



8th EUSAIR Forum

23 – 25 May 2023

Main venue: Hotel Holiday, Sarajevo

Zmaja od Bosne 4, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Draft programme v.8



Co-funded by
the European Union

23 May, Tuesday – registration from 8:30

11:00 - 13:30	Congress Room	<p>Interreg IPA EUSAIR Youth Conference</p> <p>Echoed in the “<i>Manifesto for Young People by Young People to Shape the European Cooperation Policy</i>”, European youth have expressed the need for more interaction with policymakers. They’ve explicitly underlined the necessity for a more enabling environment to be created in the Macro Regional Strategies and INTERREG programmes. CDI together with its regional Connecting Youth platform contributes to the process with concrete discussions on youth involvement in the Western Balkans identifying and designing targeted development initiatives.</p> <p>The multistakeholder Youth-led Interreg IPA EUSAIR Youth Conference is part of a series of events organized by CDI Albania in partnership with the European Commission to promote the Youth Manifesto in the WB6 region and advance youth embedment in the programming and decision-making processes of INTERREG IPA and EUSAIR.</p> <p>The Conference is organized in cooperation with the EUSAIR Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency and the Youth Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p>
9:30 - 17:30	Room 1 (Holiday)	<p>Innovation camp on Strengthening innovation and smart specialisation for sustainability in the Adriatic and Ionian Macroregion (the Interreg Euro-Med 2021-2027 Dialogue4Innovation project, in collaboration with the EUSAIR Presidency and the Interreg IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Programme)</p> <p>The 2-days innovation camp focuses on exploring opportunities to strengthening smart specialisation for sustainability in the Adriatic and Ionian Macroregion. Participants will know about the approach proposed by the Interreg Euro-Med Mission Innovative Sustainable Economy institutional dialogue project to address complex environmental and social challenges. The results of the innovation camp will be used to define the basis for the collaboration between the Euro-Med Mission community and the EUSAIR stakeholder networks.</p>
	Room 2 (Drina)	Preparatory meeting regarding MYC’s events
14:30 -17:45	Room 4 (Una)	<p>The Role of EUSAIR and EUSDR in the EU Enlargement process (with participation of DG NEAR, DG Regio, EUDs of EU candidate countries, NCs of both MRSs, NIPACs - in</p>

		<i>cooperation with the Presidency of the EUSDR, by invitation only)</i>
16:30 - 18:00	Room 5 (Neretva)	FAIC GB meeting
18:00– 19:00	Room 6 (Vrbas)	TSG 1 and 3 Inter-pillar MSP&ICZM project development presentation and joint meeting between TSG1 and TSG3 members

23 May, evening hours

Welcoming cocktail for all participants of the 8th Forum, 19:30 - 21:30, Hotel Europe, separate dinner for the AII/EUSAIR ministers

24 May – registration from 8:30

09:30 - 10:15	Congress Room	Official opening of the 8th EUSAIR Forum
10:15 - 11:30	Congress Room	High Level Panel at the 8th EUSAIR Forum, "The role of the AII and the EUSAIR in the acceleration of the European Integration process"
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee break	
12:00 - 13:30	Congress Room	Social Pillar within EUSAIR, the final event (<i>cooperation with several Croatian ministries</i>)
	Room 1 (Holiday)	Innovation camp, 2. day <i>Possible postponement of the start of the meeting (AII/EUSAIR Ministerial meeting will be organised in the Room 1 before)</i>
	Room 2 (Drina)	Meeting the Youth, Meeting with Sarajevo University Students, Youth Associations from Bosnia and Herzegovina (CPMR-MYC) Interactive workshop where representatives of the Mediterranean Youth Council have a dialogue with local young people from the EUSAIR area (Youth associations, University students or others) to share personal experiences, identify the differences in inequalities between countries represented, the causes... In a collaborative manner, a youth restitution will be prepared, where their point of view on the different issues is shared and some actions to tackle them are pinpointed.
	Room 3 (New Inn)	B2B (EEN BiH)

		<p>The Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina together with co-organizers and with the support of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), the EUSAIR Facility Point and in close cooperation with the European Commission is organizing International B2B meetings. This brokerage event brings together SMEs, research institutions, universities, development organizations, associations, and other organizations from EUSAIR countries. Direct link for registration of the participants:</p> <p>http://b2b-meetings-eusair-forum-2023.b2match.io</p>
	<p>Room 4 (Una)</p>	<p>EUSAIR towards the Green and Circular Economy-Territorial Challenges and Regional Development (<i>Three Fora and AI_NURECC Plus Initiative</i>)</p> <p>The circular economy is based on the idea that economic growth can be allowed by optimising and regenerating the use of natural resources, minimising environmental pressures and transforming production systems, supply chain and consumption patterns so that they have long-term sustainability. It is crucial to help European civil society, businesses and consumers to make the transition to a stronger and more circular economy where resources are used in a more sustainable way. Cross-sector collaboration is an essential factor in order to implement circular strategies or practices (to close loops). Facilitating cross-sector knowledge exchange and cooperation is a core element to take the transition to the Circular Economy, and with this regard the cooperation among the AI-NURECC Plus partners, representing regional and local authorities, universities and business sector, represent an added value.</p> <p>The event will examine how successful circularity-based and innovative local development policies and policy instruments need to create interconnections between and within sectors, institutions and local actors. There will also be specific focuses on the bioeconomy and circular economy in tourism. Indeed, the bioeconomy aims to drive both sustainable development and circularity through reuse, repair and recycling, reducing the amount and total impact of waste. At the same time circular tourism is the application of circular economy approaches to the tourism sector in order to achieve sustainable tourism</p>
	<p>Room 5 (Neretva)</p>	<p>EUSAIR POPRI youth competition of business ideas 2023 (<i>Adriatic-Ionian technology parks</i>)</p> <p>EUSAIR POPRI competition is an opportunity for young participants to introduce their ideas and contribute to the common good, live a sustainable, quality life, respect the principles of the circular economy and offer solutions to the problems of different people. The young participants prove to be responsible, ambitious members of society who should be listened to. Each business idea is a personal, national, but also</p>

		international potential that can contribute to the growth and development of the region.
	Room 6 (Vrbas)	<p>Presentation of the TRIBUTE Transnational Network (<i>transport and mobility sector</i>)</p> <p>The TRIBUTE TN includes stakeholders in transport and mobility sector (e.g. Public Administrations, transport agencies and industries, associations of citizens, ...) from cities of the Adriatic-Ionian Region. It has been set up within the framework of the Interreg ADRION project TRIBUTE (Integrated and Innovative actions for sustainable Urban mobility upgrade) with the aim to strengthen the transnational cooperation within the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region by exchanging experiences (best practices), ideas and projects about the future needs of urban mobility.</p>
	Room 7 (Sarajevo)	<p>EUSAIR Pillar 1 Session - Blue growth emerging/promising sectors fostering development and sustainability in the Adriatic and Ionian Region (<i>Thematic Steering Group Pillar 1</i>)</p> <p>Emerging sectors of the Blue Economy can serve both the needs of economic development of the Adriatic and Ionian regions and sustainability towards the challenges of climate change. Also, they have the potential to generate economic growth, create jobs, and support local communities, while ensuring the protection and conservation of the marine ecosystem and its resources.</p> <p>In the context of Pilar 1 session, issues concerning the development of the blue economy in the Adriatic and Ionian region will be discussed.</p> <p>In more detail, reference will be made to the contribution of integrated water management, from desalination to wastewater management. In addition, innovative methods that contribute to extending the life of fish as well as monitoring the freshness of food will be presented. Finally, ways to strengthen cooperation and collective actions for the sustainable and innovative development of the blue economy in the Adriatic and Ionian region will be explored.</p>
13:30 - 15:00 Lunch break		
15:00 - 16:30	Congress Room	"Promoting EU integration through sustainable agriculture and green rural development in the EUSAIR non-EU countries" – the final event (<i>Italian MFAIC and CIHEAM - Bari, Italy</i>)
	Room 1 (Holiday	Innovation camp, 2. day

	Room 2 (Drina)	<p>Debate with policymakers - Politicians let's cooperate: Building bridges with young people for a future without inequalities (CPMR-MYC)</p> <p>The exchange with policy makers from the EUSAIR area. To begin with, a MYC Youth representative can present the restitution to give a context. The main objective is to find concrete ways to collaborate, discuss the involvement of young people in politics, analyse the possible organisation of events together, ways to reach more young people and reflect on the Med Youth Challenge that will be organized later on during the year to ally youth and politicians together.</p>
	Room 3 (New Inn)	<p>B2B (EEN BiH)</p> <p>The Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina together with co-organizers and with the support of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), the EUSAIR Facility Point and in close cooperation with the European Commission is organizing International B2B meetings. This brokerage event brings together SMEs, research institutions, universities, development organizations, associations, and other organizations from EUSAIR countries. Direct link for registration of the participants:</p> <p>http://b2b-meetings-eusair-forum-2023.b2match.io</p>
	Room (Una)	<p>Circular economy and aquatic resources: how to manage inland and coastal waters in smart and circular way (Three Fora and AI-NURECC Plus Initiative)</p> <p>The optimal management of water resources is an essential goal considering the impacts that climate change has on the environment. The Covid-19 pandemic has also become an element of further pressure on water resource management, emphasizing the need for a more sustainable and resilient economic, social and environmental system.</p> <p>New EU rules on water reuse and initiatives provide excellent conditions for instilling more sustainability and circularity into the water management sector in the near future. Cities and Regions can play a decisive role in guaranteeing full compliance with relevant EU water legislation and for preserving freshwater resources in the long term.</p> <p>The High-Level Conference aims to be an exchange on the latest information in the field of water management and circular economy and to map the biggest challenges that EUSAIR countries are currently facing.</p>
	Room 5 (Neretva)	<p>EUSAIR POPRI youth competition of business ideas 2023 (Adriatic-Ionian technology parks)</p>

