



FACILITY  
FOR BLUE GROWTH  
IN THE BLACK SEA

# Inter-basin Cooperation on Marine Litter: a focus on the Danube River and the Black Sea

International High-level Conference,  
4 April 2019 - Sofia

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Funded by the  
European Commission



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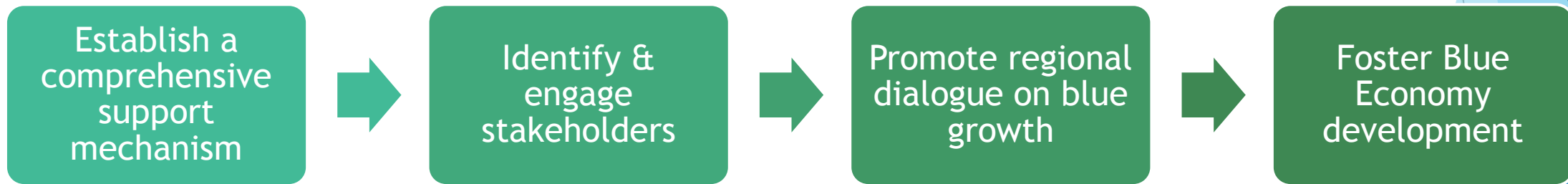
# Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea



# Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea

- ✓ 2-year capacity building project launched by the European Commission in 2017
- ✓ focused on the promotion of blue growth & blue economy development in the Black Sea basin

## Our mission





# Our Objectives

Further develop maritime policies

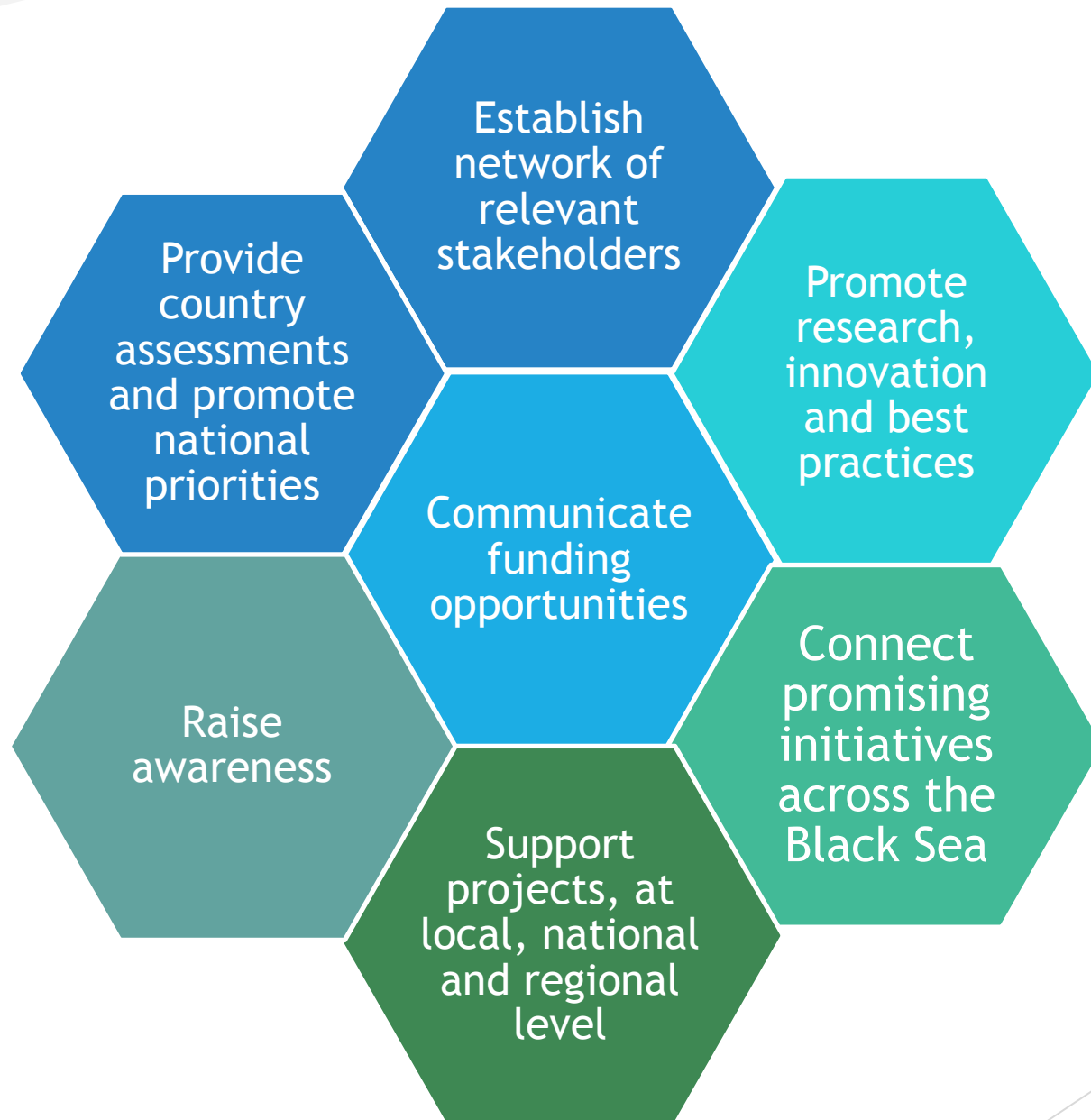
Promote maritime cooperation at regional level

