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IPA ADRION

**Overview of the next calls for proposals
(February 2024)**

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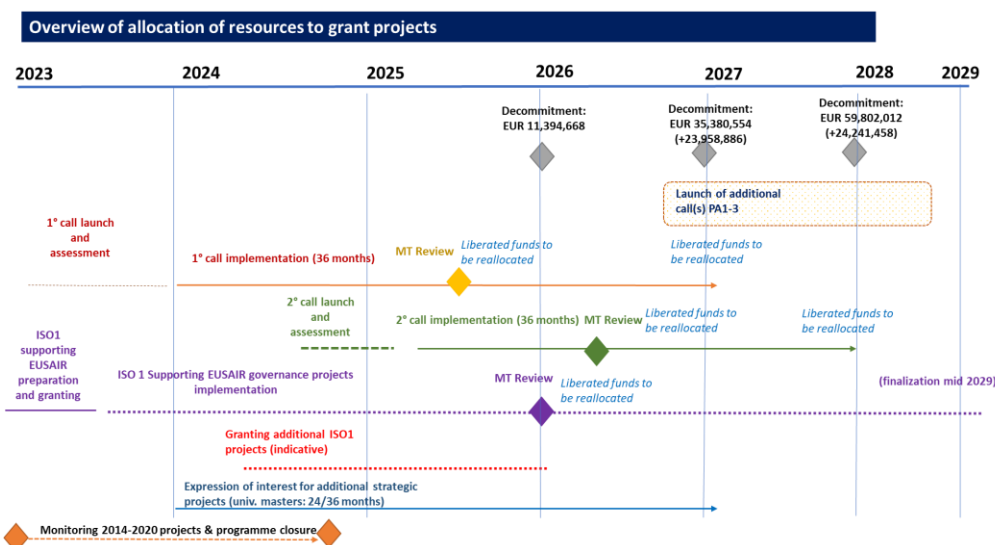
Preface

To meet the programme financial targets (risk of decommitment art. 105-105 of CPR) and to comply with the requirement set forth in the CPR/Interreg regulation, (art. 49 of CPR - timetable of the planned calls for proposals to be published on the programme web site) it is necessary to plan IPA ADRION future calls.

Call planning necessarily must be based on the programme financial targets illustrated below:



A first tentative scenario of IPA ADRION future calls was included in the documentation submitted to the Task Force No 17 held in Sarajevo on 2-3 February 2023¹. With some slight exceptions related to the projects to be granted under priority axis 4, the overview reported is still valid.



The present document intends to illustrate a technical proposal and a tentative calendar.

¹ The picture refers to a state play before the last decisions adopted regarding Priority Axis 4.

1. Granting strategic education projects

Annex 3 of the programming document envisages that:

SUPPORT TO KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Indicatively, four transnational university masters regarding blue economy, renewable energy, circular economy and social innovation should be granted under PO1 SO iv). These projects will be implemented in accordance with the preparatory projects granted under the programming 2014-2020 for this purpose.

[...]

Support to knowledge sharing will be granted in the first quarter of 2024 at the latest. The exact timetable of these projects of strategic importance will be decided at a later stage by partner countries.

Support to knowledge sharing is envisaged under Priority Axis 1, Specific Objective 1.2 which reports, under the indicative actions:

[...]

Proposed indicative actions (non-exhaustive list):

1) Promote capacity building actions and institutional learning addressed to the stakeholders and key actors involved in the process of design, implementation and monitoring of the Smart Specialization Strategies.

2) Promote the development of regional and national policies addressing demographic change, brain-drain, ageing society, migration, regional disparities of human capital.

3) Support the development of actions aimed at raising competencies/skills of the stakeholders and key actors including education and training concepts for the adoption and spread of digitalization, decarbonisation, blue economy, renewable energy and energy efficiency, circular economy and social innovation also through Researchers and PhD candidates in the Adriatic-Ionian region, as well as the development of knowledge hubs and platforms (e.g., learning labs; e-learning platforms etc.) related to the sectors identified by S3 and sectors defined in PO1 i).

Indicatively, around four transnational university masters regarding blue economy, renewable energy, circular economy and social innovation will be granted as follow up of the preparatory projects granted under the programming 2014-2020 and considered as operations of strategic importance (OSIs).

The Interreg resources allocated to SO 1.2 amount to EUR 7.207.213,00.

ADRION 2014-2020 launched the 5th and last a call for proposals, drafted in cooperation with DG Research in 2022.

The call, aimed at granting the preparation of transnational university masters, indirectly answered the EC call to address the young people, as well as the need of allocating the released financial resources from finalized projects and improve the programme financial performance.

To boost the link with the participating countries of the programming period 2021-2027 not involved in the previous programming period, the Managing Authority informed them to encourage the eventual participation of organizations located in their countries as associated partners.

Five projects were granted under the main umbrella topics of environment and innovation. Since the time for projects implementation and financial resources were limited, the grant mainly aimed at:

- supporting the organisation and implementation of training courses, summer schools or any other educational form either individually or jointly

- preparing and promoting the future master on the thematic domain selected
- facilitating the exchange of experience, best practices, staff exchange and mutual learning processes for the definition of the joint master and curricula, as well as its functioning.

The following statement was included in the programme manual of the 5th call for proposals to bridge the activities to the 2021-2027 programming period²:

The implementation of the joint master programmes accredited by the respective universities will take place in the 2021-2027 programming period and will get further financial support; the projects successfully complying with the goals of the present call shall be considered as strategic and granted in the 2021-2027 IPA ADRION Programme.

Currently, all the five granted projects finalized their activities in 2023 and their reports are expected to be received within end of January/beginning of February 2024 at the latest.

