

How are the programmes adding value to the MRS / SBS?

Besiana Ninka, Daniela Minichberger, Baiba Liepa, Ilze Ciganska |

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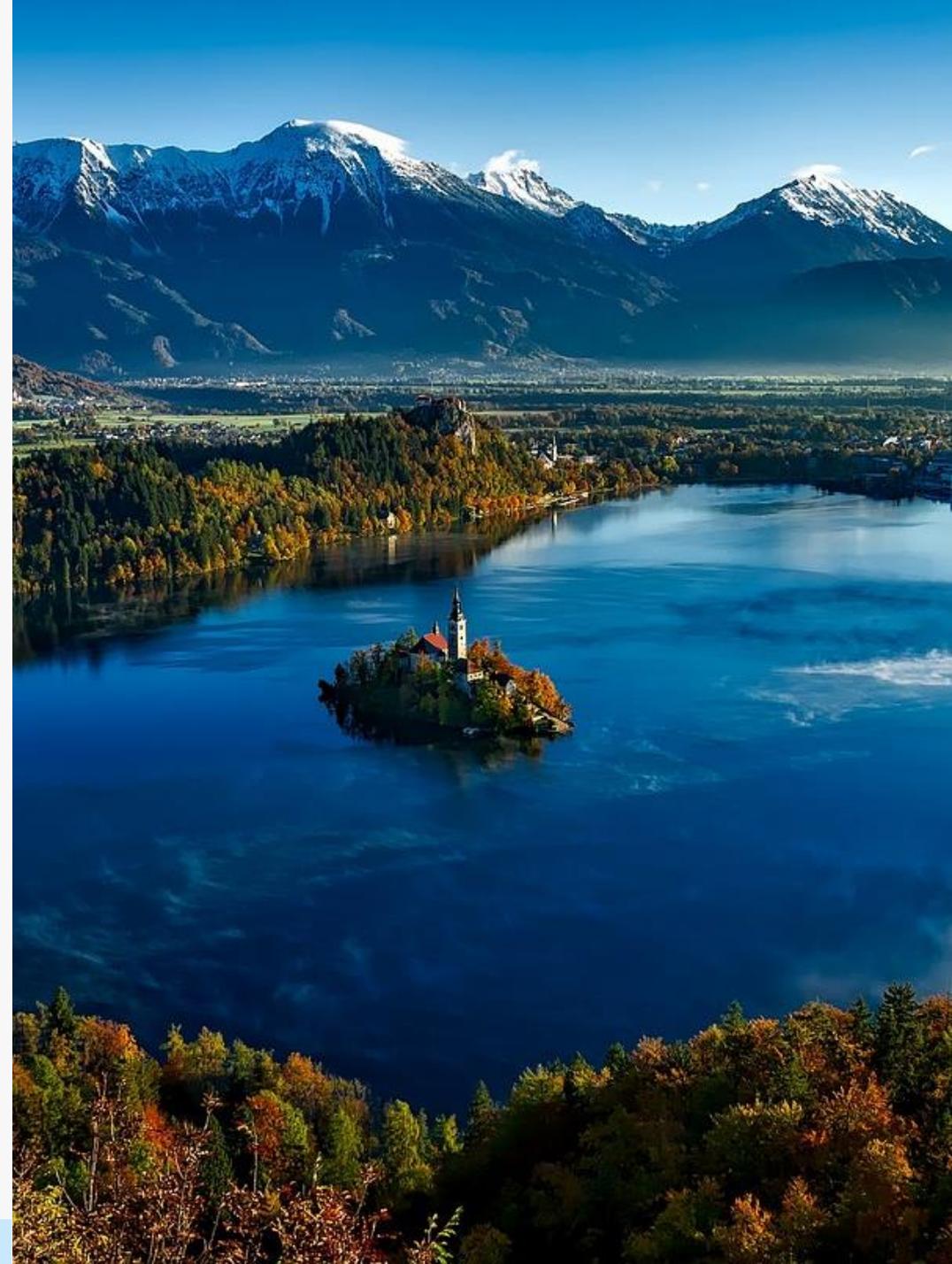
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Objectives

- Exchange on different evaluation practices to understand how are the programmes adding value to the MRS / SBS and vice versa;
- Present concrete programme examples
- Discuss the role and position of the programmes in the model on impact pathways that is currently developed for the MRS / SBS



Agenda

01

Recap from the previous meeting and tour de table

02

Exchange on MRS/SBS support evaluations in 2025 or later

03

ToR: the questions developed related to MRS/SBS

04

Update on Capacity building to further enhance M&E systems

05

Next steps

Why joining forces ...

