

Technical Summary of the ADRION Cooperation Programme

STRATEGY OF ADRION PROGRAMME 2014-2010

The overall objective of the ADRION programme is to act as a policy driver and governance innovator fostering the European integration among Member and non-Member states, utilising the rich natural, cultural and human resources surrounding the Adriatic and Ionian seas and enhancing economic, social and territorial cohesion in the programme area.

The European Commission in its ETC regulation defines in the preamble that “transnational cooperation should aim to strengthen cooperation by means of actions conducive to integrated territorial development linked to the Union’s cohesion policy priorities”.

For smart growth, the ADRION Programme will attach special attention to the promotion of innovation in a number of fields (e.g. Blue and Green growth, energy, transport, tourism), which outline important competitive advantages of the area. It will support partnerships in order to strengthen clusters, networks, economic sectors, value chains, and increase the interaction among stakeholders in the Partner States.

Concerning sustainable growth, taking into account the pressure observed in urban, lowlands and coastal Adriatic and Ionian areas, the ADRION Programme will seek to conciliate the demand and pressure of different uses, promote low input/low emissions activities, exploit in a sustainable way renewable resources, reduce the impact of human activities on natural resources, and improve the protection of maritime and terrestrial biodiversity and habitats. In these fields, specific attention will be paid to the coordination with EU national and regional programmes in order to use existing inputs and disseminate the results of ADRION projects. In that respect, partners of transnational projects will have to be aware of regional needs and propose ways to disseminate their results towards regional mainstream programmes. Key in this aspect is the preparation of the ground through transnational actions, especially in areas where transnational cooperation is absolutely necessary, as is the case of semi-closed sea interventions. In this respect, Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), maritime safety, transport, energy or pollution of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas in conjunction to the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the principles of UNEP MAP and the Barcelona Convention can play a significant role.

The ADRION Programme addresses inclusive growth through the valorisation of competitive advantages and the creation of employment opportunities along with the enhancement of connectivity options and the protection of public environmental goods.

Among the Seven Flagship Initiatives identified by the EU2020 Strategy, ADRION programme objectives will be aligned with the Innovation Union to improve framework conditions for research and innovation, to the Resource Efficient Europe: to help decouple economic growth from the use of resources.

Transnational cooperation is nevertheless characterised by some inherent challenges, which can be summarised as:

- Coverage of large areas with a high diversity of regions and often conflicting interests;

- Limited budgets in relation to the covered area, population and time frame, which often contradict the scope and objectives of cooperation initiatives;
- Delivering mainly intangible results.

In the case of ADRION, the programme has to address also the political dimension of the approximation and integration of the Western Balkans to the EU.

For these reasons, and because of the novelty of the programme, ADRION will:

- Focus on a limited number of Thematic Objectives,
- Give emphasis on the formation of partnerships supporting the integration of all Partner States,
- Fully optimise synergies and complementarities among selected Thematic Objectives, align them to the pillars of the EUSAIR and mobilise follow-up activities implemented under the ADRION label.

Furthermore, the territorial needs and challenges surrounding the transnational Programme Area will be taken into account.

The objective shall be to better identify development potential and bottlenecks in specific sectors (innovation, environment, tourism, accessibility and the interconnections among them) at transnational level, to support stakeholders promoting novel approaches and sharing knowledge.

As a transnational programme, its main contribution will be to exchange and transfer experiences between regions, support transnational interventions and capacity building, and ensure that results are disseminated and used beyond project partners reaching a large number of end-users.

The programme will especially support the constitution of multilevel and intersectoral working teams and partnerships to overcome administrative and sectoral bottlenecks, with the involvement of citizens, and local/regional/ national/international bodies. At territorial level, a key issue will be to reduce conflicts of land use that constitute one main aspect of sustainable development strategies (promotion of renewable energy, protection of natural and cultural heritage, reduction of carbon emissions, etc.).

Among the framework conditions for the implementation of actions, stakeholders must bear in mind that projects are not aimed to answer to the needs of a limited number of partners but to contribute to better living conditions in ADRION territories (economic activities, quality of the environment, safety, etc.), thus focusing more on activities and results.

From the action and output point of view, taking into account its strategy, the ADRION programme is mainly delivering:

- Networking structures;
- Joint management systems and cooperation agreements;
- Strategies and action plans;
- Methodologies and tools and
- Pilot actions.

THE ADRION PROGRAMME AREA

The ADRION transnational programme, set up in the framework of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), one of the objectives of the cohesion policy, includes 31 regions from four (4) different EU Member States and four (4) IPA countries (hereinafter referred to as Partner States).

