

**EUSAIR Thematic Steering Group of Pillar 2 – Connecting the Region**

**PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE YEAR 2020**

**1. PREMISE**

This document presents the main activities which would be developed by the EUSAIR TSG2 and its two Sub-Groups on Transport and Energy Networks during the year 2019.

The document is providing a framework for action and highlighting goals and steps forward. The eventual implementation of the several activities which are described will depend upon the circumstances and a number of factors which might be beyond the control of the TSG2 and its Members.

In general, the TSG2 and its two Sub-Groups are strongly committed to finalise their work aimed at identifying projects and measures which might receive financement according to the different channels to become a reality in the interest of all EUSAIR Members. The TSG2 and its two Sub-Groups may also wish to embark into new projects and initiatives.

In this process, the TSG2 and its two Sub-Groups would seek co-ordination with other EUSAIR TSGs and programmes concerning the macro-region while reporting to the EUSAIR Governing Board and others, as appropriate. Stakeholders and relevant organisations will be involved wherever deemed useful or necessary.

Part of the work for the year 2019 will be conducted by the entire TSGs, part of the work will be conducted by the two Sub-Groups. Operational uniformity of procedures and goals will be maintained, and information and means will be shared to exploit synergism.

**2. TSG2 SUB-GROUP ON TRANSPORT**

**2.1 Background**

In 2016 the TSG2 Sub-Group on Transport approved a shortlist of priority actions among those included in the Action Plan, related to **maritime transport** :

* Improving and harmonizing traffic monitoring and management
* Developing ports, optimizing port interfaces, infrastructures and procedures/operations

and related to **intermodal connections**:

* Developing the Western Balkans comprehensive network
* Developing motorways of the sea
* Cross-border facilitation

In accordance with the above priorities, the TSG2 Transport Sub-Group has agreed to identified a set of measures and project proposals of macro-regional relevance (so called “EUSAIR-labelled”) to be submitted to the Governing Board and to other appropriate stakeholders for further development and funding, in order to contribute to build up one cohesive and connected European Region, sharing actions and solutions for sustainable transport and stimulate policy dialogue between decision-makers, industries, universities and the civil society in the Adriatic-Ionian Region.

The EUSAIR open list of labelled projects consists of 44 projects that have been presented during the 2nd, 3rd and 4th EUSAIR Forum, respectively in Ioannina, 11-12 May 2017, in Catania, 4-5 May 2018 and in Budva, 7-8 May 2019. The identified measures and projects are consistent with broad and specific criteria adopted by the TSG2 Sub-Group on Transport, taking also into account the “*Guiding principles underpinning the labelling process*”, as released by the Governing Board.

In 2018 the TSG2 Sub-Group on Transport has agreed to develop a **Transport Masterplan**, conceived as a dynamic tool for implementing the EUSAIR Strategy through the identification of a common vision of the transport system of the Adriatic-Ionian region, facilitating the activation of adequate resources for innovative up-to-date projects and mobility policies. The Transport Masterplan should be supporting EU Commission in the implementation of TEN-T network in South-East Europe and promoting EUSAIR Countries priorities within a common and shared strategic super-national framework.

In 2018, the main steps for the development of the Transport Masterplan has been identified; these consist of:

1. Review of strategic projects and National Transport Plans of the EUSAIR Countries;
2. Transport demand-supply analysis and identification of critical issues
3. Identification of strategic axis and nodes
4. Infrastructural gaps and priorities
5. Implementation and funding

In 2019, based on the review of the strategic projects and the National Transport Plans of the EUSAIR Countries (Step 1), a preliminary identification of the priority actions and the strategic transport corridors in the AI region has been carried out. These have been submitted to the Governing Board, to be embedded among the priorities of the next programming period 2021-2027, according to the art. 6 of the Catania Declaration. In order to strongly support such preliminary analysis, a demand-supply modelling analysis (Step 4) is needed to better identify the infrastructural gaps and to shortlist the priorities for the AI Region (Step 5).

