



**TEDEN SREDOZEMSKO OBALE
IN MAKROREGIONALNIH
STRATEGIJ**

Izola, Slovenija
15. – 17. september 2025

**MEDITERRANEAN COAST
AND MACRO-REGIONAL
STRATEGIES WEEK**

Izola, Slovenia
15 – 17 September 2025



10th Anniversary Edition of the Mediterranean Coast and Macro-Regional Strategies Week

Contribution of EU Macro-Regional Strategies to EU Enlargement

16 September 2025, Izola



EU Strategy for the
Adriatic and Ionian Region
EUSAIR

<https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu>



www.danube-region.eu

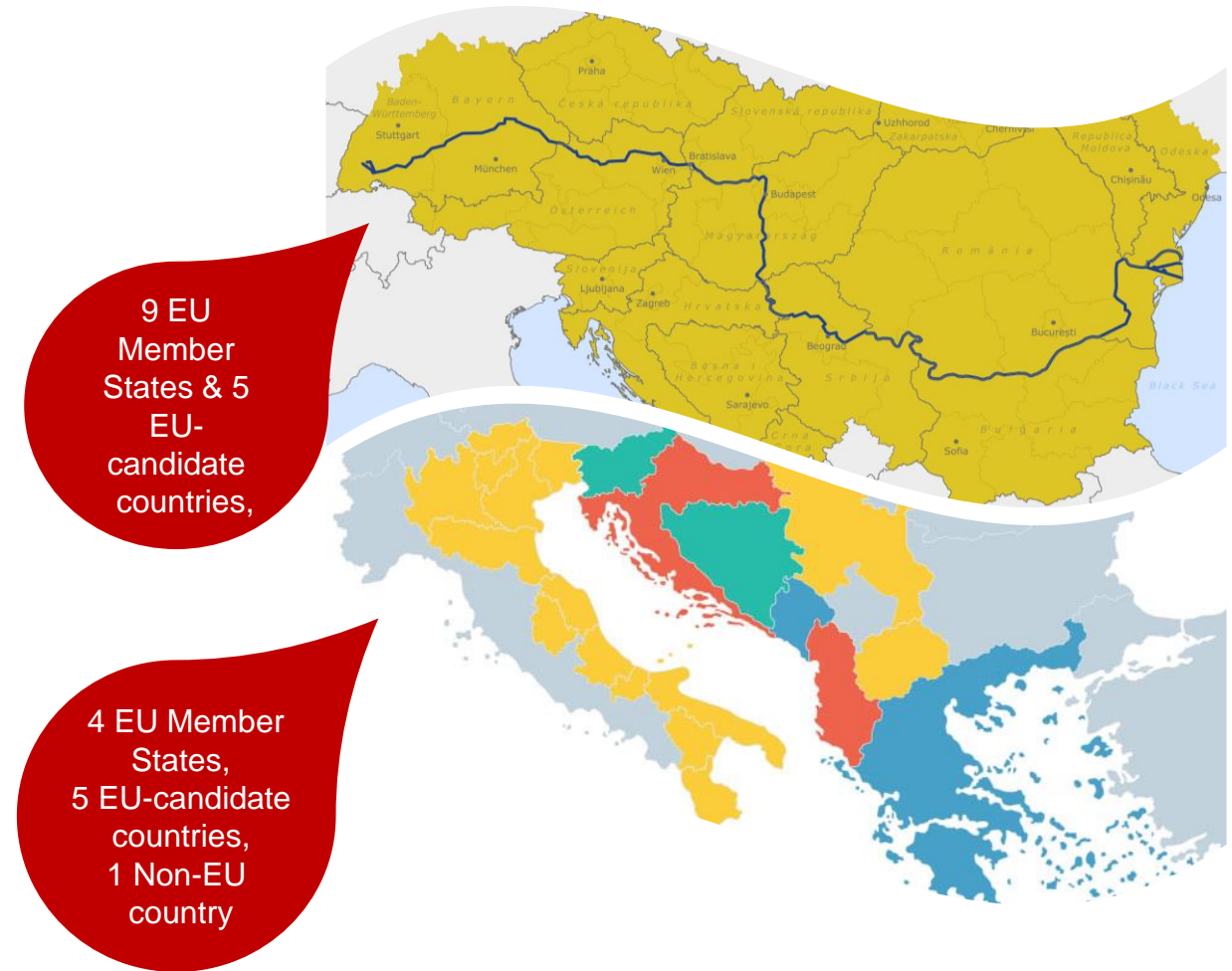


EU MRS

- Integrated cooperation frameworks endorsed by the European Council;
- Addressing common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to Member States and EU-candidate countries and third countries;
- Contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion;
- Serve as open and agile platforms for strategic networking;
- Based on MLG and cross-sectoral principle, MRS help to coordinate joint policies and actions far beyond physical or psychological barriers;
- Can be supported by Cohesion Policy funding instruments and other EU/national/regional funding sources.

