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EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund - Instrument for Pre-Accession II Fund
EUSAIR FACILITY POINT

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
EUSAIR

EUSAIR revision process: Pillar 1 thematic consultation

Online, 7th December 2022

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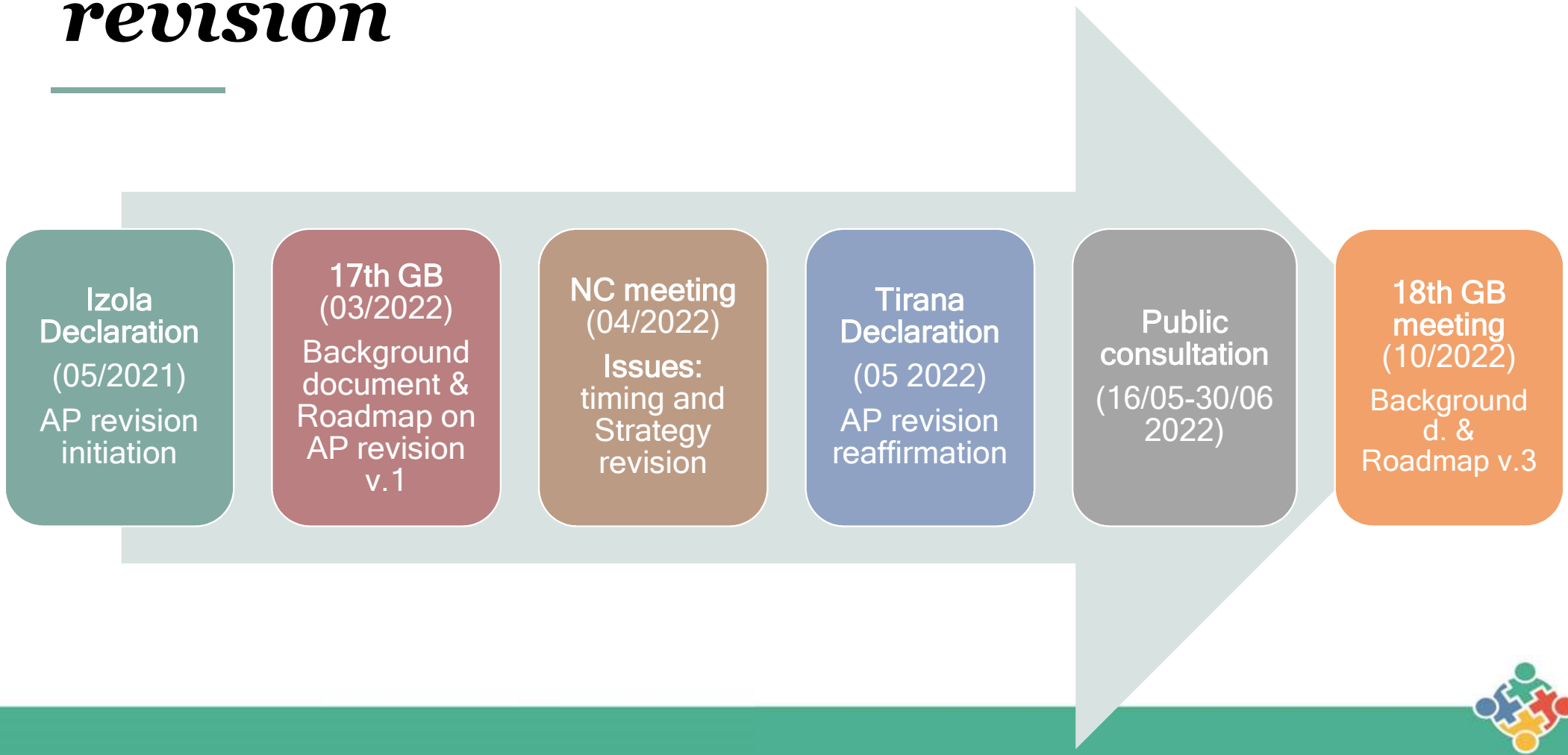
01 The role of TSGs in the revision process

Steps towards EUSAIR Action Plan revision



Reasons for revision

- ➔ Harmonization with current EU policies, Strategies, Initiatives, Regulations, Directives.. (EU Strategic agenda 2019-2024, Green Deal + new/updated relevant sector policies)
- ➔ Transition from past to current multiannual financial framework (integration of flagships)
- ➔ New countries joining EUSAIR
- ➔ Facing emerging global challenges (COVID, migration, Ukraine, energy, supply chain crises)
- ➔ Addressing governance challenges/gaps (towards more focused and implementation-oriented approach)

Key implementers and their role in the revision process 1/2

- ➔ EUSAIR Presidency: leads the process;
- ➔ EC (DG Regio): observes and advises the process, coordinates with other DGs;
- ➔ National Coordinators: adopt the Background document with Roadmap, coordinate and present strategic country positions on the Action Plan revision throughout the process, approve advancements in the drafting process - decide on Action Plan structure, governance implications and contents, provide feedback to the draft of input document for EC Action Plan Staff Working Document and finally approve the input document;

Key implementers and their role in the revision process 2/2

- ➔ Pillar Coordinators: coordinate the thematic consultation in TSGs with the support of the EUSAIR Facility Point;
- ➔ TSG members: present country thematic inputs within TSGs on Pillar related topic;
- ➔ EUSAIR Facility Point: facilitates the process & ensures the transparency of the process;

