



European  
Commission



# 3<sup>RD</sup> EU MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES WEEK

7-11 MARCH 2022

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# EUSALP FINANCIAL DIALOGUE NETWORKS WORKSHOP: taking the embedding process one step further



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# STATE OF THE ART BY NETWORK LEADERS AND PLANS FOR 2022

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# NETWORK ON ENERGY TRANSITION

## SYLVAIN GUETAZ

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### Activities carried out

Facilitation of the **focus group on hydrogen issue** gathering 9 regions (which signed a letter of intent) to set up consortiums and apply for European funds

### Obstacles met

- Alpine Space Programme **fits perfectly to EUSALP** issues and projects: it is sometimes difficult to offer some change;
- Difficulties for regional and new actors to benefit from new funds: **lack of experience, resource, knowledge**



# NETWORK ON ENERGY TRANSITION

## SYLVAIN GUETAZ



### Plans for 2022

- Supporting the application by a member of the network (Auvergne Rhone Alpes Agency on Energy and Environment) as leading partner for an **Interreg Alpine Space project**, which has been incubated in EUSALP Actions Groups thanks to the Hydrogen Focus group.
- Developing **European initiatives with other regions** to apply for major calls involving the private sector.
- Strengthening the **links with the private sector**: the focus group will be part of a private consortium as an observatory member in a future *CleanHydrogenPartnership* call.
- Creating a **well-functioning FDN** with regular meetings and active working groups.

### Support expected from MRS stakeholders

- Support expected from the TSS to **develop the network**



### Points to be clarified

- Clarification on how to apply for CEF calls

# NETWORK ON SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

XAVIER GARCIA / OLIVIER MARGOQUET



## Activities carried out

- First meeting during the 2<sup>nd</sup> MRS week gathering EUSALP Action Group 4 (Mobility) stakeholders and key managing authorities at the beginning of the **labellisation process of alpine mobility projects**
- **Close cooperation with MA representatives**, who intervened in several events, providing key information on funding opportunities to our stakeholders and is following closely our labelled projects.
- **Labellisation** of 6 new projects in 2021 by AG4 (after 14 in 2020)

## Obstacles met

- Difficulties to formally set up the network
- Difficulties to organize regular meetings



## Good practices to share

- The **labellisation process** launched in 2020 by EUSALP Action Group 4 is a very good basis for a financial dialogue with MA as it identifies alpine regions priorities, needs and key projects.

# NETWORK ON SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

XAVIER GARCIA / OLIVIER MARGOUE

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## Plans for 2022

- Promoting dialogue between MA and EUSALP partners within the FDN during the EUSALP **AG4 Mobility Conference** (Innsbruck - May 2022), where the labelled projects and mobility priorities will be promoted (following the **declaration of EUSALP region and states** calling for a development of rail and modal shift from road to rail)
- Organising a **FDN meeting** during the AG4 meeting in Marseille in September

## Support expected from MRS stakeholders

- Support expected from the TSS policy officer in charge of mobility topics to **coordinate the funding needs and priorities** in order to get clear answers from MA and concrete results.



# NETWORK ON DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

## MONICA PEGGION / GUIDO PICCOLI

### Activities carried out



- Organisation of the **Workshop on Digital innovation and smart lands** (including digital innovation hub and smart villages) during the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU MRS Week
- **Documentation** on the main activities on digitalisation carried out within the EUSALP framework
- **Identification of some priorities** in the field of digitalisation taking into account the consultation of the Managing Authorities in the context of the embedding activities

### Obstacles met

- **Low awareness** about relevance of DATA interoperability between Alpine Regions at transnational/cross-bordering level and relevance of real-time data for policy development
- Lack of a **common framework and methodology**; lack of a shared roadmap with objectives and expected results
- Difficulties in identifying the **most appropriate stakeholders** to support PPP for data sharing, low awareness of large open data availability
- Difficulties in **connecting the relevant activities** in the field of digitalisation **with financial support**
- Low accessibility of PAs data for user (Universities, Privates, Citizens)





# NETWORK ON DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

## MONICA PEGGION / GUIDO PICCOLI



### Plans for 2022

- Identification of **EUSALP Action Groups needs and requirements** and matching with the typologies of actions supported by relevant programmes
- **Consultation of the national / regional coordinators** to understand priorities and commitment
- **Exchange of information and best practice** with other FDNs
- Definition of a **common vision for FDNs**
- Identification of **synergies with the EUSALP Innovation Facility**
- Agreement on **common Roadmap on Digitalisation** in line with EUSALP strategy and priorities
- Submission of **first projects for financial support** under the most relevant funding sources

### Support expected from MRS stakeholders

- **Methodological approach** from the European Commission
- **Strategic orientation** from the Executive Board
- **Operational support** by the TSS
- **Commitment and participation** by other regions (also by involving the most relevant stakeholders)





# REFLEXION AND EXPERIENCES FROM THE PRACTICAL WORK WITH THE MANAGING AUTHORITIES

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# ANDERS BERGSTRÖM

## POLICY AREA COORDINATOR, EUSBSR



**Implementation formats besides projects needed** – so called “missions” where stakeholders can be gathered to jointly co-create solutions to societal challenges presented in the Action Plans also offering “homes” for various projects.



**Mainstream programmes need macro-regional strategies** – as strategic frameworks for their transnational cooperation. The new CPR make transnational cooperation compulsory and therefore macro-regional strategies can offer support.



**Interface between programmes and strategy needed** – projects funded by mainstream programmes are national or regional, hence coordination is needed between programmes and between programmes and macro-regional strategy - MA networks are the needed infrastructure for this coordination.



