



PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 23 November 2015

8th International Black Sea Symposium “Science, Technology and Innovation in the Black Sea: Moving Forward”

The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) successfully organized the **8th International Black Sea Symposium** on “Science, Technology & Innovation in the Black Sea: Moving Forward” at Amalia Hotel Athens, on 19-20 November 2015.

Under the **Romanian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office**, and within the framework of the **H2020 Project “Black Sea Horizon”**, the 8th IBSS built on the success and positive impact of its previous editions, to bring together the next generation of stakeholders with an interest in the Black Sea area, focusing on **STI Cooperation**, a key parameter for sustainable development.

Opening the Symposium, a Special Joint Session of the **IBSS and the Circle of Inspiring Women for a Sustainable Future (CIWoS) on “Science & Gender”** welcome the participation of remarkable women scientists, Ms. **Betty Tsakarestou**, Panteion University of Social & Political Sciences, Ms. **Anatoli Pataridou**, MD, ENT Surgeon and Ms. **Daria Catalui**, Founder Danube.EDU NGO, addressing the role of women in science and their access to equal opportunities.

Welcome speeches were delivered by the **PABSEC Vice President, Mr. Simos Kedikoglou** and by the **ICBSS National Director of Romania and Director of the Romanian Diplomatic Institute, Mr. Dan Petre** and **Ambassador Bratislav Dordevic** on behalf of the **BSEC Organisation**.

The ICBSS had the honour and great pleasure to welcome renowned speakers and participants from the Black Sea countries, from the academia, business and civil society, offering a platform for dialogue in order to **stimulate enhanced regional STI cooperation** for mutually beneficial joint actions.

Through interactive sessions, **Ms. Aimilia Protogerou**, Laboratory of Industrial & Energy Economics, National Technical University of Athens, **Mr. Oguz Demir**, EU Research Center, Istanbul Commerce University, **Mr. Vitalii Gryga**, Institute for Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, **Mr. Georgios Marnellos** and **Ms. Tzouliana Kraia**, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, University of Western Macedonia, **Mr. Vasilis Kyriazis**, Dept. of Economics, University of Thessaly and **Ms. Mirjana Lenhardt**, Institute for Multidisciplinary Research, University of Belgrade, had the opportunity to **explore and discuss the perspectives of STI cooperation** in relation to its academic and economic impact on the Black Sea countries.

The outcomes of the 8th International Black Sea Symposium will be published in the ICBSS Xenophon Series.

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About the ICBSS: The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) was founded in 1998 as a non-profit organisation. It has since fulfilled a dual function. On the one hand, it is an independent research and training institution focusing on the wider Black Sea region. On the other hand, it is a related body of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and serves as its acknowledged think-tank. Thus, the ICBSS pursues applied, policy-oriented research, promotes knowledge on the Black Sea region both within and outside its boundaries, and offers policy advice with the aim of fostering multilateral cooperation among the BSEC member states as well as with their international partners.

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