicators suggested in the table under chapter 3.1

Title: VOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

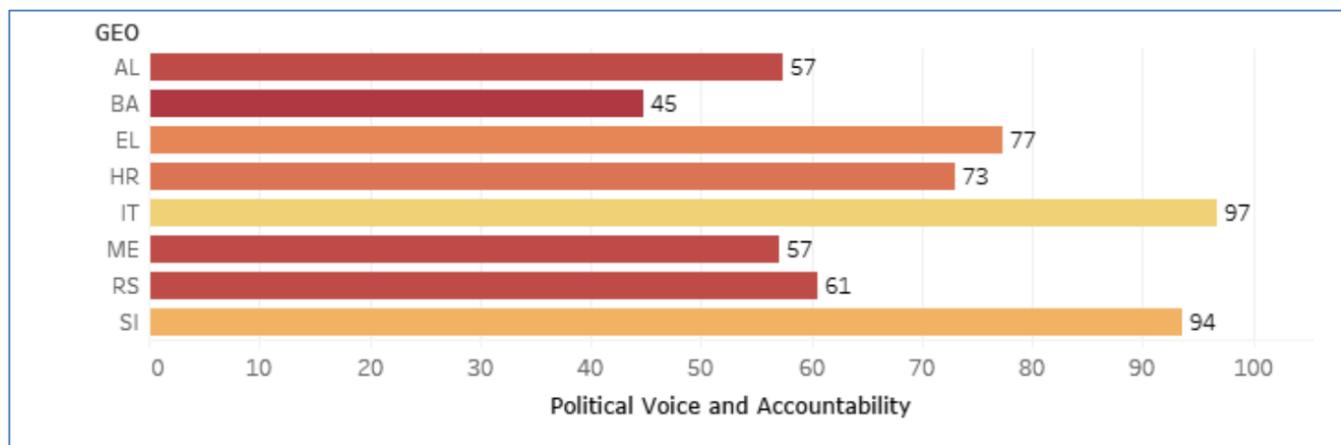


Figure: Economic Performance by country in 2015. Source: EC Study on macroregional strategies and their links with cohesion policy, data and analytical report for the EUSAIR, November 2017, pages 125

The indicator Voice and Accountability mirrors “the freedom of a country's citizens in selecting their government, as well as freedom of expression, freedom of association, and a free media”.<sup>95</sup> In its essence, it is an indicator on democracy, i.e. civil freedoms and the therewith indirect accountability of governments’, as a result of freedom of expression and free media. As with the public institutions indicator, this indicator provides partial inference on the compliance with the EU-Acquis, chapter 23, Judiciary and fundamental rights. The underlying indicator is part of the Worldbank's broader Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) Project of the World Bank Group.

If the Governance indicator does not suit the general interest of the EUSAIR States, we could remove it from the list of potential indicators. However, should it be necessary to demonstrate the involvement of civil society, NGOs etc. this indicator should be maintained.

### RECAP 3: AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING ENVIRONMENT – TRANSNATIONAL TERRESTRIAL HABITATS AND OTHER INDICATORS

B2) TRANSNATIONAL TERRESTRIAL HABITATS AND BIODIVERSITY C) OTHER INDICATORS								
HABITATS AND BIODIVERSITY						OTHER ENV. RELATED INDICATORS		GOVERNANCE
Country	HABITATS			AGRI. IMPACT		ECO-INNOV.	RESSOURCE EFFICIENCY	VOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY
	Terrestrial Natura 2000 sites	Coastal wetlands and Karst areas	Friendly farming areas	Soil erosion by water	Gross nutrient balance			
Albania	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Greece		N/A	N/A					
Croatia		N/A	N/A					
Italy		N/A	N/A					
Montenegro	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Serbia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Slovenia		N/A	N/A					

N/A= data non available, green=rather good, yellow=medium, orange= rather weak performance.

The topic of Transnational Terrestrial Habitats and Biodiversity and “Other Indicators are related to the part B2 and C of the table under chapter 3.1

There is lack of information on coastal wetlands and Karst areas and friendly farming areas. For other indicators there is a lack of information only for Partner States, the Member States have collected the necessary data and show a good performance for Terrestrial Natura 2000 sites but weaker performances in other sectors related to Habitats and biodiversity, other environmental indicators and environmental governance.

The collection of relevant information for the coastal wetlands and Karst areas and friendly farming areas could be very useful for the Action Plan target related to the Establishment of transnational management plans for all terrestrial eco-regions.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

The Recap 1 table shows that there is an uneven situation if we consider climate change adaptation measures compared to climate change mitigation measures. As mentioned, even though climate change is not directly mentioned in the EUSAIR Action Plan, it would be useful to consider it in terms of the influence it can have on habitats and the environment in the Adriatic-Ionian region.

