



8th International Black Sea Symposium

on

“Science, Technology & Innovation in the Black Sea: Moving Forward”

Athens, Greece

19-20 November 2015

The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) launched the International Black Sea Symposium project in the context of a need for transnational cooperation in the wider Black Sea region. Now, in its eighth year, the International Black Sea Symposium (IBSS) builds on the success and positive impact of its previous seven editions to bring together the next generation of stakeholders with an interest in the Black Sea area, focusing on *STI Cooperation*, a key parameter for sustainable development.

The 8th International Black Sea Symposium on *“Science, Technology & Innovation in the Black Sea: Moving Forward”* will be held in Athens, Greece, from 19 to 20 November 2015. The event’s working language will be English.

More about the 8th IBSS

In a challenging global economic environment, scientific research and the transfer of its results into innovative products, services and processes are essential elements to any knowledge-based economies. They are considered **major drivers of economic growth and societal development**, as well as an indispensable asset for responding to the global challenges.

As new challenges and actors, fresh approaches and models emerge worldwide, in addition to national policies/strategies, **bilateral and multilateral cooperation in science and technology is essential** for the optimum tangible results, enhanced competitiveness and attractiveness at the global research and industry field.

At international and regional level, STI partnerships allow for exchange of knowledge, optimum use of academic strengths and resources, and access to multiple funding possibilities, thus creating favourable conditions for the **best exploitation of scientific results to innovative applications** for national, regional and international markets.

In this context, **the Black Sea countries**, based on their rich and long-lasting traditions in S&T, foster dialogue and productive synergies as means to strengthen **their research and innovation capacity** with the aim to enhance their excellence and competitiveness so as to create more sustainable and more inclusive societies.

Within this framework, through the 8th IBSS, the ICBSS is aiming at offering a platform for dialogue among stakeholders in order to **stimulate enhanced regional STI cooperation** for mutually beneficial joint actions.

Through interactive sessions, speakers and participants with acute interest in or involved with STI will have the opportunity to **explore and discuss the perspectives of R&D cooperation** in relation to its academic and economic impact on the Black Sea countries.

Special emphasis will be placed on the following:

1. **Building human capacities:** addressing the challenge of brain-drain, increasing researchers' mobility, lifelong learning.
2. **Bridging the Academia – Business gap:** entrepreneurial exposure to university research, increasing the role of private sector in research funding and exploitation of results, business-university nexus, enhancing innovation management abilities.
3. **Challenges and future perspectives of regional STI cooperation:** networking between STI communities, access to resources, and coordination of national STI systems, institutional approach and good cases.
4. **Science and Gender:** promote equity and access to equal opportunities.

For more information, please visit www.icbss.org or contact Ms. Athina Korovesi at tel. +30 210 32 42 321.

Looking forward to seeing you in Athens!