



Monitoring and Evaluation in EUSAIR

Macro-regional Capacity Building Event 15th December 2022

"Embedding" process of the Macro-Regional Strategies
from the point of view of the European Commission.

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The MRS EMBEDDING process

Is to align 2021-2027 national/regional EU funding programmes, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and also the centrally managed EU programmes with the relevant MRS priorities



In this presentation...

- 1 Embedding Process of MRS
- 2 Embedding Process at Programme level (Mainstream and Interreg Programmes)
- 3 Embedding Process particularly in Interreg (Transnational and CBC Programmes)
- 4 Embedding Process during the implementation phase (Mainstream and Interreg Programmes)
- 5 Embedding Process at Project level
- 6 Interpillar synergies and projects, Cross MRS Cooperation
- 7 Monitoring and Evaluation of MRS towards EU Integration
- 8 Developing MRS Embedding Procedures, Tools and Projects

2 The new post 2020 legal basis

Embedding Process at Programme level (Mainstream and Interreg Programmes)

Point (d)(v) of Article 22(3) CPR (Reg.(EU) 2021/1060)

2014-2020

- CPR (Article 96(3))
 - ...an OP shall describe the integrated approach to territorial development(..), specifying, **where appropriate**, the following:
 - (d) the arrangements for interregional [and transnational] actions, within the OPs, with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State (Section 4.4)
 - (e) the contribution of the planned interventions under the programme to MRS/SBS strategies (Section 4.5)

2021-2027

- **CPR Article 22 (3)**
 - Each programme shall set out:
 - (a) a summary of main challenges
 - (viii) MRS/SBS
 - (d) **for each specific objective:**
 - (i) related types of action + expected contribution to those SOs and to MRS/SBS, where appropriate
 - (vi) the interregional and transnational actions with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State or outside the Union, where relevant
- **CPR Article 5 and 6:** Thematic Concentration 30% of ERDF and 37% CF to Climate Objectives

Embedding Process at Programme level (Mainstream and Interreg Programmes)

Specific objectives for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (Article 3(4) ERDF – Reg.(EU) 2021/1058): Two cross-cutting priorities

"With regard to the specific objectives set out in paragraph 1, the ERDF or the Cohesion Fund, as appropriate, may also support activities under the **Investment for jobs and growth goal**, where they either:

- (a) and (b) *[capacity-building aspects]*
- (c) enhance cooperation with partners both within and outside a given Member State.

Cooperation referred to in point (c) shall **comprise** cooperation

- with partners from cross-border regions,
- from non-contiguous regions or
- from regions located in the territory covered by a macro-regional or sea-basin strategy or
- a combination thereof."

ETC Reg.(EU) 2021/1059): related, important changes

• Thematic concentration

- **Interreg A, B and D** - At least 60% of ERDF for maximum 3 policy objectives, PO2 compulsory
- **Interreg A on land borders** - At least 60% of ERDF for max 4 POs, PO2 and 4 compulsory
- **Interreg A, B and D** - Up to 20% for “better Interreg governance” and 5% “a safer Europe”
- **Interreg B** - 80% on Macro-Regional Strategy or seas-basin strategy
- Specifics for 4 programmes under **Interreg C**.

Cooperation within the area of a macro-regional or sea-basin strategies

1. 4 EU Macro-regional strategies (MRS):

- Baltic Sea Region (2009) (8 MS + IS + NO)
- Danube Region (2010) (9 MS + BA + ME + RS + UA + MD)
- Adriatic and Ionian Region (2014) (4 MS + AL + BA + ME + MK + RS + SM)
- Alpine Region (2015) (5 MS + CH + FL)

2. 3 Sea-basin strategies (by DG MARE) :

- Atlantic maritime Strategy (2011)
- Western Mediterranean (2017)
- Black Sea (2018)

MRS Embedding

The MRS Embedding process

- It allows a **better use** of the budget available for the implementation of macro-regional projects exploiting the **economies of scale**.
- **Cohesion policy funds and IPA III programmes** located in the Adriatic and Ionian region must ensure that they contribute to the actions and projects arising from the macro-regional strategies (**e.g. EUSAIR Flagships**).

The Embedding process at project level

- **Joint projects:** contributions to a single "pot" to fund a single project..
- **Single project:** Projects implemented in a single Member State contributing to the jointly agreed priorities of a macro-regional and/ or sea-basin strategy
- **Complementary projects:** One programme funds one part and a second one another part.
- **Coordinated projects:** Separate nationally/ regionally implemented projects to achieve commonly agreed joint objectives ("cumulative effect") on the basis of coordinated and if possible synchronised decisions

How to boost the Embedding process at project level?

