

ACTION LABs FOR EUSAIR ETC MANAGING AUTHORITIES

The ambitious goals of these four Action Labs are to support the embedding process by engaging key stakeholders, MAs of ETC programmes, in an experimental peer learning path with the goal of exchanging information, fostering complementarities, and paving the way for potential synergies among programs. The Action Labs will provide MAs with methodological tool and a knowledge base to help them achieve this goal.

Last December, the Council, in its conclusions on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies, called on to “embed” them in all the post 2020 relevant programmes. It also emphasised the importance of involving MAs, the key implementers, not in isolation but by establishing networks of (managing) authorities of relevant 2021- 2027 EU funding programmes.

EUSAIR embedding provides an opportunity to improve coordination among programmes, but it is not an easy task for the programmes. There is a need to harmonise how we will deal with embedding in our programmes while also paving the way for synergies among the programmes in implementing the flagships.

In particular, the Action Labs will focus on the following four flagships:

- **Pillar 1 – Flagship 1.1:** FOSTERING QUADRUPLE HELIX TIES IN THE FIELDS OF MARINE TECHNOLOGIES AND BLUE BIO-TECHNOLOGIES;
- **Pillar 2 – Flagship 2.1:** SMART/GREEN PORTS HUB CONCEPT;
- **Pillar 3 – Flagship 3.3:** PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE GROWTH OF THE AI REGION BY IMPLEMENTING ICZM AND MSP;
- **Pillar 4 – Flagship 4.5:** AIR CULTURAL ROUTES.

1st ACTION LAB FOR EUSAIR ETC MANAGING AUTHORITIES (JULY, 16)

The first Action Labs aimed to kick off the exchange of information and practices on how to deal with embedding in operational programs while also beginning to build complementarities among groups of programmes.

Three main issues were discussed by the programmes during the four thematic working groups, one per flagships:

Question 1: Are you going to include a reference to the flagship projects into the 2021-2027 Programme? Where/in which part of the programme?

Programming is still ongoing and all of them are confronted with the requirement to embed EUSAIR priorities and flagships. Many programmes are combining EUSAIR embedding with thematic concentration decisions (ADRION; IT HR; IT AL MONT; Greece-Italy), which confirms the strategic priority assigned to EUSAIR by them. In a few cases (ADRION; IT HR; Greece-Italy), EUSAIR embedding was also part of the stakeholder consultation on the thematic concentration.

Other programmes must still start debating embedding and whether to include specific references to flagships, even though implicitly thematic concentration (still to be finalized by

the TF in the majority of cases) indicates some room for alignment with some flagships (ex. IPA CBC Croatia-Bosnia Herzegovina-Montenegro; Italy-Slovenia).

Programmes are invited to share their draft OP or portions of it dedicated to EUSAIR embedding in order to foster information and practice exchange with other MAs on how to deal with the embedding in the OP.



Good practices from the Programmes

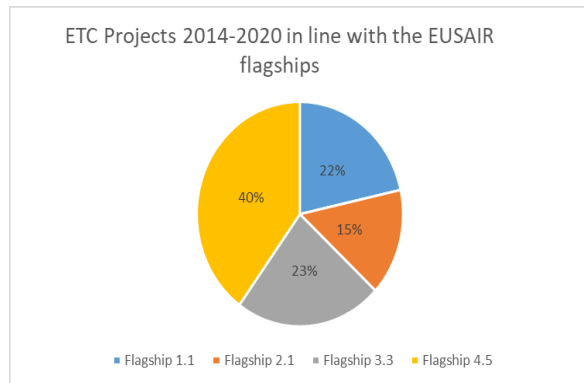
- ❖ **ADRION** has developed a comprehensive matrix on the matching between the POs/SOs/ Actions and the EUSAIR flagships.
- ❖ **Italy Albania Montenegro IPA CBC programme**, one of the most advanced in the preparation of the draft OP (which was already sent to the EC for an informal advice) represents a good example of how to deal with the embedding in the OP. Reference to EUSAIR and to the embedding has been made in different parts of the OP:
 - Territorial analysis (§ 1.1): The territorial analysis considered topics related to the flagships. Furthermore, the projects 2014-2020 aligned with the EUSAIR flagships were mentioned. Finally, reference is made to coordination and complementarities with other programmes of the area.
 - Justification (§1.3)/Actions (§ 2.1.2): reference to specific flagships;
 - Projects of strategic importance (Annex 3): Coherence with the flagships was one of the criteria followed by the TF to identify strategic projects.

Question 2: What in your opinion are the more suitable OS for implementing the flagship?

