

AN EU MACRO-REGIONAL CIVIL STRATEGY IN THE MAKING

STOCKHOLM, 9 NOVEMBER 2023

Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), Secretariat,
Momma Reenstiernas Palace, Wollmar Yxkullsgatan 23
Stockholm, Sweden

WELCOMING INPUTS FROM STAKEHOLDERS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Macro-regional strategies (MRS) are promising frameworks for collaboration in Europe involving both EU members and neighbouring countries. They aim to bring closer connected geographical areas to strengthen cooperation, where stakeholders jointly address today's often complex societal challenges. Thereby contribute to economic, social, and territorial cohesion. Today, there are four macro-regional strategies: the Baltic Sea ([EUSBSR](#)), the Danube ([EUSDR](#)), the Adriatic-Ionian ([EUSAIR](#)) and the Alpine ([EUSALP](#)) macro-regions.

Civil society organisations play a crucial role in the successful implementation of the macro-regional strategies. Even if they operate under different conditions and circumstances in the macro-regions, they also have common goals addressing such issues as the climate change, the energy crisis, social questions, or the war in Ukraine. With their intermediary function they have a huge and frequently unused potential to contribute to the promotion of the European project.

The elaboration of a place-based EU macro-regional civil strategy offers a helping hand in this regard leading to the establishment of an institutionalised citizens' dialogue across macro-regions. The Stronger.Together programme of European House Budapest with co-funding from the European Union aims to prepare a proposal for an EU macro-regional civil strategy by bringing together civil society actors from the four macro-regions. One of the elements of the programme is a series of preparatory events/consultations on the macro-regional civil strategy.

The Baltic Sea Region has a long history of cooperation with the Norden Associations and the Council of the Baltic Sea States just to name two. Civil society including youth are involved in collaboration within existing structures. This event is an opportunity to share our experiences with colleagues from other parts of Europe and at the same time learn from them.



PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 8 November 2023

- 15.00 Check in at the hotel
Free time
- 18.00 Orientation session for international participants in the hotel
(Zinkensdamm Urban Garden) followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant

Thursday, 9 November 2023

- Meeting in the CBSS premises
- 08.30 Registration
- 09.00 WELCOME/OPENING
Mr Grzegorz Poznanski, Director General, Council of the Baltic Sea States
Ms Emelie Dahlström-Ravn, Operation Manager, Norden Association Sweden
- INTRODUCTION
Macro-regional strategies
Mr Anders Bergström, Policy Area Coordinator, EUSBSR PA Education
- Stronger.Together - the magic of macro-regions project
Mr Miklos Barabas, Director, European House Budapest
- 09.40 EXPERIENCES FROM THE BALTIC SEA REGION
Two examples of youth perspective of civil society collaboration
- Baltic Sea Youth Forum
Dr Kazimierz Musiał, Senior Adviser for Priority Area Regional Identity, CBSS
- Nordic Civ
Ms Emelie Dahlström-Ravn, Operation Manager, Norden Association Sweden
- 10.00 WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR?
Brief reports from the previous preparatory events by
- Ms Jana Burzykova, Danube Youth Council, Czech Republic for EUSDR
Mr Matteo Ianni, Youth Section of the European Movement Italy for EUSAIR
Mr Yoan Pompét, Maison des Européens Lyon, France for EUSALP
- Brief report by Ms Elena Calistru, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on the EESC position on the implementation of macro-regional strategies
- Participants' expectations: brief reflections
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- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.30 A PARLAMENTARIAN'S VIEW ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT
Ms Emma Nohrén, MP, Swedish Parliament
- 12.00 WORKSHOPS
The discussion continues in four breakout groups on the draft text of the proposed MRS civil strategy.
- Group 1
Moderator: Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidlo, Policy Area Coordinator, EUSBSR PA Tourism
- Group 2
Moderator: Mr Anders Bergström, Policy Area Coordinator, EUSBSR PA Education
- Group 3
Moderator: Ms Jeanette Thomsen, Board member, Danish Baltic Sea NGO Network
- Group 4
Moderator: Ms Silva Laure, Baltic Sea Youth Forum, vice-chair of the Committee of Youth Representatives
- 13.00 Lunch break
- 13.45 Workshops continue
- 15.00 CLOSING PLENARY
- reports from the break-out groups
- proposals and evaluation
- 16.00 End of meeting / refreshments
Free time

[More information](#)



An event of the **Stronger.Together** - the magic of macro-regions project



Co-funded by
the European Union