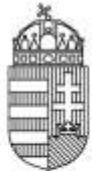


15 years supporting cooperation



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MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
OF HUNGARY



The Hungarian Presidency of the
EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Results from 2 studies conducted by Interact:

1. Cooperation methods and tools of programmes to support macro-regional cooperation
2. Added value of macro-regional strategies

Jörg Mirtl | Interact Programme



Structure of the contribution

- Some general remarks
- Conclusions from the study cooperation methods and tools
- Conclusions from the study dealing with added value of MRS
- Interact's activities

Study ”cooperation methods and tools”

- **Study on cooperation methods and tools in the Danube and Adriatic & Ionian Region Study conducted 2016-2017**
- **Assessment of 23 programmes of different types in the Danube Region**



Key messages: Achievements

- All programmes realise together a wide range of actions that ensure a systematic embedding of the EUSDR
- A majority of programmes involved national EUSDR stakeholders in their elaboration and sets out a coherent contribution to the EUSDR
- One third of the programmes “earmarked” parts of their funding for supporting an implementation of the EUSDR
- Most programmes are actively increasing their own awareness of the EUSDR
- Encouraging dynamic developments on some embedding themes
- One half of the examined EU funding programmes reached a high or medium degree of embedding

Key messages: Weaknesses (1)

- The provisions on macro-regional strategies in the EU regulations for the period 2014-2020 are lacking transparency and coherence.
- Many programmes have a substantial gap in their EUSDR-related intervention logic.
- Often lacking or inadequate guidance / assistance provided to bottom-up initiated operations supporting an implementation of the EUSDR.
- Little use is made of monitoring and evaluation activities for determining the programmes' contributions to the EUSDR

Key messages: Weaknesses (2)

- **Little use is made of programme-level communication activities for raising awareness on the EUSDR**
- **Partially lacking involvement of national EUSDR stakeholders in the ongoing work of programmes**
- **Little cooperation and information exchange takes place with administrations or EU programmes in other Member States or non-EU countries**
- **One half of the EU funding programmes only reached a low degree of embedding, but several programmes have potentials for reaching a medium degree**

Recommendations

- Include MRS into future legislation of ESIF and beyond
- Better communication of MRS, involvement of stakeholders by the programmes
- Develop guidance for project applicants with MRS actors and programmes, collect practice
- Exchange of experience among programmes
- Development of programme-level monitoring of MRS (indicators)
- MC meetings should increasingly consider MRS, involve key implementers of MRS (Even as members? New regulations ESIF/ECCP)
- More fund-related networks in the 4 MRS!
- Exchange of experience on embedding among programmes

