



We are pleased to invite you to our hybrid workshop in the framework of the  
European Week of Regions and Cities

<https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/>

## “The Mediterranean: Why we need a Macro-regional Strategy”

13 October 2022 at 11:00 – 12:30

European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 101, Brussels

Conference room JDE 63

Register at: <https://oblak.dnz.hr/apps/forms/5NNE7KJST6KT4H7E>



### **The Mediterranean: Why We Need a Macro-Regional Strategy**

The Mediterranean Sea, which connects cultures, local economies, regions, and states in the European Union, among candidate and potential candidate states, North Africa, and Middle East, is one of the most polluted seas in the world, with multiple endangerments to biodiversity and sustainability of ecosystems and mariculture. The sensitive state of the Mediterranean is exemplified in the Commission’s proposal to designate the north-west of the basin as a particularly sensitive sea area (PSSA), to protect whales and dolphins from polluting effects of international shipping. The environmental challenges, which also affect labor markets, economic growth, demographic trends, food security, and quality of life in local communities, have a clear cross-border, multifaceted nature and can only be tackled by concerted action of all relevant stakeholders in the Mediterranean. The macro-regional approach, already tested and proven by the European Union in several parts of the continent, is surely the most feasible framework for common action towards battling negative effects of climate change and sea and air pollution in regions and countries around the Mediterranean basin. The macro-regional approach will also enable better interconnectedness of local and regional project funded through EU cohesion policy mechanisms.

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EWRC is the biggest annual Brussels-based event dedicated to local and regional authorities and communities that celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> edition this year.