



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

*Supporting Innovative
Solutions for Blue Economy
Development
Background Paper*

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**2nd workshop on the
Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) for the Black Sea:
Supporting Innovative Solutions for Blue Economy Development
November 14th, 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 19th, 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
- 1st 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
Network for exchange of best practices on the establishment/ management of Marine Protection Areas (MPAs)	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
Eco-tourism routes utilising network of MPAs in the region	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
MPA development in Black Sea	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
Blue Corridors : MPA network strengthening	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
Towards Green ports: Environmental monitoring in ports -	Development of environmental monitoring in ports including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring Scoping of environmental monitoring capacities in BS ports Guidance production for monitoring setup 	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		
Blue Flag in Black Sea	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
Circular economy and Marine Litter in Black Sea	Media/web campaign on circular economy and on BS environmental issues including marine litter	JPI OCEANs	Relevant to Goal 1; priority 1
Innovation for high value aquaculture	Grants/calls to support innovation based on fisheries and aquaculture products	GFCM	Relevant to Goal 1; priority 3
National / regional platform to provide environmental (ecosystem) monitoring for fish production	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
Marine knowledge program	Definition of a program for marine environment knowledge improvement in accordance with SRIA priorities	SRIA team	Relevant to Goal 1; priority 5
Black Sea blue economy data sharing mechanism	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"> scoping of existing data producers in Black Sea and beyond definition of metadata protocol for data exchanges in accordance with INSPIRE Directive <p>Technical and financial definition of the setup of a portal and associated services with synergies with EU and Black Sea existing tools</p>		
Marine litter monitoring	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
Blue Eco camps in Black Sea	Definition and set up of Eco-camp Sites (Network) linked with eco-friendly activities	BSEC PERMIS	Relevant to Goal 2; priority 1
Tourism 4.0 in Black Sea	<p>Grants for project to promote tourism through new technologies and further use of data and development of e-platforms</p> <p>Set-up a common website on Black Sea tourism</p>	BSEC PERMIS	Relevant to Goal 2; priority 1
Marine renewable energy development	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
Marine alternative energy development	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
Accelerate knowledge transfer and technological development from research to market.	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
Pilot project for a RoRo line	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
Blue Economy Skills Hub	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
Blue economy internship and VET for the Black Sea	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
Blue Career Centre	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
Mapping of market demand on skills/qualifications and possible improvements to address them	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
through traditional education and vocational training	Monitoring of training programs of Black Sea universities and creation of a virtual platform of the best programs.		
Blue Growth Accelerator for the Black Sea	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
Blue economy capacity building	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
MARSPLAN: follow up / extension	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
Feasibility study for the establishment of a Biotech Cluster on the east shore of the Black Sea	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
Towards a network of maritime clusters in the Black Sea	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
“BlueInvest” and “Blue award” for Black Sea	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
JPI Oceans in the Black Sea	Full extension of JPI Oceans in Black Sea¹ In order to use the program opportunities to all the parties		Relevant to Goal 1; priority 2

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