

Pillar 3 - Environmental Quality

MONITORING PILLAR REPORT 2022

FOR THE FACILITY POINT PROJECT

YEARLY CONDENSED REPORT ON

PILLAR/TSG MONITORING

WORK PACKAGE ON MONITORING
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INTRODUCTION

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.

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 above 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 was conducted in the period 2018-2020 (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 and afterwards.

The above steps paved the way for the creation of the EUSAIR's monitoring and evaluation framework. The following two inter-related elements were 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 is and 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 reports were standardized in 2020. Every year the report contained pieces of information on: topics related to Environment protection, Implementation/events, Management and cooperation and a look forward into the activities for the next year.

OVERVIEW

The current report, covering the activities implemented in year 2022, is composed of two parts. The objective is to give ample information to all TSG members on various activities that took place throughout the year and it is hence presented at the first meeting of the TSG in the year after.

The first part is the Yearly condensed report on Pillar/TSG monitoring that gives both the information on the activities as the info on the progress under the Work Package "Monitoring" that is led by the Greek Lead Partner. The Yearly condensed report also brings brief information on potentially interesting topics and methodological issues that are related to the work in the specific, above mentioned, Work Package.

The second part is bringing a short resume on the events and networking activities, as well as any other activities that could be potentially interesting to share with the Greek partners, coordinating WP3 in the Facility Point project. This year, in line with the presentation carried out at the Capacity building event, there is more information on indicators. The same approach as the one used by other partners (meaning for other TSGs) has been taken into account.

1. YEARLY CONDENSED REPORT ON PILLAR/TSG MONITORING

1.1 Introduction – choice of topics

As mainly stated already in the 2019 Report, among the opportunities, the 3 priorities that are of high importance, in line with TSG 3 agreed priorities to be included in the 2021-2027 Partnership Agreement of the four EU Member States and in the IPA programming, are:

- The sustainable growth of the Adriatic-Ionian region by implementing Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) should be promoted, also to contribute to the Common Regional Framework (CRF) on ICZM of the Barcelona convention and the monitoring and management of marine protected areas;
- Development and implementation of Adriatic-Ionian Sub/regional Oil spill contingency plan is needed;
- Natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems should be protected.

This is the reason why also the EU projects have been separated in the same way.

1.2 Relevant EU projects

a) TOPIC 1

Promotion of sustainable growth of the AI region by implementing ICZM and MSP also to contribute Common Regional Framework (CRF) on ICZM of Barcelona convention and the monitoring and management of marine protected area.

PROJECT	CBC PROGRAMME
TRECORALA	https://www.nib.si/mbp/en/projects/balmas/84-completed-projects/cross-border-projects/129-trecorala-eng Interreg Italy-Slovenia
SHAPE	Shape aimed to develop a multilevel and cross-sector governance system, based on integrated management of natural resources, risk's prevention and conflicts resolution among uses of the Adriatic coast and sea. It promoted strengthening of the institutional capacity needed to face these challenges in a cross-border perspective. Project focus was on ICZM and MSP, aiming to promote the implementation in the Adriatic Region of the ICZM Protocol and the EC proposed Directive establishing a framework for MSP and ICZM. Duration: January 2011 - January 2014 Total budget: 4.140.000 € Interreg IVA IPA Adriatic Cross-border Cooperation 2007-2013 https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/574 cooperation were also project's objectives. On the DG MARE MSP platform, Italy and Slovenia chose this project as good practice example.
ML-REPAIR	http://www.ml-repair.eu/en Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme
THAL-CHOR	ΘΑΛ-ΧΩΡ (THAL-CHOR) aimed at developing a methodology for MSP and then using this methodology for pilot application in selected areas in Cyprus (Limassol area) and Greece (Islands of Lesbos and Rhodes). Resolution of spatial conflicts between different uses of the sea, better coordination between stakeholders and strengthening cross-border cooperation were also project's objectives. On the DG MARE MSP platform: Croatia, Cyprus and Greece chose this project as good practice example.
THAL-CHOR2	The project capitalizes on the results of the previous Strategic Project THAL-CHOR: Cross-border Cooperation Maritime Spatial Planning Development, co-funded by the Interreg Greece-Cyprus 2007-2013 Programme. The capitalization is made at both the content and the corporate level, as it incorporates a new strategic partner, the Ministry of

	<p>Environment and Energy of Greece, a competent authority for MSP in Greece. In terms of content in particular, the aim is no longer to prepare the two countries for the implementation of the Directive but to align with the requirements of the Directive and the gradual introduction of Maritime Spatial Planning by March 2021.</p> <p>On the DG MARE MSP platform, Cyprus and Greece chose this project as good practice example.</p>
DORY	<p>DORY's general objective is to enhance protection and restoration of marine resources and ecosystems in the Adriatic Region by strengthening the institutional dialogue and promoting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the adoption of management measures for the reduction of impacts derived from economic activities on fishing stocks; the adoption of management strategies to improve biodiversity conservation (e.g. protection of spawning and nursery areas) and to reduce the ecological impact of aquaculture. <p>Greece chose this project as good practice example.</p>
PROJECT	TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME
PORTODIMARE	<p>PORTODIMARE aims to create a common platform (Geoportal) for data and information related to coastal and marine areas of the Adriatic-Ionian Region, by integrating existing databases, portals and tools developed by previous EU-funded projects (e.g. SHAPE, ADRIPLAN), local and national administrations and other initiatives.</p> <p>Duration: February 2018 - January 2021</p> <p>Overall budget: 1.581.219 €</p> <p>Interreg V B 2014-2020: Adriatic-Ionian Programme – ADRIION</p> <p>https://portodimare.adriioninterreg.eu/</p> <p>https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/1741</p> <p>On the DG MARE MSP platform, Greece and Slovenia chose this project as good practice example</p>
GEF Adriatic	<p>www.thegef.org</p> <p>Total budget: 1.817.900 USD</p>
NetCet	<p>Capitalising knowledge on marine litter from projects for protected areas</p> <p>http://www.netcet.eu</p> <p>IPA ADRIATIC</p>
DeFishGear	<p>Capitalising knowledge on marine litter from projects for protected areas</p> <p>http://www.defishgear.net/project/background</p> <p>IPA ADRIATIC</p>
Waste Management Project « ARLEM »	<p>https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/Documents/ARLEM/Action%20plans/Action%20plan%202020-2022/cor-2019-05804-00-00-tcd-tra-fr.pdf</p> <p>CPRM</p>
Medpan North	<p>https://www.keep.eu/project/1690/mediterranean-marine-protected-areas-network-north</p> <p>Interreg MED 2007-13</p> <p>Total budget: 2.380.825€</p>
Coastgap	<p>https://www.msp-platform.eu/projects/coastgap-coastal-governance-and-adaptation-policies-mediterranean</p> <p>Interreg MED 2007-13</p> <p>Total budget: 1.360.000€</p> <p>On the DG MARE MSP platform, Croatia and Italy chose this project as good practice example.</p>

Coastance	https://www.keep.eu/project/1626/regional-common-action-strategy-against-coastal-erosion-and-climate-change-effects-for-a-sustainable-coastal-planning-in-the-mediterranean-basin Interreg MED 2007-13 Total budget: 1.795.900€
Green Med	http://www.enpicbcmmed.eu/content/green-med-initiative ENPI MED
SusWaMed	http://www.enpicbcmmed.eu/fr/node/1776 ENPI MED
MSP MED	MSP-MEd aims to facilitate the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean Sea. The Protocol includes several explicit references to marine spatial planning providing the legal basis for planning and management in the Mediterranean. Project activities evaluated related methodologies and existing tools, proposed possible cooperation and management schemes and identified possible ways to deal with key challenges, in an effort to assist the Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention to meet the common objectives of MSP and ICZM. Duration: March 2020 - February 2022 Overall budget: 3.135.916 € UNEP/MAP – PAP/RAC https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/2754 On the DG MARE MSP platform, Greece and Italy chose this project as good practice example.
CAMP	CAMP is oriented at the implementation of practical coastal management projects in selected Mediterranean coastal areas, applying Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as a major tool. UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) MAP No specific budget https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/796 On the DG MARE MSP platform: Croatia, Cyprus, Italy and Slovenia chose this project as good practice example.
MEDTRENDS	MEDTRENDS aimed to illustrate and map the most likely integrated scenarios of marine economic growth at the transnational level in EU Mediterranean countries for the next 20 years. It shows an in-depth analysis of the current situation and future trends in 10 of the main maritime economic sectors, their drivers and environmental impacts (including Blue Growth). The analysis is done in particular in the context of the 10% marine protected areas target set for the Mediterranean and the GES objectives of MSFD. Results are available through a dedicated web-portal for 4 of the most important sectors: offshore oil and gas exploration and extraction, maritime transportation and port, professional fisheries and tourism (Blue Growth). Overall budget : 578.179 € Starting date: January 2016 Interreg MED 2007-13 https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/598 On the DG MARE MSP platform: Croatia and Cyprus and Greece chose this project as good practice example.
CO-EVOLVE	CO-EVOLVE aimed to analyse and promote the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems in touristic coastal areas in the Mediterranean, allowing for the sustainable development of touristic activities, based on the principles of Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning. Overall budget: 3.000.000 € Duration: September 2016 - August 2019

