



# EUSAIR bringing the Green Deal to the region

## Final Report

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## Abstract

One of the main features of European Strategies for Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) is its multi-level, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder governance, covering political, coordination and implementation dimensions.

Meetings and events are the places where EUSAIR implementers and stakeholders build their common vision and reach agreements to achieve the Action Plans objectives.

Being of pivotal importance for multi-level governance purposes, meetings and events produce, nonetheless, considerable impacts in terms of both waste creation and carbon footprint. Thus, reducing their negative environmental impacts is the very first step for promoting the shift to more sustainable practices and behaviours in the territories of the Region.

The initiative "EUSAIR - Bringing the Green Deal to the Region", promoted by DG Regio and coordinated by the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce, in partnership with company t33 and the University of Padua, through the development of a Strategy and practical tools, incentives EUSAIR participating countries and their representatives to act more sustainably and raise their environmental awareness in their daily working and everyday life, in line with the policy objectives set in the European Green Deal and related action plans.

## Executive summary

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) was adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council in 2014, making it the third macro-regional strategy in the EU, besides the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (2009), the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (2011) and the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (2016).

Macro-regional strategies (MRS) are initiated, requested and driven by EU Member-States. They constitute policy frameworks that allow countries located in the same geographical area to jointly tackle and find solutions to problems or to better use the potential they have in common (pollution, navigability, worldwide business competition, etc.) Moreover, MRS do not come with new EU legislation, new EU institutions and new EU funds but are supported by the existing ones. The EUSAIR is built around four thematic pillars: 1) Blue Growth; 2) Connecting the Region; 3) Environmental Quality; 4) Sustainable Tourism. The strategy is in its fifth year of implementation and it encompasses 9 countries: 4 EU Member States (Croatia, Greece, Italy, and Slovenia) and 4 non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia)<sup>1</sup>.

One of the main features of Macro-Regional strategies is its multi-level, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder governance. Governance has a political, coordination and operational dimensions:

- **Political:** Ministers for EU Funds and/ or Ministers of Foreign Affairs of nine participating countries taking strategic decisions at the EUSAIR Annual forums' ministerial meetings.
- **Coordination:** the Governing Board (GB) meets at least twice a year and gives strategic guidance to the operational level, in line with the Action Plan. GB members are officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and EU Funds of participating countries, Pillar Coordinators, Commission services and other bodies with a "non-voting" status.
- **Implementation:** Thematic Steering Groups - TSGs (one per thematic pillar). They are in charge of implementing the Action Plan under each sector. Sectoral Ministries of participating countries are represented in TSGs.

While having many benefits, multi-level governance entails many meetings and events. Key implementers and stakeholders from 9 countries need to meet many times a year in order to discuss important issues and take decisions. The EUSAIR machinery does not only concern its very governance, but also foresees coordination in each country and involves other subjects, such as the EUSAIR Facility Points, Interreg programmes in the Region as well as Adriatic-Ionian networks and civil society Fora. All this has a big impact on the environment in terms of both waste creation and carbon footprint.

The European Green Deal is about improving the well-being of people. Making Europe climate-neutral and protecting our natural habitat will be good for people, planet and economy. The EUSAIR community, through its governance and stakeholders, exercises large-scale purchasing power in contracts for goods and services and sets the tone on many important political files in the Adriatic-Ionian region. It shall therefore take the lead to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050 a reality, establishing sustainability principles and promoting environmentally friendly and resource-efficient goods and services (e.g. energy efficient electronic and electrical equipment supplies, electricity from renewable energy resources, low-emission public transport vehicles, cleaning services using environmentally friendly cleaning products, etc).

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<sup>1</sup> The EUSAIR countries considered are 9 and not 10 as the study was conducted in 2021 when San Marino was not yet an EUSAIR country

Through the initiative “EUSAIR Bringing the Green Deal to the Region”, DG REGIO aims **to encourage EUSAIR participating countries, their representatives and stakeholders to act more sustainably in their daily work and raise their environmental awareness in everyday life**, in line with the policy objectives set in the European Green Deal and related action plans. The underpinning idea is that EUSAIR key implementers and main stakeholders should take action and be an example for the overall EUSAIR community so as to raise awareness and build up capacity at the local, regional, national and international levels on the new trends regarding greening and digitising, building on the multi-level governance approach and ensuring the involvement of public administrations, civil society and environmental partners.

To this end, the specific and interlinked objectives are:

- 1) To improve EUSAIR community’s **knowledge and awareness on the adaptation of sustainable consumption**;
- 2) To improve EUSAIR implementers’ **capacities in applying resource efficiency policies** able to foster eco-innovation and green growth through Green Public Procurement (GPP), mostly using new award criteria in calls and tenders, paying particular attention to environmental aspects;
- 3) To **establish sustainability principles** following EU policy documents, strategies and initiatives aimed to boost a green and digital transformation of the Adriatic and Ionian macro region;
- 4) To **reduce the carbon and environmental footprints** of the EUSAIR community;
- 5) to **support the EUSAIR community’s green transformation**, with guidance, training and dissemination of good practices and encourage this community to take part in the 'Public Buyers for Climate and Environment' initiative, which will facilitate exchanges among buyers committed to GPP implementation;
- 6) to promote **interregional learning and capacity building** on the objectives described above through 3 interregional workshops.

To achieve these objectives, the following four tasks have been carried out:

### **Task 1 – Establish indicators**

This task aimed at identifying the most appropriate indicators to monitor the EUSAIR green transition and valorise the achieved results, taking into account Green Public Procurement criteria and requirements, carbon and environment footprint calculation as well as green practices applied by EUSAIR community in their daily work, especially when organising meetings.