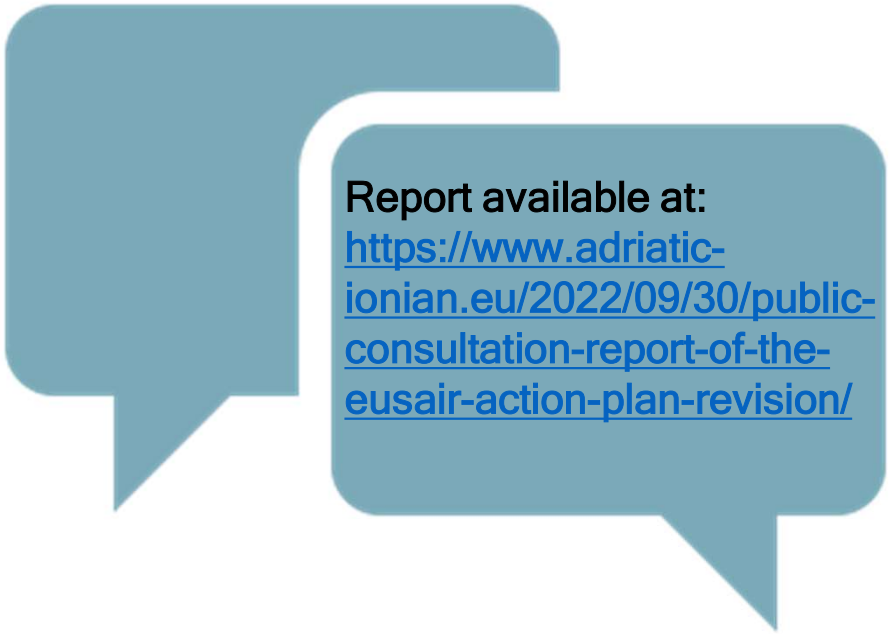
- ➔ EUSAIR key stakeholders with special focus on youth: share their views regarding revision through public consultation on transnational and national levels.

Key sources

- ➔ EU policies and strategies
- ➔ Western Balkan policies
- ➔ EUSAIR key sources (EUSAIR monitoring & evaluation, pillar related studies)
- ➔ EC reports and studies related to EUSAIR
- ➔ Furthermore, political declarations, studies and reports from key stakeholders related to Adriatic and Ionian Region

Public consultation

- ➔ Launched at the Tirana EUSAIR Forum
- ➔ Online – published at EUSAIR website/invitation sent by FP LP to EUSAIR mailing list
- ➔ Running from: 16th May till 30th June 2022
- ➔ **Solid response: a total number of 342 contributions was received**



Public consultation results 1/3

Which 3 words would you use to best describe the EUSAIR as it is now?

Which 3 words would you use to best describe the EUSAIR as it should be (2030)?

Public consultation results 2/3

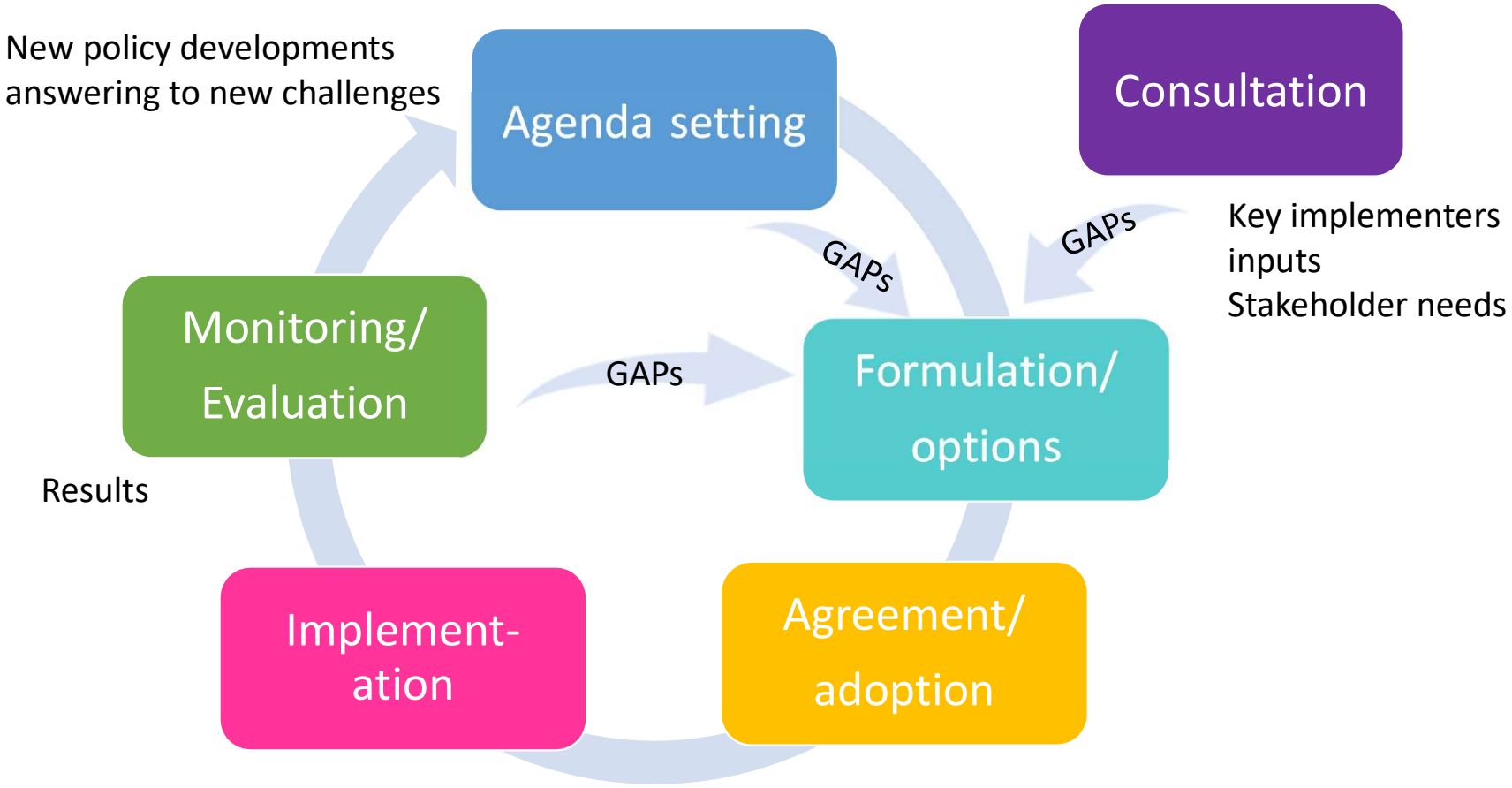
- **General Framework:** Peace and security priority; 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development; Ownership and commitment to the MRS, including the implementation of flagship projects; Mainstreaming of topics; Involve equally urban and the rural/peripheral areas
- **Governance:** Cross-pillar projects facilitating cooperation; Territorial observatory and strategy; Governance/policy/capacity building projects existing outcomes review and capitalization processes; Formal and informal horizontal coordination mechanisms; More involvement of local and regional governments in EUSAIR (co-creation and co-planning)
- **Cooperation:** Capacity building and voluntarism; involving more (and new) organizations; voice and role to the civil society; People-to-people links; focus on Youth

