



Coordination of Marine and Maritime Research and
Innovation in the Black Sea
Black Sea CONNECT



Funded under Horizon 2020 as a Coordination and Support Action CONNECT BLACK SEA

International Conference “Education for Blue Growth”

Date: October 5th, 2021
Location: Harsova City Hall Premises

- Hybrid Format -

Background

In 2016, with the support of the European Commission, it has been initiated the process of conceiving and drafting the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) on Blue Growth in the Black Sea region. This document was launched on the 8th of May 2019, in Bucharest, Romania, during the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Initiative has identified four main pillars on which a new set of research and innovation actions can be developed:

- Addressing fundamental Black Sea research challenges - Black Sea Knowledge Bridge,
- Developing products, solutions and clusters underpinning Black Sea Blue Growth - Black Sea Blue Economy,
- Building of critical support systems and innovative Infrastructures - Key Joint Infrastructure and Policy Enablers,
- Education and capacity building - Empowered Citizens and Enhanced Blue Workforce.

A key output of the SRIA is to help identify national level priorities to contribute to the development of national Blue Growth agendas. Furthermore, the actions proposed in the SRIA and their implementation will be generating scientific knowledge. Such new knowledge includes better

ecosystem assessments, forecasts and management, as well as understanding of the vulnerabilities of the ecosystem. Knowledge is the key element towards science-based and well-informed decision-making. Such policymaking paves the way to a sustainable blue economy.

Co-Organizers

EU4Ocean is set up by the European Commission to bring together all European groups and organisations active in ocean preservation and ocean literacy. It consists of three major components: a coalition of professional organisations, a European Youth Forum for the Ocean and a Network of European Blue Schools.

The Network of European Blue Schools assists schools to address marine topics in class that are relevant to the school, the local community and the region and find inspiration to develop and implement a Find the Blue project in partnership with ocean stakeholders. Participating schools will receive the European Blue School certification as a mark of their effort and excellence. The Network of European Blue Schools is not only an education project, but as much an economic, societal and environmental initiative. The project strengthens collaborations between the participating schools and the universities, municipalities, NGO's, industry and other marine professionals. Marine stakeholders are involved in the provision of knowledge, excursions or teaching resources. Schools have to actively engage with them and ensure that the results of their Find the Blue project are transferred to the community.

The **Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN)** was established in 1998 with the purpose of developing educational, scientific, and cultural cooperation and exchanges among the Universities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Member States and other institutions with similar concern. The network includes more than 115 member universities from the 12 member states of BSEC as Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and Serbia.

On 14th of July 2021, it was signed a Collaboration Protocol between **Harsova City Hall** and BSUN for assisting the development and implementation of a European Center for Science and Culture named Istro-Dobro-Pontica. The Center will be located in the city of Harsova and will represent a platform for supporting a cultural route that ensures the connection between the cultural routes established along the Danube up to the Black Sea. The Harsova City Hall shows a strong interest in partnership collaboration that includes support for local public administration, especially for a professional approach to identified problems, in a collaborative and integrated manner, which can predict the socio-economic development of the city, in multiple areas such as: economic, educational and environmental.

The **Black Sea CONNECT Project** is a coordination and support action which scientifically, technically, and logistically supports the Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative towards the implementation of the Burgas Vision Paper, with a view on boosting the blue economy in the region. The overall objective is to coordinate the development of the Black Sea SRIA and its implementation plan both at the national and regional levels. The Black Sea SRIA and its implementation plan will guide stakeholders to address together with the fundamental Black Sea challenges, to promote blue growth and economic prosperity of the Black Sea region, to build critical support systems and innovative research infrastructure, and improve education and capacity building.

Objectives

The event aims to offer a framework for free debates facilitating the enhancement of quality and relevance of education and training within the EU Blue Growth Initiative. The concept of sustainability has been placed at the forefront of education and community action activities, in order to support the transition towards a sustainable growth in the Black Sea region.

9.30 – Registration of participants

10.00 - Opening Plenary Session

Welcome address of Mr. Viorel IONESCU, Mayor of Harsova City Hall

Prof. Dr. Eden MAMUT, BSUN Secretary General

Prof. Dr. Lucian CIOLAN, Vicerector, University of Bucharest

Prof. Laura POPA, Inspector, Constanta County School Inspectorate

Prof. Elena MANEA, Director, "Ioan Cotovu" High School of Harsova

10.30 – Presentation of the ARSINOE Project – Climate resilient-regions through systemic solutions and innovations – Prof. Chrysi LASPIDOU, University of Thessaly in Greece

10.50 – Blue Growth Workforce – Mrs. Diana MORARU, Performance Coach

11.10 – Presentation of the strategic project Istro-Dobro-Pontica - Prof. Dr. Eden MAMUT, BSUN Secretary General

11.30 – Presentation of the project „The Danube. A silence oasis – Shape your future, little waves make a big ocean!” – Team Project: Prof. Camelia Șerban, Prof. Liliana Baci, Prof. Mihaela Epifan, Prof. Andreea Oana Lupu, Prof. Monica Olaru, Prof. Nicoleta Sora

Students: Alexandru Andrei Avisalon (X A), Alexandru Alistarh (XI A), Vlad Alexandru Blagă (XI A), George Bogdan Constantin (XI A), Raluca Sava (XI B), Eduard Bogdan Șerban (X A)

11.40 – Roundtable Discussion

This moderated, open roundtable discussion will offer an opportunity for the didactic staff to engage in an interactive way with experts, governmental agencies and other international organizations on topics related to the "Blue Growth" initiative. It will include the following topics:

- Presentation of existing projects
- Challenges and best practices for supporting the pre-university and university education
- Different approaches for promoting the "Blue Growth" initiative
- Shaping pathways for the future education on "Blue Growth"
- Expansion of knowledge, networks and collaboration opportunities for the participants

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Eden MAMUT, BSUN Secretary General

Invited contributors:

Prof. Narciz AMZA, Didactic Corp House of Constanta

Prof. Alexandru DOGARU, Professor of Romanian Language and Literature

12.30 – Conclusions & Closure