



**13th Meeting on the
Follow-up of the
Joint Statement on Guiding
Principles on the
Development of Inland
Navigation
and Environmental
Protection in the Danube
River Basin
Wednesday 14 September
2022**

**EUSDR Action Plan and
its impact on PA1a +
cohesion policy 2021-
2027**

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A new political context: green and digital transition

The twin transition:

At the heart of the European Green Deal objectives. Involves the industrial modernisation of production processes by developing new solutions to help society as a whole become more sustainable.

Strategic Foresight Report 2022 on 'Twinning the green and digital transition in the new geopolitical context' 2050:

- Digitalising energy
- Greener transport
- Boosting industry's climate neutrality
- Greening buildings with digitalisation
- Smarter and greener agriculture

European Green Deal

European Green Deal



LEADING THE TRANSITION TO A HEALTHY PLANET

- A **Climate Law** to lock in commitments and raise ambition
- **Earmarking 25%** of the EU budget for climate
- Greening the **European Semester**
- Comprehensive programme of legislation
- **Green investment needs** of around €470 billion per year



European Green Deal and the MRS



Complementarities:

EGD and MRS have common priorities and challenges:

- The **sustainability** dimension is prominent in all the MRS
- Priorities **common** to all the MRS – environment and climate change, connectivity, research & innovation and (sustainable) economic development - are related to key actions of the EGD
- Most of the EGD challenges can be tackled only **joint efforts**

European Green Deal and the MRS



Potential: MRS offer a cooperation platform “fit for purposes” for supporting the implementation of the EGD actions, which provides the following:

- **Coordination** of funds and actions + joint initiatives for making the best use of the multiple and diversified funding opportunities and resources needed in order to face the EGD common challenges (current embedding process is key!)
- **Cross-sectoral approach** for implementing the EGD actions, which are strongly interconnected
- **Multi-level governance** and stakeholders involvement for ensuring the contribution of all the relevant actors to the EGD implementation

European Green Deal and the MRS



Mutual benefits:

MRS support the EGD implementation and the EGD provides a common MRS vision:

- MRS can help the EGD implementation on the ground with coordinated regional and local initiatives, taking into account the **territorial specificities** of a certain geographical area
- MRS can help the implementation of the EGD in the Western Balkans (and the future Green Agenda for Western Balkans), as **Western Balkans** countries play an important role in the achievement of the Adriatic-Ionian and Danube Strategies objectives
- The EGD offers a common policy framework and common objectives to the MRS, and therefore it provides a **common vision** (within each MRS and also across the four MRS)

Digital transition and the MRS

- Digitalisation: recognised impact on the economy and society as it improves the quality of life, boosts access to knowledge and other services.
- New business models and employment patterns are emerging thanks to the digital transformation.
- Support of digital skills is a key factor that facilitates the uptake of new digital technologies in SMEs and thus helps firms to efficiently embrace the technological change.



Digital transition and the MRS

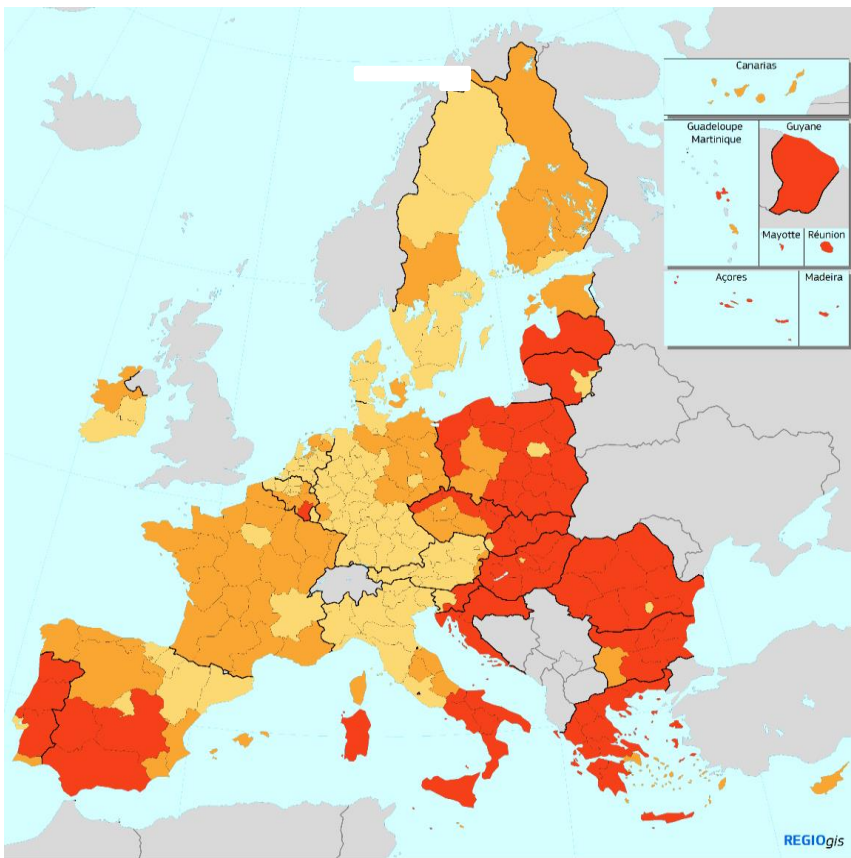
- To ensure that EU wide innovation and digitalisation policies are complemented by policies that are sensitive to the capacities and endowments of different places,
- To target those countries and regions that face the greatest challenges in innovation uptake and digital transformation.
- Addressing the risk of a growing "innovation divide" but also of a "digital divide" across EU countries and regions.