	<p>https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/1031 Interreg MED 2014-2020 On the DG MARE MSP platform: Croatia and Greece and Italy chose this project as good practice example.</p>
PHAROS4MPAs	<p>The general objective of the PHAROS4MPAs project is to enhance management effectiveness and networking for Mediterranean MPAs, in order to contribute to the conservation of marine biodiversity and natural ecosystems, taking into account the complex ensemble of human activities developed within the Blue Growth perspective and their interaction with protected areas and marine ecosystems. To achieve this goal PHAROS4MPAs supports the implementation of EU maritime policies for the sustainable management of human activities and the protection of Mediterranean ecosystems, including the MSP Directive and the MSFD among the others. Overall budget: 1.179.496 € Duration: December 2017 - January 2020 https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/1745 Interreg MED Programme 2014-2020 On the DG MARE MSP platform, Croatia and Slovenia chose this project as good practice example.</p>
AMARE Geoportal for MPA	<p>The main objectives of AMARE project were: a) To develop shared methodologies and geospatial tools for multiple stressors assessment, coordinated environmental monitoring, multi-criteria analyses and stakeholders engagement. B) To develop concrete pilot actions and coordinated strategies in selected Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to solve hot spots of conflicts affecting marine biodiversity and the services it provides. Overall budget: 2.700.000 € Duration: November 2016 - November 2019 Interreg MED Programme 2014 - 2020 https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/1068 On the DG MARE MSP platform, Italy chose this project as good practice example.</p>
OTHERS	Horizontal and capitalization projects from Interreg MED 2014-20
PROJECT	OTHER FUNDING INSTRUMENTS
Solid Waste Management	Center for Mediterranean Integration
MARISCA	<p>MARISCA was funded by EEA GRANTS 2009-2014 for the 85% of the total budget and by the Public Investments Programme (PIP) of the Hellenic Republic for the 15% of the total budget, under the theme "Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management" - "Increased knowledge concerning the integrated marine and islands policy or the protection / management of coastal areas". Duration: December 2015 - December 2016 Overall budget: 390.000 € MARISCA was funded by EEA GRANTS 2009-2014 https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/1088 On the DG MARE MSP platform, Greece chose this project as good practice example.</p>
ClimVar & ICZM	ClimVar & ICZM is a complementary project to the MedPartnership. It is a collective effort to promote the use of ICZM in countries sharing the

	<p>Mediterranean Sea, as an effective tool to deal with the impacts of climate variability and change in coastal zones, by mainstreaming them into the ICZM process.</p> <p>Duration: January 2012 - December 2015</p> <p>The project was funded by GEF (Global Environmental Facility) and participating countries, enforcement agencies and sponsors.</p> <p>Total project budget was 9.2 million USD. Two million USD were provided by the GEF, and seven million USD were provided by the participating countries, enforcement agencies and sponsors.</p> <p>https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/1334</p>
Development of process and procedures of integrated Maritime Spatial Planning	<p>The project pursued four core objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Elaborate a methodology for the MSP process, considering the national marine area and its continental hinterland as an intrinsically multi-functional landscape. 2) Design a MSP process considering integrated and participatory approach to the planning and management of the national marine area in conformity with the requirements of Directive 2014/89/EU. 3) Promote the sustainable use of marine resources and sustainable growth of the maritime economy through the MSP process. 4) Develop and put into practice innovative contents, methods and processes of MSP adapted to the size and characteristics of the national marine area in Slovenia. <p>Duration: October 2016 - March 2018</p> <p>Overall budget : 40.000 €</p> <p>https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/1207</p> <p>Targeted Research Programme "CRP 2016", funded by the Slovenian Research Agency and the Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning.</p> <p>On the DG MARE MSP platform, Slovenia chose this project as good practice example.</p>
MSP-LSI - Maritime spatial planning and land-sea interactions	<p>May 2018 - May 2019</p> <p>Overall budget : 274.703 €</p> <p>ESPON Programme</p> <p>On the DG MARE MSP platform, Slovenia chose this project as good practice example.</p>
Several projects	<p>MedSea Foundation, Green Peace, Legambiente, Prince Albert of Monaco Foundation, WWF Adria, IUCN Malaga, CTS Ecomondo</p>
PROJECTS	THEMATIC EU PROGRAMME
TARTALIFE	<p>http://tartalife.eu/en</p> <p>LIFE +</p>
CleanSea Life	<p>https://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=5824</p> <p>Capitalising knowledge on marine litter from projects for protected areas</p> <p>LIFE Programme, LIFE15</p> <p>Total budget: 2.060,705.00€</p>
MarineClean	<p>https://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/projects/en/projects/marineclean</p> <p>Business-environment: Capitalizing knowledge on marine litter from projects for protected areas</p> <p>Total budget: 1.171.789€</p> <p>ECO-INNOVATION</p>

<p><u>MARISCO</u> MARine Litter in Europe Seas: Social AwarenesS and CO- Responsability CORDIS ID 289042</p>	<p>7th Framework Programme Lead Partner from Italy Total budget: 4.119.357€ http://www.marisco.eu/objectives.en.html</p>
<p><u>COEXIST</u></p>	<p>7th Framework Programme COEXIST was a broad, multidisciplinary project which evaluated competing activities and interactions in European coastal areas. The ultimate goal of the COEXIST project was to provide a roadmap for a better integration, sustainability and synergies across the diverse activities taking place in the European coastal zone.</p>
<p><u>COCONET</u></p>	<p>7th Framework Programme COCONET identified groups of putatively interconnected MPAs in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas, shifting from local (single MPA) to regional (Networks of MPAs) and basin (network of networks) scales. The project meant to enhance policies of effective environmental management, also to ascertain if the existing MPAs are sufficient for ecological networking and to suggest how to design further protection schemes based on effective exchanges between protected areas. The coastal focus was widened to off shore and deep sea habitats, comprising them in MPAs Networks. These activities also individuated areas where Offshore Wind Farms might become established, avoiding too sensitive habitats but acting as stepping stones through MPAs. Duration: February 2012 - January 2016 The total project budget was 11 323 365 € https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/706 On the DG MARE MSP platform, Croatia and Greece chose this project as good practice example.</p>
<p><u>ATLAS</u> A Trans-Atlantic Assessment and deep-water ecosystem-based Spatial management plan for Europe CORDIS ID 678760</p>	<p>HORIZON 2020 Lead Partner from UK Total budget: 9.167.816€ Duration June 2016- July 2020</p>
<p><u>ECOPOTENTIAL</u> IMPROVING FUTURE ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS THROUGH EARTH OBSERVATIONS CORDIS ID 641762</p>	<p>HORIZON 2020 Lead Partner from Italy Total budget: 15.993.931€ Duration June 2015- October 2019</p>
<p><u>SeaDataCloud</u> Further developing the pan-European infrastructure for marine and ocean data management</p>	<p>HORIZON 2020 Lead Partner from France Total budget: 9.999.737€ Duration November 2016- October 2020</p>

