



EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

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EUSALP AG4 MOBILITY

EUSALP AG4

4th Task Force Meeting, 18 March 2019
(status before and after the meeting)

Project Assessment Methodology

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10th EUSALP AG4 Meeting
18-19 March 2019 Bolzano



The project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

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Results of 3rd Task Force Meeting, January 29th – 30th, 2019 in Vienna;

1. Discussion of Project Factsheet and Project Assessment Sheets 1 and 2 (1)

Project Factsheet:

a box to name possible project partners should be added;

4 project clusters should be foreseen: C1, C2, D1, projects not covered by any of these 3 categories;
project maturity should be specified more clearly.

Assessment Sheet 2 (Sustainability), finally Assessment Sheet 1 (Performance):

Discussion based on a further developed objective system, acc. to results of 2nd Task Force Meeting:

additional criterion (Nathalie Morelle): “**ecosystem conservation**” (habitats, preservation of plants, ...);

some re-wording (Nathalie Morelle).

Further amendments:

- **traceability** to original documents to be secured in assessment sheets,
- **explanation boxes to be split** into those for project owners and evaluators,
- additional box to mention **special obstacles or challenges**,
- additional option for evaluators “**evaluation not possible yet**” or “**don’t know**”.

(The final title “Performance” was chosen later, upon an agreement with Veneto.)

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Results of 3rd Task Force Meeting, January 29th – 30th, 2019 in Vienna;

1. Discussion of Project Factsheet and Project Assessment Sheets 1 and 2 (2)

Assessment Sheet 1 (General Features), finally Assessment Sheet 2 (Coherence)

Criteria to address additional relevant aspects, not covered by the objective system;
a numeric evaluation is foreseen.

Open questions:

Who shall assess the coherence criteria? An evaluation team – the project owner as well?
Shall assessment of coherence be merged with assessment of performance – if so, how?

Following adaptations were agreed (continued on next slide):

- explanations of criteria should be clearer;
- criteria “need for macro-reg. governance” and “need for transnational funding” shall be deleted;
- a new criterion “extent of macro-regional relevance” to be added;
- split up criterion “support of countries and regions” to: “support of countries” and “...of regions”, with corresponding valuing “by all”/”controversial”/”no support”;
- Valuing of “support of civil society” shall be “strong support”/”controversial”/”strong opposition”.

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Results of 3rd Task Force Meeting, January 29th – 30th, 2019 in Vienna;

1. Discussion of Project Factsheet and Project Assessment Sheets 1 and 2 (3)

Continuation: Following adaptations were agreed:

- scale for assessment shall be 0 to 5 for all criteria;
- additional box to mention specific obstacles or problems as regards coherence;
- like in the case of assessment sheet 2, the explanation boxes shall be split into 2 boxes each, one for the project owner, one for the evaluator.

Mr. Schuler (observer) suggested to include also a box (difficulties, obstacles, contradictions), as the evaluator might not know such obstacles himself.

He also suggested to include a box “environmental impact”, but this was not agreed.

Also, Mr. Schuler suggested not to weighting nor summing up these single features to a final number.

Remarks:

These recommendation have been carried out, in some cases in an equivalent way.

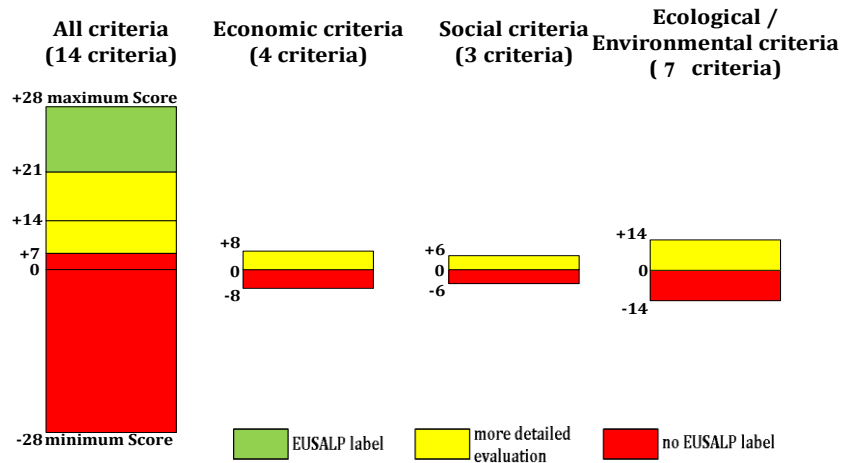
The proposed description of obstacles has been pooled into one additional box in the factsheet. (The final title “Coherence” was chosen later, upon an agreement with Veneto.)

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Weighting of Sustainability Criteria (1)

2 options for labelling projects (“EUSALP project”):

- each criterion has the same weight;
- different weights for each criterion.



