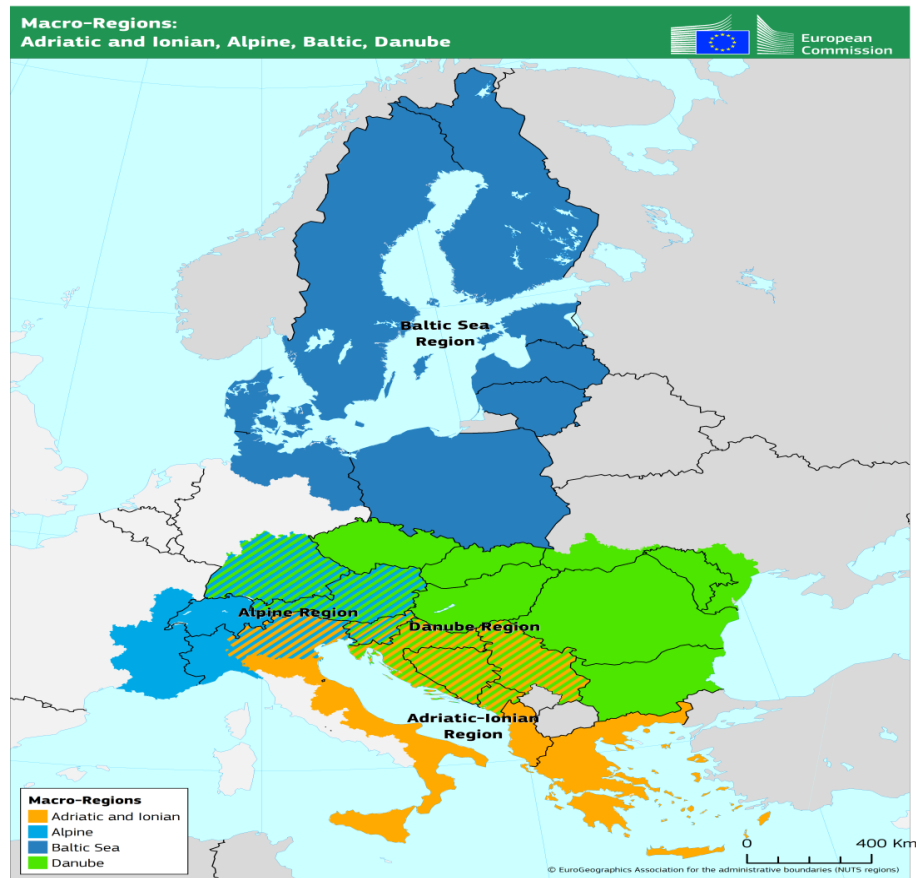


Overview over macro-regional strategies as a framework to support initiatives in the field of environment



The four macro-regions



Macro-regional strategies (MRS)

- MRS' are initiated and requested by the Member States
- MRS' are anchored to a framework agreed amongst the countries which defines a set of shared, longer-term objectives specific to a commonly defined geographical space
- It offers a multi-country, multi-level and multi-sectorial approach
- All adopted macro-regional strategies are accompanied by a rolling action plan to be regularly updated

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

First macro-regional strategy in the EU (set up 2009);

8 EU member states; 85 million people (17% of EU population)

Better and more effective use of existing policies, funding, institutions and legislation

Three objectives: "Save the Sea", "Connect the Region", "Increase Prosperity"



Environmental priorities within the macro-regional strategies

- Save the Sea (EUSBSR)
- Environmental quality (EUSAIR)
- Protecting the Environment (EUSDR)
- To make the Alpine Region environmentally sustainable and attractive (EUSALP)

Principles for managing authorities to fund projects of macro-regional interest

- The 2014 – 20 ESIF programmes can use part of their fund for projects of macro-regional interest
- The 2014 – 20 Regulations provide a basis for such actions
- To support projects of macro-regional interest calls can be:
 - Earmarked calls
 - Specific calls for macro-regional projects
 - Pre-defined projects
 - General calls with the use "extra" points for contributing to MSR

Questions to consider when designing selection criteria

- Relevance to macro-regional objectives
- Relevance to macro-regional actions and policies
- Added-value for the macro-region
- Partnership and transnationality
- Administrative capacity

Links to the macro-regional strategies

- www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu
- www.danube-region.eu
- www.adriatic-ionician.eu
- www.alpine-region.eu