The Recap 2 table shows that even though there is data on the “Marine protected areas (MPA)” along the coastline and wider into the sea, the status of wider MPA is not as good as in smaller MPA. As already mentioned, there is a complete lack of information both on “Marine litter” as for the agricultural impact and these aspects should be tackled, especially for the marine litter being part of the targets of the EUSAIR Action Plan, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and 7th Environment Action Programme targets by 2020. As already mentioned in the dedicated chapter, since there are a lot of projects on marine litter Under other Interreg Programmes and in ESPON (in the old Programming period) we would suggest to proceed with the capitalization of their results and potentially try to involve NGOs that operate in the prevention of marine litter.

The Recap 3 table shows lack of on “Coastal wetlands and Karst areas” and “Friendly farming areas”. As mentioned already in the previous page, the collection of relevant information for both topics could be very useful for the Action Plan target related to the “Establishment of transnational management plans for all terrestrial eco-regions” and therefore should be taken into consideration in the next steps of the monitoring of the EUSAIR. As already mentioned in the dedicated chapter, we would suggest to contact the IUCN in Spain to gather more information, since their competence includes also non-Member States, we could this way retrieve homogeneous information for all the EUSAIR States.

As shown in the three Recap tables there is lack of information on several topics. The data is mainly missing for the IPA Partner States but sometimes it is not available for Member States either. In the next steps it would be essential to get as much information as possible on the topics where there is an evident lack of information. This would lead to a much more homogeneous picture on the whole area and allow a better monitoring and implementation of the EUSAIR.

## 5. SOURCES

### **European Policy Framework**

The European policy framework is driven by developments in overall economic, environmental, and social perspectives, and reinforced by the evaluation of territorial cooperation approaches.

#### ***General***

European Commission. 20120. EU 2020 - A New European Strategy For Jobs And Growth. COM(2010) 2020, Brussels.

#### ***Cohesion Policy***

Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006

Common Provisions Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006. (See page 93 for Common Strategic Framework)

Ex post evaluation of Cohesion Policy programmes 2007-2013 financed by the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund - WP1: Synthesis Report

European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020: Official Texts And Commentaries

Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal

Council Regulation (EU) No 1300/2013 of 17 December 2013 on the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006

Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe.  
<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/climate-change-impacts-and-vulnerability-2016>

Climate-ADAPT. Website/platform: <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/countries-regions/transnational-regions>

Climate change indicators. Website/platform: [http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/#c5=climate-change-adaptation&b\\_start=0](http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/#c5=climate-change-adaptation&b_start=0)

Climate-ADAPT vulnerability maps. Website: <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/knowledge/tools/urban-adaptation/introduction>

DG Employment. 2014. Monitoring and Evaluation of European Cohesion Policy- European Social Fund, Guidance Document on Indicators of Public Administration Capacity Building

European Commission. 2004. A new partnership for cohesion. Convergence, competitiveness, cooperation. Third report on economic and social cohesion. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

European Commission. 2010. Fifth Report on economic, social and territorial cohesion - Investing in Europe's future. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

Polycentric cross-border system and transport. Towns as components of an Organised Transport Systems can be found at p. 23-25 of this draft chapter for the Urban agenda of an Euro-region

Pucher, J., Frangenheim, A., Sanopoulos, A., Schausberger, W. 2015. The Future of Cohesion Policy, Report I, Committee of the Regions, Brussels.

S3 platforms contain data about different countries and regions and use "tools" to analyze them. Website/platforms: <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>; <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3-cooperation>; <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3-tools>

TEN-T: On the (TEN-T) Corridors dimension and their interrelation with the macro-regional strategies, refer to the EU Coordinators Work Plans, notably for:

- Danube Strategy -> Rhine Danube Corridor
- Alpine Strategy -> Scan-Med corridor (it concerns 3 other corridors too but less involved – interesting to see the governance elements referred to – and partially set-up by the Coordinator, Pat Cox)
- Baltic Sea Strategy -> North Sea- Baltic corridor. Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/node/4876>

## **Macro-regional Strategies**

The concept, application, and spread of macro-regional strategies as policy instruments has been supported by the institutions that comprise the European Union, along with the supporting programmes that support broader territorial cooperation.

## ***Policy Publications***

### ***European Commission***

Charron, N., Dijkstra, L., Lapuente, V. 2012. Regional Governance Matters: A Study on Regional Variation in Quality of Government within the EU. European Commission, DG REGIO.

European Commission. 2014. A Discussion Paper for the revision of the Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), not public

European Commission. 2013a. Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions concerning the added value of macro-regional strategies. COM(2013) 468 final.

European Commission. 2013b. Commission Staff Working Document *accompanying the document* 'Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions concerning the added value of macro-regional strategies'. SWD(2013) 233 final.