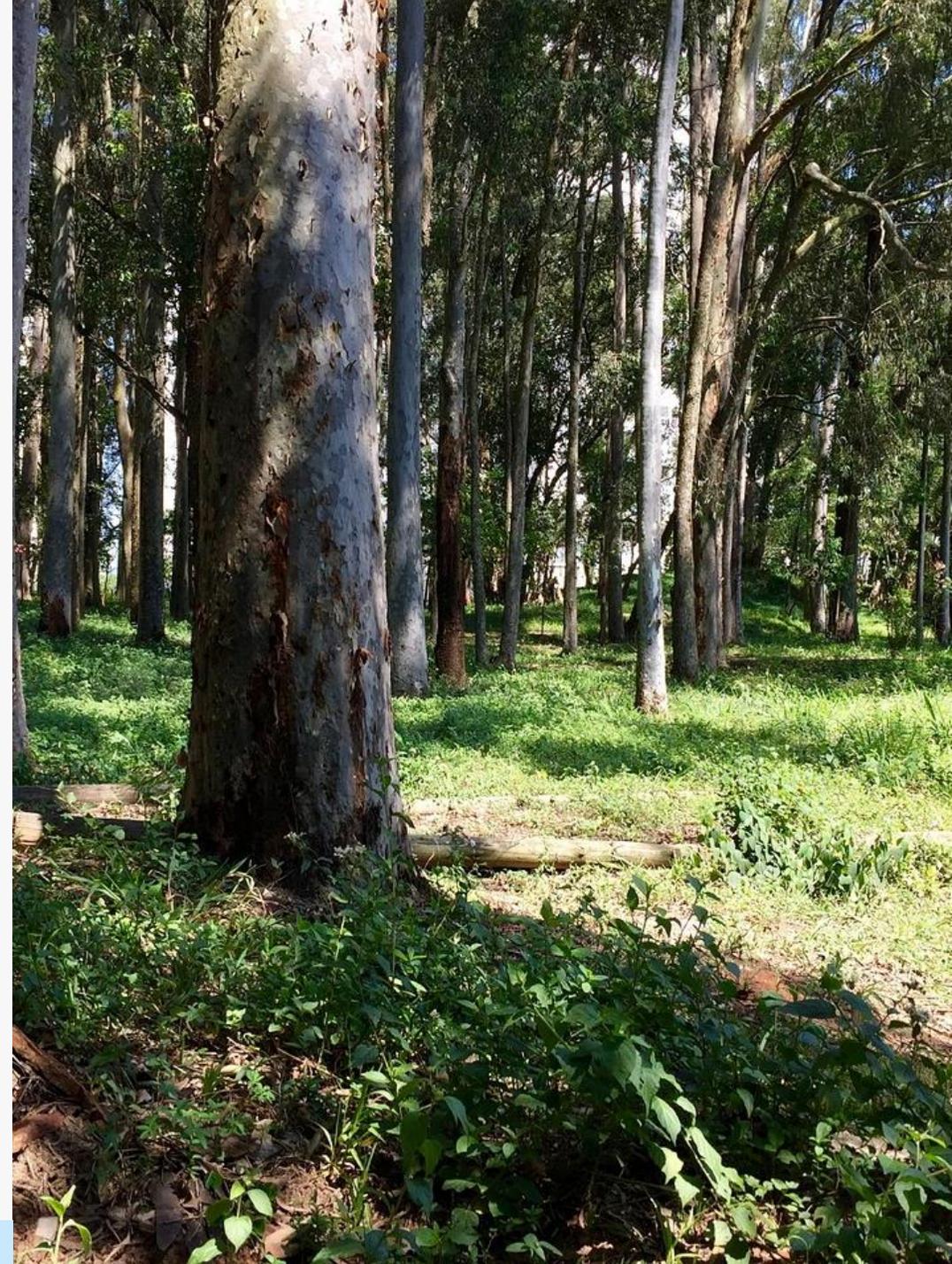
Enhanced cooperation and synergy: promote closer cooperation among Interreg programmes, foster the identification of shared challenges and the creation of synergies, strengthen the impact of Interreg cooperation;

Efficient evaluation design: streamline evaluation questions & data collection, share evaluation methodologies, align efforts;

Effective voice of Interreg: comparable voices that are more easily understood and heard.

Main principles

- A bottom-up approach exercise.
- Tailored to address the specific needs, relevance, and interests of each participating programme.
- Support the development of methodologies, such as approaches and impact pathways.
- Achieve greater visibility and impact for Interreg.





