

**5<sup>th</sup> EUSAIR**  
Forum

**STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF THE ADRIATIC  
AND IONIAN REGION THROUGH COOPERATION**

28-29 January 2021  
Belgrade, Serbia



## Programme



This event is co-funded by the European Commission

## EUSAIR FORUM - DAY 1 - THURSDAY, 28 JANUARY 2021

<b>9:00 - 9:30</b>	<b>Participants' sign-in</b>
<b>9:30 - 10:30</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Official opening of the Forum</b></p> <p><b>Opening addresses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jadranka Joksimović, Minister of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia, National IPA Coordinator</li> <li>• Elisa Ferreira, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms (video message)</li> <li>• Olivér Várhelyi, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement (video message)</li> <li>• Anže Logar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia</li> <li>• Nikola Dimitrov, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia, National IPA Coordinator</li> </ul> <p><b>Special address</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Nabarro, Special Envoy to the WHO Director-General on COVID-19, Co-Director of the Imperial College Institute of Global Health Innovation at the Imperial College London and Strategic Director of 4SD - Skills, Systems &amp; Synergies for Sustainable Development – how cooperation can help in the post-Covid-19 recovery (video message)</li> </ul>
<b>10:30 – 12:00</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Plenary session</b></p> <p><b>Imagining post-COVID EUSAIR – How to cooperate in the new reality? The twin digital and green transition as a regional response to the Covid-19 crisis</b></p> <p>Countries of Adriatic and Ionian Seas are actively cooperating in many areas and formats but the Covid-19 crisis has had a big impact on our reality. Given the geographic location, tourism and cultural and natural heritage are important pillars of the economy, but the crisis has significantly influenced other sectors as well. The panel will focus on how we can cooperate effectively in the post-pandemic reality. Panellists from different fields will provide their answers on how the cooperation in the region can contribute to minimising the effects of the crisis as well as how to better integrate the twin digital and green transition into EUSAIR. The keynote speaker will reflect on the global trends and challenges for Europe until 2030 and the value of foresight in policy planning. The panellists will discuss how these challenges have been taken on board as the priorities of the new European Commission related to the twin transition in the EU. Has the crisis provided a fresh perspective on the existing challenges and how can we harness the disruption for good? What are the main elements of the legislative package and EU budget which will power the recovery process with investments in a green, digital and resilient Europe? How can cooperation contribute to a long-term transformation of our economies and to more resilient societies? How can macro-regional strategies help in delivering the green deal/agenda when at the same time the countries are faced with economic losses and societal disruptions? What initiatives can be scaled up through the macro-regional framework and how can governments, businesses and communities work together? How can cooperation in innovation help? How can digital solutions help?</p>



