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JOINT STATEMENT

of the Green Cluster of Black Sea Knowledge Institutions
on energy efficiency and use of renewable energy schemes

BLACK SEA KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS TURN GREEN

Foreword

Under the threat of the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and Energy Efficiency (EE) can highly contribute to sustainable development and environmental protection. In the Energy field, RES and EE are considered cost-effective means to respond to the major energy-related challenges of energy security and production and transfer costs. They offer innovative and environment-friendly solutions aiming at improving the energy performance of organizations buildings, processes, etc., diminishing conventional energy use, introducing clean forms of energy, mitigating the adverse effects of climate change and saving costs.

Academic and research institutes and centres can play a catalytic role in supporting these concepts and taking the first steps towards the implementation of innovative technologies and investments, due to their unique character that combines teaching, research and knowledge transfer. Therefore, these “Knowledge Institutions” can be considered pioneers in promoting sustainable energy and creating wide reputation in the Black Sea countries.

Especially, the Black Sea countries have ambitious national plans and strategies for a transition to greener and more energy efficient economies with a greater share of renewable and clean energy and lesser dependence on fossil fuels. These strategies call for a significant increase in renewable energy obtained from wind, biomass and biogas, which over the next decade will increase the share of RES. Furthermore, these strategies offer a path to the conversion of the energy supply in the Black Sea countries, including specific initiatives, which will not damage the national competitiveness.

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Within this context, the BSEC-Hellenic Development Fund research project “Green Cluster of Knowledge Institutions of Black Sea”¹, established a *Green Cluster of Knowledge Institutions*, with

a view to supporting a regional partnership of academic and research institutions of the Black Sea countries, able to address the key energy challenges, disseminate the project’s outcomes and promote RES and EE in the Black Sea area. The project’s main deliverable was a “*Roadmap for awareness and implementation of EE and use of RES schemes in the Black Sea*” designed as a voluntary tool with a view to transferring knowledge and know-how to the BSEC Member States from international, European or Black Sea best practices and consequently to help Knowledge Institutions into implementing soft green practices, in order to become more energy efficient and cost-savers. The Roadmap focuses on energy saving and use of RES not only in the existing organizational structure and materials used by the institutions, but also in horizontal processes, such as the equipment procurement. The roadmap is written in a non-technical manner, so it can be approachable by non-experts. It is actually a manual proposing a step-by-step approach for evaluating the energy performance of an institution setting indicators and a monitoring system.

The following Joint Statement signed by all members of the cluster, confirms their commitment to contribute to a successful transition to sustainable energy.

Principles and targets

We, the members of the Green Cluster of Knowledge Institutions of the Black Sea,

being aware, of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Green Growth Strategy of OECD, the European “Energy 2020 - A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy” and the Strategy for “Green Investment” of the World Bank and multilateral environmental agreements that constitute a major vector in the change of paradigm of economic development in the Black Sea countries;

recognising that the supply of global fossil fuel resources will decline and the global energy demand will increase approximately by one third over the next 25 years;

being convinced that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, while energy efficiency is the fastest, cheapest and cleanest way to reduce our carbon pollution;

considering the response to climate change as an opportunity for promoting green economy, employment and sustainable development in the wider Black Sea area, focusing on a gradual, but swift turn towards new technologies, including cleaner energy and higher efficiency in energy use;

¹ The project is co-financed by the BSEC-Hellenic Development Fund and coordinated by the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) with the participation of TUBITAK Marmara Research Center in Turkey and the National Research University – Higher School of Economics in Russia. For more information please visit: www.icbss.org

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embracing the notions of energy efficiency, environmental management and sustainability for the Black Sea environment and populations, in order to attain a gradual reliance on renewable energy resources and a better balance of oil, gas and other alternative energy sources;

supporting the ICBSS' strategic initiative in “Building a Sustainable Future for the Black Sea Area”, which introduced the integration of the environmental dimension into all actions and aims of the

Centre, making the concept of Sustainable Development, Greening Innovation and Governance its driving force;

endorsing the “Black Sea turns Green” strategy, proposed by the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office of the BSEC, and included in the Joint Declaration on Combating Climate Change in the wider Black Sea area by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (2.12.2010);

encouraged by several recent events that indicate that most of the Black Sea countries, (many of which are rich in fossil oil), are increasingly recognizing the important role of EE and use of RES in promote sustainable well-being.

commit ourselves to contributing to a *paradigm shift towards low-carbon green growth* through our green practices, and thus become the “first movers” and the “champions of change”, proving that this paradigm can be realistic.

The Green Cluster of the Black Sea Knowledge Institutions states herewith that will:

1. *undertake* initiatives towards assessing, managing and improving the energy performance of our organizations, aiming at reducing their conventional energy use, introducing environmental management schemes and using RES, thus mitigating the effects of climate change and saving costs, according to the “Roadmap for awareness and implementation of EE and use of RES schemes in the Black Sea”;
2. *promote* the dissemination of the Roadmap to all knowledge institutions of the Black Sea countries;
3. *diffuse* knowledge concerning international and European trends on EE and RES policies and tools and good practices of other research and academic institutions having implemented voluntarily relevant actions;
4. *expand* the existing green cluster inviting more knowledge institutions with similar goals to join it, offering them access to the project's outcomes and acquired knowledge and aiming at mutual exchange of experiences and know-how;
5. *strengthen* international cooperation among similar Green Networks in the field of EE, RES and sustainable development, being open and willing for constructive dialogue on new tools, instruments and techniques of best green practices and networking activities

The membership in the Green Cluster is and will be *free of charge* highlighting the cluster's sincere purpose, which is to give all members the opportunity to benefit from the transfer of

Green Cluster of Knowledge Institutions of Black Sea: A Roadmap on Renewable Energy Sources
and Energy Efficiency for Research and Academic Institutions

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knowledge and know-how and promote cooperation linkages among the participants with similar goals in the future.

The ICBSS will be the coordinator of the Green Cluster of the Black Sea Knowledge Institutions, providing its web-platform (www.icbss.org) for the needs of the cluster and the dissemination of relevant material. For purposes of further diffusion, the ICBSS will take advantage of its extended pool of contacts and will inform all the recipients of its mailing list on this activity, offering the chance to any knowledge institutions to join the Green Cluster.

The establishment of the Green Cluster will merely be the beginning of an on-going procedure which will constantly be enhanced by the participation of additional members (knowledge institutions) and the promotion of activities that will support cooperation in the fields of energy efficiency and RES in the Black Sea area.

Name and position of the representative of the institution

Signature and stamp

Place, date