

February 2018

Guiding Principles underpinning the labelling process and common to all TSGs

1. Introduction

In order to help identify projects of macro-regional importance, i.e. projects contributing to the objectives set out in the EUSAIR Action Plan, it is proposed to define a few non-exhaustive **guiding principles** for what ought to remain a flexible process. These principles - to remain transparent and adaptable - should assist all TSGs in the labelling process, i.e. attaching a 'EUSAIR' label to projects deserving so.

The guiding principles proposed are as follows:

Principle no. 1.

Labelling is to be understood as a continuing, dynamic process whereby projects contributing both to the overall objectives of the Strategy and to the specific objectives set out for each pillar in the EUSAIR Action Plan, are identified by consensus.

Principle no. 2.

Final assignment of a EUSAIR label is the prerogative of the TSGs, on the basis of the strategic guidelines issued by the Governing Board.

Principle no. 3

The labelling process consists of at least two consecutive steps:

Step 1: pre-screening of candidate projects against the six broad criteria in EUSAIR Action Plan (see Annex), common to all pillars, with a view to identifying projects with a macro-regional value.

Step 2: following a protocol and specific criteria/guiding principles set by each TSG, screening of candidate projects which passed Step 1 with a view to shortlisting those contributing best to the objectives and approach specific to each pillar.

Principle no 4

Projects that successfully passed the labelling process are assigned a EUSAIR label.

Principle no 5

Labelled projects will receive special attention and support by the Facility Point with a view to being further developed, and by EU funded programmes - including ADRION – should financing be appropriate.

Each TSG, the Facility Point Project and the ADRION programme will report at least annually to the EUSAIR Governing Board on their activity concerning previous and prospective labelled projects.

Annex: Broad criteria common to all Pillars, guiding project pre-screening processes with proposed explanation.

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Broad criteria common to all Pillars, guiding project pre-screening processes

| BROAD CRITERIA (cf. EUSAIR Action Plan pages 4-5) | Proposed Explanation |
|--|---|
| <p>a) Address priorities and well-substantiated needs expressed by countries, regions and stakeholders or Commission services and be widely supported.</p> | <p><i>Sine-qua-non</i> condition (excluding character). The action/project contributes to the objectives laid down in the Communication and the Action Plan and presents strong linkages to EU policies relating directly to the 4 pillars.</p> <p><u>Recommendation (of a preferential but not excluding character)</u>: Primary attention should be given to actions/projects directly linked to cross-sector, longer-term frame plans coordinated at a macro-regional/sea basin-wide/transnational scale and contributing to socio-economic/ territorial cohesion in the Region¹ (e.g. alignment to SEE 2020 priorities). Preference should be given to projects with strong support and involvement from a wide range of local/regional stakeholders, incl. civil society.</p> |

¹ In that sense, all prioritised projects are strategic by nature



| BROAD CRITERIA (cf. EUSAIR Action Plan pages 4-5) | Proposed Explanation |
|---|--|
| <p>b) Demonstrate a transnational, if not macro-regional, scope or impact</p> | <p><i>Sine-qua-non</i> condition (excluding character).</p> <p>Scope: The geographical scope of actions/projects should in principle encompass several participating countries. However, there may be duly justified cases where actions/projects implemented within only one country or region can be considered, provided they have an unquestionable positive effect at macro-regional scale.</p> <p><u>Recommendation (of a preferential but not excluding character):</u> Primary attention should be given to actions/projects with well-developed capacity in terms of partnership-building, governance framework, networking.</p> <p>Impact of the action/project throughout the entire macro-region or Adriatic-Ionian sea basin or on large portions thereof.</p> <p><u>Recommendation (of a preferential but not excluding character):</u> Primary attention should be given to actions/projects with a direct positive impact on large functional areas included in the Region as well as projects consistent with or complementing projects addressing similar issues under EUSDR and EUSALP in portions of territory shared by the these strategies.</p> |



| BROAD CRITERIA (cf. EUSAIR Action Plan pages 4-5) | Proposed Explanation |
|--|---|
| <p>c) Be realistic and credible</p> | <p>Actions/projects should be technically and financially feasible and based on overall agreement between national/regional authorities of countries concerned and stakeholders². Expected results shall be spelt out clearly in action/project proposals.</p> <p><u>Recommendation (of a preferential but not excluding character):</u> Preference should be given to actions/projects combining public and private financial sources and bringing optimal value for money.</p> <p>Credibility of actions/projects also implies their sustainability over time once the project period has expired.</p> |
| <p>d) Build on existing initiatives and have reached a fair degree of maturity</p> | <p>Where appropriate, preference should be given to converging, complementary, coordinated or joint actions/projects already in the pipeline or resulting from completed pilot projects and/or solid feasibility studies. Less-advanced projects presenting promising, innovative approaches can also be considered, provided they benefit from adequate seed money³.</p> |

² Criterion c) seems particularly useful for helping the TSGs anticipate what projects have the best chance of eventually being funded. Preference would then be given, under this criterion, to projects deemed feasible, linked to a realistic source of funding and financially viable over time, i.e. also after the project period expired.

³ By 'adequate seed money' in this particular context is meant provision of sufficient funding for preparatory studies or actions necessary for bringing a particular project to the stage of implementation.



| BROAD CRITERIA (cf. EUSAIR Action Plan pages 4-5) | Proposed Explanation |
|--|---|
| e) Pay attention to cross-cutting aspects | Actions/projects should address, as appropriate, capacity-building, including communication (for raising public awareness and support), research & innovation as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk management. |
| f) Be coherent and mutually supportive | Actions/projects should complement or re-enforce results and/or impacts of other initiatives under the same or the other three pillars. <u>Recommendation (of a preferential but not excluding character):</u> attention should be given to actions/projects contributing to the objectives of at least 2 pillars ⁴ . |

⁴ This general criterion reflects the interdependent nature of the four pillars.