Study on added value of macro-regional strategies

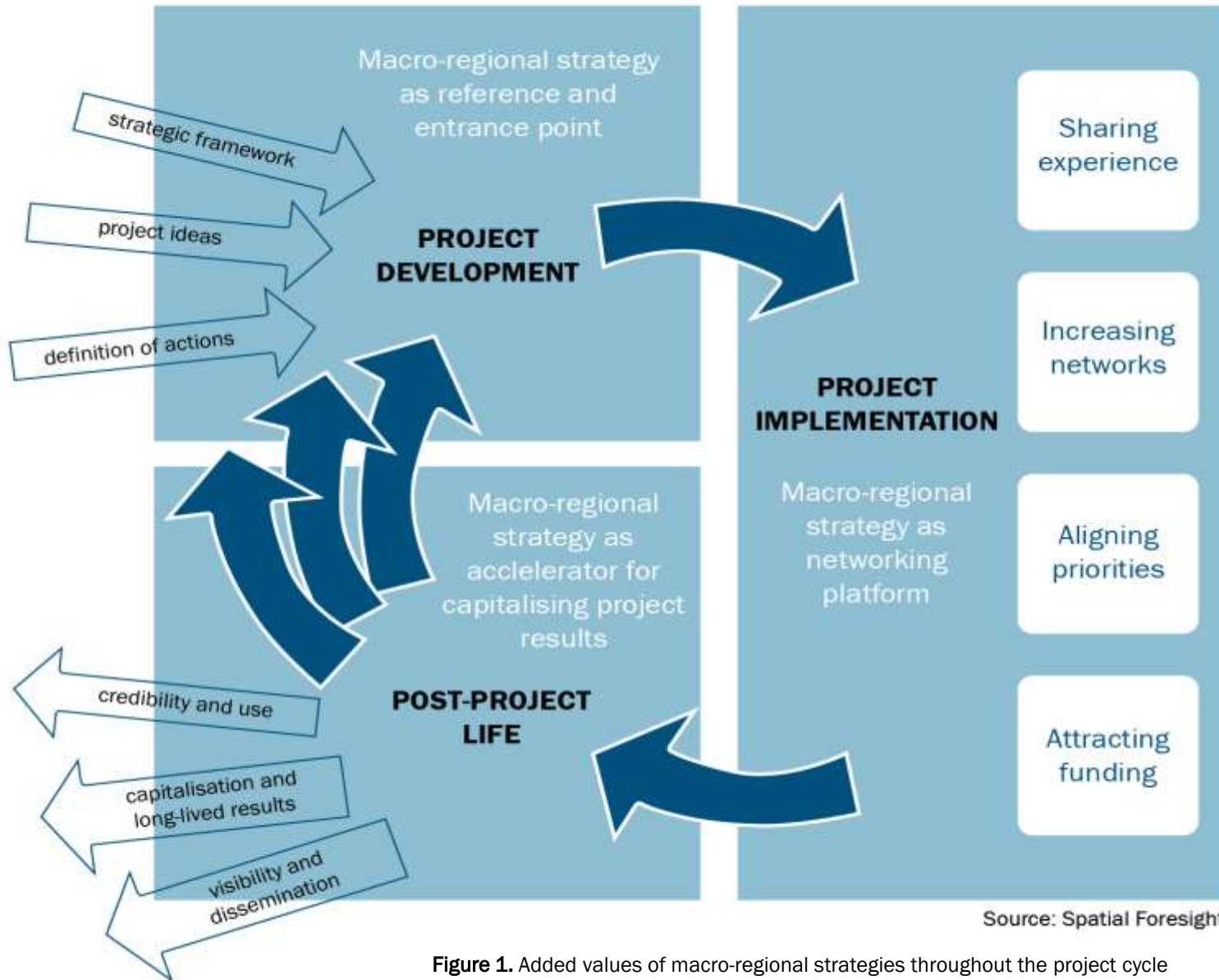
- Conducted in 2016 and 2017



Study on Added value of macro-regional strategies

- Macro-regional strategies can be **driving forces for change** if the **right momentum** is achieved
- Macro-regional cooperation **can occur independently** of the macro-regional strategies
- Projects and programmes are usually **not aware** of the macro-regional strategies
- Better **capitalisation** of **project results** is the **most tangible benefit** macro-regional strategies bring to projects and programmes
- Macro-regional strategies offer a **strategic framework** for projects and programmes to define priorities
- Macro-regional strategies need to be positioned **stronger** in the **territorial cooperation arena** and **beyond**
- The future of the macro-regional strategies is a **shared responsibility** of all its key implementers

MRS project cycle



Source: Spatial Foresight

Figure 1. Added values of macro-regional strategies throughout the project cycle

Added values of macro-regional strategies for funding programmes

- Facilitating **inter-sectorial programming**
- Easier **consensus** in **defining** programme **priorities**
- **Strategic orientation** for prioritisation of thematic areas and areas of common needs
- Easier **alignment** of **funding** to make stronger effect
- Easier **alignment** of **thematic** and **specific objectives** of ESIF programmes and for ESIF implementation **partnerships**
- **Dissemination** and **communication**
- Better and easier **coordination**
- **Synergies** and **coordination** with **similar networks** in other MS and regions

MRS and experimentalist governance

EG element	EUSBSR	EUSDR	EUSAIR	EUSALP
Framework goals	Strategy In the Action Plan SEC(2009) 712, defining examples of action	Defined in addition to the Action Plan which indicates examples of projects and actions SEC(2010)1489 Targets agreed between PAC and European Commission	Action Plan indicates actions related to actors and potential projects, SWD(2014) 190 final	Action Plan foresees result and policy indicators, gives examples for indicators/units SWD(2015) 147 final
Delegating to local units	Nomination of PAC, HAC, NC and Steering Group members	Nomination of PAC, NC, and Steering Group members	Nomination of NC, Pillar Co- ordinators, 'Governing Board'; involvement of EP and EESC	Thematic Action Groups and their Leaders, NC; Executive Board (administrative) and General Assembly (political)
Local units regularly reporting on performance with agreed indicators/fra mework goals	Report to the Commission	Report to Danube Strategy Point/ monitoring	Report to the Commission	Report to the Commission
Revision of framework goals	New Action Plan updated in 2013 and 2015, defining targets and indicators SEC(2009) 712/2 SWD(2015) 177	New Action Plan under discussion	N/A	N/A

RECURSIVE PROCESS →

RECURSIVE PROCESS →

RECURSIVE PROCESS →
(Commission Communications, Council Conclusions)

Added values of macro-regional strategies for funding programmes

- Organisation of **thematic networks** and partnerships across macro-region
- Easier for ESIF programmes to **show and document evidence** that contributed to desired socioeconomic changes
- Efficient dissemination of projects and programmes **results, lessons learnt, new solutions** and good **practices**
- More **effective communication** of project activities and results, better **overview of project results and benefits**, better **overview of projects and on-going processes** within specific thematic fields

Interact's activities with regard to MRS

- **Cross-strategy activities**
- **Activities with added value for MRS stakeholders**

Interact networks combining funds and programmes

Capitalisation Networks

- Dealing i.a. migration, social inclusion, institutional capacity, transport
- Involving macro-regional strategies, mainstream funds are invited to participate

Networks of Interreg & beyond

- Activities related to the interaction between Interreg, mainstream funds and funding outside the ESIF (Horizon, Life, Erasmus+, COSME, etc.)
- Inter-programme cooperation and coordination
- Future support for MA networks of MRS

Interact's contribution to the advancement of macro-regional strategies

- Cross-strategy thematic meetings (transport, climate)
- Exchange of the four transnational programmes supporting MRS
- Alignment of funding concept
- Studies and collection of practices
- Cooperation with academia (research on MRS)
- Participation and support to NC meetings, Annual Fora

Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

www.interact-eu.net

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