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EUSBSR EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

DANUBE REGION strategy

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region EUSAIR

EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

Report on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies

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Report on the implementation of EU macroregional strategies (MRS)

- adopted on 16 December 2016, along 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"

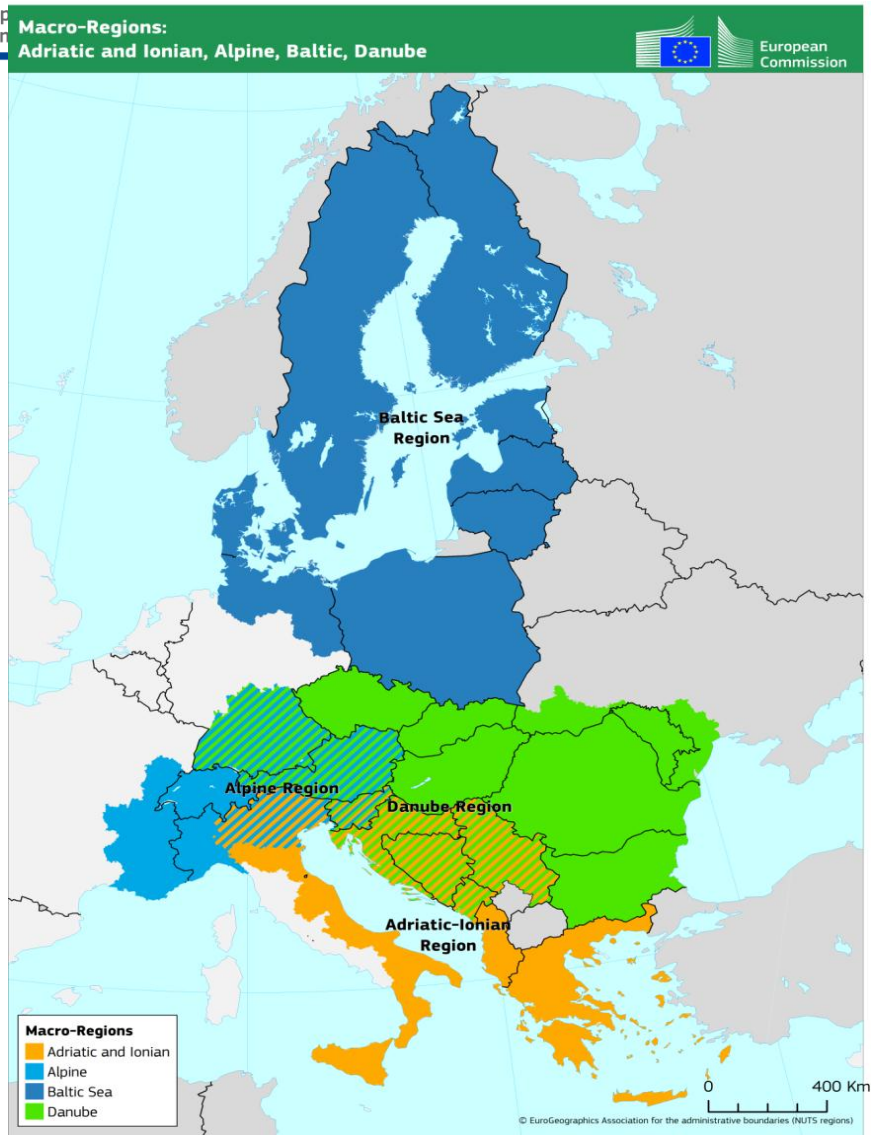
Scope of the report

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 reform



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A new reality on European cooperation

- A bottom up approach based on local, regional and national needs

- An appropriate framework for sectorial EU policies (transport, energy, innovation, environment…)

- More ESIF programmes engaging into MRS

- A way of promoting multi-level governance

- A new element to take account of when addressing challenges over borders (internal and external).

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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

- Robust monitoring system result-oriented still missing to inform decision making

- Despite timid initiatives, bridging the gap between MRS and funding opportunities still an issue

- Strong communication strategies needed.

State of implementation of MRS

MRS are at different stages of implementation since 2009

The oldest:

EUSBSR - *a stable cooperation framework (more than 100 flagships and new networks) but needs to keep momentum and to improve policies 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)*

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State of implementation of MRS

The latest:

EUSAIR - *strong political commitment (cf. 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.*

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How to make better use of MRS potential

- *More effective governance systems (better internal coordination within and between countries, appropriate administrative support)*

- *Stronger focus on results (in line with the 2014-2020 cohesion policy period, search for stronger policy impact of the projects)*

- *Alignment with ESIF programmes on selected priorities and synergies with other funding instruments*

- *MRS nurturing cooperation with third countries.*

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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?*