

# EUSAIR GOVERNING BOARD

3 March 2022, online

**Amb. Castellaneta – Segretario Generale IAI**

**Point 10 in the Agenda: Report on the meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (10.30-10.45)**

- Dear members of the Governing Board,
- Before reporting on the outcomes of the Adriatic Ionian Initiative Committee of Senior Officials that took place yesterday afternoon, I want to inform you about the **Joint Statement** adopted on February 28 at the AII/EUSAIR Trio meeting.
- The statement expresses our solidarity with **Ukraine** and its people, and our support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. I hope the respect for the principles of international law may still prevail. Condemning the military action against Ukraine, we stand by its Government and citizens.
- Regarding the activity of the Initiative, despite the difficulties connected with the pandemic, Albania organized with the support of the Permanent Secretariat and UniAdrion, an excellent Round Table **on Inter-University Cooperation** - *"Higher Education challenges and responses in Covid-time: how university education has been reshaped in response to COVID-19 one year later"* - a topic perfectly in line with the core of the Albanian priorities.  
The event underlined, once again, the **necessity to involve the Fora of Civil Society in the implementation of the macroregional strategy**, bringing into practice the principle of subsidiarity, fundamental for each and every strategy.
- Concerning the AII upcoming activities, we have several events ahead of us. Four Round Tables, the Conference of the Speakers of AII Parliaments and the Adriatic Ionian Council/EUSAIR Ministerial meeting.
- The next Round Table is going to take place online on March 29<sup>th</sup> on Natural Parks as driver for sustainable development.
- As for the **Conference of the Presidents/Speakers of the AII Parliaments** it will take place on May 3 and 4 hopefully on the spot. National Parliaments can play a decisive role in facilitating the implementation of the Strategy. They are the **closest link to citizens**

**and to the electoral body** - the real targets and beneficiaries of every regional cooperation action.

- As for the double hat **AII/EUSAIR Ministerial Declaration** the AII Permanent Secretariat will give its contribution in the phase of drafting. As in the past, after preparing the first draft, the AII-PS will gather the contributions of the Chairmanship and the European Commission before handing out a complete initial draft of the Declaration to Senior Officials/National Coordinators.
- Let me conclude by informing you about two **outstanding activities** the AII Permanent Secretariat is promoting for the benefits of our young students and thanks to the valuable support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- An **internship programme**, organized in cooperation with the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce and UniAdrion, and financed by the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs.  
The programme aims to cover 50 internships, along the lines of the Erasmus+ model, promoting student mobility in the Adriatic-Ionian Region and supporting the circulation of ideas and skills, involving universities, companies and institutions in the Adriatic Ionian region.
- **Ten two-year scholarships** to be granted to students coming from the Adriatic-Ionian region for the enrolment in one of the several master's degree courses taught in English at the Marche Polytechnic University (International Economics and Commerce, Biomedical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Green Industrial Engineering, Digital Economics and Businesses, Food and Beverage Innovation and Management).  
The call for applications will be launched in a few weeks and will remain open until the end of the May. This will give us the possibility to raise awareness about this opportunity during the Forum in Tirana.
- Concluding, I wish to thank the Albanian Chairmanship and Amb. Melo for the excellent Presidency and for the fruitful collaboration established with the AII Permanent Secretariat. I am pleased to know that in couple of months we can meet all in person, once again, at the EUSAIR Forum!
- Thank you.