



PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 17 October 2012

The **International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)** successfully organised the Workshop on **“Black Sea Knowledge Institutions Turn Green”**, in Athens, on Tuesday 16 October 2012.

The event was held within the framework of the research project **“Green Cluster of Knowledge Institutions of the Black Sea: A Roadmap on Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency for Research and Academic Institutions”**, that is co-funded by the BSEC-Hellenic Development Fund (HDF) and coordinated by the ICBSS, aiming at transferring know-how and at enhancing capacity building and cooperation linkages in the fields of **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources** to research and academic institutions of the Black Sea countries and beyond.

The Workshop aimed at further promoting the project’s outcomes and for this purpose, it successfully brought together representatives from the **academic and research communities as well as, from the public and private sector**. It was structured in two panels; the first was centred around **“Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and Energy Efficiency (EE) in the Black Sea area: BSEC-HDF research project”** while the second focused on **“Building efficiency in the Black Sea area: Future Perspectives for Universities, Institutions and Companies”**.

Welcome notes were delivered by Mr. Dimitrios Makrynicolas, Deputy Director of the B2 Directorate International Economic Relations with the Balkans, Russia and the CIS, Monitoring BSEC, Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Zefi Dimadama, ICBSS Director General and Mr. Konstantinos Zaimis, BSEC-HDF Manager.

The establishment of a Network of **“Green Cluster of Black Sea Knowledge Institutions”**, that constitutes the flagship of the project, is committed to support regional partnership; to address the key energy challenges; to disseminate the project’s outcomes and to promote the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency practices in the Black Sea area.

The added value of the project is that this Network **constitutes a living organism continuously enlarging** and, although it already consists of 21 knowledge institutions (e.g. Universities, Academies, Institutes) from the BSEC Member States, it can further expand to include more members sharing the same vision of raising environmental awareness and spreading scientific knowledge.

Within this framework, the ICBSS, as the coordinator of the **Green Cluster**, would like to kindly encourage BSEC Member States to propose to knowledge institutions **to join the Network of “Green Cluster of Knowledge Institutions of the Black Sea”** by signing the attached Joint Statement.

Moreover, the ICBSS provides a **web-Forum, especially designed for the Network** for dialogue enhancement and exchange of views. All relevant information on joining the Cluster or becoming a member of the ICBSS community can be found at www.icbss.org.

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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.

For further information please contact us at email icbss@icbss.org or tel.: 210 32 42 321