

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Thematic Steering Group for  
Pillar 1 – Blue Growth  
under the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)  
7 May 2021, virtual  
h. 09:00 – 13:00 (CET)**

**Operational conclusions**

- The quorum was checked and obtained so that decisions could be taken at this TSG1 meeting.
- Agenda was adopted unanimously
- Minutes from the 12<sup>th</sup> TSG1 meeting were adopted unanimously.
- Pillar I Coordinators (Ms. **Tzouramani Irene** and Ms. **Milena Krasic**) informed TSG1 members on the outcomes of the last EUSAIR Governing Board and Technical Meeting of Pillar Coordinators held in February 2021 as well as on the conclusions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Macroregional Strategies Week and the Pillar 1 Thematic session of the 5<sup>th</sup> EUSAIR Forum. Pillar Coordinators also informed the participants that the Pillar 1 Annual Report 2020 was submitted.
- Pillar I Coordinators informed the TSG1 members about their participation in the Smart Adria Blue Growth Cross – Border Conference and in the first meeting of BLUEBIOMED's Sounding as well as the bilateral meetings they attended with the Adrion Managing Authority and the Blue Air project.
- Representatives of DG Regio, Ms. **Klaudia Feurle**, and DG Mare, Ms. **Eleni Hatziyanni** provided a time frame for the finalisation of the ESIF programmes and underlined the fact that now is a critical moment for the embedding of EUSAIR flagships and for highlighting the Blue Growth dimension and innovation in the updated smart specialisation strategies.
- Representative of the ADRION programme, Mr. **Lodovico Gherardi**, informed the TSG1 members about the state of play of the post-2020 programming process. Still remaining to be clarified is the final budget and the geography of the programme. Until now 3 Political Objectives and specific objectives have been identified. It is expected that Indicative Actions will be defined by the beginning of June (maximum by the end of July). The ADRION programme will be finalised by the end of 2021. Mr. Gherardi will share the objectives with the TSG1 members. TSG1 representatives agreed to invite ADRION representatives to the next TSG1 meeting.
- Facility Point Lead Partner representative, Ms. **Olga Abram**, informed the participants about the embedding process meeting with Mainstream, Transnational and Cross-border

Cooperation Programmes Managing Authorities and EUSAIR key implementers that took place on April 15th.

Follow-up meetings will be organised in the following months.

- Regarding the national meetings with Managing Authorities, representatives from Greece, Slovenia and Montenegro informed the TSG1 members about the embedding process progress in their countries.
- Regarding WP2 project development, Facility Point Greek Partner representative, Ms **Mathilde Konstantopoulou**, informed the TSG1 members that the Terms of Reference for the further development of two project ideas, FishTourAir and AimFrish, are at the final stage and the procurement procedure will launch very soon. Regarding the 3 project ideas that have been approved (SeaSusPack, Eurynome, Amos), the procurement process will be finalised by the end of June or by September 2021. The Greek Facility Point Partner will inform the participants about the progress.
- Facility Point Lead Partner representative, Ms **Olga Abram**, informed TSG1 members about the Facility Point recent activities aiming to the establishment of an innovation experts network and to the establishment of a communication experts network. Recent activities also include the organisation of a successful event for the engagement of Youth and the preparation of future EUSAIR governance support scheme.
- Pillar 1 M&E Expert, Mr. **Michalis Nikitaridis**, informed the TSG1 members about the state of art of the Monitoring and Evaluation and about the Pillar 1 related study, titled "Ideal EUSAIR". The study has been completed and it is expected to have the final approval by contracting authority very soon. TSG1 members will be informed as soon as the study is made available.
- Facility Point Greek Partner, Ms. **Mathilde Konstantopoulou**, informed that the Terms of Reference for the engagement of the TSG1 innovation expert are currently under preparation and the call is expected to be launched by the end of June.
- Facility Point Plus representative, **Ms. Mojca Krisch**, updated the participants that the FPP is on the final stage for the expert engagement for approved cross-pillar projects and they expect that the procedure will be finalised very soon and they expect to have a signed contract by June. Regarding a new round for submissions of new cross-pillar project ideas, internal discussions still take place and no update is currently available.
- Blue Air project coordinator, Ms. **Elena Banci**, briefly presented the Blue Air Project and expressed the hope for the future to establish collaboration with EUSAIR TSG1. A strong interest was expressed by North Macedonia to be also included in the project.

- Pillar Coordinator, Ms. **Irene Tzouramani**, informed the participants about the topic and the panellists of the Pillar 1 thematic session of the 6<sup>th</sup> EUSAIR Forum that will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup>
- New Slovenian TSG1 member was announced, Ms. Nataša Bratina is replacing Ms. Lenča Humerca-Šolar.
- New cross-pillar project idea **A-I Port Energy Hubs** was briefly presented by the Pillar 1 thematic expert, Mr. Christos Kontos. Pillar Coordinators will share the project idea when it is fully developed to be evaluated via written procedure.
- The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting will take place in autumn in Montenegro - if allowed by potential COVID related travel restrictions.