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BLACK SEA UNIVERSITIES NETWORK**
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PRESS RELEASE

The Black Sea Universities Network, in collaboration with Hârşova City Hall, organized a Blue Growth Hackathon dedicated to the identification of innovative solutions for the Sustainable Development of Hârşova City.

The event has been organized online, between 29th and 30th of June, 2021.

The competition teams included students from "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galaţi and "Ovidius" University of Constanţa.

The Hackathon's Evaluation Panel included the following personalities: Mr. Viorel Ionescu, Mayor of Hârşova City Hall, Dr. Dan Vasiliu, Director of GeoEcoMar Constanţa, Dr. Vasile Pătraşcu, Vice President of the Scientific Council of the Romanian National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa" (RIMR), Prof. Dr. Gabriela Țigu, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Tourism at the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, Mrs. Claudia Corsei, Project Evaluator at FLAG Delta and Dr. Costin Şorici, Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer at "Ovidius" University of Constanţa.

The participants presented their solutions, and following the jury's deliberations, the team from "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău was declared the winner of the Blue Growth Hackathon. The team was formed by the following students: Calugaru Gabriel, Sică Lucian Matei and Bârdan Marius Vasile.

The team formed by the students from "Ovidius" University Constanţa: Florea Ştefan, Ceriu Claudia, Ciobănică Ioana-Tania, Abaza Maria, Cristea Andreea, Toma Diana and Uceanu Gabriel was ranked on the 2nd place, and the team formed by the students from "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galaţi: Racoviţă Iulian, Marin Ionuţ-Dorin, Dănilă Andreea, Muscă Marius, State Alin and Năstase Mihăiţă was ranked on the 3rd place.

The winning team proposed a Unique Interdisciplinary Science Center in Hârşova, solution for presenting the anthropogenic pressures on the Danube River Basin, by using multimedia technologies, dioramas, stands and ways of interaction and involvement of visitors in activities such as "Citizens` Science": attractive and recreational games for children and other associated activities.

Personally, Mr. Viorel Ionescu, Mayor Hârşova City Hall, appreciated also the ideas of the other participating teams, which referred to the enhancement of tourist potential, the modernization and increase of the attractiveness of Hârşova Port, the archeological sites and the sulfurous waters.

Some of these ideas were appreciated as new proposals that will be considered to assess the possibilities of formulating project proposals for different funding sources.

On behalf of the organizers, Prof. Dr. Eden Mamut, Secretary General of BSUN, thanked all students and groups of teachers who were involved in this event. The experience gained will allow the organization of other similar events in the next period.

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