CORDIS ID 730960	
ADRIPLAN	<p>ADRIPLAN aimed to deliver a commonly-agreed approach to cross-border MSP in the Adriatic-Ionian region, considered as a whole and more specifically through two Focus Areas: (1) Northern Adriatic Sea; (2) Southern Adriatic/Northern Ionian Sea.</p> <p>Duration: January 2013 - January 2015</p> <p>Overall budget: 1.250.000 €</p> <p>EU DG MARE Calls for Proposal under the theme "Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Mediterranean sea and/or the Black Sea</p> <p>https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/289</p> <p>On the DG MARE MSP platform: Greece, Italy and Slovenia chose this project as good practice example.</p>
<u>PROTOMEDEA</u>	<p>The ultimate goal of the project was to design a Marine Protected Area (MPA) network in the study areas (Greece and Cyprus), taking into account the protection of ecological characteristics and Essential Fish Habitats (EFH), significant areas for fisheries, as well as their socio-economic impacts through a participatory bottom-up process. More specifically, the project focused on proposing Marine Protected Area (MPA) networks aiming to achieve the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).</p> <p>Duration: December 2015 - April 2019</p> <p>Overall budget: 600.000 €</p> <p>EU DG MARE call for proposals 2014/41 "Marine protected areas: network(s) for enhancement of sustainable fisheries in the EU Mediterranean waters".</p> <p>On the DG MARE MSP platform, Greece chose this project as good practice example.</p>
<u>SUPREME</u>	<p>The general objective of Supreme project was to support the implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in EU Member States within their marine waters in the Eastern Mediterranean, including the Adriatic, Ionian, Aegean and Levantine Seas and to launch and carry out concrete, cross-border MSP cooperation initiatives between Member States in the Eastern Mediterranean.</p> <p>Duration: January 2017 - December 2018</p> <p>Total project budget was 2.5 Million €</p> <p>Co-funded by the EC – DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) Call for Proposal.</p> <p>https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/1066</p> <p>On the DG MARE MSP platform, Greece, Italy and Slovenia chose this project as good practice example.</p>
<u>PROTOMODEA</u>	<p>The ultimate goal of the project was to design a Marine Protected Area (MPA) network in the study areas (Greece and Cyprus), taking into account the protection of ecological characteristics and Essential Fish Habitats (EFH), significant areas for fisheries, as well as their socio-economic impacts through a participatory bottom-up process. More specifically, the project focused on proposing Marine Protected Area (MPA) networks aiming to achieve the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Within this context, mapping of existing MPAs and EFHs were foreseen, while the development of ECOPATH models in selected MPAs were be considered, using previous and new data, in order to assess the current overall contribution of MPAs in fisheries sustainability.</p> <p>Duration: December 2015 - April 2019</p> <p>Total budget of 600.000 €</p>

	<p>EU DG MARE call for proposals 2014/41 "Marine protected areas: network(s) for enhancement of sustainable fisheries in the EU Mediterranean waters".</p> <p>https://www.msp-platform.eu/node/1075</p>
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Cooperation between Member States and their thematic competent institutions in the eastern Mediterranean sea basin has been promoted through several actions such as the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), where MSP is considered as a relevant issue for the macro-regional strategy.

As it can be observed from the above table the cooperation was strongly developed thanks to different kind of projects: cross-border, transnational, thematic or DG MARE supported ones. Projects funded by other types of funding complete this picture.

Many projects such as THAL-CHOR and THAL CHOR 2, (Cross border cooperation for Marine Spatial Development), ADRIPLAN (ADRIatic Ionian maritime spatial PLANning) or the SUPREME project (Supporting Maritime Spatial Planning in the Eastern Mediterranean) which carried out cross-border initiatives for MSP in the region were mentioned as good practices in the DG MARE MSP platform (<https://www.msp-platform.eu>).

Under this topic, compared to previous years, there is a number of additional projects: three cross border projects, two UNEP MAP projects, four Interreg MED projects, one EEA, one GEF funded project, one nationally Slovene funded project, one ESPON project, two thematic programme funded projects (7th Framework Programme), three DG MARE funded projects, in total 18 additional projects have been listed and described.

Long-term efforts to limit the consequences of potential accidents in the Adriatic Sea have yielded tangible results. The efforts within the EU strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian region EUSAIR in the field of prevention and control of the consequences of accidents or potential pollution in the Adriatic Sea (due to constant growth of ship traffic) have gained momentum. The issues were discussed at the yearly event in Izola in autumn 2022.

Namely, the **ASOSCop** transnational contingency plan in the event of accidents at sea (one of the 4 flagship macro-regional environmental quality pillar projects within EUSAIR) and the approved **NAMIRS project** – North Adriatic Maritime Incident Response System are both good examples of results in this field. The NAMIRS project will officially start in March. The project, strongly supported by the Slovenian Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Municipality of Izola and the EUSAIR Facility Point Izola, received European funds from the DG ECHO through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

In the thematic steering group in the field of environmental quality within the EUSAIR strategy, the activities of the group and the priorities that led to the establishment of four flagship projects were presented. They are about sustainable growth through the implementation of various protocols, protection and monitoring of protected marine species and ecosystems and the development of an effective contingency plan in the field of prevention and management of accidents and potential pollution. The seas within the Adriatic-Ionian region, especially the Adriatic Sea, are of enormous ecological value and are threatened by: pollution, overfishing and the ship transport of dangerous goods. At the same time, the cooperation between all nine EUSAIR countries is extremely good and brings concrete results. The EU-co-financed NAMIRS project represents the culmination of these efforts for common goals related to environmental protection in the region.

NAMIRS represents the political mission and the priorities of the Central European Initiative (Lead partner), among which environmental protection remains top priority for sustainable growth in the 17 CEI Member States. The project is a first step towards a more coordinated cooperation with the EUSAIR structures, and especially with the TSG3, looking forward to further synergies and common activities. It is the first project that is based on EUSAIR Flagship to receive EU funding (European funding from the Union Civil Protection Mechanism), with a budget of 950.000,00 EUR.

The project Kick Off Conference will be organised in Trieste at the end of March, when NAMIRS will be launched, starting its implementation period that will last until February 2024. Its primary goals are enhancing prevention of, and protection from the effects of maritime disasters in the North Adriatic Sea. Among the expected results, The partners of the 950,000 euros worth project are the Italian General Command of the Port Authorities – Coast Guard, Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia, Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, Adriatic Training and Research Centre for Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (ATRAC, Croatia), Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transport Portorož, and National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (OGS) in Italy.

NAMIRS project – North Adriatic Maritime Incident Response System is approved and is Project is based on EUSAIR TSG3 flagship – ASOSCoP, contingency plan in the event of accidents at sea in EUSAIR. Its main goals are:

- prepared Guidelines for the revision and update of the Contingency Plan for the Adriatic Sea
- prepared Standard Operating Procedures, with specific measures and instructions to first responders engaged in a potential coordinated anti-pollution action at transnational level
- Training programme for first responders, which will be tested in simulation exercises at sea

b) TOPIC 2

Development and implementation of Adriatic-Ionian Sub/regional Oil spill contingency plan.

The priority issues were already identified within different project that were financed by different programmes and can be capitalised by the implementation of possible actions within the priority. E.g. of projects: RAMOGEPOL

PROJECT	THEMATIC EU PROGRAMME
<u>GRACE</u> Integrated oil spill response actions and environmental effects CORDIS ID 679266	HORIZON 2020 Lead Partner from Finland Total budget: 5.513.252€ Duration 01/03/2016-31/08/2019

<u>OILBLOCK</u> Immediate Oil Spill containment to mitigate impact on the marine ecosystem CORDIS ID 820633	HORIZON 2020 Lead Partner from Israel Total budget: 3.284.188€ Duration 01/09/2018-31/08/2020
<u>OILY MICROCOSM</u> Mechanistic Microscale Approach to the Microbial Degradation of Oil-Droplets in Subsea Crude Oil Releases CORDIS ID 741799	HORIZON 2020 Lead Partner from Greece Total budget: 176.408€ Duration 01/11/2017-31/01/2020
<u>STREAM</u> Sonar Technology for Remote Environmental Monitoring CORDIS ID 781195	HORIZON 2020 Lead Partner from UK Total budget: 872.524 € Duration 01/08/2017-31/01/2018
<u>ODYSSEA</u> OPERATING A NETWORK OF INTEGRATED OBSERVATORY SYSTEMS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA CORDIS ID 727277	HORIZON 2020 Lead Partner from Greece Total budget: 8.398.716 € Duration 01/06/2018-30/11/2021
@BluePortS	The project aims at mobilising the maritime community to jointly design attractive port based reception/treatment services for polluted water, starting from oil and ballast water. Our goal is to create awareness and motivation to stop discharge at sea using the Atlantic Area as a support platform to prototype, test, demonstrate and communicate via pilot sites and workshops. Interreg Atlantic Sea https://www.atlanticblueports.com

Under this topic there was only one addition compared to previous years. There are in total five Horizon2020 projects and one Interreg project.

c) TOPIC 3

Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems.

