

The European Green Deal is defined as the commitment of the European Union to respond to the environmental and climate change-related challenges faced in Europe in the longer-term, with the key overarching aim for the EU to produce no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050. This aim is to be facilitated in part by the intermediate target of reducing emissions by at least 50% and towards 55% by 2030. Another aim of the strategy is to decouple economic growth from resource use, such that the EU remains a prosperous society with a competitive economy, while minimising its damage to the environment. It can be concluded that the European Green Deal is dealing with the economic growth, but considering the effect on the environment and climate change – it presents the path that should be taken in other strategies in the European Union, including the Macro-Regional Strategies (MRS).

Macro-regional strategies are integrated frameworks endorsed by the European Council, which may be supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds among others, to address common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to Member States and third countries located in the same geographical area which thereby benefit from strengthened cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion. At the moment, there are four MRS in the European Union and they are dealing with the environmental issues in the different ways. For example, in The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, environmental protection, climate change mitigation and biodiversity preservation are horizontal topics, while in The EU Strategy for the Danube Region, these topics are only part of one Pillar, while biodiversity is to topic of only one Priority area, together with the landscapes, air and soil.

The aim of this research is to develop the model of integration of the European Green Deal principles and objectives into the MRS, but not only as a part of the Strategy, as a one Pillar or one Priority area, but as a horizontal topic, to ensure that total economic growth and all sectors, including the industry, tourism, science and traffic, are being developed in the environmentally-friendly way. It can be concluded that the main objective of this research is to ensure sustainable development in the European Macro-regions, guided primarily by principles of the European Green Deal, and therefore by principles of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals of the United Nations.