



Macro-regional strategies in changing times

**EUSBSR, EUSDR, EUSALP and EUSAIR
headed towards the future together**





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Contributors: Kai Böhme, Jakob Lagerkranser, Erik Gløersen, Anders Bergström, Stefan August Lütgenau, Andreja Jerina, Anna Repullo Grau, Linda Talve, **Art Direction & Design:** Rosebud Design GmbH

“A ‘Macroregional strategy’ is an integrated framework endorsed by the European Council, to address common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to Member States and third countries located in the same geographical area which thereby benefit from strengthened cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion.”

**This publication brings together,
for the first time, all four EU macro-
regional strategies presenting
their potential for the future.**

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Foreword

We are pleased to present to you this publication, for the first time bringing together all the four existing EU macro-regional strategies.

In this issue, we aim to:

- ▶ provide a concrete and up-to-date presentation of the particular issues relevant for all EU macro-regional strategies,
- ▶ familiarise stakeholders also with the strategies that do not cover their own macro-region in order to facilitate cooperation and peer-to-peer activities between strategies in the future,
- ▶ and last but not least, present a selection of relevant facts about the EU macro-regional strategies.

However unknown the future developments are, we wanted to look beyond today and into the future of the macro-regions. The idea of visioning beyond the defined periods is to follow the theme of the 7th Strategy Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region “One Region, One Future - Vision 2030 for the Baltic Sea Region”. We are grateful to all authors who contributed to this issue, showing us a glimpse of their daily work for their macro-region, not only today but also on how it looks in the future perspective.

“However unknown the future developments are, we wanted to look beyond today and into the future of the macro-regions.”

The role of Interact

One of the services requested from the Interact III Programme is to improve the management capacity to implement innovative cooperation approaches, including the macro-regional cooperation. Different from the previous programme period, we work for promoting (macro-regional) cooperation through exchanges of practices and lessons learnt from one macro-region to another.

There is a lot to learn. We are encouraged to develop and embed macro-regional cooperation into various forms of cooperation financed by a variety of instruments, especially Interreg programmes.

This way, we believe, we can address common issues for the macro-regions and funding programmes in a more efficient manner.

If you wish to know more about or build bridges between macro-regional strategies, please do not hesitate to contact us!

We wish you all good luck in your macro-region and hope you find this issue an interesting read.

Baiba Liepa
Interact



Future of Europe and macro- regional strategies

Kai Böhme

Director, Spatial Foresight

Europe develops and changes. Grand societal challenges which shape Europe's development have a considerable influence on our governance systems and the possible development paths of different parts of Europe, their regions and cities.

Which are these grand-societal challenges and how do they link to European macro-regional strategies?

Looking at recent developments, we can differentiate between three types of trends, presented in the graph on page 9. Some of them address (1) large societal and value changes – e.g. changing understandings of democracy or decoupling of growth and jobs – while (2) others concern regime shifts in specific markets, technologies, policies – e.g. green growth, robotics or sharing economy – and (3) some trends are rather seeds which might become larger over time or concern only specific

niches – e.g. unmanned vehicles or smart food.

Across these three types of trends, there are different thematic areas. At present we see a lot of changes linked to three major thematic areas. There are various trends changing democratic decision-making and the role of civil society. Some examples are the role of networks and collaborative governance in decision finding processes, but also developments towards illiberal democracy, rising global tensions and changing roles of supranational players.

The second thematic area concerns changing demographic pressures, including questions of an ageing society in Europe, migration pressures and increasing social inequalities in Europe, but also rising middle classes in parts of Africa and Asia. The third thematic area concerns renewing industries and innovation in Europe, including slower economic growth paths,

“The macro-regional level can in many cases be the most appropriate, as collective answers at this level can be more concrete.”

as well as the sharing economy, green & blue growth, circular economy, internet of things and robotics. In addition, there are also developments concerning the environment and climate change.

All these trends (see figure) influence in one way or the other Europe and its macro-regions. Some of the trends actually may help to reach certain macro-regional (sub-) priorities faster. Other trends may make it even more challenging to achieve the targets set in macro-regional strategies and therefore put more pressure on the cooperation to work along the lines set out in the strategies.

Either way, even though the trends are as diverse (and in parts mutually contradicting) as the European territories and macro-regions, there are two important common features to them.

