

13th Meeting of the Thematic Steering Group for Pillar 2 (TSG2) “Connecting the Region” Transport Sub-Group

Gotomeeting, October 29th, 2020

MINUTES AND OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS



Chairs: Transport Coordinators: Mr. Pierluigi Coppola (Italy, Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport), Mrs. Mirjana Jovanović (Republic of Serbia, Ministry for Construction, Transport and Infrastructure), Mrs. Jasminka Kirkova (North Macedonia, Ministry of Transport and Communications)

Participants: EUSAIR Thematic Steering Group 2 (TSG2) Members (Transport Sub-Groups), Representatives of the European Commission (DG REGIO), Representative of the Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, Representative of the Italian Regions (Friuli Venezia Giulia, Abruzzo), representatives of EUSAIR Facility Point Italian Project Partners (Marche), Pillar Coordinator's Technical Assistance.
in attendance: representatives of the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community Treaty
(see the complete list of participants attached)

MINUTES

The 13th TSG2 meeting was convened to be held online on the Facility Point Stakeholder platform.

Representatives of **five** (out of 9) EUSAIR Countries attended the **Transport Sub-Group Meeting**. (Greece, Italy, Serbia, Slovenia, North Macedonia).

The list of participants is attached to the minutes.

0. Welcome and Tour the table

Transport Pillar Coordinators welcome the attendants informing them that as long as the meetings are held online, they may be more frequent, shorter (2-3 hours) and focused on specific topics.

The draft Agenda is formally adopted by TSG2 transport sub-group.

1. Communications

a) Update of the Program of work for the year 2020

The draft of the Program of work for the year 2020 has been updated during the year due to the health emergency. Indeed, while TSG2 is aligned with the Lines of Action provided in the document, what has changed compared to the previous version is the calendar of events: some events were held online, while others were postponed.

In particular, as regards the proposed meetings of general interest:

- The 12th and 13th TSG2 meetings of the Transport Sub-Group, the 12th GB meeting and the ADRION workshop on the stakeholder consultation were confirmed and held online.
- The 5th EUSAIR Annual Forum, co-organised by Slovenia (current Presidency) and Serbia (previous Presidency), were postponed to February 2021.

As regards the thematic workshops of special interest for the Transport Sub-Group:

- The two Workshops on the Transport Masterplan of the Adriatic-Ionian Region, initially planned for April and September, have been cancelled from the programme; the content of one of them is in the agenda of this meeting;
- The Workshop on Cycling Tourism and Cultural Routes, jointly organised with TSG4 and under the Croatian Presidency of EUSDR, was held online on October 2nd;
- Another workshop on Cycling Routes in the Adriatic-Ionian Region will be held online on December 2020
- The Workshop on Freight Transport Multimodality, foreseen to be organized in Trieste, will be held on-line in the first half of 2021.

The updated Program of Work for the year 2020 is formally adopted by TSG2 transport sub-group.

b) Update on Embedding process

During the last GB meeting (held on September 17th, 2020) the EUSAIR flagship projects have been approved. Now EUSAIR priorities are being shared with the Managing Authorities of ETC and the mainstream funding programs in the Countries of the Region. In this respect, a meeting organised by the Italian Ministerial Department for Cohesion Policies with the Interreg Managing Authorities, aimed at strengthening and coordinating the contribution of ETC programmes to EUSAIR priorities and flagships, was held on October 16th.

Mr Di Paola (DG REGIO) adds that the embedding process is important for Interreg Programmes. Indeed, what emerged from the meeting is that the Programmes in the AI Region have same priorities and more cooperation would allow to achieve bigger impacts. In order to ensure a better capitalization of project outputs, Mr Di Paola (DG REGIO) proposes to invite regularly at the future TSG's meetings, the representatives of Interreg projects of interest for the Pillar (in particular ADRION) to present the main findings of their projects.

c) Update on ADRION, Facility Point and Facility Point Plus

The results of the 3rd and last ADRION Call have been published in July. The Axis 3 of the call was targeted on priorities of the TSG2 transport pillar, in particular, maritime transport. EUREKA, one of the EUSAIR labelled project, has been funded. It aims to increase the level of maritime safety in the AI region by introducing systematic cooperation and coordination of

maritime administrations of all countries of the region. Specific objectives of the project are (i) to develop systematic coordination, harmonize the legal basis for cooperation, increase the level of data exchange, harmonize and standardize the Vessel traffic services (VTS), (ii) to develop a common educational system for VTS operators. EUREKA, is led by the Croatian Ministry of the Seas, Transport, and Infrastructure.

Mrs Donatella Romozzi, representative of the FP Italian project partner, highlights that the online events mentioned in the Program of work for the year 2020 have been hosted on the EUSAIR Stakeholder platform. To ensure that the platform is even more widely used, training session could be organized on request.

Concerning FP WPT2, the public procurement procedure to select the technical assistant for the Masterplan development is going to be finalized in November. FP Italian partner will inform timely the Pillar Coordinators about the new WP T2 consultant, who will assist the Pillar in the further development of the Masterplan.

Concerning FP WPT3, some delay in issuing the tender to identify the technical assistance for monitoring and evaluation was due to some recent changes in Italian Law on public procurement (the so called "Simplification Act"). However, the tendering procedure has been launched; the procedure should be completed by December 2020. Pillar Coordinator recalls that the EUSAIR evaluation ought to be completed by December 2020 and that unless the deadline for delivering the overall EUSAIR strategy evaluation was postponed, any support from the technical assistance on WP T3 should be devoted to monitoring.

