CONNECT TO BLACK SEA
BLACK SEA BLUE GROWTH INITIATIVE
Supported by Black Sea CONNECT COORDINATION & SUPPORT ACTION
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METU Institute of Marine Sciences
Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (2019)

Blue Growth Initiative for Research and Innovation in the Black Sea

Represents the work carried out by Black Sea coastal countries experts, in cooperation with marine experts from leading European institutes and organisations, with the support of the European Commission.
Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

WHAT IS THE SRIA?
- A reference framework
- Programmatic tool

KEY OUTPUTS OF SRIA
- National level priorities identified
- Development of national Blue Growth agendas
- Science-based and well-informed decision-making
- Supporting the development of the Common Maritime Agenda

ADDRESSES ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES
- Established sectors such as shipping, shipbuilding, fisheries, traditional sun-sea tourism
- Emerging new sectors such as blue bioeconomy/biotechnology, ocean energy, offshore wind energy, coastal and environmental protection

SRIA WILL GUIDE STAKEHOLDERS
- Academia
- Funding agencies
- Industry
- Policymakers
- Society
Main Milestones

June 2017 - Start date

June 2018
Burgas Declaration
Vision Paper for SRIA

May 2019 - Romania –
Bucharest Declaration
Launch of SRIA
Steps Taken to Develop SRIA

Number of Projects According to Main R&I Areas

- Black Sea Countries Total Projects
  - Biodiversity
  - Marine Pollution and Litter
  - Operational Oceanography/Observing Systems
  - MSP, ICZM
  - Maritime Transport
  - Marine and Coastal Hazards
  - Climate Change & Impacts
  - Ecosystem Multiple Stressors
  - Cultural Heritage
  - Blue Biotechnology
  - Biological Invasions
  - Eutrophication and Deoxygenation

Number of Projects According to Main R&I Areas

- European Union FP7 and Horizon2020 Projects
  - Socioeconomic & Policy Research
  - Training & Technology Transfer
  - Climate Change & Impacts
  - Ecosystem Multiple Stressors
  - Marine Renewable Energy
  - Marine Ecosystem Services
  - Biodiversity
  - Deep Sea Ecosystems
  - Eutrophication and Deoxygenation
  - Marine Pollution and Litter
  - Biological Invasions
  - Interconnections of Basins
Steps Taken to Develop SRIA

**PROJECTS**
- Marine Research Project Information (National & EU)

**MATRIX B**
- Boundary / Framework Conditions

**PILLARS that SRIA builds on**

**ACTIONS**
- To achieve and implement the goals

**MATRIX A**
- Gaps and Research & Innovation Opportunities

**WORKSHOPS**
- a. common vision
- b. challenges
- c. goals of the SRIA

**GOALS**
- Broad objectives to address a key sub-challenge

**ACTORS**
- National, European and international

**BURGAS VISION PAPER**

**STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AGENDA**
FOUR MAIN PILLARS FOR SRIA (11 GOALS & 41 ACTIONS)

1. BLACK SEA KNOWLEDGE BRIDGE
   - Addressing fundamental Black Sea research challenges

2. BLACK SEA BLUE ECONOMY
   - Developing products, solutions and clusters underpinning Black Sea blue growth

3. KEY INFRASTRUCTURE AND POLICY ENABLERS
   - Building of critical support systems and innovative research infrastructures

4. EMPOWERED CITIZENS AND ENHANCED BLUE WORKFORCE
   - Education and capacity building
Pillar 1 – Summary and Highlights
Addressing fundamental Black Sea research challenges

Goal 1  5 Actions
➢ Address issues such as eutrophication, deoxygenation, invasive species, marine litter and enhancing food systems research
➢ Quantify sources of external inputs to Black Sea and increase knowledge on ecosystem resilience through an improved understanding of specific Black Sea features

Goal 2  6 Actions
➢ Integrate land-sea connection with deep basin and develop holistic management strategies
Pillar 2 – Summary and Highlights
Developing products, solutions and clusters underpinning Black Sea Blue Growth