First, the trends or grand societal

challenges cannot be solved by single cities, regions or countries individually: They need a collective answer from the larger territories. The macro-regional level can in many cases be the appropriate level, as collective answers at this level can be more concrete than at EU level and as the same time the areas are sufficiently large so that the collective answers can make a difference.



3 trends facing Europe

- ***Societal and value changes***
- ***Regime shifts in markets, technologies and policies***
- ***New ideas and innovations***

Second, there are strong interdependencies between trends, territorial development and governance patterns, and the impact of a specific answer depends on its precise design. So, to define the appropriate answers, there first needs to be a vision of what we want the future to look like. Macro-regional strategies provide a good platform for developing such shared visions of our future – focusing on specific geographic areas and specific development questions. To conclude, Europe is changing and meets new trends and grand societal challenges.

In these turbulent times, macro-regional strategies hold the potential to push for appropriate answers. These, however, require that there are shared visions of our common future and that these visions are linked to concrete actions. A vision (however good) without action remains a daydream, while action without a vision can easily turn into a nightmare. ■

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS			
Renewing Industries and Innovation	Changing demographic pressure	Changing democratic decision making	Other – unclassified
Value-shifts (societal value)			
Beyond GDP	Global democratic growth	Increasing role of conviction and religion	Hypermobility
Slow growth	Growing middle class at global level	Thrive towards democracy	Changing understanding of privacy
Decoupling of growth & jobs		Increasing global tensions	Changing roles of corporate & public players
4th industrial revolution		Increasing power at supranational level	
Peak of everything - resource shortage		Diffusion of power shift to networks & coalitions	
Regime-shifts (market, technology, policy, ...)			
Circular economy	Aging Society	Rising tensions between Russia and the EU	Growing importance of alternative energy
Green growth & clean tech	Increasing migratory pressure & flows	Rising illiberal democracies in Europe	Growing importance of transport hubs
Internet of things	Young and ambitious societies	Re-nationalisation in Europe	
Big data	Further concentration on urban areas	Collaborative governance approaches	
Robotics & digitalisation replacing humans	Rising social inequalities and increasing social gaps		
Blue growth			
Increasing public debt			
Sharing economy			
Natural resources gain importance again			
Robotics & digitalisation increase productivity			
Niche-trends & seeds (seeds & specific changes)			
New natural resources			Collective intelligence
Europe's innovation loss			Unmanned vehicles
Decentralization of production (3D printing)			Collapse of transport systems Europe
Smart food and expanding agriculture			
Labour shortage			
Fall of oil prices			

Source: Spatial Foresight (2016) draft graphic of a foresight study regarding the development of the Baltic Sea Region with a view to 2030, commissioned by the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth.



2030 perspective: The EUSBSR will have to be navigated through changing waters

Jakob Lagerkranser

Communications Officer, Government Offices of Sweden

Changing democracies amid increasing migration flows, slowing growth, ageing populations and a growing concern for the environment.

These are some of the trends that could affect the Baltic Sea Region from a 2030 perspective. So says Dr. Kai Böhme, the author of a study on the subject, to be presented at the 7th Strategy Forum of the EUSBSR in Stockholm 8–9 November 2016.

Kai Böhme together with colleagues at Spatial Foresight in Luxembourg and MDI in Finland has been commissioned to present a foresight study

on a Vision 2030 for the Baltic Sea Region – challenges and opportunities for the Region from a global perspective.

The purpose of the analysis is to stimulate discussions on the future of the Baltic Sea Region and how the EUSBSR can contribute to a desired development while reaching for its agreed objectives: Save the Sea, Connect the Region and Increase Prosperity.

“Some trends might make it easier to reach the targets of the EUSBSR and some might make it more challenging.”

Three major trends

As for the challenges and opportunities for the Baltic Sea Region within a 2030 perspective, Kai Böhme identifies three major trends that need to be considered:

“Changing democratic decisions is one. On one hand the role of civil society is increasing, but on the other hand so is the influence from multinational corporations. At the same time, we see a re-nationalization with an increased focus on nationalistic sentiment, often paired with a move away from classical liberal settings.”