Public consultation results 3/3

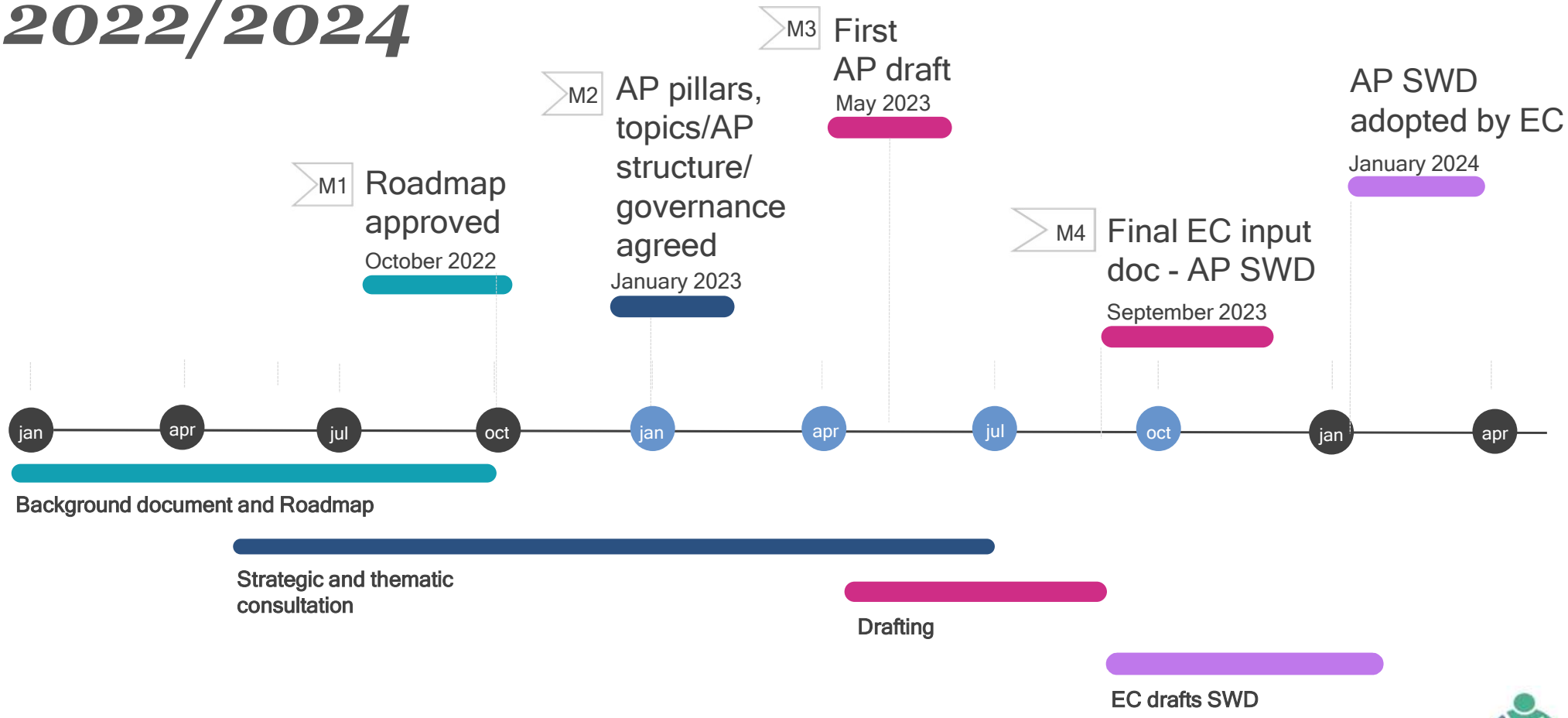
Sustainable Tourism EUSAIR	Environmental Quality EUSAIR	Connecting the Region EUSAIR	Blue Growth EUSAIR
• Cultural and creative industries • Cultural heritage • Innovation in tourism	• Bring forward sust. agriculture and link to « farm-to-fork » strategy • Circular economy	• AI infrastructure • Renewable energy sources/energy efficiency/saving • Soft mobility (walking, cycling, public transport) and e-mobility	Blue economy and blue innovation (not traditional sectors, rather emerging sectors)