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	<p>What are the essential aspects of the circular economy to support the green transition? How can citizens be better involved?</p> <p><b>Introductory Remarks</b></p> <p>Normunds Popen, Deputy Director-General, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission</p> <p><b>Keynote address</b></p> <p>Florence Gaub, Deputy Director, EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), lead author of the ESPAS report Global Trends to 2030: Challenges and Choices for Europe</p> <p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ellie Schlein, Vice President, Emilia Romagna Region, Italy– specific opportunities and challenges in the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region in the context of the green and digital transitions</li> <li>• Gino Sabatini, President of the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce, President of Marche Chamber of Commerce - a business perspective – post-Covid-19 economic recovery and resilience</li> <li>• Ellen MacArthur Foundation representative- Circular economy: a transformative Covid-19 recovery strategy tbc</li> <li>• Ivan Rakonjac, Managing Director of the Innovation Fund.– what makes a successful innovation community, tbc</li> <li>• Wim De Kinderen, Vice-Chair of the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL) – citizens' participation - how can living labs help create better solutions and policy responses to existing challenges</li> </ul> <p><b>Q &amp; A</b></p>
12:00-12:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NETWORKING TIME</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(visit virtual exhibition stands, chat at stands and with other participants)</p>
12:30-13:40	<p><i>The EUSAIR pillar sessions will delve deeper into the aspects of the green and digital economy in the particular sectors. What are the aspects that we need to emphasize in order to be successful in better delivering these results through cooperation? What is the new reality in the sector post-Covid-19 and in relation to the green recovery model? Which initiatives have been undertaken to address the consequences of the pandemic in the sector? Which new green recovery elements should be taken into account for the revision of the action plan? What is the MRS contribution to the alignment with EU policies in the enlargement countries?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parallel sessions</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Session: Blue Growth (Pillar I) - Improving Competitiveness of Fresh Water Aquaculture Production in Adriatic-Ionian Region</b></p> <p>From a blue growth perspective, aquaculture constitutes a strategic sector for future development and holds great potential for countries and communities in the Adriatic-Ionian region. If managed and governed properly, it can provide multiple benefits in terms of food security, employment, and economic development while reducing the dependence on often overexploited wild fishery stocks. However, the growth of aquaculture production poses challenges for the overall sustainability of the sector in the long term and raises concerns from different points of view, such as: governance, spatial planning, economic and market issues, ecological and environmental concerns.</p> <p>In recent years, a number of activities have been undertaken to address these challenges in regional, national, and local level, especially in the marine aquaculture sector. On the other hand, freshwater</p>



12:30-13:40

aquaculture in Adriatic-Ionian Region, due to more or less traditional farming methods combined with a slow growth rate and high production costs, requires further innovative activities and the exchange of best practices to increase efficiency and competitiveness of the sector.

Competitiveness of aquaculture sector nowadays is affected by a crisis caused by the pandemic of COVID-19. While the repercussions for the aquaculture sector are not yet well understood, it appears that liquidity will soon become an issue for many farmers.

The session will be the occasion to present the specificity of aquaculture sectors in the Region, try to give answers on how to improve the sector's competitiveness -mainly through innovation and marketing, as well as how the pandemic has affected aquaculture in the Region and what perspective can be envisaged for the future.

**Moderator:** Milena Krasić, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Montenegro (EUSAIR Pillar 1 – Blue Growth – Deputy Coordinator)

**Panel discussion:**

- Violeta Mihajlovska, Advisor, Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, North Macedonia- specificity of aquaculture in North Macedonia and aspect of the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic;
- Mirko Novaković, Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Serbia- tbc;
- Alessio Bonaldo, Associate Professor, University of Bologna, Italy- tools and Strategies for a Sustainable, Resilient and Innovative European Aquaculture;
- Eleni Kaimakoudi, Researcher, Agricultural Economics Research Institute, Greece - major Marketing Issues in Aquaculture
- DG MARE representative- challenges and opportunities for aquaculture in AI Region/EU strategies and policies to overcome the pandemic in the AI Region

**Conclusions:** Pillar coordinators for Pillar I - Blue Growth

**Q & A**

**Thematic session: Connecting the Region: Energy Networks (Pillar 2) – Energy Networks for a Green Adriatic-Ionian Region**

The Adriatic-Ionian Region should develop a collective ability to transform its energy system and economy towards a more sustainable path. Delivering reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to confront climate change is the challenge. The EUSAIR must be at the forefront of coordinated efforts by its participating countries to achieve environmentally sustainable solutions for the energy transition. Energy systems integration and the harmonised planning and operation of energy networks, new infrastructures as well as actions on energy consumption sectors are the pathway to a green Adriatic-Ionian Region. There are two prongs to this purpose. The first prong is expanding and interconnecting national power systems to create opportunities for large-scale deployment of low-carbon energy sources and grid digitalisation. The second prong is expanding and interconnecting natural gas systems to promote security and availability of natural gas supplies while exploiting opportunities offered by new projects, gas storage and counterflows towards an efficient trading hub as a key element in the energy transition.