In addition to the standard monitoring of the received reports, the implementation manual³ further describes the additional checks necessary to be positively fulfilled to allow the projects to submit their expression of interest for additional support:

The support to the preparation and delivery of accredited/to be accredited transnational master programmes and the implementation of educational/training concepts jointly implemented by a network of universities shall be carefully checked by MA/JS. In particular, it shall be checked whether they include all the requirements set forth in the Programme Manual, including the agreement among the parties for its further implementation, and whether information on the accreditation process and on its readiness for being implemented is present and qualitatively respected.

Only those projects which have achieved the targets recalled above, shall be invited to present their proposal through an expression of interest in IPA ADRION 2021-2027 programming period for getting grants for the implementation of the joint master programmes.

As far as the accreditation and the implementation of educational/training concepts jointly implemented are concerned, it is proposed that the necessary verification shall be supported by a thorough analysis based on a pre-defined assessment grid.

The verification shall be performed by an independent expert with experience on the topic.

The assessment grid aimed at assessing the quality of the accreditation and of the implementation of educational/training concepts shall be subject to approval by the MC.

The outcomes of the assessment shall be communicated to the MC together with the request for approval of the dedicated documentation for the submission of the expression of interest (application package).

1.1. Application Package - definition of the main elements

Having regard to the strategic relevance of the to be granted projects, it is proposed that the application manual drafted for the priority axis 4 strategic projects and the standard ones shall be the starting point, taking into account the specificity of the new topic.

² Ref to page 17 of the Programme Manual devoted to the 5th call for proposals.

³ Ref to page 107 of the Implementation Manual devoted to the 5th call for proposals.

Only those projects whose assessment on accreditation and the implementation of educational/training concepts jointly implemented is considered as acceptable, shall receive the invitation to participate to the expression of interest.

Indicatively, it is proposed that the maximum duration of the new projects shall be of three years; the involved partnerships shall be the same which were granted in the 2014-2020 period.

Due to their strategic nature, the received proposals shall be assessed from an operational point of view only by two independent assessors.

Eligibility rules, use of Simplified Cost Options and project intervention logic shall remain unchanged; project output and result indicators shall be those selected for the SO 1.2.

1.2. Preliminary calendar

In relation to the above, the following calendar is proposed for discussion; it shall allow the start of the to be granted projects in due time in view of the next academic year.

Action	Deadline
Request for MC mandate to start the necessary procedures related to the process described below	19-20 February 2024 (MC meeting)
Elaboration of assessment criteria to appraise the quality of the elaborated educational format	By Mid-March 2024
Update the approved application packages	By April 2024 Approval through written procedure
Launch of the expression of interest addressed to those projects which passed the independent ex ante analysis; Organization of a dedicated meeting with the partnerships	By May 2024* (expression of interest open for one month)
Assessment and MC approval	June-July 2024 (Approval through online MC meeting or through written procedure)
Negotiation process	August-September 2024
Start projects implementation	By September 2024

**the launch of the expression of interest could be “modular” based on the readiness of the accreditation process.*

2. Granting further standard projects (second call)

It is suggested that the outcomes of the first call for proposals are the starting point for the discussion and the definition of the new one.

Elements to be considered are:

- Topics and indicative actions.
- Available financial resources.

2.1. Topics and indicative actions

On occasion of the 2nd MC meeting, the document *Rationale for the selection of the Indicative actions* provided the methodological approach and the comprehensive overview of the indicative actions to be included in the first and second call. The MC asked that the second call should have included those indicative actions not granted in the first one.

The tables below report: the decisions reported e updated state of play: having regard to the three scenarios proposed related to the first call:

- a) The indicative actions included in the first call but not selected by beneficiaries and/or not granted according to the proposed three scenarios.
- b) A recall of the indicative actions envisaged to be granted in the 2nd call for proposals.

2.1.1. Priority Axis 1 – Supporting a smarter Adriatic and Ionian region

Specific Objective 1.1: Strengthening innovation capacities in the Adriatic - Ionian region (ref. to SO 1.1 ERDF Regulation)

The table below provides an overview of the link between indicative actions of the specific Objective 1.1 and EUSAIR flagships, along with a proposal of the indicative actions on which focus the 1st and 2nd call of the IPA ADRION programme:

Indicative actions as indicated in IP	Link to EUSAIR flagships	Proposed actions – 1st call – proposal	Proposed actions – 2nd call - proposal
1) Develop transnational Smart Specialization Strategies in the main areas of specialization of the Adriatic Ionian area as health and quality of life, agri-food and safe nutrition, energy, sustainable tourism and creative economy, ICT systems and technologies, energy and sustainable environment, disaster prevention, smart mobility, innovative production technologies and advanced materials, blue economy	Linked to all the sectors of interest of EUSAIR Strategy	1) Develop transnational Smart Specialization Strategies in the main areas of specialization of the Adriatic Ionian area (especially in the following main sectors: energy, ICT systems and technologies, energy and sustainable environment, disaster prevention, smart mobility, innovative production technologies and advanced materials, blue economy)	1) Develop transnational Smart Specialization Strategies in the main areas of specialization of the Adriatic Ionian area (especially in the following main sectors: health and quality of life, agri-food and safe nutrition, sustainable tourism, and creative economy)
2) Promote and set-up multi-level governance schemes to facilitate transnational cooperation models to address	TSG1 - Flagship 3 - Maritime and marine governance and services - Bolstering capacity building and efficient coordination of planning and local	2) Promote and set-up multi-level governance schemes to facilitate transnational cooperation models to address	2) Promote and set-up multi-level governance schemes to facilitate transnational cooperation models to address