Five types of indicators have been considered<sup>2</sup>: context, direct result, output, process, input indicators

- **Context indicators** relate to the conditions of well-being of the community and allow measuring the change occurring in the Adriatic-Ionian Area (external factors included).

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<sup>2</sup> These definitions are aligned with the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy framework (European Commission (2019), Development of a system of common indicators for European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund interventions after 2020) and reflect the international agreed framework shared by the OECD, the United Nations and the World Bank on indicators (European Commission (2004), Project Cycle Management Guidelines).

- **Direct results indicators** are the immediate benefit of the interventions. Therefore, direct result indicators measure project/ activity direct effects with reference to the direct addressees
- **Output indicators** measure what is produced by the expenditures/ investments through the activities/ projects. They refer to the core products of the activity/ projects
- **Process indicators** measure the strategy/ programme implementation process through the number and characteristics of procedures, providers and beneficiaries
- **Input indicators** measure financial resources invested in the initiatives/ programmes

The proposed system of indicators aimed both at measuring the impact of the behaviours featuring the EUSAIR governance (result and output indicators) and showing possible progress in the adoption of sound administrative practices, i.e. green public procurement (process and input indicators).

The scope of the system of indicators was determined by (1) the necessity to establish a not excessively burdensome monitoring practice; (2) the opportunity to propose an indicators system easily usable as a policy tools, both to change behaviours (less travels for the meetings, use of less pollutant means of transportation) and to make administrative practices evolve (green procurement also beyond the scope of the EUSAIR meetings and events).

Given the complexity of the Green Deal, especially in the long term up to 2050, the system of indicators may be enlarged over the decades including additional aspects that are crucial in the meetings organisation (such as: catering - e.g. production and distribution of food, waste - venue - e.g. energy - local transportation, accommodation etc).

## **Task 2 - Establish baselines, milestones and targets (2025, 2030 and 2050)**

Based on the system of indicators of the previous task, the study quantified the baselines values for each proposed indicator, referring to the year 2018 as a benchmark of the pre-Covid EUSAIR governance practices; targets for the years 2025, 2030 and 2050 and milestone for the year 2040 to measure the EUSAIR governance contribution to the EU climate targets.

The main goal was to produce a comprehensive plan to increase the EUSAIR governance's climate target to at least 55% target for greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2030 compared to baselines and towards climate neutrality by 2050.

The principles followed to quantify the indicators' baseline, targets and milestones values vary depending on the type of indicator considered in the system. This differentiation is linked to the nature of the indicators. In particular, the context indicator - which has been used as a benchmark for the system to indicate the path to carbon neutrality - is independent from EUSAIR governance activities. Instead, the other indicators depend on the intensity and modality of the meetings that are necessary to ensure good governance in the context of the EUSAIR. Therefore, the sources of the indicators are not the same for all of them. The context indicator is based on regulatory and statistical sources concerning the annual greenhouse gas emissions of each of the nine countries considered in the study, while the remaining four indicators are based on information generated by the EUSAIR stakeholders through their governance-related activities.

As for the context indicator the baseline in 2018 was therefore set based on statistical sources (aggregated by the World Bank) and the targets for 2030 and 2050 were set in accordance with the

EU regulatory framework, while the target for 2025 and the 2040 milestone are calculated according to a mathematical linear formula.

As for the other indicators, the baselines in 2018 were set based on the involvement of a sample of EUSAIR main implementers and stakeholders who organised the events in the Adriatic Ionian Region, through interviews and a questionnaire.

It is worth noting that, at the present stage, the proposed system of indicators measures greenhouse gas emissions only in relation to travel related to the EUSAIR governance and assumes that online meetings produce negligible greenhouse gas emissions. The trend of the in presence participations, combined with the evolution of emission factors over time, determines the target values and milestones of the proposed system of indicators.

### **Task 3 – Monitoring tools**

Once indicators and related baseline and target values were defined, this task establishes the overall framework for monitoring and analysing the transition towards a green functioning of EUSAIR and supports the main stakeholders/ implementers in measuring their progress in light of the indicators set up in Task 1, the milestone and targets set up in Task 2.

To do so, the Dashboard of Sustainability monitoring tool (DS) had been developed based on the proposed set of indicators' aims and structure. The DS is a mathematical, graphical and ready-to-use tool, which can be easily disseminated and used by EUSAIR stakeholders.

The Dashboard of Sustainability monitoring tool is the instrument to be used for collecting and processing data needed to quantify, and annually monitor, the indicators proposed. It is made up of interlinked Excel files to be used in different moments of the monitoring process by the EUSAIR main implementers and key stakeholders and other relevant actors that will be actively involved in monitoring progress towards indicators' target values for each event they organise.

To make users acquainted with the Dashboard of sustainability monitoring tools, ad hoc Guidelines were drafted with the aim to provide operational information on how to use the mathematical and graphical instrument developed for the quantification of the indicators.

### **Task 4 - Strategy and Guidelines for Governing bodies and EUSAIR stakeholders**

The Strategy and Guidelines to bring the Green Deal to the Adriatic-Ionian Region represent the planning and operational scheme enabling EUSAIR governing bodies and stakeholders to switch to more sustainable practices and procedures, especially when organising meetings and events.

