



**TEDEN SREDOZEMSKJE OBALE
IN MAKROREGIONALNIH
STRATEGIJ**
Izola, Slovenija
15. – 18. september 2025

**MEDITERRANEAN COAST
AND MACRO-REGIONAL
STRATEGIES WEEK**
Izola, Slovenia
15 – 18 September 2025

INVITATION TO THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL of the Mediterranean Coast and Macro-regional Strategies Week 2025

Stronger cooperation for better future
Izola, Slovenia

Dear Sir or Madam,

We kindly invite you to attend the high-level panel “**Contribution of EU Macro-Regional Strategies to EU Enlargement**”, which will take place as part of the 10th Mediterranean Coast and Macro-Regional Strategies Week 2025, on **Tuesday, 16 September 2025 at 14:00**, at **Manzioli Palace, Izola**.

The panel will highlight the role of macro-regional strategies in supporting the EU enlargement process. The discussion will focus on concrete mechanisms of cooperation with candidate countries and on the challenges and opportunities that enlargement presents for the stability, security, and development of the wider European area.

Setting the scene:

Presentation of success stories of macro-regional strategies and tools assisting candidate countries in the accession process (15 minutes):

- **Robert Lichtner**, Danube Strategy Point Coordinator, EUSDR,
- **Eva Kos**, EUSAIR Facility Point Coordinator

Panellists:

- **Valentina Superti**, Director for the Western Balkans, Directorate-General for Enlargement and the Eastern Neighbourhood, European Commission,
- **Predrag Zenović**, Chief Negotiator of Montenegro with the European Union, Ministry of European Affairs, Montenegro (*tbc*),
- **Midhat Džemić**, National Coordinator for EUSDR and EUSAIR, Directorate for European Integration of Council of Ministers, Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Bosnia in Herzegovina
- **Zuica Zmejkovska**, National Coordinator for EUSAIR, Ministry of European Affairs, North Macedonian Presidency of EU Strategy for Adriatic-Ionian Region, North Macedonia,
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy (*tbc*),
- **Peter Grk**, Secretary General of the Bled Strategic Forum and Coordinator for the Western Balkans, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia

Moderator:



- Ambassador **Sabina Stadler Repnik**, Head of Department for Strategic Studies and Analyses, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia

The panel will provide an opportunity for the exchange of views between speakers from Member States, candidate countries, the European Commission and civil society on the mechanisms and the role of EUSDR and EUSAIIR in further facilitating the path of candidate countries towards EU integration.

The event will be held in English.

Please find attached the full programme of the Mediterranean Coast and Macro-Regional Strategies Week 2025. We look forward to your participation in this important event.

Warmly welcome!

The Mediterranean Coast and Macro-regional Strategies Week 2025
Organizing Team