EUSDR & EUSAIR

- A number of challenges in the region require **working together, across borders** and national interests – supranational, national, regional, local – **cooperation!**
- **Political commitment** to be translated into action – **ownership & trust!**
- Actions need to be **carried out together** – **alignment & coordination!**
- Improved macroregional and national effects of **absorption** of funds – **EU, national, regional and other public and private!**



MRS - Implementation



Blue Sustainable Economy
EUSAIR



Connecting the Region
EUSAIR



Sustainable Tourism
EUSAIR



Environmental Quality
EUSAIR

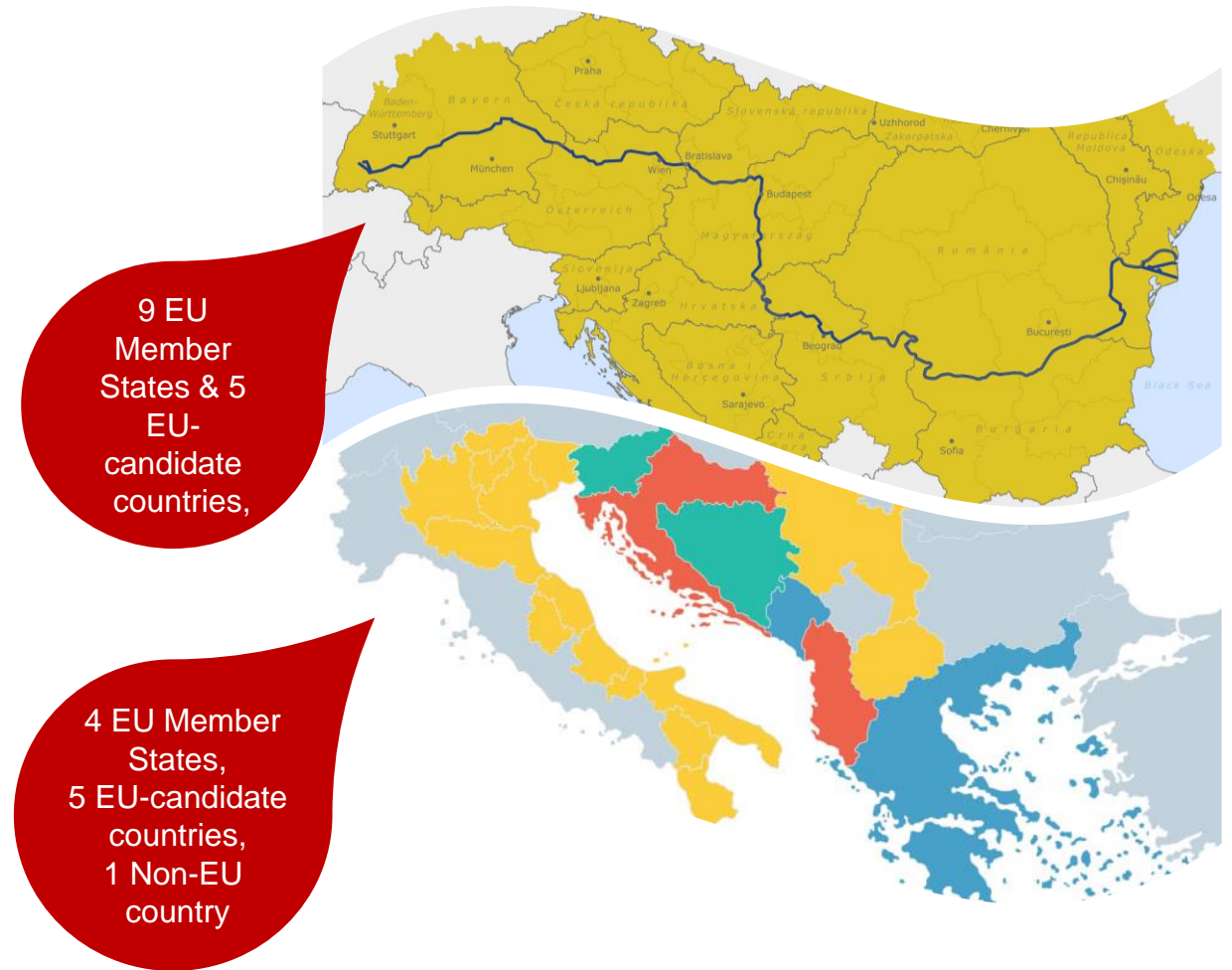


Improved Social Cohesion
EUSAIR



EUSDR & EUSAIR – EU Enlargement

- **7 EU Accession candidate countries:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine.
- Working on the same grounds – **eye level principle** for **EU and EU-candidate** countries.
- **EUSDR & EUSAIR** as sound EU integration frameworks with concrete outcomes on **cooperation, capacity building, policy alignment and project level**.
- **Cross-MRS** cooperation with large potential.





EU Strategy for the
Adriatic and Ionian Region
EUSAIR

EUSAIR support to enlargement

Enlargement as **horizontal topic in revised EUSAIR Action Plan**

All EUSAIR Action Plan cooperation topics are addressing accession chapters.