The Strategy is based on the development of **three interlinked activities and tools**: the set of indicators, with related milestones and target values (developed in Tasks 1 and 2); the Dashboard of Sustainability monitoring tool (developed in Task 3) and the Guidelines to bring the Green Deal to the Region.

The Guidelines are conceived as a practical tool and highlight the most important aspects to be kept in mind and give operational hints on how to organise and manage sustainable meetings and events: from deciding the typology of events to be run (online, hybrid or physical ones) to the choice of the less pollutant mode of transport. It also tackles the choice of event venues, accommodations, food and catering services as well as event materials. They also give hints on how to manage Green Public

Procurement procedures, communication activities and support the monitoring of indicators proposed in the framework of the “Bringing the Green Deal to the Region” initiative, given that data will be collected at meeting/event level through the Event Data Gathering Sheet foreseen by a tailored Monitoring Tool (Task 3). Checklists to guide EUSAIR implementers in all steps of an event organisation are also included in the guidelines.

### **Task 5 – EUSAIR Green Deal**

This task aimed to support the EUSAIR community’s green transformation and promote interregional learning and capacity building through 3 interregional workshops.

The green transformation of the EUSAIR community starts from the active involvement of key implementers and stakeholders from the very beginning and throughout the process. Indeed, they are not conceived as simple recipients of this Study, but as an integral part of the whole process to be involved for gathering relevant information on current practices and behaviours, but also for testing and disseminating this Study’s outcomes with the twofold objective to make the proposed monitoring system adhere to EUSAIR implementers’ needs and start a collective reflection on how to shift to more sustainable standards.

Three workshops have been organised, the first and the second online, while the third one hybrid, online and in Tirana within the wider context of the 7th EUSAIR Forum under the Albanian Chairmanship.

- The first workshop “[Environmental Issues and the European Green Deal Actions for 2050 – GPP framework and procedures](#)” aimed to build a common understanding of environmental issues and the link between EU policies, programmes and regulation, production and consumption patterns, in line with United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The second workshop “[The use of European standards and regulations towards strategic environmental management](#)” presented the structure of environmental standards and their potential application into Green Public Procurement (GPP). It helped participants better understand procedures, environmental management standards and EU Environmental schemes such as EMAS regulations. Finally, the aim was also to encourage the EUSAIR community to take part in the ‘Big Buyers for Climate and Environment’ initiative, which facilitates exchanges among buyers committed to GPP implementation.
- The third workshop “[Bringing the Green Deal to the EUSAIR](#)” held within the 7th EUSAIR Forum, aimed to improve the EUSAIR community’s knowledge and awareness on the adoption of sustainable consumption in order to reduce the carbon and environmental footprints in their daily working and everyday life, especially when organisation of and participation in the meetings in the Region are concerned. During the workshop the main Study results and practical tools have been presented to the EUSAIR governance and key implementers on the occasion of the 7th EUSAIR Forum.



## The current behaviours in the EUSAIR in terms of impact on the environment and use of digital tools

One of the main features of EUSAIR and Macro-Regional strategies is its multi-level, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder governance, that entails many meetings and events.

Indeed, meetings and events are the places where EUSAIR implementers and stakeholders build their common vision and reach agreements to achieve the Action Plan's objective. Being of pivotal importance, meetings and events produce, nonetheless, considerable impacts in terms of both waste creation and carbon footprint. Thus, reducing their negative environmental impacts is the very first step for promoting the shift to more sustainable practices and behaviours in the Region.

It clearly appears, therefore, that when behaviours are concerned the main aspect featuring the governance of the EUSAIR is the organisation of meetings and events in the Adriatic and Ionian Region. At this regard, it is worth mentioning that meetings/ events related to the governance of EUSAIR are:

- Organised for the internal EUSAIR coordination in each country;
- Organised by National Coordinators and EUSAIR Facility Points for the governance of the strategy;
- Organised by TSGs Pillar Coordinators for the implementation of the strategy;
- Organised by the Adriatic Ionian networks and Fora;
- Organised by the Interreg Programmes in the Region.

If the organisation of meetings/ events is clearly necessary to ensure the governance of the EUSAIR, modality of participation can be in person or remote (online). Remote participation is not expected to become the rule, as it could be not sufficiently effective in definite cases. However, as the environmental impact of remote participation is lower, the study aimed to provide tools to assess when remote participation is advisable and to measure the environmental impact of the travels that are necessary to participate in person to meetings/ events.

It is comprehensible that the focus on the emissions generated by the travels (related to meetings) is not sufficient to capture information on the progress towards the organisation of greener meetings. This is the first reason why the study included process indicators, explained in more detail in the next chapter, allowing to measure the number and characteristics of the procedures put in place to select the providers that are necessary to organise a meeting (e.g. hotels and restaurants). The second reason is that **assessing the administrative practices, and especially the way the EUSAIR key implementers and stakeholders purchase, means orienting them towards green public procurement, and this can have a significant multiplier effect.**

'Bringing the Green Deal to the Region' means not only promoting the awareness that definite behaviours (such as the number of travels and the means of transportation chosen) have an impact on the environment and climate, but also making the authorities/ public bodies of local, regional and national level spend public money according to 'green' criteria. This aspect is considered both in terms of the number of green public procurement (or related to EU eco labelled services) procedures and percentage of public money spent according to these procedures. **It is expected that the EUSAIR key**

**implementers and stakeholders will be encouraged to opt in a larger extent for green procurement, so adopting this kind of procedures even outside of the scope of the EUSAIR governance.**

In order to screen and benchmark the behaviours and practices of EUSAIR governance in the pre-COVID period, the events organised in 2018 by the main implementers and key stakeholders have been mapped, dividing them into six typologies:

