



Exploring Potential Financing Pathways for MEDDIET Cooperation

Initial perspectives on financial frameworks and instruments that could potentially support the development of the cooperation opportunities emerging from the workshop

Ancona, Università Politecnica delle Marche, 16 October 2026

 The picture can't be displayed.

MEDDIET Working Group Meeting – Interactive Policy Workshop

The setting for MEDDIET Cooperation

CURRENT SITUATION

Financing pathways much more evident for Pillar 2—Transport and Energy Infrastructure—as well as Pillar 3--Environment



WBIF & donors in
Western Balkans

For the areas involved in MEDDIET Cooperation - -Pillar 1 (Blue Economy), Pillar 4 (Sustainable Tourism) and Pillar 5 (Social Cohesion) – Financing pathways are less defined.

Mainly supported by Interreg funding....or national/regional programmes

Strong involvement of SMEs and micro-enterprises in areas such as fishing, cultural heritage, tourism, sustainable food systems and biodiversity, and relevant skills—which have not benefitted from large IFI programmes / WBIF

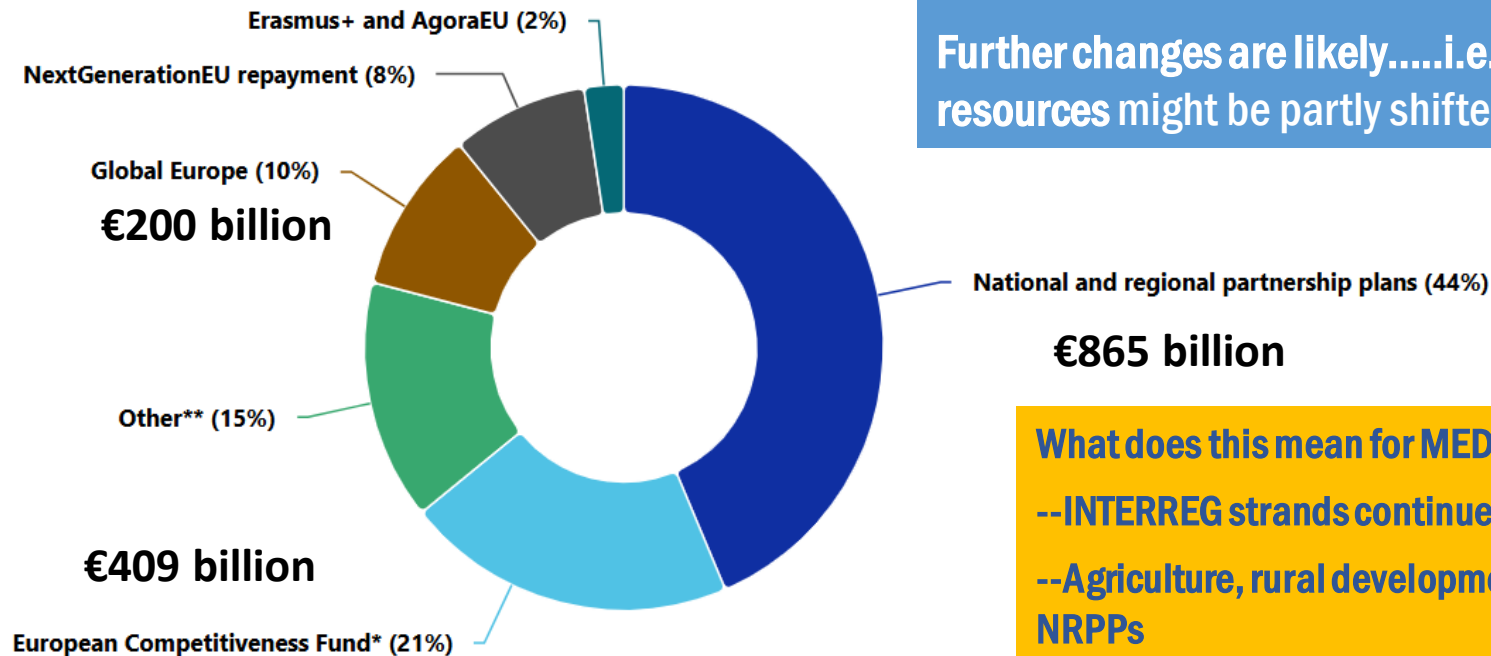
LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Ongoing negotiations of the MFF 2028-2034—the new funding structure is simplified – focused on **performance and reform**—presenting new challenges and opportunities

The proposed 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework (July 2025)

During 2025-2027: Budget being negotiated by European Parliament and Member States:

Further changes are likely.....i.e. rumour that Global Europe resources might be partly shifted



What does this mean for MEDDIET cooperation?

--INTERREG strands continue

--Agriculture, rural development, fisheries integrated into new NRPPs

● National and regional partnership plans (44%)
● Global Europe (10%)

● European Competitiveness Fund* (21%)
● NextGenerationEU repayment (8%)

● Other** (15%)
● Erasmus+ and AgoraEU (2%)

Exploring Potential Financing Pathways for MEDDIET Cooperation

National and Regional Partnership Plans: a central innovation in the 2028-2034 MFF for Member States

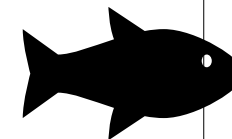
Single comprehensive plan prepared by each Member State, covering all relevant EU funds under shared management between the Commission and Member States ---replaces current system of separate programmes for **cohesion, agriculture, fisheries, migration and security**. The NRPPs must be **developed and implemented in close partnership between national, regional and local authorities** and relevant stakeholders.

Financial resources to be provided through a new fund: **“European Fund for Economic, Territorial, Social, Rural and Maritime Development, for Sustainable Prosperity and Security (NRP Fund)”**

Aimed at greater flexibility for rapid action, streamlining, harmonising, and results-orientation to boost competitiveness.

