EU macro-regional strategies
A new way of cooperation

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The Danube Region

14 countries, 115M people, 12 languages, 2800 km river, 3000 vessels, 300 birds species, 90 fish species, 1M cruising tourists, …
Innovation potential and growth in the Danube

Rationale for cooperation in innovation policies: Improving the framework conditions for innovation, e.g.
- Attract and retain brains
- Scale: Joint use of research infrastructure
- Cluster/Competitiveness mapping
- Innovation to the market: Technology transfer
EU Macro-regional strategies

- Initiative by the countries, Commission is facilitating
- Development of a Strategy – identifying challenges and potentials – Action Plan
- Endorsement by European Council – highest political support
- Thematic priorities: Priority Areas, Pillars, Horizontal Actions
- Governance structure for implementation:
  - Political leadership: Ministerial level, Commission
  - Coordination: National Coordinators, Commission
  - Implementation: Thematic Coordinators, transnational cooperation programmes
- Not a funding programme! – uses existing funding sources already available
EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region

- Requested by the European Council of December 2012
- 8 countries (Member states: HR, EL, IT, SI; Candidate and potential candidate countries: AL, RS, BIH, ME)
- Strategy to be adopted in June 2014, then handed over to Council + other EU institutions; GAC on 24 June
- 4 pillars:
  - Blue Growth
  - Connecting the Region (transport and energy networks)
  - Environmental quality
  - Sustainable Tourism
EU Macro-regional strategies: Pioneering in coordinating funding instruments

**European Structural and Investment Funds**

- 2014-2020 new period: Investment arm of EU policies
- Overall EU 28, full period: EUR 351bn
- 2 goals
  1. Investments in Growth and Jobs
  2. Cooperation
- Shared management -> Managing Authorities in Member States
- Strategic Framework: **Cooperation approach and EU Macro-regional Strategies** included in
  - Partnership Agreements
  - All relevant Operational Programmes

- Transnational Cooperation Programme: providing support to macro-regional strategies

**Instrument for Pre-Accession**

**Connecting Europe Facility**

**Horizon 2020**
Transnational Cooperation programmes

- 15 programmes
- 2bn EUR
- Thematic concentration (mostly in Innovation, Environment, Low Carbon Economy)
- Macro-regional Strategies: Baltic, Danube, Adriatic Ionian, Alpine
- Project example: Clustrat (clustrat.eu)
INTERREG EUROPE: cooperation across all borders: EU 28+NOR+CH
Policy learning to improve the performance of policies
Budget of EUR 360M for 2014-2020; possible approval: end 2014 (?), first call spring 2015 (?)
Public authorities and institutions under public law
4 topics
  - Research, technological development and innovation
  - Competitiveness of SME
  - Low carbon economy
  - Environment and resource efficiency
Two types of actions
  - Cooperation projects: public authorities, policy exchange on a particular policy issue, develop an Action Plan
    -> ensure follow up
  - Policy learning platforms: continuous learning, for ESIF stakeholders; service provider and platform to
    consolidate knowledge, guides, transfers knowledge, ...
European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

- EGTC is an innovative solution to facilitate and promote territorial cooperation
- Legal entity: enables authorities from different member states, to set up cooperation groupings with a legal personality
- Possibility of involving different institutional levels in a single cooperative structure (multilevel governance)
- 46 EGTC already founded
- New regulation:
  - Improvement of procedures and requirements for establishment
  - Content of the Convention and the Statutes
  - Purpose: Extension of scope and tasks - Financial support other than EU Cohesion policy
  - Membership - Third neighbouring countries and OCTs
  - Applicable law for employment
  - Manage and define terms and conditions for the use of public infrastructure or a service of general economic interest.
Thank you very much for your attention

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