- **More innovation, research and development (quadruple-helix approach)**
- **Accent on sustainability (in every joint action), green and digital transition**
- **Joint work on decarbonisation and climate change adaptation measures**
- **Joint work on Smart specialization topics**
- **Work on Skills (e.g. blue skills for youth), student and labour mobility**
- **More actions for Youth, stronger Youth involvement in EUSAIR and youth exchange programmes**
- **Cultural dialogue**

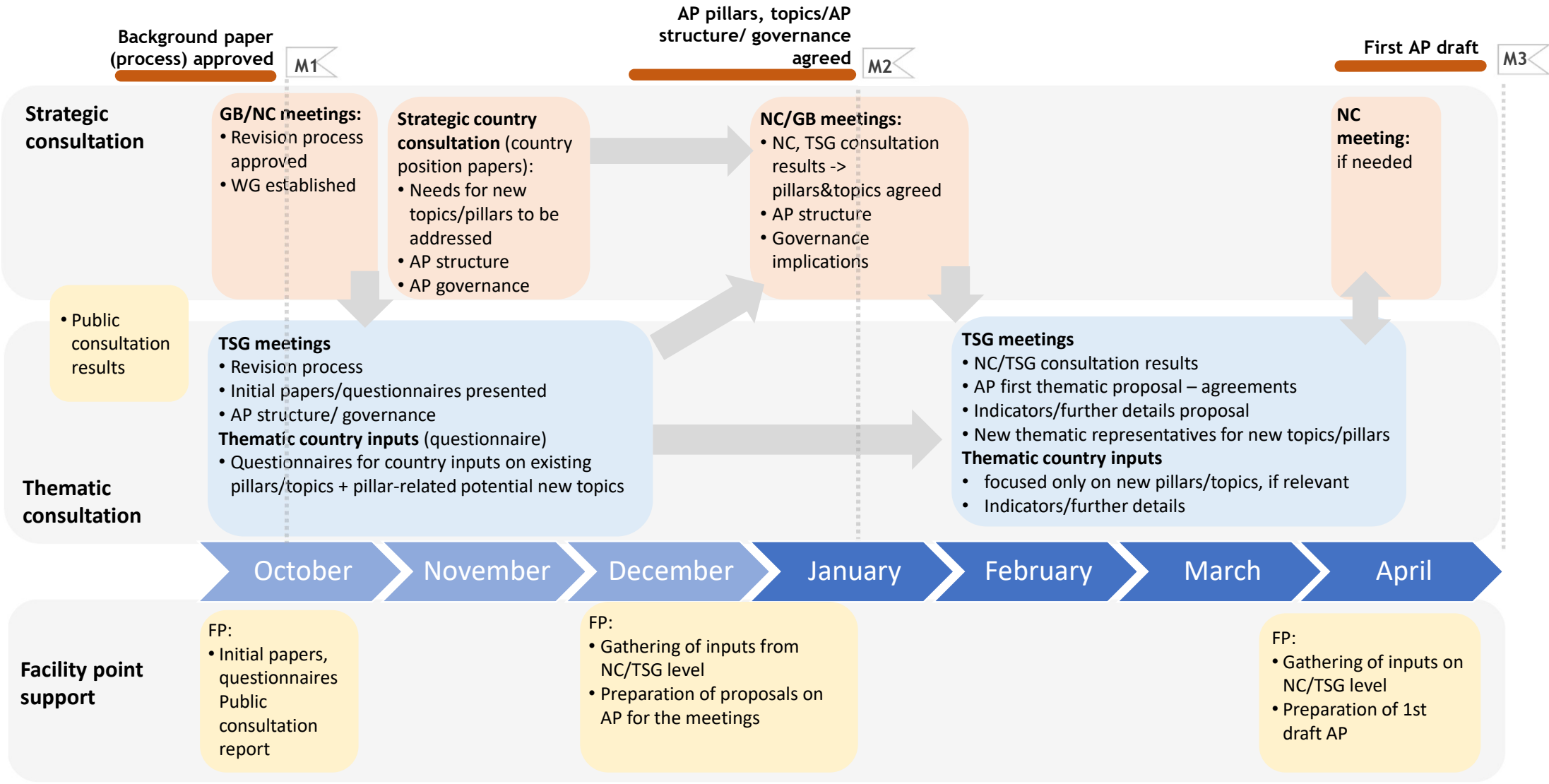
Policy development cycle - revision



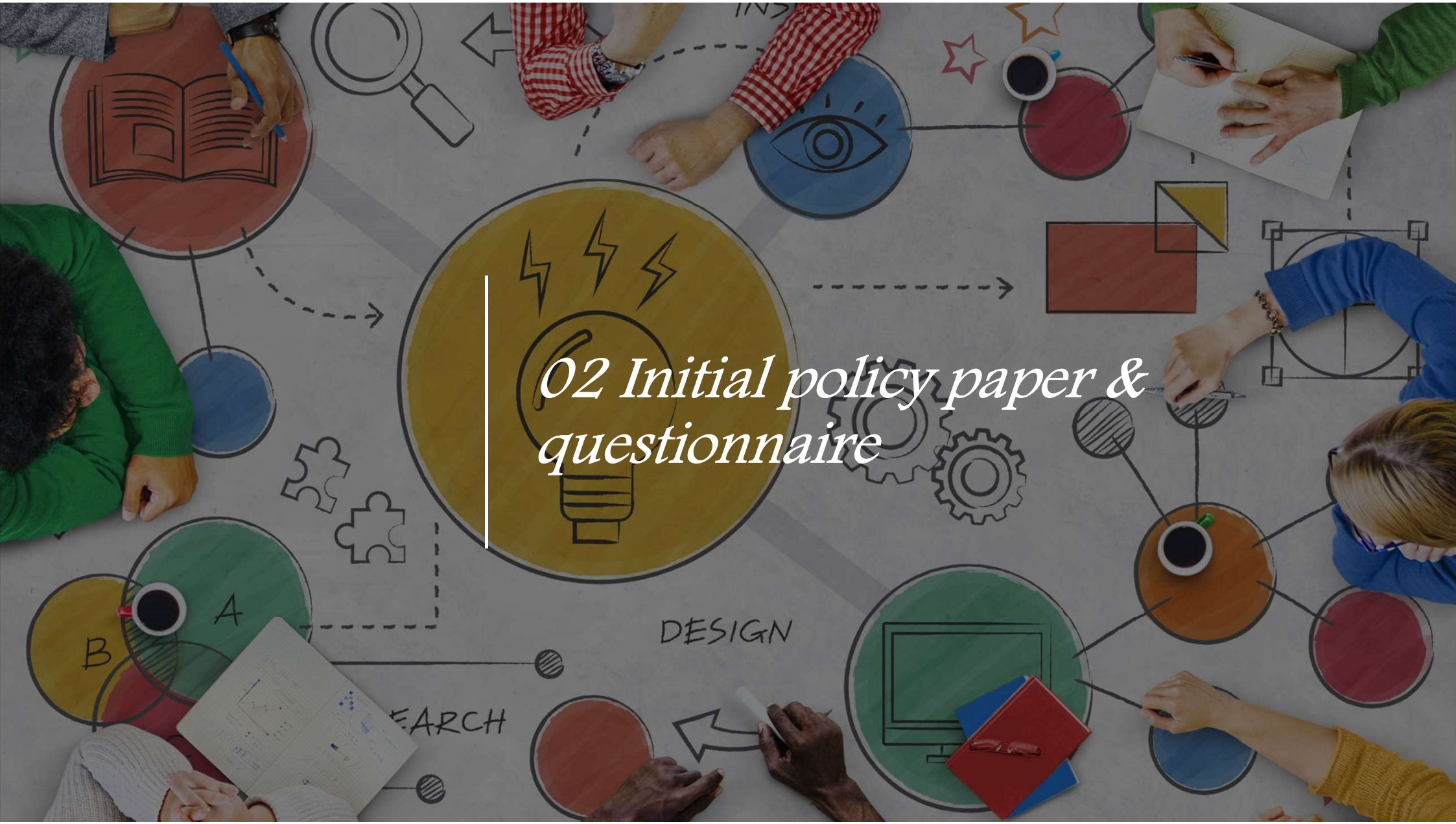
EUSAIR revision timeline 2022/2024



Detailed EUSAIR Action Plan revision till spring 2023



Any questions?



02 Initial policy paper & questionnaire

Initial policy paper - principles

- Starting point for thematic consultation on EUSAIR Action Plan revision
- **Same format and methodology** in all 4 pillars (except TSG2 Transport)
- Intended for **TSGs and relevant policy owners** in the EUSAIR countries
- Accompanied by a **questionnaire to collect country inputs**
- **Implementation-oriented approach**
- **Building on** the **2014 Action Plan** and existing work done through the **flagships** process
- **Suggestions** for actions reflecting the **EU policies, trends and initiatives**

Initial policy paper structure

The content is presented in a table form:

- the **columns represent stages in the Action Plan revision**
  - ➔ the first column summarises the relevant **content of the Action Plan 2014**,
  - ➔ the second presents the **input from the Flagships document** and
  - ➔ the third represents the **suggested updates** (flagships + revision sources)

- the **rows in the table present the suggested categories of the revised Action Plan** (similar to other MRSs)
  - ➔ **Topics** (challenges, objectives, policy framework, key stakeholders)
  - ➔ **Actions** (so far just short descriptions/possible activities)

