



Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion

Memorandum of Understanding

EXPO Feeding the planet, Energy for Life.

Position paper of the Adriatic-Ionian local and regional authorities

Preamble

1) The members of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion, below indicated as AIE, in fulfillment of the statutory mandate of supporting and accompanying the EUSAIR Strategy implementation, for the benefit of all the territories involved in the above mentioned initiative, hereby agree and endorse the leading principles of EXPO 2015 – Feeding the planet, Energy for life.

Food plays a crucial role in the definition of the territorial identities, whose is an essential component. Farmers, breeders, fishermen are all working to ensure the access for all to good, safe and secure food; this is the key to get better health conditions for people all over the Adriatic-Ionian macro-area. Therefore, the members of the AIE hereby share and pursue within the Adriatic-Ionian macro-area the concepts of food safety, food security, food sustainability, as pillars for a macro-regional sustainable development framework, enabling all levels institutions to promote and protect the manifold territorial identities, as parts of a harmonized whole macro-region.

2) The AIE underlines that all the strategies, starting from Europe 2020, to get to the thematic strategies (environment, natural resources, forestry, soil

defense, energy, industrialization, better regulation, transport, blue growth, tourism, etc.) and to the place-based ones, like the EUSAIR, there's evidence that a sound approach, oriented to results, isn't enough to get measurable impacts and good outcome in terms of wealth and quality of life. An adequate territorial dimension is needed, and only the local and regional authorities can provide it, on the basis of a detailed knowledge of the assets, the opportunities and the local needs, and in order to improve quality in standards of life and territorial resources in their areas.

The members of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion are responsible towards their territories and population for the custody of the ground, of the marine resources, for the protection of the landscape and the sea, and the sustainability of the touristic activities, for the knowledge of productive processes both traditional and innovative, which could ensure the efficiency in the agriculture and fisheries (at a household and industrial stage), they intend to use a systemic approach (involving social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects) and integration, with the involvement of institutions and territorial stakeholders.

- 3) The AIE wants to become the necessary territorial connection between EXPO 2015 Feeding the planet, Energy for life, and the ongoing EUSAIR strategy, because the local and regional authorities from the Adriatic-Ionian macro-area can give a crucial contribution to the dialogue and coherence between those strategies, in order to successfully implement the priorities of the above mentioned EUSAIR, following the principle of the multilevel governance and optimizing the harmonization of the public policies in the macroarea.
- 4) The AIE underlines that the local and regional authorities in the Adriatic-Ionian area share, among others, the following priority challenges:
 - sustainable qualification in crucial policies, like agriculture, research, fisheries and aquaculture;
 - promotion and preservation of the historical, cultural, linguistic identities;

- promotion and preservation of the natural and landscape identities, also through integration in touristic policies, under the criterion of the respect for the macro-regional peculiarities, and moreover:
- - promotion of innovation in the entrepreneurial context, simplification and reduction of the administrative and bureaucratic burdens, better and smarter regulatory techniques, and:
- - a strong qualifying action for the connection networks (logistic, freight, passengers transport by train, road, sea) and most of all the non-material networks, enabling people, students, workers, researchers, to circulate all over the Adriatic-Ionian macro-area, in order to create a new knowledge community at a macro-regional scale, able to elaborate quality proposals for development and solution to face the common challenges.

The AIE underlines that those themes are priorities both to the strategy EUSAIR, and to the reflection framework of EXPO Milan 2015.

5) All that premised and shared, the AIE declare hereby its support the principles of the Milan Charter, and intends to take active part in the construction of a sustainable and innovative Adriatic-Ionian macro-region. Therefore, the members of the AIE, in the framework of the EUSAIR priorities, subscribe as a representative of the local and regional authorities of the Adriatic-Ionian macro-area the Milan Charter, with the view to engage themselves to collaborate, in order to define the best available conditions for quality policy making in the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region, and among them, the following:

- access for all to a sufficient, good, healthy food, in order to ensure to the Adriatic-Ionian populations an active life during all the lifetime
- a right consideration about the social and cultural value of the food, as a crucial component of the macro-regional identity

- an equal, rational and efficient management of the territorial assets in the Adriatic-Ionian macro-area (natural, marine, energetic, cultural, food resources)
- a sustainable and equal access to the clean energy sources, and the promotion of sound and sustainable investments in the territorial resources (soil management, natural biodiversity, water, waste, agriculture, fisheries), and most of all in the human resources (education, fight to the social exclusion and poverty, solidarity, micro-credit and local entrepreneurship), the key to enhance efficient trends for a better development in the whole Adriatic-Ionian macro-area.

On the basis of the considerations above exposed, and of the common awareness of the importance of the engagements they consent to, the AIE members hereby undertake, in relation to the respective territorial competence, the following engagements:

- to strengthen furthermore the inter-regional network already operating within the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region, and to disseminate and foster the leading principles and themes of EXPO 2015 – Feeding the planet, Energy for Life, in order to promote into the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region instruments to defend and sustain the income of farmers, breeders and fishermen, and local entrepreneurs, actors of an advanced form of development, and to adopt actions of environmental and food education, as key tools for health;
- to support the adoption of regulatory measures by all levels of government institutions in the Adriatic-Ionian macro-area, in order to make it effective the right to a good, safe, secure and accessible food for all, to ensure the health of the populations;
- to support the adoption of legislation for the protection of the ground for agricultural activities, for the promotion of investments in the natural resources and in the green research fields, with the view to protect the local

inhabitants, to eliminate juvenile and non-regular work practices, in particular in the agro-food and fisheries fields;

- to find out and circulate at a macro-regional scale the best good practices in public policy-making, in coherence with the local needs, to promote an equal access to food, ground, credit, education, energy, technologies, through adequate public and private investments, to get a substantial improvement in productivity. Promotion of Territorial Pacts about the urban and rural food strategies, to gather more resources for the agro-food and environmental research;
- to contribute to the development in the Adriatic-Ionian of an open commercial market area at a macro.-regional scale, based on common rules;
- to put the food at the center of the common cultural heritage in representation of the variety of territorial identities of the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region.

Milan, 21st September, 2015

Signature