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

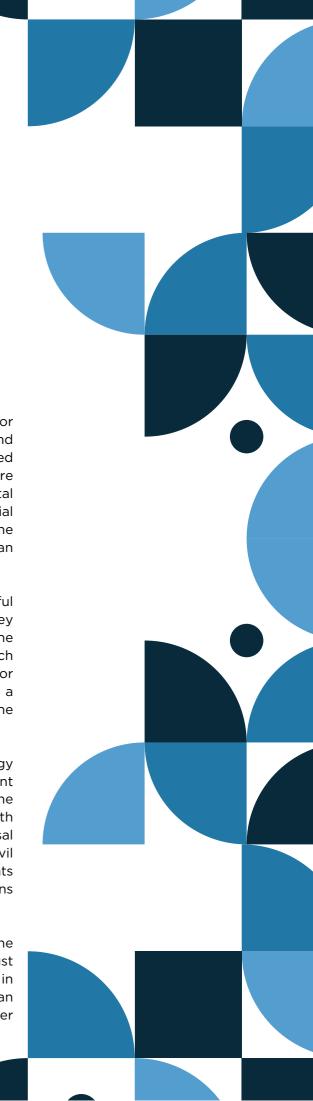
WELCOMING INPUTS FROM STAKEHOLDERS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

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 Pompet, 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



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





