



# **Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea**

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**Second workshop towards the  
implementation of the Common  
Maritime Agenda**

**14 November 2019, Bucharest, Romania**

**Event Report**



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Consortium

### **Consortium Members**

1. Kantor Management Consultants S.A. (KMC)
2. Application Européenne de Technologies et de Services (AETS)

### **Subcontractors**

1. Pescares Italia Srl (Pescares)
2. Stratégies Mer et Littoral (SML)

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## 1 Introduction

This report presents the main features and outcomes of the second cooperation workshop - “Supporting Innovative Solutions for Blue Economy Development” - working towards the implementation of the Common Maritime Agenda. The workshop was held at the European Commission Representation premises in Bucharest, on November 14th, 2019.

The event was finally attended by 79 persons, coming mainly from Romania, though relevant and dynamic actors present also came from Bulgaria, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, and from a regional organization (Black Sea Commission).

The report also includes the following annexes with additional details:

1. The agenda (Annex 1);
2. The list of Conference attendees (Annex 2);
3. The concept notes for the workshop (Annex 3);
4. Conference planning and implementation (Annex 4).

## 2 Objectives of the cooperation workshop and expected outcomes

The workshop “Supporting Innovative Solutions for Blue Economy Development” aimed to support project initiatives in line with the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea (CMA) and the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), which were endorsed in May 2019 by the Black Sea riparian countries and the Republic of Moldova. The workshop was organized by the Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea with the support of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (as national coordinating institution) and followed a previous similar workshop structure organized in Bulgaria, with a stronger focus on tourism and sustainable infrastructures.

The workshop was organised as a series of plenary presentations followed by exchanges and Q&As with participants, as well as even more interactive sessions of brainstorming moderated by the Facility and involving practitioners across all of the Black Sea (EU Member States and Neighboring Countries). A full agenda and list of participants is provided as Annex (anonymised, thus respecting EU Directives).

The Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea and MFA representatives moderated the event and supported the fine-tuning of project ideas, in accordance with the relevant EU funding opportunities, open strands or upcoming ones in H2020, EMFF and LIFE+. The Facility also presented the newly launched EU Blue Investment Platform, aimed at providing training and capacity building, as well as matchmaking and brokering support to SMEs in search of financing partners for their innovative business ideas in the Blue Economy sector. The platform is reachable at the website address [www.Blue-Invest.eu](http://www.Blue-Invest.eu).

Discussions were held around how to approach funding opportunities so as to effectively follow-up and implement the results and project ideas agreed in the Regional Stakeholders Seminar “Towards a Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea” held in Istanbul on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Specific project ideas discussed in March were further debated so as to foster concrete initiatives in the areas of environmental protection, research and innovation. New projects proposals were raised in exchange with the participants and further specified through parallel working groups.

Exchanges held throughout the day allowed participants to come up with a series of selected project ideas aimed at fostering cooperation across stakeholders active in the sea basins, by specifying for each idea: main aims and objectives, national and regional partner organizations to be involved, main activities and work packages (WPs), as well as existing and potential funding/financing mechanisms through which they could be supported.

### **3 Execution of the cooperation workshop**

#### **Welcome addresses by the representative of the hosting organization**

The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented by Ștefan Tinca, General Director, opened the session by:

- Reminding attendees of the efforts made since 2018 with the national workshops which have raised awareness of the blue economy and then willingness to develop at national and regional level the results of that process, achieved with the endorsement of the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) for the Black Sea and its research component, SRIA under Romania EU presidency in 2019;
- Recalling the need to develop regional cooperation, building on the flexible regional networks to come up with ideas and concrete applications for future EU calls, as well as recalling the willingness of Romania to remain engaged and to actively contribute to the CMA and SRIA implementation.

#### **Opening Plenary Session (to set the scene and introduce the strategic framework)**

Following the initial greetings, the strategic framework for cooperation was described:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented by Mrs Olivia Todorean, national focal point for CMA, reminded participants of the state of play of the blue economy in the Black Sea, as well as the design process and endorsement of the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea (cf. presentation) and the support it benefits from the EU Commission/DG MARE and DG NEAR;
- GEOECOMAR, represented by Dr. Adrian Stanica, sketched the state of play of the Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea, including through an introduction to the new assistance mechanism for SRIA implementation, Blue Connect (cf. presentation).

#### **Plenary Interactive Session (for the identification of valuable project ideas)**

Following initial introductory remarks, the interaction with the audience was structured and animated by the Facility around three components: (i) Practical information on the available funding opportunities offered by the EU Research and Innovation programme, as Horizon 2020 and the implementation of SRIA, (ii) Briefing on upcoming funding opportunities under the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and LIFE+ programmes (iii) project ideas identification.

Project identification was led with open discussion in plenary and based on a screening from focused Istanbul project ideas on environmental protection, research, and innovation, taking into account the possibilities and eligible criteria offered by H2020, EMFF and Life+ which had been recalled before.

### **Further in-depth discussion and finalisation of priority actions**

Following a screening and agreement on the most valuable and interesting project ideas, the Facility coordinated active stakeholder engagement across a number of different sessions:

- Priority project ideas were further developed in four sub-groups, according to preferred interests among participants expressed at the end of the plenary working group (initially there were three groups planned, but the interests of stakeholders after the plenary discussions led to the formation of four groups);
- A plenary wrap-up of the four parallel working groups presenting six potential cooperation projects and next steps agreed among working group participants. The wrap-up session was also an opportunity to share point of view on project ideas;
- Closing remarks were made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reminding all of the relevant steps taken so far and achievements made possible because of those steps, as well as reminding of even more proactive and collaborative actions to be promoted due to the launch of the new support provided by the EU Commission (via the already running Blue Connect project for SRIA implementation (DG RTD) and a future dedicated Assistance Mechanism for CMA implementation in 2020 (DG Mare). The stakeholders were strongly encouraged to follow up on the ideas and take ownership of the two Agendas in their activities, so as to propose new projects in the upcoming months.

## **4 Cooperation workshop outcomes**

During the plenary discussion, several stakeholders agreed on the fact that the main point was to define key projects as much as possible with a regional scope by blending all the funding opportunities in order to reach the shared goals of the CMA and the pillars of the SRIA and overcome eligibility issues for non-EU MS partners.

They also raised some issues about EU funding opportunities bidding, in particular when co-funding is requested for Life+. The support provided by national POC for EU funding is essential to help the partners in this selective process.

At the end of the morning plenary work to identify project ideas, four groups of projects emerged that were further detailed in the parallel working groups held in the afternoon. Each group has been invited to present the outcome of their exchanges using the same structure: (i) challenges and needs, (ii) features of the project (outcomes, actions and roles), (ii) partners and (iv) relevance of funding (how to use and when).

