

## Virtual Meeting of the Thematic Steering Group for Pillar 2 (TSG2) “Connecting the Region” Transport Sub-Group

Gotomeeting, June 12th, 2020

### MINUTES AND OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS



**Chairs:** Transport Coordinators: Mr Pierluigi Coppola (Italy, Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport), Mrs Mirjana Jovanović (Republic of Serbia, Ministry for Construction, Transport and Infrastructure), Mrs Jasminka Kirkova (North Macedonia, Ministry of Transport and Communications)

**Participants:** EUSAIR Thematic Steering Group 2 (TSG2) Members (Transport Sub-Groups), Representatives of the European Commission (DG REGIO), , Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, TSG2 Technical Support Unit (Friuli Venezia Giulia Region), representatives of EUSAIR Facility Point Strategic Project, Italian Partners (Marche Region, Abruzzo Region), Facility Point Project Coordinator's Transport Technical Assistants. *(see the complete list of participants attached)*

## **MINUTES**

The 1<sup>st</sup> TSG2 Virtual meeting was convened to be held online on the Gotomeeting platform, due to mobility restrictions imposed by Covid-19 breakdown.

Representatives of **seven** (out of 9) EUSAIR Countries attended the **Transport Sub-Group Meeting**. (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Slovenia, North Macedonia; representatives from Bosnia-Herzegovina could join the meeting starting from point 3 in the agenda)

The list of participants is attached to the minutes.

## 0. Welcome and Tour the table

The Pillar Coordinators welcome the attendants explaining the rules for participation and interaction at the first TSG2 virtual meeting. The draft Agenda is formally adopted by TSG2 transport sub-group.

## 1. Communications

### *a) Decision of the Council on the participation of North Macedonia to the EUSAIR*

The Italian and Serbian coordinators inform that the Council has formally approved the participation of North Macedonia to the EUSAIR. North Macedonia is now officially an EUSAIR member. The representative of North Macedonia Ms Jasminka Kirkova, entitled of the role of Pillar co-Coordinator for the Transport Subgroup, thanks and stresses the importance of the macro-regional strategy, particularly at this particular time of crisis due to the health emergency.

### *b) New operational procedures in response to the COVID-19*

The Pillar Coordinators announce that the next meetings will be held on-line, until the mobility restrictions will be kept in place due to the Covid-19 breakdown. Transport and Energy networks Sub-groups will have separate meetings.

### *c) Rules of procedure of Pillar 2*

The Pillar Coordinators report that the Governing Board (GB) has not yet approved any official rules of procedure for virtual meetings. Therefore, no official decision will be taken during the virtual meetings, in which agenda items will be discussed. Formal decisions will be taken afterwards, via written procedures.

### *d) Update of the Program of work for the year 2020*

The Pillar Coordinators recall that, due to the health emergency, many events scheduled in the Program of work for the year 2020 have been postponed. All the events are confirmed at the moment, although the calendar will be updated month by month, as the situation evolves.

### *e) Update on Embedding process*

The Pillar Coordinators communicate that the last GB meeting was held virtually on 10 June 2020. During the meeting the flagship proposals for the embedding process have been approved. For TSG2 (Transport) two specific actions, namely the Adriatic-Ionian Cycle Route and the Adriatic-Ionian Green/Smart Port Hubs Concept, within the overall flagship of the Multi-modal Adriatic-Ionian Corridor were presented and approved. Furthermore, during the GB meeting the draft of Belgrade declaration was also presented. Once approved the document will be circulated.

Mr Di Paola from DG REGIO expresses his appreciation for the flagship projects, pointing out the consistency with the Commission's priorities set in the Green Deal and regarding digital transition. Di Paola recommends the National Coordinators to take into consideration the two actions in any forthcoming funding programs.

## 2. Labelling

### *a) Classification of labelled projects*

The Pillar Coordinator presents the table developed for the clustering of labelled projects, into infrastructure projects and soft measures. Infrastructure projects are clustered into linear infrastructure (railway, road, Inland Waterways or other) and nodes (Maritime ports, Inland Waterway ports, Rail-Road Terminals, others). For each of them the relevant modes of transport are specified. Soft measures have been clustered into four categories (Soft-Active Mobility, Studies and Pilots, Service or Facilities, Studies and Design).

### *b) New project proposals for labelling*

The Pillar Coordinators recall that 46 projects have been labelled so far. Moreover, new proposals of labelling have been received, namely

- "Upgrading Port of Bar infrastructure: Accessibility and Intermodality", proposed by Montenegro;
- "PROMARES", "INTESA", "MIMOSA" and "ICARUS" proposed by Italian Regions.

The templates of the projects "Upgrading Port of Bar infrastructure: Accessibility and Intermodality" and "INTESA" have been circulated in advance. The templates for the two remaining projects proposed by the Italian Regions will be circulated after the virtual meeting.

The representative of the Italian Regions, Mrs Sodini, illustrates the projects proposed by Italian Regions:

- PROMARES, promotes maritime multimodal freight transport in the Adriatic Sea by connecting Italian and Croatian Adriatic ports with the hinterland;
- INTESA, establishes a network among the National Maritime Administrations of Italy and Croatia and main port authorities of the Adriatic Sea to harmonize and optimize procedures of the complete maritime transport process in order to make port and maritime transport system more efficient and safe.
- MIMOSA aims to promote new cross-border approaches for passenger mobility, based on sustainable multimodality
- ICARUS promotes strategies for intermodal connection in the AI Region focusing.

