Towards the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region

13th Forum of the Adriatic and Ionina Chambers of Commerce
Međugorje, 14 May 2013

Regional Policy

What is a macro-regional strategy?

- *Voluntary cooperation within a defined (geographical, functional) area by multiple partners*
- *A set of responses to multiple common challenges in different domains*
- *An integrated framework, endorsed by the European Council (which may be supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds among others), to address common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to EU Member States and neighbouring countries located in the same geographical area which thereby benefit from strengthened cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion (draft CPR Regulation 2014-20)*

Principles

- *No new EU funds.*
  Actually, there are many different EU funds available. Challenge: channel them so that their potential can be fully utilised
- *No new EU structures needed.*
  Current structures at EU level to work together with national, regional and local institutions and stakeholders
- *No new EU law.*
  Macro regional strategies to be 'embedded' in all relevant regulatory framework (e.g. EU funds)

Principles:

- *Implementation system: making better use of existing funds, institutions, and legislation*
- *Policy development: European Council and High-Level Group*
- *Coordination, monitoring and follow-up: European Commission on the basis of a mandate from the Council*
- *Implementation on the ground: participating countries coordinate priority areas.*

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

European Council 13-14 December 2012 – Conclusions

"Recalling its June 2011 conclusions, and subject to the evaluation of the concept of macro regional strategies as foreseen in the Council conclusions of 13 April 2011, the European Council looks forward to the presentation by the Commission of a new EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region before the end of 2014."

The EUSAIR

It will focus on a limited number of costal priorities:

- *Transport*
- *Environment*
- *Tourism*
- *Maritime issues*

+ cross cutting issues:

- *Capacity building*
- *Research and innovation*

European Commission

The EUSAIR

The "Maritime Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas" adopted by the Commission on 30 November, (COM(2012) 713) will be an integral part of the A-I macro-regional strategy

European Commission

Towards the EUSAIR

- *17 April 2013, Bucharest: joint meeting of National Contact Points (NCPs) of the Baltic Sea, Danube and Adriatic-Ionian Strategies. Aim: transfer of experience*
- *12 June 2013, Rome: meeting between EUSAIR NCPs and national authorities responsible for 2014-2020 programming of EU funds. Aim: integrating the Strategy in the 2014-2020 programmes (in both EU MSs and IPA countries)*

Towards the EUSAIR

- *Consultation with stakeholders (Sept. 2013 – 1st quarter 2014). Aim: collect inputs for the EUSAIR Action Plan*
- *EUSAIR Communication and Action Plan to be adopted by the Commission in June 2014 (tentative) and by the Council in 2nd semester 2014*