The four groups provided the team with the following project ideas:

1. Turn - key Blue Growth Businesses to support local fishing communities in the Black Sea region
2. Marine and coastal management
3. Zero plastics
4. Black Sea regional monitoring
5. Testing floating hydrogen stations
6. Assessment and modelling of sustainable transport potentials in the Black Sea

The outcomes for each project are available on the Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea [website](#), also in Annex 3 – Concept note. Additionally, a few SMEs and research centres proposed ideas for businesses that may be appealing for the EMFF and/or be supported by the newly created EU Blue Invest Platform<sup>1</sup>. Such ideas were deemed worth supporting and promoters of such ideas have been encouraged to contact the Blue Invest Platform through their website to get further insights and support on how EU funding could benefit their ideas.

## 5 Conclusions/Recommendations

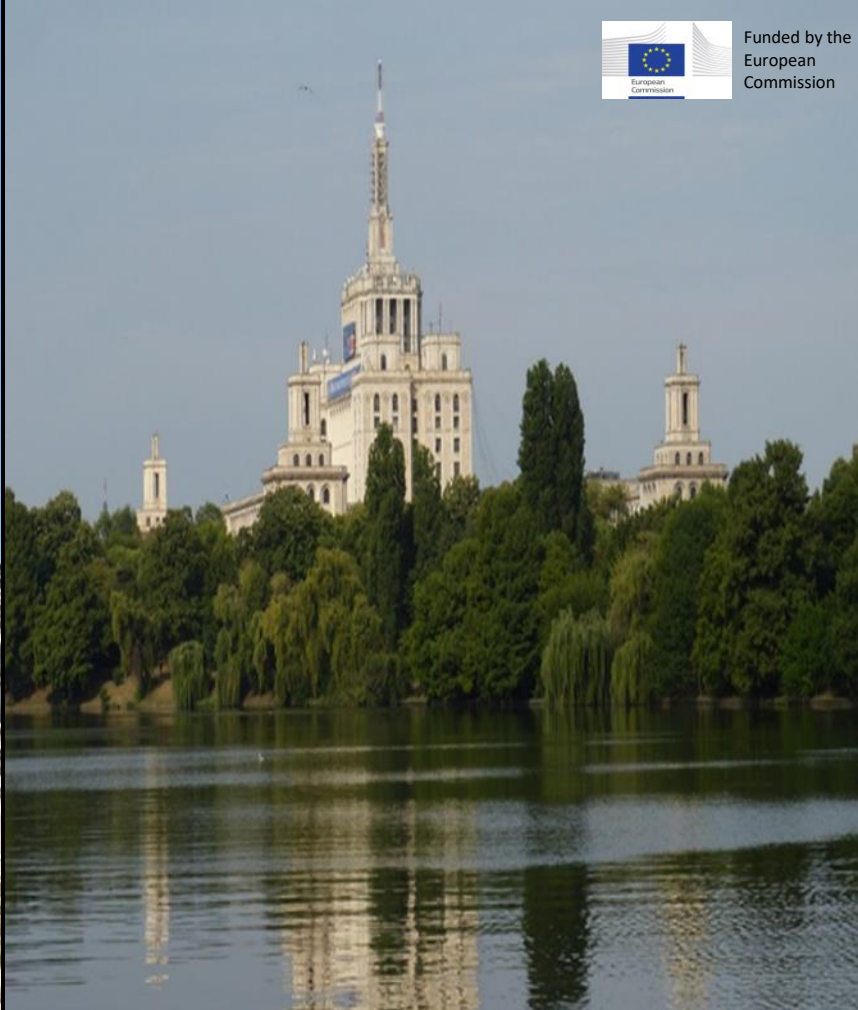
In general, the Workshop achieved its expected results, as it successfully addressed the following:

- The overall process supported by the Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea so far was explained and discussed with local and national practitioners, so as to explain the coordinated actions fostered by the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) and the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) promoted for the Black Sea by the EU Commission;
- Specific project ideas were identified and further detailed, so as to agree on an overall workplan for the next steps towards identifying financing opportunities, leadership and partnership roles, overall coordination for the submission of specific project proposals in line with the priorities of the Black Sea Common Maritime Agenda (CMA), as well as the project pipelines identified in the Istanbul Regional Workshop;
- Greater cooperation and exchanges amongst stakeholders have been ensured, both nationally and also regionally by allowing for Black Sea practitioners who seldomly worked together in the past to share concrete needs, challenges and ideas for projects where they could concretely work together – including through access to the newly launched EU Blue Investment Platform (Blue-Invest.EU); ideas and contacts for forming future consortia for related projects have been exchanged;
- The overall goal of the Black Sea regional cooperation, as Mr. Ștefan Tinca, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs mentioned during his welcome speech, is to remain an important permanent topic on the EU agenda, and this can be achieved by working together at the regional level and through implementing joint projects addressing the common challenges of the Black Sea;
- The next months will be focused on consolidating the pipeline of identified projects.

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<sup>1</sup> Blue-Invest.EU

**Annex 1 - Workshop agenda**



# 2nd WORKSHOP on the COMMON MARITIME AGENDA FOR THE BLACK SEA

*Supporting Innovative  
Solutions for Blue Economy  
Development*

November 14, 2019

European Commission Representation  
in Bucharest.



## *Agenda*

### *Supporting Innovative Solutions for Blue Economy Development*

**14 November 2019**

**09.00 – 09.30: Registration and welcome coffee**

**09.30 – 10.30: Plenary opening session**

- Welcome address  
**Mr. Ștefan Tinca, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- Presentation of the objectives of the workshop, expected results  
**Mr. Frederick Herpers, Team Coordinator, Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea**
- Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea and the way ahead  
**Ms. Olivia Todorean, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea (SRIA) and the way ahead  
**Mr. Adrian Stănică, Director General, GeoEcoMar**

Questions & Answers

***Presentation of the participants and main focus of activity***

**10.30 - 11.30: Plenary discussion on financing opportunities**

Session Moderated by Mr. Frederick Herpers, Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea

- Practical information on the available funding opportunities offered by the EU Research and Innovation programme - Horizon 2020 and on the implementation of SRIA  
**Ms. Ioana Ispas, National Contact Point for Horizon 2020**
- Briefing on upcoming funding opportunities under the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and LIFE+ programmes  
**Mr. Matteo Bocci, Expert, Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea**

Questions & Answers

**11.30 – 11.45 – Coffee break**

**11.45 - 13.00 Plenary discussion on possible project ideas**

- Presentation of possible project topics by Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea
- Exchange with the audience on project ideas to be discussed
- Questions & Answers to identify the “hottest” project ideas
- Agreement on the project ideas to be discussed in the afternoon

