

Fora Joint Actions:

A useful tool to support EUSAIR implementation

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Background about the 3 Fora

- ▶ *On the basis of their experience and their natural aptitude in fostering historical cross boarder cooperation, in particular between some of the Adriatic and Ionian Region countries (at bilateral and multilateral level), the 3 Fora, in close cooperation with the Adriatic Ionian Initiative –All, can provide a value added, for the following reasons:*
- ▶ Representativeness at international, national and regional level which enables the **detection and collection of socio-economic needs of the communities**
- ▶ Expertise on the **protection of biodiversity and fishing resource**, collect data in order to create sustainable fishery policy (there is a huge fishery community which are connecting with all others kind of activities such as tourism and culture);
- ▶ Key role in **creating the conditions to knowledge transfer** and consequent development of innovation (triple helix model);
- ▶ Capacity of immediate and **timely dissemination of information and communications** of European interest ;
- ▶ **ree access to information on local stakeholders and their needs**, easy to promote and implement measures and targeted projects, in response to the identified corporate needs.

Rational behind the mutual cooperation

- ▶ In the **2016 Report of the EU Commission on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies**, it is underlined that "*The strategy builds on the positive experiences developed under the umbrella of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative, including the fora of universities, chambers of commerce and cities. However, much need still to be done to involve stakeholders in the concrete strategy implementation.*".
- ▶ In the **2015 Study of the European Parliament on new role of the macro-regions in the european territorial cooperation**, with regards the actors involved in EUSAIR, the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative has been considered as key institutional player, while the FAICC and the FAIC as relevant in terms of idea generation and consensus making and UNIADRION as academic platform covering scientific areas like promotion of cultural heritage, sustainable environment, cultural tourism and development, ports and economic relations.
- ▶ The **Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce of the Adriatic and Ionian Regions – FAICC**, the **Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities – FAIC** and the **Network of Universities"– UNIADRION**– which are able to join their efforts aiming at *involving stakeholders in the concrete EUSAIR strategy implementation*, can ensure deep and spread territorial coverage , allowing interactions at the local level.
- ▶ They also have the ability to interact with the territory and the local communities, exploiting their potentials in terms of enhancing cultural heritage and landscape, protecting environment, developing sustainable tourism (management, measuring and monitoring).

Main objectives of the Fora Joint Actions

*The 'Voice of the civil society' of the Adriatic and Ionian Region,
to ensure EUSAIR implementation*

Collecting the macro regional joint projects, taking into account the needs of the socio-economic communities, in line with the **priority actions per pillar**, endorsed by the TSGs, with a **coordinated approach**

Becoming a concrete tool, through the **Annual Rolling Plan**, in supporting the implementation of EUSAIR Action Plan, focusing on its thematic pillars and cross cutting actions (innovation, SMEs development). The **thematic working groups** of the Fora (in particular for the Chambers of Commerce), can ensure a systematic development and selection of project proposals and a continuous monitoring of the results and deliverables, in order to capitalize the successful experiences and to provide a feasible and concrete EUSAIR basket of projects to the European Commission and to the EUSAIR national coordinators.

Being a **facilitator in fulfilling the gap between** the EUSAIR TSGs members and the local level/community (with a bottom up approach), also in pro-active cooperation with the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative;

Establishing a 'bridge connection' with the Western Balkan initiative (Berlin process)

Supporting the follow up of the SMES macroregional business development, after the 1st B2B meeting, organized by the EEN in Dubrovnik in May 2016

Providing content and value added for a dynamic interaction within the EUSAIR stakeholder platform.

A basket of common projects

in line with EUSAIR Action Plan

- ▶ **A basket of possible common projects for the 3 Fora**, which are in line with EUSAIR Action Plan (priority actions), has been selected taking into account the projects proposals coming from the thematic working groups of the AICC Ancona Forum and other existing projects and good practices, as selected by the UNIADRION and AIC Fora, in June 2016.

- ▶ Regarding **sustainable tourism**; complementarities with the **basket of common proposals/actions** identified by the 8 EUSAIR countries, in line with the priority actions of the Action Plan, divided by **8 topics**, and each topic is divided in activities, such as:
 - ▶ 1. Promotional activities
 - ▶ 2. Measuring and monitoring sustainable tourism
 - ▶ 3. Skills and vocational training
 - ▶ 4. Governance and capacity building
 - ▶ 5. Cultural tourism and local identity
 - ▶ 6. Innovation, ICT and digital agenda
 - ▶ 7. Link between cultural tourism and creative industries
 - ▶ 8. Access to finance

Synergies with other stakeholders

- ▶ With regard to the coordination with other regional cooperation structures, Coastal Maritime Peripheral Regions – CPMR– can provide a quite useful political and technical support, and therefore contribute to the creation of the European Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) established in 2007.
 - ▶ The Network of the Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the European Union Insuleur, was set up in the year 2000 with the aim to improve the economic and social conditions in European insular regions which make daily efforts to cope with the physical difficulties to their insular nature.
 - ▶ With similar focus to the islands, the Observatory on tourism in the European Islands – OTIE, a non-profit international organization, founded in 2007 by seven European Chambers of Commerce with the mission of analyzing and monitoring tourism in the islands of their respective countries and updating the Database on Insular Tourism, annual statistical surveys.
 - ▶ The idea to set up an inter-disciplinary stakeholder Steering Group, which should involve the above mentioned organizations on the basis of their specificities, knowledge and different roles within the Adriatic and Ionian Region, should be further explored, in order to ensure a short term implementation of EUSAIR Action Plan.
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The way forward and next steps

- ▶ Making **joint efforts with other relevant EUSAIR stakeholders**, in order to submit a common proposal in the framework forthcoming call for tender (with a budget of 1.500,00 euro) to be financed by the European Parliament and managed by the European Commission;
- ▶ Becoming a **key interlocutor of the Italian Government** under the EUSAIR Presidency, which started on 1st June 2017
- ▶ **Towards the European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018**, an opportunity to encourage Member States and stakeholders in order to:
 - ▶ work together to develop a stronger and more integrated approach to cultural heritage;
 - ▶ promote and protect Europe's cultural heritage, and maximize its intrinsic and societal value, and its contribution to jobs and growth.

Thank you for your attention!



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