



The story of macro-regions and their strategies

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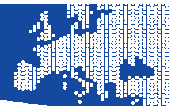
Macro-region...?

An area including territory from a number of different countries or regions associated with one or more common features or challenges



A macro-region will involve several regions in several countries but the number of MS should be significantly fewer than in the Union as a whole

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Macro-region strategy...?

An integrated framework that allows the European Union and Member States to identify needs and allocate available resources thus enabling a macro-region to enjoy sustainable environment and optimal economic and social development.



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Baltic sea macro-region strategy - why?

- Commitment on highest political level
- Clearer Baltic SEA region identity
- Alignment of policies / funding
- Better alignment of policy development at the European level, at the Baltic level
- Better co-operation at macro-region level
- Integrated Maritime Policy
- Better discussions and coordination with third countries
- Improvement of Spatial Planning



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Baltic sea macro-region strategy - how?

Policy development: European Council

Coordination, monitoring and follow-up: European Commission

Member State or equivalent to coordinate Priority Areas;

Ministry, agency, or other body to lead flagship projects

Simple implementation system: making better use of existing institutions, funding, and legislation.

Annual Forum with stakeholders

No new institutions, no new funding, no new legislation



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Baltic sea macro-region strategy - how?

- Analytical report on the Baltic Sea Region
- Rolling EU Action Plan for Baltic Sea Region:
 - Actors responsible
 - Concrete actions to address challenges
 - Deadlines
 - Regular reviews
- 70 actions, 80 flagship projects
- Better use of existing funding, esp. via EU programmes at all levels but also national, regional, local, IFIs, private sector



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Danube macro-region strategy – how?

Ingredients (lessons learned from the Baltic Sea exercise):

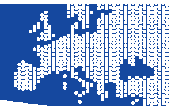
- Move from political statements to **action**;
- **Simple / straightforward approach** needed;
- **Integrated approach** (not compartmentalised);
- Use the strong potential for **improvement**;
- **Stakeholder involvement** demanded.



Danube macro-region strategy – when?

Going backwards:

- Spring 2011 :Presidency Conclusions then HU Presidency first half 2011
- Sep 2010-Dec 2010: adoption of strategy and launch (ISC, adoption procedure, launch)
- Apr 2010-Sep 2010: validation of a first draft (esp with MS)
- Nov 2009-Apr 2010: formal discussion phase (Stakeholder Conferences, Thematic roundtables, Web consultation)
- Sep 2009-Nov 2009: start up phase and informal discussions (ad-hoc workshops, meetings)



Danube macro-region strategy – what?



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Thank you

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