European Commission. 2014. 'Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions concerning the governance of macro-regional strategies'. COM (2014) 284 final.

European Commission. 2015. Enabling synergies between European Structural application: and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes.

European Commission (2016), report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies. COM(2016) 805 final.

Samecki, P. (2009) Macro-regional Strategies in the European Union, Discussion Paper presented by Commissioner Pawel Samecki in Stockholm, 18 September, Brussels: DG Regio

### ***European Parliament***

European Parliament. 2010. Working Document on the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the role of macro-regions in the future cohesion policy, Committee on Regional development, 06.01.2010

European Parliament. 2012. The evolution of EU macro-regional strategies: present practice and future prospects, especially in the Mediterranean, Motion for Resolution,

European Parliament. 2012b: Resolution from the European Parliament on optimising the role of territorial development in cohesion policy

Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 1303/2013, see page 93 for Common Strategic Framework

European Parliament. 2015. The New Role of Macro-regions in European Territorial Cooperation. Study Commissioned by the Directorate General for Internal Policies, Brussels

European Parliament. 2015. The New Role of Macro-regions in European Territorial Cooperation. Study Commissioned by the Directorate General for Internal Policies, Brussels. (incl. ANNEX)

### ***Committee of the Regions***

Committee of the Regions (2013): Opinion concerning the added value of macro-regional strategies, CoR 28,29

### ***Supporting programmes***

ESPO programme

INTERACT programme

Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies {SWD(2016) 443 final} 16.12.2016 COM(2016) 805 final

The added value of macro-regional strategies seen from a project and programme perspective. Final report Spatial Foresight 2016

Added value of macro-regional strategies: Collecting practice examples. Final report Spatial Foresight 2016

Interact has been working on the short documents clarifying MRS. MRS Glossary here and Overview on MRS priorities.

Website/platform: [http://www.interact-eu.net/library?field\\_fields\\_of\\_expertise\\_tid=33#470](http://www.interact-eu.net/library?field_fields_of_expertise_tid=33#470)

Website/platform: [http://www.interact-eu.net/library?field\\_fields\\_of\\_expertise\\_tid=33#819](http://www.interact-eu.net/library?field_fields_of_expertise_tid=33#819)

Interact Joint Annual Work Plan for 2017 (at activity level). Website: <http://www.interact-eu.net/#news>

ESPO provides European-wide comparable information. Website/Platform: <https://www.espon.eu/main/>

### **Adriatic/Ionian Macro-regional Strategy, EUSAIR**

Action Plan - EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR – 2014) Adriatic and Ionian Euro-region (AIE), <https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/>

Communication concerning the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region

Council Conclusions on the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region, 27 November 2015

EC Study on Macro-regional Strategies and their links with Cohesion Policy  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/cooperate/adriatic\\_ionian/pdf/eusair\\_links\\_cohesion\\_policy.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/cooperate/adriatic_ionian/pdf/eusair_links_cohesion_policy.pdf) (November 2017)

Endorsement of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), European Council, Brussels, 23-24 October 2014

European Commission. 2012. Maritime strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas

<http://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/index.php?lang=it>

Supportive Analytical Document Accompanying the communication concerning the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region

Website of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region (EUSAIR).  
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### **Specific Data/Indicator & Internet Sources**

ESPON (2013). European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life, Applied Research 2013/1/9 Interim Report | Version 4/04/2011.

European Network for Accessible Tourism (2015). Mapping and Performance Check of the Supply of Accessible Tourism Services, Final Report, Annex 8.

EU Commission, DG Regio, European Regional Competitiveness Index,  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/information/maps/regional\\_competitiveness/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/maps/regional_competitiveness/)

Eurostat, (2017). Database. Eurostat, (2017). Glossary.

European Union Open Data Portal, (2017). Primary production of renewable energy by type (ten00081).

Mizrahi, Y., (2003) "Capacity Enhancement Indicators: Review of the Literature", WBI Evaluation Studies No. EG03-72, World Bank Institute, The World Bank

Odysee-Mure (2017). Database.

OECD (2013). OECD Factbook 2013: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics. Paris

OECD (2015). Education at a Glance, 2015, Paris.

OECD (2017). Database.

Social Progress Imperative (2016). Social Progress Index 2016. United Nations (2017). COMTRADE Database.

## **EU Environmental acquis**

The Marine Strategy Framework: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index_en.htm)

The Maritime Spatial Planning Directive: [https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/maritime\\_spatial\\_planning\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/maritime_spatial_planning_en)

The Water Framework Directive: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html)

Urban Waste Water Directive: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/legislation/directive\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/legislation/directive_en.htm)

Nitrates Directive: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-nitrates/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-nitrates/index_en.html)

Waste Directive: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/legislation/a.htm>

Birds Directive: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm)

Habitats: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm)

Green Infrastructure Strategy: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm)