

The European Green Deal and MRS



21-22 September 2020

The opportunities of the European Green Deal and the EU macro-regional strategies

Online event, Central European Time





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Outlines

The European Green Deal is the new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy. It also aims to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. At the same time, this transition must be just and inclusive. To achieve the ambitions of the reforms assuring that Europe becomes the first climate-neutral continent, solidarity and regional cooperation are vital. Therefore, as an integrated part of the Cohesion Policy, EU macro-regional strategies (MRS) can play a crucial role here. The MRS are addressing the challenges and needs of that particular territory, as well as share opportunities. The uniqueness of the MRS is in creating place-based solutions to these challenges by engaging relevant stakeholders from various governance levels. MRS as a multi-level coordination framework lead the change and at the same time make sure that no region, institution or citizen will be left behind during the development process.

All four existing MRS are addressing environmental challenges assuring cooperation to deal with floods, pollution in the sea or securing biodiversity and sustainable use of resources. Furthermore, by bringing regions together, the EU macro-regional strategies help to build links between innovation ecosystems and explore the best ways for cooperation and more efficient use of resources.

However, the potential of Strategies is not yet fully exploited. Cooperation is crucial to deliver European Green Deal, even more in times when the whole of Europe is trying to recover from an economic crisis caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020.

Objectives

The meeting will invite MRS thematic coordinators, Commission as well as environmental experts, to kick off the debate on how to best use the framework provided by MRS to achieve objectives and ambitions set by the European Green Deal.

The event will also investigate the potentials of MRS in creating place-based and inclusive actions within and across European macro-regions. It will focus on the topic "Ecological corridors to prevent genetic isolation (Blue and Green infrastructure)" discussing it in a scope of European Green Deal and EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, keeping biodiversity and economic recovery in the centre of the talk.



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Online event

Day one

Monday, 21 September 2020 (times indicated in CET)

13.30 – 14.00

Check-in to a virtual meeting room and technical settings

Please join the virtual meeting room in good time to test technical settings and to ensure we can start on time. *Link to the meeting platform is provided in the practicalities section here below.*

The room will be open 30 min before the meeting starts (i.e., at 13:30 CET). Be aware that online checking in may take some time.

14.00 – 14.20

Introduction and welcome

*Danilo Markočič, Mayor of Municipality of Izola, Slovenia
(recorded welcoming is available [here](#))*

Andreja Jerina, National Coordinator for EUSAIR, EUSALP and EUSDR in Slovenia

14.20 – 14.40

European Green Deal – opportunities for macro-regional actions

Mitja Bricelj, EUSAIR Pillar 3 'Environmental Quality' Coordinator, Slovenia

Senad Oprašić, EUSAIR Pillar 3 'Environmental Quality' Coordinator, Bosnia and Herzegovina

14.40 – 16.15

EU macro-regional strategies as a framework to advance the implementation of the European Green Deal

Panel discussion, Questions and Answers

Andreja Jerina, National Coordinator for EUSAIR, EUSALP and EUSDR in Slovenia

Sander Happaerts, DG REGIO (Unit G1, Competence Centre Smart and Sustainable Growth), European Commission

Giacomo Luciani, DG REGIO (Unit D1, Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional/External Cooperation, Enlargement), European Commission

Carlo Franzosini, AdriaPAN - Adriatic Protected Areas Network

Concluding statement by *Marko Starman, Municipality of Izola on behalf of the EUSAIR Pillar 3 'Environmental Quality'*

Objectives of the session: The aim of this session is to discuss the role of macro-regions as a policy framework leading to coordinated actions and synergies in bringing forward the European Green Deal, especially in Western Balkan context. This session will look into opportunities, potentials and mutual benefits of macro-regional cooperation for more sustainable, green and inclusive Europe. Furthermore, the session will build on the expert input provided in video presentations.

