

Macro-regional strategies as innovative cooperation platforms for cities and regions



9 October 2018 | 16.30-18.00
European Week of Regions and Cities
Square Conference Centre
Rue Mont des Arts, Brussels, Belgium
Room 311





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Outlines

Four macro-regional strategies have so far been adopted, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, and the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region. Macro-regional strategies can be seen as new international platforms that bring together cooperation and investment. They build upon existing initiatives such as the European Spatial Planning Perspective, Interreg, and numerous regional international platforms.

Cities such as Turku and Hamburg in the Baltic Sea Region, Izola in the Adriatic and Ionian or Vienna in the Danube Region have taken over the lead over policy areas within the respective macro-regional strategies. In addition to this, in order to be even more successful, MRS need to reach out to cities and regions, as well as other local actors. Moreover, the urban agenda has given an additional impetus to the implementation of policies where more than 70% of people in the EU live: in cities and agglomerations. In 2017, the Council of the EU has stressed¹ the paramount importance of the involvement of local authorities in the implementation of macro-regional strategies, highlighting that participating countries are invited to involve “regions, cities, agencies and institutions such as universities, private businesses and civil society, encouraging them to network, cooperate and participate in the implementation and development of macro-regional strategies.” The same applies to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions of December 2017, where the importance of “empowered local stakeholders” was emphasized.²

Objectives

The workshop takes stock of these insights and translate them into concrete practical action. The conclusions of the workshop should feed into the ongoing debate on the future of MRS.

It intends to find answers to the following questions:

- What are the advantages for local and regional authorities to participate in the macro-regional endeavour?
- How have cities and regions contributed to the implementation of macro-regional strategies?
- Which networks of cities have been created in a macro-regional context and how have existing networks contributed to this context?
- Which projects demonstrate the importance of city cooperation in a macro-regional context?
- What are the benefits for cities and regions to participate in the MRS?
- How can cities and regions build sustainable regional partnerships?

¹ 8461/17

² COTER-VI/029



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Time	Contribution	Speaker
16.30	Welcome & introduction	Ann-Jasmin Krabatsch, European Commission, DG Regio Jörg Mirtl, moderator, Interact Programme
16.40	The role of the city of Izola as Governance hub of the Adriatic and Ionian Strategy	Igor Kolenc, Mayor of the city of Izola Iztok Škerlič, Head of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region Facility Point Office Izola-Isola, Slovenia
17.00	Vienna as a catalyst for cooperation – how can cities and regions in the Danube Region be better connected?	Rudolf Schicker, City of Vienna, Coordinator of Priority Area “Institutional Capacity” of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region
17.20	Rolling out a strategy – how do cities collaborate to save the Baltic Sea	Björn Grönholm, Head of Secretariat at Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission
17.40	Activities of the CPMR Macro-Regions Task Force: Strengthening regions in macro-regional strategies	Pauline Caumont, Executive Secretary of the Atlantic Arc Commission/Macro-Regions Task Force, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions
18.00	Questions & Conclusions	Audience and moderator



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Venue