In the Baltic Sea Region, the increasing geopolitical tensions pose challenges for the cooperation in other fields, especially in the environmental issues. At the same time, increasing collaborative governance approaches hold the potential to support cooperation initiatives and the joint implementation of the EUSBSR. “Another trend is the demographic

change of ageing populations and increasing migration flows, something that also can cause demographic pressure.” Europe is the most rapidly ageing society and within Europe, some countries in the Baltic Sea Region have the highest median age. This is raising questions related to the financing of social welfare and pension systems as well as the competitiveness of enterprises.

Demographic ageing also contributes to urbanisation and weakening of the rural areas in the Baltic Sea Region.

“The third trend is renewing industries and innovation linked to slower growth, that along with increasing environmental concerns might bring changing economic focus, toward for example a sharing economy and a circular economy.” When it comes to renewing industries the trends seem to have mainly positive effects on the Baltic Sea Region.

In many cases these countries belong to the early adopter, paving the way for technological innovations in Europe. In the rapidly evolving economic sectors (e.g. technology) the challenge is to keep the leading position and encourage even more actors in developing new solutions. On the other hand, the skills and access to digital infrastructure is not – and will not be – evenly spread around the region.

Preparedness to navigate through changing waters

Concerning what effects these trends will have for the implementation of the EUSBSR to reach its three objectives, Kai Böhme says that they don't necessarily require for the Strategy to be changed. "Most of these trends will not change the EUSBSR, but they all point to that we need to be prepared. Some trends might make it easier to reach the targets and some might make it more challenging."

"Being aware of major development trends is important to be prepared to navigate the EUSBSR through changing waters, e.g. with regard on how to ensure that the implementation of the Strategy best capitalizes on the changing roles of civil society actors and changing economic realities," he says. ■



3 trends in the Baltic Sea Region

- *Environmental challenges*
- *Aging populations and urbanisation*
- *Keeping up the competitiveness*

Ways for better cooperation and more efficient coordination of funding

Erik Gløersen

Senior Consultant, Spatial Foresight

Macro-regional strategies were adopted by EU Member States with support from the European Commission and after extensive consultations at the regional and local levels.

One could have expected European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) programmes, in which these same actors are involved, to actively pursue the objectives of these macro-regional strategies in cooperation. Unfortunately, evidence from the Baltic Sea Region suggests that practices have not changed to the extent that one could have hoped.

There are different possible explanations to this:

First, ESIF programmes have been set up to address opportunities within programme areas. Shifting the focus to transnational (macro-regional) issues requires a change of mind-set, which has not necessarily been prepared.

Second, even if ESIF programmes have a regulatory obligation to contribute to macro-regional strategies in 2014–2020, programme monitoring and evaluation are not based on the objectives of the strategies. The notion of “macro-regional impact” needs to be further specified, and concrete ways of measuring it should be proposed.

Third, the idea that macro-regional cooperation could help ESIF programmes to achieve their objectives within their programme area needs to be further promoted. The challenge is to identify such effects that would be measurable within the programme period.

There is ample experience to build on from Interreg transnational and cross-border programmes as well as from other initiatives. For example, in the Baltic Sea Region, on the BONUS programme experience. The programme is a joint research and development fund for environmentally related

Stakeholders
at the River
Tullstorpsån
wetlands during
a Baltic Compass
workshop in
Kristianstad,
Sweden 2012.



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research and development and innovation (R&D&I) projects. It has been built up since 2003 and constitutes a source of inspiration on how funding from different national sources can be combined in a mutually beneficial way.

Baltic Compass is an example of an Interreg 2007–2013 project seeking to reduce emissions of nutrients in the Baltic Sea through win-win solutions for agriculture, municipal and environmental sectors. The challenge is to incorporate diverse experiences such as these in the day-to-day operation of regional and national ESIF programmes.

One observes that the most successful integrated transnational solutions are the result of joint efforts over multiple decades. There is therefore a need to generate a continuity in cooperation beyond programme periods.

This can first be done by demonstrating how transnational cooperation can be pursued without ESIF funding. National 'one stop entry points' for macro-regional cooperation could for example be developed in collaboration with existing networks, such as the Enterprise Europe Network, the Creative Europe National Contact Points or the Horizon 2020 contact points.

Their objective would be to identify parallel or complementary initiatives in different parts of each macro-region and to facilitate cooperation between them.