	<p>Room 7 (Sarajevo)</p>	<p>EUSAIR Pillar 2 Connecting the Region – Energy Designing an Energy Green Deal for the Adriatic-Ionian Region to Confront the Challenges of Climate Change and Energy Security (TSG Pillar 2 - Connecting the Region – Energy)</p> <p>Countries through the Adriatic and Ionian Region are confronted with unprecedented challenges regarding from one side the transition towards decarbonised energy systems while contributing to the fight against global climate change. From the other side, there is the need to enhance security of energy supply with consideration for the new energy context and threats while maintaining energy competitiveness and granting affordable access to energy. Power and natural gas networks and delivery have a fundamental role in this respect.</p> <p>The Session is focusing on the idea of an Energy Green Deal for the Adriatic-Ionian Region which means an increased degree of energy cooperation with regard to the “greening” of the energy systems and their integration while facing the shared challenges. During the Session the preliminary outcomes, priorities and recommendations will be presented as they are emerging from the two strategic EUSAIR projects “Master Plan on Energy Networks for the Adriatic-Ionian Region” and “Road Map towards a EUSAIR Power Exchange and Natural Gas Trading Hub for the Adriatic-Ionian Region.</p>
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Agenda for the AII Council/ EUSAIR (Ministerial) Meeting

11:30 - 11:35 Family Photo

11:40 - 13:15 AII /EUSAIR Ministerial meeting, 1+2 (Room Holiday)

13:20 - 13:40 Press Conference (Room Sarajevo)

13:15 - 14:00 Possible bilateral meetings

14:00 - 15:15 Lunch for the participants of AII/EUSAIR Ministerial Meeting (r. Libertas)

18:30 - 21:00 Take over of the Chairmanship of AII and EUSAIR Presidency to Croatia followed by the cocktail / finger food for all participants in the Botanical Garden of National Museum

25 May – registration from 8:30

9:30 - 11:00	Congress Room	<p>All Round table "Better together: academic and business world for social, cultural, economic growth of the Adriatic-Ionian Region" (<i>Three Fora and AII</i>)</p> <p>Learning is a lifelong journey and does not happen only through academic training. Formal education is still an important part of the journey, but learning goes beyond the comfort of school and university. What we learn at school and university doesn't necessarily prepare us for the corporate world. Through formal education we gain some of the knowledge, skills and connections required to get ahead, but since the world is constantly changing, we also need to constantly update the knowledge and skills we have. Academic programmes need to adapt to the needs of the business world. At the same time, the business world needs the support of academia to integrate the most up-to-date technologies and achievements coming from scientific research.</p> <p>The challenge we face is to invest in human capital and create training paths with a practical cut. In this process, the Universities need to involve students in the decision making process to better understand their needs and to help them in building a better future.</p>
	Room 1 (Holiday)	<p>EUSAIR Pillar 2 Transport Subgroup session - Planning for Sustainable Urban Mobility in the Adriatic-Ionian Region (<i>TSG Pillar 2 - Transport Subgroup</i>)</p> <p>1. The theme of the session relates to urban mobility, which is becoming increasingly essential towards the development of greener transport systems, for boosting economic sectors (e.g. tourism) and improving people's quality of life.</p> <p>2. Urban nodes represent the areas where most population lives. Due to higher population density cities are attractors/generators of a significant number of trips, potentially resulting in traffic congestion and air pollution. In the Adriatic-Ionian Region, many cities are also city-ports, suffering from traffic flows of vehicles generating from the port mixing and adding to urban mobility ones.</p> <p>3. Popular tourism destinations show similar problems as urban areas, amplified by seasonality. Due to higher population density, urban nodes and tourism destinations are also the places where innovation and shared mobility solutions are more likely to happen.</p> <p>4. The session will be the occasion to introduce sustainable urban mobility as a key focus area of the Pillar 2.</p>

		5. Best practices will be also presented by representatives of cities from the Adriatic-Ionian Region, as examples to support discussion on common problems and possible solutions towards an interconnected green and smart transport system.
Room 2 (Drina)	Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Forum	<p>The V Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Forum (AIYOF5), organised by Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE) in collaboration with the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CRPM – Coordinator) as part of the AI-NURECC PLUS Initiative, will take place during the 8th Forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region.</p> <p>The AIYOF5 will be powered by the Adriatic Ionian Youth Network (AIYN), an open network promoted by the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion and several Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations with a view to boost youth engagement in the EUSAIR, stimulating youth to take ownership of its objectives and appropriation of its opportunities, as to propose, structure, design and implement youth-led engagement, advocacy, awareness raising and capacity building actions.</p> <p>The Forum will allow Youth Organisations forming part of the AIYN to meet EUSAIR decision-making structures and, together, explore ways and means of promoting a greater role of youth in the Strategy.</p>
Room 4 (Una)	EUSAIR Pillar 3 Environmental Quality Session - Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention through RBM, ICZM and MSP (Thematic Steering Group Pillar 3 - Environmental Quality)	<p>The scope of the session is to explore the various approaches and tools that can be employed to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of climate change impacts and natural disasters. The session will focus on the Regional River Basin Management (RBM), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) as key frameworks for promoting sustainable development and disaster risk reduction in the Adriatic-Ionian region.</p>
Room 5 (Neretva)	EUSAIR POPRI youth competition of business ideas 2023 (Adriatic-Ionian technology parks)	
Room 6 (Vrbas)	ERASMUS for EUSAIR Young Entrepreneurs (DG Grow)	<p>The fundamental idea of the session is to inform participants about the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme and its benefits.</p> <p>The session should highlight the importance of the EYE program, its benefits as well as explain the achievements of the program over the last years and present success stories. Finally, the participants will be informed how to find local contact points in their regions.</p>

11:00 - 11:30		Coffee break
11:30 - 13:00	Congress Room	<p>“Increasing competencies and skills in the Adriatic-Ionian region” (IPA ADRION event)</p> <p>A lack of skilled workforce is one of the prevailing barriers for economic growth and competitiveness. In the Adriatic-Ionian region, skill development in higher education represents one of the major challenges and concerns for the future. The low investment in R&D is actually stressed by a low level of cooperation between research centres, high education institutions, public administrations, and private companies. In this respect, the IPA ADRION programme can support and strengthen the collaboration among stakeholders in relation to the quadruple helix ties by increasing knowledge and competences aiming to develop skills for employability. In particular, the wide adoption of more eco-friendly approaches to economic production and consumption is changing the nature of work, and thus the skills required of many workers. While the greening of economies presents challenges, it also offers considerable potential for job creation. The development of skills for green jobs is crucial to ensuring an efficient transition to a green economy by matching supply and demand for skills.</p> <p>Within this frame, the event will provide with an opportunity to showcase the opportunities offered by the last ADRION extraordinary 5th call for proposals launched in 2022 which targeted universities and research centres for the scope of designing transnational Master’s Programmes in key sectors, such as green and blue economy, energy transition and social innovation. Well performed projects shall be granted as strategic projects in the framework of the 2021-2027 IPA ADRION programme as from 2024.</p> <p>During the session, two main granted projects will be illustrated. CRESCENTO, a project focused on circular economy and MARBLE, a project focused on maritime robotics in the Blue economy.</p>
	Room 1 (Holiday)	<p>EUSAIR Pillar 4 Sustainable Tourism session -Educated and skilled workforce for sustainable tourism in EUSAIR region (TSG Pillar 4- Sustainable Tourism)</p> <p>To slow down the brain drain, the youth should be given the opportunities to learn, to gain new skills, to broaden the horizons. Youth is curious, brave, impatient. The education is the key instrument for making changes. Tourism sector needs educated and skilled people to perform the double transition of the sector, to find and retain new talents. For a resilient EUSAIR region, the question of education and skills should be put as a high priority.</p> <p>To contribute to strengthening the competitiveness of the EUSAIR countries by increasing the quality of education for integrated sustainable destination management and enhancing smart specialization,</p>

		diversification of tourism offer (special interest product development), innovation and human capital development of AIR destination
	Room 4 (Una)	<p>Youth-led Event on Skills (<i>Adriatic Ionian Euroregion and AI-NURECC Plus Initiative</i>)</p> <p>Goals - Taking step from previous AIYOFs and with a view to advance with youth engagement in the EUSAIR, the goals of the Sarajevo event will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present the AIYN as an open network of youth organisations coming from all EUSAIR countries as well as the steps taken so far; • discuss the brain drain as one of the major problems affecting Adriatic Ionian youth; • explore the possibility to engage the AIYN institutionally, making it part of the EUSAIR governance as a permanent stakeholder; • define a pathway for a more structured inclusion of youth in policy-making and implementation at regional, national and macroregional level.
	Room (Neretva)	EUSAIR POPRI youth competition of business ideas 2023 (<i>Adriatic-Ionian technology parks</i>)
13:00 - 13:30	Closing of the Forum	
13:30 - 15:00	Lunch break	

16:30 - 20:00 Transfer to the starting point of the cable car to Trebević, travel to Trebević by cable car. At the end point, some refreshment and finger food will be provided, with excellent view over Sarajevo

NOTE 1: the changes of locations (Rooms) of specific events are possible depending on number applications received and capacity of the room, of course if this will not cause major logistical problems.

NOTE 2:

Expected participants: local, regional, national and macroregional policy makers, smart specialisation and territorial development researchers and practitioners, and other stakeholders from the Mediterranean innovation ecosystem.

Registration: There are limited seats available for the innovation camp. Registration is compulsory. Preference will be given to participants attending the plenary session and the two workshops. Confirmed participants will receive preparatory materials before the event.

Three Fora: Forum AIC, UniAdrion, FAIC (Adriatic and Ionian civil society, Forum of Cities, Universities and Chambers of Commerce)

CONCEPTS - AGENDAS

23 MAY

EVENT 1

Innovation camp on Strengthening innovation and smart specialisation for sustainability in the Adriatic and Ionian Macroregion

23-24 May 2023

The innovation camp is organised by the **Interreg Euro-MED 2021-2027 Innovative Sustainable Economy Mission institutional dialogue project**, in collaboration with the **EUSAIR Presidency** and the **Interreg IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Programme** within the **8th EUSAIR Annual Forum**.

The 2-days event focuses on exploring opportunities to strengthening smart specialisation for sustainability in the Adriatic and Ionian Macroregion. Participants will know about the approach proposed by the Interreg Euro-Med Innovative Sustainable Economy Mission institutional dialogue project to address complex environmental and social challenges. The results of the innovation camp will be used to define the basis for the collaboration between the Euro-MED Mission community and the EUSAIR stakeholder networks.

After one half-day conference session, the innovation camp consists of three facilitated workshop sessions to stimulate participants' discussion and active engagement using innovative methodologies and tools. Inputs for the co-design of the "transformative innovation policy labs" - a key activity proposed by the Interreg Euro-MED Innovative Sustainable Economy Mission - will be collected, focusing on the issue of depopulation in rural areas taken as an example of systemic challenges.

Expected participants: local, regional, national and macroregional policy makers, smart specialisation and territorial development researchers and practitioners, and other stakeholders from the Mediterranean innovation ecosystem.