<p>challenges in common areas of specialization</p>	<p>development activities for improving marine and maritime governance and blue growth services.</p> <p>TSG3 - Flagship 3 – Promotion of Sustainable growth of AI Region by Implementing ICZM & MSP also to contribute to Barcelona Convention and the Monitoring and Management of Marine Protected area.</p>	<p>challenges in common areas of specialization</p>	<p>challenges in common areas of specialization (especially in the following main sectors: health and quality of life, agri-food and safe nutrition, sustainable tourism, and creative economy)</p>
<p>3) Uptake, up-scale and test advanced technologies through pilot and joint actions, policies, tools, processes, particularly in, but not limited to, the main fields of interest of S3 and social innovation</p>	<p>TSG1 - Flagship 1 – Blue technologies - Fostering quadruple helix ties in the fields of marine technologies and blue biotechnologies for advancing innovation, business development and business adaptation in blue bio-economy.</p> <p>TSG1 – Flagship 2 – Fisheries and aquaculture - Promoting Sustainability; diversification and competitiveness in the Fisheries and Aquaculture through R&D; Technological and marketing actions including promotion of initiatives on marketing standards and health nutrition habits.</p> <p>TSG4 – Flagship 2 – CULTOURAIR - R&D for the improvement of SME’s performance and Growth diversification.</p>	<p>3) Uptake, up-scale and test advanced technologies through pilot and joint actions, policies, tools and processes, particularly in, but not limited to, the main fields of interest of S3 (as indicated in indicative action no.1)</p>	<p>3) Uptake, up-scale and test advanced technologies through pilot and joint actions, policies, tools, processes, particularly in, but not limited to, the main fields of interest of S3 and social innovation (as indicated in indicative action no.2)</p>
<p>4) Promote and encourage the development of transnationally designed innovations (technical and non-technical innovation, including services) through pilot and joint actions contributing to face societal and environmental challenges</p>	<p>TSG4 – Flagship 2 – CULTOURAIR - R&D for improvement of SMEs performance and growth diversification.</p> <p>TSG4 – Flagship 4 – CRUISAIR - Expanding the tourist season to all year round.</p> <p>TSG4 - Flagship 5 – AIR CULTURAL ROUTES - Development of sustainable</p>	<p>4) Promote and encourage the development of transnationally designed innovations (technical and non-technical innovation, including services) through pilot and joint actions contributing to face environmental challenges like energy</p>	<p>4) Promote and encourage the development of transnationally designed innovations (technical and non-technical innovation, including services) through pilot and joint actions contributing to face societal challenges like demographic change.</p>

<p>like demographic change, energy efficiency or climate change.</p>	<p>and Thematic cultural routes /connecting Cultural routes in EUSAIR.</p>	<p>efficiency or climate change.</p>	
<p>5)Promote the development of transnational partnerships, cluster-to-cluster cooperation, innovative networks, and similar initiatives.</p>	<p>TSG1 - Flagship 1 – Blue technologies - Fostering quadruple helix ties in the fields of marine technologies and blue biotechnologies for advancing innovation, business development and business adaptation in blue bio-economy.</p> <p>TSG1 – Flagship 2 – Fisheries and aquaculture - Promoting Sustainability; diversification and competitiveness in the Fisheries and Aquaculture through R&D; Technological and marketing actions including promotion of initiatives on marketing standards and health nutrition habits.</p> <p>TSG2 – Energy – Flagship 1- Power Networks and Market for a green Adriatic -Ionian Region.</p> <p>TSG4 - Flagship 1 - Green Mapping - Development of the network of sustainable Tourism businesses and clusters.</p> <p>TSG4 - Flagship 5 – AIR CULTURAL ROUTES - Development of sustainable and Thematic cultural routes /connecting Cultural routes in EUSAIR.</p>	<p>5)Promote the development of transnational partnerships, cluster-to-cluster cooperation, innovative networks, and similar initiatives.</p>	<p>5)Promote the development of transnational partnerships, cluster-to-cluster cooperation, innovative networks, and similar initiatives.</p>
<p>6)Promote digital divide reduction by enhancing digital solutions in the private and public sector, and digital capacity building</p>	<p>TSG1 – Flagship 2 – Fisheries and aquaculture - Promoting Sustainability; diversification and competitiveness in the Fisheries and Aquaculture through R&D; Technological and marketing actions including promotion of initiatives on</p>	<p>6)Promote digital divide reduction by enhancing digital solutions in the private and public sector, and digital capacity building</p>	

	<p>marketing standards and health nutrition habits.</p> <p>TSG4 - Flagship 5 – AIR CULTURAL ROUTES - Development of sustainable and Thematic cultural routes /connecting Cultural routes in EUSAIR.</p>		
<p>7)Support digital divide reduction by addressing sustainable development, resilience to climate change, as well as addressing wellbeing - including health for the youth and elderly, hospital, and home care - and demographic trends</p>	<p>TSG1 - Flagship 3 - Maritime and marine governance and services - Bolstering capacity building and efficient coordination of planning and local development activities for improving marine and maritime governance and blue growth services.</p> <p>TSG3 - Flagship 3 – Promotion of Sustainable growth of AI Region by Implementing ICZM & MSP also to contribute to Barcelona Convention and the Monitoring and Management of Marine Protected area.</p>		<p>7)Support digital divide reduction by addressing sustainable development, resilience to climate change, as well as addressing wellbeing - including health for the youth and elderly, hospital, and home care - and demographic trends</p>
<p>8)Develop and implement e-services such as: e-government, e-learning, or e-marketing or digital tools for industrial and creative production</p>	<p>TSG1 – Flagship 2 – Fisheries and aquaculture - Promoting Sustainability; diversification and competitiveness in the Fisheries and Aquaculture through R&D; Technological and marketing actions including promotion of initiatives on marketing standards and health nutrition habits.</p> <p>TSG4 - Flagship 5 – AIR CULTURAL ROUTES - Development of sustainable and Thematic cultural routes /connecting Cultural routes in EUSAIR.</p>		<p>8)Develop and implement e-services such as: e-government, e-learning, or e-marketing or digital tools for industrial and creative production</p>
<p>9)Support the development of transnational and macro-regional clusters in the emerging sectors as advanced</p>	<p>TSG1 - Flagship 1 – Blue technologies - Fostering quadruple helix ties in the fields of marine technologies and blue bio-technologies for advancing innovation,</p>	<p>9)Support the development of transnational and macro-regional clusters in the emerging sectors as advanced packaging;</p>	<p>9) Support the development of transnational and macro-regional clusters in the emerging sectors as creative and digital</p>

