



Friday
9th
JULY
09:30 – 12:30
CEST

**ONLINE
WORKSHOP**



Simultaneous translation
English/Italian provided

EUSAIR INVESTMENT IN SKILLS AND EDUCATION: WHICH ROADMAP FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY IN THE ADRIATIC-IONIAN REGION?

Skill development through vocational education and training, and higher education as a key to fostering blue jobs for the environmental sustainability and boosting technological innovation in the Adriatic-Ionian Region



CONCEPT NOTE

A strong social Adriatic-Ionian Region lies at the basis not only of its citizens' prosperity and well-being, but also of a competitive economy. Skilled innovative workforce capable of shaping and adapting to the green and digital transitions will be the key to guaranteeing accessibility to the labour market and tomorrow's society, also within the sustainable blue economy.

The Recovery and Resilience Plans of the EU's Member States together with the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans are powerful instruments for mitigating the negative social and economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. The "Reskill and Upskill" flagship component in the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility, and the "Human Resources-the Youth Guarantee" in the Western Balkans Economic and Investment Plan are also aimed at guaranteeing high-quality employment opportunities, continued education, and apprenticeships or traineeships, by providing investment and reforms that could be brought together and targeted specifically at promoting growth in the Region's maritime sector. EU cohesion policy and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) in combination with the EU sectorial Programmes are complementing such unprecedented response in unity to build back better after the crisis and support job creation, in line with the new economic paradigm to be built.

In light of the EU skills agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience and the new approach on the blue sustainable economy adopted by the European Commission in May, the Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, in cooperation with its maritime technology cluster MARE FVG, the EU Commission, the EUSAIR governance actors and CEI-Central European Initiative, is promoting a workshop aimed at analysing the new education and training needs in the Adriatic and Ionian Region arising from the twin green and digital transitions, with the purpose of defining possible common paths on a macroregional scale. All the blue economy sectors including maritime transport, port activities and shipbuilding will have to reduce their environmental and climate impact. Tackling climate change and the biodiversity crisis will require healthy seas and a sustainable use of their resources in order to create alternatives to fossil fuels by investing in innovative technologies and creating new green jobs and businesses in the blue economy.

Sustainable waterborne mobility will be specifically explored **from the perspective of employment and a qualified workforce** in line with the new EU approach for a sustainable blue economy and as a EUSAIR crosspillar sector, linking Pillar 1 "Blue Growth" and Pillar 2 "Connecting the Region" of the strategy. In this respect, the new EU partnership under Horizon Europe "Zero Emission Waterborne Transport", which aims to lay the foundations for transforming waterborne transport into a net zero-emission mode of transport, will inspire the EUSAIR process of facilitating the development of regulations and policies at the national and regional level, the uptake of innovative zero-emission waterborne transport technologies and solutions with a positive impact on employment opportunities.



GOALS AND MAIN EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Kicking off an expert workshop on the state of play as regards **the education and training needs emerging from the blue sustainable economy value chains in the Adriatic and Ionian Region** is the first step towards coordinated actions linked consistently with the respective S3 national and regional strategies for sharing and defining potential common training and education paths and joint initiatives to fill in gaps in professional profiles. This process must necessarily involve not only the younger generations, but also experienced professionals, who are being called upon to adapt to and cope with the economic and social challenges represented by the rapid changes in the labour market which are affecting the Region.

The plenary session setting out EU policy framework and the key challenges in the medium to long term, will be followed by two thematic roundtables, **focusing on high-level education and training in both of the main fields represented by sustainable ship- and boat-building, and sustainable port operations, in response to the EU Green Deal calls for transformation and the digital transition**. In the final session, the workshop will be expanded to include the experiences already gained in the Baltic macroregional context and the EU opportunities to be exploited through unified action at the EUSAIR level.

The ultimate goal is to define the conditions with which to launch, in the coming months, a Pact for Blue Sustainable Education and Skills in the Adriatic-Ionian Region with the aim of boosting innovation and maximising the impact of investment on reskilling and upskilling, starting from a clear commitment from both vocational education and training and higher education institutions, as well as from partners in research and industry.



TARGET AUDIENCE

EUSAIR policy-makers including the ESF and EMFF/EMFAF Managing Authorities of EU Countries, the national and regional authorities responsible for education and training policies, academia, higher technical institutes, VET providers, research and innovation bodies, businesses.



AGENDA

9:00

9:30

CONNECTION TO THE ZOOM PLATFORM (EUSAIR Stakeholder Platform ASSISTANCE)

9:30

OPENING REMARKS

Welcoming address - Elisabetta Reja, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region - Department for Labour, Training, Education and Family

Ketty Segatti

Deputy General Director of the Department for Labour, Training, Education and Family and ESF Managing Authority of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region

Jean-Pierre Halkin

Head of Unit, European Commission – DGREGIO, Macro-regions, transnational/Interregional/External Cooperation, Enlargement

Irene Tzouramani

EUSAIR Pillar 1. "Blue Growth" Coordinator

Pierluigi Coppola

EUSAIR Pillar 2. "Connecting the Region" Transport Coordinator

9:50

TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY. IMPLICATIONS FOR BLUE SKILLS

Isabelle Viallon

Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission - DGMARE, Sea Basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Collaboration and Maritime Security

