



Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities (FAIC)

20th Plenary Session, Ancona -November 16th, 2020

Programmatic document : period 2020 - 2022

FAIC represents a tool for political, cultural, economic, and social co- operation between cities and its territories in line with the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR). It is recognised as important actor of the implementation of the Strategy, representing, along with the associations Uniadriion and Forum AIC, the Civil Society of the Adriatic-Ionian Area, and as such it is identified by the EUSAIR's Activity Plans (2014 and 2020) and by the recent European Commission working document, issued in September 23, 2020, accompanying the report on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies.

Furthermore, the three FORA of the civil society of the Adriatic and Ionian Macroregion are acknowledged in all Ministerial Declarations of the AII/EUSAIR countries: Dubrovnik (2016), Ioannina (2017) e Catania (2018), that consider the role of the civil society useful for achieving tangible results, in compliance with the principle of subsidiarity without which the EUSAIR would lose its value. Moreover, the Ministerial Declaration of Budva (2019) mentioned the 2nd Joint Conference of Fora of Chambers of Commerce, Universities and Cities , organized back to back with the 4th EUSAIR Forum, as a further step forward in bringing a larger group of stakeholders from various sectors, to build and strengthen the relationship between civil society and local, regional, national and European Institutions. Lastly, the most recent Belgrade Declaration (June 2020) renewed the invitation to the three FORA to organize their joint annual event in conjunction with the next EUSAIR Forum.

Planned activities:

- to enlarge the network of the FAIC cities favouring the adhesion of both coastal and inland cities of the Adriatic Ionian Region, part of the EUSAIR;
- to strengthen the elements of recognition of the FAIC actions in all member cities (by launching specific initiatives and supporting events that are consistent with the objectives and the purposes of the Association);
- to strengthen the cooperation with the key implementers of the EUSAIR: national and regional authorities, those responsible for the strategy and the management of the EU funds, EU institutions, regional institutions and organizations;



- to create additional synergies with the other FORA of the civil society of the Adriatic - Ionian Area in order to ensure a shared commitment on the issues regarding the local economic development, as indicated in the European Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region;
- to become, jointly with other FORA, the reference stakeholder for Europe, involved in identifying priorities regarding the upcoming programming period of EU funds;

For the first time, the three FORA have been officially involved into the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes public consultation and thus will support and contribute to the identification of the priorities of the Interreg Programmes, operating in the Adriatic-Ionian Area. For that purpose, the FORA shall prepare a Position paper containing suggestions and ideas, interests, priorities and expectations of the stakeholders of the AI Area.

- to launch specific initiatives having as target Youth and Sport, the activity that has been pursued by FAIC in the last few years (YOUTH GAMES, ANIMUS);
- to increase the project planning activities in order to seize numerous EU funding opportunities also stressing the importance of direct involvement of the member cities into the EU projects planning and promotion. These actions can be supported by means of FAIC;
- to develop the capacity building services in order to support the member cities with regard to the EU Project planning activities.

Planned administrative procedures:

- FAIC Statutory changes - the intention is to amend some articles of the Association and in particular those addressed to the nature of members, the structure of the auditors, the vice presidencies. The aim of the amendments is to render the association more flexible, more participatory and more efficient.

Planning and implementation of new projects/initiatives

- ➔ *“Facility Point – Supporting the Governance of the EUSAIR”- co-financed by Interreg ADRIION Programme : the FAIC is involved in several supporting activities for the implementation of the EUSAIR Stakeholder Platform (ESP), conceived as a tool to increase the stakeholder engagement in coordination and EUSAIR implementation process through dialogue with project partners, key implementers and Coordinators of Thematic Steering Groups of 4 EUSAIR Pillars. End of first part of activities: December 2020. Budget awarded: 34.000,00 €*
- ➔ *follow-up of the AI-NURECC Initiative, co financed by DG Regio. The project AINURECC PLUS will address the specific topics like Sustainable Tourism, Cultural and Creative Industries and Circular Economy. Special attention will be paid to Youth as a strategic target group for the sustainable development of the EUSAIR area. Approval expected in 2021. The activities will last 30 months and the budget requested is over 1.000.000,00 €.*



- *involvement of the FAIC in the project named COMPARE “COnnecting Macro-regions for the Promotion of Active paRticipation in Europe” - Programme EUROPE FOR CITIZENS, led by Uniadrion and composed of strategic partnership: FAIC, Forum AIC for Adriatic and Ionian Region and Networks of Chambers of Commerce, Cities and Universities for Danube Region. The project aims at stimulating the participation of citizens in EU activities by developing their understanding and awareness of the EU policy making process. The results will be reached by means of an online campaign for civic engagement in macro-regional strategies and through 4 thematic conferences focused on EUSAIR and EUSDR Pillars. During the project, a tour named “Macro-regional Experience” will be organized, addressed to young people through a contest, with the purpose of collecting the young citizens’ perspective on EU initiatives, especially at macro-regional level, and their awareness of EU policy-making process. Approval expected in 2021. The activities will last 18 months and the budget requested is 148.000,00 €.*