



Study on Macroregional Strategies and their links with Cohesion Policy

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies

**Presentation at the Macro Regional Innovation
week**

25 January 2018

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Key questions:

- **Context:** What is the context of the individual macro-regions? What are the key – quantitative – characteristics of the macro-regions?
- **Relevance:** Are the macro-regional strategies relevant? Are the objectives and priorities relevant to the specific macro-region?
- **Effectiveness:** Do the macro-regional strategies deliver on their objectives and priorities?
- **Coherence:** Do the macro-regional strategies contribute to strengthening the territorial cohesion objectives of the EU?
- **ETC Programmes:** Have the strategies influenced the programmes and the programmes contributed to the implementation of the strategies?

How do the MRS deliver results?

What are the factors that impact and determine the results of the MRS

- **Outputs, results and impacts have a time dimension**
- **There are different types (typology) of results**
- **Results cannot be observed in isolation (context)**
- **Development and progress differences between MRS, and within MRS between PAs in development and status**
- **The results in the action plans are formal and related to external performance (reduction of CO₂, nutrient levels, etc.)**
- **The current AP results (targets) do not reflect the development process of the MRS or the PA**

Review of the achievements (1)

Key Achievements

- Increase in cooperation capacity (generation of joint actions/policy);
- Increase in dialogue
- Bringing actors together across countries and sectors;
- Across levels comes with maturity (time) and capacity ;
- Cooperation with EU COM is also a sign of maturity;
- Cooperation with third countries is high in all (except EUSBSR)

Added-value

- 'Cooperation brings legitimacy to the work - **key added value**;
- 'Facilitation of funding' is not seen as a main added value;
- working with issues on a transnational basis can increase awareness and attention (nationally)
- 'facilitates synergies' is key added value (closely linked with policy dialogue);
- cooperation with third countries in three MRS key but not in the EUSBSR

Review of the achievements (2)

- **targets are at *very different levels* and do not always have *measurable indicators***
- **Only some MRS/PAs measure progress on specific indicators - difficult to monitor progress**
- **Policy makers and evaluators focus on external performance**
- **In the absence of performance-related measures, the current results are often considered insufficient by the political level**

MRS phases of development and operation

| Dimensions: Time and types | Internal | External |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Capacity | MRS strategy and cooperati on Phase I | Stakeholde rs respond Phase II |
| Performance | MRS Performs Phase II | Regions perform Phase III |

Key recommendations

A monitoring system reflecting the development of the MRS

- > The **three-phase model** could be the basis for monitoring: identifying, reporting and assessing progress and results is **specific to each phase**
- > identify **key barriers** in the respective phases so MRS/PA can proceed to the next phase
- > Identify **drivers** in the respective phases so that the MRS can utilise their potential among the stakeholders involved
- > promote, plan and monitor **capacity building** and institutional development among the stakeholders involved
- > Choice/access to funding is phase-specific. ETC in phase I; mainstream ESIF might be addressed in phase III.