

Mediterranean coast and macro-regional strategies week

ADRIAPAN

Izola-Isola, 14.-25. September 2020



***EU external dimension:
cooperation in Western Balkans
and the
European Green Deal***

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The Western Balkans are an integral part of Europe and a geostrategic priority for the European Union.

This was re-affirmed in March 2020, when Member States endorsed the new methodology for Enlargement and decided to open accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia.

It is of key importance to the EU to continue fostering the stability and prosperity of this region.



The various services inside the EU are closely cooperating to the macro-regional development for the Western Balkan – i.e. the [DG Research & Innovation](#), [DG NEAR](#) and the [Joint Research Centre](#), especially in the forthcoming [IPA-III programme](#).

A very good sign are the national innovation Fund initiatives that are being developed in Serbia, Montenegro and North Macedonia.



Within the next weeks, the European Commission will present an Economic Investment Plan for the Western Balkans. The Plan will be implemented mostly in the context of [Horizon Europe](#).

It will be based on the “Western Balkans Agenda”, an analysis on Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, Youth and Sport. The Agenda has been outlined, discussed and refined with the stakeholders since early this year.



The Agenda builds on the lessons learnt from the [Horizon 2020 performance Reviews](#), Policy support provided, the [ERA progress monitoring](#), the [ET2020 indicators](#).

This Agenda for the Western Balkans is fully aligned with President von der Leyen's Commission priorities and its ambition for Europe to be a strong global actor, including supporting reforms in its neighbouring areas.



In line with the EU priorities to be set in the upcoming Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, this Agenda aims to contribute to:

1. Stimulating a **sustainable economy** (post COVID-19);
2. Transforming the national research and innovation eco-systems;
3. **Counteracting climate change** and supporting the digital transformation;

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4. **Nature knowledge-based societies;**
5. Enhancing the quality of education and training;
6. Boosting human capital development;
7. Improving mobility and connectivity;
8. Supporting the cultural and creative sectors;
9. Fostering regional cooperation.



This Agenda will require the full support from the EU Member States and Western Balkan partners, in particular via the [Western Balkans Steering Platform](#), creating opportunities to contribute to its design and facilitate its implementation.

During the lifetime of this Agenda, Commissioner [Gabriel](#) will reach out to each partner in the Western Balkans to discuss its progressive implementation.



This Agenda is structured along three axes: 1 - Political, 2 - Regional, 3 – Thematic.

The aim of the Agenda is to contribute to the closer integration of the Western Balkan partners with the new Commission priorities, most notably the [Green Deal](#), [Digital transformation](#) and an [Economy that works for and connects people](#).



What has been done in environmental cooperation

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) is a macro-regional strategy adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council in 2014. The EUSAIR covers 9 countries: 4 EU Member States (Croatia, Greece, Italy, Slovenia) and 5 non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the Republic of North Macedonia).



Interreg 
EUROPEAN UNION

ADRION ADRIATIC-IONIAN

European Regional Development Fund - Instrument for Pre-Accession II Fund

EUSAIR FACILITY POINT 



EU Strategy for the
Adriatic and Ionian Region
Slovenian Presidency 20-21

Slovenian
Presidency
20-21



The Strategy was jointly developed by the Commission and the Adriatic-Ionian Region countries and **stakeholders**, which agreed to work together on the areas of common interest for the benefit of each country and the whole region.

AdriaPAN is among the stakeholders which participates to EUSAIR activities, i.e the Pillar 3 workshops (Environmental quality).





Two topics are identified as pivotal in relation to environmental quality:

- 1 – The marine environment,
- 2 – Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity.

The last TSG 3 EUSAIR meeting took place in September 2019 in Izola (SI) with the goal of further developing the project ideas that are connected to the preservation of the environment, marine protected areas and sea life.



The event held a guided discussion about European Group for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) as effective tool for Cross-border Marine Spatial Planning.

It was concluded that is important:

- to **share multilevel governance on transboundary level,**
- to **be concrete in actions for better quality of life in future on shared coast and sea,**
- to **capitalize what is already achieved and known and use it in further actions.**