<p>packaging; biopharmaceuticals, blue economy industries, creative and digital industries; logistical services, medical devices, mobility tech, environment industries, as well as sustainable tourism, etc.</p>	<p>business development and business adaptation in blue bio-economy.</p> <p>TSG1 – Flagship 2 – Fisheries and aquaculture - Promoting Sustainability; diversification and competitiveness in the Fisheries and Aquaculture through R&D; Technological and marketing actions including promotion of initiatives on marketing standards and health nutrition habits.</p> <p>TSG4 - Flagship 1 - Green Mapping - Development of the network of sustainable Tourism businesses and clusters.</p>	<p>biopharmaceuticals, blue economy industries, mobility tech, logistical services, environment industries, etc (sectors as indicated in indicative action no.1)</p>	<p>industries; medical devices, as well as sustainable tourism, etc (sectors as indicated in indicative action no.1)</p>
<p>10)Promote actions and measures supporting SMEs development and modernization including intellectual property, technical and financial issues; testing solutions closer to the market (i.e.: proof of concept mechanisms, etc.), as well as the introduction of quality and sustainable requirements</p>	<p>TSG1 - Flagship 1 – Blue technologies - Fostering quadruple helix ties in the fields of marine technologies and blue biotechnologies for advancing innovation, business development and business adaptation in blue bio-economy.</p> <p>TSG1 – Flagship 2 – Fisheries and aquaculture - Promoting Sustainability; diversification and competitiveness in the Fisheries and Aquaculture through R&D; Technological and marketing actions including promotion of initiatives on marketing standards and health nutrition habits.</p> <p>TSG4 - Flagship 1 -Green Mapping Development of the network of sustainable Tourism businesses and clusters (<i>ref to environmental quality requirements</i>).</p>	<p>10)Promote actions and measures supporting SMEs development and modernization including intellectual property, technical and financial issues; testing solutions closer to the market (i.e.: proof of concept mechanisms, etc.), as well as the introduction of quality and sustainable requirements</p>	

2.1.2. Priority Axis 2 - Supporting a greener and climate resilient Adriatic-Ionian region

Specific Objective 2.1: Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account eco-system-based approaches (ref. to SO 2.4 ERDF Regulation)

Indicative actions as indicated in IP	EUSAIR flagships TSG1 – Blue Growth TSG2–Connectivity–Transport /Energy TSG3 – Environmental Quality TSG4 – Sustainable Tourism	Proposed actions – 1st call - proposal	Proposed actions – 2nd call - proposal
1) Develop, implement, and promote transnational climate change adaptation strategies, plans and test solutions with a focus on people’s health, preservation of natural and cultural heritage and urban areas.	TSG3 – Flagship 2 - protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystem. TSG 4 – Flagship 1 - Green mapping for the AI region - supporting development and market access for responsible and sustainable tourism destinations and micro/SME operations in the EUSAIR region.		1) Develop, implement, and promote transnational climate change adaptation strategies, plans and test solutions with a focus on people’s health, preservation of natural and cultural heritage and urban areas.
2) Develop and implement integrated joint transnational strategies and measures aimed at enhancing the resilience to climate change of coastal, river basins, rural and mountainous areas through a harmonised framework of standards and indicators and use of already existing research results and contributions to EU platforms (e.g.: EU Risk Data Hub, Climate-ADAPT).	TSG1 - Flagship 3 - Maritime and marine governance and services - Bolstering capacity building and efficient coordination of planning and local development activities for improving marine and maritime governance and blue growth services. TSG3 – Flagship 2 - protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystem.	2) Develop and implement integrated joint transnational strategies and measures aimed at enhancing the resilience to climate change of coastal, river basins, rural and mountainous areas through a harmonised framework of standards and indicators and use of already existing research results and contributions to EU platforms (e.g.: EU Risk Data Hub, Climate-ADAPT).	

<p>3) In the framework of Maritime Spatial Planning activities, develop transnational joint plans and pilot actions to boost resilience to climate change in marine ecosystems.</p>	<p>TSG1 - Flagship 3 - Maritime and marine governance and services - Bolstering capacity building and efficient coordination of planning and local development activities for improving marine and maritime governance and blue growth services.</p> <p>TSG3 - Flagship 3 – Promotion of Sustainable growth of AI Region by Implementing ICZM & MSP also to contribute to Barcelona Convention and the Monitoring and Management of Marine Protected area.</p>		<p>3) In the framework of Maritime Spatial Planning activities, develop transnational joint plans and pilot actions to boost resilience to climate change in marine ecosystems.</p>
<p>4) Develop and implement transnational joint action plans to coordinate measures addressed to natural and man-made disaster prevention and standardized responses (e.g.: intense rainfalls, floods, landslides, heatwaves, heat islands, draughts, wildfires, oil spill, plastics at sea, river contamination etc.) by prioritizing nature based solutions instead of traditional grey infrastructures.</p>	<p>TSG4 - Flagship 1 -Green Mapping Development of the network of sustainable Tourism businesses and clusters.</p> <p>TSG1 – Flagship 2 – Fisheries and aquaculture - Promoting Sustainability; diversification and competitiveness in the Fisheries and Aquaculture through R&D; Technological and marketing actions including promotion of initiatives on marketing standards and health nutrition habits.</p>	<p>4) Develop and implement transnational joint action plans to coordinate measures addressed to natural and man-made disaster prevention and standardized responses (e.g.: intense rainfalls, floods, landslides, heatwaves, heat islands, draughts, wildfires, oil spill, plastics at sea, river contamination etc.) by prioritizing nature based solutions instead of traditional grey infrastructures.</p>	
<p>5) Collect compelling information and use it to develop advocacy material to strengthen synergies and increase preparedness among local/regional/national civil</p>	<p>TSG3 – Flagship 1 - Development and implementation of Adriatic-Ionian sub/regional oil spill contingency plan.</p> <p>TSG3 - Flagship 3 – Promotion of Sustainable growth of AI Region by</p>	<p>5) Collect compelling information and use it to develop advocacy material to strengthen synergies and increase preparedness among local/regional/national civil</p>	