For the period 2014-2020, The overall programme budget amounts to EUR 117.917.379 including European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) (EUR 83.467.729), the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) (EUR 15.688.887) and national contributions (EUR 18.760.763).

A co-financing rate of 85% of ERDF/IPA is applied for projects.

The overall objective of the ADRION programme is to act as a policy driver and governance innovator fostering European integration among Member and non-Member states, utilising the rich natural, cultural and human resources surrounding the Adriatic and Ionian seas and enhancing economic, social and territorial cohesion in the programme area.

This programme takes into consideration the experience of the 2007-2013 Operational Programmes (OPs) especially SEE and IPA Adriatic whose eligible areas overlap with that of ADRION. It also takes into account the results of the SEE in itinere evaluation and the overall programme achievements of the previous programming period.

Following the Commission decision drawing up the list of eligible regions and areas for the transnational strands of the ETC, the ADRION programme covers the following areas:

- a) The Member States:
 - IT Italy : 12 regions and 2 provinces
 - SI Slovenia: 2 regions
 - EL Greece: 13 regions
 - HR Croatia: 2 regions
- b) IPA countries
 - AL Albania
 - BA Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - ME Montenegro
 - RS Serbia

Moreover, according to Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, in the context of cooperation programmes and in duly justified cases, the Managing Authority may accept that part of an operation is implemented outside the Union part of the programme area, provided that the conditions of Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 are satisfied.

The total amount allocated under the cooperation programme to operations located outside the Union part of the programme area shall not exceed 20 % of the support from the ERDF at programme level.

PROGRAMME PRIORITY AXIS

For the ADRION programme the following 4 thematic Objectives and 5 Investment priorities have been selected

Priority Axis 1: *Innovative and Smart Region*

Thematic Objective 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation through:

IP 1b: SO 1.1: *Support the development of a regional Innovation system for the ADRION area*

PA1 (TO1) focuses on innovation and aims to promote the unique competitive advantages of the Programme Area in order to enhance competitiveness and boost the creation of new jobs. As the territorial analysis demonstrated, the ADRION area is struggling toward building up efficient research and innovation systems. For this reason, this Axis shall grant specific attention to blue growth and all the activities having strong links with the sea (such as marine and environmental industries, energy, tourism, culture connectivity).

Priority Axis 2: Sustainable region

Thematic Objective 6: Protecting the environment and promotion resource efficiency

IP 6c: SO 2.1: Promote the sustainable valorisation and preservation of natural and cultural assets as growth assets in the ADRION area

IP 6d: SO 2.2: Enhance the capacity in transnationally tackling environmental vulnerability, fragmentation and the safeguarding of ecosystem services in the ADRION area

PA2 (TO6) is acknowledging the rich natural and cultural heritage of the ADRION area both as a growth asset for tourism but also as a value per se. The ADRION programme tries to conciliate the different interests of tourists, residents and economic operators, by promoting sustainable tourism, valorisation of the heritage and last but not least environmental protection as a condition sine qua non for the sustainability of tourism and heritage utilisation. The approach directly addresses the territorial dimension both as a chance for rural and less developed areas to grow, but also as a platform of the debate of spatial uses in the congested and much sought coastal zones.

Priority Axis 3: Connected region

Thematic Objective 7 Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

IP 7c SO 3.1: Enhance capacity for integrated transport and mobility services and multimodality in the ADRION area

PA3 (TO7) is containing a territorial dimension per se by addressing connectivity in the context of the disparities in space between West and East but also across the dominating Adriatic and Ionian seas in the core of the ADRION area. The Programme is focusing on

multimodality, logistics and environmental friendly and low carbon transport and mobility, contributing thus to the conciliation of the different uses and needs among regions and users.

Priority Axis 4: "Supporting the governance of the EUSAIR"

Thematic Objective 11: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions under the ESF to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration.

IP 11: SO 4.1: Facilitate the coordination and implementation of the EUSAIR by enhancing institutional capacity of public administrations and key stakeholders and by assisting the progress of implementation of joint priorities.

This PA will aim at supporting good and stable governance mechanisms and facilitating the implementation of the EUSAIR Action Plan through networking, coordination and assistance mechanisms. To fully exploit the potentials offered by the EUSAIR it is paramount to ensure adequate support to key governance EUSAIR actors and heterogeneous stakeholders (actors on local, regional, national and EU level, economic and social actors, representatives of civil society, NGOs, etc.) and to facilitate the process of coordination between different programmes and funds in the Adriatic Ionian Region as a whole and in each Partner States in particular.

Justification for financial allocation

The overall programme budget amounts to EUR 117.917.379 including European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) (EUR 83.467.729), the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) (EUR 15.688.887) and national contributions (EUR 18.760.763), as described in Section 3.

