



PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 5 July 2012

5th International Black Sea Symposium, Athens 2012

The **International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)** successfully organised its **5th International Black Sea Symposium** on “**The Black Sea region as an influential crossroad between East and West: A path towards extroversión**” in Athens, on 2-4 July 2012.

Fifteen young professionals from the Black Sea countries, the EU Member-States and the US attended an intensive three-day course where 22 renowned international experts addressed a wide spectrum of issues, such as energy efficiency, environmental governance, security, innovation, science technology, economic relations, culture and education, that currently form the framework within which many cooperation schemes and synergies have been promoted.

Participants, speakers and observers used the Symposium to network and to form ideas for new joint projects; to discuss; to exchange views and to enhance the dialogue among “domestic” and “external” knowledge.

Closing the event, **Dr. Zefi Dimadama, ICBSS Director General** and **Dr. Tevan Poghosyan, Executive Director of the International Center for Human Development (ICHD)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** aiming at establishing and developing cooperation between the two organisations with a view to promoting and enhancing the dialogue in fields of common interest.

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About the project: the International Black Sea Symposium project was launched in 2008 with the aim of contributing to dialogue, cooperation and understanding in the Black Sea region and beyond. It does so by providing a forum for study and networking in a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment to young professionals and international experts.

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.

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