

MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE  
OF HUNGARY



The Hungarian Presidency of the  
EU Strategy for the Danube Region

# Embedding Macro-Regional Strategies in the Regulatory Framework post 2020



# Bavarian EUSALP Presidency 2017

- Stronger embedding of MRS in the Regulatory Framework post 2020 = one of the main political goals!
  - Key events:
    - February 2017: Joint Declaration by EUSALP General Assembly
    - April 2017: Position paper by EUSALP member states and regions
    - May 2017: Presentation of the position paper in Brussels at meeting of “Friends of EUSALP” Group
    - May 2017: Position paper by “Friends of EUSALP”

**Save the date:**

**EUSALP Annual Forum 2017 – 23. / 24. November 2017 in Munich**

# EUSALP position paper: Key messages


- MRS are politically established frameworks with a clear added value
  - make European policy goals more visible and understandable to citizens
  - provide practical arguments for debating the future of the EU
- MRS are currently limited in their ability to unfold their full potential
  - Reason: insufficient coordination of MRS with existing financial instruments
- Better embedding into EU policies post 2020 would improve impact
  - Inter alia, operational programmes should support macro-regional projects better

# The current situation

- MRS remain “light” instruments but are meant to play a key role of policy coordination
- Wasted potential due to insufficient programmes and resources for funding promising MRS projects
- Full embedding of MRS in the various policy frameworks is facing a number of challenges
- EU programme preparations had already been very advanced when some of the MRS came into effect



# The current situation

- Art 27 CPR No 1303/2013: ESIF funds shall set out the contribution of planned interventions to macroregional strategies in accordance with the needs of the programme area
  - High political relevance of MRS
  - Based on official COM Communications, endorsed by European Council, supported by the European Parliament
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# The current situation

## BUT:

- There are not enough programmes / resources available for funding promising MRS projects
- MRS are not sufficiently embedded into EU policy framework and corresponding funding programmes
  - Some MRS were set into force when the corresponding EU programme was already far advanced
  - MRS are treated very differently in the various programmes
  - Different funding instruments have their own intervention logic, timelines, priorities, procedures etc.

# The future perspective

- MRS must be better embedded into EU policy post 2020:
  - Stronger synergies between MRS, regional multilateral agreements and COM-managed EU programmes (Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, Creative Europe, COSME, LIFE, CEF, EFSI etc.)
- No conflict with “3 NOs”:
  - Instead of new policy initiatives, specific synchronisation of existing instruments
  - Instead of new funds, a more coordinated use of the already available funding at all levels, tailored to support the MRS
  - Instead of new institutions, existing support structures should be strengthened

# Suggested improvements

## 1. Enhanced recognition of MRS in legislative documents

- Consider MRS in the process of drafting future legislation and programmes
- Underline political relevance of MRS objectives and set clear definition for MRS in the EU regulatory framework

MRS are integral part of the relevant EU, national and regional strategies  
→ this needs to be reflected in the future policy framework!



# Suggested improvements

## 2. Improve the institutional framework for implementing MRS

- Better alignment and strategic coherence between MRS and EU / national programmes needed, e.g. concerning targets and intervention priorities
- Where appropriate, enhance provisions for cooperation possibilities between operational programmes
- Ensure adequate positioning and coordination of MRS within the European Commission

The success of MRS depends on the possibilities for promising projects to benefit from funding opportunities!

# Suggested improvements

## 3. Better addressing of available funds to implement the goals of MRS

- Encourage Operational Programmes to better support MRS objectives and projects (e.g. improve exchange of information, coordination etc.)
- Streamline priorities and project selection procedures
- Make support for MRS governance structures more flexible and sustainable

INTERREG programmes should play a key role in funding MRS projects  
-> they should be aligned to the strategies!



# Supporters

- Freistaat Bayern, Presidency 2017 of the EU Alpine Strategy (EUSALP)
  - Land Baden-Württemberg, Presidency 2015 of the EU Danube Strategy (EUSDR)
  - Land Tirol, Presidency 2018 of the EU Alpine Strategy (EUSALP)
  - Regione Lombardia
  - Regione Piemonte
  - Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia
  - Regione del Veneto
  - Provincia Autonoma Bolzano-Alto Adige / Autonome Provinz Bozen-Südtirol
  - Regione Autonoma Valle d´Aosta / Région Autonome Vallée d´Aoste
  - Provincia Autonoma di Trento
  - Regione Liguria
  - Land Niederösterreich
  - Land Kärnten
  - Région Auvergne Rhône-Alpes
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Thank you for your attention!

