

## EUSALP FINANCIAL DIALOGUE NETWORKS

### Concept note

July 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

#### Context

The setting up of EUSALP financial dialogue networks is an ongoing multi-step process, which is based on **several findings and recommendations**:

- The **concrete recommendations to managing authorities and EUSALP representatives**<sup>1</sup>, elaborated following the French EUSALP Presidency event on embedding EUSALP main priorities in the framework of the EU funding programmes held during the EU MRS Week (February 2020), which invite them to:
  - Embed the major Alpine issues in the future EU funding programmes for 2021-2027;
  - Develop technical and political exchanges at the macro regional level;
  - Better mobilise EU funding;
  - Reinforce capitalization, visibility and communication of the Strategy;
- In the **letter accompanying the minutes of the aforementioned meeting**, Mr. Muselier, President of Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, and Mr. Lemaître, Director-General DG Regio, expressed they were “pleased to note that the Extraordinary Executive Council COVID 19 of the EUSALP, which took place on 18 of May, reacted quickly and presented the first proposals for action, including the establishment of a network of Managing Authorities in the Alpine Region.”
- The **third report from the Commission on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies** (September 2020) underlined “in order to ensure an effective implementation across the macro-region of the MRS priorities included in 2021-2027 EU funding programmes, relevant networks of programme (managing) authorities should be set up for each MRS. These networks have a central role to play and should be well structured to operate throughout the 2021-2027 period and beyond. They will provide a meeting space for programme (managing) authorities to engage with MRS key implementers, to coordinate the implementation of the MRS measures included in their respective programmes, and to promote cooperation among programmes so as to ensure the expected

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<sup>1</sup> Document available on [EUSALP website](#).

macro-regional impact. Initial examples of such networks in the Baltic and the Danube regions are already delivering encouraging results.”

- The **Council conclusions on the 3rd Commission report on MRS<sup>2</sup>** (December 2020) “calls on all participating countries/regions, with the support of the Commission and as soon as possible, to establish networks of (managing) authorities of relevant 2021-2027 EU funding programmes (Cohesion Policy Funds, EAFRD, EMFF, IPA, NDICI); CALLS on these (managing) authorities to actively participate in such networks in order to ensure a coordinated implementation of the MRS Action Plan priorities and projects shortlisted by MRS, across the macro-region, in their respective programmes; calls on all participating countries/regions, with the support of the Commission and as soon as possible, to establish networks of (managing) authorities of relevant 2021-2027 EU funding programmes”.

A step in this direction was taken at the EUSALP Embedding Workshop, during the second EU MRS Week (March 2021), with the **launching of four networks**, on a voluntary basis:

1. **Network on energy transition and specifically hydrogen**, led by the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region;
2. **Network on sustainable mobility** led by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region;
3. **Network on digital technology** led by the Lombardy Region and the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté Region;
4. **Network on natural risk governance**, led by Austria, within Action Group 8, whose activities already include dialogue with and coordination of national and regional funds.

To continue to make progress in this direction, the next steps include:

- Finding an **agreement**, within the EUSALP Executive Board, **on the framework of these financial dialogue networks** (the subject of this note);
- **Establishing other EUSALP financial dialogue networks**, particularly on sustainable mountain tourism, the promotion of local mountain products, biodiversity and youth.

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<sup>2</sup> Document available [here](#).

## Definition and aim

EUSALP financial dialogue networks aim at **facilitating the connection between EUSALP AGs' activities and available funding** by enhancing dialogue and exchange of information between EUSALP Action Groups members and bodies in charge of managing funding opportunities (managing authorities and intermediary bodies). They will enable **sharing of good practices** related to **embedding EUSALP priorities in the funding programs** and to the **co-financing of projects incubated and/or labelled by EUSALP AGs**. They will also indirectly reinforce capitalization, visibility and communication of the Strategy.

These networks are **flexible structures**, whose organisation has to correspond to a variety of situations within the administrative landscape of EUSALP states and regions. Their implementation corresponds to a **pragmatic approach**: the point is **to support AGs to have regular exchanges with authorities and intermediary bodies in charge of funding, possibly back to back to AG meeting, in the format that is the most adequate for them** as regards to the funds available for their activities.

The **network leaders** are in charge of coordinating the work within their respective networks, organizing regular meetings, ensuring the exchange of information within the network, supporting the active mobilization of the members.

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## DECISION

The EB generally welcomes the creation of EUSALP financial dialogue networks on further topics and asks the Presidency to explore opportunities in this context together with the AG leaders. It invites states and regions to support and encourage their EUSALP key implementers and their managing authorities and intermediary bodies to take active part in such networks and to set up other networks together with the AGs concerned.

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