**Engage in stakeholder dialogues** – by engaging stakeholders in “missions” they themselves bring funding own or with help of projects funded by programmes they are familiar with. For example regions are used to work with mainstream programmes.



**Focus on being relevant to stakeholders** – introduce transnational collaboration in stakeholders own strategic development – introduce thematic networks as part of “missions” where stakeholders can choose different levels of engagement.



**Capacity building is the key to success** – macro-regional strategies are new to us all and we all need to learn how to implement them. This learning need to be offered for National Coordinators, Thematic Coordinators, members of Steering Groups, “mission-leaders” and for Managing Authorities to mention the most important target groups.

# ROBERT LICHTNER

## COORDINATOR, DANUBE STRATEGY POINT, EUSDR



### EUSDR EMBEDDING – AN INCLUSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE PROCESS

- Involvement of all core stakeholder groups – roles and responsibilities, multilevel cooperation and communication
- Coordination via TaskForce Group under the facilitation of EUSDR PCIES and DSP
- MA Networks (ERDF/CF, IPA/NDICI, ESF) - EU and Non-EU countries
- Screening of Programmes / MAs and EUSDR Action Plan / Strategic Topics (Embedding Tools)
- Matchmaking / thematic mapping of TOP 5 strategic topics & agreement on roadmaps for 5 thematic areas (SOs 1.1., 1.3., 2.1., 2.4., 2.7)
- Involvement of MAs, OP, Interreg CBC, centrally managed programmes and financing institutions (e.g. banks) NCs, Thematic coordinators (PACs) and the EC / Geographical Units
- Monitoring of Embedding - Programming & Implementation Phase

# ROBERT LICHTNER

## COORDINATOR, DANUBE STRATEGY POINT, EUSDR



### Support / Facilitation of the embedding process



- Coordination on national levels via National Coordinators
- Streamline & support project development on thematic levels and thematic coordination and support - Priority Area Coordinators
- Operational support and facilitation via Danube Strategy Point
- Strategic advisory role of the European Commission

### Embedding tools (examples)



- Coordinated calls for parallel cooperation between single projects / chain of projects
- Synchronised calls
- Awarding extra points in the evaluation process for EUSDR relevant projects
- Labelling of projects having EUSDR impact



# DAVID MATZEK-LICHTENSTEIN, DG REGIO

## COMMISSION EXPECTATIONS ON THE NETWORKS



**The strategies are the vessels – the networks are the tools** – as the Macro-Regional Strategies have no own funding, common priorities need to be met with increased cooperation



**Cooperation can increase efficiency and effectiveness** – The Council has significantly sharpened the proposed regulation to require cooperation in all ERDF programmes and under all specific objectives – but it requires coordination



**Networks should:**

- a) **Gather the relevant actors**
- b) **Exchange on investment needs and plans**
- c) **Work result-oriented**

The clear intention is to materialise gains from cooperation – not just added work it is a flexible environment to cater for your needs – not a legal requirement.



**How can the Commission help?**

- Identify relevant actors and programmes
- Make contact to European Institutions and stakeholders
- Simplify communication between programmes and strategies



**And what next?** We are quickly moving from the programming to the implementation period – regional programmes have paved the way to more joint projects, but there is a need to identify actors on the ground, build working relations, and make sure that the legal and theoretical basis is translated into action!

# BENOIT GARRIGUES, TSS CONSORTIUM

## TSS SUPPORT TO THE FINANCIAL DIALOGUE NETWORKS

### Overview of TSS missions



- Support the governance of EUSALP (Executive Board, General Assembly, Annual Presidency...)
- Communication, monitoring and evaluation
- Operational implementation support: **9 action groups activities & projects**, youth activities
- Strengthen the policy cycle: capitalisation, transfer, **mainstreaming of projects results and policy positions of EUSALP**; **capacity building of EUSALP stakeholders**

### How will the TSS support the Financial Dialogue Networks?



The TSS will support FDN activities in cooperation with the relevant Action Group Leaders: foresee and organise meetings (invitations/registrations, logistics, minutes), design agenda and expected outputs, identify relevant participants.

### What objectives should be pursued?



- To **help finance the projects Action Groups want to develop**: 3 actions group support officers in the TSS team
- To **influence policies and financial programmes** at European, national and regional levels: mainstreaming/horizontal activities officer



# THANK YOU!

Anders Bergström [anders.bergstrom@norden.se](mailto:anders.bergstrom@norden.se)

Robert Lichtner [robert.lichtner@eusdr-dsp.eu](mailto:robert.lichtner@eusdr-dsp.eu)

Sylvain Guetaz [Sylvain.GUETAZ@auvergnerhonealpes.fr](mailto:Sylvain.GUETAZ@auvergnerhonealpes.fr)

Monica Peggion [Monica\\_Peggion@regione.lombardia.it](mailto:Monica_Peggion@regione.lombardia.it) • Guido Piccoli [luigi@alot.it](mailto:luigi@alot.it)

Olivier Margouet [omargouet@maregionsud.fr](mailto:omargouet@maregionsud.fr) • Xavier Garcia [xgarcia@maregionsud.fr](mailto:xgarcia@maregionsud.fr)

Benoit Garrigues [bgarrigues@maregionsud.fr](mailto:bgarrigues@maregionsud.fr)



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PROVINCIA AUTONOMA DI BOLZANO ALTO ADIGE  
PROVINCIA AUTONOMA DE BULSAN SÜDTIROL

  
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