



**EUSAIR**

Greek Presidency 2024 - 2025

**Corfu, Greece**

Tuesday 1 October 2024



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**Venue: Auditorium of Ionian Academy**

**Corfu, Greece**

**Participants:** Managing Authorities, Planning Authorities, Line-Ministries representatives, Academic Community, Consultants & researchers, EUSAIR Representatives from the participating countries, EUSAIR National Coordinators, European Commission, EUSAIR Governance Point Lead Partners, EUSAIR FACILITY POINT project partners, EUSAIR TSG representatives, Representatives from the Thematic Working Groups at national level, Regional and local Authorities, Youth representative

## Background

In its second Presidency of EUSAIR (the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region) and its fourth Presidency of All (Adriatic Ionian Initiative), Greece and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, as the competent Ministry for the Coordination, Monitoring and Implementation of the Strategy, seek to utilize the experience from the implementation of 10 years of the EUSAIR Strategy and to "build" a Strategy with a vision that is aligned with the European Policy Objectives of the period 2021 -2027 and a mission to strengthen its presence and activities in the post-2027 programming period. Amidst geopolitical challenges, the Hellenic Presidency of EUSAIR will address significant issues in the broader geographical area and neighborhood with a view to aligning with the EU's post-2027 future goals for cohesion and growth.

At the core of the Hellenic Presidency's approach will lie the increased cooperation among neighbouring countries and the implementation of an enhanced Revised Action Plan, in continuation of the work completed by the preceding Presidencies. In this context, the Hellenic Presidency plans to host technical meetings and conferences dedicated to each of the EUSAIR Pillars (Sustainable Tourism, Environmental Quality, Connecting the Region and Blue Growth), while also setting the following priorities:



1. EU enlargement, and particularly the support to the accession process of the Western Balkans.
2. Cohesion Policy in the post-2027 period interlinked to the EUSAIR Strategy and highlighting the territorial dimension of the Strategy.
3. Green transition and the effects of climate change.
4. Blue Economy and the development of the appropriate vocational skills, education and specialization in blue professions.
5. Environmental protection and promotion of environmental quality.

Marking 10 years since the official launch of the EUSAIR Strategy (October 2014), this conference aims at kick-starting Hellenic Republic's renewed leading efforts, to inform the stakeholders and establish clear objectives for both the Strategy and its governance, as well as for its implementation. In particular, kick-off meeting participants will be informed about the revised EUSAIR Action Plan and the priorities of the Hellenic Presidency by EU officials and national authorities' representatives. A discussion with Blue Growth experts will then follow, focused on the sub- topics of EUSAIR Pillar 1 - 'Blue Growth' (Blue technologies, Fisheries and aquaculture, Maritime and marine governance services), the presentation of potential project ideas that can be further elaborated to bankable projects. Finally, the conference will end with concluding remarks and ideas for the way forward.



**Tuesday, 1.10.2024**

Sessions

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The priority areas are reflected in the three sessions of the Conference:

*Session 1 – Priorities of the Greek Presidency.*

The first session will present and address the priorities of the Hellenic Presidency in a constructive and interactive way. The Hellenic Presidency is committed to implementing a renewed approach aligned with the revised Action Plan, emphasizing on sustainable growth and job creation. Greece will focus on five key priorities: supporting EU enlargement, particularly for the Western Balkans; advancing the debate on Cohesion Policy post-2027; fostering the green transition and addressing climate change; enhancing the Blue Economy through skills development; and promoting environmental protection. In tandem, the All Presidency will prioritize sustainability of landscapes and cultural heritage, empowering youth as drivers of future growth, mitigating marine pollution, and strengthening connectivity as a tool for EU enlargement.

Panel discussion on EUSAIR Hellenic Presidency Priorities, includes the General Secretaries Mr. Petros Varelidis, (Secretary General for Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece) and Mr. Manolis Koutoulakis, (Secretary General of the Aegean & Island Policy, Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy) who will elaborate on how cooperation within EUSAIR is linked to the national ambition for climate change mitigation and energy transition and on the challenges and prospects of the blue economy and the relevant initiatives of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy respectively.

Mrs. Pelagia Gkountra, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will concentrate on enlargement in these challenging times and its implications for EUSAIR, while Maria Kostopoulou from the Ministry of Economy and Finance will link the challenges of EUSAIR to the post 2027 Cohesion Policy debate.

*Session 2 – Blue Economy*

The panel will comprise of three speakers elaborating on the sub theme of the pillar of Blue economy.

*-Blue bio-technologies & aquaculture*

Blue biotechnologies explore innovation trends and advancements in the field of biotechnology. Blue biotechnology holds significant growth potential within the EU's blue bioeconomy. Understanding the territorial aspects is essential for analyzing past, present, and future developments in this promising sector of the blue economy.



Dr. Constantinos Mylonas, Director of the Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture (IMBBC) of the Hellenic Center for Marine Research (HCMR), will develop Greece's capabilities in the field of blue biotechnologies and the actions that Greece should undertake to support the development of blue biotechnologies. He will also refer to the development of Smart Aquaculture technologies, as aquaculture has been the fastest growing sector of primary production worldwide for decades.

- *Fisheries*

Resilience is broadly defined as the capacity of a system to respond to and absorb disturbance, while retaining essentially the same function, structure, and feedback. To manage fisheries effectively, there is a growing need to work on the sustainability, diversification and competitiveness of the sectors.

