



European
Commission

EU STRATEGY FOR THE ADRIATIC AND IONIAN REGION

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) was adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council in 2014, making it the third macro-regional strategy in the EU.

The Strategy encompasses **8 countries** – 4 EU Member States and 4 EU candidate or potential candidate countries – covering an area which is home to **70 million people**:

4 EU Member States: Croatia, Greece, Italy (Abruzzo, Basilicata, Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano/Bozen, Calabria, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lombardia, Marche, Molise, Puglia, Sicilia, Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Umbria, Veneto) and Slovenia

4 non-EU countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia.

The EUSAIR is built on four thematic pillars:

- 1) Blue Growth
- 2) Connecting the Region
- 3) Environmental Quality
- 4) Sustainable Tourism

In addition, there are two cross-cutting issues:

- Research, innovation and SMEs
- Capacity building, including communication

Each pillar addresses the following specific topics:

BLUE GROWTH:

- Blue technologies
- Fisheries and aquaculture
- Maritime and marine governance and services

CONNECTING THE REGION:

- Maritime transport
- Intermodal connections to the hinterland
- Energy networks

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY:

- The marine environment
- Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM:

- Diversified tourism offer
- Sustainable and responsible tourism management



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THE RESULTS ACHIEVED SO FAR

Since its launch in 2014, EUSAIR is taking shape. Initially, work has focused primarily on setting up effective governance structures and cooperation procedures needed to run and move the Strategy forward. By now, participating countries are working towards the promotion of macro-regional measures, projects and processes conducive to the achievement of the Strategy's objectives. To some extent, the Strategy is already contributing to better cooperation and coordination among the countries concerned.

SOME CONCRETE EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- Cooperation with EU countries on issues of common interest within the EUSAIR is helping those Western Balkan countries participating in the Strategy with their EU integration process;
- With the aim of achieving sustainable economic growth which respects the environment, green/blue corridors linking the land with the Adriatic and Ionian Sea have been identified as key areas where strategic projects should be promoted.



DID YOU KNOW:

- There are around 70 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the Adriatic and Ionian area (over 25 in Italian regions and 18 in Greece), representing around 15% of the European UNESCO sites.¹
- Among the top 30 tourism destinations in the EU in 2015, 7 regions are located in the Adriatic and Ionian area: 4 in Italy, 2 in Greece and 1 in Croatia.²
- The Adriatic-Ionian basin – a natural waterway penetrating deep into the EU – offers the cheapest sea route from the Far East via Suez, making travel distance to markets of Central Europe 3 000 km shorter than via northern ports. This provides potential for improved land-sea connectivity and intermodal transportation, increasing the competitiveness of hinterland economies.

MORE INFORMATION

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region:
www.adriatic-ionian.eu/



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1) Source: UNESCO: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>

2) Source: Eurostat: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/8107715/4-07072017-AP-EN.pdf/1270c628-49df-44c0-826b-dbda9ce79961>