PROJECT	TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME
ECONNECT	http://www.econnectproject.eu/cms/ Ecological connectivity Total budget: 3.198.240 € INTERREG ASP 2007-14
ALPGO	INTERREG ASP 2014-20

PROJECT	THEMATIC EU PROGRAMME
DINALP BEAR	https://dinalpbear.eu/home-page-1/ Total budget: 5.987,478 € LIFE Programme, LIFE13
LIFE ARCTOS	http://www.life-arctos.it/home.html Lead partner WWF LIFE+ Nature Programme

Under this topic there were no changes compared to previous years.
There are two projects from transnational cooperation and two from thematic EU programmes.

d) TOPIC 4

Protection and enhancement of natural marine habitats and ecosystems.

PROJECT	THEMATIC EU PROGRAMME
MED IAMER	Med-IAMER was the first maritime project of the MED Programme to apply the strategic goals of the ecosystem-based approach, as introduced and adopted in the Mediterranean region, at the transboundary level. The main aim of the project was to provide recommendations in terms of transnational integrated actions (resulting in a coordinated and integrated evaluation of research on the state of the environment in the Mediterranean) needed to mitigate environmental risks in the Mediterranean Sea. INTERREG MED
<u>MINOUW</u> Science, Technology, and Society Initiative to minimize Unwanted Catches in European Fisheries CORDIS ID 634495	HORIZON 2020 Lead Partner from Spain Total budget : 6.239.622 € Duration 01/03/2015-28/02/2019
<u>DEVOTES</u> DEVELOPMENT Of innovative Tools for understanding marine biodiversity and assessing good Environmental Status CORDIS ID 308392	HORIZON 2020 Lead Partner from Spain Total budget: 12.086.862 € Duration 01/10/2012-30/10/2016
<u>FragClim</u> The Combined Effects of Climatic Warming and Habitat Fragmentation on Biodiversity, Community	<u>ERC GRANT</u> HORIZON 2020 Lead Partner from France Total budget : 1.998.802 € Duration 01/06/2017-30/05/2022

Dynamics and Ecosystem Functioning CORDIS ID 726176	
<u>FishMan</u> Unwanted catches of trawl fisheries: ecosystem effects and advances to an integrated management approach in the Mediterranean CORDIS ID 743545	HORIZON 2020 Lead Partner from Spain Total budget: 170.121€ Duration 01/06/2017-08/08/2020
<u>ABIOMMED</u>	Support coherent and coordinated assessment of biodiversity and measures across Mediterranean for the next 6-year cycle of the MSFD implementation Marine Strategy Framework Directive: Support to the preparation of the next 6-year cycle of implementation "DG ENV/MSFD 2020"
<u>QuietMed2</u>	Joint programme for GES assessment on D11-noise in the Mediterranean Marine Region Marine Strategy Framework Directive – Second Cycle: Implementation of the new GES Decision and Programmes of Measures" – "DG ENV/MSFD 2018 call
<u>MedRegion</u>	Support Mediterranean member states towards implementation of the marine strategy framework directive new GES decision and programmes of measures and contribute to regional/subregional cooperation Marine Strategy Framework Directive – Second Cycle: Implementation of the new GES Decision and Programmes of Measures" – "DG ENV/MSFD 2018 call
<u>MediCis</u>	Support Mediterranean Member States towards coherent and Coordinated Implementation of the second phase of the MSFD Implementation of the Second Cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive: achieving coherent, coordinated and consistent updates of the determinations of Good Environmental Status, initial assessments and environmental targets" - "DG ENV/MSFD Second Cycle
<u>IDEM</u>	Implementation of the MSFD to the deep Mediterranean Sea Implementation of the Second Cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive: achieving coherent, coordinated and consistent updates of the determinations of Good Environmental Status, initial assessments and environmental targets" - "DG ENV/MSFD Second Cycle

<u>QuietMed</u>	<p>Joint programme on noise (D11) for the implementation of the Second Cycle of the MSFD in the Mediterranean Sea)</p> <p>Implementation of the Second Cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive: achieving coherent, coordinated and consistent updates of the determinations of Good Environmental Status, initial assessments and environmental targets" - "DG ENV/MSFD Second Cycle</p>
<u>ActionMed</u>	<p>Action Plans for Integrated Regional Monitoring Programmes, Coordinated Programmes of Measures and Addressing Data and Knowledge Gaps in Mediterranean Sea</p> <p>DG ENV Year 2014 call, Best Practices for actions plans to develop integrated, regional monitoring programmes, coordinated programmes of measures and addressing data and knowledge gaps in coastal and marine waters</p>

Under this topic there was only one addition compared to previous years. There are in total one Interreg project, four Horizon funded projects and seven DG ENVIRONMENT funded projects.

1.3 Future potential projects, the EU Green Deal and EU Missions

It needs to be mentioned that the future projects will have to take into account the EU Green Deal objectives and EU Missions. The latter have been published in September 2021.

The EU Missions are meant to tackle big challenges in health, climate change and environment protection. We will focus on the last two, these will cover the following topics: adapting to climate change, protecting the ocean, seas and waters, living in greener cities and ensuring healthy soil and food.

They are a new tool that includes a set of actions, such as research and innovation projects, policy measures and legislative initiatives. Four of the five EU Missions are relevant for the work of TSG 3:

- Mission n.1: Adaptation to Climate Change: support at least 150 European regions and communities to become climate resilient by 2030;
- **Mission n.3: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030;**
- Mission n.4: 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030;
- Mission n.5: A Soil Deal for Europe: 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030.

Mission n.3 is particularly important for the work in TSG3. The first calls for proposal of Horizon Ocean Missions were launched towards the end of year 2021.

In year 2022, a second wave of calls of the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030", was launched. Its aim is to achieve healthy marine and freshwater ecosystems through research and innovation, citizen engagement and blue investments.

With the 2022 calls that closed at the end of September, the Mission made available €117.9 million for the Work Programme 2022 with further, complementary actions and new research and innovation areas. The three relevant policy objectives within one call were focusing: on marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, preventing and eliminating pollution of oceans, seas and waters and support to sustainable, carbon-neutral and circular blue economy.

Being this Report the closing one, it is worth mentioning that the Work Programme 2021-2022 put special focus on area-based "lighthouse" projects, which should become hubs for the development and deployment of innovative solutions in four major European basins.

1.4 More on Terrestrial habitats and marine and Marine and coastal environment – Ecosystem services and Green Infrastructure

Based on what is presented in the previous section and exploring the possibilities for projects in the Adriatic-Ionian area for TSG3, it is important to keep in sight, apart from habitat preservation, also other aspects that allow eco-sustainable development, such as ecosystem services and green infrastructure.

Ecosystem services are, according to the EC definition, benefits that flow from nature to people. They can be provisioning (e.g. the supply of food, clean air and water and materials), regulating (e.g. water and climate regulation, nutrient cycling, pollination, or the formation of fertile soils), or cultural (e.g. recreation opportunities, or the inspiration we draw from nature). Natural ecosystems are multifunctional – they can provide a wide range of services simultaneously. The range and flow of these benefits depends largely on biodiversity and ecosystem condition. A network of healthy ecosystems often provides cost-effective alternatives to traditional 'grey' infrastructure, offering benefits for EU citizens and biodiversity. This is why the EU promotes the use of nature-based green and blue infrastructure solutions.¹

Ecosystem services and blue infrastructure solutions seem a viable options for Karst landscapes, grasslands, river systems and other common landscapes identified in the EUSAIR Action Plan as being peculiar features of the EUSAIR countries and regions.

As an update, compared to the previous (2021 report), we would like to point out the below issues.

In the era of rapid economic development, priority was given to the so-called "grey infrastructure", which paved the way for various conflicts, soil degradation, loss of water resources and pollution. All this has been exacerbated by climate change, which poses a major threat to life in an area such as the Adriatic-Ionian region, which is highly exposed to floods,

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm

droughts and unpredictable weather. Green infrastructure planning is considered a successful tool for providing environmental, economic and social benefits through natural solutions that can reduce the vulnerability of settlements and improve the ecological status of habitats. Therefore, the inclusion of green infrastructure and its management in development planning is one of the conditions for the successful intersectoral implementation of activities to maintain a healthy and high-quality environment.

