

European Macro-Regional Strategies and Spatial Rescaling

Environmental governance in the Baltic Sea region

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EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

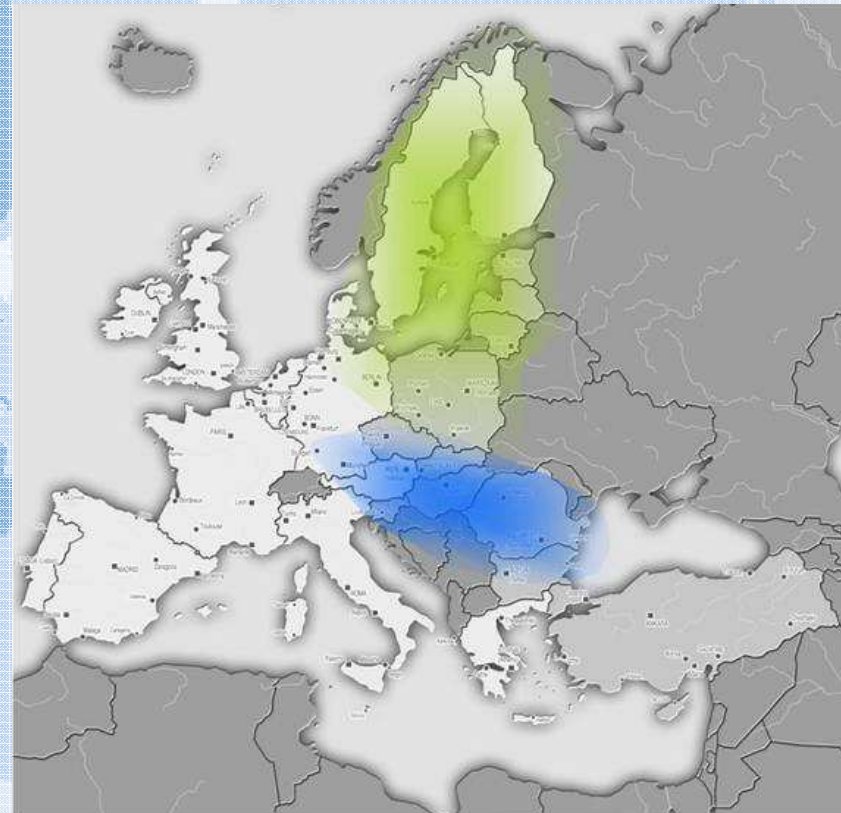


Headlines

- the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region provides new arenas for European, national and subnational actors to shape policy and action
- a deliberate outcome-based approach by the Commission to achieve practical results
- 'hard' and 'soft' policy spaces (multilevel)
- Europeanisation beyond existing EU boundaries

European macro-regional strategies

- two to date – Baltic Sea region (2009) & Danube region (2011)
- others likely to follow (e.g. North Sea & Adriatic-Ionian)
- 3 NOs: no new instruments;
no new legislation;
no new institutions
- links with European territorial cooperation: spaces, themes, actors
- form part of wider reflection on the future of EU regional policy beyond 2013



Spatial rescaling

“the process in which policies and politics that formerly took place at one scale are shifted to others in ways that reshape the practices themselves, redefine the scales to and from which they are shifted, and reorganise interactions between scales”

McCann, 2003

Spatial rescaling

- practices / operation
- scales (up + down)
- interactions + actors (vertical + horizontal)
- policy spaces ('hard' and 'soft')

'Hard' and 'soft' policy spaces

Hard spaces: *“formal, visible arenas and processes, often statutory and open to democratic processes and local political influence”*

Soft spaces: *“fluid areas between such formal processes where implementation through bargaining, flexibility, discretion and interpretation dominate”*

Haughton & Allmendinger, 2007

Multilevel governance

Type I

- General-purpose jurisdictions
- Non-intersecting memberships
- Jurisdictions at a limited number of levels
- System-wide architecture

Democracy

Accountability

Type II

- Task/issue-specific jurisdictions
- Intersecting memberships
- No limit to number of jurisdictional levels
- Flexible design

'Place-based approach'

Issue boundaries

Hooghe, L. & Marks, G. (2003). Unraveling the Central State, but how? Types of Multi-Level Governance. *The American Political Science Review* 97(2) 233-243.

