EUSAIR Thematic Steering Group of Pillar 2 – Connecting the Region

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE YEAR 2020

1. PREMISE

This document presents the main activities which will be developed by the EUSAIR TSG2 and its two Sub- Groups on Transport and Energy Networks during the year 2020.

The document is providing a framework for action and highlighting goals and steps forward. The eventual implementation of the activities which are described will depend upon how circumstances might evolve as well as upon a number of factors which might go beyond the control of the TSG2 and its Members.

The TSG2 and its two Sub-Groups are strongly committed to finalise their work aimed at identifying projects and measures which might receive financement according to the different channels to become a reality in the interest of all EUSAIR Members. The TSG2 and its two Sub-Groups may also intend to embark into new projects and initiatives.

In this process, the TSG2 and its two Sub-Groups would seek coordination with other EUSAIR TSGs and programmes concerning the macro-region while reporting to the EUSAIR Governing Board and

others, as appropriate. Stakeholders and relevant organisations will be involved wherever deemed useful or necessary.

Part of the work for the year 2020 will be conducted by the entire TSG2, part of the work will be conducted by its two Sub-Groups. Operational uniformity of procedures and goals will be maintained, and information and means will be shared to exploit synergism.

With a view at the so-called post-2020 embedding process, both Sub-Groups will act upon requests coming from the Governing Board and would identify up to two "flagship" projects or ideas with wide impact on the Adriatic-Ionian Region basing upon topics and priorities discussed within the respective Sub-Groups.

2. TSG2 SUBGROUP ON TRANSPORT

2.1 Background

In 2016 the TSG2 Sub-Group on Transport approved priorities among those included in the EUSAIR Action Plan, related to **maritime transport**:

- Improving and harmonizing traffic monitoring and management
- Developing ports, optimizing port interfaces, infrastructures and procedures/operations;

and priorities related to **intermodal connection:**

- Developing the Western Balkans comprehensive network
- Developing motorways of the sea

- Cross-border facilitation.

In accordance with the above priorities, the TSG2 Transport Sub-Group has identified and agreed upon a set of measures and project proposals of macro-regional relevance (so called "EUSAIR-labelled") to be submitted to the Governing Board and to other appropriate stakeholders for further development and funding, while contributing to build up one cohesive and connected European Region, sharing actions and solutions for sustainable transport and stimulating policy dialogue between decision-makers, industries, universities and the civil society in the Adriatic-Ionian Region.

The EUSAIR open list of labelled projects consists of 46 projects: 44 projects have been presented during the 2nd , 3rd and 4th EUSAIR Forums, held in Ioannina, 11-12 May 2017, Catania, 4-5 May 2018 and Budva, 7-8 May 2019, respectively; 2 additional projects labelled during the 11th TSG2 meeting (Belgrade, 19-20 November 2019). The identified measures and projects are consistent with the broad and specific criteria adopted by the TSG2 Sub-Group on Transport also taking into account the "*Guiding principles underpinning the labelling process and common to all TSGs*", as released by the Governing Board on February 2018.

In 2018 the TSG2 Sub-Group on Transport agreed to develop a **Transport Masterplan**, conceived as a dynamic tool for implementing the EUSAIR Strategy through the identification of a common vision of the transport system of the Adriatic-Ionian Region, facilitating the activation of adequate resources for innovative up-to-date projects and mobility policies. The Transport Masterplan should support the EU

Commission in the implementation of TEN-T network through South-East Europe and promote EUSAIR Member countries priorities within a common and shared strategic supranational framework.

The main steps for the development of the Transport Masterplan have been identified, they consist of:

Step 1. Review of strategic projects and National Transport Plans of the EUSAIR Member countries;

Step 2. Transport demand-supply analysis and identification of critical issues

Step 3. Identification of strategic axis and nodes

Step 4. Infrastructural gaps and priorities

Step 5. Implementation and funding.

In 2019, based on the review of the strategic projects and the National Transport Plans of the EUSAIR Member countries (Step 1), a preliminary identification of the priority actions and the strategic transport corridors in the Adriatic-Ionian Region has been carried out. These have been submitted to the Governing Board, to be embedded among the priorities of the next programming period 2021-2027, according to the art. 6 of the Catania Declaration. To provide support to such preliminary analysis, a demand-supply modelling analysis (Step 4) is needed for better identifying the infrastructural gaps and shortlisting the priorities for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (Step 5).