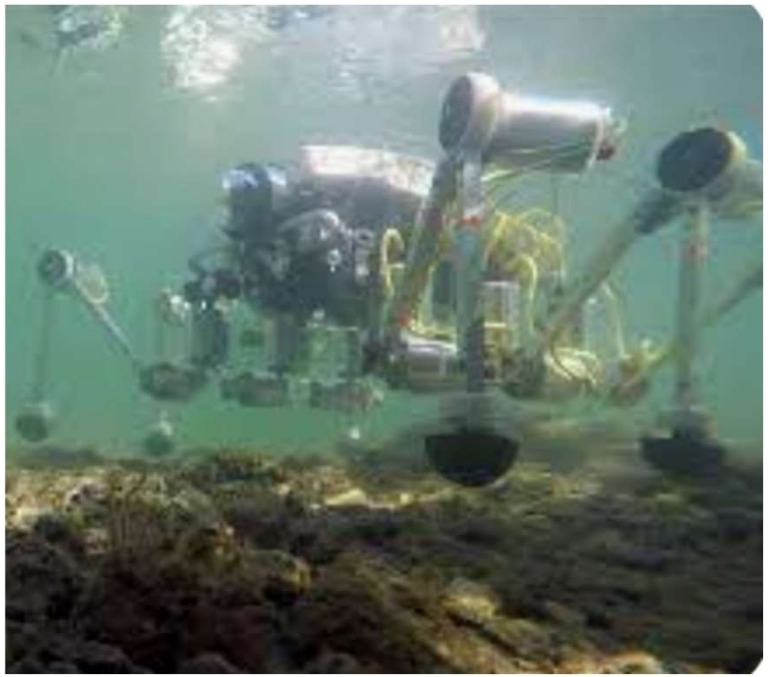
Initial policy paper – logic 1/2

Initial policy paper – logic 2/2

- **Actions** are planned to contribute to the set objectives through **activities** described under each action.
- The **format of the activities** to be implemented under each action is decided to best suit the needs of the action. Activities under an action can be - but are not limited to - flagships, projects (single or grouped in clusters), processes, networks or platforms.
- **Flagships** are having both **policy and practical impact**. Flagships are driven by a vision of policy impact. **Flagships gather all possible stakeholders in a long-term process of co-creation of both policy and action**. Flagships become 'home' for projects and any other forms of action, such as policy dialogues, policy-making workshops, public consultations and become areas for alignment of funding, too.

Initial policy paper Topic 1

Blue Technologies



Initial policy paper Topic 1 - objective

2014

To promote research, innovation and business opportunities in blue economy sectors, by facilitating the brain circulation between research and business communities and increasing their networking and clustering capacity.

2022

To promote research, innovation and business opportunities in marine technologies and blue biotechnology, by strengthening quadruple helix ties in the region.

Initial policy paper Topic 1 – challenges/needs

- Increasing disparities in innovation performance between EU and non-EU countries
- Capitalising on EUSAIR regions, which are EU fastest growing innovation performers
- Lagging behind regions underrepresented in competitive programmes such as Horizon.
- Collaboration of lagging behind regions with more developed regions can improve and facilitate knowledge transfer, technological upgrading and entrepreneurship

Action 1.1: *Building AIR innovation ecosystem in marine technologies and blue biotechnologies*

- Building **AIR Innovation communities (EIT)** (increasing participation in EU competitive programmes, possibilities for innovation up-scalling, better match of innovative sustainable services and products with demand…)
- **Interregional RIS cooperation** (Thematic partnerships, I3 match-making partnerships, mapping RIS matching potentials, cooperation between regional RIS platforms…)
- **Building value chains** (value chain mapping, needs/gaps identification, networking, match-making opportunities)

Action 1.2: *AIR blue (bio)technologies research and science networks*

- Cooperation of science and research policies to create a **common research and innovation area;**
- Promotion of **researchers' mobility;**
- **Initiatives for sharing research infrastructure** for common projects i.e. shared (bio)technology testing facilities …

Action 1.3: Digital innovation and rollout

• **Development** (in countries/regions where they do not yet exist and mutual learning and exchange leading to better service in countries/regions where they already exist) & **cooperation between digital innovation hubs**– DIH network of national/regional hubs functioning as a junction of research/academia, industry, policy actors and civil society.

Note: Digitalisation as a cross-cutting topic, but this means it has to be included in all pillars/topics.

Initial policy paper Topic 2

Fisheries and aquaculture

Initial policy paper Topic 2 – objectives for Fisheries

2014

The Strategy aims at long-term sustainable and responsible fisheries so that fishing activities can continue to provide income for coastal communities (*many single points mentioned)*

2022

Strengthening **fisheries** in the region through:

- Better management and sustainable exploitation of fish stocks. (…) More efficient and sustainable fishing fleets and gear. Compliance & implementation of measures to combat illegal (…) fisheries (…); Utilization of Unwanted and Unavoidable catches and discards. Improvement of **professional skills** of fishermen.

Initial policy paper Topic 2 – objective for Aquaculture

2014

Aquaculture:

- Potential for increasing capacity; Sustainable and profitable aquaculture; Development of new sites needs proper space and planning, in coordination with other activities (including co-location).