The discussion on thematic concentration provided interesting insights into the alignment of Policy and specific objectives 2021-2027 with the flagships. Participants, in particular, acknowledged that each flagship deals with different sub-topics (please see the data-cards on the flagships), implying that each flagship can refer to different OPs and SOs, as represented in the table below. Furthermore, the discussion has resulted in the identification of groups of programmes interested in specific topics of a flagship, which will serve as the basis for building complementarities in the next Action Labs (*see below Annex 1 for further details*). Some programme was not ready to provide this information. Further discussion will be possible during the second Action Lab.

Question 3: How do you foresee to capitalize past 2014-2020 projects and the experiences from the ADRION programme to embed the flagship in your OP

Capitalisation is one of the primary mean to promote coordination among programmes, since the programming phase. Flagships do not start from scratch! The preliminary analysis conducted by the Italian National Authorities, as well as the [booklets on 2014-2020](#), clearly demonstrate this.



The discussions in the working groups showed that many programmes got the message and are actively working to build embedding on the 2014-2020 results. ADRION and IT HR can be considered as good practice (see below for further details), having launched a Thematic cluster approach in line with the flagships. Other programmes are seriously considering going in the same direction (IT AL MONT; Croatia-Serbia). Others are interested in capitalization activities, but the discussion is ongoing (IPA HR-BA-ME).

MAs considered it useful to follow the ADRION example and include experts (coordinators and experts supporting the TSGs from the Facility Point project) from the TGS EUSAIR in the process to make the process more effective.



Good practices from the Programmes

- ❖ ADRION is at the forefront of this process, having launched the Thematic capitalisation clusters at the end of 2019, which include ADRION 2014-2020 projects that are directly related to EUSAIR priorities. Among the outcomes were new project ideas that can be considered as strategic projects for the years 2021-2027. The outcomes of ADRION Thematic Clusters could serve as a model for other programmes in the Adriatic and Ionian area looking to capitalize on ADRION's 2014-2020 results.
- ❖ IT HR will soon launch a final call for proposals to use the Programme Savings, which will be limited to previous project beneficiaries and aimed at making the results more accessible and transferable, also in light of the next programming period. To that end, the programme will select IT-HR projects based on their links to EUSAIR Flagships, the SOs 2021-27 identified by the TF and the results of the ADRION Thematic clusters.



The 2nd Action Lab will be held in September 2021!

The second Action Lab will aim to build complementarities based on the types of actions envisaged by the various Adriatic and Ionian ETC programmes in relation to the various flagships. This will allow us to identify and discuss the specific support that each program will provide to a flagship. Furthermore, complementarities between groups of programmes will be defined.

The discussion will involve the MAs, TSG experts, Interact and EUSAIR Facility Point.

ANNEX 1: Alignment of Policy and specific objectives 2021-2027 with the flagships

EUSAIR Flagship	Sub-topics	SOs	AI ETC Programmes
Pillar 1 – Flagship 1.1: FOSTERING QUADRUPLE HELIX TIES IN THE FIELDS OF MARINE TECHNOLOGIES AND BLUE BIOTECHNOLOGIES	Innovation in marine and blue-bio technology	1.1 Research and innovation	ADRION; IT HR; IT AL MONT; Greece-Italy*; Interreg IPA HR-BA-ME*
		1.4 skills for smart specialization	ADRION; IT HR
	Blue skills	1.4 skills for smart specialization	ADRION; IT HR
		4.2 education, training and lifelong learning	IT AL MONT
Pillar 2 – Flagship 2.1: SMART/GREEN PORTS HUB CONCEPT	Ports as energy hub	<i>Not discussed</i>	
	Digitalisation of the supply chain	3.2 transport mobility	ADRION; IT HR; Greece Italy*; IT AL MONT
	Ports and circular economy	2.6 circular economy	ADRION; Greece-Italy*
		3.2 transport mobility	IT HR
Pillar 3 – Flagship 3.3: PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE GROWTH OF THE AI REGION BY IMPLEMENTING ICZM AND MSP	MSP/ICZM harmonised approaches Development of data for MSP MSP/ICZM – Protecting the environment	2.7 preservation of nature, biodiversity, green infrastructures	ADRION; IT HR; Greece Italy*; IPA CBC IT AL MONT; Croatia- Serbia*
		2.4 climate changes and risks	ADRION; IT HR; IT AL MONT
		4.2 education, training and lifelong learning	IT AL MONT
		1.3 SMEs	ADRION; IT AL MONT
Pillar 4 – Flagship 4.5: AIR		1.1 Research and innovation	ADRION; IT AL MONT; Greece-Italy*
		1.3 SMEs	IPA CRO-BIH-MNE*

CULTURAL ROUTES.			IT AL MONT
		2.7 preservation of nature, biodiversity, green infrastructures	IPA CRO-BIH-MNE*
		4.6 culture and sustainable tourism	IT HR; IT AL MONT
<i>*Still under discussion in the TF</i>			