**Moderator:** Biljana Ramić, Ministry of Mining and Energy, Serbia

**Panel discussion speakers tbc:**

- Alberto Biancardi, Head, International Relations, GSE, Italy
- Janez Kopač, Director, Energy Community, Vienna
- Elsa Loverdou, International Project Activities, DEPA SA, Greece
- Adam Szolyák, Directorate General of Energy, European Commission, Brussels



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fabio Tambone, Head, International Relations, ARERA, Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment, Italy</li> <li>• Christian Zinglensen, Director, ACER, Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, Ljubljana</li> </ul> <p><b>Q &amp; A</b></p>
13:40-14:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Special session</b></p> <p><b>30 years of Interreg- Good practice cooperation projects in the EUSAIR region and beyond</b>          To celebrate the achievements of Interreg in bringing cross-border communities closer together and introducing new policies and practices through transnational exchanges, this session will showcase testimonials of various projects representatives and their beneficiaries highlighting good cooperation practices. The projects will have their virtual exhibition stand where participants can hear more about their stories.  <b>Narrator:</b> Ivano Magazzu, Interact Programme</p>
14:30- 15:40	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parallel sessions</b></p> <p><b>Thematic session: Connecting the Region: Transport (Pillar 2) -          The impact of Covid-19 on Transport and Mobility in the Adriatic-Ionian Region: current impacts, views and perspectives for the future</b>          The COVID-19 emergency and the lockdowns of cities have had a strong impact on the transport and mobility sector. Travel demand, in particular, registered an unprecedented overall contraction, with some relevant differences by sector and segment: passengers transport has dramatically dropped by 90%-95% in the case of medium and long-haul (intercity) transport; while, freight transport, though declining, has maintained levels close to the pre-crisis ones, due to an increase in urban deliveries and food and pharmaceutical freight distribution. In some cases, the pandemic has been a stimulus for new transport solutions and for improving the performance of the existing transport supply. The future is uncertain about when the pre-crisis demand levels would be resumed and in terms of what could be the impact on transport supply (investments, operators, travel behaviour, etc).          The session will be the occasion to present how the pandemic has affected transport and mobility in the Region and what perspective can be envisaged for the future.  <b>Moderator:</b> Mirjana Jovanovic, Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Serbia (EUSAIR Pillar 2 - Transport - Coordinator)  <b>Panel discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alain Baron, DG MOVE, European Commission - EU strategies and policies to overcome the pandemic in the AI Region</li> <li>• Matej Zakonjeck, Director, Transport Community Treaty Permanent Secretariat - green lanes and current work on its expansion to the EU/WB6 borders</li> <li>• Veljko Kovačević, Assistant Minister for Waterborne Transport, Serbia- tbc</li> <li>• Andrea Mosconi, Forum of the Chambers of Commerce of the AI Region – maritime traffic in the AI region during the pandemic</li> <li>• Giuseppe Siciliano, Gruppoclas, Italy - economic perspectives in the AI Region after the pandemic – tbc</li> </ul> <p><b>Q &amp; A</b></p>



**Thematic Session: Sustainable Tourism (Pillar 4) – new trends in sustainable tourism - what does the modern tourist want?**

Introducing the topic of sustainable tourism and new trends in tourism becomes essential in the time of Covid-19. What does the modern tourist want today? Do we know it? Can we predict it? How to think about the future? Are people eager to travel still? If yes, what are their conditions? What will make them travel again? Why are people travelling, are they seeking to travel or to connect? How can they connect today? What are the expectations of consumers regarding safety, health, high quality innovative tourism products, well managed tourism destinations, connectivity with the local communities? Where does the research begin?

The session will try to give answers to these questions, taking into account and presenting experiences, ideas, new special interest niches, management models and the role of DMO's, communication models, all in line with sustainable and responsible tourism perspective because new rules will apply and new humanization is on the verge.