The list of presentations is the following:



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The European Green Deal, Cohesion Policy 2021-2027 and the Recovery Plan for Europe

Sander Happaerts, DG REGIO (Unit G1, Competence Centre Smart and Sustainable Growth), European Commission

The European Green Deal and EU macro-regional strategies: complementarities, potentials and mutual benefits

Giacomo Luciani, DG REGIO (Unit D1, Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional/External Cooperation, Enlargement), European Commission

EU macro-regional strategies as frameworks for cooperation with our neighbours

Metka Gorišek, State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

EU external dimension: cooperation in Western Balkans and the European Green Deal

Carlo Franzosini, AdriaPAN - Adriatic Protected Areas Network

To prepare for the discussion, please watch the presentations [here](#). The session will be run as a webinar. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions during the session by using www.sli.do.

End of Day 1

Day two

Tuesday, 22 September 2020 (times indicated in CET)

09.30 – 10.00

Check-in to a virtual meeting room and technical settings

Please join the virtual meeting room in good time to test technical settings and to ensure we can start on time. *Link to the meeting platform is provided in the practicalities section here below.*

10.00 – 12.30

Macro-regional actions contributing to the European Green Deal and the economic recovery:

Ecological corridors to prevent genetic isolation (Blue and Green infrastructure): the business case for biodiversity

Panel discussion, Questions and Answers

Karin Zaunberger, DG ENVIRONMENT (Unit D2, Biodiversity), European Commission

Michaela Künzl, EUSALP Action Group 7 'Green Infrastructure' Leader, Bavaria, Germany

Representative of the EUSDR Priority Area 6 'Biodiversity, Landscapes and Air & Soil Quality'

Mitja Bricelj, EUSAIR Pillar 3 'Environmental Quality' Coordinator, Slovenia



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Objectives of the session: The session aims to launch a discussion on the importance of macro-regional collaboration, its potentials and approaches. The session will showcase EU macro-regional strategies contribution to the implementation of the European Green Deal and to the economic recovery through concrete macro-regional actions, underlining the business, investments and employment opportunities led by nature restoration. Speakers will provide their views on how they suggest keeping a balance between economic interests and growth while getting more aware of environmentally responsible economy. Besides, the speakers will elaborate on messages to be brought forward to a political panel during the EUSAIR annual forum 2021 debate.

Before the session, please see the presentation by *Karin Zaunberger, DG ENVIRONMENT, European Commission* '**The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives**'. The presentation is available on the event website [here](#).

Please see the background paper prepared by the EUSAIR Pillar 3 'Environmental Quality' coordinators, that will serve the basis for the discussion [here](#)

Participants will have an opportunity to participate in discussion with panellists.

Recorded closing remarks and messages on the way forward

Andreja Jerina, National Coordinator for EUSAIR, EUSALP and EUSDR in Slovenia

Humberto Delgado Rosa, DG ENVIRONMENT (Director, Directorate D-Natural Capital), European Commission

Jean-Pierre Halkin, DG REGIO (Head of Unit D1, Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional/External Cooperation, Enlargement), European Commission

Mitja Bricelj, EUSAIR Pillar 3 'Environmental Quality' Coordinator, Slovenia

Senad Oprašić, EUSAIR Pillar 3 'Environmental Quality' Coordinator, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Objectives of the session: Recorded video messages will wrap up the discussions during the two days of the event. It will highlight macro-regional cooperation potential in the implementation of the European Green Deal. The messages drawn by the event participants will be reflected and later brought forward to political panel discussion planned to be held during the EUSAIR annual forum 2021.

Recorded conclusions will be made available online on the event webpage [here](#) shortly after the event.



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Practicalities

Please join the virtual meeting room in good time before the meeting starts. This will allow us to test technical settings and to ensure we can start on time.

There are **two links to the meeting rooms one for each day:**

Day 1: Monday 21 September, 13.30 – 16.15 (CET) we meet

<https://www.gotomeet.me/EusairStakeholderPlatform10/workshop-on-the-opportunities-of-green-deal-for-ma>

Day 2: Tuesday, 22 September, 9.30 – 12.30 (CET) we meet

<https://www.gotomeet.me/EusairStakeholderPlatform10/workshop-on-the-opportunities-of-green-deal-for--1>

The room will open 30 min before the meeting starts (i.e., at 13:30 CET on Monday). Be aware that online checking in may take some time.

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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In case of any trouble, please address Maja Mahne, maja.mahne@izola.si, +386 030 717 238 or Baiba Liepa, baiba.liepa@interact-eu.net, +358 401 599 430.