

# State of play of the debate on the macro- regions approach in Europe: current situation in the European territories

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# What is a Macro Region?

- *“an area including territory from a number of different countries or regions associated with one or more common features or challenges (...) geographic, cultural, economic or other”*

# Why?

- Added value →
- Integrated approach: collective action that strives towards a common objective, integrating various actors, policies and financing plans → Greater efficiency in transnational and cross-border issues compared to efforts undertaken individually and in a fragmented manner

# How?

- No New Legislation → Main Content is the Plan of Action → “Bottom Up” Process
- No New Funding
- No New Institutions → New multi-level and multi-actor governance → European Commission is the overall coordinator, while the strategy is drafted and implemented by the national and sub-national governments and different stakeholders

# When?

- The EU Council, by September 2010 should ask that:
  - All EU macro-regional strategies to be implemented from 2014 be developed by the end of 2012
  - The EU Commission proposes a conceptual and operational framework by June 2011
- The debate on the areas which could benefit from Macro-regional strategies could be carried out within each of the 13 transnational cooperation programmes by the end of 2011:
  - A general debate would deal with the definition of the relevant area
  - Thematic conferences would help identifying a small number of priorities to be integrated in the Strategy.
- Member States would identify the Macro-regional strategies to be developed by the end of 2011. They will be prepared during 2012.

# 1. Europe's Macro-Regions. BALTIC SEA Strategy. Who?

- 8 EU Member States:
- Sweden
- Finland
- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Denmark
- Poland
- Germany
- + Russia, but involved only in specific projects via existing regional frameworks such as the Northern Dimension

# Europe's Macro-Regions. Baltic Sea Strategy. Calendar

- 14 December 2007 → European Council invites the Commission to present an EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region at the latest by June 2009
- 10 June 2009 → EC adopted a Communication on the Strategy
- October 2009 → European Council endorsed the Strategy under the Swedish EU Presidency

# Baltic Sea Strategy. Pillars

- 4 pillars to make the Baltic Sea Region →
- An environmentally sustainable place
- A prosperous place
- An accessible and attractive place
- A safe and secure place

# Baltic Sea Strategy. Outputs

- Rolling Action Plan for the Baltic Sea Region with 15 priority areas, actions and examples of flagship projects
- Analytical report on the Baltic Sea Region

# Baltic Sea Strategy.

## Outputs

Table 1: Pillars and priority areas of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Pillar/priority area	Coordinating country/-ies	Number of actions
<b><i>Pillar I: To make the Baltic Sea an environmentally sustainable place</i></b>		
1. To reduce nutrient inputs to the sea to acceptable levels	Poland/Finland	5
2. To preserve natural zones and biodiversity, including fisheries	Germany	2
3. To reduce the use and impact hazardous substances	Sweden	3
4. To become a model region for clean shipping	Denmark	2
5. To mitigate and adapt to climate change	Denmark	3
<b><i>Pillar II: To make the Baltic Sea region a prosperous place</i></b>		
6. To remove hindrances to the internal market in the Baltic Sea	Estonia	6
7. To exploit the full potential of the region in research and innovation	Sweden/Poland	2
8. Implementing the Small Business Act: to promote entrepreneurship, strengthen SMEs and increase the efficient use of human resources	Denmark	9
9. To reinforce sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries	Finland	7
<b><i>Pillar III: To make the Baltic Sea region an accessible and attractive place</i></b>		
10. To improve the access to, and efficiency and security of the energy markets	Latvia/Denmark	3
11. To improve internal and external transport links	Lithuania/Sweden	5
12. To maintain and reinforce attractiveness of the Baltic Sea region in particular through education, tourism and health	Tourism: Germany (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) Health: Northern Dimension Partnership on Public Health Education: Germany	10
<b><i>Pillar IV: To make the Baltic sea region a safe and secure place</i></b>		
13. To become a leading region in maritime safety and security	Finland/Denmark	4
14. To reinforce protection from major emergencies at sea and on land	Denmark	2
15. To decrease the volume of, and harm done by, cross border crime	Finland	3
<b><i>Horizontal Actions</i></b>	European Commission	10

# Baltic Sea Strategy. Outcomes

- 70 actions, 80 flagship projects
- Alignment of policies / funding
- Coordination in implementing of EU legislation
- Improvement of Spatial Planning
- Integrated Maritime Policy