Registration: There are limited seats available for participation in presence. Registration is compulsory filling this **online form**. Confirmed participants will receive preparatory materials before the event.

AGENDA Tuesday 23rd May - 9.00 - 13.00 – in presence and online

- 9:00 Participants registration
- 9:30 **Welcome greetings**
Midhat Džemić, Directorate for European Integration of Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUSAIR Presidency 2022/2023
Džana Sokolović, Directorate for European Integration of Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Interreg Euro-MED BA National Contact Point
Marco Di Ruzza, Ambassador of Italy to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 9:50 **Interreg support to transnational cooperation to face common challenges**
Isabelle Nobio, Interreg Euro-Med Programme Joint Secretariat
Agnese Tassinari, Interreg IPA ADRION Programme MA (tbc)
Gilles Kittel, European Commission DG for Regional Policy and Urban Policy
TBC, Mediterranean Youth Council
- 10.20 **The EUSAIR perspective on innovation**
Matija Pavlovčič, Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development of Slovenia, EUSAIR Facility Point Lead Partner team
- 10.35 **The new Interreg Euro-MED Innovative Sustainable Economy Mission**
Alessandro Daraio, Emilia-Romagna Region, Mission Institutional Dialogue Project Lead Partner
Emma Midžić, CENER21, Mission Thematic Community Project Partner
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.30 **The smart specialisation strategies in the Mediterranean: exploring opportunities for reducing the innovation gap in lagging regions**
Tatiana Fernández, Catalan Government, Mission Institutional Dialogue Project
Fernando Mérida Martín, European Commission Joint Research Centre Seville

12.00 **Opportunities for collaboration for innovation across the scale of multilevel governance in the Mediterranean: synergies between Interreg and other initiatives**

Chair: **Maria Garcies**, CPMR Intermediterranean Commission, Mission Institutional Dialogue Project

Eleni Hatziyanni, European Commission DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Elena Banci, Area Science Park, BLUEAIR Project Lead Partner

Slaven Zjalić, Vice-rector for inter-institutional cooperation and technology transfer, University of Zadar

Daniele Antinarella, Abruzzo Region RIS3

Sinisa Marcic, Regional Cooperation Council

Tuesday 23rd May - 15.00 - 17.30 – in presence only

15.00 Workshop 1: Exploring the potential of transformative innovation policy labs to support smart specialisation for sustainability in the Adriatic and Ionian Macroregion

Wednesday 24th May - 12.00 - 16.30 – in presence only

12.00 Workshop 2 (first part): Addressing the challenge of depopulation in rural areas

13.30 Lunch and networking

15.00 Workshop 2 (second part): Addressing the challenge of depopulation in rural areas

EVENT 2

Interreg IPA EUSAIR Youth Conference

During 2022, the Western Balkans 6 (WB6) accession to EU was marked by major developments such as the start of the accession talks with Albania and North Macedonia and the granting of candidate status to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The role of youth in such process took center stage in the region's political discourse with regard to the shaping the region's future. The relaunch of the Berlin Process focused on regional cooperation again put youth in center through the signature of 3 Mobility Agreements and the spur to youth mobility and education. Finally, the 2022 Year of Youth and the Tirana European Youth Capital provided a platform for youth to contribute to the region's progress, which is now continued by the 2023 Year of Skills.

During the year-long EUSAIR Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, youth remains a priority for its role in the development processes of the region. The accession dynamics open the way for more involvement of local actors, increased direct impact of EU-supported policies, and many more opportunities for the citizens of the WB6.

Through targeted new calls the new programming of INTERREG IPA 2021-2027 will provide new opportunities for young people to engage and benefit from their support. While innovation, skills development, employment, and other policy instruments are keywords in almost every programme priority or thematic area, youth in the region remain distant from those opportunities. Impact on youth target groups remains only a paper exercise during the design phase of policy-making or project support.

Echoed in the “Manifesto for Young People by Young People to Shape the European Cooperation Policy”, European youth have expressed the need for more interaction with policymakers. They’ve explicitly underlined the necessity for a more enabling environment to be created in the Macro Regional Strategies and Interreg programmes. CDI together with its regional Connecting Youth platform contributes to the process with concrete discussions on youth involvement in the Western Balkans identifying and designing targeted development initiatives.

The multistakeholder Youth-led Interreg IPA EUSAIR Youth Conference is part of a series of events organized by CDI Albania in partnership with the European Commission to promote the Youth Manifesto in the WB6 region and advance youth embedment in the programming and decision-making processes of INTERREG IPA and EUSAIR.

The Conference is organized in cooperation with the EUSAIR Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency and the Youth Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Draft Agenda

10:30-11:00	<i>Registration / Media Statements</i>
11:00-11:20	<i>Opening remarks</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Krisela HACKAJ, Executive Director, Cooperation & Development Institute Albania ● Slawomir TOKARSKI, Director for European Territorial Cooperation, DG Regio - European Commission (TBC)

	<p>Keynote Addresses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Where do we stand with youth involvement in EUSAIR?” Edin DILBEROVIC, Director, Directorate for European Integration (DEI) of Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina ● Amb. Fabio PIGLIAPOCO, Head of the Permanent Secretariat of Adriatic & Ionian Initiative
11:20-12:10	<p>Session I: "From Manifesto to Action: have we addressed the recommendations?"</p> <p><i>This session will delve into how far the Youth Manifesto recommendations have been implemented in the Western Balkans. We will use the feedback of “Raising awareness on the Youth Manifesto in the WBs” project on the ground to steer the discussion on YM embedment.</i></p> <p><i>Video content with short interviews from WBs young people will be showcased.</i></p> <p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Irena BOŠKOVIĆ, Head of Division for Interregional Cooperation and Macroregional Strategies, Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro - Online ● Silvia MANGIALARDO, Head of International Relations Office, Marche Polytechnic University, UNIADRION ● Iman MASLIĆ, Youth Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ● Dea ELMASLLARI, Tirana European Youth Capital 2022 & National Youth Congress of Albania ● Bektha DJILIDJEL, Interreg Volunteer Youth - Online <p><i>Q&A</i></p> <p><i>Moderation by: Gresa SMOLICA, Cooperation and Development Institute</i></p>
12:10-12:30	<p>Coffee and Networking break</p>

12:30-13:20	<p><i>Session II: “The Road ahead in Frontloading Youth Embedment in European Territorial Cooperation”</i></p> <p><i>This session will explore concrete ways to achieve more tangible results by involving young people in European Territorial Cooperation programmes and projects in the WBs.</i></p> <p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Simona MAMELI, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation ● Elisabetta BUCCI, National Coordinator Department of Foreign Affairs, San Marino (TBC) ● Zuica ZMEJKOVSKA, EUSAIR National Contact Point, North Macedonia ● Rebecca MARCONI, PhD Student, University of Macerata - Online ● Veronica CAPENTI & Alexandre CHARI, ALCOTRA Youth Council, Interreg France-Italia ALCOTRA - Online ● Robert LICHTNER, Coordinator of the Danube Strategy Point ● Lidija Pansegrau HADROVIĆ, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia, upcoming EUSAIR Presidency <p><i>Q&A</i></p> <p><i>Moderation by: Gresa SMOLICA, Cooperation and Development Institute</i></p>
13:20-13:30	<p><i>Conclusions</i></p> <p>Gilles KITTEL, Team Manager – IPA, Enlargement Negotiations and EUSAIR, DG REGIO, European Commission</p>

24 MAY

EVENT 3

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

Panel discussion “Social Pillar within EUSAIR”

24 May 2023 (12:00-13:30)

CONTEXT

The socio-economic picture of Europe has changed significantly since the EUSAIR adoption in 2014. In addressing the social challenges, the EUSAIR Action Plan includes the areas related to the acquisition of skills in the sectors of tourism, aquaculture, maritime transport and fisheries with the goal of increasing employment, which nowadays seem like only a part of a much bigger social challenge of the macro-region.

In the last couple of years Europe went through the migrant crisis, the effects of which are felt to this day, the epidemic in 2020 and 2021, the inflationary shock of 2021 and the Russian aggression against Ukraine in 2022. **All these events affected socio-economic trends, the rise of radicalization, poverty and social exclusion. Many of those challenges should be recognized and addressed by the Strategy.**

EUSAIR was from day one strongly linked with EU policies relevant to the region, with emphasis placed on their integrated and territorially coherent implementation. Since the adoption of the EUSAIR, new challenges occurred in the countries of the macro-region, EU policy landscape evolved as well, responding to the new emerging circumstances. EUSAIR for the new period should acknowledge new challenges and needs, especially ones related with IPA countries.

In this sense, the introduction of the Social Pillar would be a step forward in the direction of creating a prosperous region, where people are in the centre of public policies.

In agreement with the EUSAIR presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia moderated two workshops on the potential inclusion of the Social Pillar in EUSAIR. The workshops were held on 9-10 November 2022 and 29-30 March 2023 in Sarajevo. The invitation was addressed to all members of the macro-region and referred to experts in the fields of employment, education and social policy. The first workshop was attended by representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Greece, Italy, Serbia and Croatia and second one by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Italy, Serbia, North Macedonia and Croatia.

Participating countries reached a common understanding that the introduction of the Social Pillar in EUSAIR would be an additional incentive to achieving the goals of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan (EPSRAP) in both EU Member and non-Member States, which is of great importance especially for the states in pre-accession process.

Objective of the session

At the session, the conclusions and main topics discussed at the workshops on the introduction of the social pillar in EUSAIR, as well as the experiences of promoting the social dimension in EUSDR, will be presented to a wider audience.

Timeline and speakers of the session

Speakers:

Naida Mekić (naida.mekic@mrosp.hr) – Croatia, ESF+ Managing Authority

Rossella Rusca (rossella.rusca@gmail.com) – Italy, Government

Jörg Mirtl (mirtl@lrsocialresearch.at) – Austria, EUSDR PA9

European Commission (TBC)

Moderator:

Filip Miličević (filip.milicevic@mrosp.hr) – Croatia, ESF+ Managing Authority

AGENDA

Time	Agenda item	Speaker
5 min	Opening speech	ESF MA Croatia (TBC)
10-12 min	Presentation of workshops' report	Naida Mekić TBC
10 min	Importance of MRS for EU cohesion and regional policy	EC (TBC)
10 min	EUSDR experiences	Jörg Mirtl
Up to 45 min	Discussion on the social challenges, policy response and cooperation options on the level of the macro- region	Rossella Rusca Naida Mekić Jörg Mirtl
5-10 min	Questions and comments from the audience	
5-10 min	Final messages and conclusion	all

EVENT 4

Mediterranean Youth Council

The aim of the session would be to create a space for dialogue and exchange between young people and policymakers.