2022

Strengthening **aquaculture** in the region through: **Increase of aquaculture production**. **Improvement** of productivity, quality, environmental sustainability and diversification in aquaculture. **Introduction of new species** (…) Improvement of the image and competitiveness of farmed products (…). **Acquisition and improvement of professional skills**.

Initial policy paper Topic 2 – challenges/needs (non extensive list)

- AI suffers from **over-fishing;**
- There is a need to **improve fishing fleets and gear efficiency** and sustainability;
- There is still a problem of **data collection and missing data** concerning the fish stock assessment (…) ;
- There is need to **address socio-economic challenges** related to increasing fishing quotas and reduction of overfishing (…);
- (…) the **economic performance of the primary fishery production increases as fish stocks recover.** (…) the Adriatic-Ionian basin has economic potential. On the other hand, aquaculture production continues to grow, making the overall sustainability of the sector even more important;
- The **compliance of non-EU countries with EU Acquis** is of strategic importance;

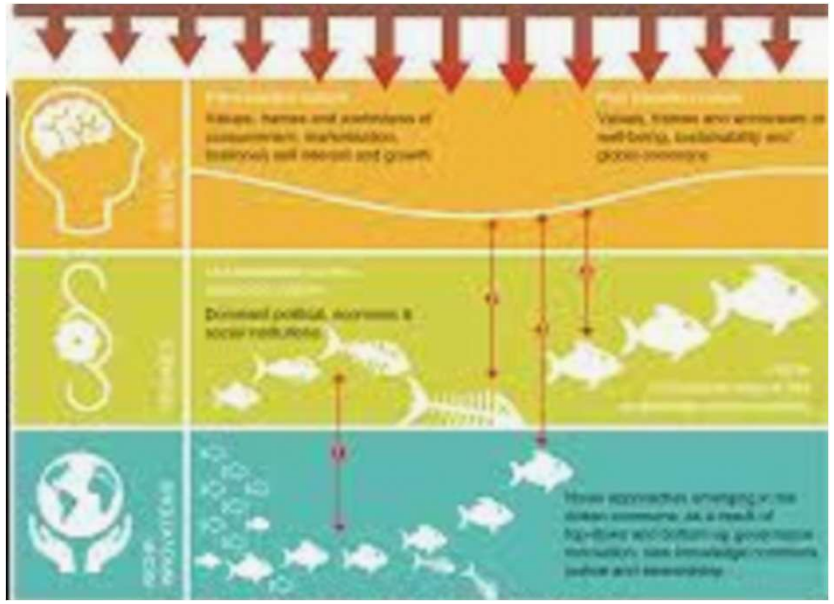
Action 2.1: Sustainable and resilient fisheries

- Support for **harmonisation of integrated management** and monitoring efforts to comply with regional GFCM schemes and EU acquis (including scientific cooperation) addressing sustainability, vessel and equipment compliance, alien species management and illegal practices.
- **AI inter-branch organisation bringing together fish producers, processors and marketers to improve the coordination of marketing activities** and to develop measures of interest for the whole sector. Encouragement for creation of producer organisations and associations of producer organisations on national/regional level.
- **AI small-scale fisheries strategy** to encourage networking of fishing associations; development of cooperatives; foster efficient value chains; implement capacity building in sustainability, new technology and practices as well as funding opportunities; explore and **improve possibilities for joint marketing, logistics and infrastructure**.

Action 2.2: Sustainable and resilient aquaculture

- Cooperation on **enabling legal and administrative frameworks,** which includes licencing procedures, monitoring of the activity, data exchange, harmonisation efforts.
- **Networking and clustering initiatives** so as to further unlock innovation potential, improve knowledge exchange, introduce innovative practices and technology (up-scaling) to the sector to improve sustainability, efficiency, competitiveness, including the introduction of additional species and purposes (pharmacy, cosmetics)marketing and logistics efficiency
- **Promotion of certification** as a sustainability driver, building awareness on production and consumption side, improving marketing activities and cooperate on introduction into legal framework.

Initial policy paper Topic 3



Maritime and marine governance and services

Initial policy paper Topic 3 – Objectives

2014

Cooperation on various services – notably those linked to the capacity building in the public sector and better coordination of planning activities – is needed for preparing the ground for better marine and maritime governance and services (…)

2022

- Improved **Governance of maritime space**.
- Improved **Skills and career development** in blue economy and strengthening of networks of academics, training organisations and professional organisations of maritime sectors in the macroregion.

Initial policy paper Topic 3 – challenges/needs

- Fishing, aquaculture, shipping, renewable energy, nature conservation and other **uses compete for maritime space**. The maritime spatial plans were developed to reduce conflicts and create synergies between different activities. **The coherence of MSP implementation across borders is needed**, even though MSP is not a priority in accession negotiation of WB.
- Many blue economy sectors have difficulties finding **suitably skilled employees**, which hampers their growth.