1. TSG and National coordinators
2. Governing Board events
3. EUSAIR Facility Point
4. EUSAIR annual forum
5. Interreg Adrion activities
6. Events from the social and economic networks as the Joint Fora

The analysis focused on a sample of events for each typology thus simplifying data collection. This information has been collected through a structured interview (with a questionnaire) with each organisers of the events chosen as a sample. The questionnaire was divided into two sessions: the first on information relating to the event in which organisers were asked to communicate the location of the meetings and provide a list of participants to each event useful to reconstruct participants' itineraries; the second on information related to the public procurement procedures put in place for the organisation of the event. In particular, the organisers were asked to indicate how many green public procurements had been adopted in relation to the public procedures activated. It referred, more specifically, to two EU criteria considered the most suitable for the case study: 'Food, Catering services and vending machines' and 'Cleaning products and services'.

The interviews revealed the non-homogeneity of the information requested from the participants when registering for the events. This led to a lack of information regarding the means of transport used to reach the venue, apart from one of the samples analysed which presented detailed data. While other information relating to the organisation of the events was exhaustive (such as the presence of national or international participants, remote participation, number and type of events - in presence, online or hybrid - total number of days of the meetings). It is worth noticing that in the pre-COVID period, there were no online and hybrid events, but only face-to-face events. However, this typology of meetings is expected to be the most common in the future meetings related to the EUSAIR governance.

As for the second session of the questionnaire, only two of the samples interviewed activated Green Public Procurement for the organisation of the events.

The results of the interviews made it possible to quantify the baselines referred to the year 2018 pre-Covid for some of the indicators established by the study (result, output, process and input indicators) and therefore to measure the environmental impact of the behaviours that characterise the governance of EUSAIR and which may have room for improvement.

It is clear that the baseline to the year 2018 depends on the choices made by the organisers of the meetings that were required for the EUSAIR governance in 2018. It is up to them, indeed, to establish the number of participations (non-national and national) in the meetings over the years, the modality of participation (in presence or remote) and, when not legally predetermined, also the type of public procurement procedures to be put in place (based on green criteria or not).

The next chapter shows the quantification of the baselines, based on the established system of indicators, and describes the proposed strategy to improve the behaviours of the EUSAIR governance

and to measure its contribution to the EU climate objectives, ensuring the achievement of the milestones of the 2025 and 2030 and the 2050 targets.

## A strategy to improve behaviours in the EUSAIR and make them more environmentally and digitally friendly

The initiative “Bringing the Green Deal to the Region” aims to incentivize EUSAIR participating countries and their representatives to act more sustainably and raise their environmental awareness in their daily work and every-day life.

The strategy set to bring the EU Green Deal to the Adriatic-Ionian Region is based on the development of **three interlinked activities and tools**, that are now available for all EUSAIR implementers and stakeholders to make their daily work and behaviours more environmentally friendly with reference to the organisation of more sustainable meetings and events which represent the main EUSAIR’s governance and implementing mechanism, namely:

1. A **set of indicators, with relating milestones and target values**, to be monitored on an annual basis so as to verify the progress towards the reduction of EUSAIR activities’ impacts on the environment and the promotion of more sustainable practices during the Strategy implementation;
2. The **Dashboard of Sustainability monitoring tool**, which is the instrument to be used for collecting and processing data needed to quantify the indicators proposed through the Study “Bringing the Green Deal to the Region”;
3. The **Guidelines to bring the Green Deal to the Region** giving practical hints to enable EUSAIR governing bodies and implementers to switch to more sustainable practices and procedures during the Strategy implementation, especially when organising meetings and events.

## Indicators, baselines, milestones and target values

The first tool enabling to implement the proposed strategy is represented by the monitoring system composed by the following five types of indicators<sup>3</sup>:

- **Context indicators** relating to the conditions of well-being of the community and allowing to measure the change occurring in the Adriatic-Ionian Area (external factors included);
- **Direct results**, which verify the immediate benefit of the interventions by measuring the project/ activity direct effects with reference to the direct addressees (It is determined by the EUSAIR governance related travels and also connected to the evolution of the mobility sector and infrastructure investments over time);
- **Output indicators** measuring what is produced by the expenditures/ investments through the activities/ projects. They refer to the core products of the activity/ projects (national/non-national participation in the events; remote participation; total no. of events; total number of days of events meetings);

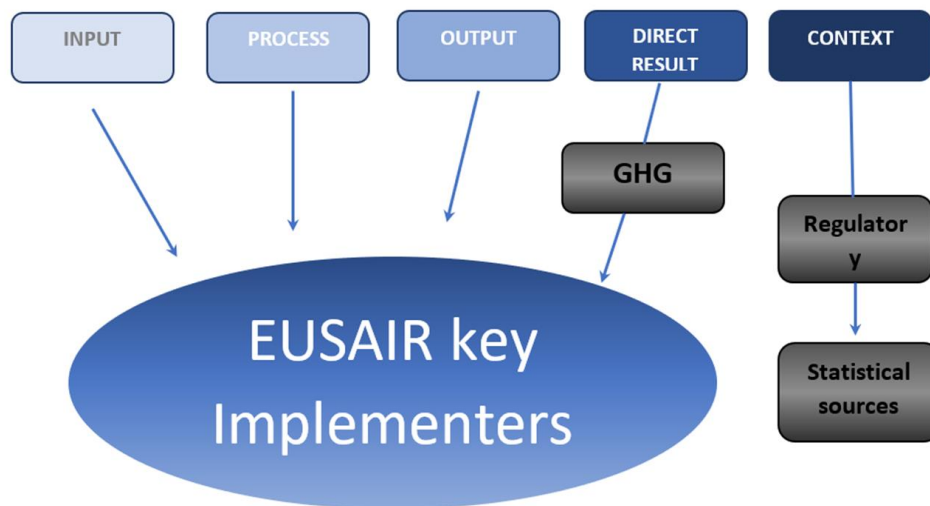
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<sup>3</sup> “EUSAIR Bringing the Green Deal to the Region – [Deliverable 2 - "EUSAIR Bringing the Green Deal to the Region – Indicators, baselines, milestones and targets"](#) (26/01/22)