A solution for integrating green infrastructure during urban spatial planning was presented at the 7th annual EUSAIR Forum in Tirana in the highly anticipated event entitled "Green Infrastructure and Spatial Planning: E-Learning Courses in the EUSAIR Platform". The event provided a detailed insight into the newly developed learning channel (<http://learningchannel.esp.aimacoregion.eu/>) which is part of the EUSAIR Stakeholder Platform. The Italian region of Marche, in cooperation with the Municipality of Izola and the Italian company ZeroGravità, has developed two e-learning courses on green infrastructure, where the training modules focus on the key concepts of green infrastructure and their role in the modern space. They are primarily intended for decision-making bodies and institutions, both at the national and local level, which are responsible for spatial planning. The courses are also free for anyone who wants to expand their knowledge about green infrastructure and its impact on everyday life. In this regard, the forum event also served as a promotion of the EUSAIR platform and its learning channel as a service for all macro-regional strategies.

"The learning channel was developed on the basis of the "Manual for the identification and planning of green infrastructure", presented at the follow-up event of the 6th EUSAIR Forum in Izola last year. It is a free dynamic virtual environment where brand new ones are released every year courses and where anyone registered in the platform can learn in an interactive way. Since the EUSAIR strategy focuses its efforts on the inclusion of young people and the protection of the environment, the courses can also be a strong starting point for coordinating such efforts.

1.5 Eco-innovation

In October and November 2021, the JZP Izola had a study prepared, as a result of the outsourcing activity from the innovation experts to support the process of coordinating and developing the work of the EUSAIR (TSG3) 3rd Pillar - Environmental Quality in the field of innovation.

In total five best practices dealing with eco innovation and circular economy were identified: two from Slovenia, one from Greece, one from Croatia and one from Italy. Business practices have been analyzed with the same questionnaire along different aspects in order to describe their eco-innovation or circular economy business practice.

More detailed information will be available in the study itself, we are hereby only summarizing the best practice examples.

Country	Company
Greece	Enaleia
Slovenia	Toring Turbine, Clera.One
Croatia	Agena Marin
Italy	nlcomp

The aim of the study was to prepare the grounds for further planning of activities to stimulate eco-innovation and elements of circular economy across the defined flagships in TSG3 (3MSP, ASOSCoP, ICZM & SME and PET HAB ECO).

As an update, compared to the previous (2021 report), we would like to point out the below issues.

In May 2022 the JZP Izola hold a press conference, attended by the EUSAIR Member States based-media, highlighted the most important outcomes of the 7 EUSAIR Forum in Tirana, crowned by the widely accepted "Tirana Declaration", TSG3 Pillar Session at 7th EUSAIR Forum, 17 May 2022, Tirana, Albania: Biodiversity/Marine Protected Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

The Municipality of Izola which acts as a Facility Point for the implementation of environmental quality objectives within the EUSAIR strategy (co-financed by the Interreg Adrion program and the European Commission), representatives of the EUSAIR region governments agreed on all the key topics within the Declaration. Such topics are strengthening regional cooperation and international peace, empowering young people in decision-making, recognizing climate change and environmental degradation as existential threat to Europe and World, further implementation of the flagship projects and recognition of the existing ones, such as the Namirs project – the first EUSAIR flagship project that succeeded to raise funds on the international call, with the support of the EUSAIR TSG3 Pillar.

The main environment-related challenges and solutions for the EU were presented. The first one is the lowest proportion of protected seas of all regional seas in the Mediterranean in the AI region. The second one is the lack of green/blue corridors in correlation to biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. In this regard it was emphasized to recognise Blue Growth, Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and European Green Deal as innovative instruments toward modern, climate neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economies, and also to Europe's energy security. Furthermore the importance of the EUSAIR Environmental Quality pillar session within the Forum was stressed.

KEY OUTCOMES OF THE 2022 EVENTS:

1. Identification of potential areas for future protection in the region and by countries (MPAs, Natura/EMERALD, OECMs...) and plans for improvement of transboundary management effectiveness of existing MPAs.
2. Proposal for establishment of the Action plan at TSG3 level with clear objectives in supporting identification and designation of MPAs, capacity development and networking.
3. Reinforcement of existing national activities of partners/countries in combination with new transnational/macoregional approaches (blue and green) corridors, ecosystem services, charismatic species, interaction with other sectors, climate change process, new partnerships, innovative activities/tools.
4. Extension of existing networks (national MPAs, NATURA 2000 & EMERALD networks) & transboundary management (i.e. EGTC) with possible combination of different legal basis and instruments (i.e., Strait of Bonifacio case / MPAs/NATURA 2000 & EGTCs, SPAMI, PSSA).

5. To achieve long-term conservation goals and at the same time establishing a legal instrument for transboundary MSP in a coherent manner to ensure ecosystem-based management aiming at both biodiversity protection and sustainable economic development.

1.6 Indicators

Compared to the two previous years (2019, 2020 and 2021) there is the need to proceed with the change in the indicators, leaving the methodology based on ESPON indicators integrated in the Programme Macro-regional territorial monitoring tool. The same methodology as in the other countries will be applied, measuring the progress via the number and topic coverage of EU projects.

Previously the ESPON indicators inserted in the ESPON Programme Macro-regional territorial monitoring tool and their observed progress was used. There are hence also significant changes in the description of the topics and of the relevant EU projects.

Projects per Topic/Year	2019	2020	2021
Topic 1: ICZM and MSP	20 projects	24 projects	52 projects
Topic 2: Adriatic-Ionian Sub/regional Oil spill contingency plan.	//	5 projects	6 projects
Topic 3: Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems	Not separated in the same way, only one section for both topics: 4 projects	4 projects	4 projects
Topic 4: Protection and enhancement of natural marine habitats and ecosystems		4 projects	12 projects
Overall number of projects	24 projects	37 projects (35% increase to year before)	74 projects (50% increase compared to year before)

Compared to the report submitted in the previous two years (2019 and 2021), there are many more projects listed under each topic. The main changes are under Topic 1, also due to the insertion of many relevant pieces of information available under the websites on Maritime spatial planning and Sea basin information of DG MARE. This is followed by the additions under Topic 4, where one project from DG MARE good practices has been added and seven

projects from the European Commission DG ENVIRONMENT were added.² All the newly added projects are listed in bold.

1.7 Indicators stemming from the Capacity building

In the period 2020-2022, after the meeting in Athens in year 2019 (where representatives of ESPON Programme were present), the cooperation on Work Package 3 activities increased, the cooperation between Pillar experts on Monitoring & Evaluation, under the coordination of LKN Analysis from Greece (company in charge of coordination) started taking place.

This led to a **harmonization of the outputs** (Knowledge base for all Pillars, SWOTs, Annual monitoring reports, indicators).

1.7.1 Indicators- initial considerations

Quantitative indicators used are based on the ESPON studies and the selection made for the ESPON online monitoring tool for the next programming period (work in years 2018-2019)

- There were no quality indicators selected
- The main difficulty was the **lack of datasets** for the IPA countries as well as the differences in the monitoring between EU Member States and IPA countries – this has been partly overcome with the help of the countries and collaboration of ESPON
- The indicators can be grouped as follows:

- 1) Thematic indicators (related to TSG3) and Context indicators (from ESPON)
- 2) Result indicators, related to Flagships
- 3) Indicators related to Flagships
- 4) Indicators of management

Some further specific considerations can be found in the next four dedicated sub-chapters.

1.7.2 Thematic indicators (related to TSG3) and Context indicators (from ESPON)

The ESPON indicators, related to Pillar 3 are:

a) TOPIC 1 – THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Related more specifically to Pollution of the sea

Indicator 1- Major spill incidents

Indicator 2 Surface of marine ecologically important areas

b) TOPIC 2 – TRANSNATIONAL TERRESTRIAL HABITATS AND BIODIVERSITY

Indicator 1 – Surface of terrestrial protected areas

Indicator 2 – Forest fires

Indicator 3 – Environmental impact of climate change.

² https://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/projects/index_en.htm

After the meeting in Greece, in year 2019, the relevant pieces of information were transferred to ESPON Programme for the inclusion in the »European and Macro-Regional Territorial Monitoring Tool «.

For TSG 3, 26 additional indicators were identified:

13 to address the issue of environmental quality, with respect to marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems in the Region

1 to address the issue of capacity building – Governance in Environment related issues

5 to address cross-cutting aspects - and deal with Innovation related issues

8 to address horizontal aspects – and deal with Climate change related issues

1.7.3 Result indicators, related to Flagships

The proposed indicators, stemming from the cooperation with the other TSGs, under the coordination of LKN Analysis from Greece (company in charge of coordination), are the following:

- Verifying the investments in the projects related to Pillar 3 of EUSAIR;
- Related to stable networks of cooperation in the field of Pillar 3 topics in EUSAIR;
- Innovation

The below table resumes the result indicators, related to Flagships.

