Why are Macro-Regional Strategies needed?

What challenges or opportunities do they address?

How are they implemented, the modus operandi?
Macro-regional strategies - laboratories for a new Europe

Why are Macro-Regional Strategies needed?

• **Major societal challenges** that can not be solved by a single country, region or municipality. For example, migration / integration, the quality of marine environment and unsustainable energy supply

• **Europe in crisis**: war in Ukraine, Brexit, financial crisis, refugee crisis, citizens questioning the membership in EU (what’s in it for me) - Europe needs to be re-integrated

• **More cost-effective solutions**; solving problems together instead of “re-inventing wheels”.

Macro-Regional Strategies are laboratories for a new Europe.

A Europe in need of more targeted solutions to our societal challenges.
Macro-regional strategies - laboratories for a new Europe

Prerequisites

Three no

- No new funding
- No new institutions
- No new legislation

but one big YES

Multilevel governance

Use existing resources - channel them to the implementation of macro-regional strategies and promote cooperation between existing institutions at all levels
Macro-regional strategies - laboratories for a new Europe

• What brings people together for collaboration?

• When do they want to contribute their resources?

Usually, when it makes sense to them.

When they understand what the purpose is and how they can align it with their own purpose of life and work.

People need to make sense of the world in order to act in it.
Macro-regional strategies - laboratories for a new Europe

Macro-Regional Strategies - are new, emerging ‘experimental governance’ in Europe.

Bringing citizens into designing the future of Europe is the essence of the Macro-Regional Strategies as adaptive, macro-regional development strategies.

Unlike "old, formal" strategies, this one is very pragmatic - aims to solve real macro-regional challenges that no country can solve alone (like integrating vulnerable social groups in the society and labour market).

It is also to a large extent citizen-driven and peer-based - i.e. built on bringing together all sorts of stakeholders, from all levels, who - together - can make a difference in approaching the challenge, by working both on the level of policy and that of action on the ground.

Finding and financing common solutions require aligning different funding sources, too - another reason to bring together various partners with access to funding, on national, regional and local levels.
Hopefully I have now answered the question why Macro-Regional Strategies are needed, made sense of the Strategies.
Next question is what challenges do they address
Define the macroregional added value
Integration of migrants

Local answer:
Finding accommodation for newly arrived refugees

Macroregional answer:
Developing methods for quickly learning a new language
Ease the way to the labour market for NEETs

Local answer: Guidance centres with multi-competent teams

Macroregional answer: A learning platform for these centres
A society with longer and healthier lives

**National answer:**
Introduce a pension reform allowing for a more flexible retirement age

**Macrolregional answer:**
A platform on lifelong learning preparing new methods and policies
Listed Actions with a macroregional added value
Next question is how to implement this Action Plan?

Modus Operandi
Modus operandi
Flagships - joint transnational development processes

Within the MRS framework, the collaborative processes are called flagships - strategic actions born to respond to macro-regional challenges, for which they gather relevant stakeholders from all levels of society.

Flagships become ”the home” for projects, chains of projects, processes, thematic groups and platforms - that together produce a much higher impact on the issue.
A flagship within the Baltic Sea Strategy.
STRUCTURE

FLAGSHIP LEADER
Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
Sweden

EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING
Learning platform
City of Turku
Finland

INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES
Learning platform
City of Turku
Finland

NEETs
Learning platform
Norden Association
Sweden

- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Peer-learning
- Thematic working groups
- Projects
EUSBSR: Objectives, Policy Areas and Horizontal Actions

Policy Areas and Horizontal Actions

- **Objectives and Policy Areas**
  - **Save the sea**
  - **Connect the region**
  - **Increase prosperity**

- **Horizontal Actions**
  - Spatial Planning
  - Neighbours
  - Capacity
  - Climate
More information

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