Second, a more strategic perspective on networking dynamics can help to generate continuity. Funding organisations could to a greater extent reflect on the collectives generated by joint projects:

- ▶ What types of organisations participate?
- ▶ Do they come from all parts of the targeted cooperation area?
- ▶ Are they geographically balanced?
- ▶ Do they constitute “closed clubs”, or on the contrary open communities that encourage wider networks of actors to get engaged at the macro-regional level?

By addressing such questions, cooperation and funding instruments could formulate strategies on how the sum of their initiatives

encourage people and organisations to work together. Network analysis tools could be mobilised to generate the evidence needed for this purpose. ■



3 places for improvement

- *More macro-regional thinking to funding instruments.*
- *Monitoring of the strategies and the funding programmes to be aligned.*
- *Strategies to be seen more as support to the success of the funding programmes.*

Multi-level governance as a part of macro- regional strategy

Anders Bergström

EUSBSR Policy Area 'Education' and Horizontal
Action 'Capacity' coordinator, Norden Association

Macro-regional strategies (MRSs) are powerful tools mobilizing stakeholders from various levels and sectors for jointly meeting today's societal challenges. At the heart of success is understanding and being able to use the web of multi-level governance structures in a project driven reality. MRSs can be the answer to the need of a more integrative approach to cooperation within the European Union, contributing to more targeted solutions and a common ownership.

Unlike most of the conventional international cooperation strategies, the MRSs have no strict governance structures/chain of command, and no associated budget or financial institutions. The member states are expected to form and implement the strategies by means of aligning work of existing institutions and financial resources available at various levels, i. e., the EU programmes', national, regional and local funds.

Mobilization for the implementation of the MRSs thus requires cooperation among actors from different sectors and at different levels in the countries concerned. In practice this means that implementation of the strategies is a highly complex undertaking, involving a great deal of ambiguity. Achieving results in such an environment requires awareness, engagement and adaptive capacity of all actors when it comes to management and leadership.

An example of a societal challenge are the long-term unemployed young people in our member states, the so called NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training). In average this group amounts to 10% of our youth in the age of 20 to 30. This challenge can't be solved on the national level alone, not even within the public sector. Instead public and private sectors including civil society need to pull resources together in order to meet this challenge.

“Achieving results requires awareness, engagement and adaptive capacity of all actors.”

The MRS perspective brings in new experiences, new solutions and in some cases joint initiatives such as training of personal or mobility programmes for NEETs.

What more do we need to do in order to succeed with the concept of MRSs?

As the Partnership Agreements attempt to coordinate national, regional and local strategies and funding with the objectives of the EU2020 and with European funding, the purpose of the macro-regional strategies is to coordinate the various strategies and funding instruments in order to efficiently address the challenges for the respective macro-region.

This means that the people and organisations involved in the implementation of the MRSs, in its Policy/ Priority Areas, need not only to be able to identify and address gaps in the strategy implementation and understand

the multilevel governance system of their macro-region, but also know how the programming and funding structure works in the 2014–2020 programme period. This calls for capacity building for actors involved in the implementation of the MRSs. ■



3 keys for success

- ***Ability to identify gaps in MRS implementation.***
- ***Capacity to address the gaps.***
- ***Better understanding of the funding structures.***



Multi-level governance as part of a macro-regional strategy: the EUSDR civil society experience

Stefan August Lütgenau

Director, Foster Europe, Foundation for strong European Regions

The four existing macro-regional strategies in the EU (Baltic, Danube, Adriatic-Ionian, and Alpine) are in place to improve EU regional and cohesion policies, bridge the gaps between enlargement (neighbourhood) and cohesion policies that have been visible in the aftermath of the past three EU enlargements 2004, 2007 and 2013. Given the subjects of the strategies (regional and cohesion policy) “to cooperate within a so-called functional region [...] is a unique approach that combines regional policies with other policies, e. g. enlargement, social or environmental policies” superscript, the approach cannot be other than multi-level. While the general coordination of the EU policies (regional, cohesion, neighbourhood and enlargement) remains in coordination with the European Commission in coordination with the EU member states/non-EU member states, the real implementation of those lies within the hands of the

national, regional and local (municipal) level actors. Implementation of policies shows strong emphasis on the urban dimension. As MRSs are intended to use existing institutions, funds and legislation they have to rely to a large degree on the existing European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance II (IPA II) funds 2014–2020 to finance their implementation.