With the support of the Technical Assistance to Pillar Coordinators, the development of the **EUSAIR Multimodal Transport Model (EMTM)** has started, including the definition of the zoning

system for the Adriatic-Ionian Region and the main road network. With the aim of completing the demand-transport modelling analysis for Maritime and Inland Waterways Transport and related Intermodal Infrsstructure, as well as for Land and Airport Transport Infrastructure, Urban Integration and Tourism Accessibility, the terms of reference for the identification of an expert team have been prepared.

2.2 Lines of Actions

On the basis of the results achieved so far, the TSG2 Transport Sub-Group during the 11th TSG2 Meeting (Belgrade, 19-20 November 2019) examined and endorsed the following lines of action for the year 2020.

a) Monitoring the EUSAIR-labelled projects

This activity will consist of

- Updating the status of all TSG2 EUSAIR-labelled projects by relying upon up-to-date information provided by each Member country;
- Investigating available and suitable financial resources and instruments with reference to the current labelled projects;
- Organising workshops and seminars to facilitate the dialogue with the main stakeholders and financial institutions.

b) Labelling new projects

This activity will consist of discussing new project proposals to extend the current list of EUSAIR-labelled projects, in accordance with the

updated labelling procedure and consistent with the strategies of the Transport Masterplan.

c) Further development of the Transport Masterplan

Further development of the Transport Masterplan will consist of developing the demand-supply multi-modal to identify the infrastructural gaps and other critical issues (e.g. safety, cross-border section, congestion, and so forth) in the transportation network of the Adriatic-Ionian Region.

To this aim, a thematic workshops is proposed in order to validate the data collected and to take the decision on further development with the support of the experts.

d) Inter-pillar and cross-cutting projects and measures

The EUSAIR Facility Point Plus has approved two inter-pillar projects ideas proposed by TSG2 Sub-Group on Transport with the TSG4, namely "Adriatic Ionian Cycle Route for Sustainable Tourism" or ADRICYCLETOUR, and with the TSG1, namely "Water-born Adriatic-Ionian Technological Platform" or WAI-TP. Such project ideas will be further developed and then implemented.

e) Strengthening the links with the transport community and facilitating the dialogue with the main stakeholders and financial institutions

This activity will consist of organising thematic workshops and events, also taking advantage of the support of the Adriatic Ionian Initiative, in order to: promote dialogue with the key stakeholders for the project proposals identified of macro-regional relevance and to verify and possibly ensure the financial coverage for the EUSAIR-labelled projects.

f) Improving communication and developing the Stakeholders Platform, while strengthening the links with other international organisations

This activity will consist of organising thematic workshops and participating in international meetings, also taking advantage from the support of the EUSAIR Facility Point, in order to disseminate Pillar 2 mission and vision, and to engage relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the Strategy.

3. TSG2 SUB-GROUP ON ENERGY NETWORKS

3.1 Premise

Activities foreseen by the Sub-Group on Energy Networks during the year 2020 develop along four lines.

First and most important, is the **updating and monitoring process of EUSAIR-labelled projects and measures** regarding energy networks so as these projects and measures can be proposed to the financial institutions and community for possible investment and eventually

implemented. To the purpose, a key element will be the interaction between the TSG2 Sub-Group on Energy Networks and representatives of the financial system.

Second, is action on the EUSAIR framework which is consisting of the **contribution to the 5th EUSAIR Annual Forum** to be held in Belgrade, Serbia during Spring 2020 as well as an effort on both **internal and external communication** to provide information concerning activity by the Sub-Group on Energy Networks.

Third, is the implementation the **Work Packages** (WP) proposed by the EUSAIR Facility Point Project, say WP T1 (Assistance to the TSG2 Sub-Group), WP T2 (Facilitating strategic project development), WP T3 (Monitoring and evaluation of the EUSAIR), WP T4 (EUSAIR Stakeholders Platform). Regarding WP T2 a special effort will be made to start working on a Master Plan of Energy Networks in the Adriatic-Ionian Region. Work will follow on a Road Map towards the EUSAIR Power Exchange and Gas Trading Hub.

Fourth, is action on **cross-cutting issues and inter-pillar project ideas** which should be financed under the "Additional support to the Governance of EUSAIR. Facility Plus Initiative". Furthermore, effort will be made on the first implementation of some proposals made by the Sub-Group for **projects and measures concerning cross-cutting issues**.

