

# Concept Note

## The Citizens' Shadow Report on the European Commission's biennial evaluation document on the implementation of macro-regional policies 2018-2020

The Citizens' Shadow Report project is an initiative of civil society organisations from several EU member states to prepare an implementation report on EU macro-regional policies from a citizens' perspective.

### THE PROJECT COORDINATOR

HU – European House

### THE PROJECT PARTNERS

AT – The World of NGOs

DE – Danube Connects

DK – European Movement Denmark

IT – European Movement Italy

PL – Baltic Institute for Regional Affairs (BISER)

RO – Pro Democracy Association (APD)

SI – Zavod NEFIKS

SK – Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA)

### THE INITIATIVE

'An alternative positive voice. The Citizens' Shadow Report' is an initiative building on the potential of the relatively new EU policy-making framework, the macro-regional strategies (MRS). Civil society organisations from the four macro regions – the Baltic Sea, the Danube, the Adriatic-Ionian and the Alpine – will join forces to compile a shadow report parallel to the European Commission's biennial report on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies.

### THE BACKGROUND

The Commission regularly releases its biennial report on the situation and implementation of EU macro-regional strategies with a basically top-down orientation. The new report was published on 24 September 2020.

### THE SHADOW REPORT

The core project idea is an innovation: prepare a shadow or alternative report by civil society organisations from the four macro-regions summarising their related experience and putting forward concrete proposals for increased citizens' involvement in the future. This new experience brings together for the first time civil society organisations from the four macro-regions and the report is based on the findings of the four preparatory meetings in Copenhagen (Baltic Sea), Szentendre/Budapest (Danube), Palermo (Adriatic-Ionian), Ljubljana (Alpine).



## The Shadow Report Initiative

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**The Shadow Report will cover the following areas:**

## Communication

- 1 Introduction
- 2 The state of civil society in the four macro-regions
- 3 Democracy and values; bottom-up approach, citizens' ownership; partnership and participation; multilevel governance
- 4 Meeting the citizens, human contacts, confidence-building; tourism
- 5 Corona virus/COVID-19; solidarity; lessons learned; increased EU integration
- 6 Youth involvement
- 7 The Conference on the future of Europe and its impact on the current legislative term for and by citizens; the way forward
- 8 Circular economy/sustainable development/green Europe; visions for 2030
- 9 Creativity/inventiveness/digitalisation/smart solutions
- 10 Non-EU member states; possibility of EU accession
- 11 Conclusion

### THE FOLLOW-UP

Our initiative will not come to an end by presenting the shadow report in Brussels as a response to the Commission paper. The novelty is a follow-up meeting during autumn 2021 in Vienna to have the first assessment of the progress made. The initiative clearly demonstrates the value added nature of citizens democratic and creative involvement in and contribution to EU-level policy shaping.

<https://europeanhouse.hu/the-shadow-report/>



## The Shadow Report Initiative



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