

BLACK SEA STORIES

Presented by the Black Sea Assistance Mechanism

Improving environmental monitoring in the Black Sea

IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING IN THE BLACK SEA – SELECTED MEASURES (EMBLAS PLUS)

KEY INFO

Total budget:
€4.32 million
(2015 – 2020)

EU funding:
€4.05 million
(2015 – 2020)

Duration:
2015 to present

Improved data collection is key to addressing pressing environmental challenges in the Black Sea region. Since 2015, successive projects under the EU and United Nations Development Programme funded Environmental Monitoring of the Black Sea (EMBLAS) initiative have made a notable contribution to this challenge.

The latest completed project under the initiative, EMBLAS Plus (2019-2020), conducted a number of environmental monitoring studies in the Black Sea Basin, providing much needed data on a wide range of issues encompassing chemical and microplastic pollution, eutrophication, non-indigenous species, populations of marine mammals, and antibiotic resistance. Working alongside local partners and other EU initiatives, EMBLAS Plus also stimulated the sharing of knowledge, harmonisation of data collection, and regional voluntary cooperation.

As generating scientific knowledge is central to ensuring science-based and well-informed decision-making, and therefore a key objective of the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA)'s Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), initiatives such as EMBLAS play a vital role in protecting at-risk ecosystems and shared natural heritage. EMBLAS Plus also addressed the key gap identified by the CMA of 'Limited awareness of human impacts on the Black Sea' through wide-ranging online and offline dissemination efforts. Here highlights included popular beach clean-up events and schoolchildren's participation in wildlife monitoring through an innovative app.

But the EMBLAS story doesn't end there! In June 2021, the latest in the series was launched: EU for Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea (EU4EMBLAS). EU4EMBLAS will continue the work of the preceding project phases, notably the implementation of the Black Sea Water Quality Database.

COUNTRIES & PARTNERS INVOLVED



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Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission

<http://emblasproject.org/>

Fans of the Black Sea / Фани Чорного моря

EMBLAS Plus summary report
EU4EMBLAS press release



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