Option 1 (each criterion has the same weight)

Sub-option 1 (left diagram):

All criteria have the same weight.

Then (e.g.) projects that would not reach a minimum score (e.g. +7) would be discarded.

Sub-option 2 (3 diagrams on the right):

Assessment is done separately

for the 3 clusters of sustainability:

Then one could discard any project

that would not have a positive score in all 3 clusters.

Finally, it was decided to chose sub-option 2, but to give all 3 clusters the same weight.

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Weighting of Sustainability Criteria (2)

Summary by Mr. Schuler:

- It would be important to know that a simple distinction +/- or a EUSALP-approval would not explain enough.
- He suggested to not to create a high aggregation of results, neither a merger of cohesion and performance assessments.
(This would create a simplicity which does not exist in infrastructure and transport projects.)
- To avoid confusion, environmental, social and economic sustainability should be evaluated separately.
- It would be of utmost importance that weighting factors within each pillar are scientifically proven.
- Determining the weights within the Task Force might not be relevant to the public.

It has not been finally decided, if the 3 pillars should be assessed only separately – or if an additional overall score should be presented.

However, the 3 pillars should have the same weight.

The discussion was continued on **the question of weighting the criteria within the 3 pillars.**

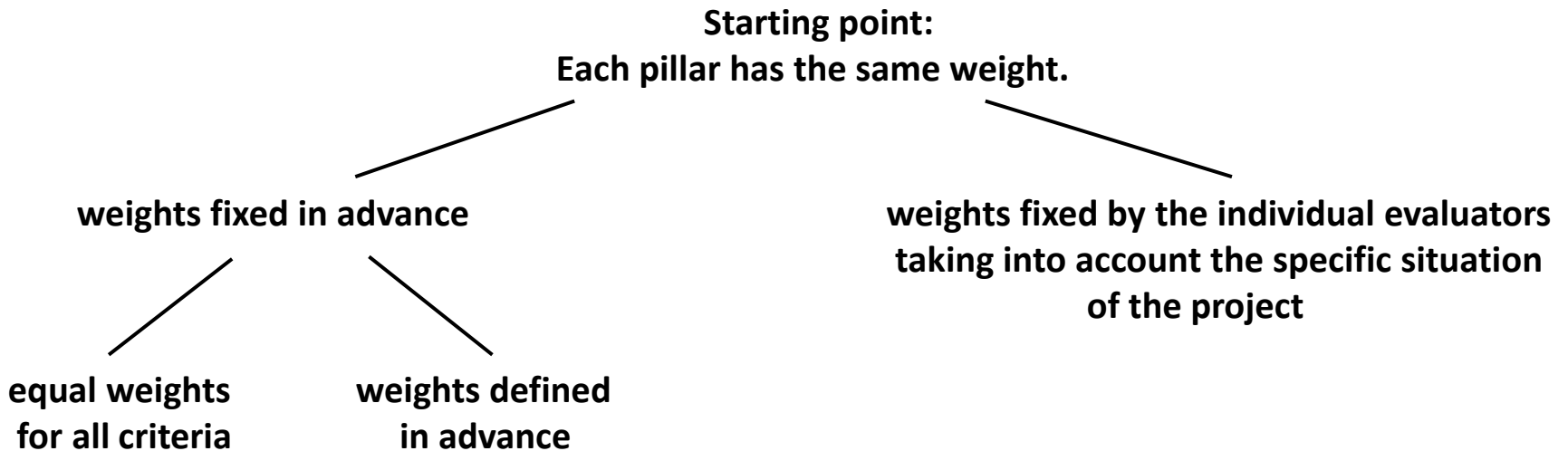
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Distribution of weights within the 3 pillars of sustainability (1)

There are the following possibilities:



No agreement could be achieved on this question, however the following procedure was agreed:

- Projects with EUSALP label shall have positive scores over all criteria weighted equally;
- for detail labelling, weighting shall be done individually by the evaluator.

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Distribution of weights within the 3 pillars of sustainability (2)

This means that for every project **2 weighting results would be provided:**

- **one without weighting** within the sustainability pillars,
- **one with a weighting by the individual evaluator.**

For weighting, weights from 1 to 5 have been proposed;
every evaluator may multiply his score by a weight from 1 to 5 for each criterion.

Adelsberger emphasised that weighting is part of the assessment method.

Whereas the weights of the criteria are constant values as integral parts of the methodology,
the scores reflect the properties and effects of the individual projects.

Weights differing from project to project would mean applying different methodologies in every case.
This was denied by a majority in the Task force.

The discussion of weighting the coherence criteria (acc. to Assessment Sheet 2) was postponed.