Additionally, **specific horizontal activities** supported by EUSAIR Governance Point:

- EUSAIR Community of Practice – network of experts and platform for knowledge exchange
- NIPAC network
- Dedicated capacity building activities
- Smart Specialisation - interregional cooperation on EUSAIR priorities

EUSAIR Flagships and strategic projects

Flagships are joint EU and candidate countries **high-priority thematic cooperation initiatives** implementing EUSAIR Action Plan.

Joint strategic projects derived from Flagships.



www.adriatic-ionian.eu/eusair-flagships



EU Strategy for the
Adriatic and Ionian Region
EUSAIR

Interreg  Co-funded by
the European Union

IPA ADRION

FACILITYPOINT

EUSAIR Community of Practice and Capacity Building for Enlargement

EUSAIR Community of Practice for Enlargement

- **Identifies and prioritizes legislative, institutional, and implementation gaps** linked to accession chapters and EUSAIR Action Plan.
- **Knowledge-sharing network of peers, experts, and practitioners** supporting candidate countries in aligning with EU policies and EUSAIR Action Plan priorities, fostering peer learning and practical exchange.
- **Offers regular collaborative activities:** trainings, study visits, and peer-to-peer exchanges.

Implementation: 2025-2027



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IPA ADRION

FACILITYPOINT

S3 interregional cooperation on EUSAIR priorities

Expected Outcomes

- Active **S3-EUSAIR stakeholder network** fostering collaboration on shared priorities.
- **Targeted, project-oriented partnerships** with clear priorities.
- **Coordinated cross-border planning** for joint RDI investments.

Added Value for Enlargement

- **Clarifies S3's role in EU accession**, enhancing governance and funding absorption.
- **Promotes cross-border cooperation and high-quality innovation projects** via EU funds (I3, Horizon Europe, Interreg, IPA).
- Strengthens **institutional capacity and project maturity** in candidate countries.

Implementation: 2025 - 2026

Examples of EUSDR Implementation

Danube Strategy Flagships

- Non exhaustive, **projects or processes** that contribute to the **implementation of the EUSDR**,
- EUSDR provides a **cooperation framework**,
- have a clear **macro-regional dimension** and a **multi-level governance approach**,
- selected by **EUSDR Priority Areas**.
- high importance for the **Danube Region's economic, social and territorial cohesion** and for **improving the quality of life in the Danube Region**.



Examples of EUSDR & EU Enlargement

Western Balkans R&I Information Hub

- EUSDR Priority Area: PA 7 Knowledge Society
- Horizon Europe funded project, budget: 5 Million EURO
- EUSDR member states: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Montenegro, Serbia
- EUSAIR participating countries: Italy, Albania, North Macedonia
- Stimulating, monitoring, and supporting the cooperation in research, education, and innovation
- Scale up common efforts of the European Union and the Western Balkans – for cooperation on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.

<https://westernbalkans-infohub.eu>

**WESTERN
BALKANS
Info Hub**

powered by  **POLICY ANSWERS**



POLICY ANSWERS

R&I POLICY making, implementation AND Support in the WEStErn BalkanS



Examples of EUSDR & EU Enlargement

Danube Region Multimodal Corridors

- EUSDR Priority Area: PA 1b Rail-Road-Air Mobility
- Development of an interconnected and integrated transport system in the Danube Region
- Closing infrastructural, technological, and legislative gaps alongside the TEN-T to improve accessibility, cross-border flows, and regional connectivity
 - Assessing growth, jobs, and climate impacts of 2022–2030 corridor investments aligned with EU transport policy
 - Identifying and supporting additional multimodal corridors with macro-regional added value (e.g. Black Sea – Northern Adriatic Corridor)

<https://danube-region.eu/danube-region-multimodal-corridors>



Examples of EUSDR & EU Enlargement

Adaptation to Climate Change

- EUSDR Priority Area: PA 4 Water Quality
- Climate change and sharing experience and best practices in climate change adaptation emphasising (green) water retention measures, which contribute to better water quality and water availability in the Danube Region:
 - Small water and nutrient retention measures (OPTAIN)
 - Local water retention measures (LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS).
 - Creation of water balance mode for the whole Danube River Basin (Danube Water Balance).
 - Innovative water management initiatives (DALIA)
 - Improving the management of sediment quantity and quality (DanubeSediment_Q2)
 - Restoration of river banks and riparian areas (RESTORIVER)

<https://danube-region.eu/flagship-process-on-adaptation-to-climate-change>





EU Strategy for the
Adriatic and Ionian Region

EUSAIR

Eva KOS

Coordinator

EUSAIR Facility Point/ Secretariat of the EUSAIR

eva.kos@gov.si

<https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu>



DANUBE REGION
strategy

Prosperity through Diversity

Dr. Robert LICHTNER

Coordinator

Danube Strategy Point / Secretariat of the EUSDR

robert.lichtner@eusdr-dsp.eu

www.danube-region.eu