



Macroregional Strategies - Development, Evaluation & Future Perspectives

Stockholm, 2 April 2014
Ann-Jasmin Krabatsch, DG REGIO



1

What is a Macro-Region?

"An area including territory from a number of different countries or regions associated with one or more common features or challenges."



2

Why do we need Macro-Regional Strategies?

To address **common challenges** and opportunities that go beyond borders and require collective actions.

- *Providing an **integrated framework** for coordinated response to challenges (environment, connectivity, etc.)*
- *Helping to hold up **development***
- ***Unlocking the potential** (R&D, innovation, business, better public services, etc.) of the specific-macro region.*



4

When? Calendar

2009

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

2011

EU Strategy for the Danube Region

2014

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region will be adopted

2015

EU Strategy for the Alpine Region will be adopted

- First comprehensive EU strategy to target a ‘macro-region’
- The **8 EU countries** (SV, EE, FI, DZ, FI, LV, LI, PO) face common challenges reflected in the jointly/agreed **Action Plan**.
- Includes **15 priority areas** (save the sea, connect the region and increase prosperity) over **80 Flagship Projects**.





European
Commission

14
Countries

- **9 EU Member States:** AU, BU, CZ, HU, DE (Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria), RO, SI, HR
- **6 non-MS:** BA, MN, MD, RS, UA



- The European Council of 14th December, invited the EC to put forward a proposal for a new Macro-Regional Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region before the end of 2014.
- The EC will draw up a draft strategy for the 8 countries concerned: (EL, IT, SL, HR, BA, RS, MN, AL) building on the successes of the current Macro-Regions Strategies (Baltic and Danube)



The added-value of macro-regional strategies..

- Facilitation of networking and creation of joint initiatives, as well as political decisions at collective level;
- the more efficient use of money and pooling of resources;
- promotion of integrated approach and greater coordination;
- improvement of existing cooperation mechanisms and strengthened cooperation between participating countries and with neighbouring non-EU countries.

The Council Conclusions following this report were adopted by the General Affairs Council on 22 October 2013, one week before the Annual Forum.

The implementation of the EUSBSR and the EUSDR shows that:



Political commitment is of key importance and varies from country, institutions and level.



All policies and programmes (European, national, regional or local) as well as private sources etc., should be mobilised.



Macro-regional strategies still are a challenge to the administrations concerned.

Recognition of macro-regional strategies as horizontal responsibility of governments concerned

Strengthening of Leadership and ownership of MS/regions concerned

EC will continue to play a key role; however, its support should be better balanced by effective leadership within MS/regions

Monitoring and evaluation of the approach should be based on realistic indicators and targets as well as an overview of priority area activities, etc.

Inclusion of the approach in the new generation of Regulations, especially in Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes;

Report on Governance

- What is working well and what needs to be improved?
- EC is proposing recommendations and options for two existing and two new on their way
- Those need to be translated into Danube context
- Issues range from high-political level (strategic leadership, ownership) to day-to-day implementation

Report on Governance: Next Steps

- Sustainability of the Danube Strategy governance/implementation (technical/focal point, support from the ESIF Operational Programmes).
- Ownership by NCPs/PACs (proactive in bringing the process forward)
- Build on concrete and proved achievements & results as well as added value (political level + for the citizens) – 3rd Annual Forum in Vienna (26/27 June 2014)

Macro-regional strategies: Legal basis in ESIF Regulations

- Partnership Agreement: to set out main priority areas for cooperation, taking account where appropriate of macro-regional and sea-basin strategies. (CPR – Art. 15,2,a,i))
- Programmes (both under Investment for Growth and Jobs and ETC) to set out the contribution of the planned interventions towards macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies, where appropriate (CPR - Art. 96.3.e)

Programming – State of play

- Most Partnership Agreements in line with EUSDR
 - key role for NCPs (input: national coordination)
- Operational Programmes should now make it operational
 - key role for PACs (input: content/mechanisms)

Thank you for your attention !



For more information visit:

www.danube-region.eu

www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/danube/index_en.cfm