



## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

### 9th International Black Sea Symposium “Blue Growth as a driver for regional development”

Athens, Greece

20-21 March 2018

The **International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)** launched the International Black Sea Symposium project in the context of a need for transnational cooperation in the wider Black Sea region. Now, in its ninth year, the **International Black Sea Symposium (IBSS)** builds on the success and positive impact of its previous eight editions to bring together the next generation of stakeholders with an interest in the Black Sea area, focusing on *blue growth*, a long term strategy for sustainable development in the marine and maritime sectors.

The **9th International Black Sea Symposium** on “Blue Growth as a driver for regional development” will be held in Athens, Greece, **from 20 to 21 March 2018**. The event’s working language will be English.

#### **A. More about the 9th IBSS**

Blue growth is a long-term strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth related to the marine and maritime sectors. Encompassing a wide spectrum of diverse maritime activities, blue economy contributes to the creation of favourable conditions for economic growth, sustainable development and social welfare.

Over the past years, aiming to promote an integrated Maritime Policy, the EU has increased the efforts to enable the adoption of a concrete framework for the implementation of blue economy, targeting also the Black Sea sea-basin. Besides, the inter-connectedness of the seas and of the maritime activities demands for enhanced cooperation and coordination of actions among stakeholders for the optimum results.

The concept of Blue Growth is evaluated positively by the Black Sea countries, as it addresses a significant potential of the wider region that remains untapped.

At policy level, the Black Sea countries’ desire to join the efforts for targeted marine and maritime sustainable management have been expressed through various channels, however not in a common, clearly-defined and result-oriented format.

In this regard, taking into consideration that the ‘one-size-fits-all’ policy will not be productive, a tailored-made approach based on the Region’s characteristics, strengths and weaknesses is essential.

Within this framework, through the 9<sup>th</sup> IBSS, the ICBSS is aiming at offering a platform for dialogue among stakeholders in order to a) identify challenges, opportunities for, and best practices of sustainable blue growth in the Black Sea basin and, b) stimulate synergies at intraregional and interregional levels.

Special emphasis will be placed on the following:

- **Supporting entrepreneurship and increasing competitiveness:** opportunities and challenges for investments, innovative business ideas, youth entrepreneurship and capacity building.
- **Research and Innovation:** entrepreneurial exposure to university research, increasing the role of private sector in research funding and exploitation of results, smart infrastructures.
- **Increased knowledge and mitigation measures:** sustainable exploitation of marine resources, impacts on the marine environment, marine biotechnologies and food security.
- **Coordinated maritime governance:** challenges and perspectives for regional cooperation, inter-regional synergies, institutional approach and best practices.

Through interactive sessions, speakers and participants with acute interest in or involved with blue growth will have the opportunity to discuss, interact and network with fellow stakeholders from the wider Black Sea region.

## **B. How to get involved**

We invite **professionals and researchers**, such as policy-makers, entrepreneurs, academicians, diplomats, MPs, civil society representatives, researchers and under-graduate students of different backgrounds with expertise in the marine and maritime sectors, from around the world, **to discuss, to exchange views and enhance the dialogue on blue growth** perspectives in the Black Sea area.

### **Information for Speakers**

The ICBSS welcomes **papers** addressing, but not limited to, the following:

1. **Supporting entrepreneurship and increasing competitiveness:** opportunities and challenges for investments, innovative business ideas, youth entrepreneurship and capacity building.
2. **Research and Innovation:** entrepreneurial exposure to university research, increasing the role of private sector in research funding and exploitation of results, smart infrastructures.
3. **Increased knowledge and mitigation measures:** sustainable exploitation of marine resources, impacts on the marine environment, marine biotechnologies and food security.
4. **Coordinated maritime governance:** challenges and perspectives for regional cooperation, inter-regional synergies, institutional approach and best practices.

All interested speakers should send their [abstract and filled application form](#) to [events@icbss.org](mailto:events@icbss.org) **not later than 31 January 2018**.

Abstracts should be in English, max. 500 words and should include the Author's name, affiliation and email address. Any abstracts received past the deadline will not be considered. Final paper submission (1700-2000 words) should be completed by 22 April 2018. All submitted papers will be published in the **ICBSS Xenophon Series**.

Speakers are kindly requested to make their own travel arrangements. Accommodation (up to 2 nights, single room) for speakers applying not later than 31 January 2018, breakfast and one meal per day will be offered by the organizers.

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

Abstract Submission (500 words)	31 January 2018
Notification of Abstract Acceptance	5 February 2018
Final Paper Submission (1700-2000 words)	22 April 2018

#### **Information for Participants**

Interested participants are welcome to apply by sending their **filled application form** to [events@icbss.org](mailto:events@icbss.org) or by fax to +30 210 324 2244, **not later than 19 February 2018**.

Participants are kindly requested to make their own travel arrangements. Accommodation (up to 2 nights, single room) for participants applying not later than 19 February 2018, breakfast and one meal per day will be offered by the organizers.

#### **C. Venue**

##### **TITANIA Hotel**

52, Panepistimiou str. | 106 78 Athens, Greece

Tel: +30.210-33.26.000 | e-mail: [titania@titania.gr](mailto:titania@titania.gr)

#### **D. Contact Details**

– For further information about the **agenda and speakers**, please contact:  
Ms. Georgia Chantzi, [gchantzi@icbss.org](mailto:gchantzi@icbss.org)

– For further information about the **logistics and participants**, please contact:  
Ms. Athina Korovesi, [akorovesi@icbss.org](mailto:akorovesi@icbss.org)

**Looking forward to seeing you in Athens!**