**Moderator:** Nadine Lakhal, DG Regional & Urban Policy, European Commission

**Opening remarks**

Tonči Glavina, State Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Sport, Croatia

**Introductory remarks**

Ramune Genzbigelyte-Venturi, DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), European Commission

**Keynote address**

Flaminia Santarelli, Director General for Tourism, IMIBACT, Italy

**Panel discussion**

- Panagiota Dionysopoulou, General Director for Tourism Policy, Hellenic Ministry of Tourism - expectations for the supply and services - emphasis on the creation of DMOs and their role for the promotion of thematic tourism/special interest tourism
- Almir Pestek, Professor, University of Sarajevo, School of Economics and Business, Bosnia and Herzegovina - using technology to protect resources (energy, water) - virtual reality and sustainable tourism
- Riccardo Bonnetti, Bella Boka, Montenegro - linking tourism and sustainable water transport, learning from the locals
- Elton Çausi, Founder and owner of Albanian Trip, Albania - participatory tourism - "Bread, salt and a bit of a warm heart, Albania"
- Gordana Plamenac, Danube Competence Centre, Serbia - portrait of the future traveller in the region

**Conclusions:** Tonči Glavina, State Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Sport, Croatia -

**Q and A**

15:40 – 16:10

**NETWORKING TIME**

(visit virtual exhibition stands, chat at stands and with other participants)



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## EUSAIR FORUM DAY 2 – FRIDAY, 29 JANUARY 2021

### Parallel sessions

#### Special session

#### Post-Covid recovery of the Cultural and Creative Industries in the Adriatic-Ionian Region

The cultural and creative sectors have been hit hard by the COVID -19 pandemic as well as by different measures undertaken in response to it. The session will bring together experts from the EUSAIR Region to discuss the current situation and the initiatives undertaken to support the recovery of the sector.

*Organised by the Ministry of Culture and Media and Faculty of Media and Communications, Singidunum University, Serbia*

**Moderator:** Igor Štiks, Professor, Faculty of Media and Communications (FMK), Singidunum University, Serbia

#### Panel discussion

- Peter Purg, Professor, University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia
- Dora Ruždjak Podolski, Intendant of the Dubrovnik Summer Festival, Croatia
- Nihad Kreševljaković, Director of the MESS festival (Sarajevo), Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Sehad Čekić, Director of the Film Center of Montenegro
- Goran Tomka, Assistant Professor, University of Novi Sad and FMK
- Marija Katalinić, Co-Director of the International Association for Visual Culture (IAVC)

#### Q & A

#### Thematic Session: Protecting the Environment (Pillar III) - importance of blue and green infrastructure in light of the new EU biodiversity framework: How to enhance the delivery of essential ecosystem services throughout the Adriatic-Ionian Region?

This session will focus on the importance of blue and green infrastructure in EUSAIR region in light of the new EU Post 2020 biodiversity framework. The Adriatic-Ionian Region has rich biodiversity in comparison to the average European region. All countries of the macro-region provide habitats for Europe's large carnivores, including the grey wolf, the Eurasian lynx and the brown bear. These species require large habitats to sustain viable populations. Therefore, a joint management and the investment in the landscape infrastructure to support green/blue corridors is needed. The alignment of policies and approaches across the region will contribute to the effective management of shared natural resources. The discussion will put a focus on commitments and obligations under national legislation of each country, the EU nature protection acquis and the corresponding multilateral environmental agreements to showcase the delivery of essential ecosystem services in the Adriatic-Ionian Region. The session will feature the presentation of protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems with the aim for developing a regional masterplan for monitoring of large carnivores and planning of green infrastructure for the improvement for natural habitats and terrestrial ecosystems.

