

# 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 seize 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

# Black Sea Synergy structure



- **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**

# Black Sea Synergy main recent developments



- 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

# Black Sea Synergy main recent developments - CMA



- 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**

# Black Sea Synergy main recent developments - SRIA



- 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 coastal 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**



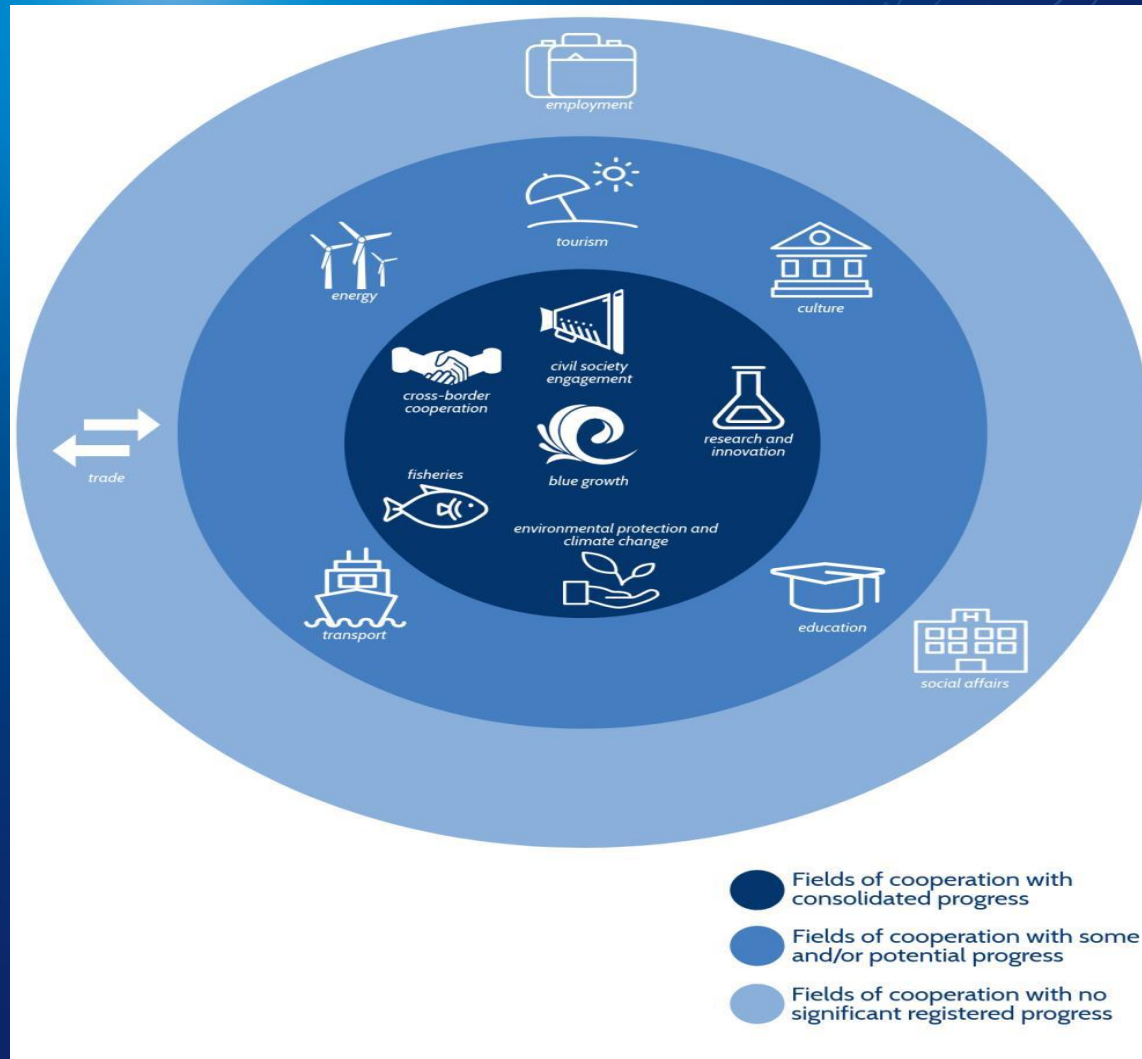
# Black Sea Synergy main recent developments: the 3<sup>rd</sup> review



- The third review of the Black Sea Synergy (period 2015-2018) – COM/EEAS Joint Staff Working Document, issued in March 2019
- 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:**

**[https://eeas.europa.eu/diplomatic-network/black-sea-synergy\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/diplomatic-network/black-sea-synergy_en)**

**Factsheet on EU support to Black Sea regional cooperation**