➢ Promote methodologies for science-based policymaking
➢ Develop innovation on existing and emerging blue economy sectors such as renewable energy, sustainable fisheries, high-tech aquaculture, novel products from unique organisms, tourism and innovative litter management
Pillar 3 - Summary and Highlights
Building of critical support systems and research infrastructures for communities

- **Goal 1**
  - 3 Actions
  - Promote smart, integrated observing and monitoring systems in service of citizens for a sustainable ecosystem and adaptive management

- **Goal 2**
  - 2 Actions
  - Common monitoring standards and research infrastructures in support of policy

- **Goal 3**
  - 2 Actions
  - Support innovators and entrepreneurs oriented towards circular blue bioeconomy of the Black Sea
Pillar 4 - Summary and Highlights

Education and capacity building

- Develop and integrate learning and training programs active in the blue economy sectors
- Ocean-engaged citizens for a clean, plastic-free, healthy Black Sea
- Conduct outreach and science communication towards contributing to enhanced science-policy dialogue
✓ All pillars build on existing expertise and networks
   Need to capitalise Best Practice both in the Black Sea area and elsewhere

✓ Successful Implementation of the SRIA requires Collaboration & Trust
   Efficient co-funding and co-programming mechanisms and bodies at national, transnational and international level, alignment of funding, open results to society

✓ SRIA must permanently maintain relevance
   Need to put in place a regular mechanism to update the Black Sea SRIA – in permanent dialogue with relevant stakeholders! Revision and update are vital

Adapted from A. Stanica presentation in the Sust-Black Conference, May 2019, Romanian Presidency
What is the Future of the Black Sea Initiative

• Black Sea Initiative → Group of Senior Officials (GSO)- members appointed by the Governments. Political group.

• GSO to decide the actions to be done and help implementing SRIA

• GSO to increase the opportunities of know-how for stakeholders to tackle Black Sea challenges and promote blue growth in the region

• Strengthen regional dialogue, strategic partnership & increase the Black Sea Synergy

• Boost educational activities including training courses, hackathons, online platforms, fairs, coordinate transnational actions… etc.

• GSO actions/meetings to be facilitated through the CSA - Black Sea CONNECT
2019 Oct – 2022 Sept

Black Sea Connect

Coordination And Support Action
(EU H2020-funded, Grant No: 860055)

Coordinator: Dr. Baris Salihoglu
Director, Associate Professor
METU Institute of Marine Sciences (METU-IMS)
Turkey
The three core facilitating roles of Black Sea CONNECT
SRIA DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Update & Map Framework Conditions
- Coordination of SRIA Update
- Development of Implementation Plan

SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES TOWARDS SRIA IMPLEMENTATION

- Operational Network
- Transnational Joint Activities
- Link to Other Policy Initiatives & Projects
- Innovation for Blue Economy

Increasing Stakeholder Participation

- Pillar 1: Black Sea Knowledge Bridge
- Pillar 2: Black Sea Blue Economy
- Pillar 3: Key Enablers: Joint Infrastructures and Policy Enablers
- Pillar 4: Empowered Citizens and Enhanced Blue Workforce

VISIBILITY AND DISSEMINATION

PLAN TO CONVERT SRIA OUTPUTS INTO TANGIBLE, REALISTIC & TIME-BOUND ACTIONS

BASED ON THE 4 PILARS (EU & NATIONAL)
What does BS CONNECT mean for the region?

- Will help CSOs to operate within an established and connected network
- Will help Integration: BS CONNECT is inclusive platform integrating policy, industry and research
- Will increase comprehensive know-how for stakeholders to tackle Black Sea challenges and to promote blue growth
- Will raise awareness on Black Sea both in the local communities and globally
- Will, eventually, contribute to the stability and prosperity of the region
Aim of the Black Sea Connect CSA

To be at the end of its duration....

The “one-stop-shop” for research and innovation for blue growth in the Black Sea

Presentation created by:
Mustafa Yücel, Barış Salihoğlu & Ezgi Şahin
METU Institute of Marine Sciences, Turkey

The trip has just started...

Launching on air soon...

www.connect2blacksea.org

Thank you!