- Specific selection criteria (e.g. bonus points)
- Earmarking of a dedicated allocation
- Specific calls for cooperation projects
- Ex-ante or ex-post labelling (for communication)

Embedding – many untapped benefits

1. Benefits for the ERDF programmes:

- Sustainable Development of the macro-region or border area
- Bigger impact (more ambitious with tangible results projects)
- Good projects pipeline (better absorption)
- Visibility (political leadership, citizens, EU, etc.)
- Better links to policy-makers

2. Benefits for the macro-regions and border areas:

- Development of the macro-region or border area
- Experience from the programmes (knowledge of the issues)
- Contacts with policy-makers
- Funding

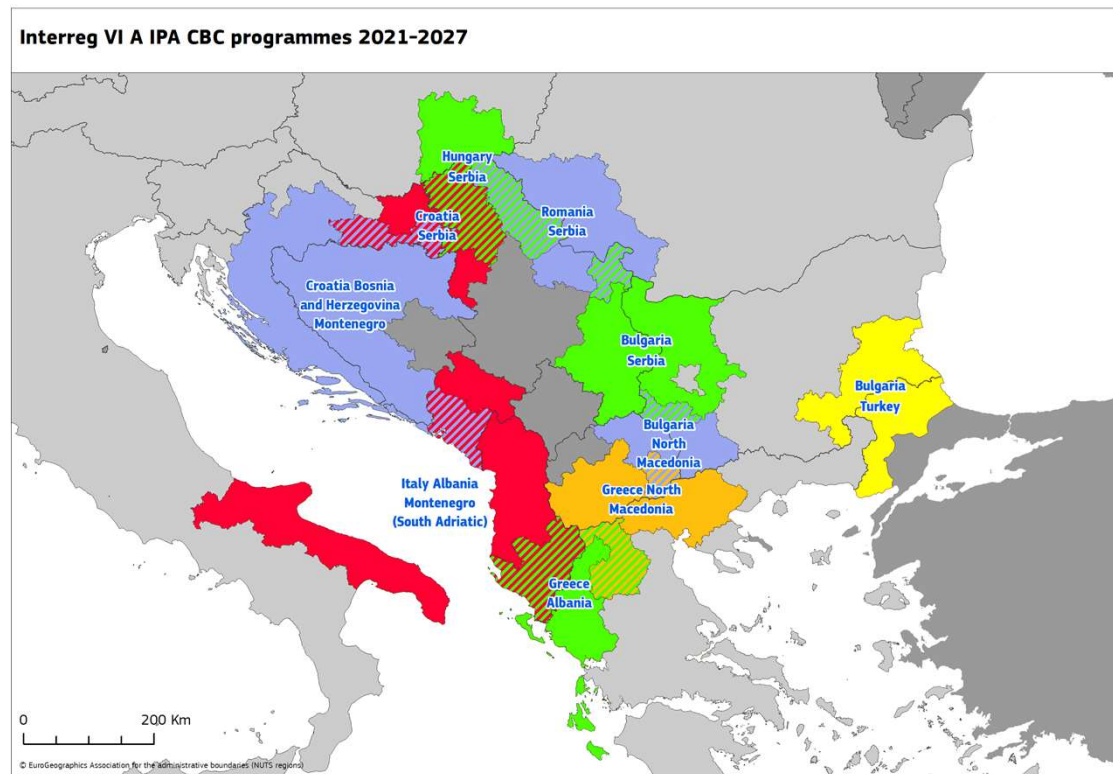
EUSAIR MRS / IPA Adrion and CBC O.P. facilitating the EU Enlargement process of the Western Balkans



Interreg IPA next gen

10 Interreg IPA CBC programmes

- Post 2020 Interreg IPA programmes -> much more « IPA » oriented programmes
- Post 2020 IPA allocation: +6,2% vs 2014-2020 allocation
- For all Interreg IPA CBC, IPA allocation > ERDF allocation



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION of the Western Balkans

The Digital Assembly in Sofia, the European Commission was launching the **Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans**, in June 2018

- Investing in broadband connectivity
- Increasing cybersecurity, trust, and digitalisation of industry
- Strengthening the digital economy and society
- Boosting research and innovation

Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans

The Global Gateway



Implementing **A GREEN AGENDA**

for the
Western Balkans

5 MAIN AREAS

- Decarbonisation: climate, energy, mobility
- Circular economy
- Depollution: air, water & soil
- Sustainable food systems & rural areas
- Biodiversity: protection & restoration of ecosystems

**#GreenAgenda
#WesternBalkans**

Why are EUSAIR and Interreg IPA programmes needed in the region?

