



CONFERENCE

“EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region and Synergies with the EU Direct Funding Programmes”

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POSITION PAPER

Since the decision of the European Council on 13-14 December 2012 remarkable has been the contribution of the local and regional authorities to the EUSAIR elaboration process.

The Thematic Committees of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion, thanks to the project AdriGov, have focused their activities on the EUSAIR pillars, making them consistent with the strategy. Several contributions have been elaborated by the AIE Committees and have been sent to the governments of the area.

At the same time, the Italian regions have established their own working groups dedicated to EUSAIR in order to ensure coordination at the regional level and for allowing the involvement of the territories in the definition of the Strategy.

On 24 July 2013, the Conference of Presidents of Regions and Autonomous Provinces decided to establish the Working Group EUSAIR ITALY coordinated by Marche Region. Over the last few months, this group has done an intense work with the Italian regions and with the national and European authorities.

The Intergroup “Adriatic-Ionian” of the Committee of the Regions has delivered an intensive and decisive in-depth study to develop formal opinions useful to strengthen the elaboration process of the EUSAIR action plan.

For the aforementioned reasons, we do hope that this sharing methodology can be adopted also in all the countries involved by the strategy.

According to the article 96.3(e) of the Regulation (EU) 1303/2013, the new National Operative Programmes about the Structural and Investment Funds (SIF) for the period 2014-2020 should concretely show how they contribute to the implementation of the EUSAIR Strategy. Furthermore,



within the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes the EUSAIR Strategy will represent the programmatic basic reference, which implies an automatic coherent alignment of the programmes with the contents of the Strategy, making the implementation of the identified actions visible and controllable, at the aim of showing the effort that the programmes bring to the achievement of the strategic goals.

Therefore, it seems to be fundamental for an effective implementation of the Action Plan for the EUSAIR to coordinate the programmes on the SIF, the other financial resources for the period 2014-2020 given to the Members States involved, the methodology set up within the Partnership Agreements and the contents of the Action Plan. As a consequence, it is central to keep on working on the current system of *governance*, which has already established a strong collaboration mechanism between the national institutions and the regions involved in the EUSAIR.

It is crucial also to remark that the actions identified by the AdriGov project, within the framework of the EUSAIR, could be implemented through *Single Project Activities*, even with relevant financial dimension, which implies a more traditional project management methodology as well as thought the use of *New Instruments of Integrated Project Management* such as the JAP – Joint Action Plan –, the ITI – Integrated Territorial Initiative- and the CLLD – Community-Led Local Development –, which suggest a project management methodology based on results' achievement and a system of reimbursement related to lump standard costs.

Approaching the approval of the Adriatic Ionian macro-regional strategy, we reaffirm our commitment to:

- Establish immediately a system of enforcement and implementation of the EUSAIR Strategy, involving both the regional levels and its network structures in order to deal effectively with all future stages of implementation;
- Make active the participation of non-EU countries and regions that are officially fully involved, despite of its capacity and resources that in practice affect their full participation;
- Permit to the EUSAIR Strategy to have dedicated resources for the implementation, due to the lack of professional and durable day-to-day support;
- Foster cooperation with existing institutions as a key priority, avoiding duplication or overlapping of activities. Existing Regional Authority and their network should play indeed a catalytic role in the implementation;
- Reinforce cooperation among level of National Contact Points, giving strategic coordination and monitoring the implementation at territorial level in each country;
- Strength the involvement of civil society, including cooperation of regional parliaments and consultative networks or platforms;