The Pillar Coordinators recalls that the FP+ activity aimed at assisting EUSAIR Pillars in developing feasible and bankable project proposal, starting from project ideas selected by TSGs. The ADRIOCYCLETOUR project idea, concerning the development of the Cycling Route for sustainable tourism in the AI Region, proposed with Pillar 4 (tourism), was approved in June 2020. In June FP+ engaged an expert to launch a tender for hiring an expert to technically assist in the development of feasibility projects. No updates on the status of the process have been provided during the last GB Meeting.

In addition, TSGs have been informed that the Commission is going to launch a second call for cross-pillar project ideas to be funded by a new Facility Point Plus grant (FP+2). No information about timing and funding is available yet. Mr. Di Paola (DG REGIO) confirmed that follow-up's will be provided soon.

In the meantime, TSG2 (Transport) has received a new proposal to be submitted with TSG3 and TSG4. This draft proposal is attached to the minutes (see Annex 4) and will be discussed in the future meetings.

2. EUSAIR Transport Masterplan: state of play and next steps

The Pillar Coordinators show the milestones for the elaboration of the EUSAIR Multi-modal Transport Model (EMTM). Data collection on supply and demand of multimodal services has been completed. The supply model is also completed. The next steps are the development of the demand model and the definition of the reference scenarios to be assessed.

The Pillar Coordinators thank all contributors, stressing on the importance of the commitment of all TSG members for the future development of the Masterplan.

a) EMTM Base Year Model

Mr. Bernardis, technical assistant to the Pillar Coordinators presents the main results of the supply model developed, recalling that all the data and information used have been validated by TSG members.

The supply model provides a representation of the characteristics of the Infrastructure and an evaluation of the performance based on interconnectivity indexes and isochrones, as shown in the presentation (see Annex 5). For road, rail and IWW networks the presentation shows maps of the network characteristics and an overview of the parameters surveyed, including

the level of availability of each parameter from each country. Furthermore, a network performance analysis has been performed through the development of the Interconnectivity Quality Index and isochrones of travels to urban nodes. For IWW network the analysis was not performed.

The second part of the presentation aims illustrate the state of art of data collection on demand and traffic flows on transport networks of all EUSAIR Countries, for the development of the demand model. Data have been collected mainly infrastructure from management entities, national plans, National Transport Ministries and from the Eurostat. Data from Kosovo¹ and Montenegro are not available and for some Countries, clarifications on availability of certain data may still be required. This will not prevent the implementation of the model because it can be relied on cross-border data; however, if these data will be made available, they can still be integrated in the future.

Pillar coordinators add that the EMTM will allow to identify criticalities and bottlenecks in the transport networks and to assess the impacts of future interventions. In this sense, the EMTM represent an useful tool for other stakeholders in the Region, for assessing the TEN-T network revision and to identify priorities in the next funding period.

TSG2 members are invited to send comments, in particular if the results of the analyses presented deviate from their expectations.

b) EMTM future scenarios

Mr. Zani, technical assistance to the Pillar Coordinators, shows a presentation on the Masterplan future scenarios (see Annex 6). Three incremental scenarios have been outlined so far:

- Reference scenario (2030), which considers infrastructure projects for which works have been already contracted;
- Mid-term scenario (2030), which includes the reference scenario plus the projects expected to be completed by 2030; it allows to identify and assess those priority projects that remove capacity bottlenecks and/or extend the TEN-T network in the AI Region;
- Long-term scenario (2050), which includes the Mid-term scenario and the relevant projects from the National plans which complete the TEN-T network extension in the AI Region.

At this stage, for the development of the Reference scenario it is necessary to acquire information on ongoing relevant projects. A first preliminary set of projects for the reference scenario are shown; TSG2 members are asked to validate and integrate them, where needed. Exchanges between the WP T2 consultant and the TSG2 Members will occur bilaterally via email.

4. Any other subject of interest

Nothing added.

5. Dates for next meeting

The Pillar Coordinators inform participants on the intention to organize the next TSG2 meeting after the GB meeting in February 2021. Should an intermediate meeting be necessary, an additional meeting might be organized on December or January. In any case, TSG2 members will be timely informed about the date of the next meeting.

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

In consideration of the discussion developed during the meeting the main operational conclusions and steps to be taken are as in the following.

1. As long as they are held online, TSG2 meetings will be more frequent, shorter (2-3 hours) and focused on specific topics.
2. The updated Programme of Work for the year 2020 is approved
3. TSG2 members commit themselves to continue working on the Masterplan development, as TSG2 (Transport) priority for the next months. They will provide: a) the technical assistance for the development of the EMTM model with clarifications and additional data in particular on transport demand; b) the technical assistance for the development of the Masterplan with additional information on the on-going projects for the identification and at the assessment of future scenarios.
4. The next TSG Virtual Meeting will be held at the end of February, unless an intermediate meeting would be needed for advancing the development of the Masterplan

ANNEXES

1. List of participants to the 13th TSG2 Virtual Meeting;
2. 13th TSG2 Agenda
3. TSG2 "Programme of Work for the year 2020"
4. Template Facility Point Plus_TSG_3_4_2_ **ForPeopleForPlanet**
5. Presentation: EUSAIR Transport Masterplan_2a EMTM base year model
6. Presentation: EUSAIR Transport Masterplan_2b EMTM future scenarios



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