1. MRS are forms of territorial governance on a larger scale.

2. EUSAIR and the Interreg IPA programmes can play an important role in bringing stability and fostering EU integration, beyond contributing to growth and jobs in the Region.

3. Currently, the enlargement process has a vertical structure

- Countries climb up from association agreements via the commission's "opinion" ("avis"), through candidate status and onto accession talks, until they reach the very last level: membership.
- EUSAIR could promote a more gradual horizontal EU integration, strengthening the much-needed feeling of ownership of the process, of acceptance and equality.

Why are MRS and Interreg IPA programmes needed in the regions?

1. More cost effective solutions:

- Solving problems together instead of “re-inventing wheels” from country to country, region to region, etc

2. Territorial Governance is the formulation of public policies, programmes and projects for the development of a territory by:

- Coordinating actions of actors and institutions
- Integrating policy sectors
- Mobilising stakeholders participation
- Being adaptive to changing contexts
- Realising place based/territorial specificities and impacts

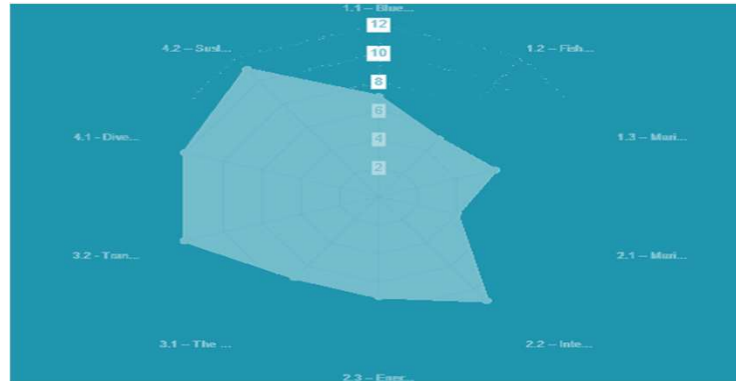
Definition by: “Towards a Better Territorial Governance in Europe”, ESPON, 2014

Embedding – strategic success factors

- **Multilevel cooperation:**
 - **Cohesion Funds (MS)** – MRS governing bodies, Managing Authorities, National Authorities
 - **IPA beneficiaries** – NIPAC, MRS Governing Bodies, EC (mainly REGIO, NEAR and EC Delegations in the region)
- **At MS level, networks of Managing Authorities**
 - **European Council conclusions on the implementation of MRS (3-12-20) CALL** on the establishment of networks of managing authorities to implement macroregional projects in the 2021-2027 programming period.

MRS Monitoring and Evaluation

Important results from the EUSAIR Evaluation,



- Regarding the contribution on EUSAIR Topics in CP 2014-2020, the survey shows that the topics of Pillar 4 and those concerning terrestrial environment of Pillar 3 were included by most of the programmes, while Pillars 1 and 2 seem to have been supported by less programmes.
- The monitoring of relevant projects is highlighting the progress and the dynamics in sectors / thematic areas on topics of high importance but cannot express achievements and effects of the Strategy.
- The majority of ETC Programmes 2021-27 have selected the Interreg Specific Objective on better Cooperation Governance, while few programmes have selected the Policy Objective 5
- ESPON tool compatible with 4 MRS and the CSF data-basis
- Adjustment of Output, result, Impact and Governance indicators//ex-ante, ongoing,ex-post evaluation methodology for monitoring and evaluation systems in 4 MRS PP 2021-27

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND MRS

E.C. Study on MRS to Cohesion Policy

1) Trade and Energy Integration

(Trade relations between the countries of Macro-region, trade partnership with the rest of Europe)

2) Capital Integration

(host countries to FDI and flows from other EU countries and outside EU)

3) Labour Integration

(migration rate, flows, direction and percentages, migration organisations and networks in urban and rural areas)

4) Accessibility potential

(by rail, motorways, air)

INTERREGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS AND MRS

ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

EU Regional Competitiveness index, Regional Innovation Scoreboard, EU digitalisation Index.