**13.00 – 14.00 – Lunch and networking**

**14.00 – 16.00 – Afternoon Working Groups (*discussion on the main project ideas in three parallel working groups – EMFF, SRIA, LIFE+*)**

- Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea: advice and support for projects' ideas identification (finding partners, access key information and clarification on the requirements of specific calls)
- Moderated discussion amongst participants
- Agreement on key outcomes structured by the Facility team/potential project leader(s)

**16.00 - 16.15 – *Coffee break***

**16.15 – 17.00 – Presentation of parallel working groups outcomes and conclusions**

**Annex 2 - List of Conference attendees**

**Annex 3 - Concept Note**



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# Identification of project ideas

2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea: Supporting Innovative Solutions  
for Blue Economy Development in European Commission Representation in Bucharest

November 14, 2019



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## 2nd Workshop on the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea: Supporting Innovative Solutions for Blue Economy Development

**Bucharest  
November 14, 2019**



### Identification of project ideas

- ▶ Project idea 1 : Turn - key Blue Growth Businesses to support local fishing communities in the Black Sea region
- ▶ Project idea 2 : Marine and Coastal Management (MCM): MSP, ICZM, ...
- ▶ Project idea 3 :Zero plastics
- ▶ Project idea 4 :Black Sea regional monitoring
- ▶ Project idea 5: Testing floating hydrogen stations
- ▶ Project idea 6 : Assessment and modelling of sustainable transport potentials in the Black Sea



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# Project idea 1 : Turn - key Blue Growth Businesses to support local fishing communities in the Black Sea region



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# Project idea 1 : Turn - key Blue Growth Businesses to support local fishing communities in the Black Sea region

Offering a new approach / sustainable alternatives to the fishing communities

## NEEDS

- ▶ Need to support life and families / basic subsistence
- ▶ To improve the capacity of local communities to manage available resources to promote fishing
- ▶ Need to use resources more efficiently
- ▶ Need to combine activities and resources
- ▶ Need to better promote their businesses
- ▶ Need to learn how to access resources
- ▶ Need to offer the local communities the chance to enforce the environmental legislation

## CHALLENGES

- ▶ Low and decreasing living standard of fishery communities
- ▶ Low level of knowledge
- ▶ Dramatic decrease of the traditional fishing communities around some of the Black Sea region countries
- ▶ Decrease of the fish stocks and habitat and species degradation
- ▶ Traditional mis-trust of the local fishermen to engage in cooperation with outsiders
- ▶ Solutions must respect the rigid environmental framework and legislation



# Achieved concrete services / outputs, and WPs within the project duration

- ▶ Stocktaking - evaluation of the current situation in all aspects: social, economic (number of humans, occupation, education, health etc), state of the environment, situation of biota stocks, quality of habitats, etc
- ▶ Stocktaking - analysis of the legal framework and governance (= also checking the level of law enforcement),
- ▶ Identification of alternative / supplementary activities - with the purpose to ensure sustainable fishing, to develop aquaculture, to increase the added value of the fish products
- ▶ Evaluation of impact of proposed activities = Development of business plans
- ▶ Engagement with local communities and development of the local agendas = strategic pillars
- ▶ Identification of the funding opportunities / financial instruments
- ▶ Financial proposal development
- ▶ Project implementation
- ▶ Creating the markets = raising awareness of the new businesses - with a smart marketing strategy
- ▶ Creating the markets = going beyond the usual clients - opening to new customers = go global
- ▶ Capacity building / training and educating towards the new opportunities
- ▶ Networking - cooperation between businesses - that need to grow together (not in competition - but growing together)
- ▶ Put in place a system to monitor success of the business - but also the state of the environment and society / local community

# The partners including leaders and specific roles should be clarified - those already involved and others to be contacted to strengthen the overall capacity and expertise

Overall responsibility for the projects - institution (authority, research, SME, FLAG, NGO or other) with major track record of success in similar project implementation

- ▶ FLAGS
- ▶ Local public and sectoral authorities
- ▶ NGOs
- ▶ Research institutions and universities
- ▶ SMEs
- ▶ Policy makers



## A list of relevant indicators (qualitative/quantitative) to measure the expected outputs and impacts of the project must be included in the proposal.

- ▶ Number of jobs created for the people
- ▶ Annual official income per capita
- ▶ Overall social and economic indicators - higher ranks
- ▶ State of the environment - good ecological status
- ▶ Number of new successful businesses
- ▶ Local budget variation
- ▶ Number of attracted visitors
- ▶ Happiness indicator □
- ▶ Ratio of young people

# Options for funding streams and next steps in project fine-tuning should be identified.

- ▶ International donors: UNO institutions, World Bank, EIB
- ▶ European Union Programmes and Financial Instruments : EMFF, etc
- ▶ European Union regional cooperation and Eastern Partnership cooperation
- ▶ National funds
- ▶ Local funds
- ▶ Proposal - to start from local funds - and attract attention to bigger financial donors
- ▶ As means to prove the willingness to develop
- ▶ Next steps - identification of project opportunities and create a working group
- ▶ (and five more minutes)





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# Project idea 2 : Marine and Coastal Management (MCM): MSP, ICZM, ...



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# Project idea 2 : Marine and Coastal Management (MCM): MSP, ICZM, ...

## MCM Needs

- ▶ Black Sea wide look to blue economy
- ▶ Spatial management of maritime activities
- ▶ Coast and sea protection is the need
- ▶ Wholistic view on both marine and coastal domains
- ▶ Implement MSP and MSFD approaches
- ▶ Implement selected elements of ICZM Guideline for the Black Sea
- ▶ Regional data and information needs
- ▶ Harmonising transboundary MSP and ICZM approaches

## MCM Outputs

- ▶ Adaption strategy to climate change impacts (e.g. SLR)
- ▶ Set of agreed indicators
- ▶ Coastal code of conduct for MCM
- ▶ MSP and CMP plans (several cases around the Black Sea)
- ▶ More Marine PAs and Coastal PAs
- ▶ MSP lessons/methodologies/guidelines for the Black Sea
- ▶ Strengthening national governance capabilities
- ▶ Awareness of coastal communities
- ▶ Increased cooperation between countries

# Project idea 2 : Marine and Coastal Management (MCM): MSP, ICZM, ...

## MCM Partners

- ▶ Coastal and marine industries
- ▶ National and local authorities
- ▶ Scientific institutions
- ▶ International/regional bodies BSC, BSEC, EC
- ▶ Public and NGOs
- ▶ Media

## MCM Indicators

- ▶ Governance indicators
- ▶ State of the environment indicators
- ▶ Conservation indicators (MPA and CPA, fisheries)
- ▶ Economic and fiscal indicators (e.g. Blue Economy)
- ▶ Social indicators
- ▶ Cumulative index
- ▶ Includes marine coastal and catchments

