Macro-regional strategy
Sea basin strategy
INTERACT is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). It supports territorial cooperation between Regions of the EU. It promotes cooperation as a tool for growth and change through policy development and strategic orientation, within territorial cooperation and beyond. INTERACT is the hub for exchanging information and best practises among cooperation programmes. INTERACT also works to make project results more visible. Its services, seminars and advice help streamline the work of cooperation programmes, allowing them to devote more time and energy to their projects.
If you are interested in **macro-regional** and **sea basin strategies**, their comparability and main principles, then this brochure is for you!
What is it all about?

- geographical area
- common challenges
- added value
- coordination
- cooperation
- joint solutions
Macro-regional strategy

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

First Communication on the Arctic Region
North Sea Forum
East Sea Forum
Communication to improve maritime governance in the Mediterranean

Sea basin strategy

Black Sea Synergy
Atlantic Strategy
EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)

Maritime Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas

Maritime strategy = Sea basin strategy
Since the first macro-regional strategy - EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, was adopted in late 2009,

there has been a growing interest towards developing integrated frameworks for countries and regions

to address common challenges for a certain geographical area and maximise common assets
The macro-regional strategies, primarily the EUSBSR and the EUSAIR, are tools to deliver Blue Growth and maintain policy in the regions.

It is recognised that strategic approaches towards developing macro-regional and sea basin strategies can be further developed if they bring an added-value to coordinated action and policy implementation.
Similarities

- Place-based, relates to EU Member States and non-EU countries located in the same geographical area

- Focus on common issues, solutions and actions of strategic relevance providing genuine added-value for the entire Region

- Encourage strategic cooperation and coordination among policies, institutions and funding sources; cooperation is brought to a new dimension requiring new openings and approaches

- Implementation requires integrated approach establishing cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination mechanisms as well as multi-stakeholder dialogue

- Supported by all means of funding - EU, national, regional, private and international funds

- Regulatory framework for European Structural and Investment Funds for 2014-2020 places macro-regional and sea basin strategies into the legal framework of the EU

An integrated framework endorsed by the European Council, which may be supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds among others, to address common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to Member States and countries located in the same geographical area which thereby benefit from strengthened cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

A structured framework of cooperation in relation to a given geographical area, developed by Union institutions, Member States, their regions and where appropriate third countries sharing a sea basin; a sea basin strategy takes into account the geographic, climatic, economic and political specificities of the sea basin.

The following pages compile principles of macro-regional and sea basin strategies, inviting for your independent conclusions.
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<td>Integrated (inter-governmental) framework adopted by the European Commission (together with an Action Plan) and endorsed by the European Council</td>
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Overall objective

Addresses common challenges of a defined geographical area to achieve economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Seeks to provide a more coherent approach to maritime issues, with increased coordination between different policy areas.

Legal background

Integrated (inter-governmental) framework adopted by the European Commission (together with an Action Plan) and endorsed by the European Council.

Structured framework adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council.

For the implementation, an Action Plan is elaborated together with stakeholders and adoption by the College of Commissioners is needed.

Initiative

Initiated by Member State/s or region/s and formally requested by the European Council to the European Commission. 

Initiated by European Commission at the request of the regions and/or Member States.

Contribution to

Through coordinated efforts contributes towards achieving Europe 2020 Strategy targets.

Through coordinated efforts contributes towards achieving Europe 2020 Strategy targets with specific focus to Blue Growth.
Relates to the countries located in the same geographical area - land and marine

No new EU legislation
No new EU institutions
No new EU funds

Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO)
http://ec.europa.eu/about/ds_en.htm > Regional Policy (REGIO)

Sea basin strategies are more specific and thus marine- and maritime-centred while may have a spill-over benefits to the rest of the Member States territories

Principles like no new EU legislation, no new EU institutions, no new EU funds are followed

Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)
http://ec.europa.eu/about/ds_en.htm > Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE)
**Governance**

- **Coordination governance structure** covering policy coordination and operational levels
- **Governance structure differs**
  - In 2014-2020 transnational cooperation programmes will ensure support mechanism to key stakeholders
  - Single High Level Group established represented by all EU Member States for advising, monitoring and reviewing all macro-regional strategies

**No fixed set-up of governance structure, this may differ**

- An Assistance Mechanism is necessary to support communication, monitoring, stakeholder and project mobilisation
- Steering Group established to ensure strategy coordination
Check for more information

European Commission > A-Z Index > Regional Policy > Cooperation > Macro-regional Strategies

EUSBSR
www.balticsea-region.eu

EUSDR
www.danube-region.eu

EUSAIR
www.adriatic-ionian.eu

EUSALP
www.alpine-region.eu

European Commission > A-Z Index > Maritime Affairs > Policy > Sea basins
http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/

Blue Growth
http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/blue_growth/

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