



# EU MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES

REGI Committee Workshop

12 July 2017

Brussels

# Context

- Brexit
- Negotiations over the next MFF are about to start
- Discussions of the Future of the EU underway
- Difficult to define macro-regional strategies
- Oldest MRS is 8 years old

# Current situation

The three No's:

- No political incentives
- No visibility
- No ownership

- MRS remain light instruments
- Too complicated system
- Politically difficult to understand
- Difficult to find agreement between participating countries (BW to MD)
- No connection between MRS and funding instruments
- No trust towards MRS
- Limited cooperation between MRS

# Next steps

## I.

### Political:

- Devise political incentives
- Make MRS relevant for solving current issues (e.g. energy and infrastructure integration, migration crisis)
- Streamline the Action Plan of the Strategy
- Goals should be realistic, clearly communicated and streamlined

### Financial:

- Embedding of MRS in the next MFF
- Create a networking platform of MAs operating in each member state (join NC meetings)
- Align thematic priority areas of the DTP with the pillars of the Strategy

# Next steps II.

## Coordination:

- Presidency of the MRS to have a clearer role in the implementation (e.g. leading role in strategic coordination)
- Communication activities need to be improved
- National Coordinators need a budget
- Administrative capacity needs to increase
- Improve cross-strategy cooperation (e.g. EUSBSR communication strategy)

# What should we avoid?

- Accepting the status-quo
- Rotating Priority Areas
- Eliminating Priority Areas
- Strictly keeping to the 3 No rule

# Good examples

- Rotating Presidency of the EUSDR and the Annual Forum
- Hungarian EUSDR construction
- EUSDR contribution to the EU enlargement and neighborhood policy
- Danube Transnational Programme Capitalization Strategy
- A lot of interest for creating projects:
  - 576 expressions of interest were submitted to the first DTP call
  - JoinTisza, Solotvyno, etc.
- EuroAccess

# Possibilities

- MRS a trial run for non-EU countries?
- A flexible political platform to discuss current day regional issues
- A point of reference for projects and funding instruments
- A tool to achieve real change (e.g. Solotvyno)





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