The cross-cutting theme of the session would be “inequalities” across the EUSAIR and Mediterranean areas. Topics such as gender inequality, labour market opportunities, 21st century skills (soft skills, flexibility, information and communication technologies...), digital nomads (remote workers who usually travel to different locations), and brain drain (the emigration of work professionals or individuals) will be addressed. However, this will be done within a global framework, taking into account that the Forum will also focus on the “greening” of EUSAIR as an important contribution to the European Green Deal and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, thus also contributing to the EU enlargement policy.

Combating inequalities requires the involvement of stakeholders of all ages, with special attention to the participation of young people, but also considering the current climate emergency we face, where the European Union wants to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote the Green Economy and employments. Eco-design, eco-innovation, waste prevention and the reuse of raw materials can bring benefits for the environment while creating 2 million additional jobs (www.ec.europa.eu).

The session can be divided into two parts as follows:

- An **initial interactive workshop** (dynamic to be determined), where representatives of the Mediterranean Youth Council have a dialogue with local young people from the EUSAIR area (Youth associations, University students or others) to share personal experiences, identify the differences in inequalities between countries represented, the causes...

In a collaborative manner, a **youth restitution** will be prepared, where their point of view on the different issues is shared and some actions to tackle them are pinpointed.

SOME REFLECTIONS

In your opinion, what kind of inequalities exist in your home region/country?

High emigration of highly skilled workers (“brain drain”) can have detrimental effects on a society. Concerns about loss of talent are present in many regions of the world, in particular in developing countries, which are often left with shortages in critical professions due to the prospect of higher pay from abroad. Does your country/region experience this issue? What would be the drivers of this situation? What are your thoughts about remote work and flexible companies?

The idea that economies and societies need to develop within environmental limits is at the heart of EU policy and other non-EU countries. The largest green employment domain between 2000-2017

was energy management (35%), followed by waste management (28%), other environmental protection (21%) and wastewater (13%). What will be the green employment in the future?

Gender inequality is the social phenomenon in which people are not treated equally based on gender. Gender inequality weakens women in many areas such as health, education, and business life. What gender inequalities can you identify?

USEFUL LINKS

- Reflecting on green growth, 2019. <https://bit.ly/3TKjr0f>
- 2023 report on gender equality in the EU, 2023. <https://bit.ly/42qMQjY>

The second part (**EVENT 11**) will be devoted to the **exchange with policy makers** from the EUSAIR area. To begin with, a MYC Youth representative can present the restitution to give a context. The main objective is to find concrete ways to collaborate, discuss the involvement of young people in politics, analyse the possible organisation of events together, ways to reach more young people and reflect on the Med Youth Challenge that will be organized later on during the year to ally youth and politicians together.

SESSION 1 DRAFT

Event facilitated by *Les Têtes de l'Art* and *CPMR-IMC*

12.00-13.30 Meeting the Youth

Meeting with Sarajevo University Students, Youth Associations from Bosnia Herzegovina

Moderated by Sam Khebizi, *les Têtes de l'Art*

- Opening speech, Ibtissem Boumeslout, Co-President of the MYC
- Brief presentation of the Mediterranean Youth Council Political Declaration 2022-2023, Federico di Constanzo
- Working Group on Gender and Discrimination, George Mansour, MYC member
- Interactive workshop “Inequalities & Youth” with local young people

EVENT 5

PILLAR: 1

TITLE OF THE SESSION: Blue growth emerging/promising sectors fostering development and sustainability in the Adriatic and Ionian Region

Chairs

Eirini Matzouni, Greek Pillar coordinator for Pillar I – Blue Growth

Milena Krasic, Montenegrin Deputy Pillar coordinator for Pillar I – Blue Growth

Theano Stamopoulou, Greek Deputy Pillar coordinator for Pillar I – Blue Growth

Welcome speeches

Key note address (5-10 minutes)

- ***Dr Eleni Hatziyanni DG MARE-Unit A3 | Sea-basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation & Maritime Security.*** “Sustainable development of emerging blue economy sectors at the AI region, through cooperation”

Panellists: presentation (time for each)

- **Professor, Francesco Fatone**, *Università Politecnica delle Marche – Ancona, Italy.* The interface between blue economy and inland water cycle. From desalination to integrated water and wastewater management.
- **PhD, Matteo Sensi**, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (UNIMORE), Italy.* Development of biosensors and chemosensors based on organic electronics for monitoring food freshness in the framework of project ICHTHYS
- **Research Associate, Chrysovalantis Ketikidis**, *Center for Research & Technology Hellas (CERTH), Greece,* Responding to energy and environmental challenges in the blue economy: insights from CERT
- **Senior Project Manager and Policy Officer, Peter Medica**, *Technology park, Slovenia.* BLUEAIR Innovation Community: Promoting collaboration, knowledge sharing and collective actions to advance the blue economy in the Adriatic and Ionian Region in a sustainable and innovative way

Discussion with the audience (Q&A) (time)

Conclusions 5 min – **Title, Name and Surname, institution**

Scope and objective

Emerging sectors of the Blue Economy can serve both the needs of economic development of the Adriatic and Ionian regions and sustainability towards the challenges of climate change. Also, they have the potential to generate economic growth, create jobs, and support local communities, while ensuring the protection and conservation of the marine ecosystem and its resources.

In the context of Pilar 1 session, issues concerning the development of the blue economy in the Adriatic and Ionian region will be discussed.

In more detail, reference will be made to the contribution of integrated water management, from desalination to wastewater management. In addition, innovative methods that contribute to extending the life of fish as well as monitoring the freshness of food will be presented. Finally, ways to strengthen cooperation and collective actions for the sustainable and innovative development of the blue economy in the Adriatic and Ionian region will be explored.

Topics for discussion

1. New blue economy's emerging sectors
2. Interaction with other EUSAIR Pillars
3. Possibly impact on the Macroregion Action Plan
4. Innovative ways to foster development and sustainability in Europe's new geopolitical landscape

Interactive approach with public (for example slido, mentimeter etc):

Yes or no

If Yes, what kind of questions

Key messages to be communicated before or during the session via social media

- New Sectors are emerging
- Innovative ways are used to adapt to new conditions
- Blue growth is a key option for future sustainable development

EVENT 6

AI-NURECC PLUS Conference

EUSAIR TOWARDS THE GREEN AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY *Territorial Challenges and Regional Development*

Agenda

F

The Covid-19 outbreak has radically changed the world's economy and has posed a new challenge into how sustainable development is to be understood, both socially and economically. In particular, the transition to a more circular economy has gained prominence in the international political debate and has been reaffirmed as a priority of the EU's sustainable growth agenda as embedded in the "Circular Economy Action Plan" one of the blocks of the new EU Green Deal.

The circular economy is based on the idea that economic growth can be allowed by optimising and regenerating the use of natural resources, minimising environmental pressures and transforming production systems, supply chain and consumption patterns so that they have long-term sustainability. It is crucial to help European civil society, businesses and consumers to make the transition to a stronger and more circular economy where resources are used in a more sustainable way.

Cross-sector collaboration is an essential factor in order to implement circular strategies or practices (to close loops). Facilitating cross-sector knowledge exchange and cooperation is a core element to take the transition to the Circular Economy, and with this regard the cooperation among the AI-NURECC Plus partners, representing regional and local authorities, universities and business sector, represent an added value.

The event will examine how successful circularity-based and innovative local development policies and policy instruments need to create interconnections between and within sectors, institutions and local actors. There will also be specific focuses on the bioeconomy and circular economy in tourism. Indeed, the bioeconomy aims to drive both sustainable development and circularity through reuse, repair and recycling, reducing the amount and total impact of waste. At the same time circular tourism is the application of circular economy approaches to the tourism sector in order to achieve sustainable tourism.

AI-NURECC Plus addresses the territorial challenges in specific Adriatic-Ionian territories (e.g. rural area, mountains, islands...). In this respect, the first results of a specific study on territorial challenges and development will be presented with the aim to what extent the EUSAIR and its future Action Plan contribute to tackle these territorial challenges by promoting sustainable development and growth.

Moderator: Ms. Anuska Stoka, Project Manager, AI-NURECC PLUS (on behalf of the coordinator CPMR)

Welcome speeches:

- **Mr. Joze Tomaš**, President of the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce (Forum AIC) - AI-NURECC PLUS Partner

- **Mr. Stavros Kalognomos**, Executive Secretary of the Balkan and Black Sea Commission (BBSC), Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) - AI-NURECC PLUS Coordinator

Keynote address: **Mr Uroš Novak**, Expert in Biotechnology, Kemijski Inštitut – Slovenia National Institute of Chemistry (online)

- **Ms. Elena Gentilini**, Expert in Circular Economy, Progetto Arcadia *“The importance of system thinking approaches to Circular innovation. How to improve circularity impact through networking and analysis at system level”*
- **Mr. Bernard Massabo**, Secretary General of the Euromed Cities Network, *“Dialogue4LivingAreas project”* (Interreg EURO-MED)
- **Ms. Milena Rmuš**, Coordinator for Environment Protection and Energy Efficiency, Chamber of Economy of Montenegro – *“Case study – Roadmap Towards the Circular Economy in Montenegro”* (online)
- **Mr. Marco Giuliani**, Professor at Marche Polytechnic University *“AMOCEAB - Adrion Master On Circular Economy And Bioeconomy”* (Interreg ADRION)
- **Mr. Marco A. Segovia Bifarini**, External expert AI-NURECC PLUS Circular Economy, *Preliminary results of the “Circular Economy - EUSAIR territorial challenges and development” Study*

EVENT 7

EUSAIR POPRI youth competition of business ideas 2023

DRAFT PROGRAMME

POPRI international is a competition for the best entrepreneurial idea among young people from 10 countries in the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region. The competition started in Slovenia, where 3,494 participants have taken part over the last 20 years. In 2023, the network of technology parks/regional agencies/schools will gather and support young people from 10 EUSAIR countries for the third time.

POPRI International enables young people to develop innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship. They will meet in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 24 and 25 May 2023 at various EUSAIR POPRI youth 2023 events back-to-back to EUSAIR Forum.