With the support of the Technical Assistance to Pillar Coordinator, the development of the **EUSAIR Multimodal Transport Model (EMTM)** has started, including the definition of the zoning system for the AI region and the main road network. To the aim of completing the demand-transport modelling analysis for Maritime and Inland Waterways Transport and related Intermodal Infrastructure, as well as for Land and Airport Transport Infrastructure, Urban Integration and Tourism Accessibility, the Terms of Reference for the identification of an expert team has been prepared.

**2.2 Lines of Actions**

On the basis of the results achieved so far, the TSG2 Transport Sub-Group during its 11th TSG2 Meeting (Belgrade, 19-20 November 2019) will examine and endorse the following lines of action for the year 2020.

**a)** **Monitoring the EUSAIR-labelled projects**

This activity will consist of:

* Updating the status of all TSG2 EUSAIR-labelled projects by relying upon up-to-date information provided by each Member country;
* Investigating available and suitable financial resources and instruments with reference to the current labelled projects;
* Organisation of workshops and seminars to facilitate the dialogue with the main stakeholders and financial institutions.

**b)** **Labelling new projects**

This activity will consist of discussing new project proposals to extend the current list of EUSAIR-labelled projects, in accordance with the updated labelling procedure and consistently with the strategies of the Transport Masterplan.

**c)** **Further development of the Transport Masterplan**

Further development of the Transport Masterplan will consist of developing the demand-supply multi-modal modal to identify the infrastructural gaps and other critical issues (e.g. safety, cross-border section, congestion, …) in the transportation network of the AI reigon.

To this aim, a thematic workshops is hereafter proposed, in order to validate the data collected and to take the decision on further development with the support of the experts.

**d) Inter-pillar and cross-cutting projects and measures**

The EUSAIR Facility Point Plus has approved the two inter-pillar project ideas proposed by TSG2 sub-group on Transport with the TSG4, namely “Adriatic Ionian Cycle Route For Sustainable Tourism” or ADRICYCLETOUR, with the TSG1, namely “Water borne Adriatic-Ionian Technological Platform” or WAI-TP. Such project ideas will be further developed and implemented

**e) Strengthening the links with the Transport Community and facilitating the dialogue with the main stakeholder and financial institutions**

This activity will consist of organizing thematic workshops and events, also taking advantage of the support of the Adriatic Ionian Initiative (AII), in order to: promote dialogue with the key stakeholders for the project proposals identified of macro-regional relevance and to verify and possibly ensure the financial coverage for the EUSAIR-labelled projects.

**f) Improving Communication and developing the stakeholder platform, Strengthening the links with other international organisation**

This activity will consist of organizing thematic workshops and participating in international conference, also taking advantage of the support of EUSAIR Facility Point, in order to disseminate Pillar 2 mission and vision, and to engage relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the Strategy.

**3. TSG2 SUB-GROUP ON ENERGY NETWORKS**

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**4. PROPOSED MEETINGS OF GENERAL INTEREST AND THEIR CALENDAR**

**a) TSG2 Meetings:**

* 12th TSG2 Meeting, Rome, approx. April 2019;
* 13th TSG2 Meeting, to be decided, approx. November 2020 ,

**b) Technical Meetings of EUSAIR Pillar Coordinators and EUSAIR Governing Board Meetings:**

* Brussels, approx. February 2020
* Location tbd, approx. November 2020

**c) Annual ADRION meeting, tbc**

**d) 5th EUSAIR Forum, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, approx. 11-15 May 2020**

**5. CONFERENCES AND THEMATIC WORKSHOPS AND THEIR CALENDAR**

**a) TSG2 Sub-Group on Transport**

* 2nd workshop on ”The Transport Masterplan of the Adriatic-Ionian Region”, location tbd, approx. February 2020
* Other events/workshops (as proposed in the *Draft Activity Plan of Facility Point for the year 2020)*

**b) TSG2 Sub-Group on Energy Networks (to be updated and integrated)**

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