

## WORKGROUP ON EU PROJECT MANAGEMENT FINAL DOCUMENT



Corfu, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014

### **Introduction**

The coincidence of the setting up of the new Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion with the launch of the new 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Fund programming and the new European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (in particular the Bilateral Italy-Croatia Programme; the Trilateral Italy, Montenegro, Albania Programme; and the new Adriatic Ionian Programme) demands a qualitative leap in the planning and design of activities actually shared and truly consistent with the actions that will be suggested as priorities within the new EUSAIR Strategy Action Plan.

The commitments of the AIC Forum Chambers of Commerce must therefore be reinforced on the issue of EU project management, precisely because of the new political context of the Macroregion: to this end the commitment of the group of experts present at the round-table is therefore reaffirmed towards the respective political representations so that the correct importance is given by each Chamber of Commerce to European project management, investing in qualified human resources dedicated to this activity.

### **Strategic lines**

On the basis of these premises the foundations have been laid to jointly embark upon a series of undertakings aimed at increasing the quality of projects of the AIC Forum and of the associated Chambers of Commerce above all in terms of impact, based on three essential preconditions that must be present in the project management at Macroregional level: “mainstreaming” in the sense of the capacity of local, national and EU regulations and policies to acquire the good practices experienced in individual pilot projects; “evaluation” i.e. the essential importance of considering in advance the impact of territorial cooperation initiatives and therefore to envisage objectively verifiable indicators (not only in terms of results but impact too); “transfer and exploitation” as the ability not to repeat similar projects in the same area of action and to transfer and use to their best advantage the results obtained with projects already financed by the EU with the accent on follow ups and continued growth of the Macroregion Area.

### **Conclusions**

The presence of no less than 38 participants in the Workgroup this year demonstrates the attention that the various public and private entities continue to pay to the issue of European finance to support development in the territories. The current phase of defining the Operational Programmes of the new EU Structural and Investment Funds for the period 2014-2020, together with the many already active European calls for tender directly managed by the Commission, and the forthcoming launch of the new Territorial Cooperation Programmes in the Macroregion Area demand greater effort in terms of liaison and co-planning compared to previous years.

From the viewpoint of implementing the EUSAIR Strategic Action Plan, there are already a large number of workgroups, task forces and initiatives such as workshops and seminars in which the various stakeholders are and will be called upon to contribute with projects that are feasible but more importantly those already shared and capable of implementation. In this context the representatives of the AIC Forum project management group must immediately rise to the challenge, making a further effort to outline projects and initiatives of clear added value to do with the Macroregional Strategy and directed towards pursuing its general and specific aims. To this end reference is made to the following agreed actions designed to constitute an initial basis in order to move in a concerted and coherent way.



### **Agreed actions**

Among the various activities to be implemented in the coming months are:

- a synchronised lobby of the Regions and Ministries in the different territories of the Macroregion in order to publicise the commitment of the Chambers of Commerce on certain priority issues for the world of SME in line with the EUSAIR Action Plan;
- the possibility of an official joint lobby being made by the AIC Forum itself as a result of the leadership gained by the Forum in the scope of consulting stakeholders of the EUSAIR strategy;
- the creation of a series of matrices able to facilitate the programming and project management work of the Workgroup on the AIC Forum EU project management, which highlights for each AIC Forum Chamber of Commerce:
  - a) the priority areas of interest/topics with the emphasis on the previous experience built up in those specific fields;
  - b) eligibility of the main EU Funding Programmes;
  - c) projects that can be implemented (those “on standby”) ready to be shared and presented valid for future calls already identified;
  - d) the staff available (internal officials and consultants) for the European project management and international relations sector;
  - e) the presence or absence of the EEN network and the existence of further relations between the Chambers of Commerce and international networks (Eurochambres, ASCAME; etc...);
  - f) an indication of the “key regions”/“lead partner” i.e. of territorial areas or strategic bodies from which new projects could come considering the consolidated capacity for management and strategic value of the context or sector of competence.

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