# Project idea 2 : Marine and Coastal Management (MCM): MSP, ICZM, ...

## MCM potential Funding

- ▶ International organizations (UNEP/UNDP/GEF/WB)
- ▶ H2020
- ▶ Erasmus+
- ▶ EMFF
- ▶ Interreg (in case includes non-EU also)
- ▶ DG MARE/EASME
- ▶ BSB CBC
- ▶ National sources







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# Project idea 3 :Zero plastics



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## Project idea 3 :Zero plastics

- ▶ Project ideas should specify the needs and challenges to be addressed.
  - Knowledge gaps on plastics litter at sea and rivers (sources identification)
  - Reduction of plastics in every day life by education and changing pattern of consumption
  - Various scales for action from local - national and regional level
  - => Black Sea leader in reducing plastics use
- ▶ They should specify the achieved concrete outputs, and WPs within the project duration.
  - WP1 : knowledge programme (observation, monitoring) and data sharing (to be linked with Env monitoring) with a portal for dissemination (GIS)
  - WP2 : Innovation for alternative solution to reduce use of plastics (supporting industry)
  - WP3 : raising awareness campaign and education (targeting the BS society)
- ▶ The partners including leaders and specific roles should be clarified - those already involved and others to be contacted to strengthen the overall capacity and expertise.

## Project idea 3 :Zero plastics

### Industry - Governments- local authorities- NGOs

- ▶ A list of relevant indicators (qualitative/quantitative) to measure the expected outputs and impacts of the project must be included in the proposal.
  - Communication action
  - Level of investments of private sectors
  - Stocktaking plastics
- ▶ Options for funding streams and next steps in project finetuning should be identified.
  - WB,UN,EU including (ERBD,EIB) and national funding (to meet EU legislation)





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# Project idea 4 :Black Sea regional monitoring



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## Project idea 4 :Black Sea regional monitoring

- ▶ Project ideas should specify the needs and challenges to be addressed.
  - ▶ Need for global monitoring ( Socio- eco - env) to support policy maker decision for sustainable development (legal activities but to tackle illegal activities (IUU)
  - ▶ fragmented monitoring actions at local, national regional levels => coordination - sharing - accessibility
  - ▶ Lack of knowledge
  - ▶ Need to measures pressures and impacts (link with EU legislation)
  - ▶ Liaison with existing projects (Emblas, Anemone, ELTR, Danubius, ...)
- ▶ The should specify the achieved concrete outputs, and WPs within the project duration.
  - ▶ WP1 : definition of a system of systems to collect, share and disseminate including its business plan for its set up
  - ▶ WP2 : knowledge programme (full blue (sea and river) picture) and multiscale/multivariable modelling
  - ▶ WP3 : communication package to target society and decision makers
- ▶ The partners including leaders and specific roles should be clarified - those already involved and others to be contacted to strengthen the overall capacity and expertise.
- ▶ Research community, Governments, local authorities, NGOs
- ▶ A list of relevant indicators (qualitative/quantitative) to measure the expected outputs and impacts of the project must be included in the proposal.
  - MSFD, WFD indicators, SDG17 and BSC indicators
  - Availability of a nested GIS
- ▶ Options for funding streams and next steps in project fine-tuning should be identified.
  - WB,UN,EU including (ERBD,EIB) and national funding (to meet EU legislation)

# Items to discuss for streamlining the selected ideas

- ▶ Project ideas should specify the **needs and challenges to be addressed**.
- ▶ The should specify the **achieved concrete outputs, and WPs within the project duration**.
- ▶ The **partners including leaders and specific roles should be clarified** - those already involved and others to be contacted to strengthen the overall capacity and expertise.
- ▶ A list of **relevant indicators** (qualitative/quantitative) to measure the expected outputs and impacts of the project must be included in the proposal.
- ▶ Options for **funding streams and next steps in project fine-tuning** should be identified.





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# Project idea 5: Testing floating hydrogen stations



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## Project idea 5: Testing floating hydrogen stations

- ▶ Concept : Producing electricity from hydrogen - based on existing technology (pilot / business case)
- ▶ Partners : Patent Bulgarian Academy of Science - Institute of Chemistry and Engineer
- ▶ Business case to see if it can be scaled up (for bigger transport capacities)
- ▶ Can go beyond transport of course
- ▶ Funding : EMFF / Blue Invest Platform ?







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# Project idea 6 : Assessment and modelling of sustainable transport potentials in the Black Sea



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## Project idea 6 : Assessment and modelling of sustainable transport potentials in the Black Sea

- ▶ Assessment of current infrastructural status and needs/gaps to achieve full sustainability (with respect to Green Port Labelling requirements)
- ▶ Modelling the factors of external costs and emissions of logistics business models in the Black Sea



## needs and challenges to be addressed

- ▶ Lack of common understanding of current situation
- ▶ Need for common vision and ambition on regional targets for sustainable transport (emissions, pollution, energy consumption, etc.)

## achieved concrete services / outputs, and WPs within the project duration.

### Infrastructure assessment

- ▶ Assessing reception capacity (for renewable energy and alternative fuel) - to be “green port”
- ▶ Identify measures to improve capacity and performance of ports and related investments
- ▶ Identify technological needs and skills for operations and management of innovation

### Overall modelling

- ▶ Assessing business models of current status in port management and vessels operations (costs and emissions)
- ▶ Identify main features of costs and emissions for port operations and transport systems in place (and value of main factors in the business model)
- ▶ Analysis of needed changes to improve capacity and performance of ports and related investments
- ▶ Identify technological needs and skills for operations and management of innovation



**The partners including leaders and specific roles should be clarified - those already involved and others to be contacted to strengthen the overall capacity and expertise.**

