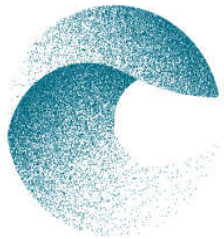




The Black Sea Cooperation Programme in STI

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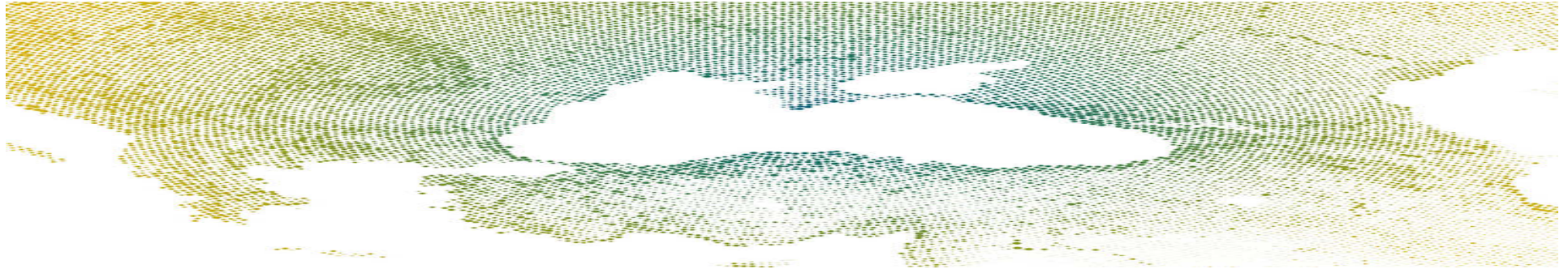


Bi-regional STI Dialogue

8 May 2017, Athens



The project BLACK SEA HORIZON has received funding from Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, under the Grant Agreement 645785 (H2020-INT-INCO-2014).



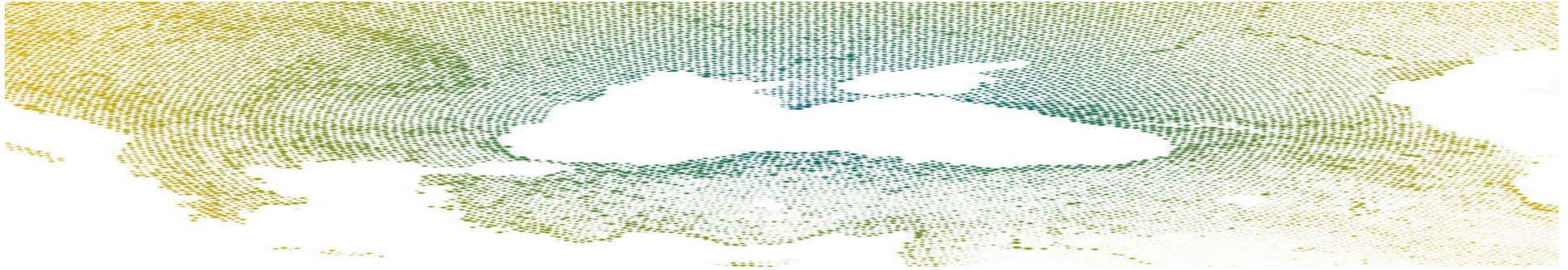
The **BSCP** constitutes one of the *main objectives* of the BSH project. It aims at:

- ❑ Enhancing the **intra-regional STI cooperation**;
 - ❑ Contributing to the **EU-BS bi-regional dialogue**;
 - ❑ Enhancing **participation in ERA and H2020**;
 - ❑ Creating **synergies with other programmes**.
- Through the involvement of a *large variety of stakeholders*
(Pprog. Owners; RPOs, SMEs, EU MS, Int. Org.)



Methodology towards the BSCP

- Collection of **analytical evidence**;
 - Contacts with **policy dialogue fora**;
 - **Consultation process** among BSH partners;
 - Organization of a **Workshop in Brussels** (Dec. 2017), involving policy makers (EU and BS), EC representatives, Liaison Offices, etc.
- **Guiding principle:** *rooting* the BSCP to policy documents and creating *synergies* with policy dialogue fora (Joint strategy/EaP Panel; BSEC WG/Action Plan; ENI; Black Sea Synergy, etc.)



Content of the BSCP

1. **A series of *measures*:**
 - A. **Joint Research Calls;**
 - B. **Capacity Building Activities;**
 - C. **Strengthening Mobility;**
 - D. **Support to Innovation.**

2. **Governance, Steering and Funding of the BSCP**



A. Joint Research Calls

... 'enlarging the ongoing bilateral cooperation and building on previous multilateral activities' (e.g. BS-ERANET)

- **Principles:** variable geometry; participation of researchers from countries committing funds; thematic priorities to be defined by funding parties
- **Topics not in H2020 and/or topics overlapping with H2020** (to pave the way for H2020 participation)
- **Sustainability** and **periodicity** of such calls;
- Jointly agreed **Evaluation and Selection criteria**

 **Concrete step: a Joint Call already under preparation**



B. Capacity Building activities (1/2)

...’to improve the framework conditions and eliminate obstacles for an enhanced participation in the ERA’

Such activities should:

- Build on **past experiences** (e.g. Inco projects);
- Be **tailor-made** to address different stakeholders;
- Deserve **priorities and needs** of the participating countries;
- Should be **organized locally** to increase their impact (*encompassing young researchers, SMEs, etc.*)



B. Capacity Building activities (2/2)

Proposed activities:

1. Regional Benchmarking exercises among Institutes;
2. Trainings of researchers on Research Management
3. Thematic trainings e.g. on IPR;
4. Trainings for policy makers on STI policy setting;
5. Follow up (or repeat) Peer Reviews of STI systems;
6. Consolidate the STI Evaluation Platform;
7. Implement a Foresight exercise to develop a vision for the region.



