



Report on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies

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Report on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies (MRS)

- **Adopted on 16 December 2016**, together with a staff working document describing in more detail the implementation of each MRS
- **Based on Council conclusions of 27 November 2015**, whereby the Council "ASKS the Commission to draft a report every two years, starting end 2016, on the implementation of the EUSALP and TAKES NOTE of the Commission's intention to **draft a single report every two years, starting end 2016, describing the progress made towards the implementation of all macro-regional strategies**, presenting recommendations on possible developments of the Strategies and their Action Plans and/or on how to improve or optimise their implementation, taking into account the particularities of the different strategies"



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Macro-Regions:
Adriatic and Ionian, Alpine, Baltic, Danube

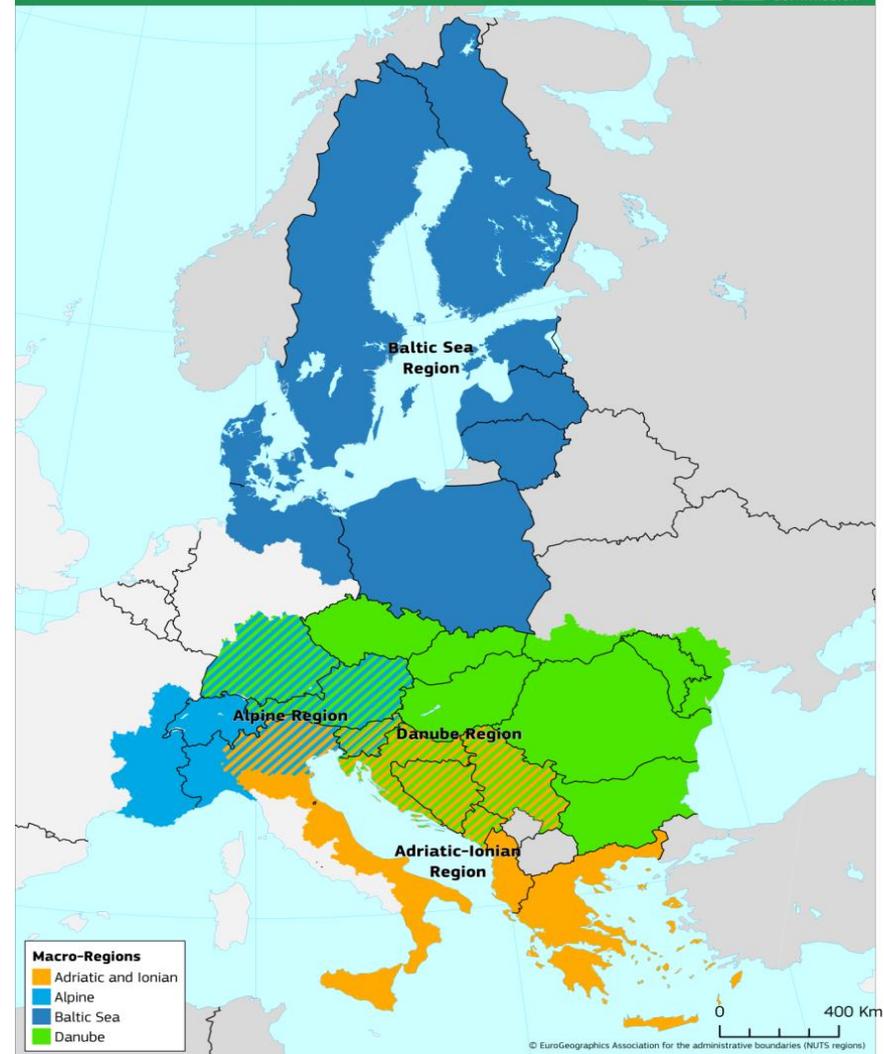


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Scope of the report

COM (2016)805 final of 16 December 2016
SWD (2016) 443 final

- Implementation of **four** current **macro-regional strategies** since 2009
- **19 EU Member States + 8 non-EU countries** covering 270 million inhabitants
- **Draw lessons** in the light of post-2020 policy



MRS: A new reality on European cooperation

- Trend: From programmes to **strategic framework**
- A set of **issues of strategic importance**, identified **for a wider geographical space** approach based on local, regional and national
- Shared challenges and opportunities translated into a limited set of **goals or objectives**
- An **complementary framework** for sectorial EU policies (transport, energy, innovation, environment...)
- A way of promoting **multi-level governance**

State of implementation of MRS

MRS are at different stages of implementation since 2009

The oldest:

- **EUSBSR** - a stable cooperation framework (more than 120 flagships and new networks) but needs to keep momentum and to improve policy coordination and content by building on projects results
- **EUSDR** - implementation on track and better culture cooperation but still some issues (decreasing political momentum, issue of administrative capacity in non-EU countries)

State of implementation of MRS

The latest:

- **EUSAIR** - strong political commitment (see Dubrovnik Ministerial Declaration in May 2016) but shortfalls in implementation (human and funding resources)
- **EUSALP** - quick start of actions/initiatives, largely driven by regions. Active participation of countries also required. Given the high expectations, to be very vigilant on keeping the momentum.

Persisting challenges, though to varying degrees

- **MRS gradually integrated in policy planning at EU level, but more sporadically at national/regional level.** Room for improved coordination among countries
- **Governance** remains the cornerstone of MRS success. **Should also be improved**
- **Monitoring system still missing** to inform decision makers
- Bridging the **gap between MRS and funding opportunities** is an issue
- Strong **communication strategies are needed**

MRS and links with future cohesion policy

- How can **synergies and complementarities between MRS and relevant national or regional programmes** supported by the ESIF be strengthened to maximise impact?
- Should **transnational programmes be (functionally) further aligned with MRS or other transnational cooperation frameworks and initiatives?**
- How the **governance system of MRS**, including the respective roles of all relevant actors, could be further **improved?**

Council conclusions adopted on 25 April 2017

- Calls on participating countries and their regions and the Commission to **further integrate macro-regional strategies**
- Recalls that **all relevant EU and national funding sources should be mobilized** by the participating countries and their regions

Thank you for your attention

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/

<http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/>

<http://www.danube-region.eu/>

<http://www.adriatic-ionician.eu/>

<http://www.alpine-region.eu/>