

## **WORKGROUP ON EU PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

### **Extraordinary meeting - minutes**



Zagreb, 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2015

After a preliminary brief presentation about the AIC Forum ongoing projects, the meeting was focused on the importance of strengthening the AIC Forum Workgroup on EU Project Management in view of the forthcoming new European Territorial Cooperation Programmes for the Adriatic and Ionian Area in order to be ready in building new partnership and preparing new project proposals of our common interest.

The establishment of the Adriatic and Ionian Macroregion shows that the European Union has placed a strong interest to this Area as well as many expectations.

In addition, the new Macroregional Governance is going to be developed in parallel with the starting phase of the new Multi Annual Financial Framework 2014-2020. This particular coincidence ensures that the European Commission demands from the network bodies, of which the AIC Forum is one of the most positive and virtuous expressions, properly shared projects that are the result of continuous operational dialogue.

The mission assigned to this Workgroup since the time it was set up is today more than ever in line with the needs of the territories and with the vast and diversified number of resources provides for the Adriatic and Ionian Area: i.e., ESIF, IPA II Funds, Thematic Programmes, ETC (trans-national, cross-border, bilateral programmes, etc.).

Actually the ongoing EUSAIR Governance consist of:

- a Governing Board (composed by high representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the 8 Countries together with representatives of the European Commission);
- 4 Thematic Steering Groups composed by representatives from Ministries of the 8 Countries in charge for the topics interested by each single Pillars of the Action Plan.

Meanwhile the Chambers is going to be involved in the forthcoming months within the "Stakeholders Platform" as the official place aimed at reach and share concrete projects and initiatives consistent with the objectives of the 4 EUSAIR Pillars.

As agreed during the last meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2014 in Corfù, our Working group, should begin immediately to work on some main projects of greatest interest to the Chambers of Commerce System.

It is possible to give, as follow, some examples of projects proposals on which we could start working considering they has already been object of positive experiences and common work in the recent past:

- Promotion of sustainable and accessible tourism by strengthening the ADRION trademark;
- Promotion of the nautical sector and the blue economy by strengthening the cluster model (Project: Adriatic Economic Club Cluster);
- Promotion and support of the Cultural and Creative industries of the Adriatic-Ionian Area (Project: Adriatic Innovative Project Factory);

These are just few of the themes/projects to be considered as a priority for our network, but it is essential to start working in defining and pointed out a common unique position able to express a range of priorities, projects, and possible resources to support the implementation of these projects.



We should produce as soon as possible a draft of a new document of reference for the AIC Forum network, as an official follow-up of the first "Position Paper" we produced last year and delivered to the European Commission (DG Regio and DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries).

It should be clearly indicate our main areas/sectors of interest, the projects we are ready to working on, the European Programs we are looking for getting financial support to implement the activities.

All above considered, the following provides a summary of the commitments undertaken:

- a) Drafting of a new "Position paper" of the AIC Forum on implementing the EUSAIR Action Plan consisting of a concise and clear prospect of feasible and prioritised projects for the Chamber of Commerce system along with an investigation into possible European Programmes suitable for funding these projects;
- b) Defining reference project ideas on which to focus common energies in terms of actual planning to take advantage of the forthcoming calls to be issued: these are projects at chamber of commerce level, in which the role and activity of the chamber of commerce system involved will be predominant, to the good of SMEs as end beneficiaries of the actions planned.
- c) Creation of a section of the AIC Forum website which will be given over to the search for partners among members of the AIC Forum through the setting up of an interactive geographical map containing a concise presentation and description of each partner involved.