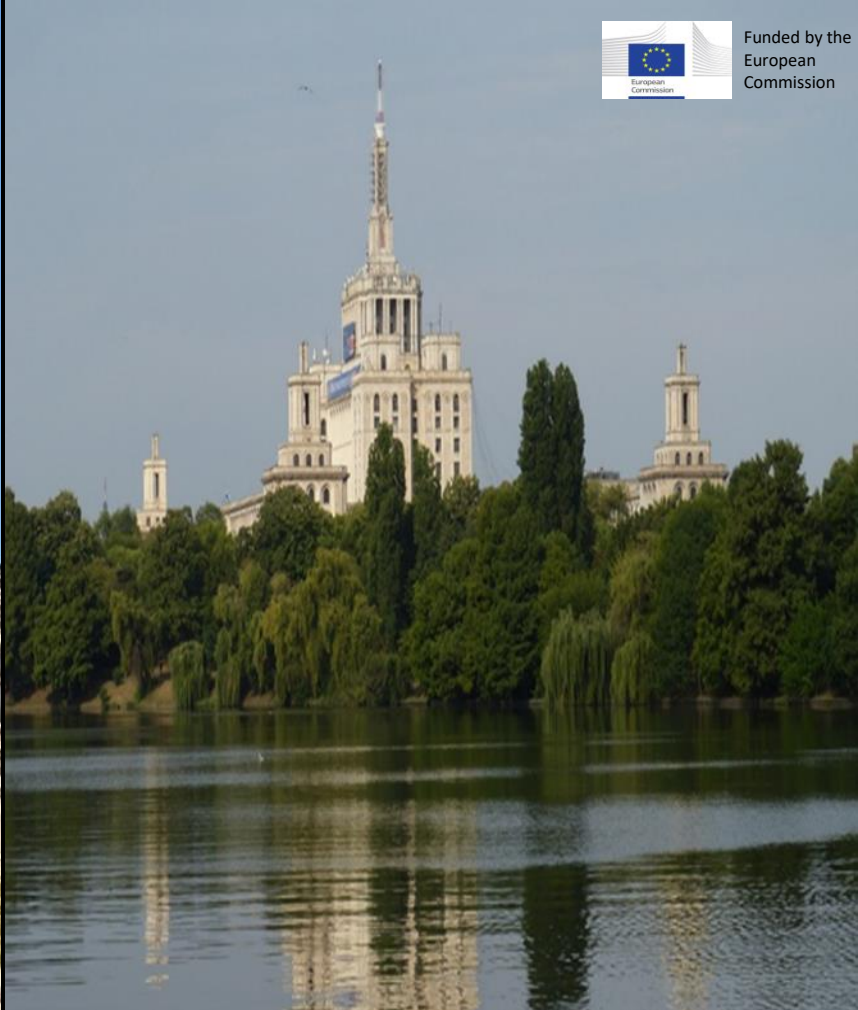
- ▶ Business organisations (transport sectors, ports, vessel)
  - ▶ Universities and research centres
  - ▶ Authorities and governmental bodies
  - ▶ Clusters and technology providers (alternative energy sources)
  - ▶ Else?
- 
- ▶ Piloting starting from: One large Black Sea Ports in each country / port association (per country where available/needed)

A list of **relevant indicators** (qualitative/quantitative) to measure the expected outputs and impacts of the project must be included in the proposal

- ▶ To be defined

Options for funding streams and next steps in project finetuning should be identified.

- ▶ Horizon Europe?



# 2nd WORKSHOP on the COMMON MARITIME AGENDA FOR THE BLACK SEA

*Supporting Innovative  
Solutions for Blue Economy  
Development  
Background Paper*

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**2<sup>nd</sup> workshop on the  
Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) for the Black Sea:  
Supporting Innovative Solutions for Blue Economy Development  
November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Bucharest, Romania**

**Background paper**

This workshop's aim is to support project initiatives in line with the [Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea \(CMA\)](#) and the [Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#) which were endorsed in May 2019 by the Black Sea riparian countries and the Republic of Moldova.

Through the implementation of the CMA, the Black Sea countries will pursue, with EU support, three goals: healthy marine and coastal ecosystems; a competitive, innovative and sustainable blue economy; and fostering investment in the blue economy. The SRIA will focus on four key areas: addressing fundamental Black Sea research challenges; developing products, solutions and clusters underpinning Black Sea Blue Growth; building critical support systems and research infrastructures; education and capacity building.

Workshop discussions will approach funding opportunities and will build on the results of the regional stakeholders' seminar on blue economy "Towards a Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea" held in Istanbul on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. They will take into account the specific actions and projects discussed in March in the areas of environmental protection, research and innovation (the list of these projects is in annex). New projects proposals coming from the participants will be considered as well. The Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea will moderate the event and support the fine-tuning of project ideas, in accordance with the relevant EU funding opportunities, open strands or upcoming ones which are detailed in the following paragraphs on H2020, EMFF and LIFE+.

**1. Funding opportunities for CMA and SRIA implementation:**

**1.1 Horizon 2020 Programme:**

Two open strands:

**BG-11-2020: Towards a productive, healthy, resilient, sustainable and highly valued Black Sea**

- Opening: 15 October 2019
- 1<sup>st</sup> stage Deadline: 22 January 2020 17:00:00 Brussels time
- 2nd stage Deadline: 08 September 2020 17:00:00 Brussels time
- Budget: 18 000 000€

Specific Challenge

The Black Sea contains the largest body of oxygen-free hydrogen sulphide-rich marine waters on Earth. Any new local, national or transboundary policy measures should consider its special ecosystem characteristics, its biodiversity and its submerged cultural heritage sites

Scope



Proposals shall provide solutions for accurate predictive tools and capabilities to tackle the increasingly complex array of multi-stressors and their poorly understood interactions, including their connection with rivers flowing into the Black Sea.

Proposals shall address the fundamental Black Sea research challenges, that have been identified so far and others that may be defined as the priority-setting work proceeds, taking into account policy documents such as the MSFD reports of Romania and Bulgaria and the Strategic Action Plan of the Bucharest Convention.

Proposals shall (i) Develop innovative multi-disciplinary research, building on past and on-going regional, international, as well national and EU projects/initiatives, including research infrastructures, data sharing mechanisms that will generate the knowledge needed to increase ecosystem resilience (e.g. SEAS-Era ERA-NET, PERSEUS, COCONET, SENTINEL, Marine Copernicus Monitoring Environment Service, European research infrastructures such as EMBRC, Euro-Argo ERIC, ICOS ERIC and EMSO ERIC, Black Sea Economic Cooperation, DANUBIS-RI etc.); (ii) Provide new knowledge to assess and mitigate the impacts of global climate change and the multiple natural and human-induced stressors in the Black Sea from land-sea interface to the deep basin.

Furthermore, proposals should provide scientific support to very early development of emerging start-ups in the region.

More details are available on the website of the European Commission.

#### **CE-FNR-09-2020: Pilot action for the removal of marine plastics and litter**

- Opening: **15 October 2019**
- Deadline: **22 January 2020 17:00:00 Brussels time**
- Budget: 13 200 000 €

#### Specific Challenge

Marine litter is high on the scientific and political agendas and of major concern for European citizens. More than 80 percent of marine litter is plastic. It is estimated that by 2050, more plastic could be in the ocean than fish. It can be found on beaches (mostly produced locally), on the ocean surface, in animals and on the seafloor. Therefore, urgent action is needed both for the prevention and for the removal of existing marine litter, notably plastics and microplastics. For this topic, a demonstration of the removal of marine litter and research is being proposed, highlighting how the environment is impacted by the removal, and the corresponding impacts in terms of ecosystem and economic recovery.