Additional to the multi-level governance approach of the MRSs they also need to follow a multi-sectoral approach involving on the one hand the existing international regional institutions and on the other hand civil society, non-state actors and businesses in the macro-regional strategy implementation. Only by reflecting the diverse multi-level and multi-sectoral dimension of European societies the MRSs can contribute to foster social, economic, and territorial cohesion especially in the new member states.

Here the MRSs have to reach out beyond the regional policy to other EU policies especially with regard to neighbourhood and enlargement.

As an example of a challenge that is both multi-level and multi-sectoral in its nature is the population of approximately 8 million Roma in the EUSDR region. This community often is living at the low end of the social spectrum. A policy to foster their social inclusion can only be fruitful if the various levels (EU, national, regional, local) and sectors (public, private, third) are coordinated by the local structures at the centre of the process.

The local-actor approach of bringing together civil society and local authorities in the EUSDR, developed by the Danube Civil Society Forum (DCSF) and the Priority Area 10, is considered “one of the best working cooperation networks in the EUSDR” by

a recent study *New Role of Macro-Regions in European Territorial Cooperation* superscript should be strengthened and might serve as a blueprint for other MRSs to strengthen a multi-level and multi-sector approach.

MRSs are a fairly new additional tool of the EU to better coordinate regional, cohesion, neighbourhood, and enlargement policies. They have to be unhinged from the classical coordination-between-line ministries-habit and opened up to better reflect and incorporate the conditions, potentials, necessities and actors on the ground, and that they are the ones to carry out most of the policies and implement the programmes. ■

1 Jörg Mirtl, *The Role of Institutional Capacity in Fostering Economic, Territorial and Social Cohesion in the Danube Region 2015* p. 62

2 Study “New role of Macro-Regions in European Territorial Cooperation”, EU Parliament 2015



Added-value of the inter-macro-regional strategy cooperation and coordination

Andreja Jerina

National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Slovenia

Slovenia is located at the junction of the Alps, Pannonian Plain, Dinaric Range and the Mediterranean. It has shared the common history of the wider region and is shaping our common future.

Participating in three out of four EU macro-regional strategies (Danube, Adriatic and Ionian, Alpine) comes as natural way of dealing with common (macro-) regional challenges and issues.

It is the experience and results achieved within the Danube and Adriatic and Ionian strategies that have led Slovenia to decide to take over the presidency of the new-born Alpine Strategy. The experience gained in one macro-region can smoothly be transferred to another and – if necessary – be adapted, modified or upgraded including the strategies' governance. The strategies Slovenia is involved in are not competitors, but fellow travellers – and we all do our best to carry out

as many activities as possible achieving concrete results to the benefit of all three macro-regions simultaneously.

For Slovenia – with a limited administrative capacity – participation in three macro-regions has meant that an effective internal structure, sound inter-ministerial cooperation, regular exchange of information and alignment of opinions had to be established simultaneously for all three strategies. This can be said to have improved also the internal governance. Additionally, the coordination structure established in the country requires competent staff, able to follow substantial issues in more than one macro-regional strategy at a time.

With the knowledge, experience and networking established in the Danube, Adriatic and Ionian and the Alpine macro-regions, Slovenia creates synergies between the strategies and policies

“Slovenia creates synergies between the three strategies and establishes connections to share experiences and know-how with others.”

as well as establishes connections to share experiences and know-how with others. Joint projects and actions help to raise the awareness that every individual, institution and organisation can contribute to a better and more meaningful life. However, only together can we change our way of thinking and acting, and take a step forward.

After the successful EUSALP Launch Conference and the constitutive session of the EUSALP General Assembly in January 2016, the Mediterranean Coast and Macroregional Strategies Week is the second in a series of events organised by Slovenia during its chairmanship of the EUSALP in 2016. In September the Slovenian Coast was the venue for numerous events of environmental connectivity and the melting point for joint ideas on green and blue corridors from three EU macro-regions.

Considering the experience in implementing macro-regional strategies, we have learnt that joint efforts require appropriate resources and that visibility helps a lot, but also an adequate environment including implementation resources is needed.