The financial allocation to the selected Thematic Objectives (TO) reflects:

- * The estimated financial size of the projects foreseen in each priority axis based on the experience of the 2007-2013 period;
- * The coherence with the needs of the Partner States;
- * The opinions expressed during the consultation rounds and
- * Last, but not least, the expression of the strategic choices of the ADRION stakeholders.

When estimating financial allocations per TO, an average budget of 2 million EUR per operation was assumed. The financial allocation per priority axis is as follows:

- Priority Axis 1 (TO 1): the planned budget allocation (Union funds) to Priority Axis 1 is EUR 19.831.323, corresponding to 20% of the total. The financial allocation to this priority is in line with the emphasis placed on innovation, technology transfer and entrepreneurship by all Partner States, the orientation of the EUSAIR and the consultations undertaken during the programming process.
- Priority Axis 2 (TO 6): the planned budget allocation (Union funds) to Priority Axis 2 is EUR 45.612.043, corresponding to 46% of the total. This financial allocation reflects the expected size of actions relating to the valorisation of cultural and natural heritage and the needs for increasing awareness, harmonising management approaches, facilitating knowledge transfer and fostering shared potentials and responsibilities in the field of environmental protection and risk management.
- Priority Axis 3 (TO 7): the planned budget allocation (Union funds) to Priority Axis 4 is EUR 17.848.191, corresponding to 18% of the total. The financial allocation to this priority is in line with the emphasis placed on connectivity, efficient and environmental friendly mobility and transport within all Partner States as a prerequisite for all EUSAIR pillars. It also reflects the relative low demand in this thematic orientation expressed both during the 2007-2013 period and the current programming consultations.
- Priority Axis 4 (TO 11): the planned budget allocation (Union funds) to Priority Axis 4 is EUR 9.915.662, corresponding to 10% of the total. It derives from the need to address governance challenges and development in the ADRION area by investing in multilevel and multi-country governance in the tasks, approaches, services and processes of public administrations and key stakeholders in the context of the implementation of the EUSAIR.

Overview of the investment strategy of the cooperation programme

Priority axis	ERDF support (EUR)	Proportion of the total Union support to the cooperation programme (by Fund) ¹			Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives	Result indicators corresponding to the specific objective
		ERDF	ENI (where applicable)	IPA (where applicable)				
1.	16.693.546	20%		20%	1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	Investment priority 1.b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education (...)	Support the development of a regional Innovation system for the Adriatic-Ionian area	Level of capacity of key innovation actors to be effectively involved in transnational actions for the development of a regional Innovation system
2.	38.395.155	46%		46%	6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	Investment priority 6.c Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage	Promote the sustainable valorisation and preservation of natural and cultural heritage as growth assets in the Adriatic-Ionian area	Level of capacity for the stakeholders in the fields of natural and cultural heritage protection and tourism to sustainably valorise natural and cultural heritage as a growth

¹ Presentation of the shares corresponding to ENI and IPA amounts depends on management option chosen.

								asset.
						Investment priority 6.d Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services through Natura2000, and green infrastructures	Enhance the capacity in transnationally tackling environmental vulnerability, fragmentation, and the safeguarding of ecosystem services in the Adriatic-Ionian area	Level of capacity of the involved organisations to operate transnational, providing service and management regarding environmental vulnerability, fragmentation, and the safeguarding of ecosystems' services
3	15.024.191	18%		18%	7. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	Investment priority 7c. developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility	Enhance capacity for integrated transport and mobility services and multimodality in the Adriatic-Ionian area	Level of capacity of organisations in the field of transport and mobility to transnationally plan and implement sustainable and multimodal transport and mobility solutions
4.	8.346.773	10%		10%	11. Enhancing institutional capacity	11b. enhancing	Facilitate the	The status of

					of public authorities and stakeholders (...)	institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by developing and coordinating macro-regional and sea-basin strategies	coordination in implementing the EUSAIR by enhancing institutional capacity of public administrations and key stakeholders and by assisting the progress of implementation of joint priorities	management capacities of National coordination level to effectively implement EUSAIR goals, targets and key actions
Technical Assistance	5.008.064	6%		6%	NA	NA	Na	Na

FINANCIAL APPROPRIATION FROM ERDF AND IPA :annual breakdown

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
ERDF	4.140.064	6.045.053	8.632.718	15.685.599	15.999.313	16.319.298	16.645.684	83.467.729
IPA amounts <i>(where applicable)</i>	778.181	1.136.249	1.622.636	2.948.320	3.007.287	3.067.432	3.128.782	15.688.887
ENI amounts <i>(where applicable)</i>								
Total	4.920.259	7.183.317	10.257.370	18.635.936	19.008.618	19.388.749	19.776.486	99.156.616