# Baltic Sea Strategy.

## Outcomes. Examples of Flagship Projects

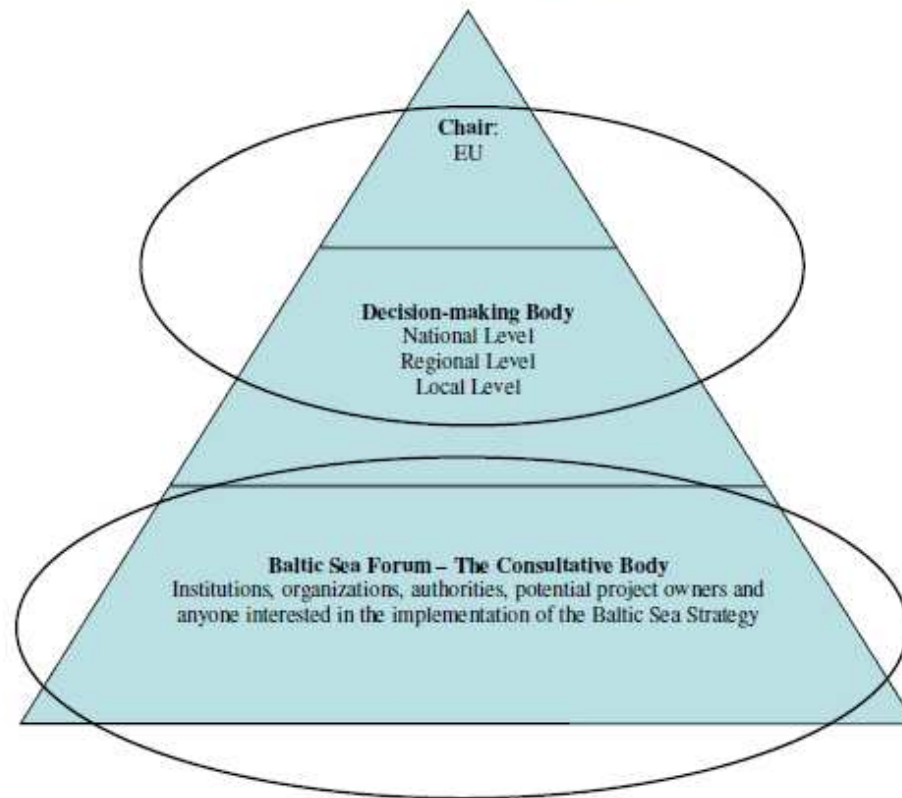
- Remove phosphates in detergents
- Create marine protected areas
- A fund for innovation and research
- Promote environmental technologies
- Encourage sustainable aquaculture
- Connect the Baltic States to the energy networks
- Improve transport infrastructures
- Establish joint curricula in universities
- Integrate the maritime surveillance systems
- Better cooperation in case of marine pollution

# Baltic Sea Strategy. How?

- An EU governance structure for delivery  
→
- General Affairs Council responsible
- Commission to facilitate, monitor, update, evaluate
- High level group
- Coordinate for 15 Priority Areas of Action Plan
- Lead Partners for flagship projects

# Baltic Sea Strategy. How?

Model of Governance



# Baltic Sea Strategy. Implementation

- Policy development: European Council
- Coordination, monitoring and follow-up: European Commission
- Implementation on the ground: Member State or equivalent to coordinate Priority Area; Ministry, agency, or other body to lead flagship projects
- Annual Forum with stakeholders

# Baltic Sea Strategy. Implementation

- 21 October : Kick-off meeting with the Priority Area coordinators and national contact points (transformation into high-level working group)
- April 2010 – Brussels - High Level Group meeting
- 1-2 June 2010 – Vilnius – Baltic Development Forum Summit 2010
- 14-15 October 2010 – Tallinn - Annual Stakeholder Forum

# Baltic Sea Strategy. Reviews and Update

- The first review and update of the action plan will take place during the PL presidency in 2011, to be followed during later BSR presidencies:
  - Denmark 2012
  - Lithuania 2013
  - Latvia 2015

## 2. Europe's Macro-Regions. DANUBE Strategy. Who?

- 14 Countries → 8 EU Member States and 6 Non EU →
- Germany , Austria, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Romania, Bulgaria, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine

# Danube Strategy. Calendar

- 19 June 2009 → The European Council has formally asked the European Commission to prepare an EU Strategy for the Danube Region before the end of 2010.
- During this first half of 2010, the Commission is consulting the relevant stakeholders.
- After this consultation, the Commission will propose an Action Plan and a governance system to be formally adopted in December 2010 in the form of a Communication on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

# Danube Strategy. Pillars

- At this stage, it is envisaged to have 3 pillars →
- To improve connectivity and communication systems ( covering in particular transport, energy issues and the information society);
- To preserve the environment and prevent against natural risks;
- To reinforce the potential for socio-economical development

### 3. Europe's Macro-Regions. ADRIATIC Strategy. Who?

- Italy
- Republic of Croatia
- Slovenia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Republic of Montenegro
- Republic of Albania
- Greece