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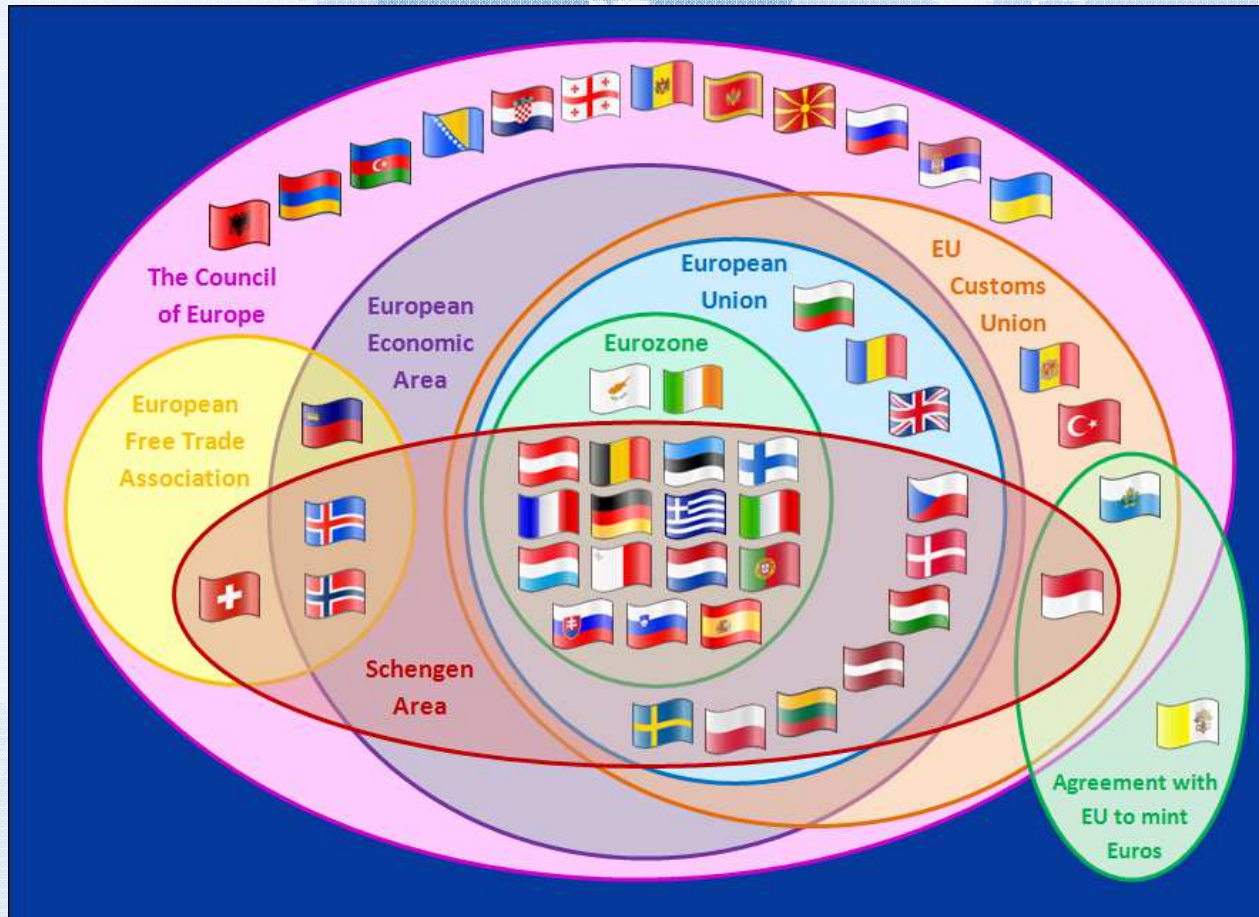
- 'Euclidean'
- Hierarchical
- Nested

Type II

- Task/issue-specific jurisdictions
- Intersecting memberships
- No limit to number of jurisdictional levels
- Flexible design

- Relational
- Cross-cutting
- Overlapping

Multilevel governance – Type II



'Hard' and 'soft' policy spaces

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'Hard' and 'soft' policy spaces

'Hard spaces'

- General-purpose jurisdictions
- Non-intersecting memberships
- Jurisdictions at a limited number of levels
- System-wide architecture

- 'Euclidean'
- Hierarchical
- Nested

- Statutory
- Political, comprehensive
- Hard, fixed boundaries along existing administrative lines

'Soft spaces'

- Task/issue-specific jurisdictions
- Intersecting memberships
- No limit to number of jurisdictional levels
- Flexible design

- Relational
- Cross-cutting
- Overlapping

- Non-statutory/voluntary
- Pragmatic, selective
- Fuzzy, shifting boundaries; between administrative lines

Precedents – INTERREG

- patchwork of action spaces
- overlapping (and changing) boundaries
- between EU and national levels
- fuzzy edges?



BSR INTERREG IIC (1997-1999)



BSR INTERREG IIIB (2000-2006)



BSR INTERREG IVB (2007-2013)

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

- 4 thematic 'pillars' (including environment), 76 actions
- different geometries and types of actors
- different arrangements for management
- different geographical scope – 'coverage depends on the topic'



Conceptions of Europeanisation (Clark & Jones, 2008)

Explanatory concept	Conceptualisation of Europeanisation
<i>Territory / territoriality</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Territorial propinquity – transmission of tacit knowledge between states (e.g. ‘successful’ policies, processes and procedures) 2. Rescaling of national identities and interests from states to the supranational scale – projection of national interests
<i>Government / governance</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Strengthening of supranational governance through EU institutions – initiatives provide impetus for further EU action 4. Reconfiguration of bases of authority – resulting from top-down diffusion of policies or modes of operation from EU institutions 5. Multidirectional changes in governance – bottom-up projection of national interests and identities that shape supranational policies 6. Reorganisation of spatial frames of decision-making (e.g. networks of relations) to suit new global economic imperatives
<i>Power</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Multidirectional processes of social transformation resulting from closer European integration (e.g. currency, labour, education) 8. Global projections (or ‘export’) of European norms, procedures or modes of operation 9. ‘Smoke screen’ for national interests – legitimising or bolstering national decisions

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Extending policy space (global projection)

Baltic Sea Region: Norway; Russia

Danube Region: Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; FYR Montenegro; Moldova; Serbia; Ukraine

North Sea: Norway

Adriatic-Ionian: Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; FYR Montenegro; Moldova

Conclusions

- macro-regional strategies provide new arenas for European, national and subnational actors to shape policy and action
- these strategies are increasing the pluralism of institutional frames and actors
- macro-regional strategies are contributing to spatial rescaling
- ‘soft’ spaces are not replacing ‘hard’ spaces – overlay
- macro-regional strategies are a deliberate outcome-based approach by the Commission to achieve practical results
- macro-regional strategies are contributing to Europeanisation beyond existing EU boundaries



end

thank you for your attention!