The discussion on the proposal "Upgrading Port of Bar infrastructure: Accessibility and Intermodality" is postponed to the next meeting due to the absence of Montenegro representative.

The representative of Greece asks to remove some projects from the list of labelled projects, explaining the reasons and expressed the intention of Greece to include new project proposals which will be circulated after the virtual meeting. Pillar Coordinators recall that the projects included in the open list of EUSAIR-labelled projects are relevant for all the countries since they have macroregional relevance (by definition) and the request of deletion (as well as that of inclusion) of any project should be taken by the whole TSG. The Greek representative agreed. The relevant procedure will be initiated before the next TSG meeting. Pillar Coordinators advise to discuss any strategic infrastructural projects (e.g. multimodal-corridor development) within the Masterplan development, based on quantitative evidences of the evolution of the demand-supply transport system.

## **3. Masterplan**

### *a) State of play on the EMTM: socio-economic input data and network model*

The Pillar Coordinators remind that the development of the Masterplan will facilitate the identification of the macro-regional relevance of proposed projects, as well as their relations and synergies with the other regional corridors. To this aim, it is important to share a vision of an integrated transport system of the AI Region in order to assess each single project in terms of macroregional relevance, within a framework that encompasses all the transportation systems of the Region.

Pillar coordinators stress that the vision of the integrated system will be the result of quantitative and technical analysis to provide the political level with different scenarios, enabling further policy development for the cohesion and the development of the Region. The development of the EMTM is of utmost importance for the formulation of such scenarios. The model will be the more accurate as the data will be complete, comprehensive and up-to-date, therefore the pillar coordinators do invite TSG members to interact with the technical assistance experts and to support them with data and useful information, both on the demand and the supply side.

Roberto Zani and Enrico Maria Bernardis, as technical assistance to the Pillar Coordinator presented the current state of play of the EMTM. They illustrate the GIS database which allows to view on a geo-referenced basis the data collected so far. The graphical representation of the networks and transport data makes it possible to immediately identify missing data (as well as bottlenecks and missing links). In particular, there are still gaps for socio-economic data and for data on the supply of transport networks, in particular railways. TSG2 members are invited to integrate, validate data and fill in gaps, also through the organization of bilateral meetings with the technical assistance, to be organized between June and September 2020.

*b) Further development of the EMTM: travel demand estimates within the Adriatic-Ionian Region*

The technical assistants to the pillar coordinator explain the next steps for the development of the EMTM: at this stage it is necessary to acquire data on demand and use of transport networks from all EUSAIR countries. The main source for these data is the EUROSTAT database which already contains a lot of data available for most of the EUSAIR countries. TSG2 members are asked to check, validate, possibly integrate and confirm that the technical assistants are allowed to use the transport data of EUROSTAT database as reference for EMTM development.

TSG2 members are also kindly asked to provide some data not present in the EUROSTAT database:

1. Provide EUROSTAT equivalent data (if available) for those countries (mainly the Balkan countries) for which EUROSTAT data are not available
2. Provide road traffic data collected by any permanent system of traffic counting/data collection in place and/or details of the source
3. Indicate any (international) project dedicated to the collection/production of demand and traffic data that can be used for the EMTM and/or provide directly relevant data to the consultant (in particular for short sea shipping)
4. If a transport model was developed in each country and surveys were developed to calibrate it, provide survey data to the Consultants, if available and possible

Exchanges between the Consultant and the TSG2 Members will occur bilaterally via email. The Technical Assistance will also organize web-based bilateral meetings to facilitate the data collection and transferring process.

Demand data must be provided by the end of December 2020.

#### **4. Any other subject of interest**

The Pillar Coordinators announce that they received the communication from the Slovenian partner of FP+ that the procedure for engaging an expert for the FP+ projects development has been resumed: the Tor will be share with TSG representatives and the tender is going to be launched in July 2020.

#### **5. Dates for next meeting**

The next TSG Meeting for transport Subgroup will be held virtually on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (CEST h 9.30-13.00). Any changes due to the release of travelling restrictions and the possibility of organizing a meeting in person, will be communicated in due time.

## **OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS**

In consideration of the discussion developed during the meeting the main operational conclusions and steps to be taken are as in the following.

1. Transport and Energy networks Sub-groups will have separate virtual meetings, until the restrictions due the COVID-19 emergency will be kept in place.
2. Unless new rules of procedure are defined by the Governing Board, TSG decisions about labelling new projects will be taken by written procedure.
3. TSG2 members will validate, and possibly integrate the demand and supply data from EUROSTAT database as reference for EMTM development by means of bilateral meeting to be organised with the Italian Pillar Coordinator Technical assistance.
4. The next TSG Meeting for transport Subgroup will be held virtually on September 25th , 2020 (CEST h 9.30-13.00). Any changes due to the release of travelling restrictions and the possibility of organizing a meeting in person, will be communicated in due time.

## **ANNEXES**

1. List of participants to the TSG2 Virtual Meeting;
2. EUSAIR PILLAR 2 (TRANSPORT) FLAGSHIPS
3. TSG2 Labelled projects Classification
4. State of play of the Masterplan development and next steps (Document presented by the Italian Pillar Coordinator Technical assistance).

Prepared by EUSAIR Technical Assistance to the Pillar Coordinator



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