# EUSAIR

# ACHIEVEMENTS

# 2018

## Disclaimer

Dear reader,

This report is an opportunity to share EUSAIR's progress and make sure that every stakeholder involved in the process is aware of our ongoing activities.

Promoting sustainable economic and social prosperity in the Adriatic and Ionian region is a cornerstone of EUSAIR's strategy. Growth, job creation, improved attractiveness, competitiveness and ultimately connectivity will all contribute to achieve EUSAIR's strategic goals, while at the same time ensuring that the marine, coastal and hinterland environment is preserved.

The four thematic pillars that are described here are great opportunities to further develop and integrate the Adriatic-Ionian region. As the report shows, several inter- and cross-pillar projects are being developed, with the result that EUSAIR is contributing to a better, more sustainable environment in the region.

Each and everyone of us has a stake in the status and future of the region, so comments and ideas are welcome at: eusair.point.svrk@gov.si.

We look forward to working together,
EUSAIR Facility Point

# WHO WE ARE

The European Union Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) was adopted in 2014, by four EU (Italy, Greece, Croatia, Slovenia) and four non-EU (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia) participating countries and an outreach of 70 million people.

# MAIN GOALS

EUSAIR goal is the promotion of economic growth and social prosperity by improving the region's attractiveness, competitiveness and connectivity. This will benefit all our stakeholders by further integrating the Western Balkan countries and fostering investments in innovation systems, environmental resilience, sustainable transport and capacity building. EUSAIR intends to become a platform where interested parties could meet in order to streamline policy efforts for a more effective governance coordination.

# HOW IT WORKS

Management Structure

> Governing Board – gives directions;
> Thematic Steering Groups – develop the actions needed;
> EUSAIR Facility Point partnership – support the EUSAIR process;
> Facility Point Plus - Capacity building and developing inter-pillar project ideas.

# THEMATIC PILLARS

PILLAR 1:
BLUE GROWTH

PILLAR 2:
CONNECTING THE REGION

PILLAR 3:
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

PILLAR 4:
SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

# MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

## 7th Pillar 1 Meeting, Athens, Greece 07-08/05

> Discussion on "Blue Growth" project ideas and creation of a short list;
> Focus on the importance of the Stakeholder Platform for the visibility, transparency and communication of the EUSAIR activities;
> Establishment of formal cooperation with the BlueMED Initiative through appointment of TSG1 representative.

## 8th Pillar 1 Meeting, Budva, Montenegro 13-14/11

> Discussion on further development of potential projects which are aligned with the TSG1 three main topics:
a) blue technologies: inter-pillar project ideas "Blue Culture" (Pillar 1 and 4) and "WAI-TP" (Pillar 1, 2 and 3);
b) fisheries and aquaculture: mono pillar project idea "ARGOS", mature project proposal "Mussels for Muscles" received letter of recommendation from TSG1;
c) maritime and marine governance and services: inter-pillar project idea "MSP and ICZM" (Pillar 1 and 3);
> Discussion on the priorities for the post 2020 period with the inclusion of the promotion of start-ups to the TSG1 priorities in order to further develop blue labs, careers and economy;
> Presentation of approved projects within ADRION INTERREG V-B Programme related to Pillar 1.

# HIGHLIGHTS

> Selection of project ideas for further development and submission for implementation in the near future;

> Discussion on the priorities of Blue Growth for the post 2020 period;

> Inter-pillar cooperation for the promotion of Blue Growth actions.

# PILLAR 1: BLUE GROWTH

Co-chairs Greece and Montenegro

# PILLAR 2:
## CONNECTING THE REGION

Co-chairs Italy and Serbia

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

### Workshop, Rome, Italy 20/03

> Kick off debate on the idea and vision for a Transport Master Plan for the Adriatic-Ionian (AI) Region.

### 8th Pillar 2 Meeting, Rome, Italy 03-04/05

> Agreement on the vision of the Transport Master Plan for the AI Region as a tool to meet demands for passenger and freight mobility and to connect the area of the Region through interventions based on territorial needs, fostering economic development and cohesion;
> Discussion on a "Master Plan Regarding Energy Infrastructure Needs".