 **MRs
in Slovenia**

- *Slovenia participates in 3 MRs (Danube, Adriatic-Ionian and Alpine).*
- *Internal governance benefits from inter-strategy coordination.*
- *Synergies improve the benefits of participation.*

The Slovenian
capital Ljubljana



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This is why the national parliaments should also be involved. They have political strength in setting up a system supporting implementation of jointly (inter-governmentally) agreed (macro-) regional projects. National parliaments play significant role in clarifying added value of such initiatives.

They can ensure that (macro-) regional projects are recognised by financial institutions/ instruments and thus be treated favourably when allocating funding. By the establishment of such a system they would pave needed

preconditions for implementing collective (macro-)regional answers to common challenges of larger territories, be it infrastructure, increasing migration and demographic pressure, climate change or any other issue that cannot be addressed by a single state or region. ■



Achievements in cooperation with the EU enlargement and neighbourhood countries

Anna Repullo Grau

Programme Manager, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

The EU macro-regional strategies for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) provide unique opportunities for enlargement and neighbourhood countries insofar as they are built as cooperation platforms creating a “level playing field” for both EU and non-EU countries. The mixed character of macro-regional strategies, lying between EU initiatives and inter-governmental cooperation as well as involving various multi-level governance actors, allows participating enlargement and neighbourhood countries to take – and implement – decisions on an equal footing as the EU Member States. This explains why the political level of these countries shows great attention and interest for the participation in macro-regional strategies. MRSs are acknowledged as platforms to facilitate cooperation with EU Member States and, for enlargement countries, as a means to help in their path towards the EU.

One important cross-cutting challenge relates to the administrative capacity of the countries to deal with the thematic policies at stake and in particular to live up to the cooperation approach, which requires a specific change in mind-set. Macro-regional strategies offer great opportunities for capacity building and exchange of experience: they are not just helping to set up a “spirit of cooperation”, but they concretely contribute to the international training culture of officials, which is crucial in particular for candidate countries and potential candidates aiming at EU accession. It is also important for neighbourhood countries as shown by the case of Moldova and Ukraine, where cooperation within the EUSDR is a recognised asset for a better implementation of the respective Association Agreements, as main tools for bringing these countries and the EU closer together.

The common vision shared and decided on the macro-regional level by all participating countries, and especially at the highest political level, should trigger a shared coordination of the available funds for the implementation. This is also a part of the change in mindset required for the success of the macro-regional strategies.

As one of the main achievements in implementing macro-regional strategies in cooperation with the EU enlargement and neighbourhood countries can be mentioned the active role that certain non-EU countries have acquired within the strategies. Within the EUSDR, Serbia co-leads the priority areas on transport and knowledge society, while Moldova co-leads the priority area on people and skills.

In the case of the EUSAIR, each of the four enlargement countries co-lead one of the four thematic pillars, together with one EU Member State (Montenegro on blue growth, Serbia on connectivity, Bosnia and Herzegovina on environment, and Albania on sustainable tourism).

A co-leading role is facilitating the involvement of all relevant levels of governance as well as civil society, triggering a greater awareness of the opportunities for cooperation, both in terms of exchange of experience and

financial opportunities (e. g. under the relevant cross-border and transnational Interreg programmes).

However successful, there is still a long way to go for full engagement of the EU enlargement and neighbourhood countries in the implementation of macro-regional strategies. Some countries have so far taken an active role although the participation is often thematically limited to given areas where they have a particular responsibility. Other countries clearly lag behind in operational terms. In general, a gap between the political commitments and the still insufficient resources invested in participating in the strategies' common activities needs to be bridged. ■

3 achievements of cooperation

- *Active role of some non-EU countries in strategy implementation*
- *Grown awareness of further cooperation opportunities*
- *In some thematic areas very close cooperation over the external borders of EU.*

MRSs in a nutshell





Quiz: Test your knowledge of the macro-regional strategies

1. Macro-regional strategies (MRSs) address common challenges faced by a defined geographical area and encourage strategic cooperation.

- a) true b) false

2. There are currently four MRSs adopted by the European Council:

- a) 3 b) 4 c) 5 d) 1

3. The three "NO's" of macro-regional strategies are:

- I) No new
II) No new
III) No new

4. How many non-EU countries are part of a macro-regional strategy?

- a) 0 b) 3 c) 7 d) 12

5. Two EU Member States participate in three MRSs, which ones?

- a) Austria b) Bulgaria c) Denmark
d) Germany e) Poland f) Slovenia

6. Please connect each MRSs with the statement best fitting its focus:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| EUSBSR | is developed based on an earlier adopted maritime strategy |
| EUSDR | is a mountain based strategy |
| EUSAIR | is a river based strategy |
| EUSALP | is the 'oldest' out of all MRSs |

7. Implementation of the MRSs faces various challenges, but which one of them is especially mentioned by authors when talking about implementation of the MRSs in the EU neighbourhood and enlargement countries?