protection bodies on natural and man-made risks.	Implementing ICZM & MSP also to contribute to Barcelona Convention and the Monitoring and Management of Marine Protected area.	protection bodies on natural and man-made risks.	
6) Design and implement strategies and action plans at local, regional and national level for the safeguard of water resources (rainwater management, river and lake water retention, water scarcity, drinking water, water availability, agricultural forecasting, breeding, industry and population).	TSG1 - Flagship 3 - Maritime and marine governance and services - Bolstering capacity building and efficient coordination of planning and local development activities for improving marine and maritime governance and blue growth services.		6) Design and implement strategies and action plans at local, regional and national level for the safeguard of water resources (rainwater management, river and lake water retention, water scarcity, drinking water, water availability, agricultural forecasting, breeding, industry and population).
7) Implement pilot actions for a shared and coordinated use of big data for modelling, early forecasting and warning systems to reduce climate change risks.	TSG3 - Flagship 3 – Promotion of Sustainable growth of AI Region by Implementing ICZM & MSP also to contribute to Barcelona Convention and the Monitoring and Management of Marine Protected area.	7) Implement pilot actions for a shared and coordinated use of big data for modelling, early forecasting and warning systems to reduce climate change risks.	

Specific Objective 2.2: Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy (ref to SO 2.6 ERDF Regulation)

The table below provides an overview of the link between indicative actions of the specific Objective 2.2 proposed for the 1st Call and EUSAIR flagships, as well as a list of indicative actions to be funded under the 2nd call:

Indicative actions as indicated in IP	EUSAIR flagships	Proposed actions – 1st call - proposal	Proposed actions – 2nd call - proposal
	TSG1 – Blue Growth TSG2 – Connectivity – Transport /Energy TSG3 – Environmental Quality		

	TSG4 – Sustainable Tourism.		
1. Collect compelling information, implement exchange of experience, and test actions to develop advocacy material to increase knowledge and preparedness among policy makers and public administrators on the potentials of circular economy, and test actions/ experience exchange for practical implementation.	<p>TSG 1 - Flagship 1 - Fostering quadruple helix ties in the fields of marine technologies and blue biotechnologies for advancing innovation, business development and business adaptation in blue bio-economy, with regard to the action Allowing development of novel eco-friendly end products that serve circular economy.</p> <p>TSG 2 – subgroup Transport - The Adriatic-Ionian multi-modal corridors, activity Adriatic-Ionian green/smart port hubs concept that foresees Development of circular economy projects in ports finding solutions in turning waste to products due to their ideal background.</p>	1. Collect compelling information, implement exchange of experience, and test actions to develop advocacy material to increase knowledge and preparedness among policy makers and public administrators on the potentials of circular economy, and test actions/ experience exchange for practical implementation.	
2. Identify and implement transnational action plans and strategies to enhance and/or scale up circular economy at regional/national/macro-regional level (e.g.: setting up transnational/networks for secondary raw materials, creating transnational marketplaces for recycling/up-recycling products).	<p>TSG 1 - Flagship 1 - Fostering quadruple helix ties in the fields of marine technologies and blue biotechnologies for advancing innovation, business development and business adaptation in blue bio-economy, with regard to the action Allowing development of novel eco-friendly end products that serve circular economy.</p> <p>TSG 2 – subgroup Transport - The Adriatic-Ionian multi-modal corridors, activity Adriatic-Ionian green/smart port hubs concept that foresees Development of circular economy projects in ports finding solutions in turning waste to products due to their ideal background.</p>	2. Identify and implement transnational action plans and strategies to enhance and/or scale up circular economy at regional/national/macro-regional level (e.g.: setting up transnational/networks for secondary raw materials, creating transnational marketplaces for recycling/up-recycling products).	
3. Enhance cooperation between the public and the	Indicative action partially linked to flagship TSG 2 – subgroup Transport		3. Enhance cooperation between the public and the private sector

private sector and establish networks for waste prevention, processing and recycling, and test them through pilot initiatives.	- The Adriatic-Ionian multi-modal corridors, activity Adriatic-Ionian green/smart port hubs concept that foresees Development of circular economy projects in ports finding solutions in turning waste to products due to their ideal background.		and establish networks for waste prevention, processing and recycling, and test them through pilot initiatives.
4.Develop and test solutions for the recovery and repairing of second-hand products involving local handcrafts and citizens.	Indicative action not linked to any flagship.		4.Develop and test solutions for the recovery and repairing of second-hand products involving local handcrafts and citizens.
5.Set in place and test digital solutions for circular economy by including applications and services (e.g.: resource mapping, tracing systems and consumer information).	Indicative action not linked to any flagship.		5.Set in place and test digital solutions for circular economy by including applications and services (e.g.: resource mapping, tracing systems and consumer information).
6.Develop and implement transnational frameworks and test pilot actions to drive public waste policies towards circularity (e.g.: through integrated and systemic approaches in waste management systems).	Indicative action partially linked to flagship TSG 2 – subgroup Transport - The Adriatic-Ionian multi-modal corridors, activity Adriatic-Ionian green/smart port hubs concept that foresees Development of circular economy projects in ports finding solutions in turning waste to products due to their ideal background.		6.Develop and implement transnational frameworks and test pilot actions to drive public waste policies towards circularity (e.g.: through integrated and systemic approaches in waste management systems).
7.Set in place joint actions and innovation networks to test science-based solutions aimed at collecting and recycling marine litter (e.g.: plastic litter, plastic fishing gear etc.).	TSG3 – Flagship 3 – Promotion of Sustainable growth of AI Region by Implementing ICZM & MSP also to contribute to Barcelona Convention and the Monitoring and Management of Marine Protected area.	7.Set in place joint actions and innovation networks to test science-based solutions aimed at collecting and recycling marine litter (e.g.: plastic litter, plastic fishing gear etc.).	