23rd May 2023
18.00

***Networking for future;
event will be moderated by Dino Šumašič***

The networking event is a pre-event to the 2-day official EUSAIR POPRI youth events in Sarajevo, organized jointly with the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia to Bosnia and Herzegovina and RTV Slovenia. The event is the opportunity to meet, network and deliver statements by young participants and others.

***Residence of H.E. Ambassador of Republic of Slovenia to BH
Gabelina 19, Sarajevo***

EUSAIR POPRI youth venue, 24&25 May 2023:

Events on 24th and 25th May will be moderated by Ms Jamila Milović-Halilović.

24th May, 2023
12:00 - 16:30

Youth business model competition

EUSAIR POPRI competition is an opportunity for young participants to introduce their ideas and contribute to the common good, live a sustainable, quality life, respect the principles of the circular economy and offer solutions to the problems of different people. The young participants prove to be responsible, ambitious members of society who should be listened to. Each business idea is a personal, national, but also international potential that can contribute to the growth and development of the region.

12.00 – 12.15 Short introduction from the moderator (3 min)

Short welcome speech by **Drago Gverić**, CEO of ICBL, BiH (3 min)

Short introduction by young POPRI ambassador, **Aleksandar Kovač**, E-Klinika

Meet our young participants - slide-show of all participating teams

12.15 – 13.35

Presentation of business ideas - High- school students of 10 EUSAIR countries

/Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, San Marino, Slovenia/

13.35 – 14.15 **Lunch Break**

14.15 – 15.45 **Presentation of business ideas – University students of 10 EUSAIR countries**

/Albania, Greece, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, San Marino, Slovenia/

16.00 - 16.30 **E-mobility Challenge by Porsche Cars Bosnia and Herzegovina**

What does it mean being socially and ecologically responsible? Let's hear how the car industry is dealing with e-mobility and what could be the role of young people in the field.

25th May 2023 **Students meet entrepreneurs**
9:30 – 11:00

*The best way to learn is to meet and to hear stories from experienced businessmen. Young people have the opportunity to meet **Erna Šošević** and **Dragan Vlačić**, both successful entrepreneurs. They will both share knowledge and experience in the field of entrepreneurship because we know that success stories can be an inspiration to young people.*

Erna Šošević is a founder and CEO at Bizbook d.o.o. | Advisory Board Member for Women Entrepreneurship for UN Women B&H | Chapter Lead Sarajevo for SoGal Foundation NY | Startup Advisor | Lecturer

Dragan Vlačić is an experienced engineering manager and software engineer with a demonstrated history of working in the information technology and services industry. Skilled in Kotlin, Java, C++, JS, PHP, HTML, SQL, Android Development, Management, Cisco Systems Products and more. Strong education professional with a Master's Degree focused in Information Technologies.

9:30 **Short introduction by moderator**

Short welcome speech by **Midhat Džemić**, Head of Section, EU Funds NC for Bosnia and Herzegovina in the EUSAIR, Directorate for European Integration of Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina (3 min)

Short welcome speech by **Petra Česen-Čatar**, Nacional Coordinator, EU Macroregional Strategies, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Slovenia (3 min)

Discussion with Erna Šošević and with Dragan Vlačić

11:00-11:15 *Coffee Break*

11:15 - 12:00 *AWARD CEREMONY - Young POPRI award*

Inspiring speech by **Slawomir Tokarski**, Director for the European Territorial Cooperation, Macro-regions, Interreg and programmes Implementation I, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy / European Commission (5 min)

Short speech by **Drago Gverić**, CEO of ICBL, BiH (2 min)

Short speech by **Tanja Kožuh**, CEO Primorski tehnološki park, Slovenia (2 min)

Short intervention by **Sanjin Vlastelica**, Head of Division for European Macro-regions, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia

Announcement of best business ideas of High-school students and University students & award ceremony.

12:00 *Closure of the event and networking*

EVENT 8

TRIBUTE: Integrated and Innovative actions for Sustainable Urban Mobility Upgrade

TITLE OF THE SESSION: TRIBUTE Transnational Network

Chair

Ms. Lucia Calliari, *ADRION JS*, (5 min)

Key note address (10 min)

- **Prof. Pierluigi Coppola**, *TRIBUTE project manager, Politecnico Milano, Italy, TRIBUTE initiative: implementing innovative, carbon neutral, multimodal, inclusive and participated mobility in urban areas in the Adriatic-Ionian Region*

Panellists: TRIBUTE presentation (10 min each)

- **Ms. Mateja Bitenc**, *City of Maribor, Slovenia. The role of Living Labs in the development and implementation of urban mobility projects*
- **Mr. Thomas Nududvari**, *AMAT- Milan, Italy. Overview of TRIBUTE pilot actions in the field of innovative, carbon neutral, multimodal, inclusive and participated mobility in urban areas*
- **Mr. Roberto Zani**, *Tplan Consulting, Italy. TRIBUTE Transnational Strategy towards more sustainable urban mobility in the Adriatic-Ionian Region*

Round table with

- **Ms. Aggeliki Kostopoulou**, *Region of Western Greece, GR*
- *Speaker to be confirmed, Forum of Adriatic-Ionian Cities (FAIC),*
- *Speaker to be confirmed, City of Ljubljana, Slovenia*
- *Speaker to be confirmed, City of Sarajevo, BiH*
- *Speaker to be confirmed, City of Skopje, North Macedonia*
- *Speaker to be confirmed, City of Belgrad, Serbia*
- ...

Audience (Q&A) (5 min)

Conclusions 5 min – Prof. Pierluigi Coppola, Politecnico Milano, Italy

Scope and objective

1. The session aims at presenting the progresses of the TRIBUTE initiative funded by the INTERREG ADRION programme. This initiative is related to the development and implementation of innovative, carbon neutral, multimodal, inclusive and participated mobility in urban areas in the Adriatic-Ionian Region
2. Project partners will be presenting the activities carried out as part of the project, along with the *Living Labs* approach at the basis of the participatory processes conducted to develop and implement the pilot actions

3. The session will be also the occasion to host the 4th meeting of the TRIBUTE Transnational Stakeholder Network. Such network has been set up by the TRIBUTE project partners to the purpose of facilitating transferability of innovative project solutions in the field of urban mobility in the Adriatic-Ionian Region. It is aimed to remain operational for at least 5 years (up to 2028) upon completion of the TRIBUTE initiative (expected by Autumn 2023). The 8th EUSAIR Forum represents the opportunity to promote the TRIBUTE Transnational Stakeholder Network and enlarge its membership
4. Urban mobility has been identified as a key focus area of the EUSAIR Pillar 2 – transport subgroup. Accordingly the TRIBUTE Transnational Stakeholder Network will represent a key asset for the implementation of the EUSAIR

Topics for discussion

5. Implementing project solutions in the field of innovative, carbon neutral, multimodal, inclusive and participated mobility in urban areas
6. Transferability of best practices in the field of sustainable urban mobility within the Adriatic-Ionian Region
7. Synergies between INTERREG funded initiatives and the EUSAIR Pillar 2 / transport sub/group activities
8. The TRIBUTE Transnational Stakeholder Network as a key asset for the implementation of the EUSAIR

Interactive approach with public (for example slido, mentimeter etc):

Yes

If Yes, what kind of questions

- How do you see the role of the TRIBUTE Transnational Stakeholder Network in supporting your country/region/city in the implementation of innovative urban mobility solutions? Would you be interested in joining the network?
- How do you see the inclusion of urban mobility among the key focus areas of the EUSAIR Pillar 2 – transport subgroup?
- Sustainable urban mobility entails a number of measures and possible solutions that range from infrastructure development, to behavioural change policies and raising awareness campaigns towards shared and active mobility etc... Where shall we concentrate our efforts to be more effective in shaping a greener transport system in the Adriatic-Ionian Region?

Key messages to be communicated before or during the session via social media

- As part of the TRIBUTE initiative, funded by the ADRIION Interreg programme, best practices in the field of innovative, carbon neutral, multimodal, inclusive and participated mobility have been implemented in 8 urban areas in the Adriatic-Ionian Region
- The Living Lab approach proves to be effective in developing and implementing urban mobility project solutions
- The EUSAIR action plan is under revision which includes urban mobility among the future key focus areas for the Pillar 2
- The TRIBUTE Transnational Stakeholder Network is a key asset to facilitate transferability of innovative projects solutions in the field of urban mobility in the Adriatic-Ionian Region, towards the implementation of the EUSAIR

EVENT 9

International B2B meetings within 8th EUSAIR FORUM 2023.

The Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina together with co-organizers and with the support of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), the EUSAIR Facility Point and in close cooperation with the European Commission is organizing International B2B meetings during 1st and 2nd day of the 8th Forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), under the presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This brokerage event in the hybrid format, brings together SMEs, research institutions, universities, development organizations, associations, and other organizations from nine (9) EUSAIR countries (Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, BiH, Serbia, Montenegro, N. Macedonia, Greece and Albania).

First day, May 23rd, 14:00 - 18:00

ONSITE B2B session

Venue: Hotel Holiday, Sarajevo, Zmaja od Bosne 4.

Room 7

Second day, May 24th, 09:00 - 18:00

ONLINE B2B session at B2match event platform.

EVENT 10

Project

“Promoting EU integration through sustainable agriculture and green rural development in the EUSAIR non-EU countries”

Funded by

the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and CIHEAM BARI

Objective:

To promote a new pillar of the EUSAIR focussing on GREEN RURAL DEVELOPMENT and SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS based on the EU Green Deal and the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

Preamble:

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) is under revision due to the new Multiannual Financial Framework, EU policies update, new members, the ongoing enlargement process and the need to address current challenges. The revision is an extensive, bottom-up consultation process that involves a wide range of stakeholders from the Adriatic-Ionian Region representing national, regional and local authorities, but also the private sector, academia and civil society. The side event will focus on the conclusions and recommendations of two workshops held in Mostar (March 2023, 58 participants from 7 countries) and Banja Luka (April 2023, 56 participants from 6 countries).

The primary objective of the workshops conducted in Mostar and Banja Luka was to involve key stakeholders from the Adriatic-Ionian Region in the process of revising the EUSAIR. The workshops aimed to deliberate on the challenges and opportunities in green rural development and sustainable agri-food systems in the area and devise ways to foster cooperation and integration. The proposed pillar of green rural development and sustainable agri-food systems intends to facilitate the execution of the region's EU Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy. The key focus of this pillar is to encourage sustainable practices, innovation, and collaboration among farmers, entrepreneurs, and local communities while also ensuring the quality and safety of food products. This pillar will support a resilient economic growth of rural areas and climate change adaptation/mitigation measures, decrease brain-drain, improve local communities’

livelihood, and reinforce cooperation within and outside the region. In turn, it will accelerate the process of integration to the EU of the non-EU AIR countries.