Action 3.1: *Governance of maritime space for a sustainable and transparent use of maritime and marine resources*

- Cooperation in **implementation of adopted Maritime Spatial Plans** to achieve coherent practices across borders
- **Promotion of MSP principles in accession countries**
- Cooperation in adopting **clearer legal frameworks** for development of Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZAs), marine protected areas (MPAs), exploiting deep-sea water and marine mineral resources

Thematic consultation questionnaire

- To be used **with the initial policy paper**
- To be **addressed to blue growth governance structures**
- TSG members gather all relevant inputs from their country so that only **one questionnaire is submitted from one country**

Questions on content

- *First impression on initial policy paper and questionnaire*
- *Your views on necessary revisions of Pillar 1, based on your experience and work in EUSAIR*

Thematic consultation questionnaire - use

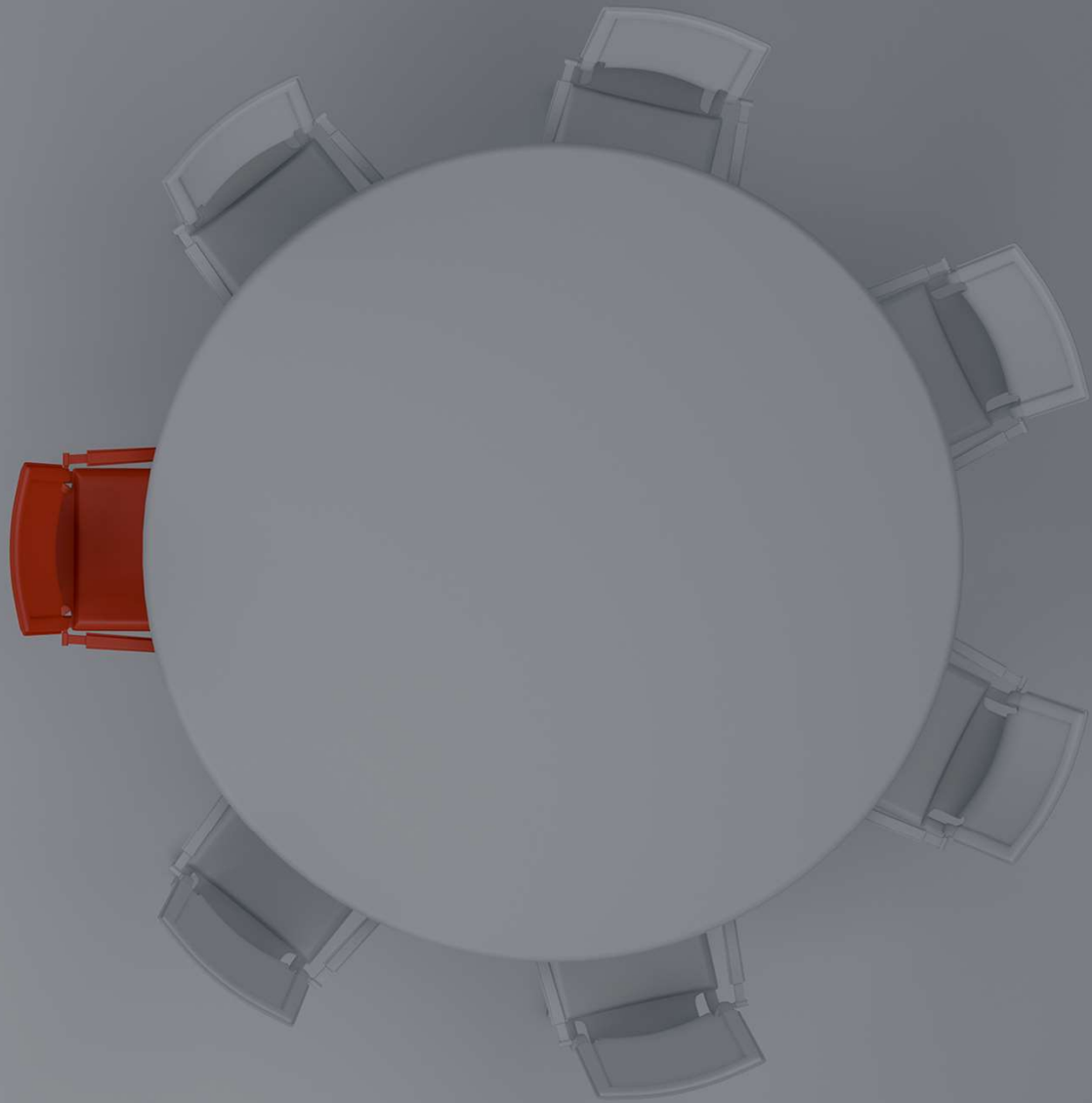
- Suggestion on how to use the questionnaire:
- The questionnaire is **not meant to be circulated** to the possible participants of the workshop or meeting organised to collect the country inputs.
- We propose to share the Initial policy paper with participants, while **the questionnaire is to be used by the organiser to lead the discussion at the workshop/meeting using the prepared questions or their simplification**.
- The questionnaire should be **completed by the organiser at the end of the workshop/meeting** to summarise the information provided and agreed by the participants.
- Any **new inputs can be noted down at the very end of the questionnaire.**

Questions on Governance

- Should there be **a definition of a mission for each Pillar**?
- Should **objectives** be set per Topics? Should **targets** to be achieved be set as well?
- Should **indicative/possible Actions** as defined in the current Action Plan be skipped and only agreed Actions shall be included?
- Should the **existing, new flagships and/or project examples** be included in the Actions?
- Should **indicators for each Action** and targets to be achieved be included in the Action Plan?

- Any other relevant comments to the Action Plan structure and governance concerning the work in your Pillar and sub-group?

03 Tour de Table



04 Conclusions and next steps

Thank you for a constructive meeting!