Specific Objective 2.3: Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution (ref. to SO 2.7 ERDF Regulation)

Indicative actions 1 call	EUSAIR flagships	Proposed actions – 1 st call - proposal	Proposed actions – 2 nd call - proposal
<p>1. Define and implement policy frameworks, strategies and related implementation to protect and nuance natural terrestrial and sea habitats, including protected areas and areas under Habitat and Birds Directives</p>	<p>TSG3 – Flagship 1 - Development and implementation of Adriatic-Ionian sub/regional oil spill contingency plan.</p> <p>TSG3 – Flagship 2 - Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems: The flagship will try to establish protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems, with particular attention to the ecological connectivity of blue and green corridors/infrastructure.</p> <p>TSG3 - Flagship 3 – Promotion of Sustainable growth of AI Region by Implementing ICZM & MSP also to contribute to Barcelona Convention and the Monitoring and Management of Marine Protected area.</p> <p>TSG 4 – Flagship 1 - Green mapping for the AI region - supporting development and market access for responsible and sustainable tourism destinations and micro/SME operations in the EUSAIR region.</p>	<p>1. Define and implement policy frameworks, strategies and related implementation to protect and enhance natural terrestrial and sea habitats, including protected areas and areas under Habitat and Birds Directives</p>	

<p>2.Test solutions to protect and restore flora and fauna (with particular attention to algae/poseidonia oceanica, large carnivores, pollinating insects, migrators, fishes), also envisaging the use of blue and green infrastructure.</p>	<p>TSG3 – Flagship 2 - Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems: The flagship will try to establish protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems, with particular attention to the ecological connectivity of blue and green corridors/infrastructure.</p>	<p>2.Test solutions to protect and restore flora and fauna (with particular attention to algae/poseidonia oceanica, large carnivores, pollinating insects, migrators, fishes), also envisaging the use of blue and green infrastructure.</p>	
<p>3.Identify and transfer good practices and innovative solutions addressing the presence of alien marine species and the preservation of native flora and fauna in terrestrial environments.</p>	<p>TSG1 – Flagship 2 – Fisheries and aquaculture - Promoting Sustainability; diversification and competitiveness in the Fisheries and Aquaculture through R&D; Technological and marketing actions including promotion of initiatives on marketing standards and health nutrition habits.</p> <p>TSG3 – Flagship 2 - Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems: The flagship will try to establish protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems, with particular attention to the ecological connectivity of blue and green corridors/infrastructure.</p>	<p>3.Identify and transfer good practices and innovative solutions addressing the presence of alien marine species and the preservation of native flora and fauna in terrestrial environments.</p>	
<p>4.Collect compelling information and use it to develop advocacy material to strengthen synergies and increase preparedness among local/regional/national policy makers and administrators to set in place actions aimed at improving policy frameworks, governance and management schemes of existing or</p>	<p>TSG3 - Flagship 3 – Promotion of Sustainable growth of AI Region by Implementing ICZM & MSP also to contribute to Barcelona Convention and the Monitoring and Management of Marine Protected area.</p>		<p>4.Collect compelling information and use it to develop advocacy material to strengthen synergies and increase preparedness among local/regional/national policy makers and administrators to set in place actions aimed at improving policy frameworks, governance and management schemes of existing or underway marine/natural protected areas.</p>

underway marine/natural protected areas.			
5. Define of action plans to reinforce the implementation of existing/new Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Maritime Spatial Planning and the MSFD (EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive) as well as the implementation of the UN Barcelona Convention, in particular with regard to the management and monitoring of marine protected areas.	TSG3 - Flagship 3 – Promotion of Sustainable growth of AI Region by Implementing ICZM & MSP also to contribute to Barcelona Convention and the Monitoring and Management of Marine Protected area.	5. Define of action plans to reinforce the implementation of existing/new Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Maritime Spatial Planning and the MSFD (EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive) as well as the implementation of the UN Barcelona Convention, in particular with regard to the management and monitoring of marine protected areas.	
6. Exchange of good practices and testing of solutions for sustainable tourism through participatory approaches and multi-level governance.	TSG 4 – all Flagships		6. Exchange of good practices and testing of solutions for sustainable tourism through participatory approaches and multi-level governance.
7. Define and implement legally binding agreements with key actors to reduce plastic discharge into the sea.	TSG1 - Flagship 3 - Maritime and marine governance and services - Bolstering capacity building and efficient coordination of planning and local development activities for improving marine and maritime governance and blue growth services – Activity focused on combatting marine litter pollution. TSG3 – Flagship 2 - Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems: The flagship will try to establish protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems, with particular	7. Define and implement legally binding agreements with key actors to reduce plastic discharge into the sea.	

