



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (AII)

The Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (AII) is an informal cooperation platform participated in by Greece, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Italy. It was established in 2000 and maintains a Permanent Secretariat in Ancona. The AII is administered by a Committee of High-Level Officials that coordinates working groups on SMEs, transport, culture, tourism, inter-university cooperation, the environment and firefighting. Guidelines and results are approved by the Council of Foreign Ministers, which convenes annually.

The main pursuit of the AII is the establishment of a European macro-regional programme for the Adriatic-Ionian. An EU macro-region is an area that overlaps the territories of several different countries – not all of which necessarily belonging to the EU – that are linked by one or more common characteristic or are facing similar problems. For a macro-region to be declared, the countries comprising it need to apply to the European Commission, setting out the common characteristics, incentive for EU involvement, geopolitical added value, the nature of the common problems and the commitment of the countries in question to act to confront these problems. If European Commission approval is forthcoming, a relevant strategy can be drawn up and an action plan formulated, with the Commission providing capital matching the amount provided by participating countries.

28.02.2011