EDUCATION

Share of early school leavers and share of population having completed tertiary education, Education places

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Business population growth, SMEs share of total value added

TRANSPORT

Completion of Trans-European Network, air, rail and ports infrastructure, Logistics and multimodal transportation hubs

In particular maritime transport (of goods, passengers, cruise ships, yachts, harmonization of port procedures) is macroregionally relevant

ENERGY

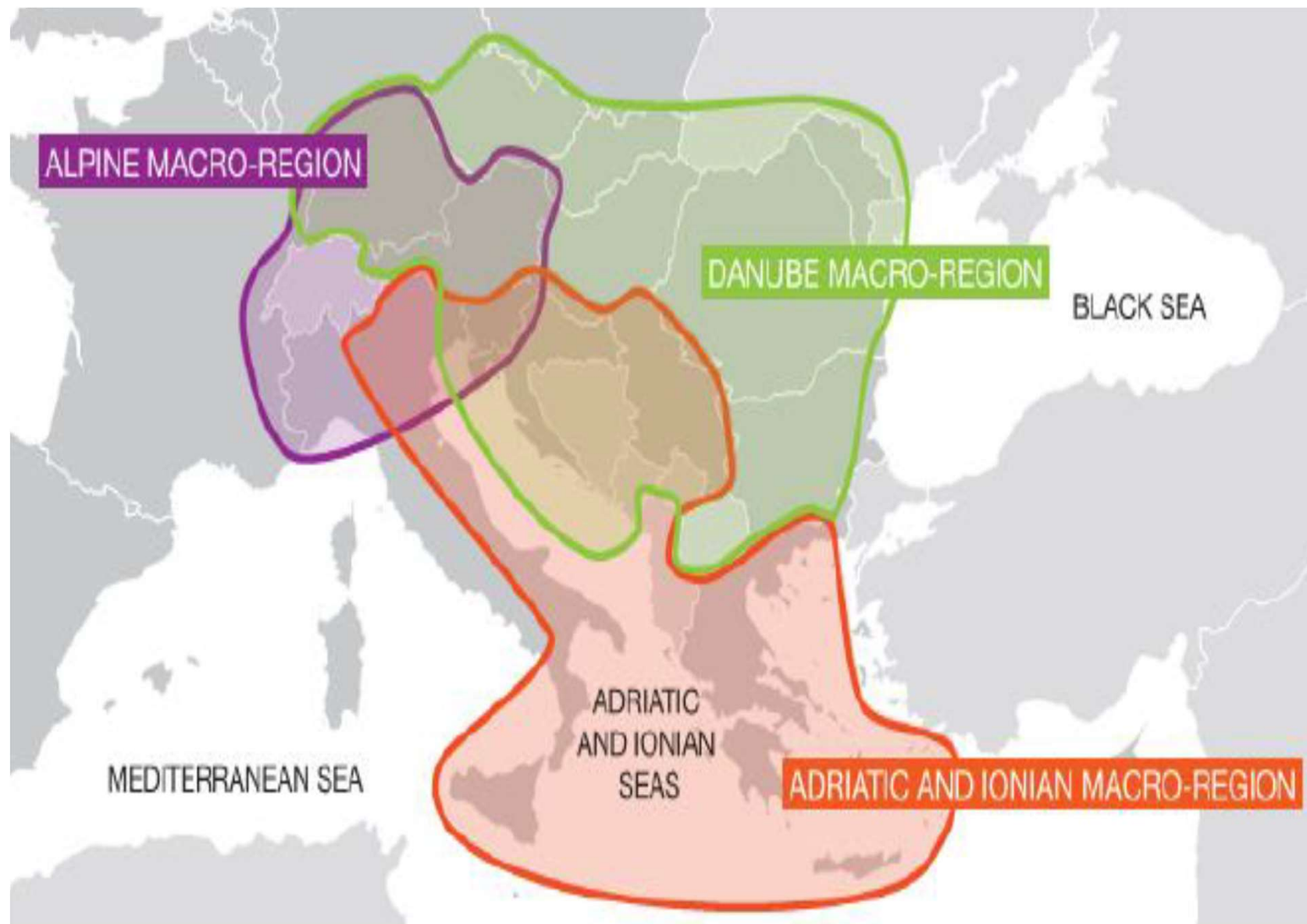
Renewable resources and eco-innovation, diversity of energy supply sources, dependence on fossil fuels and imports from inside and outside EU, energy vulnerability to crises.

