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ANNEX

**Work programme for 2020 for the implementation of the preparatory action "The Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities (AI-NURECC) spin-off"**

**1. Introduction**

On the basis of the objectives given in the budget remarks, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2020 as follows:

- a) for grants (implemented under direct management): point 2,
- b) for prizes (implemented under direct management): point 3: N/A,
- c) for procurement (implemented under direct management): point 4: N/A,
- d) for actions implemented under indirect management: point 5: N/A,
- e) for contributions to trust funds: point 6: N/A,
- f) for financial instruments: point 7: N/A,
- g) for contributions to blending facilities: point 8: N/A,
- h) for other actions or expenditure: point 9: N/A.

**Legal basis**

Under Article 58(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, appropriations for preparatory actions in the field of application of the TFEU and the Euratom Treaty, designed to prepare proposals with a view to the adoption of future actions, may be implemented without a basic act.

**Policy context**

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region ('EUSAIR') was adopted by the Commission on 17 June 2014<sup>1</sup> and endorsed by the General Affairs Council on 29 September 2014<sup>2</sup> and by the European Council on 23-24 October 2014<sup>3</sup>.

The EUSAIR is aimed at helping the nine participating countries (four EU Member States: Croatia, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, and five candidate/potential candidate countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia) to strengthen their cooperation in the fields of blue economy, transport and energy networks, environment and sustainable tourism for the benefit of the 70 million citizens living in the macro-region.

**Budget line**

13 03 77 28

<sup>1</sup> COM(2014) 357 final and its accompanying Action Plan SWD(2014) 190 final.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/25286/144951.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/145397.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/145397.pdf), point 25.

## Objectives pursued

The general objective of this preparatory action is to:

- enhance regional and local authorities's ownership of the EUSAIR by promoting efficient and participatory bottom up approach;
- encourage multi-actor networking and collaboration among the private, public sector and civil society to foster coordination among stakeholders supporting them in profiting from the opportunities offered by the EUSAIR;
- organise awareness raising initiatives, cultural events, training programmes or seminars for citizens and young people in the region with the aim of creating ownership with regard to the EUSAIR, emphasising shared regional identity and promoting partnership and networking across the Region;
- promote civic education, transnational entrepreneurship, opportunities for cultural events and good neighbourly relations as well as help promoting effective EU integration of candidate and potential candidate countries for EU membership.

## Expected results

The Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities (AI-NURECC) initiative involving key stakeholders in the Adriatic and Ionian regions, who have joined forces to support implementation of the EUSAIR, will take more effective ownership of the EUSAIR's main objectives and opportunities, at regional and local level, and foster the sound implementation of its action plan.

The AI-NURECC initiative is being coordinated by the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions with support from four partners in the area: the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities, the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce, and UniAdrion.

The target groups of the AI-NURECC initiative spin-off will be, i.a.:

- regional and local government practitioners;
- universities, vocational education and training institutions, students and student associations;
- young people, including unemployed young people;
- regional or local development agencies;
- chambers of Commerce;
- small and medium-sized enterprises;
- creative and cultural industries;
- private investors;
- island, rural and mountainous communities and networks.

The activities undertaken by the AI-NURECC initiative spin-off will be to:

- Organise AI-NURECC training seminars focused on different thematic areas and cross-cutting issues;
- Deal with RIS3, innovation and SME development issues within the strategy;
- Create the AI-NURECC scholarship fund;
- Develop specific studies.

The territorial scope of the AI-NURECC initiative spin-off will be the EUSAIR macro-region.

## 2. *Grants*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 1 200 000.

### 2.1. **Adriatic-Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities (AI-NURECC) Spin off initiative**

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Under Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals, duly substantiated in the award decision.

For the AI-NURECC (spin-off) initiative, a direct grant will be awarded to the AI-NURECC consortium. The AI-NURECC initiative is an initiative of key stakeholders of the Adriatic Ionian region, which have decided to join their efforts with the aim of supporting the implementation of the EUSAIR.

The action will be implemented by a consortium involving:

- the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR – Not for Profit, French Association under "la loi du 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 1901");
- the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion (Croatian NGO) – AIE;
- the Forum of Adriatic-Ionian Chambers of Commerce (Not for Profit, Italian Association) - FAICC;
- the Forum of the Adriatic-Ionian Cities (Not for Profit, Italian Association)- FAIC;
- the Forum of the Universities of the Adriatic Ionian Region (UNIADRION - Not for Profit, Italian Association).

The CPMR, with its extensive network of contacts with EU institutions and experience with regional organisation, is in the best place to coordinate the initiative and at the same time to give a valuable contribution in certain fields as territorial development in areas with specific challenges (e.g. islands). All other organisations, with their longstanding cooperation experience in the EUSAIR region, offer a specific contribution to the action in terms of content and geographical scope. More specifically, the AIE and FAICC foster cooperation among regional and local administrations in the region and have, inter alia, a specific experience in initiatives addressed to the youth. The FAICC makes Chambers of Commerce and SMEs cooperate in the region since about 20 years on several sectors (environment, tourism, innovation, etc.). UNIADRION is the organisation covering university cooperation in the region with common academic programmes, trainings, summer schools and seminars on issues and sectors that are in line with EUSAIR priorities.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation

The AI-NURECC (spin-off) initiative is expected to provide a powerful tool to boost the political and technical dialogue among key Adriatic-Ionian stakeholders, thus fostering EUSAIR multi-level governance. Through the experience of the consortium and the capacities of its partners, AI-NURECC will provide the EUSAIR with a multi-level and

multi-actor community which will ensure a flexible and effective coordination among institutions and organisations, thus fostering the sound implementation of the EUSAIR Action Plan through communication, networking, analysis on the multilevel governance of the nine EUSAIR countries etc.

Building on the 2017 Pilot project (Commission Decision (C(2017) 8441 of 14 December 2017, Action 2.1 – AI-NURECC Initiative), this preparatory action will enhance the participation of EUSAIR stakeholders, specifically universities, chambers of commerce, local administrations, youth organisations and private investors in the implementation of the EUSAIR raising, at the same time, awareness about its potential added value.

Specific topics covered by the action will be i.a. sustainable tourism, cultural and creative industries, Smart Specialisation Strategies, circular economy, environment, territorial challenges.

Special attention will be paid to Youth as a strategic target group for the sustainable development of the EUSAIR area, also through initiatives addressed to sport, integration, social inclusion, circular economy, with the aim to further encourage community cohesion and solidarity in the area.

The action will support the implementation of the EUSAIR action plan through a series of initiatives ranging from the organisation of events focused on stakeholders aware and participation, mapping EUSAIR relevant actors and stakeholders, support to scholarships and internships, specific studies (e.g. territorial challenges in the EUSAIR), skill development for MRS project beneficiaries to facilitation of investments by clustering in innovation ecosystems.

## Implementation

This action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

### **3. Prizes**

N/A

### **4. Procurement**

N/A

### **5. Actions implemented in indirect management**

N/A

### **6. Trust funds**

N/A

### **7. Financial instruments implemented in direct or indirect management**

N/A

### **8. Contribution to blending facilities**

N/A

### **9. Other actions or expenditure**

N/A