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Recap from the previous meeting and tour de table

Is there any new evaluation activities related to MRS / SBS you would like to share with us?



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Exchange on MRS/SBS support evaluations foreseen by the programmes in 2025 or later

- What evaluations tackling the programme contribution to MRS / SBS have you foreseen?
- What is the status quo: did you start already?
- Have you faced any challenges so far?



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ToR: the questions developed related to MRS/SBS

DRP programme example

Update on the service

Capacity building to enhance MRS M&E systems with a focus on MRS change

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Context for this service

- need for robust data on the impact of the Strategies, incl. mobilised funding
- strategic approach to communication on impact and results, visibility of Strategies results
- need to improve the monitoring and evaluation

Added values of MRS

MRS, as a strategic policy framework for collaboration and coordination of efforts across countries and regions of Europe for a **long-term impact/ change**:

Cross-sectoral approach

Cross-policy coordination to deal with the issue.

Engagement of stakeholders

Relevant stakeholders are engaged in various coordinated activities.

Actions on the ground

Implementation and coordination of various relevant activities to achieve a shared objective.

Alignment of resources

Any resource: financial, human, institutional, legislative.

Challenge that was considered

Diverse approaches, capacities, and implementation strategies in MRS M&E systems hinder consistency in demonstrating outcomes

Absence of a standardised approach to demonstrating the added value of the MRS

Lack of comprehensive and comparable data to show benefits proven through cross-strategy assessments and evaluations

Purpose of the service

Elaborating a generic impact model and M&E framework inputs to increase capacity to effectively demonstrate MRS added value