3.2 Lines of Action
a) Updating and monitoring process

The TSG2 Sub-Group on Energy Networks has adopted an Open List of EUSAIR-labelled projects and measures for energy networks. It is necessary to maintain **a process of updating and monitoring.** Indeed, the List is open to additions and contributions.

The **updating process** of the list of EUSAIR-labelled projects and measures for energy networks implies that the TSG2 Sub-Group agrees upon a cycle for the preparation of an updated Open List. This cycle includes activities which should be done and information which should be provided and collected for updating the list, while adding new projects and measures of interest.

The Open List of EUSAIR-labelled projects and measures for energy networks would be further developed by Spring 2020. Therefore **templates** for collecting data on the several projects and measures will be circulated as well as a deadline for the submission of data.

The **monitoring process** means that the TSG2 Sub-Group should be able to submit all necessary type of data and additional information which is required with the aim at better defining the current status of the projects and measures in the list of EUSAIR-labelled projects and measures.

The projects and measures will be receiving a brief description with identification (amongst other elements) of lead applicants (promoters), expected period of realisation or commissioning, total financial requirements and sources for financement, status of the projects or measures, main problems and obstacles, possible partners. Wherever

applicable information would be also collected from the Energy Community, CESEC and Western Balkans Investment Framework.

On the base of these actions, a **Consolidated Report** will be prepared concerning the list of EUSAIR-labelled projects and measures for energy networks. The Report would also underline the main problems in the implementation of the projects and the financial means which should be provided.

Selected projects and measures would undergo preliminary discussion before representatives of the **financial system** to receive advise with regard to their financial viability and feasibility. A workshop will be organised during Spring 2020 to the purpose.

b) Action on the EUSAIR framework

The **5th EUSAIR Annual Forum** will be held under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Serbia in Belgrade during late Spring 2020. Under the assumption that the general theme of the Annual Forum might have its focus on the role of innovation, the TSG2 Sub-Group of Energy Networks intends to assist and organise a special session or round table debate on a subject like "Technology innovation and digitalisation for the electricity systems in the Adriatic-Ionian Region: opportunities and challenges". The title, panellists and contents depend on how the general theme of the Annual Forum will be formulated.

Communication is key to EUSAIR success. A EUSAIR Communication Workshop was held on 18 September 2019 in Portorož,

Slovenia. The EUSAIR Facility Point prepared a "Communication Manual to support EUSAIR governance structures". Communication can be both **internal** towards other EUSAIR Pillars, EUSAIR key implementers, and other EU macro-regional strategies or **external** towards the relevant stakeholders and the general public. The Sub-Group on Energy Networks will discuss the issue and begin to develop appropriate tools and channels to communicate effectively.

c) Implementing the EUSAIR Work Package

EUSAIR Work Package T1 foresees **assistance to the TSG2 Sub-Group on Energy Networks**. An expert will be selected through a bidding process organised by Region Marche as the EUSAIR Facility Point Project Partner of Italy. In particular, the expert should be able to review the lists of projects and measures, to assist the Coordinators on the preparation of documents and minutes for the relevant meetings, to keep continuing contacts with Members of the Sub-Group.

EUSAIR Work Package 2 is aimed at **a facilitating strategic project development and financial dialogue.** During the year 2020 the TSG2 Sub-Group on Energy Networks would identify projects ideas that may have an impact on the effective implementation of the EUSAIR Action Plan to ensure their further development. Project ideas will be receiving expert support in due time. The Sub-Group will start work towards the development of two project ideas which appear to be in the shared interest of all EUSAIR Member countries.

Priority will be given to a **Master Plan of Energy Networks in the Adriatic-Ionian Region**. **Terms of reference will be defined**. The Master Plan makes sense under the present circumstances because of a number of objectives. Namely, the Master Plan would provide projects and measures for energy networks as they are being identified and developed by the Sub-Group with a **coherent background and perspective**. It would provide **priorities to projects and measures** which have been or are being identified with timelines while highlighting synergistic effects and complementarities. Duplication of efforts and redundancy should be avoided or contained. The Master Plan would help **detecting gaps and initiatives** for further projects and measures which are either needed or missing.

In principle, the Master Plan might develop according **two time horizons**, namely the year 2030 and the year 2050 while considering **scenarios** which will be discussed and agreed upon.

The second project idea refers to a **Road Map towards the EUSAIR Power Exchange and Gas Trading Hub**. Steps and actions will be defined to create a single electricity and natural gas market through the Adriatic-Ionian Region with a timeline and due consideration for the challenges ahead, including global climate change and security of supply.