Total financial appropriation from the ERDF + IPA

(Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Table 16: Financing plan

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for the calculation of the Union support	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b) (2)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a)/(e)	For information	
					National Public funding (c)	National private funding (1) (d)			Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
Priority axis 1	ERDF (possibly incl. amounts transferred from IPA and ENI)		16.693.546	2.945.920	2.356.736	589.184	19.639.466	85%		
	IPA		3.137.777	553.725	442.980	110.745	3.691.503	85%		
Priority axis 2	ERDF (possibly incl. amounts transferred from IPA and ENI)[1]		38.395.155	6.775.616	6.098.054	677.562	45.170.771	85%		
	IPA		7.216.888	1.273.568	1.146.212	127.357	8.490.456	85%		

Priority axis 3	ERDF (possibly incl. amounts transferred from IPA and ENI)[2]		15.024.191	2.651.328	2.121.062	530.266	17.675.519	85%
	IPA		2.824.000	498.353	398.682	99.671	3.322.353	85%
Priority axis 4	ERDF (possibly incl. amounts transferred from IPA and ENI)[3]		8.346.773	1.472.960	1.472.960		9.819.733	85%
	IPA		1.568.889	276.863	276.863		1.845.751	85%
Priority axis 5	ERDF (possibly incl. amounts transferred from IPA and ENI)		5.008.064	2.146.313	2.146.313		7.154.377	70%
	IPA		941.333	166.118	166.118		1.107.451	85%
Total	ERDF		83.467.729	15.992.136	14.195.125	1.797.011	99.459.865	83,92%
	IPA		15.688.887	2.768.627	2.430.855	337.773	18.457.514	85%
Total	Total all Funds		99.156.616	18.760.763	16.625.980	2.134.784	117.917.379	84,09%

3.2.B. Breakdown by priority axis and thematic objective

(Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Table 17

Priority axis	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
Priority axis 1	Thematic Objective 1	19.831.323	3.499.645	23.330.968
Priority axis 2	Thematic Objective 6	45.612.043	8.049.184	53.661.227
Priority axis 3	Thematic Objective 7	17.848.191	3.149.681	20.997.872
Priority axis 4	Thematic Objective 11	9.915.662	1.749.823	11.665.484
Priority axis 5*	Technical assistance	5.949.397	2.312.431	8.261.828
TOTAL		99.156.616	18.760.763	117.917.379

* The possibility to increase the IPA II beneficiaries Countries share from 6% (EUR 941.333) up to 10% (EUR 1.568.889) for a total allocation to the PA of 9.002.701 EUR instead of 8.214.401 EUR will be explored with the EC during the negotiation phase.

Table 18: The indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

This table is generated automatically by SFC2014 based on categorisation tables included under each of the priority axes s.)

(Reference: Article 27(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)²

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of the total allocation to the programme (%)
Priority axis 1	1,983,132.32	2.00%
Priority axis 2	14,595,853.88	14.72%
Priority axis 3	7,769,212.50	7.84 %
Total	24.348.198,70	24,56%

² This table is generated automatically based on tables on categories of intervention included under each of the priority axes.

PA 1

**INNOVATIVE AND
SMART REGION**

PA 2

**SUSTAINABLE
REGION**

PA3

**CONNECTED
REGION**

P4

**SUPPORTING
THE
GOVERNANCE
OF EUSAI**

**Thematic
Objective 1:**

**Strengthening
research,
technological
development
and innovation**

**Thematic
Objective 6:**

**Protecting the
environment
and promotion
resource
efficiency**

**Thematic
Objective 7:**

**Promoting
sustainable
transport and
removing
bottlenecks in key
network
infrastructures**

**Thematic
Objective 11:**

**Enhancing
institutional
capacity of public
authorities and
stakeholders and
efficient public
administration**

IP 1.b

**SO 1.1: Support
the development
of a regional
Innovation
system for the
ADRION area"**

IP 6c:

**SO 2.1: Promote
the sustainable
valorisation and
preservation of
natural and
cultural assets as
growth assets in
the ADRION area**

IP 7c

**SO 3.1: Enhance
capacity for
integrated
transport and
mobility services
and
multimodality in
the ADRION area**

IP 11

**SO 4.1: Facilitate
the coordination
and
implementation
of the EUSAIR by
enhancing
institutional
capacity of
public
administrations
and key
stakeholders and
by assisting the
progress of
implementation
of joint
priorities.**

IP 6d:

**SO 2.2: Enhance
the capacity in
transnationally
tackling
environmental
vulnerability,
fragmentation
and the
safeguarding of
ecosystem
services in the
ADRION Area**