THE BLACK SEA SYNERGY
The European Union and the Black Sea region

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What is the Black Sea Synergy?

• Launched in 2007. The EU's key policy framework towards the Black Sea

• To size regional opportunities and to bring increased stability, sustainability, resilience and prosperity to the area, for the citizens' benefit.

• Provides EU's practical support for both regional cooperation within the Black Sea region, and between EU and the region as a whole.
Black Sea Synergy characteristics

- Coherent, long-term initiative; complementing EU's bilateral activities, facilitating a more sectoral-oriented EU support, flexible forum for addressing regional issues

- Key elements: inclusivity, fostering regional dialogue, confidence-building for tangible results; voluntary basis, different types of interaction

- A bottom-up approach as a specific mark
• A list of roughly 10 sectoral and thematic fields of cooperation (blue growth, maritime affairs, research and innovation, fisheries, environmental protection and climate change, cross-border cooperation, civil society, education, culture, tourism, energy, transport)

• References to links with other EU policies or strategies relevant for the Black Sea

• Cooperation with regional and international organisations active in the Black Sea
• Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on the EU’s engagement to the Black Sea regional cooperation – adopted on 17 June 2019; with the Black Sea Synergy at its core;

• Landmarks developed under the Black Sea Synergy umbrella:
  ➢ *Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea* (CMA) – agreed on 21 May 2019, Bucharest
  ➢ *Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea* (SRIA), launched on 8 May 2019, Bucharest
The Bucharest Ministerial Declaration, 21 May 2019, Bucharest: costal countries and R. Moldova

Support to the implementation of the CMA, through both political and operational coordination

The Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) – Sea basin initiative for blue growth; the first in the region; 3 goals:
- Healthy marine and costal ecosystems
- A competitive, innovative and sustainable blue economy for the Black Sea
- Fostering investment in the Black Sea blue economy

10 priorities and 46 actions
The "Sustainable Development of the Black Sea" Conference in Bucharest, 8-9 May 2019

SRIA - the science pillar of the CMA; experts from the six Black Sea costal countries, R. Moldova, leading European marine institutes/organisations; 4 key areas:

- to address fundamental research challenges
- to boost the blue economy
- to develop innovative infrastructure
- to enhance blue workforce through education for new marine and maritime jobs and engaging citizens.

4 pillars, 11 goals, 41 actions

Black Sea Synergy main recent developments - SRIA
Black Sea Synergy main recent developments: the 3rd review


- Summary: general aspects; main characteristics; particular challenges and risks; progress made since 2015, with lessons learned and key points; table with details on the progress; conclusions:
  - Promoting cooperative and practical region-wide solutions is essential to address regional and global challenges
  - Practical utility of the initiative; positive contribution to regional cooperation and untapped potential
  - The 3 concentric circles design for the fields of cooperation.
Black Sea Synergy fields of cooperation
Thank you for your attention

For more information:

Factsheet on EU support to Black Sea regional cooperation