Pillar	Overall Objective	Specific Objective	Indicator
<u>27</u>	<u>TSG 3 agreed priorities to be included in the 2021-2027 Partnership Agreement of the four EU member states and in the IPA programming</u>	Promotion of sustainable growth of the AI region by implementing ICZM and MSP also to contribute Common Regional Framework (CRF) on ICZM of Barcelona convention and the monitoring and management of marine protected area.	Inclusion of CRF on ICZM and MSP with monitoring and management of marine protected areas as priority action in the documents of programming period 2021-2028
<u>28</u>	<u>TSG 3 agreed priorities to be included in the 2021-2027 Partnership Agreement of the four EU member states and in the IPA programming</u>	Development and implementation of Adriatic-Ionian Sub/regional Oil spill contingency plan	Inclusion of implementation of Adriatic-Ionian Sub/regional Oil spill contingency plan in the documents of programming period 2021-2028
<u>29</u>	<u>TSG 3 agreed priorities to be included in the 2021-2027 Partnership Agreement of the four EU member states and in the IPA programming</u>	Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems	Inclusion of Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems in the documents of programming period 2021-2028

1.7.4 Indicators of management

The proposed indicators for the management of the EUSAIR were proposed in the EUSAIR Pillar 1 Report on Monitoring and Evaluation in the EUSAIR Framework for monitoring and evaluation from LKN Analysis from Greece (company in charge of coordination).

Two indicators are to be mentioned:

- Presence in the TSG3 meetings;
- Number of project ideas generated in the TSGs

In almost five years of operation, the TSG3 and the JZP Izola has organized 170 meetings and events and 10 financial dialogues with tenderers of European funds in order to direct these funds to the implementation of content. On this basis, 11 major macro-regional projects have been established. The flagship project ASOSCoP – a regional action plan for oil spills or similar accidents. It is a complex plan that envisages coordinated action by the EUSAIR Member States and consists of various analyses, simulations of actions, stakeholder training and the purchase of equipment. The follow-up project, the NAMIRS project was funded from DG ECHO. The NAMIRS project is implementing a flagship project in the northern Adriatic. This is the crown of many years of hard work of the JZP Izola, the Municipality of Izola and all partners of the Izola Facility Point, which is co-financed by the Interreg ADRION program.

The indicators of management hence show a full achievement of the foreseen work.

1.7.5 Common indicators for all Pillars

The common indicators for all Pillars are those who could measure the joint impact of implementing EUSAIR as a consequence of cooperation between the Pillars

The proposed indicators, stemming from the cooperation with the other Pillars, under the coordination of LKN Analysis from Greece (company in charge of coordination), are the following:

- a) Innovation
- b) Cumulated level of employment
- c) Transnational networks

An evaluation of the above indicators for all EUSAIR Pillars could lead to integrate the values on the joint level of the whole EUSAIR.

The socio-economic indicators that can be used for monitoring of the Adriatic-Ionian region include indicators prepared by LKN Analysis, for the monitoring and evaluation of the whole EUSAIR strategy

- Population
- GDP per capita
- Level of employment
- Level of unemployment
- Level of unemployment for youth
- Number/percentage of population at risk of poverty
- Index of human development.

These were taken in consideration working on several topics of the different TSGs.

1.8 Results of online questionnaires for Interreg Managing Authorities and authorities in charge of national and regional operational programmes

In early 2021 a questionnaire on the knowledge of EUSAIR Flagship projects and their inclusion in Interreg and national/regional operational programs was carried by JZP Izola. The results were included in the 2021 report, and a new one covering 2022 was carried out at the end of year 2022.

The main objective: It is to be noted that the questionnaire was carried out to check how (and if) Managing authorities include Flagship projects of TSG3 in Interreg programs and regional programs for project financing.

The focus is more on the **comparison between the two sessions of questionnaires**.

Example 1

- Question: *Please insert your country of origin and the name of the institution / organisation you work for*

YEAR 2021

greece	3	24%	24%
italy	4	31%	55%
croatia	2	15%	70%
bosnia	1	7,5%	77,5%
montenegro	1	7,5%	85%
slovenia	1	7,5%	92,5%
france	1	7,5%	100%

YEAR 2022

greece	7	47%	47%
italy	1	7%	53%
croatia	4	20%	73%

There was a wider representation of EUSAIR countries in the past (7 in 2021, 3 in 2022). The representative from France is Interreg MED Programme whose Managing Authority is based in France. Interreg MED covers also EUSAIR countries.

In 2021, the participants came from different fields: 23% (3 participants) from the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology of their country, one person from the Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministeri - Dipartimento della Protezione Civile, one from the Directorate for European Integration, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs matters come from 15% (2 participants) of the participants, from the Office for European Integration also 15%, one person is from the municipal administration of Regione Puglia, the rest come from the Interreg joint secretariat with 23% (3 participants).

The participants of the 2022 survey are coming: one person each from ENOROS Consulting Ltd, the Sector for Cohesion Policies of Italy, the Administrative Authority of the Regional Operational Program of the Region of Western Macedonia, the Administrative Authority of

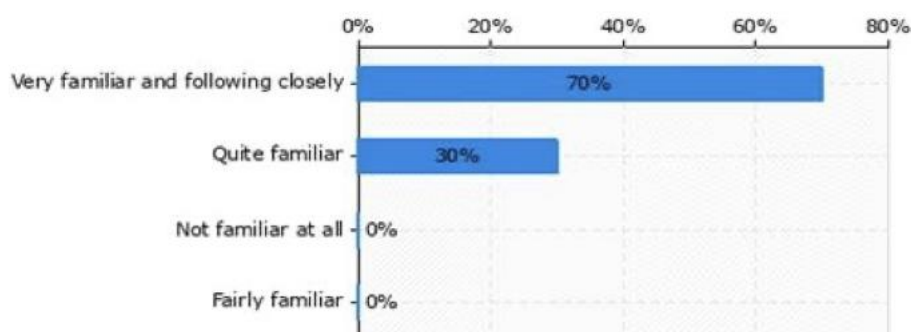
Transport Management, two persons (13%) come from the Administrative Authority of the Regional Operational Program of the Region of Western Greece and two people (13%) from the Ministry of Environment and Energy and three people (19%) come from the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds.

There was a similar representation despite lower number of participants.

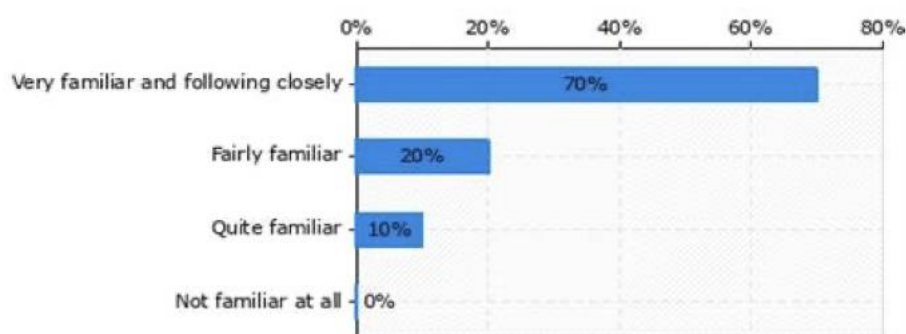
Example 2

- Question: *How familiar are you with the EUSAIR macro-regional strategy?*

YEAR 2021



YEAR 2022

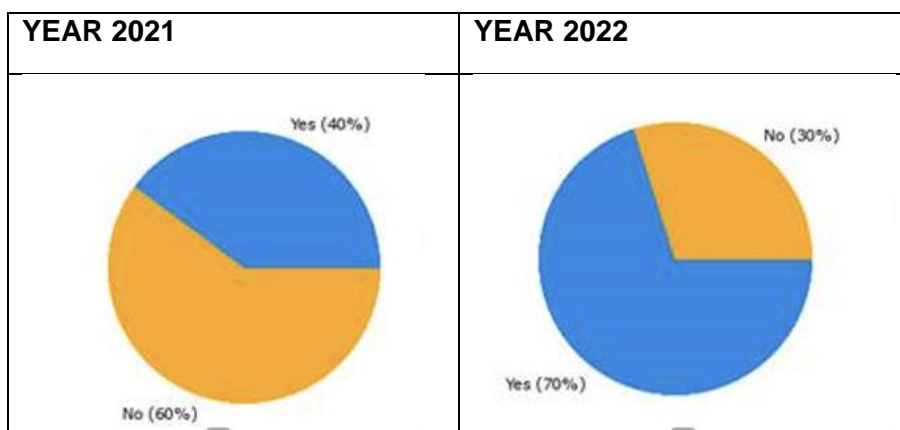


Already in 2021, more than half of the participants (64%) of the 2021 survey were well aware of the EUSAIR macro-regional strategy. Compared to the 2022 survey, even more participants (70%) now know the strategy well. 9% did not know the field as a whole in 2021. The results of the 2022 survey show that no one chose this answer, so it follows that all participants now know the strategy.