EUSAIR Work Package 3 where Greece is the Lead Partner, aims at an **evaluation of the EUSAIR Governance and the results of the Strategy.** The TSG2 Sub-Group on Energy Networks will contribute by providing information and arranging for the monitoring of its activities.

EUSAIR Work Package 4 where the Marche Region is the Lead Partner, aims at the construction and operation of the EUSAIR **Stakeholders Platform**. The TSG2 Sub-Group on Energy Networks will contribute by identifying key stakeholders and possible protocols for exchanging information.

d) Inter-pillar and cross-cutting projects and measures

The mission of the EUSAIR Facility Point Plus should be noted. In this respect, thw TSG2 Sub-Group on Energy Networks will provide its support to **two inter-pillar project ideas** which were approved for implementation by the EUSAIR Governing Board. Namely, the "Sustainable Tourism through Renewable Energy Technologies in Buildings of High Architectural Interest" or STETAI as promoted by the TSG4, and the "Water-born Adriatic-Ionian Technological Platform" or WAI-TP as promoted by the TSG1 in close cooperation with the Sub-Group on Transport.

Work will continue on updating the **List of projects and measures for the cross-cutting issues and eventual EUSAIR-labelling**. This List is in need of consolidation and better definition. The task should be accomplished by end 2020. In consideration of the potential interest for the TSG2 Sub-Group on Transport as well as for other EUSAIR Pillars, attempts will be made to assemble a shared position and involvement. It should be noted that most of the cross-cutting measures and projects might be considered for implementation over rather short periods of time with significant

spin-offs of the EUSAIR as a whole. Opportunities in this respect would be given by the TSG2 Meetings, Technical Meetings of EUSAIR Pillar Coordinators and EUSAIR Governing Board Meetings. National Coordinators might have a role.

Some of the measure and projects for cross-cutting issues could be good candidates for inter-pillar support as well. Other measures and projects might find interest in the framework of the continuing **AI-NURECC Initiative.** Contacts and interactions will be sought for.

4. PROPOSED MEETINGS OF GENERAL INTEREST AND THEIR CALENDAR

a) TSG2 Meetings:
- 12th TSG2 Meeting, Rome, Spring 2020
- 13th TSG2 Meeting, Belgrade, Fall 2020.

b) Technical Meetings of EUSAIR Pillar Coordinators and EUSAIR Governing Board Meetings:
- 11th Governing Board Meeting, Brussels, 18-19 February 2020
- 12th Governing Board Meeting, Ljubljana, Fall 2020

c) 5th EUSAIR Annual Forum, Belgrade, Spring 2020

d) Annual ADRION Meeting, location and date to be defined.

5. PROPOSED CONFERENCES AND THEMATIC WORKSHOPS OF SPECIAL INTEREST AND CALENDAR

a) TSG2 Sub-Group on Transport

Meetings which are foreseen during the year 2020 include:

- 2nd Thematic Workshop on the Transport Masterplan of the Adriatic-Ionian Region, first half of 2020, Rome

- Workshop on Freight Transport Multimodality through Cooperation between Logistic Nodes (Ports and Hinterland) based on ICT Solutions, first half of 2020, Trieste;

- Workshop on Cycling Routes in the Adriatic-Ionian Region and Opportunities for Sustainable Tourism, kick-off meeting for the implementation of the TSG2-TSG4 cross-pillar project idea ADRIONCYCLETOUR, first half of 2020, Ancona;

- 3rd Thematic Workshop on the Transport Masterplan of the Adriatic-Ionian Region, to be organised within the European Transport Conference (ETC 2020), 9-11 September 2020, Milan;

- Conference on Cycling Tourism, jointly organised with TSG4 and under the Croatian Presidency of EUSAIR, second half of 2020, continental Croatia;

- Other meetings/workshops (as proposed in the Draft Activity Plan of Facility Point for the year 2020).

b) TSG2 Sub-Group on Energy Networks

Meetings which are foreseen during the year 2020 include:

- Workshop on How to Finance Energy Networks Infrastructure through the Adriatic-Ionian Region, Spring 2020.
- Thematic Workshop on The Master Plan of Energy Networks for the Adriatic-Ionian Region, Fall 2020.

Venue and timing of both workshops should be decided, though their feasibility through back-to-back events would be explored as the preferred option.