	<p>attention to the ecological connectivity of blue and green corridors/infrastructure.</p> <p>TSG3 - Flagship 3 – Promotion of Sustainable growth of AI Region by Implementing ICZM & MSP also to contribute to Barcelona Convention and the Monitoring and Management of Marine Protected area.</p>		
<p>8. Identify and test joint action to ensure sustainable food and traditional agricultural products (e.g.: old seeds safeguard, traditional animal breeding etc.) to support the zero-km food chain, food safety and quality.</p>	<p>Indicative action partially linked to flagship TSG1 – Flagship 2 - Promoting sustainability, diversification and competitiveness in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors through education, research & development, administrative, technological and marketing actions, including the promotion of initiatives on marketing standards and healthy nutritional habits.</p>		<p>8. Identify and test joint action to ensure sustainable food and traditional agricultural products (e.g.: old seeds safeguard, traditional animal breeding etc.) to support the zero-km food chain, food safety and quality.</p>
<p>9. Contribute to the generation of positive impacts on the Adriatic-Ionian population's health through the identification of good practices and the implementation of pilot actions aimed at reducing air, water and soil pollution.</p>	<p>Indicative action not linked to any flagship.</p>		<p>9. Contribute to the generation of positive impacts on the Adriatic-Ionian population's health through the identification of good practices and the implementation of pilot actions aimed at reducing air, water and soil pollution.</p>
<p>10. Define joint actions to enhance soil and water preservation by ensuring data collection and their public availability (e.g.: feeding EU networks like Data Network - EMODnet, agriculture data space)</p>	<p>Indicative action not linked to any flagship.</p>		<p>10. Define joint actions to enhance soil and water preservation by ensuring data collection and their public availability (e.g.: feeding EU networks like Data Network - EMODnet, agriculture data space)</p>

<p>11.In the framework of Maritime Spatial Planning, develop and implement joint strategies on Adriatic and Ionian seas to safeguard biodiversity also taking into account the conflicting sea exploitation: tourism, commercial and recreational shipping, aquaculture plants, settlements of offshore wind parks, oil and gas extraction etc.</p>	<p>TSG3 - Flagship 3 – Promotion of Sustainable growth of AI Region by Implementing ICZM & MSP also to contribute to Barcelona Convention and the Monitoring and Management of Marine Protected area.</p> <p>TSG 4 – Flagship 1 - Green mapping for the AI region - supporting development and market access for responsible and sustainable tourism destinations and micro/SME operations in the EUSAIR region.</p> <p>TSG4- Flagship 4 Flagships addresses the need for better management of cruise destinations, both seaside and continental ones (rivers, lakes), diversification of tourism product, promotion and support to the development of special interest tourism connected with cruising, and other niche tourism forms (MICE, rural, alternative tourism, etc.); exchange of good practices; targeting increased number of tourist arrivals and overnights; increased number of events, performances, entrepreneurships and SMEs in connection with cruise tourism.</p>	<p>11.In the framework of Maritime Spatial Planning, develop and implement joint strategies on Adriatic and Ionian seas to safeguard biodiversity also taking into account the conflicting sea exploitation: tourism, commercial and recreational shipping, aquaculture plants, settlements of offshore wind parks, oil and gas extraction etc.</p>	
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Specific Objective 2.4: Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy (ref. to SO 2.8 ERDF Regulation)

No left resources are available

2.1.3. Priority Axis 3 - Supporting a carbon neutral and better-connected Adriatic-Ionian region

Specific Objective 3.2: Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility (ref. to SO 3.2 ERDF Regulation)

The table below provides an overview of the link between indicative actions of the specific Objective 3.2 and EUSAIR flagships, along with a proposal of the indicative actions on which focus the 1st and 2nd call of the IPA ADRION programme:

Indicative actions as indicated in the IP	Link to EUSAIR flagships TSG1 – Blue Growth TSG2 – Connectivity – Transport /Energy TSG3 – Environmental Quality TSG4 – Sustainable Tourism		Proposed actions – 2nd call - proposal
1) Set in place transnational cooperation actions to develop and/or improve sustainable smart mobility systems to strengthen urban-rural linkages and implement innovative sustainable transport solutions, including forms of participatory governance to improve multimodal and low carbon mobility for passengers, tourists, and commuters of the Adriatic-Ionian region.	TSG 2 - Flagship 1 - The Adriatic-Ionian Multi-Modal Corridors (<i>ref. to action “Adriatic-Ionian Cycle Route”</i>)	1) Set in place transnational cooperation actions to develop and/or improve sustainable smart mobility systems to strengthen urban-rural linkages and implement innovative sustainable transport solutions, including forms of participatory governance to improve multimodal and low carbon mobility for passengers, tourists, and commuters of the Adriatic-Ionian region.	
2) Develop and test innovative planning tools/solutions forecasting future demand for public transport in view of the impact caused by current socio-demographic changes and present pandemic situation on intermodal	Linked to all the sectors of interest of EUSAIR Strategy		2) Develop and test innovative planning tools/solutions forecasting future demand for public transport in view of the impact caused by current socio-demographic changes and present pandemic situation on intermodal national, regional and local mobility.

national, regional and local mobility.			
3) Support environmental performance and energy efficiency for low carbon port systems and related infrastructures – such as noise reduction, air quality, decrease of CO2 emissions - through the adoption of pilot actions testing innovative technologies, circular economy solutions, energy sustainability and harmonised regulatory standards for maritime/river transport.	TSG 2 – Flagship 1 - The Adriatic-Ionian Multi-Modal Corridors (<i>ref. to action “Adriatic-Ionian Green/Smart Port Hubs Concept”</i>).	3) Support environmental performance and energy efficiency for low carbon port systems and related infrastructures – such as noise reduction, air quality, decrease of CO2 emissions - through the adoption of pilot actions testing innovative technologies, circular economy solutions, energy sustainability and harmonised regulatory standards for maritime/river transport.	
4) Strengthen the role of the Adriatic-Ionian transport sector within the upcoming TEN-T policy through pilot actions and the implementation of shared solutions aimed at boosting the role of ICT, in particular with regard to the dematerialization of transport procedures, especially in maritime port areas.	TSG 2 - Flagship 1 - The Adriatic-Ionian Multi-Modal Corridors (<i>ref. to action “Adriatic-Ionian Green/Smart Port Hubs Concept”</i>).	4) Strengthen the role of the Adriatic-Ionian transport sector within the upcoming TEN-T policy through pilot actions and the implementation of shared solutions aimed at boosting the role of ICT, in particular with regard to the dematerialization of transport procedures, especially in maritime port areas.	
5) Enhance the development of the Motorways of the Seas (MoS) concept as an alternative to overstretched land transport through	TSG 2 - Flagship 1 - The Adriatic-Ionian Multi-Modal Corridors (<i>ref. to action “Adriatic-Ionian Green/Smart Port Hubs Concept”</i>).	5) Enhance the development of the Motorways of the Seas (MoS) concept as an alternative to overstretched land transport through targeted strategies and	