In 2021, they were followed by 27% of participants who confirmed that they were quite familiar with the field (Quite familiar), and in the 2022 survey, only 10% of participants chose the answer that they were quite familiar with the field. In 2021, none of the participants chose the answer that they are fairly familiar with the field (Fairly familiar), but in 2022 it increases to 20% of participants who say that they are now fairly familiar with the field.

Example 3

- Question: *Have you inserted any of the following TSG3 Flagship projects when programming the funds for the 2021-27 period?*



More than half of the 2022 respondents, with 70%, answered that they had already considered TSG3 Flagship projects in the programming for the period 2021-27 funds. For comparison: in the 2021 survey, only 36% of participants answered this way.

30% of survey participants in 2022 answered that they did not do this during the period; for comparison: in the 2021 survey, however, more than half (64%) responded that they had not yet considered any TSG3 Flagship projects into the 2021-27 programming.

From both the above descriptions, it can be deduced that the knowledge and uptake of Flagship projects increased significantly during this period.

2. OVERVIEW ON EVENTS AND NETWORKING POSSIBILITIES

2.1 Events organized and coordinated by JZP Izola

Key achievements and main outcomes from October 2021:

EVENTS:

- TSG3 meeting with quorum on 26. October 2021, On-line
- TSG3 and TSG1 Workshop: "What can EUSAIR do to enable the blue and green sustainable growth in EUSAIR: MSP in EUSAIR state of the art", 9 November 2021 (Izola, Slovenia - online) as part of Mediterranean Coast and Macroregional Strategies Week

Pillar active participation at other events:

- Mediterranean Coast and MRS Week 2021, Communication quantity for environmental quality in EUSAIR, 23 November 2021, online
- Re-Routing Tourism Aiming at Sustainable Green Macoregion, EUSAIR Stakeholder Conference 2021, Rovinj (Croatia), 25 November 2021.
- ADRION annual and capitalisation event "Together for a resilient Adriatic-Ionian Region", 7 December 2021, online

Key achievements and main outcomes from March 2022:

EVENTS:

- TSG3 meeting with quorum on 22. March 2022, On-line

Pillar participation at other events/meetings:

- 2nd Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, 24-25 March 2022, Istanbul Turkey
- All Round Table on National Parks in the Adriatic Ionian region as a driver of sustainable development, 29 March 2022, on-line
- Project NAMIRS Kick-of Press conference, 31 March 2022, Trieste, Italy
- Cooperation in future activities between EUSAIR Pillar 3 and Barcelona Convention, 11-12 April 2022, Split Croatia, Meeting with PAP/RAC and TSG3 Coordinators
- Promoting Eco-Connectivity in the Adriatic and Ionian macro-region, 05-06 August 2022, Žabljak, Montenegro

TSG3 – ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STRATEGIC PROJECTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Title of the flagship/masterplan	Acronym	State Of Art
Botanical Gardens as Biodiversity Shelters and Nurseries	Bio-Shelters	Under development
Renewal of the adaptation of coppice forests in a drastically changing environment	FOREST READAPT	Under development
Secure diversity through a holistic approach for the most threatened Mediterranean conifer ecosystems: combining genetic, physiology, biodiversity indexes, germination and restoration	SEC-DIV-CONIFERS	Under development
Towards the reduction of marine pollution, long- term in-situ conservation of threatened species and improving the marine environments in the Adriatic-Ionian region	S.H.A.R.K.	Under development, not yet approved by TSG
Empowering MPAs across the Adriatic-Ionian region	EMAAIR	Under development, not yet approved by TSG

WORK AHEAD - Plan for 2023

- Further involvement with the MCSD and Barcelona Convention
- Involvement of Youth - local and international events for Coastal planning
- Biodiversity/Marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction
- Mid November 2022 - Next TSG3 Meeting
- December 2022: TSG3 Workshop on the preparation of the Action Plan for biodiversity and marine protection with special reference to the possible establishment of a protected area in the part of the Adriatic Sea belonging to BiH
- Februar 2023: Round table on the potentials of EUSAIR countries for the establishment and improvement of the Circular Economy system
- April 2023: A workshop on the development of a Contingency Plan for the middle and southern part of the Adriatic Sea
- Further involvement with the MCSD and Barcelona Convention
- Involvement of Youth - local and international events for Coastal planning

Important from content point of view:

Mediterranean Coast and Macroeconomic strategies Week 2022 was held from 19. to 23. September 2022 in Izola, Slovenia. The focus was on the 4 macro-regional strategies (EUSAIR, EUSBSR, EUSDR, EUSALP), 8 Events/workshops/meetings were held. 15 Countries were represented (Slovenia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, San Marino, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Austria, Slovakia), there were 150 participants at all events (70 at the Official opening).

EUSAIR TSG 3 Workshop: "How to progress from TSG 3 Flagships towards EUSAIR macro-regional in the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021-2027"

It took place in Manzioli Palace, Izola on the 22 September 2022. The meeting began with the presentation of the main achievements of EUSAIR and the main points of the upcoming revision of the EUSAIR Action Plan made by the European Commission.

It was pointed out that EUSAIR Pillar 3 quickly integrated cross-pillar cooperation with the other three EUSAIR pillars which resulted in including Environmental Quality as a horizontal principle for all pillar of the EUSAIR which is also mirrored in the European Green Deal. It was underlined that there is a need of projects like NAMIRS for better preparedness and projects like PET HAB ECO to protect natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems from the consequences of climate change. It was explained that the revision of the EUSAIR Action Plan and communication are still under evaluation but the aim is that the work of the environmental quality pillar remains central as the priority is to make the Adriatic-Ionian region more resilient, more sustainable and greener.

In addition, the importance of further support of Ministers in implementation of EUSAIR strategy was emphasized, which is very important for non-EU countries. The case of NAMIRS project was discussed, as it is the first time that a TSG received additional funding for one flagship. This is the concrete implementation in practice of the embedding project by the TSG3 and supporting structure from the Municipality of Izola. was emphasized

Joint cross-pillar project TSG3 and TSG1.

After the discussion, the main point of integration of the draft were:

- The project activities must represent also the importance of local actions and consider the bottom up approach, which was already included in the mono-pillar strategic project.
- The project must include the modular possibility of implementation, since the project itself is very complex and includes a huge area for one source of funding. The modularity of the project will allow, through the embedding process, to implement the project with different source of funding (multifunding).
- It must include one or several pilot activity areas to test the management of the new (transboundary) protected area in order to gain best experience and find the most appropriate solution for management of such protected areas.
- The project must be integrated with the Work package of climate change adaptation activities for EUSAIR.

Info on MSPMED Flagship project

The work of the MSPMED project was presented in the event and discussed in a Bilateral project meeting between Italy-Slovenia. The mentioned bilateral meeting was also part of the programme of the Mediterranean Coast and Macro Regional Strategies Week 2022.

Info on EGTC, interesting for TSG 3 topics and projects

The Opportunities of the European Group for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) for an effective tool for Cross-border Management of marine protected areas was presented at the event. The study: *Analysis of the legal basis for the establishment and further development of marine protected areas in the EUSAIR, with particular emphasis on transboundary marine protected areas*, which is available on the EUSAIR web page at the following link: <https://www.adriatic-ionician.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/EUSAIR-STUDY-FINAL-15.12.2021v.3.pdf> was presented in details.

The following possibilities to manage the transboundary protected areas beyond the territorial seas came to be presented:

- Expand the Natura 2000,
- Implementation a transboundary SPAMIs areas,
- ACCOBAMS implementation,
- PSSa implementation,

It was debated that the EGTC- European Group of Territorial Cooperation can represent the effective tool for transboundary management of protected areas in Adriatic- Ionian seas. In this regard the implementation of economic zones from the EU member states represents an opportunity, since this kind of extension, extends also the EU protection law to the high seas. In particular, the Natura 2000 areas and other areas.