- **Process indicators** measure the strategy/ programme implementation process through the number and characteristics of procedures, providers and beneficiaries (Number of procedures according to EU GPP published and successfully implemented)
- **Input indicators** related to the financial resources invested in the initiatives/ programmes (Expenses on GPP / Total expenses on PP)

The proposed system of indicators aims both at measuring the impact of the behaviours featuring the EUSAIR governance (result and output indicators) and showing possible progress in the adoption of sound administrative practices, i.e. green public procurement (process and input indicators).

As for the **approach adopted to quantify indicators' baseline and target values**, it is worth noting that the context indicator is based on regulatory and statistical sources, whereas the remaining four types of indicators are based on information generated by the EUSAIR stakeholders through their governance-related activities.



The **context indicator** concerns the annual greenhouse gas emissions of each of the nine countries considered in this study (that was drafted before San Marino became an EUSAIR participating country). The **reference year for the baseline is 2018 and target values have been set for 2025, 2030, 2050. The proposed system also includes a milestone in 2040.** Based on calculations at single-country level, the system proposes per capita values at EUSAIR level for the years 2025, 2030, 2040, 2050. For EU Member States, the pace of reduction for the period 2021-2030 is prescribed by Regulation (EU) 2018/842/EC<sup>4</sup>, which sets out binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions for each Member State, whereas for pre-accession countries national plans setting targets for 2030 have been taken into account, namely candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the present system of indicators, **the baseline in 2018 is therefore set based on statistical sources (aggregated by the World Bank), the targets for 2030 and 2050 are set in accordance with the EU**

<sup>4</sup> These reduction targets are consistent with the commitments taken by Member States under the Paris Agreement. More in detail, it has been considered that the European Commission published on 14 July 2021 an Impact Assessment Report accompanying Regulation 2018/842/EC in which the targets at Member State level are updated with more ambitious ones.

**regulatory framework, while the target for 2025 and the 2040 milestone are calculated according to a mathematical linear formula.**

A different approach has been used to quantify **output, process and input indicators**, as they depend directly on:

- The participation in EUSAIR-related meetings (output level);
- The type of public procurement procedures according to EU GPP implemented in the organisation of EUSAIR-related meetings (process level);<sup>5</sup>
- The percentage of funds disbursed according to green public procurement procedures out of the total funds disbursed for public procurement in the organisation of EUSAIR-related meetings (input level).

As with the context indicator, the baseline is 2018. In this case, however, the source of information is not statistical but depends on the choices made by the organisers of the meetings that were required for the EUSAIR governance in 2018. It is up to them, indeed, to establish the number of participations (non-national and national) in the meetings over the years, the modality of participation (in presence or remote) and, when not legally predetermined, also the type of public procurement procedures to be put in place (based on green criteria or not).

Given that the overall number of EUSAIR meetings in 2018 was 34, **collecting information from a sample of 10 meetings was deemed appropriate**. Six typologies of meetings were identified, and for each category at least **one structured questionnaire interview was conducted**. The values obtained from data collection for each meeting category were multiplied by the corresponding weight. **The sum of all values obtained was considered as the baseline (2018)**. These calculations were made for the five output indicators, namely Non-national participations (in presence), National participations (in presence), Remote participations (online), Number of meetings, and Total number of days of meetings.

**To calculate the targets (2025, 2030, 2050) and the milestone (2040), assumptions have been made on the evolution of the number of meetings, non-national and national participations in presence, remote participations**

As with the output indicators, the calculations concerning processes and input indicators are based on the baseline set in 2018. However, in the case of green public procurement, the assumptions are guided by the EU regulatory framework that requires the progressive adoption of green criteria in the process of public purchasing. It has been assumed that, given the statute of candidate or potential candidate countries, non-EU countries will progressively adhere to the EU rules.

Finally, **the quantification of the result indicator was based on three output indicators**, i.e. Non-national participations (in presence) and National participations (in presence), Remote participations (online). It is worth noting that, at the present stage, **the proposed system of indicators measures greenhouse gas emissions only in relation to travel related to the EUSAIR governance and assumes that online meetings produce negligible greenhouse gas emissions. The trend of the in-presence**

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<sup>5</sup> It is worth noting that the [Deliverable 1 - Discussion Paper](#) foresaw two process indicators, i.e. "Number of procedures according to EU GPP published" and "Number of procedures according to EU GPP successfully implemented". For the sake of simplification, in the present report they were transformed into only one indicator, i.e. "Number of procedures according to EU GPP implemented".

meetings, combined with the evolution of emission factors over time, determines the target values and milestones of the proposed system of indicators.

The following pages show a brief description of the proposed indicators and relating milestones and targets<sup>6</sup>.

