

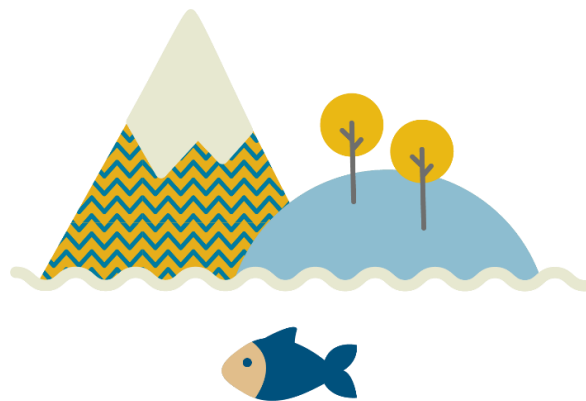
Meeting of macro-regional coordinators



4-5 December 2019

**Building common cross-MRS collaboration platform on biodiversity with
specific focus on ecological connectivity**

Palace Hotel Zagreb, Trg Josipa Jurja Strossmayera 10
Zagreb, Croatia





Building common cross-MRS collaboration platform on bio-diversity topics

4-5 December 2019
Zagreb, Croatia

Outline

EU macro-regional strategies (MRS/Strategy) address societal and ecological challenges shared within a wider territory. The Strategies work towards coordinated development and implementation of EU policies, they address challenges across borders, integrating various policy sectors and taking multilevel governance as their guiding principle. The MRS helps to incorporate different perspectives to find a more effective way of addressing common matters. Neighbouring countries are involved in the MRS, therefore the Strategies are not just tools for supporting integration within the European Union but also across the whole of Europe.

Four existing MRS are at different implementation stages, though there are similarities between them. The MRS are very much alike in terms of thematic, governance structures and implementation processes. Each Strategy aims to achieve set objectives, defined targets and indicators.

We, the Interact Programme, support the development of new ways of cooperation involving the macro-regional framework. Moreover, the Council Conclusions on the implementation of the MRS¹ request that Interact supports exchanges across the MRS.

Meeting across the MRS coordinators dealing with biodiversity and ecological connectivity thematic is initiated by the coordinators of the EUSDR priority area 6 'To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils'. The initiative is elaborated within the DTP-PAC-1PA6 project of the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme. The Project activity '*Fostering synergies across MRS*', aims to explore potential for more systematic sectoral exchange and cooperation of thematic areas of the existing MRS.

The EUSALP Action group 7 'To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory' has been also expressing their interest in cross-MRS exchange.

Objectives

The meeting aims at fostering an exchange of experience and explore further collaboration potential across the MRS in the field of ecological connectivity.. Moreover, the participants will look into initiatives that have the potential to be transferred to other macro-regions.

Primarily target group for the event is thematic coordinators from all MRS, project implementers and Interreg programmes dealing with the topic.

¹ Council Conclusions on the implementation of the macro-regional strategies, 8461/17 as of April 2017; Council Conclusions on the added value of the MRS, 22 October 2013.



**Building common cross-MRS collaboration platform on
bio-diversity topics**
4-5 December 2019
Zagreb, Croatia

Day one

Wednesday, 4 December 2019

12.00 – 13.00

Welcome lunch

13.00 – 13.30

Welcome and introduction to the meeting

Mislav Kovač, National Coordinator for the EUSDR

Baiba Liepa, Interact

EUSDR PA6 Coordinators

Tour de table

13.30 – 14.00

**EU framework for biodiversity and ecological connectivity: focus on
Green Infrastructure**

*Giacomo Luciani, Directorate General for Regional and Urban
Policy, EU Commission*

14.00 – 14.30

Territorial potentials for green infrastructure

Michaela Gensheimer, ESPON Programme

14.30 – 15.30

**Biodiversity thematic, with specific focus on ecological
connectivity, in the MRS and other frameworks**

Brief presentations by coordinators

Objective of the session:

To share background on how the MRS address the biodiversity and especially ecological connectivity topic. This session will also include a brief update on the Carpathian Convention.