**Chair:** Dušan Ognjanović, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia

#### Keynote address:

- Mitja Bricelj, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Coordinator
- Senad Oprašić, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Coordinator

#### Panel discussion

- Klemen Jerina, moderator; Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana - Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats for large carnivores.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duško Čirovič, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade</li> <li>• Karin Zaunberger, Biodiversity Unit, DG ENV, European Commission - tbc</li> </ul> <b>Q &amp; A</b>
12:00-13:15	<p><b>Plenary session</b></p> <p><b>Embedding EUSAIR priorities in the post-2020 funding instruments and support for enlargement</b></p> <p>Much effort has been made within the macro-regional structures to develop jointly agreed thematic priorities which can contribute to better impact of available funds when viewed through a macro-regional perspective. We will see in the example of Slovenia participating in three macro-regional strategies, how a macro-regional outlook can improve programming at national level. The panel will look at the new legal and programming framework for Regional Policy enabling cooperation as well as the opportunities the new ADRION transnational programme will offer as the catalyser of cooperation in the region. The panel will also bring relevant speakers from the side of enlargement countries as well as DG NEAR to present their vision of how the EUSAIR priorities can contribute to IPA III programming. Also, how can a parallel be drawn between the Communication “Enhancing the accession process – A credible EU perspective for the Western Balkans” and the new enlargement methodology which will support projects and programmes contributing to the macro-regional strategy. IPA III will support better performance and implementation. The new economic and investment plan for the WB aims at improving the resilience of the region, modernising the economy and scaling up sustainability actions to reduce climate change. How can the macro-regional framework contribute to improve standards in the enlargement countries and allow for coordinated actions and projects which will be supported through the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans for a more sustainable economy, improved connectivity and digital transformation, better research and innovation ecosystems? How can MRS support the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, envisaged by the European Green Deal and endorsed at the Western Balkan leaders’ Summit in Sofia in November 2020.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ilze Ciganska, Interact Programme</p> <p><b>Keynote address</b></p> <p>Andreja Jerina, EUSAIR National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia — opportunities and challenges for embedding priorities of three MRS into ESIF programmes - perspective of Slovenia</p> <p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Massimo Gerli, EUSAIR National Coordinator, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy - contribution to macro-regional priorities in post-2020: coordination of ERDF programmes-experiences in Italy</li> <li>• Caterina Brancaleoni, Head of Managing Authority of ADRION Programme, Emilia-Romagna Region, Italy - priorities of the Adriatic-Ionian (ADRION) Transnational Programme 2021-2027</li> <li>• Ivano Magazzu, Interact Programme – experiences in cooperation under the European Structural and Investment Funds programmes</li> <li>• Massimo Mina, Strategy and Turkey, MFF, Programming &amp; Evaluation Unit, DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission – new legislative and financial package for the twin transition in enlargement countries, including IPA III programming for 2021-2022</li> <li>• Regional Cooperation Council representative – regional cooperation initiatives in the Western Balkans in the 2021-2027 programming period, tbc</li> <li>• Aleksandra Radinović, Head of Division for Planning and Programming of EU Funds and Development Assistance in Areas of Economic, Infrastructure and Regional Development, Ministry of European Integration, Serbia — Economic and Investment Plan for the WB and its</li> </ul>





	support for the green and digital transition and regional cooperation - perspective of a candidate country
<b>13:15-13:45</b>	<b>NETWORKING TIME</b> (visit virtual exhibition stands, chat at stands and with other participants)
<b>13:45-15:00</b>	<b>Plenary session tbc</b>  <b>Panel discussion</b> Ministers/high level representatives of EUSAIR countries (pillars), Thomas Eckert, Cabinet Expert, DG Regional and Urban Policy, and Genoveva Ruiz Calavera, Director, DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
<b>15:00-15:30</b>	<b>Closing session</b>  <b>Conclusions and closing remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pavle Jankovic, EUSAIR National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Serbia, tbc</li> <li>• Andreja Jerina, EUSAIR National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia</li> <li>• Jean-Pierre Halkin, Head of Unit, DG Regional and Urban Policy</li> </ul>

