

Meeting of macro-regional representatives



13-14 February 2018

Meeting of macro-regional representatives (coordinators, support structures) on capacity building issues in macro-regional strategies

[Hotel Neiburgs](#), Jauniela 25/27, LV-1050,
Riga, Latvia





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Outline

EU macro-regional strategies are aiming at addressing challenges shared within a functional area. They also aim at better implementation of the EU policies and more coordination of existing institutions and financial resources. Macro-regional strategies address broad scope of priorities, making an effort for cooperation and coordination across policies and territories.

Currently there are four EU macro-regional strategies adopted and in different implementation stages. Each of the Strategies foresees capacity building activities for 'internal' (macro-regional key implementers, like thematic coordinators, national coordinators, steering/coordination group members, etc.) and 'external' stakeholders (as such could be mentioned funding programmes, public administrations, etc.). In addition to these external and internal aspects, the EU macro-regional strategies can be seen themselves as tools for capacity development and public sector innovation.

Capacity building support is provided by different structures and different means: appointed coordinators in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Facility Point in the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region or AlpGov Project in the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region. Operation of the Danube Strategy Point (support structure for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region) is closed for the time being. Furthermore, the scope of capacity building support, planned activities and funding of it differ per EU macro-regional strategy.

Acknowledging specifics of how capacity support is planned and provided in each of the macro-regional strategies, common matters can be observed. Valuing individual approaches and experiences and seeing potential for closer exchanges across coordinators and support structures of the EU macro-regional strategies, Interact III Programme is inviting coordinators/support structures providing capacity building support for a joint meeting.

Objectives

The meeting is aiming to bring coordinators/representatives of support structures together for a structured dialogue and sharing experiences in providing capacity building support to macro-regional stakeholders. Potential for further exchanges and cooperation across the EU macro-regional strategies will be explored.

The Day one of the event will be focussing on sharing perception of capacity building, role of coordinators/support structures and needs of macro-regional stakeholders (internal/external), while the Day two will be aiming to define and agree on cooperation across the EU macro-regional strategies on capacity building matters.

The meeting is organised to encourage informal and open discussion across key macro-regional stakeholders.



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Day one

Tuesday, 13 February 2018

11.30 – 13.00

Welcome lunch

13.00 – 13.30

Welcome to the meeting

Baiba Liepa and Jörg Mirtl, Interact

Tour de table

13.30 – 14.15

Capacity development across borders

Anastasia Nekrasova, Runa Business Support

14.15 – 16.00

Capacity building in the macro-regional context

- 'Capacity building' - definition applied in particular macro-regional strategy; distinction between 'individual capacity' and 'institutional capacity' of stakeholders in a macro-region. How to make these capacities meet?
- Where the macro-regional strategy stands in its development (according to the model developed within the [study 'Macro-regional strategies and their links with cohesion policy'](#)¹). *The model will be presented by Jean-Marc Venineaux, DG REGIO.*
- Role of macro-regional coordinators/support structures in providing capacity building support - how do you see and understand it.

All coordinators/representatives of support structures (10-15 min presentation per macro-regional strategy, 30 min joint discussion with all participants, Q&A)

Objectives of the session: this session will address the questions defined above one after another by four representatives of the macro-regions. Coordinators/ representatives of support structures are invited to prepare prior to the meeting their replies to the questions. Current experiences and state of play in macro-regions on capacity building questions will be ensured.

16.00 – 16.30

Coffee break

16.30 – 17.30

Capacity building in the macro-regional context (session continues)

- Stakeholders' needs for capacity building activities.
- What activities and tools are provided to respond to stakeholders' needs; what additional activities/tools are needed; what activities/tools are found most appropriate to provide the support.

¹ See the MRS development model presented in the [study 'Macro-regional strategies and their links with cohesion policy'](#), DG REGIO, 2017, section 5.1, p.84



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All coordinators/representatives of support structures (10-15 min presentation per macro-regional strategy, 30 min joint discussion with all participants, Q&A)

Objectives of the session: this session will address the questions defined above in a 'package' per macro-regional strategy. Coordinators/ representatives of support structures are kindly requested to prepare single presentation in reply to the questions above. Current experiences and state of play in macro-regions on capacity building questions will be shared.

17.30 – 18.30

Capacity Building in the context of development cooperation and alignment to macro-regional strategies (2 examples)

- The Baltic Leadership Programme
Gábor Schneider, Swedish Institute
- Building Administrative Capacities in the Danube Region – the BACID fund
Thomas Prorok, KdZ - Centre for Public Administration Research

Objectives of the session: This session intends to share concrete practice in the field of development cooperation and, more specifically, capacity building. It intends to discuss different approaches in different functional areas and how low levels of administrative capacity can be tackled by aligning efforts of Member States to the macro-regional strategies. It shall also be discussed where they see the added value of the macro-regional strategies.

20.00 – 22.30

Networking dinner

'3 Chefs Restaurant', Torna street 4, Jacobs Barique 2 B, Riga, Latvia

Day two

Wednesday, 14 April 2018

09.00 – 10.30

Capacity building – what activities could be shared across the macro-regional strategies to improve macro-regional governance

All participants

Objective of the session: The session is aiming to identify in what fields of capacity building work (e.g. multi-level governance, communication, macro-regional process development, internal/external capacity building, lobbying, e-governance) coordinators/ support structures would benefit from working together. List of joint activities/tools could be developed.



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10.30 – 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00

Capacity building – what activities could be shared across the macro-regional strategies to improve macro-regional governance (continues)

All participants

Objective of the session: The session is aiming to identify in what fields of capacity building work (e.g. multi-level governance, communication, macro-regional process development, internal/external capacity building, lobbying, e-governance) coordinators/ support structures would benefit from working together. List of joint activities/tools could be developed.

12.00 – 12.30

Interact Capitalisation network on better governance (T011): introduction of the network and potential synergies with macro-regional strategies

Jörg Mirtl, Interact

Objective of the session: The session is aiming to provide information on the Interact Capitalisation network on better governance and see how the network could be used to identify synergies with Interreg and beyond.

12.30 – 13.00

Conclusions from the discussions and closing of the meeting

Baiba Liepa and Jörg Mirtl, Interact

13.00 – 14.30

Farwell lunch



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Practicalities

Venue

The venue for the meeting is [Hotel 'Neiburgs'](#) (meeting room 'Lily'), Jauniela 25/27, LV1050, Riga (Old Town), Latvia.

The dinner will be served in '[3 Chefs Restaurant](#)' ([3 Pavāru Restorāns](#)), Torna street 4, Jacobs Barique 2 B, Riga (Old Town).

Travel

Every participant is responsible to take arrange his/her travel.

Accommodation

Every participant is responsible to arrange his/her accommodation.

The Hotel offers to you accommodation in a studio apartment for a single use for 111.00 EUR/night (including buffet breakfast). In case you would like to book the room in the venue Hotel, please send a request to the email: reservation@neiburgs.com, booking reference 'Interact Office Turku block'.

Other information

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Baiba Liepa (baiba.liepa@interact-eu.net, +358 40 159 9430) or Jörg Mirtl (joerg.mirtl@interact-eu.net, +358 50 395 2680).