- a) Unclear multi-level governance structure of the MRSs;
b) Lack of legislative background;
c) Administrative capacity of the countries and, in particular, a true cooperation approach;
d) Too many themes covered by MRSs;
e) Low visibility and recognition of MRSs in the macro-regions.

8. What is Interact's role in relation to the MRSs?

- a) To finance cooperation supporting MRSs
b) To promote single MRSs by producing and distributing materials
c) To develop and embed macro-regional cooperation into different forms of cooperation financed by different funding instruments
d) To monitor the implementation of the MRSs

Correct answers:
1a/2b/3: I No new EU institutions, II No new EU funding/4d/5d & f/legislation, III no new EU funding/4d/5d & f/6: EUSBSR is 'oldest' out of all MRSs - EUSDR is a river based strategy - EUSAIR is developed based on earlier adopted maritime strategy - EUSALP is a mountain based strategy/7c/8c

Countries covered by the macro-regional strategies

Member States:	EUSBSR	EUSDR	EUSAIR	EUSALP
Austria		✓		✓
Bulgaria		✓		
Croatia		✓	✓	
Czech Republic		✓		
Denmark	✓			
Estonia	✓			
Finland	✓			
France (regions)				✓
Germany (länder)	✓	✓		✓
Greece			✓	
Hungary		✓		
Italy (regions)			✓	✓
Latvia	✓			
Lithuania	✓			
Poland	✓			
Romania		✓		
Slovakia		✓		
Slovenia		✓	✓	✓
Sweden	✓			

Neighbouring countries:	EUSBSR	EUSDR	EUSAIR	EUSALP
Albania			✓	
Belarus	✓			
Bosnia and Herzegovina		✓	✓	
Iceland	✓			
Liechtenstein				✓
Republic of Moldova		✓		
Montenegro		✓	✓	
Norway	✓			
Russian Federation (regions)	✓			
Serbia		✓	✓	
Switzerland				✓
Ukraine (regions)		✓		



The common themes of macro-regional strategies

CONNECTIVITY			
EUSBSR	EUSDR	EUSAIR	EUSALP
Energy			
<p>PA Energy: BEMIP Action Plan (for competitive, secure and sustainable energy)</p>	<p>PA2: To encourage more sustainable energy</p>	<p>6. Energy networks</p>	<p>A2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors</p> <p>A5: To connect people electronically and promote accessibility to public services</p> <p>A9: To make the territory a model region for energy efficiency and renewable energy</p>
Transport			
<p>PA Transport: Improving internal and external transport links</p>	<p>PA1: To improve mobility and multimodality</p> <p>a. Inland Waterways b. Road, rail and air links</p>	<p>4. Maritime transport</p> <p>5. Intermodal connections to the hinterland</p>	<p>A4: To promote inter-modality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport</p> <p>A5: To connect people electronically and promote accessibility to public services</p>

PA = Policy Area

PA = Priority Area

Number of theme

A = Action

HA = Horizontal Action

ENVIRONMENT			
EUSBSR	EUSDR	EUSAIR	EUSALP
Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry			
<p>PA Bioeconomy: Agriculture, forestry and fisheries</p>	<p>PA6: To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils</p> <p>PA8: Competitiveness</p>	<p>2. Fisheries and aquaculture</p>	<p>A2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors</p>
Environmental risks, Climate			
<p>PA Hazards: Reducing the use and impact of hazardous substances</p> <p>HA: Climate</p>	<p>PA5: To manage environmental risks</p> <p>PA2: Energy</p>	<p>7. The marine environment</p>	<p>A7: To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory</p> <p>A8: To improve risk management and to better manage climate change, including major natural risks prevention</p>
Maritime safety and security			
<p>PA Safe: To become a leading region in maritime safety and security</p>		<p>7. The marine environment</p>	
Quality of air, soils & water, Biodiversity			
<p>PA Nutri: Reducing nutrient inputs to the sea to acceptable levels</p> <p>PA Ship: Becoming a model region for clean shipping</p> <p>Biodiversity integrated in other policy areas, such as PA Bioeconomy</p>	<p>PA6: To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils</p> <p>PA4: Water Quality</p> <p>PA5: To manage environmental risks</p>	<p>7. The marine environment</p> <p>8. Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity</p>	<p>A6: To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources</p> <p>A7: To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory</p>