### 9th Pillar 2 Meeting, Belgrade, Serbia 14-15/11

> Monitoring of the open list of labelled projects and measures regarding transport and energy networks;
> Cross-cutting issues for possible endorsement;
> Presentation of priorities, general guidelines and energy-related projects which were or are being evaluated for financing by the European Investment Bank (EIB) in the Western Balkans Region, agreement on the need for further dialogues with financial institutions.

## HIGHLIGHTS

> High degree of participation;

> Engagement of international financial institutions;

> Ongoing discussion on developing the Master Plans of Transport Infrastructures and Energy networks for AI Region;

> Endorsement of the inter-pillar projects agreed: STETAI (Pillar 2-Energy Networks subgroup and Pillar 4), WAI- TP (Pillar 1, 2 and 3); ADRIONCYCLETOUR (Pillar 2-Transport subgroup and Pillar 4).

# PILLAR 3: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Co-chairs Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

### 8th Pillar 3 Meeting, Rome, Italy 20-21/03 and Tirana, Albania 19-20/06

> Four mono-pillar project concepts agreed to be further developed with the support of the EUSAIR Facility Point:
a. Promotion of sustainable growth of the Adriatic-Ionian region by implementing Integrated Coastal Zone Management & Maritime Spatial Planning (ICZM & MSP);
b. Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems (PET HAB ECO);
c. Monitoring and management of marine protected species (3MPS);
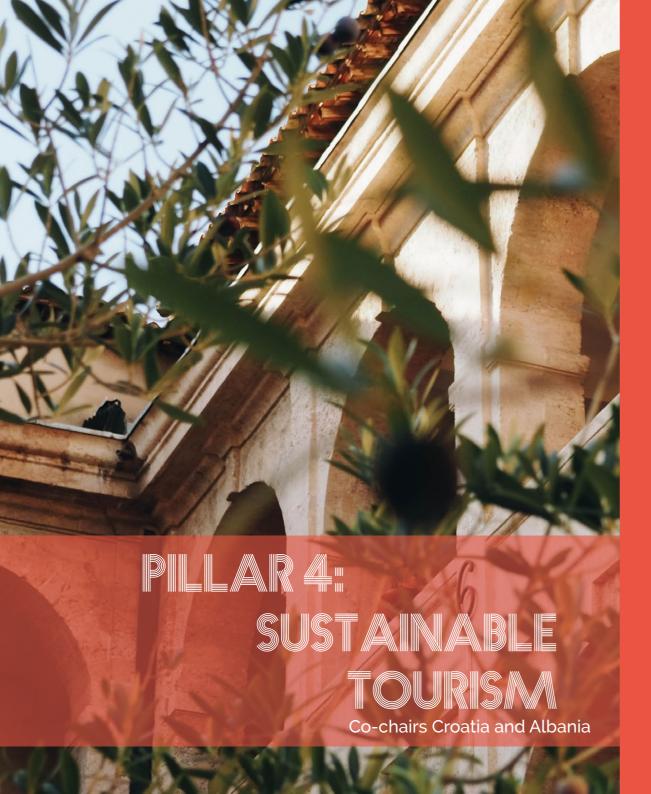d. Adriatic/Ionian Sub/regional Oil spill contingency plan (ASOSCoP).

### 9th Pillar 3 Meeting, Budva, Montenegro 13/11

> Further inputs on transformation of project concepts into bankable projects (mono and inter-pillar projects concepts);
> Start of the monitoring and evaluation process for Pillar 3.

### Workshops, Budva, Montenegro 7-8/05 and Izola, Slovenia 20-21/09

> Dedicated to the revision and development of four project concepts and to discussion of the next steps of inter-pillar project idea development.

## HIGHLIGHTS

> Official recognition of the developed inter-pillar Matrix by the Governing Board, at its 8th meeting on 3-4 October 2018 in Podgorica, Montenegro as official methodological tool for identification and development of possible inter/cross-pillar project idea;

> Two inter-pillar projects ideas agreed: »MSP and ICZM« (Pillar 1 and 3) and »ADRIONet« (Pillar 3 and 4).

# PILLAR 4:
## SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Co-chairs Croatia and Albania

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

### 8th Pillar 4 Meeting, Zagreb, Croatia 19-20/04

> Green mapping as a mono-pillar project concept agreed to be further developed with the support of the EUSAIR Facility Point;
> Established cooperation with different initiatives and projects in the field of sustainable tourism.

