1st International Conference on Blue Growth in the Black Sea Region:

„Ecosystem Services on River-Sea Macro-ecosystems"

March 9th and 10th, 2020

"Ovidius" University of Constanta,

Constanta, Romania

Background

As it is widely known, in 2015 the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this document, the heads of UN member states have committed their countries that: *"Until [..] 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. [..] also to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities."*.

The year 2019 closed the first cycle of the 2030 Agenda implementation and one of the main conclusions of the evaluation process is that the natural environment is still deteriorating at an alarming rate: sea levels are rising; ocean acidification is accelerating; the past four years have been the warmest on record; one million plant and animal species are at risk of extinction; and land degradation continues unchecked.

The European Green Deal is an ambitious package of measures launched by the European Commission to address the grand challenge that by 2050, Europe to become the world's first climate-neutral continent and to enable European citizens and businesses to benefit from sustainable green transition. The measures are accompanied with an initial roadmap of key policies range from ambitiously cutting emissions, to investing in cutting-edge research and innovation, to preserving Europe's natural environment.

The Blue Growth of the EU is an initiative to promote the marine and maritime contribution to achieving the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea aims to advance a shared vision for a productive, healthy, resilient and sustainable Black Sea by 2030, while considering the special and unique ecosystem characteristics of it. In particular, it's unique biodiversity, cultural heritage sites and the new local, national and transboundary policy measures. It will focus on four key areas: to address fundamental Black Sea research challenges; to boost the Black Sea Blue Economy; to develop innovative infrastructures and to enhance blue workforce through education for new marine and maritime jobs and engaging citizens.

The Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea is the result of a process initiated and supported by the European Commission for setting a basin-wide initiative for more, and more sustainable, economic growth. It has been adopted on 21st of May 2019, in Bucharest, by the Ministers responsible for maritime affairs of the participating countries – Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine.

Purpose

The event aims to offer a framework for free debates facilitating the exchange of ideas, best practices and knowledge in order to identify new directions to be followed for conceiving the policies addressing the implementation of SRIA in the Black Sea area. The Conference is intended to offer a platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas between governmental agencies, Universities, NGOs and other various contributors from different disciplines.

Participants

At the event, there were invited international and governmental responsible bodies for sustainable development in the BSEC member states, members of parliaments, Government officials, academics, students, experts in the field, Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners of BSEC member states, BSEC related bodies and other international organizations, journalists.