Mr. Stefanos Kalogirou, Assistant Professor at the Laboratory of Applied Hydrobiology of the Department of Animal Production Science of the Agricultural University of Athens with the subject "Fisheries Biology, Assessment and Management" will refer to sustainable fishing as a field of dynamic and balanced development, the opportunities and risks in this sector, while presenting a good-practice example of a project that can apply to the Adriatic- Ionian seas.

- *Maritime and marine governance and services.*

Marine planning has emerged as an effective process and tool for coordinating the efforts of various authorities and marine activities. Traditionally, these activities have been planned and managed within individual sectors. However, it is now clear that a more comprehensive, multi-sectoral, and coordinated approach is essential for the future success of marine planning and management.

Dr. Maria Boile, Director of the MSc in Shipping and Director of the Quantitative Analysis in Shipping Laboratory, at the University of Piraeus, Department of Maritime Studies, will elaborate on actions to strengthen the maritime governance framework to ensure the sustainable management of resources and the protection of marine ecosystems while simultaneously developing the blue economy.

***Looking forward to welcoming you in Corfu!***

*Get connected with EUSAIR Facility Point Greece:*



[eusair-fp.gr@mou.gr](mailto:eusair-fp.gr@mou.gr)



# EUSAIR GREEK PRESIDENCY 2024-2025

## KICK-OFF MEETING

Tuesday, 1 October 2024

Corfu, Greece

**Venue:** Auditorium of Ionian Academy (Akadimias str and Kapodistriou str)

- <https://ionio.gr/en/prospective/university-history/>

### Participants

Managing Authorities, Planning Authorities, Line-Ministries representatives, Academic Community, Consultants & researchers, EUSAIR Representatives from the participating countries, EUSAIR National Coordinators, European Commission, EUSAIR Governance Point Lead Partners, EUSAIR FACILITY POINT project partners, EUSAIR TSG representatives, Representatives from the Thematic Working Groups at national level, Regional and local Authorities, Youth representatives

### Chair/Coordinator

Yannis Revithis – Journalist, Corfu Channel



## AGENDA

Monday, 30 September 2024	
20:30 – 23:00	<i>Dinner*</i>
Tuesday, 1 October 2024	
08:45-09:00	<i>Registrations – Welcome Coffee</i>
09:00-09:40	<p><b>Welcome &amp; opening speeches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Deputy Minister of Maritime Affairs &amp; Insular Policy Mr. Stefanos Gkikas</i></li> <li>• <i>General Secretary of PA, Ministry of Economy &amp; Finance, Mrs. V. Pantelopoulou</i></li> <li>• <i>General Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. D. Skalkos</i></li> <li>• <i>Director DG Regio/D European Territorial Cooperation, Mr. Slawomir Tokarski</i></li> <li>• <i>Governor of Region Ionian Islands, Mr Ioannis Trepeklis</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayor of Corfu, Mr Stefanos Poulimenos</i></li> </ul>
09:45 – 10:05	<p><b>Presentation of the Revised Action Plan of the EUSAIR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>DG for Regional Policy and Urban Policy - Unit D1. Competence Centre Macro-regions and European Territorial Co-operation - Transnational and Interregional Co-operation, Mr. Gilles Kittel</i></li> </ul>
10:10 - 10:15	<p><b>10 YEARS EUSAIR – 10 YEARS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY Thoughts, insights, reactions, reflections, gains</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development, Slovenia EUSAIR FACILITY POINT Coordinator, Mrs. Eva Kos</i></li> </ul>
10:20 -10:35	<i>Coffee Break</i>



<p><b>10:35 - 11:35</b></p>	<p><b>Panel discussion on EUSAIR Hellenic Presidency Priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Petros Varelidis</b> <i>Secretary General for Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece</i></li> <li>• <b>Manolis Koutoulakis</b> <i>Secretary General of the Aegean &amp; Island Policy Ministry of Maritime Affairs &amp; Insular Policy</i></li> <li>• <b>Pelagia Gkountra</b> <i>First Embassy Secretary A3 Directorate for South East Europe Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i></li> <li>• <b>Maria Kostopoulou</b> <i>Head of Unit A - Strategy and Policies Monitoring Special Service for the Coordination of Planning, Evaluation and Implementation-General Directorate of Strategy, Planning and Implementation of the PA -General Secretariat of Partnership Agreement Ministry of Economy and Finance</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Coordinator: Mathilde Konstantopoulou, EUSAIR National Coordinator, Ministry of Economy &amp; Finance</b></p>
<p><b>11:40 – 12:35</b></p>	<p><b>Blue Economy Panel &amp; EUSAIR Hellenic Presidency</b></p> <p><b>Our pillar - our common goals – our joint tasks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Konstantinos Milonas</b> <i>Director, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)</i></li> <li>• <b>Stefanos Kalogirou</b> <i>Agricultural University of Athens</i></li> <li>• <b>Maria Boile</b> <i>University of Piraeus</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Coordinator: Yannis Revithis – Journalist, Corfu Channer</b></p>
<p><b>12:40 – 12:50</b></p>	<p><b>Conclusions &amp; farewell – time for EUSAIR action!</b></p>
<p><b>13:00 - 14:00</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>

**ATTENTION: hours are provided in local time – CET+1**





# Dinner

## Monday 30.09.2024

### Information regarding the Social Dinner

Dinner is provided by the Special Service of the Management of the Programme “Ionian Islands” at the Olympia Mare restaurant located in the Gouvia Marina. Transportation to the restaurant is foreseen for the participants by buses that will depart from the meeting point (entrance of the old fortress on the map) at **20:00**. Transportation from the restaurant to the meeting point is also foreseen.