TOURISM

Employment, Tourism contribution to GDP, number of UNESCO World heritage sites

ENVIRONMENT

Water Infrastructure, biodiversity, Natura 2000 and Ramsar areas, Sea Status and pollution, soil erosion rate, coastal, sea and inland waterbodies, green deal status, SEAs, prioritisation of sustainability over profitability, coastal and maritime spatial planning (fisheries, aquaculture, offshore wind parks, oil, gas activities, etc).



4MRS Report / Interreg IPA Programmes, Mainstream and other Union programmes

INTERREG IPA



Other Union Programmes, including

Digital Europe	InvestEU	LIFE	Innovation Fund	Horizon Europe
IPA III "mainstream"	ESF+	IPARD / Common Agricultural Policy		ERDF "mainstream"
Maritime & Fisheries Fund	EU4Health	Space Programme	Single Market Programme	
Connecting Europe Facility	AMF, ISF & BMVI	ERASMUS+	Creative Europe	

Enhanced synergies

COMPATIBILITY

Harmonisation of funding rules; flexible co-funding schemes; pooling resources at EU level

COHERENCE & COMPLEMENTARITY

Alignment of strategic priorities in support of a common vision

Just Transition
Mechanism

Recovery and
Resilience Facility

The following 10 key areas have been identified for illustrating which cohesion policy investments on cooperation projects are in line with the cohesion policy Regulations 2021-2027

1	PO1:	Innovating and improving competitiveness
2	PO2:	Adapting to climate change and managing risks
3	PO2:	Joining forces to produce clean energy
4	PO2 and PO4:	Establishing joint public services and infrastructures
5	PO2 and PO5:	Protecting natural sites and biodiversity
6	PO3:	Improving connectivity
7	PO4:	Reducing unemployment and facilitating labour mobility
8	PO4:	Managing migration flows and integration of migrants and refugees
9	PO5:	Promoting cultural assets and increase tourism
10	Horizontal objective "cooperation":	Facilitating institutional cooperation

All specific objectives selected by Interreg IPA CBC programmes 2021-2027/Interact

[illegible]

Op. Programmes 2021-27 EUSAIR MRS	IT	EL	SI	HR	AL	NM	RS	BIH	ME
Mainstream									
National	9	7	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
Regional	15	13							
Cross-border									
IT		1	1	1	1				1
EL					1	1			
SI				1					
HR							1	1	1
Interregional and Transnational									
IPA ADRION	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
EUROMED	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1
DANUBE			1	1			1	1	
URBACT	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
EU DIRECT PROGRAMMES. Life, Cosme, Horizon, Erasmus	1	1	1	1					

INTERREG IPA & INTERNAL PROGRAMMES / EUSAIR

Interreg IPA and Internal Programmes in EUSAIR	Adoption Date	Launch event Date and Place	1 st Monitoring Committee Date	1 st Planned Call for Proposals
I. Interreg IPA Programme				
1. Interreg IPA Programme Adria	30/11/2022	06-12-2022/Bologna	January 2023	January 2023
2. South Adriatic (It. -Alb-Montenegro)	01/12/2022	30-11-22/ Bari	15/11/2022	Will be announced mid of December 2022
3. <i>Romania-Serbia</i>	20/07/2022	04-10-22/Timisoara; 05-10-22/Vrsac	19/09/2022	Open since 4 October to 1st February 2023
4. Croatia-BiH-Montenegro	03/11/2022	13-12-22/Zagreb	January 2023	January/February 2023
5. Croatia-Serbia	03/11/2022	13-12-22/Zagreb	January 2023	January/February 2023
6. <i>Hungary -Serbia</i>	14/10/2022	Q2 2023	January 2023	Q1 2023
7. <i>Bulgaria-Serbia</i>	23/11/2022	Not planned	20/12/2022	For the strategic project only/still not announced
8. <i>Bulgaria-Turkey</i>	23/11/2022	Not planned	02/12/2022	For the strategic project only/still not announced
9. <i>Bulgaria-North Macedonia</i>	30/11/2022	Not planned	06/12/2022	January 2023
10. Greece-Albania	29/11/2022	N/A	January 2023	N/A
11. Greece-North Macedonia	23/11/2022	N/A	January 2023	N/A
II. Internal borders Interreg Programmes D2				
1. GR-Italy	8/09/2022		January 2023	
2. <i>GR-Bulgaria</i>	13/09/2022		January 2023	
3. Italy-Croatia	05/12/2022	24 and 25-10-22/Venice	17/10/2022	28/11/2022
4. Slovenia-Croatia	11/08/2022	Not yet decided	09/11/2023	17/03/2023
5. <i>Greece-Cyprus</i>	9/9/2022			