AGENDA

Wednesday, 24th May 2023, Hotel Holiday, Congress Room, Sarajevo	
15.00-15.10	<p>Welcome addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>H.E. Staša Košarac, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina</i> • <i>H.E. Marco Di Ruzza, Ambassador of Republic of Italy in Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>
15:10-16:10	<p>GREEN RURAL DEVELOPMENT and SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS: promoting a NEW PILLAR OF THE EUSAIR</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Mr. Mladen Todorovic, project coordinator, CIHEAM Bari, Italy</i></p> <p>Panellist (list of potential panellists):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>H.E. Frida Krifca, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Albania, and President of CIHEAM Paris</i> • <i>H.E. Miloš Prica, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina</i> • <i>Mr. Eduardo Cuoco, Director IFOAM Organics Europe, Brussels, EU</i> • <i>Mr. Boban Ilic, Secretary General, Standing Working Group for Regional Rural Development in South-East Europe, SWG RRD SEE</i> • <i>Mr. Tugomir Majdak, Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture of Croatia</i> • <i>Mrs. Gordana Rokvić-Knežić, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina</i> • <i>Mr. Dragi Dimitrievski, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agricultural Science and Food, Skopje, North Macedonia</i>
16.10-16.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discussion session: comments, and questions from the audience</i> • <i>Conclusions and recommendations</i>
16:30	<i>Closing of the event</i>

EVENT 11

Mediterranean Youth Council SESSION 2

Debate with policymakers

Politicians let's cooperate: Building bridges with young people for a future without inequalities

Moderated by Sam Khebizi, les Têtes de l'Art

15.00 | Breaking the ice: Youth and Têtes de l'Art-CPMR regions/staff

15.15 | Restitution of the morning discussion, Ibtissem Boumeslout, Co-President of the MYC

15.30 | Dialogue and exchanges with policymakers from the EUSAIR territories: Expectations, reality, and recommendations, CPMR (tbc)

EVENT 12

PILLAR: Pillar 2. Connecting the Region – Energy

TITLE OF THE SESSION: Designing an Energy Green Deal for the Adriatic-Ionian Region to Confront the Challenges of Climate Change and Energy Security

DATE: 24 May 2023, 15:00-16:30 hrs

CHAIR: **Ms. Biljana Ramić**, Head of Department, Ministry of Mining and Energy Resources, Republic of Serbia

KEY-NOTE ADDRESSES:

Mr. Davide Tabarelli, President, Nomisma Energia, Italy

Title of the intervention: The Master Plan on Energy Networks for the Adriatic and Ionian Region: Outlook and Proposals

Mr. Guido Cervigni, Managing Director, DFC Economics, Italy

Title of the intervention – Road Map towards a EUSAIR Power Exchange and Natural Gas Trading Hub for the Adriatic and Ionian Region: Outlook and Proposals

PANELLISTS:

Mr. Gilles Kittel, DG REGIO, European Commission, Belgium

Ms. Sanja Kapetina, Head of Department for Secondary Energy and Projects, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Christos Syriopoulos, SNE - Policy Officer, DG ENER – Energy Platform Task Force, European Commission, Belgium (online)

Mr. Eleftherios Antonopoulos, Ministry of Environment & Energy, Directorate for International & European Activities, Unit for Energy Affairs & Mineral Raw Materials, Greece

Mr. Saša Šćekić, Head of Licensing and Technical Affairs Department, SERC - State Electricity Regulatory Commission, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Igor Đokić, System Planning and Engineering Department, Elektroprenos BiH (Transmission Company of BiH), Bosnia and Herzegovina

CONCLUSIONS:

by the chair: **Ms. Biljana Ramić**, Head of Department, Ministry of Mining and Energy Resources, Republic of Serbia

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE:

Countries through the Adriatic and Ionian Region are confronted with unprecedented challenges regarding from one side the transition towards decarbonised energy systems while contributing to the fight against global climate change. From the other side, there is the need to enhance security of energy supply with consideration for the new energy context and threats while maintaining energy competitiveness and granting affordable access to energy. Power and natural gas networks and delivery have a fundamental role in this respect.

The Session is focusing on the idea of an Energy Green Deal for the Adriatic-Ionian Region which means an increased degree of energy cooperation with regard to the “greening” of the energy systems and their integration while facing the shared challenges. During the Session the preliminary outcomes, priorities and recommendations will be presented as they are emerging from the two strategic EUSAIR projects “Master Plan on Energy Networks for the Adriatic-Ionian Region” and “Road Map towards a EUSAIR Power Exchange and Natural Gas Trading Hub for the Adriatic-Ionian Region.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Energy prospects and programmes in the Adriatic and Ionian Region towards the years 2030 and 2050
- Energy regulatory challenges for enhancing energy market security and resilience in the Adriatic and Ionian Region
- How integration of energy markets may facilitate EU enlargement in the Western Balkan Region
- Concerns and roadblocks in the energy transition towards decarbonised energy systems

INTERACTIVE APPROACH:

- Yes, to provide messages to be communicated

EVENT 13

AI-NURECC PLUS High-Level Conference

“Circular economy and aquatic resources: how to manage inland and coastal waters in a smart and circular way”

Working languages: English, Bosnian, Italian

The optimal management of water resources is an essential goal in light of the impacts that climate change has on the environment. The Covid-19 pandemic has also become an element of further pressure on water resource management, emphasizing the need for a more **sustainable and resilient** economic, social and environmental **system**.

New EU rules on water reuse and initiatives provide excellent conditions for instilling **more sustainability and circularity into the water management sector** in the near future: the EU Water Framework Directive establishes a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. **Its protection transcends national boundaries** but Cities and Regions can play a decisive role in guaranteeing full compliance with relevant EU water legislation and for preserving freshwater resources in the long term.

The High-Level Conference aims to be an exchange on the **latest information** in the field of water management and circular economy, and to map the biggest challenges that EUSAIR countries are currently facing **to preserve water resources**.

WELCOME AND OPENING SESSION:

- **Mr. Massimo SERI**, *Mayor of Fano (Italy), FAIC President;*
- **Mr. Fuad HADŽIKADUNIĆ**, *Vice-Rector for Scientific Research of the University of Zenica (BiH) - UniAdrion Presidency;*
- **Mr. Stavros KALOGNOMOS**, *Executive Secretary of the Balkan and Black Sea Commission (BBSC), Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) - AI-NURECC PLUS Coordinator.*

PANEL:

MODERATOR: Ms. Elena GENTILINI , *Expert in Circular Economy Projects design - Progetto Arcadia*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Ms. Eleni HATZIYANNI *DG MARE-Unit A3 - Sea-basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation & Maritime Security - European Commission.*

❖ Ms. Stefania LEONI Emilia-Romagna Region (Italy) – Coordination of European policies/ART-ER Attractiveness Research Territory,

❖ Ms. Jelena STJEPČEVIĆ Municipality of Kotor (Montenegro): Head of office for international cooperation, Phd in Maritime Management,

❖ Mr. Vedad SULJIĆ Managing Director of CETEOR (BiH): Center for Economic, Technological and Environmental Development.

Q&A SESSION

25 MAY

EVENT 14

All Round table

“Better together: academic and business world for social, cultural, economic growth of the Adriatic-Ionian Region”

Learning is a lifelong journey and does not happen only through academic training. Formal education is still an important part of the journey, but learning goes beyond the comfort of school and university. What we learn at school and university doesn't necessarily prepare us for the corporate world. Through formal education we gain some of the knowledge, skills and connections required to get ahead, but since the world is constantly changing, we also need to constantly update the knowledge and skills we have. Academic programmes need to adapt to the needs of the business world. At the same time, the business world needs the support of academia to integrate the most up-to-date technologies and achievements coming from scientific research.

The challenge we face is to invest in human capital and create training paths with a practical cut. In this process, the Universities need to involve students in the decision making process to better understand their needs and to help them in building a better future.

Policy makers and stakeholders take part in the process by promoting initiatives aiming at reinforcing the sense of belonging to the Adriatic-Ionian Region for young generation, on being part of a single territory that offers opportunities with the aim of "moving from a 'brain drain' to a 'brain gain and brain circulation dynamic' in the Region".

Joint research, joint programmes and structured student mobilities are some of the tools put in place by the three Fora, in close cooperation with the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative and European Commission - DG Regio, to boost the development of the Adriatic-Ionian region, to involve young people and discourage brain drain.

During the AII Round table the representatives of universities will go deep into the connection between academic and business world, also by presenting best practices such as the Erasmus + Consortium "Uniadriion Italy", the "Western-Balkaship" mobility programme, the Capacity Building "ESN-AIR" project and others.

Moderator: Eleonora Tramannoni, Executive Officer, Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce

Welcome speeches and introduction:

- **Amb. Fabio Pigliapoco**, Head of Permanent Secretariat of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative
- **Amb. Milos Prica**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, AII National Coordinator
- **Andrea Perna**, Secretary General of UniAdriion
- **Marko Šantić**, President Chamber of Economy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, member of Forum AIC
- **Mr. Antonio Kuzmanić**, Deputy Mayor of City of Split (Croatia), Member of Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Cities Executive Board

Keynote address: Ms. Silvia Mangialardo, Head of International Relations Office, Marche Polytechnic University, *ERASMUS + Consortium "Uniadriion Italy"*

- **Mr. Jovo Ateljevic**, Professor of Economics at the University of Banja Luka
- **Ms. Anna Cingoli**, Project Assistant, Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce - *Western-Balkaship mobility project*
- **Ms. Layla Jusko**, Young European Ambassador - Bosnia & Herzegovina winner of the EUSAIR ACADEMY YOUTH CONTEST, *EUSAIR4Youth project*
- **Ms. Ava Ghasemi**, President of ESN Ancona, and **Ms. Razija Arikan**, President of ESN

Q&A session

EVENT 15

PILLAR: 2 (Connecting the Region) – sub-group on Transport

TITLE OF THE SESSION: Planning for Sustainable Urban Mobility in the Adriatic-Ionian Region

Date, time: 25th May 2023, h: 9:30-11:00 (Room 1)

Chair

Jasminka Kirkova, *EUSAIR Pillar 2 Coordinator, North Macedonia*

Key note address (10 min)

