About the Project

Background
Closed seas play very diverse roles in relations between their bordering states: they unite and separate. They are places of transit, a shared—or sometimes disputed—space, an element of joint identity, a common heritage. Sub-regions provide an additional arena for the European Union to interact with its closest neighbours, where sub-regional cooperation, i.e., international cooperation between states (and sub-state governments) in geographical groups which are smaller than a continent, provides a valuable complement to the EU’s foreign policy aim of peace, stability and prosperity. The EU relations with its neighbourhoud are an issue linked to the debates about the role of the EU as a global actor: model of governance, promoter of multilateralism, normative power or, even security power and the nature of its activities.

Objectives and methodology
The main goal of the EU4SEAS project is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the sub-regional multilateralism (notion and practice) in the four maritime basins (Mediterranean, Baltic, Black and Caspian Seas) as a specific approach for the EU and multilateralism. The project encompasses three main elements, organized in Work Packages (WP).

1. A detailed theoretical framework to analyze the sub-regional dimension and the interaction with the EU (WP1).

2. Empirical research focused on four areas of study:
• Politics and Security (WP2);
• Environmental and maritime issues (WP3);
• Energy and transport issues (WP4);
• The Four Freedoms (free movement of goods, services, capital and people) (WP5).

3. A prescriptive element, based on findings of the first two phases, including the drafting policy papers and the detection of best practices (WP6).

Deliverables
For each region EU4SEAS will generate the following deliverables:
• A seminar conducted by researchers and practitioners to extract both analytical and policy-relevant conclusions to be presented in separate documents.
• Publication containing the main results of the seminar.
• Scientific Paper to be published in a refereed journal, with one of the concrete case analysed and deepened.
• Policy Paper with recommendations for the EU taking into account their effects on sub-regional multilateralism.
• Best Practices Reports to be included in the project website.

The main project areas are the overlapping regions surrounding the Europe’s seas, including some non-littoral countries.

Baltic Sea
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Northern Germany (Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Schleswig-Holstein), Northern Poland (Pomorskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie and Zachodnio-Pomorskie), Russia’s Northwestern region including Kaliningrad and the nearby Belarus.

Black Sea
Turkey, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria as well as near countries Greece, Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Caspian Sea
Iran, Azerbaijan, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Turkmnenistan and the nearby countries, Georgia, Armenia, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

Mediterranean Sea
Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia, Bosnian-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Israel and Gaza Strip, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Malta and Cyprus.
The EU and sub-regional multilateralism in Europe’s sea basins: Neighbourhood, Enlargement and Multilateral Cooperation

An FP7 SSH collaborative research project (2009-2011)

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