

EN
ANNEX

Work programme for 2020 for the implementation of the preparatory action "The European Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR): generation and preparation of initiatives and projects supporting multilevel governance and partnerships with added value for the region"

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: AMI-list experts.

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.

Budget line

13 03 77 29

Policy Context

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) was adopted by the Commission on 17 June 2014¹ and endorsed by the General Affairs Council on 29 September 2014² and by the European Council on 23-24 October 2014³.

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.

¹ COM(2014) 357 final and its accompanying Action Plan SWD(2014) 190 final

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

³ 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 organise and develop:

- effective multi-level governance in pursuit of the objectives laid down in the EUSAIR for key implementers of the new participating country, the Republic of North Macedonia. North Macedonia has been officially included in the EUSAIR since March 2020;
- capacity building among EUSAIR key implementers of North Macedonia as a prerequisite for effective implementation of the EUSAIR Action Plan;
- awareness-raising initiatives, cultural events, training programmes and/or seminars for citizens, in all EUSAIR countries, including North Macedonia, with the aim of creating ownership with regard to EUSAIR, of emphasising shared regional identity and of promoting partnership and networking across the region. These programmes should stress civic education, transnational entrepreneurship, opportunities for cultural events and good neighbourly relations, and help promote the role of the EUSAIR as a key factor of Western Balkans enlargement process.

Expected results

- Full participation of relevant administrations from North Macedonia to the EUSAIR Governance (Governing Board, Thematic Steering Group meetings, other events);
- Improved knowledge and ability to work in the framework of the EUSAIR of relevant administration officials in North Macedonia;
- Organisation of the Annual EUSAIR Forum and events linked to the EUSAIR Presidency in 2021 and 2022;
- Issuing analysis and assessments supporting REGIO's work on the EUSAIR.

2. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 750 000.

2.1. Support to North Macedonia participation in the EUSAIR

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Under Article 195(c) of the Financial Regulation, a grant will be awarded to the designated national authorities of North Macedonia, which are considered being in a de facto monopoly, since they are the authorities that are coordinating the internal EUSAIR governance in the country.

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

In order to effectively implement the EUSAIR Action Plan, designated national administrations in North Macedonia need technical support both for supporting their participation in governing structures of the EUSAIR and for building capacity. North

Macedonia was included in the EUSAIR in March 2020. Financial support will allow national key implementers to operate on a level playing field with all other countries (that are supported by the ADRIAN Transnational Cooperation Programme (2014-2020) for their activities related to the EUSAIR governance).

In particular, technical support is needed by the EUSAIR Pillar Coordinators designated by North Macedonia to implement the EUSAIR Pillar II together with the fellow EU Member States' administration participating in the EUSAIR, including administrative, logistical and secretarial support.

This action will allow North Macedonia to allocate one full-time expert for its respective EUSAIR Pillar (transport and energy), to work along with the designated Pillar Coordinators for a period of up to two years. It is to be noted that the same approach is followed by fellow participating countries, where full-time experts are hired to work along with the respective Pillar Coordinators.

North Macedonia will also be supported on day-to-day governance work and processes for meetings of the Governing Board, Thematic Steering Groups, Pillar Coordinators and also on inter-Pillar coordination and participation to EUSAIR Forums.

Convening and preparing meetings, communication with stakeholders as well as enhancing the mobilisation and involvement of stakeholders from different sectors and levels (national, regional, local) in the EUSAIR implementation, will also receive some support.

Implementation

This action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.2. Support to countries holding the EUSAIR Presidency in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Under Article 195(c) of the Financial Regulation, a grant will be awarded to support the designated national authorities of the countries holding the EUSAIR Presidency in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, as will be agreed among all participating Member States and third countries.

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

As already done in the past, the Commission intends to financially support the countries holding the EUSAIR Presidency notably by contributing to the costs of the EUSAIR Annual Forum. The financial contribution could partly also be used to cover the costs of other events – to be agreed in advance with the Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy – closely related to the EUSAIR Presidency.

The objective of Commission support to the countries holding the EUSAIR Presidency is to ensure strategic coordination of the Strategy and to facilitate its implementation, notably by supporting the Annual Forum, which is the yearly main event where the EUSAIR key implementers meet the stakeholders of the region and representatives of the civil society at large.

For 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 a focus will be put on awareness raising initiatives and events

(in particular regarding the EUSAIR Annual Forum), which have the overall aim of strengthening the ownership of EUSAIR. This will be complemented by the promotion of partnership and networking across the region.

These grants will finance part of the costs for the organisation of the Annual Forum, with the condition that the remaining part of the costs are financed by the beneficiary country with its own resources (non EU funds).

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

9.1. Support the implementation of the EUSAIR via AMI-list expert contracts

Amount

EUR 150 000

Description

In order to facilitate the multi-level governance and the overall implementation of EUSAIR, expert support for expertise, assesment and analysis will be foreseen.

The expertise required will be related to the pillars and/or cross-cutting issues of the EUSAIR. Furthermore, expertise might also be required in the field of the governance, communication and publicity of the Strategy.