- **Prof. Pierluigi Coppola**, *EUSAIR Pillar 2 Coordinator, Italy*
Urban mobility as an additional key focus area of the Pillar 2: best practices in sustainable urban mobility planning from the Adriatic-Ionian Region

Panellists: presentations (10 min each)

- **Mr Jovica Rakic**, *Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Republic of Serbia*. Sustainable urban mobility planning in Belgrade and Novi Sad
- **Mr Giulio Bernetti**, *City of Trieste, Italy*. Allieviating freight traffic flows in the city-port of Trieste: impacts of railway connections in the port
- **Prof Yorgos Stephanedes**, *University of Patras, Greece*. Sustainable tourism and mobility: case study of Lefkas (GR)
- **Prof Osman Lindov**, *University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina*. Developing the concept of “mobility islands” in the city of Sarajevo
- **Mr Aldo Paribelli**, *FSI BusItalia Veneto, Italy*. Electrification of local public transit fleet in the city of Padua

Discussion with the audience (Q&A) (20 min)

Conclusions 5 min – Prof. Pierluigi Coppola, *EUSAIR Pillar 2 Coordinator, Italy*

Scope and objective

1. The theme of the session relates to urban mobility, which is becoming increasingly essential towards the development of greener transport systems, for boosting economic sectors (e.g. tourism) and improving people's quality of life.
2. Urban nodes represent the areas where most population lives. Due to higher population density cities are attractors/generators of a significant number of trips, potentially resulting in traffic congestion and air pollution. In the Adriatic-Ionian Region, many cities are also city-ports, suffering from traffic flows of vehicles generating from the port mixing and adding to urban mobility ones.
3. Popular tourism destinations show similar problems as urban areas, amplified by seasonality. Due to higher population density, urban nodes and tourism destinations are also the places where innovation and shared mobility solutions are more likely to happen.
4. The session will be the occasion to introduce sustainable urban mobility as a key focus area of the Pillar 2.
5. Best practices will be also presented by representatives of cities from the Adriatic-Ionian Region, as examples to support discussion on common problems and possible solutions towards an interconnected green and smart transport system.

Topics for discussion

6. The inclusion of urban mobility as an additional key focus area of the Pillar 2 in the EUSAIR action plan, currently under revision
7. Common issues and best practices in sustainable urban mobility planning in the Adriatic-Ionian Region
8. Synergies between EUSAIR pillars in shaping greener cities, ports and tourism accessibility
9. «Green Living Areas" as a viable option to deliver sustainable, equitable, prosperous and inclusive future, and quality of life for its citizens

Interactive approach with public (for example slido, mentimeter etc):

Yes

If Yes, what kind of questions

- How do you see the role of urban nodes in shaping a greener transport system in an overall context of decreasing in population and ageing trends?
- Due to the maritime and tourism dimensions of the Adriatic-Ionian Region, developing sustainable tourist accessibility and greener city-ports represent common issues for the region. Do you see other possible common areas of intervention?

- Sustainable urban mobility entails a number of measures and possible solutions that range from infrastructure development, to behavioural change policies and raising awareness campaigns towards shared and active mobility etc... Where shall we concentrate our efforts to be more effective in shaping a greener transport system in the Adriatic-Ionian Region?

Key messages to be communicated before or during the session via social media

- The EUSAIR action plan is under revision which includes urban mobility among the key focus areas for the Pillar 2
- Sustainable urban mobility is a topic of cross-pillar relevance for the Adriatic-Ionian Region, with significant potential synergies with the development of sustainable tourism, greener cities and ports
- The TEN-T regulation (currently under revision) also foresees an increased role of urban nodes in shaping a greener core and comprehensive European interoperable transport network
- The EUSAIR transport masterplan is under finalisation which will support the development of sustainable mobility in urban areas and accessing tourist destinations

EVENT 16

ADRIATIC IONIAN YOUTH ORGANISATIONS FORUM 5

ADRIATIC IONIAN YOUTH BRING FORWARD THEIR IDEAS FOR A BETTER YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE EUSAIR

Background – The **V Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Forum (AIYOF5)**, organised by Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE) in collaboration with the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CRPM – Coordinator) as part of the AI-NURECC PLUS Initiative, will take place during the 8th Forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region.

The **AIYOF5** will be powered by the Adriatic Ionian Youth Network (**AIYN**), an open network promoted by the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion and several Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations with a view to boost youth engagement in the EUSAIR, stimulating youth to take ownership of its objectives and appropriation of its opportunities, as to propose, structure, design and implement youth-led engagement, advocacy, awareness raising and capacity building actions.

The Forum will allow Youth Organisations forming part of the **AIYN** to meet EUSAIR decision-making structures and, together, explore ways and means of promoting a greater role of youth in the Strategy.

Target audience – Delegates from Adriatic Ionian youth-led and youth-focused organisations and networks, as well as youth advocates and other youth stakeholders, youth workers, young professionals, young academics and students. EU institutions, Macroregional actors and stakeholders, civil society organisations and citizens.

DRAFT AGENDA

09:30-09:40 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

09:40-10:00 INTRODUCTION

- *Welcome address* by Mr Midhat DŽEMIĆ, Directorate for European Integration of Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, EU Funds EUSAIR National Coordinator, Bosnian EUSAIR Presidency
- Mr Gilles KITTEL, Team Manager - Instrument for Pre-Accession, Enlargement Negotiation and EUSAIR, DG REGIO (EC) – TBC
- Mr Stavros KALOGNOMOS, Executive Secretary of the Balkan & Black Sea Commission of the CPMR, AI-NURECC PLUS Coordinator

10:00 – 10:45 NETWORKING TALKS AMONG YOUTH ORGANISATIONS OF THE AIYN

- Ms Milena PALLOTTA, Giovanichimere and Adriatic Ionian Youth Network, and Mr Milan STOJANOVIC, WBAA Board Member and Project Manager

Ms Pallotta and Mr Stojanovic will lead the AIYN members in presenting their ideas and jointly discuss the assets, needs and expectations of Adriatic Ionian Youth to bring forward their proposals for improving and speeding up the processes that can lead to a greater youth engagement in the EUSAIR.

10:45 – 11:00 Q&A SESSION BETWEEN AIYN AND EUSAIR REPRESENTATIVES

The Q&A session will aim at collecting feedback from EUSAIR Representatives regarding the ways and means of a greater youth engagement in the Strategy, also by identifying possible legal, administrative and financial barriers to their participation to the decision-making.

- • Mr Midhat DŽEMIĆ, EUSAIR National Coordinator for Bosnia Herzegovina
- • Ms Lidija PANSEGRAU HADROVIĆ, Deputy EUSAIR National Coordinator for Croatia
- • Ms Simona MAMELI, Consular officer for regional cooperation in SEE, Western Balkan Unit, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Conclusions and future steps, Ms Maria Luisa ESPOSITO, AIE EU Project Officer

The event will be moderated by Ms. Maria Luisa ESPOSITO, AIE EU Project Officer

EVENT 17

PILLAR: III ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SESSION

TITLE OF THE SESSION: Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention through RBM, ICZM and MSP

Date, time: 25^h May 2023, 9:30 - 11:00

Chairs

Mitja Bricelj, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Coordinator, Slovenia

Senad Oprašić, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Coordinator, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Welcome Speech by Chairs (10 min)

Moderator:

Mitja Bricelj, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Coordinator, Slovenia

Senad Oprašić, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Coordinator, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Gaby Hagmüller - Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, Belgium

Panellists: presentation (15 min for each)

- **Daniela Addis**, *Founder and Director of the Addis Law Firm “Environment&Sea, Italy.* CAMP Otranto Project: an example of transboundary implementation of the ICZM Protocol
- **Dr. Evangelia V. Avramidou**, *Researcher at Laboratory of Forest Genetics and Biotechnology, Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems, Greece.* A holistic approach for resilient terrestrial and coastal ecosystems
- **Margaretha Breil**, *Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change Foundation, Italy.* Knowledge for resilience in the Adriatic area: existing resources and open questions

- **prof. dr. Azrudin Husika**, *University of Sarajevo, Mechanical Engineering Faculty, Bosna and Hercegovina*. Needs and challenges of climate change adaptation at the local level – presentation of case study
- **Sabina Susmel, Ph.D** - *University of Udine - Department of Agri-food, Environmental and Animal Sciences, Italy* –Presentation of HATCH: hadriaticum data hub

Discussion with the audience (Q&A) (15 min)

Conclusions 5 min

Mitja Bricelj, *Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Coordinator, Slovenia*

Senad Oprašić, *Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Coordinator, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Gaby Hagmüller - *European Commission, DG Near, Civil Society Centre of Expertise, Belgium*

Scope and objective

The scope of the session on "Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention through RBM, ICZM, and MSP" is to explore the various approaches and tools that can be employed to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of climate change impacts and natural disasters. The session will focus on the Regional River Basin Management (RBM), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) as key frameworks for promoting sustainable development and disaster risk reduction in the Adriatic-Ionian region. A specific attention will also be devoted to the transboundary cooperation in the framework of the regional and sub-regional mechanisms.

The objective of the session is to facilitate a dialogue among stakeholders, experts, and policymakers on the challenges and opportunities associated with promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention through RBM, ICZM, and MSP. Participants will be invited to share their experiences, best practices, and innovative solutions related to these frameworks, as well as to identify key priorities for future action. The session aims to contribute to the development of more integrated and common effective approaches in order to effectively propose actions for building climate resilience and reducing disaster risks in the region at the terrestrial and coast part of the macro-region.

Topics for discussion

10. The role of RBM, ICZM, and MSP in promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention in the EUSAIR region
11. Best practices and innovative solutions for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into RBM, ICZM, and MSP policies and strategies
12. The use of scientific evidence and risk assessment tools to inform decision-making in RBM, ICZM, and MSP processes
13. The role of stakeholder engagement and participatory approaches in promoting sustainable development and reducing disaster risks in coastal and marine areas
14. The importance of cross-sectoral and transboundary cooperation for enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of climate change and natural disasters
15. Financial mechanisms and investment opportunities for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are essential for implementing effective RBM, ICZM, and MSP initiatives, and awareness should be raised for the opportunities for funding in existing funding streams which could support mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction within existing planning and implementation frameworks
16. initiatives in the EUSAIR region
17. The potential of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches for enhancing climate resilience and reducing disaster risks in coastal and marine areas.