Support further MRS M&E developments



Provide ideas for harmonising MRS M&E systems

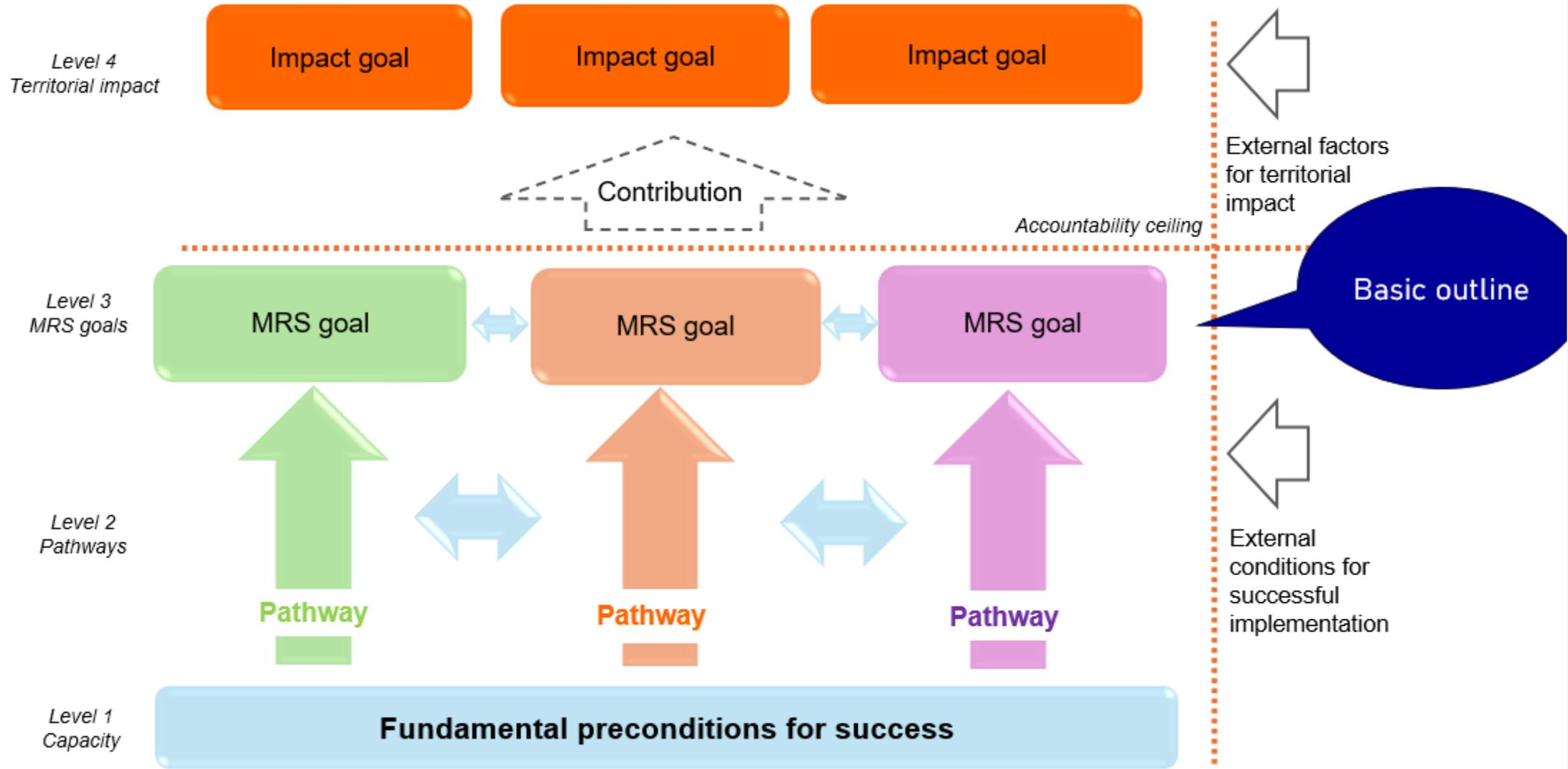


Enhance capacity of support units



Provide basis for further cross-MRS evaluations

Common impact model with pathways for MRS (simple version)



Common impact model with pathways for MRS (revised version, October 2024)

Ultimate objective: Tackle common challenges in the macro-region through better coordination and pooling of resources

Level 4:
Territorial impact

- 4.1 Strengthening social cohesion
- 4.2 Boosting economic prosperity
- 4.3 Promoting environmental sustainability

External factors

Accountability ceiling

Level 3:
MRS goals

- 3.1 Relationships and trust between stakeholders are improved fostering social capital within the macro-region
- 3.2 Better-aligned policies are rolled out throughout the macro-region, supported by administrative and political stakeholders
- 3.3 Macro-regional actions are implemented, meeting established targets and positively influencing the region

Conditions for success (outside MRS control):

5.7 MRS actions are aligned with EU policy priorities

Level 2:
Pathways

- 2.3 Platforms with high visibility and broad participation of stakeholders across the macro-region are established
- 2.7 Joint positions, common procedures or other agreements are approved by political stakeholders based on successful pilot approaches
- 2.11 Actions are monitored and supported by MRS stakeholders during the implementation phase
- 2.2 Thematic information and matching events are conducted to explore cooperation opportunities and help finding joint solutions
- 2.6 Pilot approaches are tested, and results were disseminated with the involvement of administration and political stakeholders
- 2.10 There is an ongoing dialogue with financial programmes that leveraged ESIF and other funds to support relevant actions
- 2.1 Ongoing information is provided for specific target groups to raise awareness of MRS priorities and actions. Relevant stakeholders are mobilised and engaged in actions
- 2.5 Pilot approaches are proposed and supported by administration and political stakeholders to address the identified needs
- 2.9 Relevant actions and strategic initiatives are promoted and supported by MRS key stakeholders through, e.g. labelling, brokering, presentation events, framework initiatives, thematic WG, and task forces
- 2.4 Administration and political stakeholders became more aware on the need for better aligned policies in specific areas
- 2.8 Clear targets and indicators are set for the planned actions

5.6 Legal requirements (e.g. climate law) drive forward joint approaches

5.5 New funding opportunities (e.g. RRF, JTF etc.) are used

5.4 Enabling rules for embedding are in place

5.3 Existing institutional settings (non-governmental) can be utilized

Pathway: Networking

Pathway: Policy work

Pathway: Action implementation

Level 1:
Preconditions for successful MRS activities

- 1.1 Organisational structures of national and thematic area coordinators, thematic steering groups and governance support structures have sufficient capacities to support cooperation processes
- 1.2 Action plans are drawn up based on a sound needs assessment and reflect actual context, and are updated if necessary to maximize impact
- 1.3 Communication strategies are set up to raise awareness of the MRS and their added value. MRS narrative is clear
- 1.4 Monitoring and evaluation systems are established to track progress and identify areas for improvement

5.2 Support by national and regional governments is provided

5.1 Support by EU institutions is provided

Next **workshop** and closing of the **service**

Develop inputs for **evaluation framework**

Reflect on proposed **evaluation questions, criteria and indicators**

Summarise the suggestions in a **working paper**

What's next?



Floor is open for discussion

See what questions we asked
in the email



Next steps:

- Do you want to join the discussions in Brussels to learn more on the impact pathways model that is currently developed for the MRS / SBS?
- What topic would you like to discuss in the next online meeting?
- When do you want to meet again?
- Any other suggestions?



Thank you for being here!

Your opinion matters to us.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with feedback to help us improve our services.



Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

Interact connections / Interact library / How are the programmes adding value to the MRS / SBS and vice versa?