targeted strategies and action plans, aimed at making full use of maritime transport resources as well as inland waterways in the logistics chain.		action plans, aimed at making full use of maritime transport resources as well as inland waterways in the logistics chain.	
7) Support the increase of Short Sea Shipping (SSS) in the Adriatic-Ionian Sea basin as sustainable transport mode through joint developed actions, including the promotion of the use of alternative fuels/modes and last / first mile environmentally friendly solutions.	TSG 2 - Flagship 1 - The Adriatic-Ionian Multi-Modal Corridors (<i>ref. to action “Adriatic-Ionian Green/Smart Port Hubs Concept”</i>).	7) Support the increase of Short Sea Shipping (SSS) in the Adriatic-Ionian Sea basin as sustainable transport mode through joint developed actions, including the promotion of the use of alternative fuels/modes and last / first mile environmentally friendly solutions.	
6) Implement transnational integrated action plans supporting the development of rail-sea transportation intended as intermodal and multimodal transport mode.	TSG 2 - Flagship 1 - The Adriatic-Ionian Multi-Modal Corridors (<i>ref. to action “Adriatic-Ionian Green/Smart Port Hubs Concept”</i>).		6) Implement transnational integrated action plans supporting the development of rail-sea transportation intended as intermodal and multimodal transport mode.
8) Map infrastructural, technological, legislative gaps and barriers to freight circulation including the legal and administrative variances hampering the efficiency of smooth transnational transport, in order to create a common transnational transport policy framework.	Linked to all the sectors of interest of EUSAIR Strategy		8) Map infrastructural, technological, legislative gaps and barriers to freight circulation including the legal and administrative variances hampering the efficiency of smooth transnational transport, in order to create a common transnational transport policy framework.

<p>9) Improve accessibility within the Adriatic-Ionian region, with a focus on peripheral areas, to the TEN-T network through the implementation of action plans, tackling the bottlenecks hampering the transport's sector growth and economic development</p>	<p>Linked to all the sectors of interest of EUSAIR Strategy</p>	<p>9) Improve accessibility within the Adriatic-Ionian region, with a focus on peripheral areas, to the TEN-T network through the implementation of action plans, tackling the bottlenecks hampering the transport's sector growth and economic development</p>
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The tables show that the following indicative actions not covered under the first call – irrespective to the chosen scenario proposed - are: No.1 for SO 1.1; No 3, 5, 11 for SO 2.3; No 1 for SO 3.1

2.2. Available financial resources

Financial available resources are limited compared to those allocated to the first call, ranging from ca 30 to 44 MEUR Interreg funds: the indicative number of proposals that could be granted, having regard to the proposed scenarios, and keeping the same maximum Interreg grant, would range from 20 to 29 according to the three scenarios proposed.

More importantly, available resources to some SOs are limited, i.e.: allowing the granting of ca 2-3 projects each.

2.3. Possible mitigating measures to be discussed

Overall, if rules adopted in the first call are kept, competition would be high to grant a very limited number of projects (in particular in some S.O.s) questioning on the effectiveness of the overall exercise and in terms of time and resources to be devoted. Moreover, a fragmentation of granted topics could take place, making difficult possible future capitalization activities.

Some actions to mitigate the situation could be:

- 1) Grant a limited number of indicative actions/SO. As indicative actions/SO have been drafted according to the EUSAIR flagships (embedding), the EUSAIR Governing Board could be asked to provide an updated list of flagships – in relation to the indicative actions potentially still to be granted - that should still be supported at transnational level.
- 2) Reduce the maximum Interreg amount/project. Current maximum Interreg amount/project could be decreased from MEUR 1,5 to MEUR 1,2 (1st call average Interreg contribution/project: MEUR 1,3 Interreg).
- 3) Reduce the size of the eligible partnership. The minimum eligible partnership could be reduced to at least 3 partners from 3 different IPA participating countries and at least 2 partners from 2 different ERDF Participating Countries (in the first call the minimum partnership was of at least 3 partners from 3 different ERDF participating countries and at least 3 partners from 3 different IPA participating countries). This measure may be combined with No 2.
- 4) Introduce a rewarding criterion to those projects which present a IPA Lead Partner. This option would have the benefit of encouraging a stronger leadership from IPA applicants. However, this measure would require a more thorough verification of the management capability of partners and support provided to them to ensure that they can successfully accomplish the various requirements of the implementation phase.

We would appreciate further suggestions and inputs from the MC members, as well as feedback on the proposals above.

2.4. Preliminary calendar

The table below provides an indicative calendar for the launch of the second call. The calendar is based on the additional obligations MA/JS have to comply with⁴:

- Finalization of the first call granted projects negotiation process and guidance to the projects implementation.
- Organization of online events for beneficiaries (strategic and standard projects).
- Elaboration of management documents.
- Setting in place of the post 2027 consultation as required by the European Commission.
- Setting in place of the independent programme evaluation.
- ADRION 2014-2020 closure
- Launch of the strategic call (if so decided).

Action	Deadline
Start the necessary procedures following the decisions adopted	19-20 February 2024 (MC meeting)
Update of the application package (including the discussion of the topics proposed by the Complaint Committee)	By June 2024 Discussion and approval through written procedure and/or online events
Launch event of the call for proposals	By September 2024 (call open for 2 months)
Assessment process	To be finalized by April-May 2025 (depending by the number of received applications)
MC decision for funding	June 2025
Negotiation process	June-July 2025
Start projects implementation	September 2025

⁴ Detailed 2024 core Technical Assistance work plan shall be sent to the MC once the Technical Assistance manual is approved.