Key messages to be communicated before or during the session via social media

- Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention is critical for building resilient and sustainable coastal and marine areas in the EUSAIR region.
- Regional Blue Economy Strategy (RBM), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) are essential frameworks for achieving climate resilience and disaster risk reduction.
- Effective RBM, ICZM, and MSP policies and strategies must be based on sound scientific evidence, risk assessment, and stakeholder engagement.
- Cross-sectoral and transboundary cooperation is vital for promoting sustainable development, reducing disaster risks, and building climate resilience in the EUSAIR region.
- Financing mechanisms and investment opportunities for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are essential for implementing effective RBM, ICZM, and MSP initiatives.

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches can play a significant role |
|---|

EVENT 18

Concept Note: EYE at the EUSAIR

Place and Format:

The event would be organized within the frame of the POPRI event which is a part of the 2023 EUSAIR forum. The event should be held in a hybrid format, which would allow more participants from the region to attend the session.

About the event:

The fundamental idea of the session is to inform participants about the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme and its benefits.

The session should highlight the importance of the EYE program, its benefits as well as explain the achievements of the program over the last years and present success stories. Finally, we will inform the participants how to find local contact points in their regions.

This session will also provide space to present a local contact point – EYE Intermediary organisation (IO) (there are 2 in Bosnia and Hercegovina). The IO would illustrate what they do and how they support entrepreneurs to participate in the EYE. To encourage participation in the EYE programme the intention is to also invite alumni so they can present their EYE story and show to which extent they benefited from the programme presenting tangible results.

Next to the promotion of this session by the organisers a promotion on the EYE official social media would be done and all EYE IOs would be informed. Specifically, IOs from the region would be asked to promote the event in general and session in particular. The EYE alumni network will include the event in their official calendar of events. The invitations will be sent to universities with a special focus on business management and innovation (including technology transfer).

EVENT 19

IPA ADRION Event - Increasing competencies and skills in the Adriatic-Ionian region

A lack of skilled workforce is one of the prevailing barriers for economic growth and competitiveness. In the Adriatic-Ionian region, skill development in higher education represents one of the major challenges and concerns for the future. The low investment in R&D is actually stressed by a low level of cooperation between research centres, high education institutions, public administrations, and private companies. In this respect, the IPA ADRION programme can support and strengthen the collaboration among stakeholders in relation to the quadruple helix ties by increasing knowledge and competences aiming to develop skills for employability. In particular, the wide adoption of more eco-friendly approaches to economic production and consumption is changing the nature of work, and thus the skills required of many workers. While the greening of economies presents challenges, it also offers considerable potential for job creation. The development of skills for green jobs is crucial to ensuring an efficient transition to a green economy by matching supply and demand for skills.

Within this frame, the event will provide with an opportunity to showcase the opportunities offered by the last ADRION extraordinary 5th call for proposals launched in 2022 which targeted universities and research centres for the scope of designing transnational Master's Programmes in key sectors, such as green and blue economy, energy transition and social innovation. Well performed projects shall be granted as strategic projects in the framework of the 2021-2027 IPA ADRION programme as from 2024.

During the session, two main granted projects will be illustrated. **CRESCENTO**, a project focused on circular economy and **MARBLE**, a project focused on maritime robotics in the Blue economy.

What are the criticalities of the region in those sectors? What are the opportunities offered by the Master Programmes? What type of competences are those educational Programmes aimed at delivering to the students and which type of job profiles are expected to be designed? Finally, how Interreg transnational programmes shall contribute to mitigate some weaknesses of the area? Those are the main questions and points of discussions that will be addressed during the event.

Speakers:

Adela Franja, IPA ADRION Joint Secretariat

Nikola Mišković, University of Zagreb

Luca Ferrarini, Polytechnic of Milan

Ulrike Damyanovic, European Training Foundation

Moderator: Matija Pavlovčič, EUSAIR Facility Point Lead Partner team

About the Projects

CRESCENTO: Joint Master's Programme on Circular Economy: the regulatory frameworks in the eight participating countries will be analysed, a common strategy and an action plan of detailed actions will follow, in order to guide the effective implementation of the Programme in the cooperation area. **Website:** <https://crescento.adrioninterreg.eu/>.

MARBLE: Innovative Joint master Programme "Maritime Robotics in Blue Economy". The Project aims to raise competences and skills in maritime robotics application in the domain of blue economy. Joint trainings organized by a network of universities, research organizations, business clusters, and a digital innovation hub will be implemented to achieve this goal. **Website:** <https://marble.adrioninterreg.eu>

EVENT 20

PILLAR: IV

TITLE OF THE SESSION: Educated and skilled workforce for sustainable tourism in EUSAIR region

Date, time: 25 May, Thursday 11.30 -13.00 (room 2)

Chair

Mr. Faruk Čaluk, Senior Advisor, Tourist Board of Sarajevo Canton

Welcome speech

- **Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of B&H (tbc) – 5 min**
Key note address

- **Mr. Tonči Glavina, State Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Sport, Croatia** – online (5 min)

Panellists: presentation

- **Mr. Almir Peštek, PhD**, Full professor in School of Economics and Business in Sarajevo, Univeristy of Mostar and RISEBA University in Latvia. Education system versus the needs of tourism businesses; Quality and quantity of personnel in tourism; LLL (8 min)
- **Ms. Dimitra Vasilopoulou, Ministry of Tourism, Greece**; Educated and skilled workforce for sustainable tourism as addressed by the Hellenic Ministry of Tourism (8 min)
- **Ms. Konstantina Tsakopoulou, Ministry of Tourism, Greece**; Digital skills of the tourism workforce in Greece – online (8 min)
- **Mr. Georgios Emmanouil**, European Commission, DG REGIO; Tourism Sustainability through EU policies and programs for youth education and employment (8 min)
- **Mr. Afed Jashari, State councillor for the protection of cultural heritage, Ministry of Culture, North Macedonia.** „Within its small area North Macedonia has a lot to show,, - Alternative tourism and Culture heritage treasure of North Macedonia (8 min)
- **Mr. Filippo Francini, Director of department for tourism and culture and Mr. Stefano Moroncelli, Ministry of tourisimi, San Marino**, Accessible Turismo in San Marino (8 min)
- **Mr. Aleksandar Vasiljević, Director General "Hilton Belgrade", Serbia**, Importance of an educated and qualified workforce for sustainable tourism in the EUSAIR region (8 min)
- **Ms. Sonja Bašanović**, Human Resource Manager in **Hotel Ramada Podgorica**, Montenegro; The gap between supply and demand of human resources in tourism and hospitality (8 min)

Discussion with the audience (Q&A) (15 min)

Conclusions –

- **Ms. Senka Daniel, EUSAIR Pillar 4 Coordinator, Ministry of Tourism and Sport, Croatia** – (5 min)

Scope and objective

18. To slow down the brain drain, the youth should be given the **opportunities to learn, to gain new skills, to broaden the horizons**. Youth is curious, brave, impatient. The education is the key instrument for making changes. Tourism sector needs educated and skilled people to perform the double transition of the sector, to find and retain new talents. For a resilient EUSAIR region, the question of education and skills should be put as a high priority.
19. To contribute to strengthening the competitiveness of the EUSAIR countries by increasing the quality of education for integrated sustainable destination management and enhancing smart specialization, diversification of tourism offer (special interest product development), innovation and human capital development of AIR destination

Topics for discussion

20. Skills and educational programs for digital and green transition of tourism and integrated sustainable destination management
21. Education system versus the needs of tourism businesses
22. Attract and retain new talents
23. Skills for tourism of special interest – accessible tourism, cultural, archeological tourism
24. EU Year of Skills 2023 and Pact for Skills
25. European Industrial Strategy in Tourism
26. UN sustainable goals for youth
27. The future of the labor market in tourism
28. To increase the number of highly educated employees and entrepreneurs in the field of tourism and raise the knowledge and competence of unemployed.
29. Possible areas of EU support under EU funding 2021 - 2027

Interactive approach with public (for example slido, mentimeter etc):

No.

Key messages to be communicated before or during the session via social media

- To slow down the brain drain in EUSAIR countries, the youth should be given the **opportunities to learn, to gain new skills, to broaden the horizons**
- Tourism sector needs educated and skilled people to perform the double transition of the sector, to find and retain new talents and contribute to strengthening the competitiveness of the EUSAIR countries
- The education is the key instrument for making changes

EVENT 21

ADRIATIC IONIAN YOUTH NETWORK

SUPPORTING YOUTH SKILLS TO COUNTERACT BRAIN DRAIN IN THE ADRIATIC IONIAN REGION

Background – The event takes step from the IV Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Forum (AIYOF4) organised by the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE) as part of the AI-NURECC PLUS Initiative in Skopje (North Macedonia) on 24 January 2023.

It will be an occasion to continue reflecting on the challenges of the *green and digital transition* and on the EU opportunities that young people need to be prepared to seize in order to face them. Momentous topics such as *brain drain and brain circulation* in the Adriatic Ionian Region will be discussed as key to progressing towards environmental sustainability, innovation and social inclusion. A special attention will be given to the perspectives of youth organisations and to reflect upon the role they can play in decision-making processes, especially with reference to the introduction of a potential fifth social pillar in the EUSAIR. Suggestions from the other macroregional strategies will be sought and incorporated in the reflections about establishing an open dialogue and cooperation on these matters.

Target audience – Delegates from Adriatic Ionian youth organisations, young professionals, youth workers, young academics and students. EU institutions, Macroregional actors and stakeholders, civil society organisations and citizens.

DRAFT AGENDA

11:30-11:40 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

11:40-12:00 INTRODUCTION

Moderated by Ms. Maria Luisa ESPOSITO, AIE EU Project Officer

- *Welcome address* by Mr Francesco COCCO, AIE Secretary General
- Mr Milan STOJANOVIC, WBAA Board Member and Project Manager, AYIN representative
- *Key note speech* by Representative of European Training Foundation – TBC

12:00 – 12:55 NETWORKING TALKS. THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN SUPPORTING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN THE ADRIATIC IONIAN REGION

Moderated by Ms Azra BERBIC, Center for Youth KVART Prijedor and AIYN

- Young person (maybe a start-up) identified by Azra
- Representative of Humanity in action
- AIYN representative to be identified

- Mr Sanjin VLASTELICA, Head of Division for European Macro-Regions, EUSDR/EUSAIR National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Croatia – TBC
- Representatives of EUSALP – TBC
- Representatives of Priority Area 3- EUSDR
- Representatives of EUSBSR – TBC

12:55 – 13:00 Q&A

- Conclusions and future steps, Ms Maria Luisa ESPOSITO, AIE EU Project Officer