It was agreed to select a small number of different projects from regions represented in the Task Force,
to collect the corresponding data and to carry out test runs of the project assessment.

Questions that are still open or may arise shall be discussed in the next Task Force meeting.

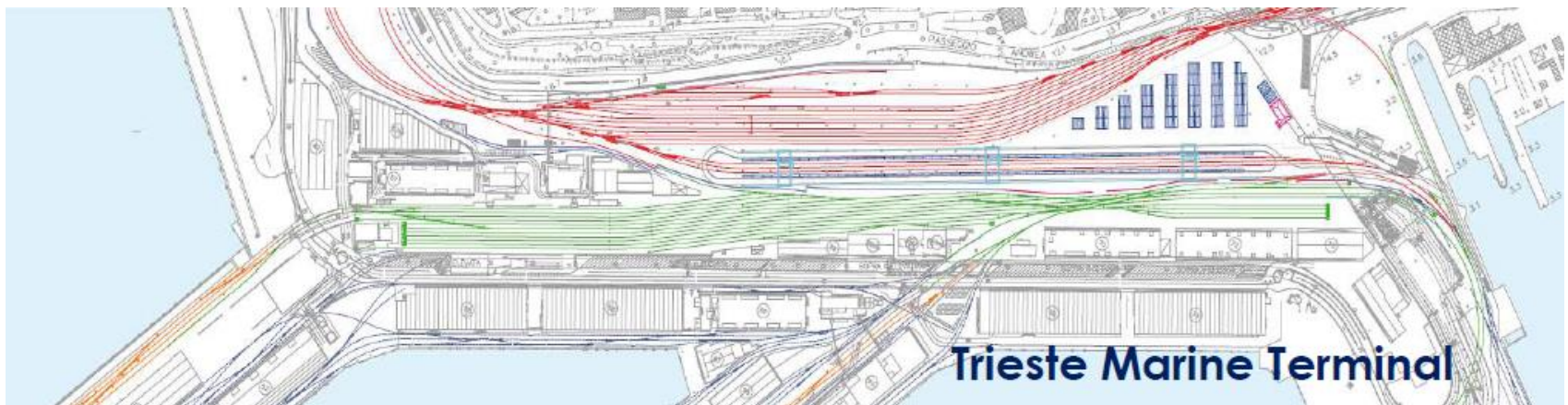
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Results of 4th Task Force Meeting, March 18th, 2019 in Bolzano/Bozen

- This presentation, until the previous slide was shown at the beginning of the meeting, reiterating the recommendation **to apply the same weights** on all project assessments.
- In principle, little relevant progress was achieved on the methodology itself.
- **Mr. Cozzi** presented assessment results of a project (marshalling yard in the port of Trieste), with equal weights for all criteria, separate assessment of the 3 sustainability pillars, with the results shown on the next two slides (performance, coherence):



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Test assessment of FVG Project: Assessment Sheet 1 (Performance)

PERFORMANCE						
	ECONOMIC		SOCIAL		ENV	
Regional economy	1	Cohesion	0	Greenhouse gas	2	
Transport time	2	Traffic safety	1	Polluting emissions	2	
Resilience	0	Attractivity, comfort	0	Land consumption	0	
				Ecosystem conservation	0	
				Soil & water	0	
				Landscape	0	
				Noise	1	
	3		1		5	Sums
	0,500		0,167		0,357	Normalised

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Test assessment of FVG Project: Assessment Sheet 2 (Coherence)

COHERENCE		
Connectivity	5	
+ Cross-border effects	5	
- Cross-border effects	5	
Support of countries	na	
Support of regions	na	
Support of society	na	
Technical innovation	5	
Pilot (duplicability)	5	
	25	
	5	25 divided by the applicable criteria (5)
	1,000	normalised (25 divided by the max of the 5 criteria, equal to 25)

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Lessons learned from Test Assessment

The presented project has achieved positive scores over each of the 3 sustainability pillars and a fairly good score also on the coherence criteria.

Discussing the results has led to the following main findings:

- In Assessment Sheet 1 (Performance), the criterion “costs and revenues” should be removed, because the costs are shown on the cover page of the project factsheet.
- In Assessment Sheet 2 (Coherence), the criterion “support of stakeholders” should be added, in addition to “support of civil society”.
- One should distinguish between “0 = no effect as regards a certain criterion” and “not applicable”, which would not be counted for the average and the normalised score.
- Due to the highly different numbers of the criteria in the three pillars, **giving the same weight to each of the three sustainability pillars means overvaluing the criteria in the economic and social pillars.**

Given the difficult situation as regards the assessment methodology and the project assessment, final results covering all projects can be presented only in the 12th AG4 meeting, i.e. in autumn 2019.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION!

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