Some concrete experience from the implementation of EGTC between the transboundary area of Gorizia in Italy and Nova Gorica in Slovenia. The EGTC includes 3 municipalities, one in Italy (Gorizia) and two in Slovenia (Municipality of Nova Gorica and the Municipality of Šempeter-Vrtojba) were shared.

The Gorizia/Nova Gorica/Šempeter-Vrtojba EGTC received direct financing from the Interreg Italy-Slovenia with the EU tool foreseen in the EU regulation, so called ITI- Integrated territorial investments. This tool has been designed to implement territorial strategies in an integrated way. It allows to draw on funding from several priority axes of one or more Operational Programmes. She presented two projects: HELATH (SALUTE- ZDRAVSTVO) and ISONZO – SOCA project. Each of the project has received 5 MIO EUR of co- financing from the Interreg Italy-Slovenia programme 2014-2020. The continuation of the two projects are foreseen also in the next programming period. The main positive effect of the EGTC experience in the area are: cross-border works, being able to choose the most appropriate law, Open-mindedness, strategic development of the borderless area, the implementation is not linked to the national authorities and politics. The identified weak points are: different and /or incompatible laws in some cases, double bureaucratic work, the barrier of the language and a lot of translation, financial dependence on the project co-financing.

Cooperation within Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

The representatives of PAP/RAC in Split, presented the importance of the climate change adaptation of the coastal zones in EUSAIR. The preparation of coastal adaptation plans follows the ICZM process. PAP/RAC can provide assistance and support local communities and regional authorities in planning of coastal zones in line with the best experience in climate adaptation. They produced several handbooks and videos on adaptation measures, which are available on their web site: <http://iczmplatform.org/search?category=4&from=library>. Examples of MSP in the EUSAIR were presented and the MSP Workspace as a platform to assist planners and stakeholders when preparing MSPs. Some major results from the CAMP Bosnia and Herzegovina were elaborated as well. One of the main points to take notice from his presentation is the integration of the hinterland in the touristic products in order to deviate the touristic flow from the narrow coastal belt. The actions must be undertaken not only for environmental reasons, but also socio-economic reasons.

Info on PET HAB ECO Flagship project

The draft of the mono-pillar project implementing the PET HAB ECO flagship: Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems was presented. After the presentation there was a guided discussion, during which the following points were raised:

- A need to clarify the aim of the monitoring and collecting data. What is the purpose of the collection of data? (For example: one of the reasons for collecting the data can be for spatial planning purpose, a layer to be integrated in the existing database in order to be overlapping with the corridors of animals.)
- Integrating the project in Interreg Euro-MED community.
- Contact the national contact points in order to gain data about past project. Useful to contact also technical secretariat of the programme as they have data about past projects.

The point will be taken into account in further development of the mono-pillar project proposal PET HAB ECO.

Conclusions on Flagships, interpillar cooperation, Facility point Contribution:

The main conclusions are grouped, in line with the above treated topics.

1. For further development of the Joint cross-pillar project TSG3 and TSG1 the expert should follow these recommendations:
 - The project activities must represent also the importance of local actions and consider the bottom up approach, which was already included in the mono-pillar strategic project.
 - The project must include the modular possibility of implementation, since the project itself is very complex and includes a huge area for one source of funding. The modularity of the project will allow, through the embedding process, to implement the project with different source of funding (multifunding).

- It must include one or several pilot activity areas to test the management of the new (transboundary) protected area in order to gain best experience and find the most appropriate solution for management of such protected areas.
 - The project must be integrated with the Work package of climate change adaptation activities for EUSAIR
2. The EGTC- European Group of Territorial Cooperation can represent the effective tool for transboundary management of protected areas in Adriatic- Ionian seas. The other possibilities to manage the transboundary protected areas beyond the territorial seas are:
- expenditure of the Natura 2000 area,
 - Implementation a transboundary SPAMIs areas,
 - ACCOBAMS implementation,
 - PSSa implementation.
3. Main positive effect of the EGTC experience in the area are:
- cross-border works,
 - being able to choose the most appropriate law,
 - Open-mindedness,
 - strategic development of the borderless area,
 - the implementation is not linked to the national authorities and politics.
- The weak points are:
- different and /or incompatible laws in some cases,
 - double bureaucratic work,
 - the barrier of the language and a lot of translation,
 - financial dependence on the project co-financing.
4. To address the climate change adaptation of the costal zones in EUSAIR one of the crucial actions to undertake is integration of the hinterland in the touristic products in order to deviate the touristic flow. The actions should be taken not only for environmental reasons, but also socio-economic reasons.
5. For further development of the mono-pillar project implementing the PET HAB ECO flagship following recommendations were given:
- A need to clarify the aim of the monitoring and collecting data. What is the purpose of the collection of data? (For example: one of the reasons for collecting the data can be for spatial planning purpose, a layer to be integrated in the existing database in order to be overlapping with the corridors of animals).
 - Integrating the project in Interreg Euro-MED community.
 - Contact the national contact points in order to gain data about past project. Useful to contact also technical secretariat of the programme as they have data about past projects.

2.2 MSP - key actors and networking possibilities

Stemming from the info collected by DG MARE, the following actors could be interesting for more intense networking and exchanges.

2.2.1 Transnational, Non-sectorial Organisations & Policies Mediterranean Sea

There are six relevant organizations. These are actors with whom the TSG 3 bodies already cooperate in a number regular activities and EU projects.

Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)	UNEP-MAP Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)	Agency for sustainable Mediterranean cities and territories (AViTeM)
MedPartnership	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)	Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO)

2.2.2 Sector Organisations – Mediterranean Sea

These are actors with whom the TSG 3 bodies already cooperate in a number regular activities and EU projects but could be further involved to boost ecosystem management and other EU Green Deal related projects. There are 5 organizations and guidelines that are interesting.

Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN)	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation	Adriatic Protected Areas Network (AdriaPan) with a specific focus on Eastern Mediterranean
SPAMIs areas in the AI area ((Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean	Cooperation for ACCOBAM (Accord sur la conservation des cétacés de la mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et de la zone Atlantique adjacente/Agreement on the conservation of cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the adjacent Atlantic area) implementation.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A significant step forward has been made in year 2022 to change indicators, in line with the exchanges that occurred to prepare the Capacity .

New topics like ecosystem services, green infrastructure, eco-innovation and circular economy are the potential basis for new projects, taking into account also the EU Green Deal objectives (that were presented already in the 2020 and 2021 reports) and the new EU Missions published at the end of year 2021.

CONCLUSIONS

There was extensive work implemented on monitoring and evaluation in spring, summer and autumn 2022, with the revision of the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Monitoring Report Indicators and discussion on the changes needed for the new Programming period.

Measures to overcome the COVID sanitary crisis conditions have been undertaken and foreseen transnational events have taken place anyhow, mainly online or in hybrid way. The systematic exchange of experience between the actors involved in the Facility Point project WP3 was coordinated by the external experts of the Greek partners, LKN. Further consultations to prepare the Monitoring Capacity Building event, were carried out with the Croatian colleagues, from IRMO.

The work on consolidation of the annual reports and synergies between all contributors from the different countries are very valuable.

Efforts need to be invested in communication and in exchanges that would spread the information about the work done in TSG3 in the EUSAIR MRS.

This report is the third and last one and contains an overview on the indicators, all further activities will be implemented under new projects in the new Programming period.

MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR THIS REPORT

Projects from DG MARE

<https://www.msp-platform.eu>

Projects from DG ENVIRONMENT

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/projects/index_en.htm

ESPON programme website

CORDIS website

General information on the Facility Point project website

<https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/>

A European Green Deal, Striving to be the First Green Continent

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

Horizon 2020 European Green Deal call: results and ambitions for the future

https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/horizon-2020-european-green-deal-call-results-and-ambitions-future-2021-oct-27_en

Commission celebrate results of Horizon 2020 European Green Deal Call: 73 projects selected for €1 billion funding

https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/commission-celebrate-results-horizon-2020-european-green-deal-call-73-projects-selected-eu1-billion-funding-2021-oct-27_en

European Green Deal call hits the ground running

https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/european-green-deal-call-hits-ground-running-2021-oct-19_en

A European Green Deal

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

FP roadmap, focus on year 2021

Conclusions of TSG3-TSG1 meeting on November 9, 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Thematic Steering Group for Pillar 3 – Environmental Quality under the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

Dogodki 2021/ Events in 2021 (<https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/about-eusair/facility-point/fp-project-partner-slovenia-obcina-izola/#tab-id-2>)