# Adriatic Strategy. Calendar

- 22 Oct 2009 → The Adriatic Euroregion Assembly launches the initiative for creating the Adriatic Strategy based on its Statute adopted in Pula on 30 June 2006, which prescribes the power of the Assembly to determine the basic elements of the Adriatic Euroregion operational policy, to launch initiatives...
- 24 February 2010 → CoR → Conference on An Adriatic Strategy towards European integration

# Adriatic Strategy. Objectives

- Integrated approach to contemplation, planning and management of land and sea area, to environmental protection, use of natural resources and sustainable development,
- Strengthening the institutional, cultural, economic and transport connections ,
- Establishing a framework for a coordinated and effective cooperation in the Adriatic area in the preparation and implementation of projects financed by the European Union funds,
- Strengthening competitiveness based on knowledge, high technology and innovations through a systematical development of human resources.

## 4. Europe's Macro-Regions. NORTH SEA Strategy. Calendar

- 26 June 2009, Annual Business Meeting → North Sea Commission (NSC) decided to prepare for a Strategy for the North Sea Area.
- Sep 2009 → 1st draft paper of priorities for a Strategy was presented
- Sep 2009 → a steering group was established consisting of representatives from NSC, CoR (Intergroup for North Sea/ English Channel), North Sea RAC and Interreg North Sea Programme.
- 17 – 18 March 2010 → Stakeholder Conference in Newcastle → start of the consultation process → different seminars during 2010

# North Sea Strategy. Objectives

- Managing Maritime Space
- Increasing Accessibility and Attractiveness
- Tackling Climate Change
- Promoting innovation and excellence
- Sustaining liveable communities

## 5. Europe's Macro-Regions: ATLANTIC ARC Strategy. Calendar

- First Half of 2010 → The Spanish EU Presidency has called for an 'Atlantic Arc' strategy for cooperation between Western Europe's maritime countries .
- 16 February 2010, CPMR Political Bureau → Spanish Territorial Minister expressed his support for an integrated Atlantic macro-strategy to be pushed at EU level

# Atlantic Arc Strategy.

## Objectives

- To protect:
- The environment and biodiversity: the Atlantic coast is particularly threatened by climate change but equally by human activity. Durable rural urban development must also be taken into account.
  
- To value:
- Benefit from the territory's resources by the development or the reinforcement of the sectors: economy of knowledge, tourism, sailing, marine research and innovation, offshore energies, eco-activities, maritime transport, fishing, naval construction, development des ports, formation, etc.
  
- To make the territories more accessible: development of new maritime connections, improvement of the existing infrastructure networks, development of the TICs, encouragement for the territory's parties to work in a network.

# 6. Europe's Macro-Regions. Mediterranean Sea. Calendar

- 5 February 2010 → IMC Political Bureau → launch of the initiative for the creation of a Mediterranean Macro-Region, and mandate the Mediterranean Research Institutes to prepare the scientific methodology for the operation
- 13 April 2010 → Europe's Macro-Regions Forum → the 1st Vice-president of CoR refers to the creation of a Mediterranean Macro-Region
- 6 May 2010, BX\_ GT CT CIM\_ Campania Region
- 15 May 2010, Palermo\_

# Mediterranean Calendar

- 18 May 2010\_ Roma (ITC\_Macro)
- 21 May 2010\_ Gijón (MED)
- 25 May 2010\_ Valencia (CT+V)
- 14-15 June 2010 \_Sevilla

## Master Class MedGouvernance

- 16-17 June2010\_Bruxelles. EU2020+Macro (Arco Latino)
- 17 June 2010\_Bari. ENPI+MED\_IT
- 1 July 2010\_BX\_CIM+CRPM

# Mediterranean Sea. Calendar

- 13 September 2010\_Ioannina, AG CIM
- October 2010\_ DG MARE; PMIMED

# Mediterranean Sea Macro-Region.

## Issues to face

- The hypothesis of establishing a macro-regional strategy in the Mediterranean must, therefore, face various issues  
→
- Multi-level and multi-actor governance and coordination, between the instruments and financial resources;
- Functional aspects and priorities in an integrated approach;
- Scale and external dimension
- Relations with the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and Union for the Mediterranean;
- Relations with operative programmes for territorial cooperation and strategic projects, Euro regions and EGTC.

# Mediterranean Sea Macro-Region.

## Possible Priorities

- Sustainability & Environment & Climate Change
- Accesibility & Transport & Energy
- Innovation & Research & Competitiveness
- Employment & Education
- Security & Immigration
- Tourism & Culture

# MacroMED

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