#### Context indicator

The context indicator “**Estimated GHG emissions**” quantifies the amount of GHGs emitted per person per year, in tons of CO<sub>2</sub> based on statistical sources. In order to have a homogeneous database, the data were collected from a single official statistical source and downloaded from the World Bank website.<sup>7</sup>

Table 1 - Targets and milestone of context indicator per country (referred to reference years considered in regulatory documents)

Name	Target 2025		Target 2030			Milestone 2040	Target 2050 compared to 1990	
	80 % of 2030 target	Tons of CO <sub>2</sub> per capita	Reg. (EU) 842/2018 and National target	Reference year	Tons of CO <sub>2</sub> per capita	Tons of CO <sub>2</sub> per capita	Reg. (EU) 525/2013	Tons of CO <sub>2</sub> per capita
Albania	-7%	3.01	-12%	2016	3.13	1.55	-95%	0.24
Bosnia-Herzegovina	-29%	4.60	-33%	1990	6.44	3.19	-95%	0.56
Croatia	-13%	6.17	-16%	2005	6.13	3.08	-95%	0.43
Greece	-18%	9.78	-22%	2005	9.48	4.71	-95%	0.52
Italy	-34%	6.24	-43%	2005	5.50	2.63	-95%	0.46
Montenegro	-31%	4.65	-35%	1990	2.71	1.29	-95%	0.22
North Macedonia	-45%	3.29	-51%	1990	3.34	1.56	-95%	0.38
Serbia	-9%	9.18	-10%	1990	11.39	5.83	-95%	0.74
Slovenia	-22%	7.23	-28%	2005	6.77	3.27	-95%	0.46
<b>MACROREGION</b>		<b>6.65</b>			<b>6.34</b>	<b>3.08</b>		<b>0.48</b>

Table 2 - Summary table Context indicator: Baseline, Targets, Milestone

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline 2018	Target 2025	Target 2030	Milestone 2040	Target 2050
Estimated greenhouse emissions (focus on transportation)	Tons of CO <sub>2</sub> per capita	6.85	6.65	6.34	3.08	0.48

<sup>6</sup> Details on the calculation of both milestones and target values for EU Member States and non-EU countries are given in Deliverable 2 - "EUSAIR Bringing the Green Deal to the Region – Indicators, baselines, milestones and targets"

<sup>7</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.GHGT.KT.CE>  
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL>  
<https://databank.worldbank.org/source/population-estimates-and-projections#>

### Direct result indicator

The direct result indicator “**Estimated GHG emissions**” is the total emission of GHG calculated from the annual travels of participants to EUSAIR governance meetings. The elaboration of this indicator requires two types of data:

1. Information on the travels to participate in the meetings (distance and means of transport used);
2. GHG emissions produced by each means of transport (e.g. plane, car etc.), i.e. the emissions factors.

Whereas the first type of data is obtained by the stakeholders taking part in the EUSAIR governance, the calculation of the emission factors requires the use of a software and a data set from external sources. The emissions, and consequently the value of this indicator, are expressed in tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

The following table shows the targets and the milestone for the result indicator. In each column, the result indicator values (last row) are the sum of two products:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Trend of GHG emissions reduction in the Transport sector* Per capita emissions non-national} \\ & \text{participants* Non-national participations} \\ & + \\ & \text{Trend of GHG emissions reduction in the Transport sector* Per capita emissions non-national} \\ & \text{participants* Non-national participations} \end{aligned}$$

Table 3 - Calculation targets and milestones of result indicator

YEAR	2018	2025	2030	2040	2050
<i>Trend of GHG emissions reduction in the Transport sector</i>	0%	-20%	-34%	-63%	-92%**
<i>Per capita emissions non-national participants [kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq]</i>	214	171	141	79	17
<i>Per capita emissions national participants [kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq]</i>	64	51	42	24	5
<i>Non-national participations*</i>	945	760	745	765	780
<i>National participations*</i>	1 659	1 288	1 233	1 203	1 168
Result indicator values [tons CO <sub>2</sub> eq]	308	196	157	89	19

Table 4 - Summary table of Estimated GHG emissions indicator

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline 2018	Target 2025	Target 2030	Milestone 2040	Target 2050
Estimated greenhouse emissions	Tons of CO <sub>2</sub> eq/year	308	196	157	89	19

## Output indicators

The indicator “**Non-national participations**” reports the number of yearly on-site participants in EUSAIR meetings that came from a country other than the one where the meeting took place. As the indicator counts participations, the same person could have participated in more than one meeting.

Table 5 - Targets and milestone calculation of non-national participations

<b>Non-national participations</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2040</b>	<b>2050</b>
<b>Non-national participations (with remote participations)</b>	945	1013	1065	1176	1299
<b>Percentage of participations from remote</b>	-	25%	30%	35%	40%
<b>Non-national participations (without remote participations)</b>	945	760	745	765	780

Table 6 - Summary table non-national participations indicator

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Unit of measurement</b>	<b>Baseline 2018</b>	<b>Target 2025</b>	<b>Target 2030</b>	<b>Milestone 2040</b>	<b>Target 2050</b>
<b>Non-national participations</b>	Number of participations	945	760	745	765	780

The indicator “**National participations**” reports the number of yearly on-site participation in EUSAIR meetings of participants who came from the same country as the meeting took place. As the indicator counts participations, the same person could have participated in more than one meeting.