### 9th Pillar 4 Meeting, Mali Lošinj, Croatia 13-14/11

> Agreement on creation of Umbrella Ancient Roman Heritage Route and extension of Olive Tree Route in cooperation with the Routes4U project and Council of Europe;
> Presentation of the concept of the first study for the Monitoring and evaluation needs within Pillar 4;
> Workshop on "Cultural Routes of the Olive Tree".

### Workshop, Athens, Greece 30/11

> "Cultural Tourism and Local Identity" was aimed to raise awareness and deepen the cooperation among all stakeholders in Adriatic-Ionian region.

## HIGHLIGHTS

> Awareness raising projects in the field of sustainable tourism enhance the development of cultural routes and help with regional integration;

> Three inter-pillar projects ideas agreed: »ADRIONet« (Pillar 3 and 4), »STETAI « (Pillar 2-Energy subgroup and 4), »Blueculture« (Pillar 1 and 4);

> Cultural Routes contribute to intercultural dialogue and mutual enrichment on macro-regional level. Cooperation established with the Routes4U Project provides support in putting into practice the Cultural Routes programme in the Adriatic-Ionian Region.
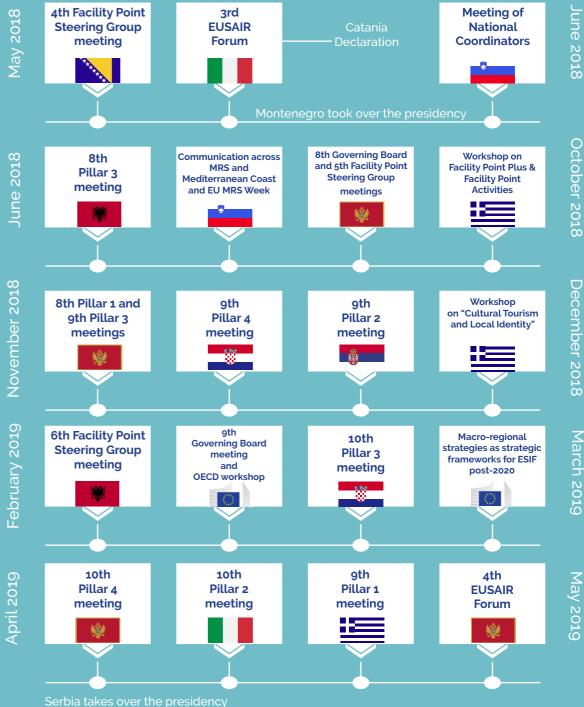
# OPPORTUNITIES

> Create a more engaging and inclusive working environment to ensure that support from some project countries does not fall short, also to assure that quorum for meetings is always met. This would mean also a more effective exchange of information between and amongst EUSAIR TSGs.

> Further enhance the progress and move from mono-pillar to inter-pillar activities, which would imply cross-team efforts, integration of activities and overall implementation of EUSAIR strategy. This goal could be achieved by implementing the stakeholders platform and ensuring a smooth labeling process.

> Greater involvement of European Commission's DGs to ensure the alignment with the strategies and directives at the EU level will boost the growth of the Region through projects and measures really needed.

## OPPORTUNITIES AND PROCESS TIMELINE

**May 2018**

| 4th Facility Point Steering Group meeting | 3rd EUSAIR Forum | Catania Declaration | Meeting of National Coordinators |

Montenegro took over the presidency

**June 2018**

| 8th Pillar 3 meeting | Communication across MRS and Mediterranean Coast and EU MRS Week | 8th Governing Board and 5th Facility Point Steering Group meetings | Workshop on Facility Point Plus & Facility Point Activities |

**November 2018**

| 8th Pillar 1 and 9th Pillar 3 meetings | 9th Pillar 4 meeting | 9th Pillar 2 meeting | Workshop on "Cultural Tourism and Local Identity" |

**February 2019**

| 6th Facility Point Steering Group meeting | 9th Governing Board meeting and OECD workshop | 10th Pillar 3 meeting | Macro-regional strategies as strategic frameworks for ESIF post-2020 |

**April 2019**

| 10th Pillar 4 meeting | 10th Pillar 2 meeting | 9th Pillar 1 meeting | 4th EUSAIR Forum |

Serbia takes over the presidency

June 2018 · October 2018 · December 2018 · March 2019 · May 2019