



Added value of involving non-EU neighbours into the European Macroregional Cooperation

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Four European macro-regional strategies

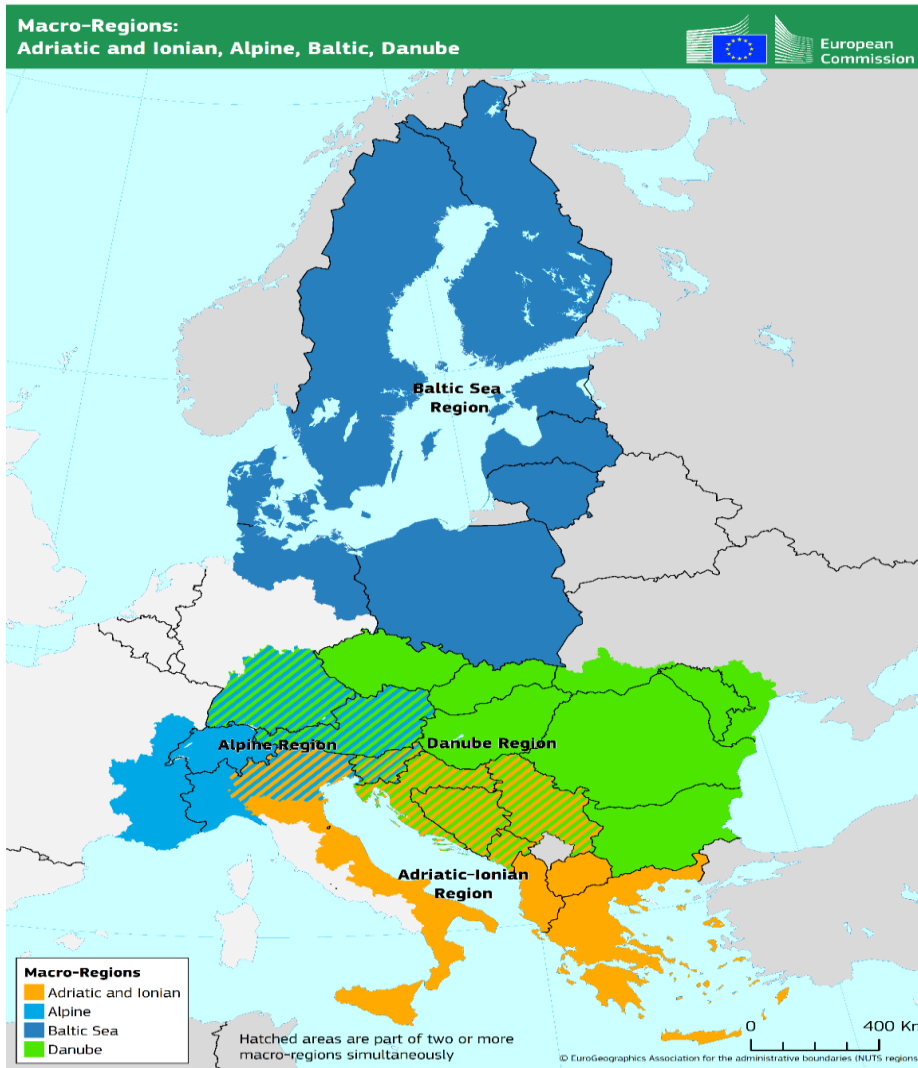
Four EU macro-regional strategies (MRS), involving 19 EU countries and 9 non-EU countries:

[EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region \(EUSBSR\)](#)

[EU Strategy for the Danube Region \(EUSDR\)](#)

[EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region \(EUSAIR\)](#)

[EU Strategy for the Alpine Region \(EUSALP\)](#)



Which are the benefits of macro-regional strategies (MRS)?

A strategic and political process:

- With MRS it is possible to connect European priorities also going beyond the EU with regional ones and target them to a specific geographical context
- MRS are political platforms which can address challenges that go beyond what an individual country can do (water, biodiversity, risks, innovation...)
- MRS help to strenghten relations between participating countries, they can help to create trust

Which are the benefits of macro-regional strategies (MRS)?

A tool to reinforce ownership and multi-level, multi-stakeholder engagement:

- MRS allow to enhance ownership of key EU initiatives such as the European Green Deal and the digital transition, and helps to tailor these initiatives to the specific characteristics of a smaller region
- MRS come with a multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance (political level, administrative level, civil society, youth, other relevant stakeholders...)
- MRS come with no additional money and require participating countries to look beyond their own borders (not only to the benefit of their own citizens but also the ones of their neighbours)

MRS as a tool for working with neighbours

MRS as a strategic framework for active cooperation:

- A tool for neighbouring countries in implementing MRS at different levels of governance and implementation on the ground
- Same priorities in our policy making e.g. European Green Deal, Covid 19 recovery programme
- MRS can facilitate the implementation of European priorities in neighbouring countries: Ex: EUSDR
- Important to involve all relevant stakeholders from the BSR, where Norway and the other neighbouring countries are an integral part. Civil society and youth. Only by engaging relevant multi level stakeholders, the EUSBSR can move forward and implement the new action plan.