Cohesion policy 2021-2027

Categories of regions

- Less developed regions (GDP/head (PPS) less than 75% of the EU-27 average)
- Transition regions (GDP/head (PPS) between 75% and 100% of the EU-27 average)
- More developed regions (GDP/head (PPS) above 100% of the EU-27 average)



Investment for jobs and growth goal (ERDF and ESF+) eligibility, 2021-2027

informal update based on unpublished lists of regions

Nearly 1/3 of the EU budget (European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund, European Social Fund +, proposed Just Transition Fund) to:

- Reduce disparities between Europe's regions, strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion
- Contribute to EU priorities

5 Policy Objectives

1. A more competitive and smarter Europe
2. **A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe**
3. **A more connected Europe**
4. A more social and inclusive Europe
5. A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives

Cohesion policy in the green and digital transition



“Cohesion Funds play a crucial role in supporting our regions and rural areas from East to West, from South to North to keep up with the transformations of our world.

In this transition, we must recognise and respect that we do not all start from the same point. We all share the same ambition but some may need more tailored support than others to get there.”



Investing in place-based innovation and smart economic transformation



Deploying technological and social innovation on a large scale



Facilitating phase-out of unsustainable practices



Ensuring a just transition for all regions

Cohesion policy 2021-2027 – What does the legal basis say?

ERDF/CF REGULATION (2021/1058)

Art 3(c):

a more connected Europe by enhancing mobility (PO 3) by:

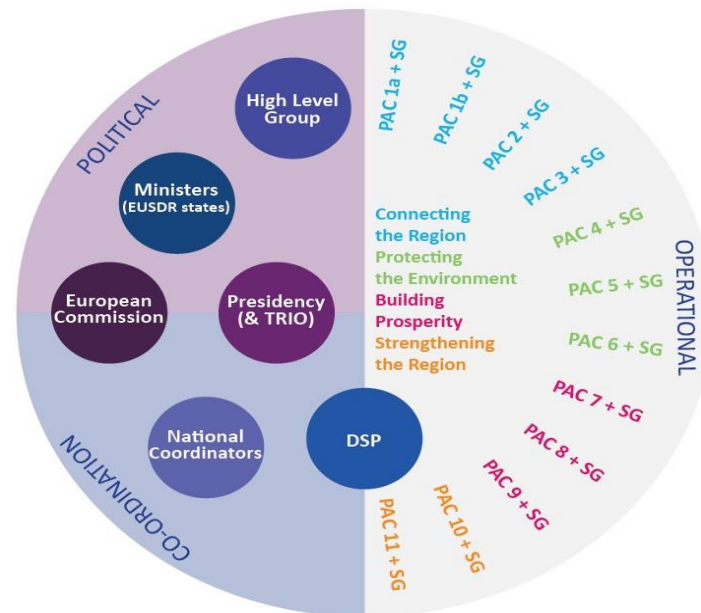
- (i)
developing a climate resilient, intelligent, secure, sustainable and intermodal TEN-T;
- (ii)
developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility;

MRS - The way ahead

2022 EU MRS Week + Fourth report on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies:

- Delivering on key EU policy priorities (green, digital, social transition)
- Helping to deliver on EU cohesion policy
- Reinforcing the regional and local dimension
- Responding to war in Ukraine and the recovery from the pandemic
- Embedding
- Enlargement
- Need to better monitor and evaluate
- Need to better communicate

EUSDR Action Plan



PA1A - Waterway mobility:

ACTION 1: Contribute to improve waterway and port infrastructure & management

ACTION 2: Foster business development

ACTION 3: Facilitate fleet modernisation

ACTION 4: Support the further roll-out and enhancement of River Information Services

ACTION 5: Contribute to the enhanced quality of education and jobs

ACTION 6: Contribute to the simplification, harmonisation and digitalisation of administrative processes