#### Scope

The overall goal of this topic is the demonstration of approaches or technologies to improve marine spatial planning and conservation (or even restoration) of coastal ecosystems. More specifically, this topic is for the demonstration of technologies to clean the seafloor and the surface of nearshore waters, and possibly the water column, from historically accumulated plastics and micro-plastics as well as from other accumulated marine litter and the assessment of effectiveness and impact. The project must include demonstrations in different sites, including beaches, harbours and shallow seafloor.

This topic is in support of the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy. Selected projects under this topic as well as projects selected under other topics in H2020 supporting the Plastics

Strategy are strongly encouraged to participate in joint activities as appropriate. These joint activities could take the form of clustering of projects, participation in workshops, common exploitation and dissemination etc. The projects should describe how they will be complementary with already existing relevant national activities or other multilateral activities funded by the EU or funded jointly by several Member States. The proposals are expected to demonstrate support to common coordination and dissemination activities. Therefore, the proposals should foresee a dedicated work package for this purpose and earmark appropriate resources.

More details are available on the website of the European Commission.

## 1.2 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

One open strand: **EMFF-OM-2019: Environmental monitoring of ocean energy devices**

- Opening: **24 September 2019**
- Deadline: **15 January 2020 17:00:00 Brussels time**
- Budget: 2 300 000€

### Specific Challenge

Ocean energy could provide clean, predictable, indigenous and reliable energy and contribute to the EU's objective of reaching a share of renewables of at least 32% of the EU's gross final consumption by 2030.

The Commission adopted in 2014 a Communication on Blue Energy, which recognised the immense potential of harnessing the power of our seas and oceans. It is also one of the sectors that were identified in the Commission's Blue Growth Communication as an area where EU action can complement initiatives by the Member States to help this nascent industry develop faster and establish a new industrial sector. The Ocean Energy Strategic Roadmap "Building Ocean Energy for Europe" published in November 2016 identified de-risking environmental consenting as a key challenge. The development of fit-for-purpose, effective and efficient licensing systems for ocean energy projects across Member States is essential at this stage of development of the sector.

Strategic planning is necessary to prevent future conflicts with other sea users and to ensure minimal impact of ocean energy deployment on the marine environment. Early and coordinated environmental assessment procedures under applicable environmental legislations (Directives on Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Impact Assessment, Marine Strategy Framework, Habitats, Birds, NATURA 2000 and Maritime Spatial Planning) and the respective national legal rules are fundamental in ensuring compliance and stakeholders' involvement.

Developers' application for consent requires a sound understanding of environmental assessment and processes applied to ocean energy. However, deployments of ocean energy devices are without precedent and there is limited empirical data that could inform the regulatory process. Obtaining consent for an emerging technology such as ocean energy can be time consuming and costly. This also entails the need for public information, consultation and support. Consenting processes, thus, need to be anticipated, tailored and proportionate. Close environmental monitoring and impact assessment and an early understanding of these aspects will benefit the current and future deployments of the ocean energy sector as a whole, by putting in place a guiding framework within which to establish

protocol for regulatory assessments, licensing, control and monitoring. This will help to steer the transition from research and development to commercial deployment of new technologies.

The general objectives of this call for proposals are:

- To increase the amount of environmental data and improve knowledge on assessing possible impacts of ocean energy devices (wave, tidal and ocean thermal energy conversion) deployed at sea.
- To contribute to reducing uncertainty in modelling potential impacts of future ocean energy devices.
- To provide guidance to ocean energy developers and to public competent authorities in charge of licencing and maritime planning;
- To inform stakeholders and help feed the public debate

### ***General eligibility conditions for participants:***

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicants must:

- be legal persons;
- belong to one of the following categories: **private entities, public entities, or international organisations;**
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the project with the other applicants, i.e. not acting as an intermediary;
- be established in an **EU Member State** (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))

### ***Observers***

- It is possible for other relevant parties to participate with an observer status e.g. from **non-EU Member States** or other regional or international organisations active in the field of renewables and marine energy, environmental monitoring and related sectors.
- However, **these entities shall not be entitled to receive Union financial support**. Thus, participation in any project activity will be at the observer's own expenses. Moreover, these entities will not be taken into consideration for determining compliance with the eligibility conditions for consortia set out above.

### ***Geographical scope***

- The geographic area covered by the action includes the whole of the EU.

### **Upcoming funding opportunities for EMFF**

Information Day on 25 November in Brussels. A total budget of € 22.5 million is available under the 2019 "Blue Economy Window" call. The 2019 blue economy call will be presented in a series of presentations organised by EASME and the [Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries](#) of the European Commission. See more information about this call in the [amendment to the EMFF work programme](#). Thanks to calls for grants which are open for all EU Member states SMEs, EU aims at supporting blue economy sectors to bring to market new products, services and business models in

blue economy value chains and develop sustainable and innovative blue growth in Europe's sea basins. The objective therefore is to develop and bring to market new products, services and business models that could develop pre- commercial innovations into ultimately revenue-generating activity. Once closed, the granted project is to be sponsored or developed by private sectors.

This will target in particular the sustainable use of marine resources for innovative and/or circular economic activities, improved livelihoods and jobs, whilst contributing to EU goals. Under the 2019 call, organisations can get a grant (with a maximum of 70% with co-financing). The grant will be between €700,000 and €2,500,000 for their projects. **Any for-profit SME based in the EU** (single participant or a member of a consortium) can apply.

Eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must be **for-profit SMEs** legally **established in an EU Member State**. They can apply as single applicant or in a consortium.
- By way of derogation, applicants established in **non-EU countries are eligible only if their involvement is necessary in view of the nature of the action** and in order to reach its objectives. The coordinating entity must be established in an EU Member State.
- Applicants must provide a letter of intent for investment support from a financial intermediary eligible for equity or guarantees from the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI) or equivalent institution or significant firm commitment from a customer.
- Applicants must present a business plan and a first commercialisation plan.
- Applicants may not be in a situation of concurrent implementation with another EU funding instrument in respect of the same action.

**Co-financing:** Maximum 70%

### 1.3 LIFE+

Life+ is first of all a program for environment (Biodiversity mainly) and climate change, grants can be allocated to public body operating under a national government's authority, e.g. local authority, national administration etc.; private commercial organization; private non-commercial organisation (NGOs etc.).

For now, only preparatory projects on Life Programme post 2020 is open for now [here](#).

For this call for proposals, the applicants have the possibility to submit a proposal within three different deadlines.

