



**INTERNATIONAL PERMANENT SECRETARIAT
BLACK SEA UNIVERSITIES NETWORK**

Adress: 124, Mamaia Avenue, 900527 Constanta, ROMANIA

Phone / Fax: +40 241 606462

Mobil: +40 748 229695

E-mail: office@bsun.org

Web: <http://www.bsun.org>

REPORT

Black Sea CONNECT Science Fair

AstroFest 2021

Place: Bucharest, Romania

Date: 23-24 July, 2021

Between 23rd and 24th of July, 2021, took place an event with a very large audience, AstroFest 2021, in which participated a delegation of the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN) with a booth dedicated for the Black Sea CONNECT Project. The delegation of BSUN was represented by: Andreea-Iuliana Presură, Larisa-Ana Pospai and Cosmin Tacciu.

As a leader of Task 4.2 – Black Sea Awareness & Outreach, the BSUN representatives prepared posters, flyers and roll-ups related to the project and a TV display, for presenting movies regarding the Blue Growth initiative in the Black Sea region, underwater archaeological heritage and many other subjects of interest.

During the Science Fair, it was presented the beta version of the Serious Game "Diving in Blue", application for Android, available at: <https://bsun.org/media/divinginblue.apk> which gathered the interest of the young generation. Also, there were presented the platforms <http://bluegrowth.bsun.org/> and <https://bluejoy.bsun.org/>.

On Saturday, 24th of July, 2021, Prof. Dr. Eden Mamut made a presentation entitled "*The Stars, Winds, Waves, Us... and the Sea – Blue Growth in the Black Sea Region*". During the presentation, Prof. Mamut highlighted the importance of implementing the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), mentioning the four pillars on which the initiative is based: managing the fundamental challenges in the field of research in the Black Sea region; development of products, solutions and entrepreneurial approaches related to the Blue Growth initiative; building key infrastructures in the field of research and

education, skills and Black Sea literacy development. Also, during the presentation, the public was informed on the activities related to the implementation of the Romania's National Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 with an emphasis on marine and coastal areas.

At the end of the presentation, Prof. Eden Mamut invited the participating youngsters at the event to the BSUN boat, to live the experience of virtual scuba diving in the Black Sea, through Virtual Reality glasses, which were later given to those who were interested.

The presence of the BSUN representatives at the Science Fair attracted an increased visibility on the objectives of the Black Sea CONNECT Project, due to the large number of visitors, as well as the media exposure.