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 – 17.00

Initiative/project pitches

Georg Frank, DANUBEPARKS - Network Of Protected Areas

Irena Bertonec, Albionet and DINNALPCONNECT projects

Ana Maria Seman & Andrea Solic, WWF- World Wildlife Fund

Boris Kolar, Task Force on pesticides and chemicals

Questions/answers session

Objective of the session:

To learn about ongoing initiatives and good practices that have a potential to be transferred to other regions or up-scaled to cross macro-regional initiatives.

17.00 – 17.50

Group discussion: Identifying initiatives with cross-MRS potential

Tasks:

- *Based on the project/initiative pitches and background provided by MSR coordinators, agree on what practices could be elaborated further into a joint MRS initiative;*
- *Consider and agree on cross-MRS collaboration actions.*



**Building common cross-MRS collaboration platform on
bio-diversity topics**
4-5 December 2019
Zagreb, Croatia

17.50 – 18.00 **Closure of Day 1**

20.00 – 22.30 Networking diner
Restoran Vinodol i caffe bar Boja
Teslina 10, Zagreb

Day two **Thursday, 5 December 2019**

09.00 – 09.20 **Introduction to Day 2**
Ilze Ciganska, Interact

09.20 – 11.30 **Thematic cross- macro-regional collaboration: What, Who and How**

**Group discussion: Cross-MRS collaboration initiatives and further
exchanges across MRS thematic coordinators**

Tasks:

- *Building on the discussion from the Day 1, develop a practical approach on how to implement identified initiative(s): what are the needed steps, what are the existing formats, meetings that can be used to address these topics;*
- *What are enabling conditions for the initiatives to be implemented?*
- *Milestones and lead for the implementation.*
- *Potential funding for the initiatives.*

Coffee will be served during the group discussions

Feedback from the groups

Objective of the session:

To elaborate further on defined initiatives within ecological connectivity in MRS.

11.30 – 12.30 **Final reflections on the discussions and next steps**
Ana Kobašić and Florian Ballnus, EUSDR, PA 6 'To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils'

12.30 – 12.45 **Closing of the meeting**
Baiba Liepa and Ilze Ciganska, Interact

12.45 – 14.00 Ferewell Lunch



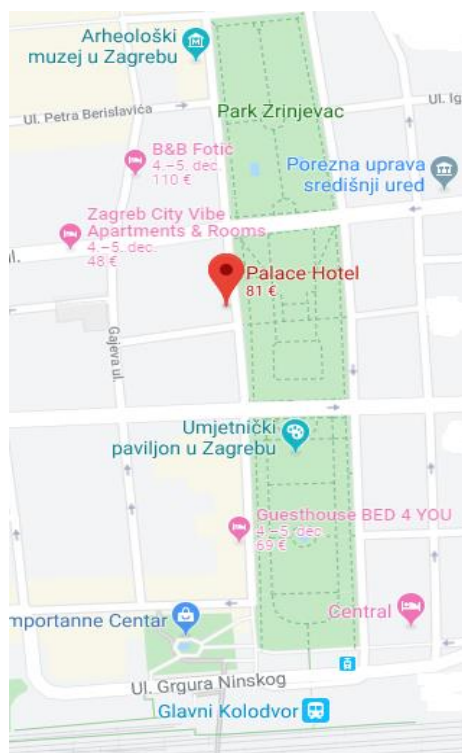
Building common cross-MRS collaboration platform on bio-diversity topics

4-5 December 2019
Zagreb, Croatia

Practicalities

Venue

The meeting is held in [Palace Hotel Zagreb](#), Trg Josipa Jurja Strossmayera 10, Zagreb, Croatia.



The meeting participants are kindly invited to the networking dinner that will be held on 4 December 2019 at 20:00-22:30 (restaurant tbc).

Travel

Every participant is responsible to take care of his/her travel.

Accommodation

Every participant is responsible for his/her accommodation arrangements.

Other information

Only registered participants will be accepted for the meeting. To register, please follow the link [here](#). The registration is open until 22 November 2019!

Any questions and uncertainties reading the event should be addressed to Baiba Liepa, (baiba.liepa@interact-eu.net, +358 40 159 9430 or Ilze Ciganska, ilze.ciganska@interact-eu.net, +358 50 396 4891).