Table 7 - Targets and milestone calculation of national participations

<b>National participations</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2040</b>	<b>2050</b>
<b>National participations (with remote participations)</b>	1659	1718	1761	1851	1946
<b>Percentage of participations from remote</b>	-	25%	30%	35%	40%
<b>National participations (without remote participations)</b>	1659	1288	1233	1203	1168

Table 8 - Summary table national participations indicator

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Unit of measurement</b>	<b>Baseline 2018</b>	<b>Target 2025</b>	<b>Target 2030</b>	<b>Milestone 2040</b>	<b>Target 2050</b>
<b>National participations</b>	Number of participants	1659	1288	1233	1203	1168



The indicator “**Remote participations**” reports the number of yearly participations from remote (online) to the EUSAIR meetings.

Table 9 - Targets and milestone calculation of remote participants

	2018	2025	2030	2040	2050
<b>Total participations (national and non-national)</b>	2604	2048	1978	1968	1947
<b>Percentage of participants in remote</b>	-	25%	30%	35%	40%
<b>Remote participations</b>	0	683	848	1060	1298

Table 10 - Summary table for Remote participations (online)

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline 2018	Target 2025	Target 2030	Milestone 2040	Target 2050
<b>Remote participations (online)</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>1060</b>	<b>1298</b>

The indicator “**Number of meetings**” reports the yearly number of EUSAIR meetings.

Table 11 - Resume table for Number of events / meetings

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline 2018	Target 2025	Target 2030	Milestone 2040	Target 2050
<b>Number of meetings</b>	<b>Number of meetings</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>

The indicator “**Total number of days of meetings**” reports the duration of all meetings organised yearly to ensure EUSAIR governance.

Table 12 - Summary table for Total number of days of events/ meetings

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline 2018	Target 2025	Target 2030	Milestone 2040	Target 2050
<b>Total number of days of events/ meetings</b>	<b>Number of days</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>

### Process indicators

The indicator on the “**Number of procedures according to EU GPP published and implemented**” measures how many times during the year the GPP rules have been adopted in PP practices for the organisation of EUSAIR meetings.

To this end, two GPP Criteria, “Food Catering services and vending machines” and “Cleaning products and services” were selected as they are in accordance with the organisation of all kinds of events. For this reason, these two GPP Criteria, in line with the process indicator targets, need to be considered every time an event is organised.

*Table 13 - Summary table for Number of procedures according to EU GPP published and implemented*

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline 2018	Target 2025	Target 2030	Milestone 2040	Target 2050
Number of procedures according to EU GPP published and implemented	Number of procedures	6	54	68	68	68

### Input indicator

The indicator “**Expenses for GPP/total expenses for PP**” measures the ratio between the amount spent according to GPP rules and the whole amount spent (i.e. euro spent on GPP-complaint procedures vs. euro spent on total procedures). It shows the percentage of expenditure on green public procurement incurred during the year as a proportion of total expenditure on all procurement. Both values shall refer to the same year. The calculation requires relating two quantities expressed in euro to obtain a comparable figure throughout the monitoring period. This involves conversions from currencies other than the euro.

*Table 14 - Summary table for Expenses on GPP/ total expenses on PP*

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline 2018	Target 2025	Target 2030	Milestone 2040	Target 2050
Expenses on GPP/ total expenses on PP	Percentage	7%	79%	100%	100%	100%

### Overview of the proposed targets and milestones

The proposed system of indicators aimed both at measuring the impact of the behaviours in the context of the EUSAIR governance (result and output indicators) and at identifying possible avenues of progress in the adoption of sound policies and administrative practices, i.e. green public procurement (process and input indicators).

Looking at the result indicator, which measures the GHG emissions generated by the travels related to the EUSAIR governance activities in the period 2018-2050, it appears that in 2025 and 2030 the EUSAIR governance will “perform” much better than what expected by the “benchmark”, i.e. the GHG emissions generated in the macroregional area (context indicator). As shown in the table below, **the trend of GHG emissions reduction concerning the result indicator is significantly stronger than that foreseen for the context indicator. This shows the capacity of the EUSAIR governance system to fully align with the EU strategic framework.** It worth mentioning such a good performance does not depend on an overall improvement in the transport sector, but **shall be linked to the change of behaviours by the EUSAIR stakeholders**, i.e. a reasonable participation in on-site meetings combined with the choice of more sustainable means of transportation determines a significant decrease (measured at result level) of GHG emissions generated by the travels related to the EUSAIR governance activities from 2018 to 2050.

The system is based on the full awareness that the level of the result indicator is not crucial to measure the actual contribution of the EUSAIR governance to the EU climate targets. Looking at the absolute figures it clearly appears that the number of and the way in which the EUSAIR meetings are organised changes only marginally the overall production of GHG emissions in the area. However, such a level is important because it demonstrates the actual commitment of the stakeholders when their own behaviours are concerned.

**Looking at the impact of the choices made by the EUSAIR stakeholders, the level of process and input indicators appears more significant.** Process indicators are meant to complement the information on the way meetings are organised. This could have a significant multiplier effect ending to “bring the Green Deal” to the region. According to the proposed quantification of targets and milestones, both indicators will rise dramatically in 2025 and will reach and maintain their peak in 2030, 2040 and 2050. If initially only given services and products (areas of food and cleaning) could be purchased according to green procedures, progressively all public purchases related to EUSAIR meetings shall follow green criteria. They could concern products necessary for the meeting organisation, such as printed materials or gifts. They could also be related to the venue where a meeting is organised, implying the selection of providers ensuring proper waste management, efficient use of energy and use of energy from renewable sources. More importantly, the organisation of the EUSAIR meetings is intended as a testing ground where green practices in public procurement can be experimented. Especially in case of non-EU countries, where compulsory adoption of green procurement procedures is not foreseen in the respective national regulatory frameworks, the adoption of green procurement procedures to organise EUSAIR meetings could generate a multiplier effect within the public administrations involved. **The adoption of green procurement criteria, initially experimented in procedures aimed at the organisation of the EUSAIR meetings, could become standard practice within the administrations. This would in turn give a more substantial contribution to the achievement of EU environmental targets in the macroregional area.** However, for this scenario to come true, it appears necessary to develop a capacity building programme, particularly for non-EU countries.