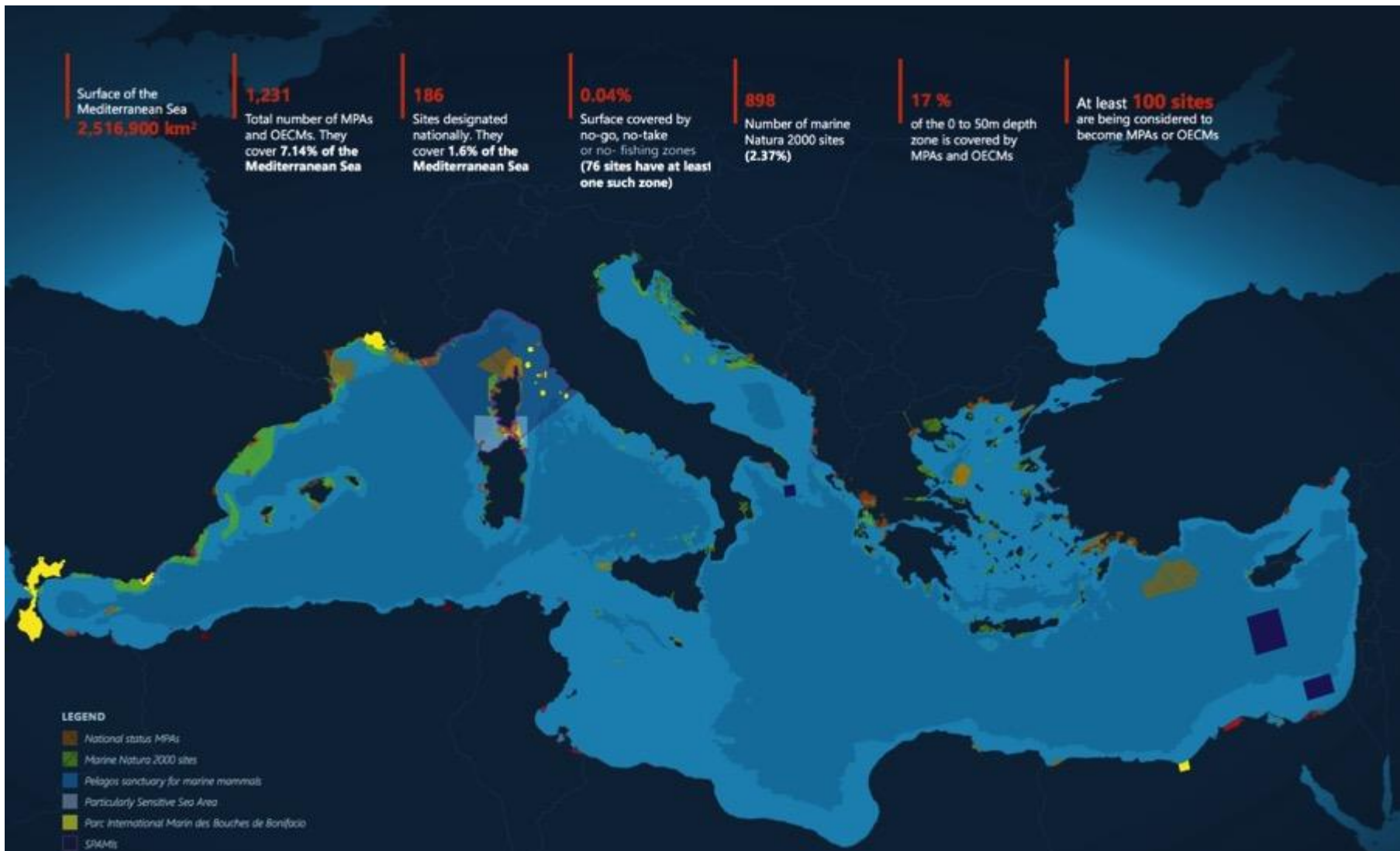


MedPAN

Since 1990, MedPAN is the Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.

The network aims at easing contacts between MPAs, giving them support in management activities. It promotes and implements cooperation programmes and strategies, improving MPAs effectiveness.





Its [“MPA NETWORKS” project](#) has a budget of around 2.7 million euros and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund in the framework of [Interreg Med programme](#) of the European Union.

It is led by MedPAN and gathers 9 other partners - mainly MPA management bodies - in France, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Slovenia, Albania and Spain.



AdrionPAN

The future development of AdriaPAN will be the operational network for Adriatic and Ionian Marine & Coastal PAs, for:

- Mapping PA's capabilities for an → overall better Governance, → Networking, → Sharing opportunities;
- Regulation (and redistribution) of flows;
- Develop and share a charter for sustainable tourism in this area, e.g. also taking into account the ecological footprint of transport to reach tourist destinations and the network's PAs.



For further information:

Statement by President von der Leyen at the joint press conference with President Michel and Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of Croatia, following the EU-Western Balkans Zagreb Summit

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_20_825

A European Green Deal:

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

EC Communication

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication-annex-roadmap_en.pdf

Enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/eu-and-western-balkans_en

EUSAIR Pillar 3 workshop: *how to progress from pillar priorities to macroregional projects?*

<https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/2019/09/23/how-to-progress-from-tsg-3-priorities-towards-eusair-macro-regional-projects-eusair-tsg3-workshop/>

MPA NETWORKS project

https://medpan.org/main_activities/projects/mpa-networks-project/