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PROSPERITY			
EUSBSR	EUSDR	EUSAIR	EUSALP
Culture			
PA Culture: Culture & creative sectors	PA3: To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts		A6: To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources
Education			
PA Education: Education, research and employability	PA 7: To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies PA 8: Competitiveness PA9: To invest in people and skills	3. Maritime and marine governance and services	A3: To improve the adequacy of labour market, education and training in strategic sectors
Employability, Labour market			
PA Education: Education, research and employability	PA9: To invest in people and skills		A3: To improve the adequacy of labour market, education and training in strategic sectors
Health			
PA Health: Improving and promoting people's health, including its social aspects	PA4: Water Quality PA5: To manage environmental risks e-Health → PA7: To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies		A2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors A5: To connect people electronically and promote accessibility to public services

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PROSPERITY			
EUSBSR	EUSDR	EUSAIR	EUSALP
Innovation			
<p>PA Innovation: Exploiting the full potential of the region in research, innovation and SME, utilising the Digital Single Market as a source for attracting talents and investments</p>	<p>PA7: To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies</p> <p>PA8: Competitiveness</p>	<p>1. Blue technologies</p> <p>3. Maritime and marine governance and services</p> <p>7. The marine environment</p> <p>Cross-cutting aspect: Strengthening R&D, Innovation and SMEs</p>	<p>A1: To develop an effective research and innovation ecosystem</p> <p>A2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors</p>
Security Crime			
<p>PA Secure: Protection from land-based emergencies, accidents and cross-border crime</p>	<p>PA11: To work together to promote security and tackle organised and serious crime</p>		
SMEs			
<p>PA Innovation: Exploiting the full potential of the region in research, innovation and SME, utilising the Digital Single Market as a source for attracting talents and investments</p>	<p>PA7: To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies</p> <p>PA8: To support the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development</p> <p>PA9: To invest in people and skills</p>	<p>Cross-cutting aspect: Strengthening R&D, Innovation and SMEs</p>	<p>A2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors</p>
Tourism			
<p>PA Tourism: Reinforcing cohesiveness of the macro-region through tourism</p>	<p>PA3: To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts</p>	<p>9. Diversified tourism offer (products and services)</p> <p>10. Sustainable and responsible tourism management (innovation and quality)</p>	<p>A2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors</p>

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CROSS-CUTTING AREAS			
EUSBSR	EUSDR	EUSAIR	EUSALP
Institutional capacity, Governance, Cross-institutions cooperation, Social inclusion			
<p>HA Capacity: Capacity building and involvement</p> <p>HA Neighbours: Creating added value to the Baltic Sea cooperation by working with neighbouring countries and regions</p>	<p>PA7: To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies</p> <p>PA9: To invest in people and skills</p> <p>PA 10: To step up institutional capacity and cooperation</p>	<p>1. Blue technologies</p> <p>3. Maritime and marine governance and services</p> <p>Cross-cutting aspect: Capacity building, including communication</p> <p>7. The marine environment</p>	<p>Cross cutting PA4: Sound macro-regional governance model for the Region (to improve cooperation and the coordination of action)</p> <p>A6: To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources</p>
Spatial planning			
<p>HA: Spatial Planning – Encouraging the use of maritime and land-based spatial planning in all Member States around the Baltic Sea and develop a common approach for cross-border cooperation</p>	<p>PA1: To improve mobility and multi-modality</p> <p>PA2: Energy</p> <p>PA4: To restore and maintain the quality of waters</p> <p>PA5: To manage environmental risks</p> <p>PA6: To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils</p> <p>PA 10: To step up institutional capacity and cooperation</p>	<p>3. Maritime and marine governance and services</p> <p>7. The marine environment</p>	<p>A4: To promote inter-modality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport</p> <p>A7: To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory</p>

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