The table below provides a comprehensive overview of the baselines, targets and milestones for all indicators already justified and shown in the previous pages.

Table 15 - Overall quantification of indicators

Indicators		Baseline	Target	Target	Milestone	Target
Type	Name	2018	2025	2030	2040	2050
Context	Estimated GHG emissions (trend)		-3%	-7%	-55%	-93%
	Estimated GHG emissions (values)	6.85	6.65	6.34	3.08	0.48
Result	Estimated GHG emissions (trend)		-36%	-49%	-71%	-94%
	Estimated GHG emissions (values)	308	196	157	89	19
Output	Non-national participations (values)	945	760	745	765	780
Output	National participations (values)	1 659	1 288	1 233	1 203	1 168
Output	Remote participations (values)	0	683	848	1 060	1 298
Output	Number of meetings	34	34	34	34	34
Output	Total number of days of meetings (values)	51	51	51	51	51
Process	Number of procedures according to EU GPP published and implemented (values)	6	54	68	68	68
Input	Expenses on GPP/ total expenses on PP (values)	7%	79%	100%	100%	100%

## The Dashboard of Sustainability monitoring tool

The **Dashboard of Sustainability monitoring tool** is the instrument developed for collecting and processing data needed to quantify, and annually monitor, the indicators presented in the previous chapter of this Final Report.

It is made of **two interlinked Excel files** to be used during different moments of the monitoring process:

1. The **Event Data Gathering Sheet (EDGS)** aimed to collect information on the type of event (e.g., Governing Board or Thematic Steering Groups meetings, EUSAIR annual forum, EUSAIR fora's events, etc.), on the number and provenience of participants, on used transport modes and other relevant data for all events organised by EUSAIR implementers and stakeholders. The EDGS is the main and first information source for monitoring the progress towards indicators' target values and shall be filled-in by each event organiser;
2. The **Monitoring tool** is composed of five worksheets relating to the indicators to be valorised: direct result, output, process and input indicators. This tool enables aggregate data on a yearly basis and shall be used to verify progress towards indicators' milestones and target values at both national/organisation and macroregional levels.

Thus, the EDGS is meant to be used by all EUSAIR implementers and stakeholders with the twofold objective to verify the sustainability of their events and to monitor the contribution of their organisations to the achievement of target values set at macroregional level.

To this end, all EUSAIR implementers and stakeholders organising events shall make use of the EDGS to ensure a proper monitoring, guaranteeing the completeness and comparability of data throughout the Macro-Region.

To make users acquainted with the Dashboard of sustainability monitoring tools, ad hoc Guidelines were drafted with the aim to provide operational information on how to use the mathematical and graphical instrument developed for the quantification of the indicators<sup>8</sup>. The Guidelines are therefore addressed to EUSAIR implementers, stakeholders and other relevant actors that will be actively involved in monitoring progress towards indicators' target values, thus pursuing the objective of promoting more sustainable practices in the organisation and management of EUSAIR events as part of the strategy to bring the Green Deal to the AI Region.

## The Guidelines to bring the Green Deal to the Adriatic-Ionian Region

These **Guidelines**<sup>9</sup> are conceived as a practical tool to enable EUSAIR governing bodies and implementers to switch to more sustainable practices and procedures during the Strategy implementation, especially when organising meetings and events.

The document is a **ready-to-use tool with practical hints on how to manage sustainable meetings and events**, from their organisation to the following monitoring of their impacts in terms of GHG emissions based on the proposed indicators.

To this end, Chapter 2 highlights the most important aspects to be kept in mind when organising an event and gives operational hints relating to the different stages of the event organisation: from deciding the typology of event to be run (online, hybrid or physical ones) to the choice of the less pollutant mode of transport. It also tackles the choice of event venues, accommodations, food and catering services as well as event materials.

They also give hints on how to manage GGP procedures (Chapter 3), communication activities (Chapter 4) and support the monitoring of indicators proposed in the framework of the "Bringing the Green Deal to the Region" initiative, given that data will be collected at meeting/event level through the Event Data Gathering Sheet foreseen by a tailored Monitoring Tool (Annex 2).

Checklists to guide EUSAIR implementers in all steps of an event organisation are presented in the Annexes.

All information and suggestions provided in the Guidelines are based on the proposed monitoring system and take into consideration other available guidelines at the European and international level (e.g. *EC, Guidelines on organising sustainable meetings and events at the Commission, 30/07/2018* and *United Nations Economic Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), 'Green meetings – Guide for participants'*). They also provide additional references and useful links to examine more in depth concepts and criteria on GPP.

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<sup>8</sup> "EUSAIR Bringing the Green Deal to the Region – [Deliverable 3 - "Guidelines Dashboard of Sustainability monitoring tool"](#) (04/02/2022).

<sup>9</sup> "EUSAIR Bringing the Green Deal to the Region ["Deliverable 4 - Guidelines to bring the Green Deal to the Region Region"](#) (18/03/22)