



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Memorandum of Understanding between the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) and the Ministry of Economic Department of the Rostov Region**

On 23 March 2016, **Dr. Zefi Dimadama, Director General of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)** and **Mr. Maxim V. Papushenko, Minister, Ministry of Economic Development of the Rostov Region of the Russian Federation** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding**, aiming at establishing and developing cooperation between the two Parties with a view to promoting and enhancing joint research and staff training in fields of common interest.

The main objective of the MoU is to create conditions for the promotion of cooperation between the Parties on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit. Priority will be given to joint research, as well as introduction and elaboration of joint training programmes in the areas of international relations, economic relations, regional cooperation, science & technology and other relevant areas.

During the signing ceremony, the two Parties explored ways of strengthening their cooperation within the framework of the MoU, through the organisation of joint actions, events and publications in fields of common interest.

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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 Organisation 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 to foster multilateral cooperation among the BSEC member states as well as with their international partners.

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