Applications must arrive at the following address no later than:

First deadline: 17:00 Brussels local time on 4th November 2019;

**Second deadline: 17:00 Brussels local time on 11th January 2020;**

**Third deadline: 17:00 Brussels local time on 25th March 2020.**

For 2020, normal process will be a two-stage application process on Environment and Climate subprograms with an indicative calendar

- April 2020: Call open for traditional projects

- June 2020: Submission of concept notes
- October 2020: Pre-selection of concept notes invited to submit full proposals
- February 2021: Submission of full proposals
- June 2021: Information about results
- September 2021: start of the projects

**Anyone registered in the EU** can make a proposal for LIFE traditional, integrated, preparatory, and technical assistance projects under the sub-programmes for [environment](#) and [climate action](#).

- public body operating under a national government's authority, e.g. local authority, national administration etc.
- private commercial organisation
- private non-commercial organisations (NGOs etc.)

In contrast to other funding programmes LIFE projects are very flexible in terms of how they are set up. You can decide if you want to run a project on your own, or if you prefer to join forces with partners from your own or another country.

If you apply without any partners or are the project leader among several partners, you will be referred to as coordinating beneficiary. Other partners who contribute but do not lead a project are associated beneficiaries. Associated beneficiaries must be responsible for one or more project actions and must contribute financially to the project.

If you are based outside the EU, you can contribute to a project as associated beneficiary by undertaking actions that are necessary for achieving the environmental or climate goals of the EU.

Some illustrations of Life granted projects with marine topic or circular economy

#### **ROMANIA**

DOLPHINS – CONSERVATION OF THE DOLPHINS FROM THE ROMANIAN BLACK SEA WATERS – LIFE00 NAT/RO/007194

TOTAL BUDGET 416,631.00 €

Duration 01-JUL-2001 to 30-JUN -2004

The project aim was to develop a technical and legal basis for the conservation of the three endangered dolphin species in the Romanian Black Sea area. The project would improve knowledge of accidental catching of dolphins and impose restrictions for fishing methods known to have adverse impacts on dolphins. Surveys on pollutants sources from the Romanian coast that have harmful effects on dolphins, and studies on the incidence of diseases would also be carried out in order to define and implement mitigation measures.

The project would also draw up and adopt a national action plan based on the monitoring of the populations and on the evaluation of impacts and main threats. Suitable measures for the conservation of the habitat, including the designation of new marine reserves were also foreseen. The project would also carry out an awareness-raising campaign and construct an information centre.

For more details cf. [Project fiche](#) on *Romanian LIFE programme website*

## **VAL-C&DW – RECOVERY OF CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE IN BUZAU COUNTY – LIFE10 ENV/RO/000727**

Total budget: 1,431,882.00 €

Duration: 01-SEP-2011 to 30-JUN -2014

The main objective of the VAL-C&DW project was to develop a demolition waste management system, through knowledge gained of the generation, collection, recovery and disposal of construction and demolition waste in Buzau County. The project aimed to analyse the quantity and composition of all categories of waste within the scope of the project (i.e. categories pertaining to Class 17 of the European Waste List). The project then aimed to demonstrate its new methodologies for waste treatment, collection, transport and re-use in a pilot scheme in Buzau County. From this, the project sought to develop a code of best practices, concerning the separate collection at source of construction and demolition waste, and to develop a coherent decision-making process for the construction and demolition waste management system.

For more details cf. [Project fiche](#) on *Romanian LIFE programme website*

### **BULGARIA (BG)**

*LIFE Nature & Biodiversity*

#### **Supporting the fragile ecology of coastal lagoons (The Lagoon of LIFE)**

TOTAL BUDGET: 2,525,618.00 €

Duration: 01-SEP-2018 to 30-SEP -2024

Atanasovsko Lake on Bulgaria's Black Sea coast has a rich biodiversity thanks to the coastal lagoons created by traditional salt production infrastructure. However, conservation management is still needed to maintain this priority habitat. Enhancing the conservation status of coastal lagoons will also benefit many resident and migratory bird species, such as the great bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*). This will be achieved by increasing the area of coastal lagoons, creating and restoring infrastructure used for bird nesting, feeding and resting, and improving ecological processes, such as water purification using aquatic plants. The project will also promote the socio-economic benefits generated, including health and nature tourism and the continuation of salt manufacturing.

For more details cf. [Project fiche](#) on *European commission website*

Annex 1: List of project ideas from Regional Stakeholder Seminar in Istanbul and liaison with the CMA

Working Title	Short Description	Stakeholders	Link with the Common Maritime Agenda Goal/Priority/Action
<b>Network for exchange of best practices on the establishment/ management of Marine Protection Areas (MPAs)</b>	Establishment of a capacity building network between BS countries and EUMS to exchange best practises and share knowledge	National stakeholders	Relevant to Goal 1; priority 1
<b>Eco-tourism routes utilising network of MPAs in the region</b>	Project to promote the establishment of ecological tourist routes in BS supported with grants for projects to develop Eco-tourism with a network of Marine Protected areas		Relevant to Goal 1; priority 1
<b>MPA development in Black Sea</b>	Regional (BSC) identification areas where marine and coastal environment is under high level of threats in order to provide a ranked list of potential sites (based on natural capital value). The identification will be based on NATURA 2000 network and available knowledge	BSC	Relevant to Goal 1; priority 1
<b>Blue Corridors : MPA network strengthening</b>	Setting blue corridors in accordance with species migration (birds) to define and strengthen a network between existing MPAs and Natura 2000 sites (in Bulgaria and Romania) in liaison with any MSP development	BSC	Relevant to Goal 1; priority 1
<b>Towards Green ports: Environmental monitoring in ports -</b>	Development of environmental monitoring in ports including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring Scoping of environmental monitoring capacities in BS ports</li> <li>• Guidance production for monitoring setup</li> </ul>	Nations	Relevant to Goal 1; priority 1

Working Title	Short Description	Stakeholders	Link with the Common Maritime Agenda Goal/Priority/Action
	Implementation with the definition and set up of a pilot in a port or with a network of ports		
<b>Blue Flag in Black Sea</b>	Media/web campaign to support the Blue Flag label in local destinations (e.g. Municipalities) in the Black Sea, and increase the actual enrolling of the initiative by Local Authorities across the region	Foundation for Environment	Relevant to Goal 1; priority 1
<b>Circular economy and Marine Litter in Black Sea</b>	Media/web campaign on circular economy and on BS environmental issues including marine litter	JPI OCEANs	Relevant to Goal 1; priority 1
<b>Innovation for high value aquaculture</b>	Grants/calls to support innovation based on fisheries and aquaculture products	GFCM	Relevant to Goal 1; priority 3
<b>National / regional platform to provide environmental (ecosystem) monitoring for fish production</b>	Establishment of common national platforms between academic and fish institutes to foster capacity building and training on fisheries sustainability and sustainable development of aquaculture in BS countries		Relevant to Goal 1; priority 3
<b>Marine knowledge program</b>	Definition of a program for marine environment knowledge improvement in accordance with SRIA priorities	SRIA team	Relevant to Goal 1; priority 5
<b>Black Sea blue economy data sharing mechanism</b>	Set up Black Sea specific data sharing mechanism with a Black Sea specific project which integrates existing projects/centers (EMODNET and SEADATACLOUD) to create Black Sea specific data sharing mechanism including as a first step a feasibility study :	BSC BSEC PERMIS	Relevant to Goal 1; priority 4&5