C. Strengthening Mobility (1/2)

... 'intra-regional and towards EU, to reduce isolation of researchers and to enhance their performance'

Such measures should be:

- **Complementary** to existing schemes
 - ▣ Coordinating bilateral towards multilateral schemes (?)
 - ▣ Promoting access to Research Infrastructures
- **Incoming and outgoing** to promote brain circulation (key words: excellence, young researchers, diaspora)
- Serving **priorities** of the region;
- Include targeted mobility for **proposal preparation** and/or **twinning between research entities**.



C. Strengthening Mobility (2/2)

Proposed activities:

1. Organization of regional Summer Schools;
2. Twinning/mentoring actions between research organizations with two-way mobility components
3. Grants for networking with EU organizations;
4. Supporting access to Research Infrastructures;
5. Exchange of best practices on mobility schemes.

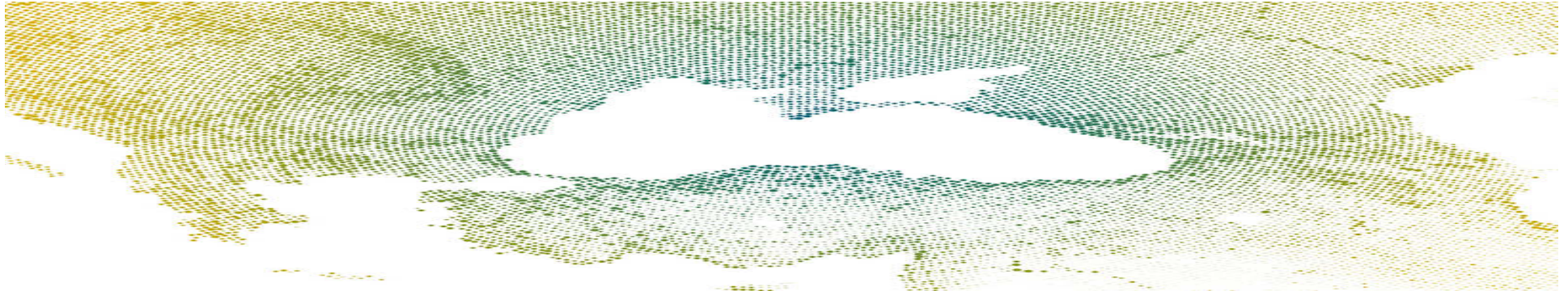


D. Supporting Innovation (1/2)

... 'A major challenge in Black Sea and beyond'

Several recommendations of the Peer Reviews in that field are highly relevant also for the BSCP

1. **Voucher schemes** allowing SMEs to 'buy' research services;
2. Calls for **cross-border clustering**;
3. Calls for **Academia – Industry cooperation**;
4. Calls for Industry – Academia **inter-sectoral mobility**;



D. Supporting Innovation (2/2)

5. Improve access to **Risk Finance** (Awareness raising; trainings; studies on obstacles; feasibility studies for V. C. and B. A., etc.);
6. Developing **Regional Competence Centres** to provide research-based solutions for specific economic sectors;
7. Extending the **European Innovation Scoreboard** (sharing experiences; trainings and mentoring; pilot applications);
8. Training experts on **technology transfer and commercialization support.**



2. Governance, Steering and Funding

‘The BSCP: a joint effort of countries and institutions sharing the same challenges’



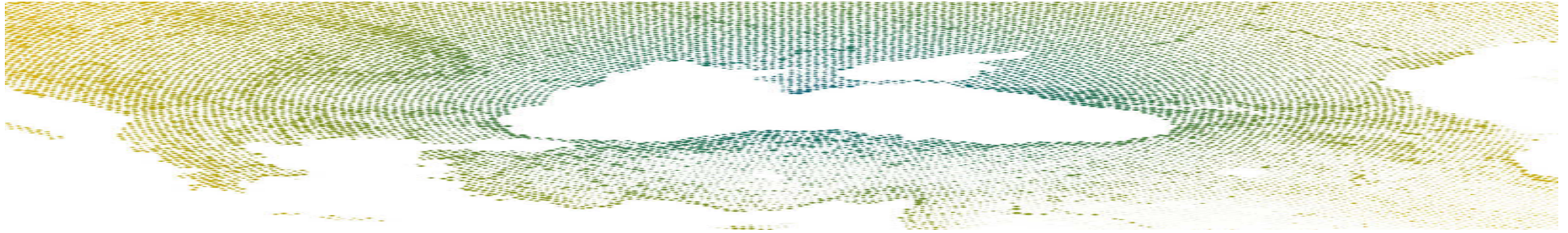
A **Governing procedure** is necessary to **initiate** and to **implement** every specific activity



Steering task (overall monitoring, initiation of activities, etc.)

Implementation task (collect expressions of interest - ‘critical mass’, define rules, etc.)

+ **Funding:** on a case-by-case basis



2. Governance, Steering and Funding (2/2)

A **link** to Policy Dialogue Fora needs to be established including the:

- EaP Panel on Research and Innovation;
- BSEC Working Group on S&T.

To act as **facilitators** and **initiators** of activities

Complemented by a '**Secretarial task**'

Permanent? rotating? Ad-hoc per activity? Other?



In Conclusion...

The BSCP should be seen as:

- An **agreed framework** for intra- and inter-regional STI cooperation;
- Reflecting national and regional **priorities**;
- To be implemented on a **voluntary** and **variable geometry basis**.

A challenging perspective to jointly work on!



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Thank you for your attention!

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