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Second Meeting of EUSAIR Key Implementers and Programming Authorities

PROGRAMME

Venue: Online – Skopje, North Macedonia

Moderator: Gilles Kittel, DG REGIO, European Commission

Speakers:

- *Ami Kozeli*, Director of Cabinet of the Chief Negotiator for Accession and National IPA Coordinator, Albania
- *Midhat Džemić*, Head of Section for Coordination of Public Governance and Rule of Law Programmes, EUSAIR EU funds National Coordination, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- *Irena Bošković*, Advisor to NIPAC and Head of Operating Structure for CBC programmes, Montenegro
- *Zuica Zmejkovska*, Deputy Head of Sector for Coordination of European Funds and Other Foreign Assistance, EUSAIR EU funds National Coordination, North Macedonia
- Serbia TBD

Participants:

- EU Commission (DG REGIO and DG NEAR)
- EU delegations in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia
- EUSAIR Key Implementers

Outline:

Particular attention within 2021-2027 programming period is being given to the macro-regional dimension of the cooperation between and among the countries in the EUSAIR region and beyond. Funding actions and projects in line with macro-regional objectives (the embedding process) has been elevated on a completely different level. Embedding EUSAIR in the post 2020 programming documents has become a strategic process, aiming to enhance implementation of macro-regional actions, projects and flagships, as well as to support the enlargement process.

The Catania Declaration of May 2018 sets more firmly the direction of the process, with the key implementers taking the commitment to identify pilot macro-regional actions and projects that are to be implemented via national and regional ESI and IPA funding as from 2021 onwards. Reiterated with the Belgrade declaration of June 2020, the IPA countries within EUSAIR expressed their preparedness to embed EUSAIR priorities in the future IPA III Strategic Framework, providing thus effective utilisation of IPA III funds share in support of for cooperation actions and projects identified in the framework of EUSAIR.

The Second Meeting of EUSAIR Key Implementers and Programming Authorities will build-up on the First Meeting held in 2019. This year's gathering will be used to take stock of what has been achieved during the past two years in terms of the embedding process, this time with particular emphasis on the IPA countries. The Meeting will likewise serve as an excellent opportunity for defining the steps that need to be taken in the period ahead, aiming thus at enhanced transposition of the identified macro-regional priorities into relevant programming documents addressing post 2020 period. It will raise awareness and clarify the role of key actors in charge of managing EU funds in the enlargement countries (NIPAC offices, EU Delegations, European Commission). They will have to make sure that part of IPA III funds are invested, together with Cohesion Funds, to implement the commonly agreed EUSAIR Flagships and in line with the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans.

AGENDA

22 November 2021	
08.45 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 09.10	Introduction to the concept and the speakers of the event by the moderator
09.10 – 09.15	Welcome words by Kalinka Gaber, State Secretary, Secretariat for European Affairs
09.15 – 09.20	Welcome words by Sokol Dedja, General Director of the General Directorate of Political and Strategic Affairs, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs ,on behalf of the Albanian Presidency
09.20 – 10.10	EUSAIR priorities versus IPA III Strategic Responses – What has been done thus far?
10.10 – 10.30	Moderated discussion with audience
10.30 – 11.20	What it takes to enhance the embedding process in the future?
11.20 – 11.40	Moderated discussion with audience
11.40 – 12.00	Conclusions and next steps

The event will be held in English. Registration will be open until November 18, 2021, by invitation only.

The Second Meeting of EUSAIR Key Implementers and Programming Authorities is part of the events organised under the auspices of the Sixth Mediterranean Coast and Macro-regional Strategies Week 2021 in joint cooperation of North Macedonia and Slovenia.