Working Title	Short Description	Stakeholders	Link with the Common Maritime Agenda Goal/Priority/Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>scoping of existing data producers in Black Sea and beyond</li> <li>definition of metadata protocol for data exchanges in accordance with INSPIRE Directive</li> </ul> <p>Technical and financial definition of the setup of a portal and associated services with synergies with EU and Black Sea existing tools</p>		
<b>Marine litter monitoring</b>	Grants/ call for litter monitoring including a protocol for data collection and reporting to be related to BSC environment (sea and river) monitoring and MSFD implementation at national level	BSC	Relevant to Goal 2; priority 1
<b>Blue Eco camps in Black Sea</b>	Definition and set up of Eco-camp Sites (Network) linked with eco-friendly activities	BSEC PERMIS	Relevant to Goal 2; priority 1
<b>Tourism 4.0 in Black Sea</b>	Grants for project to promote tourism through new technologies and further use of data and development of e-platforms  Set-up a common website on Black Sea tourism	BSEC PERMIS	Relevant to Goal 2; priority 1
<b>Marine renewable energy development</b>	Study to assess MRE potential in Black Sea for the existing and relevant marine renewable technologies for the Black Sea (wind farm including floating, wave, current, OTEC) to be included in MSP and circular economy for coastal zones	BSEC PERMIS	Relevant to Goal 2; priority 1
<b>Marine alternative energy development</b>	Call/grants on innovation to work on the second generation of biofuels (algae)	Private sector	Relevant to Goal 2; priority 1

Working Title	Short Description	Stakeholders	Link with the Common Maritime Agenda Goal/Priority/Action
<b>Accelerate knowledge transfer and technological development from research to market.</b>	Set a Technology Transfers Offices circle in the Black Sea for maritime and coastal themes based on the scoping, creation and the network of the existing and new ones	National agencies BSEC PERMIS	Relevant to Goal 2; priority 1
<b>Pilot project for a RoRo line</b>	Set up a pilot project for a Ro Ro line that will link Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Georgia (possibly without any investment in new infrastructures)	BSEC PERMIS Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA	Relevant to Goal 2; priority 2
<b>Blue Economy Skills Hub</b>	Pilot project with the participation of academic/research institutes from at least 3 different BS countries to establish a training programme, build capacity and advise stakeholders on how to access funding and implement projects on Blue Economy	Academic / Research institutes	Relevant to Goal 2; priority 3
<b>Blue economy internship and VET for the Black Sea</b>	Grants/call to develop programmes for internship and VET, adapted for the Black Sea and its BE highest potentials in jobs and GVA creation in the Black Sea	Academic / Research institutes	Relevant to Goal 2; priority 3
<b>Blue Career Centre</b>	Follow up of MENTOR project with the establishment of a Blue Career Centre for Eastern Med and Black Sea		Relevant to Goal 2; priority 3
<b>Mapping of market demand on skills/qualifications and possible improvements to address them</b>	Examine the correlation between existing training systems and market demand and provide for innovative/corrective actions	Chambers of Commerce Academic Institutions	Relevant to Goal 2; priority 3

Working Title	Short Description	Stakeholders	Link with the Common Maritime Agenda Goal/Priority/Action
<b>through traditional education and vocational training</b>	Monitoring of training programs of Black Sea universities and creation of a virtual platform of the best programs.		
<b>Blue Growth Accelerator for the Black Sea</b>	In the follow up of <u>Neptune project H2020</u> , set up of a Blue Growth Accelerator supporting the development of new cross-sectoral and cross-border industrial value-chains	BSEC PERMIS Private donors	Relevant to Goal 3; priority 1
<b>Blue economy capacity building</b>	Assessment of capacity building needs at national level with regards to Blue economy and existing offers in a regional approach	National Partners Academia Private sectors	Relevant to Goal 3; priority 1
<b>MARSPLAN: follow up / extension</b>	Create, support and promote start-ups oriented towards the circular and blue economy in the Black Sea region MSP development and further coordination actions to align progress made to marine activities	National Partners	Relevant to Goal 3: priority 2
<b>Feasibility study for the establishment of a Biotech Cluster on the east shore of the Black Sea</b>	Project aimed to support the establishment of new innovative clusters across the region so as to further assist in the promotion of Blue Economy in line with the CMA	Academia Private sector	Relevant to Goal 3; priority 2
<b>Towards a network of maritime clusters in the Black Sea</b>	Scoping study to make an updated review of the existing clusters (topics, sectors, governance) in the Black Sea and definition of a regional blue economy cluster as cluster of the Black Sea Clusters	BSEC PERMIS	Relevant to Goal 3; priority 2
<b>“BlueInvest” and “Blue award” for Black Sea</b>	Organization of a dedicated Blue invest event in Black Sea with Black Sea award for marine/maritime innovation actions/projects	Private sector BSEC PERMIS	Relevant to Goal 3; priority 2



Working Title	Short Description	Stakeholders	Link with the Common Maritime Agenda Goal/Priority/Action
<b>JPI Oceans in the Black Sea</b>	<b>Full extension of JPI Oceans in Black Sea<sup>1</sup> In order to use the program opportunities to all the parties</b>		Relevant to Goal 1; priority 2

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<sup>1</sup> Only Turkey and Romania partners <http://www.jpi-oceans.eu/about/jpi-oceans/member-countries>

## Annex 4 - Conference planning and implementation

The Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea <sup>2</sup> focused on the following activities:

- Design of the workshop concept note: the design of this note also included the identification of the key topics to be addressed, which emerged from the regional seminar in Istanbul, and details on funding opportunities offered by H2020, EMFF and Life +;
- Identification and selection of the workshop venue, including all logistics components (catering, interpretation, hotels) with the close collaboration of the National Focal Point;
- Identify the list of national and regional stakeholders and organizations to be invited (regarding their potential interest for project development but also their experience in the focused sectors);
- Identification of potential project leaders;
- Management of the dedicated section on the Facility's website;
- Management and monitoring of the stakeholder invitations, registration and participation;
- Venue set-up.

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<sup>2</sup> Matteo Bocci, Frédérick Herpers, Thanos Smanis, Pascale Van Doren