13/12/2022 UPDATED EUSAIR REVISION TIMELINE AND STEPS (Based on F.P. L.P. ongoing consultation, Presidency Calendar and 6/10 G.B operational decisions and EUSAIR Revision Background Document and Roadmap and 9/12/22 Revision working group)

STEPS	DATE	WHO ACTS	CONTENT
1	24/11 -7/12	24/11 TSG3 session 25/11 TSG4 30/11 TSG2 7/12 TSG1 (based on Pillar: Initial Policy Paper and Questionnaire)	On Revision: SL F.P with External Experts a) Will present the revision process, the initial policy paper and the accompanying questionnaire Under the EUSAIR Revision Background Document and Roadmap) a) Discussion on Q & A, b) TSG members comments to the above and proceed with thematic consultation and raise questions and discussion concerning Action Plan, governance and indicators.
2	9/12	First session of EUSAIR Revision Working Group in Zagreb	On EUSAIR Revision Process
3	14/12	Hybrid EUSAIR F.P 15 th Steering Group meeting in Ljubiana	F.P. Taking stock and Presentation of W.P 1,2,3 and 2023 Planning of the 3 Projects
4	16/12	FP LP to be sent revised version of discussion paper Action Plan	In order to have countries' reaction by 31/1/2023
5	By 31/12	The EC will provide the letter confirming the procedure for the Strategy revision	However, the EC underlined in GB that the process of consultations with regard to the Revision could proceed while expecting the letter.
6	By 30/1/2023	Country inputs questionnaire to be sent by TSG members	to P.C, thematic coordinators, E.C representatives, and F.P. L.P.
7	By 2/2023	Workshop on possible new pillar	Potentially 5 th "Social Pillar" & 6 th Pillar or incorporated topic in Pillar 1 "Rural development"
8	23 and 24/2	Revision Working Group	2 nd meeting Proposals agreed at the Working Group meeting in February to be sent to EC after the meeting. EC will send their feedback.
9	By 2/2023	SI. F.P with N.C and TSG	To prepare EUSAIR revision proposals to G.B. based on Background Doc. and countries' proposals, as well as 1 st thematic consultation.
10	3/2023	DG Regio organizes EUSAIR GB meeting In Brussels (Presidency's Proposal)	Potential first decisions on Strategy changes (Incorporation of New Pillars, Topics restructure, Action Plan elements, governance implications, updating B.Doc. Roadmap and organizing the 2 nd new Thematic Consultation till EUSAIR Annual Forum on May 2023)
11	April 2023	MRS Week	
12	May 2023	EUSAIR Annual Forum	

Wrap up EMBEDDING MRS during funding programme implementation

- I. Coordinated/ synchronised and Targeted CALLS for projects financed via EU/national/regional funded programmes**
- II. Awarding extra points in the evaluation process for MRS relevant projects**
- III. Labelling of flagship projects having MRS impact**
- IV. Keeping track of MRS support via the programme evaluation**
- V. Coordinated implementation and managing/programming authorities**

Developping Embedding Procedures, Tools and Projects

- I To match the 5 EU Cohesion Policy objectives to 11 ETC programmes**
- II To match the 5 EU Cohesion Policy objectives to Pillars/Topics/flagships**
- III To match the flagship Projects to eligibility for ECF/ERDF/CF/ CEF/ESF/EMFAF funds to National and Regional O.P. and EU LIFE/COSME/HORIZON and other Programmes.**
- IV To set up regular COUNTRIES reports on embedding process, incorporating selection CRITERIA of the planned calls contributing to MRS and TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE actions associated with the implementation of MRS**
- V To establish National Networks with regular meetings between TSGs and MAs and NC and regional and local representatives and International Networks per Pillar or Topic.**
- VI To incorporate the MRS revision changes through the Programmes' content ongoing modifications**
- VII To develop Platforms and Tools specialized to the needs of each MRS (Workshops, forums, web applications, Institutional Capacity and Networking Building Events, MRS Week, Annual Forum)**



Cooperation beyond borders

THE EU IS BUILT WITH SOLIDARITY

Thank you

Georgios EMMANOUIL / DG REGIO D1