KEY AREAS FOR MEDDIET

Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, social cohesion, rural development



The picture can't be displayed.

The picture can't be displayed.

Exploring Potential Financing Pathways for MEDDIET Cooperation



Interreg: a main source of transnational cooperation funding—including in areas connected to MEDDIET

SP4EUSAIR developed EUSAIR Implementation Formats leading to submission of several proposals to IPA-ADRION

Some EUSAIR countries are eligible to participate in CENTRAL EUROPE, ALPINE SPACE and DANUBE Interreg programmes—and all can participate in Interreg Europe

Interreg programmes will continue under the MFF 2028-2034—CBC is particularly important, for example, in fisheries—Continuous open call for Small-scale projects SI-HR (through 1 Jan 2028)

Mediterranean Multi-Programme Mechanism (MMM) involves various Interreg programmes, helping to enhance long-term impacts and transferability of project results across the Mediterranean -- **Thematic focus on Sustainable Tourism – closed 30 September 2026**

IPA South Adriatic –4th call for small-scale capitalisation project – MMM- open now!

Interreg IPA-ADRION: (ongoing projects):

CIRCUS: Circular economy Strategies, action plans, and Solutions for agrifood systems transition in ADRION coastal communities

FISHIMPACT: Promoting ESG principles and healthy nutritional habits to increase competitiveness, market diversification and effective communication for consumers in Adriatic-Ionian aquaculture and fishery sectors

Exploring Potential Financing Pathways for MEDDIET Cooperation



Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership

4th Joint Transnational Call (total €38m)

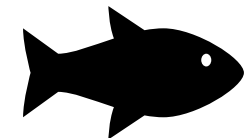
The **Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP)** aims to design, steer and support a just and inclusive transition to a regenerative, resilient, and sustainable blue economy--a Research and Innovation (R&I) Partnership started in 2022 under the Horizon Europe Programme, and part of **Cluster 6 (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment)**. Active 2022-2029--with a planned investment of more than **€250 m**.



Open to partners from
**EUSAIR (MED BASIN) +
Other Sea Basin**

Pre-proposals to be submitted before 16 Nov.

For example: Activities related to pursuing climate neutrality, such as blue carbon ecosystems and other nature-based solutions within coastal and marine ecosystems with a view also to help build new business model for coastal communities, e.g. ecosystem-based services (**sustainable tourism, aquaculture and fisheries practices, ...**).



https://www.bluepartnership.eu/sites/bluepartnership.eu/files/documents/2026-10/sbep_jtc_2026_4th_call_announcement_061026_0.pdf

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
EUSAIR

Exploring Potential Financing Pathways for MEDDIET Cooperation



EIB: Innovation and Green Transformation Facility for the Western Balkans

Total Funding: €187 m total, combining €170 m in loans and €17 m in EU grants via the [Western Balkans Investment Framework \(WBIF\)](#).

Target Countries: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.

Beneficiaries: [Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises \(MSMEs\)](#), mid-caps, incubators, science parks, and research centres.

Core Focus Areas: Digitalisation, [green transition](#), cybersecurity, [product development](#), [sustainable agriculture](#), [ecosystem-based tourism](#), and climate resilience.

Implementation: Funds are channelled through local partner financial institutions and commercial banks, with early operations signed with banks like **Erste Banka Srbija** and **Intesa Sanpaolo Bank Albania**

<https://www.eib.org/en/projects/all/20240919>

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
EUSAIR

The picture can't be displayed.

(May 2026): ISP ALBANIA LOAN FOR INNOVATIVE AND GREEN SMES (EUR 22m)
--intermediated loan to Intesa Sanpaolo Bank Albania to be blended with an investment grant from WBIF to enhance access to finance for SMEs and Mid-Caps and to foster innovation and green investments in Albania.

Key feature: Capacity building, awareness raising, matchmaking

Exploring Potential Financing Pathways for MEDDIET Cooperation



Not just for large infrastructure-- also for SMEs

Now provides credit lines for micro small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through local banks, microfinance loans and non-financial support.

EBRD in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

new Risk-sharing facility with Erste Bank will support a broad range of MSMEs across Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a focus on businesses owned or led by women and young entrepreneurs, companies operating outside the Sarajevo region, and enterprises active in sectors such as agribusiness and tourism.

<https://www.ebrd.com/home/news-and-events/news/2026/ebrd--eu-and-sparkasse-bank-unlock--20-million-in-financing-for-.html>

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
EUSAIR

What is EUSAIR StEP?

What does it have to do with Financing MEDDIET Cooperation?

- **A STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE** designed to **bridge macro-regional priorities with concrete funding and stakeholder collaboration** across the Adriatic-Ionian region.
- Its **CORE MISSION** is to solve the "**no dedicated funds**" rule of macro-regional strategies by ensuring their goals are actively built into mainstream EU funding frameworks
- **Led by the Marche Region (Italy)** with partners **DEI (Bosnia and Herzegovina)** and **SASPAC (Albania)**, and supported by **INTERREG IPA-ADRION funding**, StEP provides technical assistance to the Adriatic-Ionian Region's stakeholders in preparing for the *new programming period*
- **StEP Cooperates with the EUSAIR Facility Point and SP4EUSAIR**



EU Strategy for the
Adriatic and Ionian Region
EUSAIR



FACILITYPOINT



STEP



SP4EUSAIR

www.adriatic-ionian.eu

Julia Culver : julia.culver@nomisma.it



For a Prosperous and Integrated Adriatic and Ionian Region

Strategic projects EUSAIR FACILITY POINT, STEP and SP4EUSAIR are co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg IPA ADRION Programme 2021-2027.

 The picture can't be displayed.