Engage with all relevant parties, promote awareness & facilitate ownership of Blue Growth opportunities

Foster cooperation with national authorities, NCPs, NGOs, private businesses & society



# Our Services





# Expected Results

Identify ways to further boost economic growth and sustainability in the region

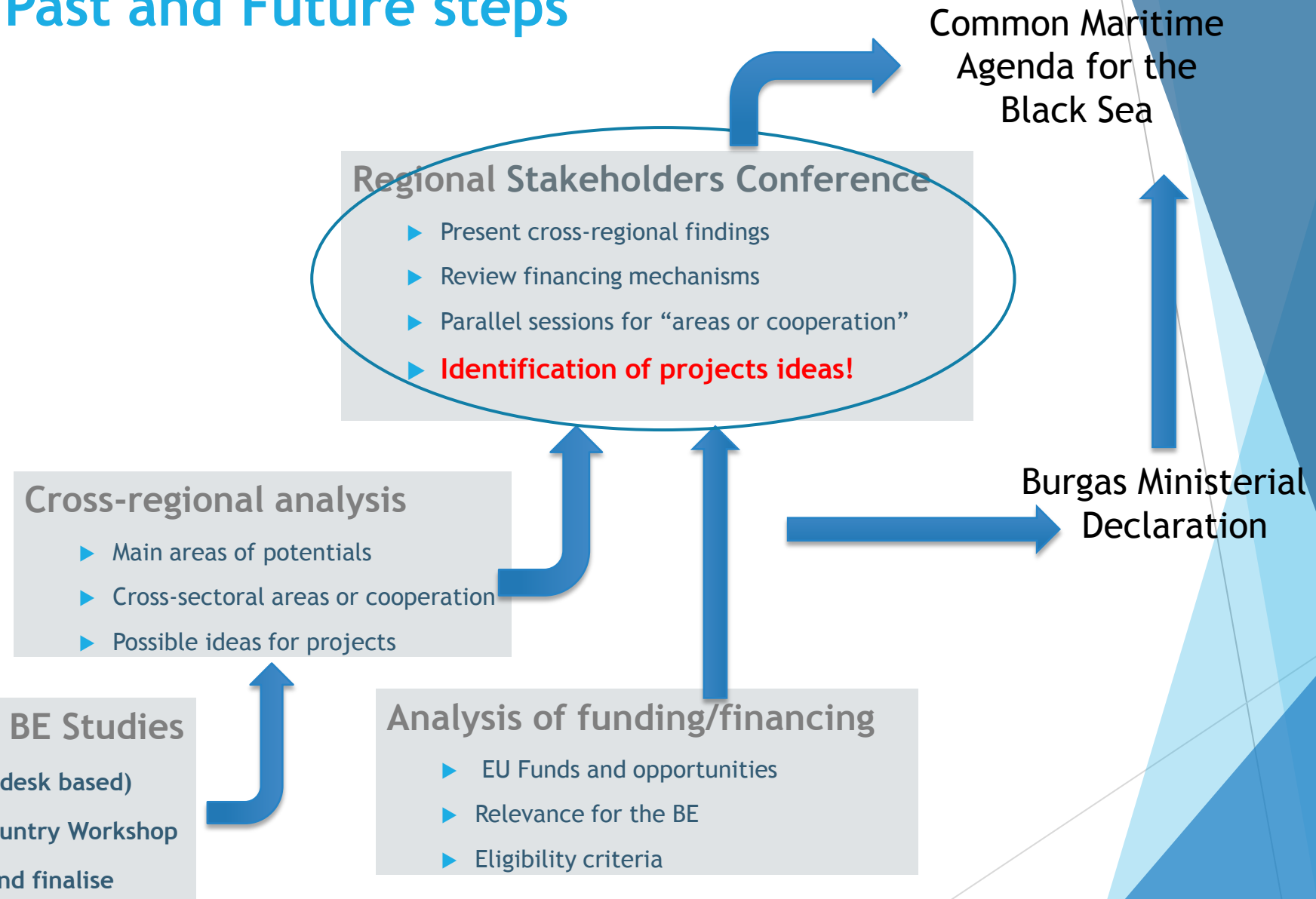
Establish and maintain national structures on maritime issues

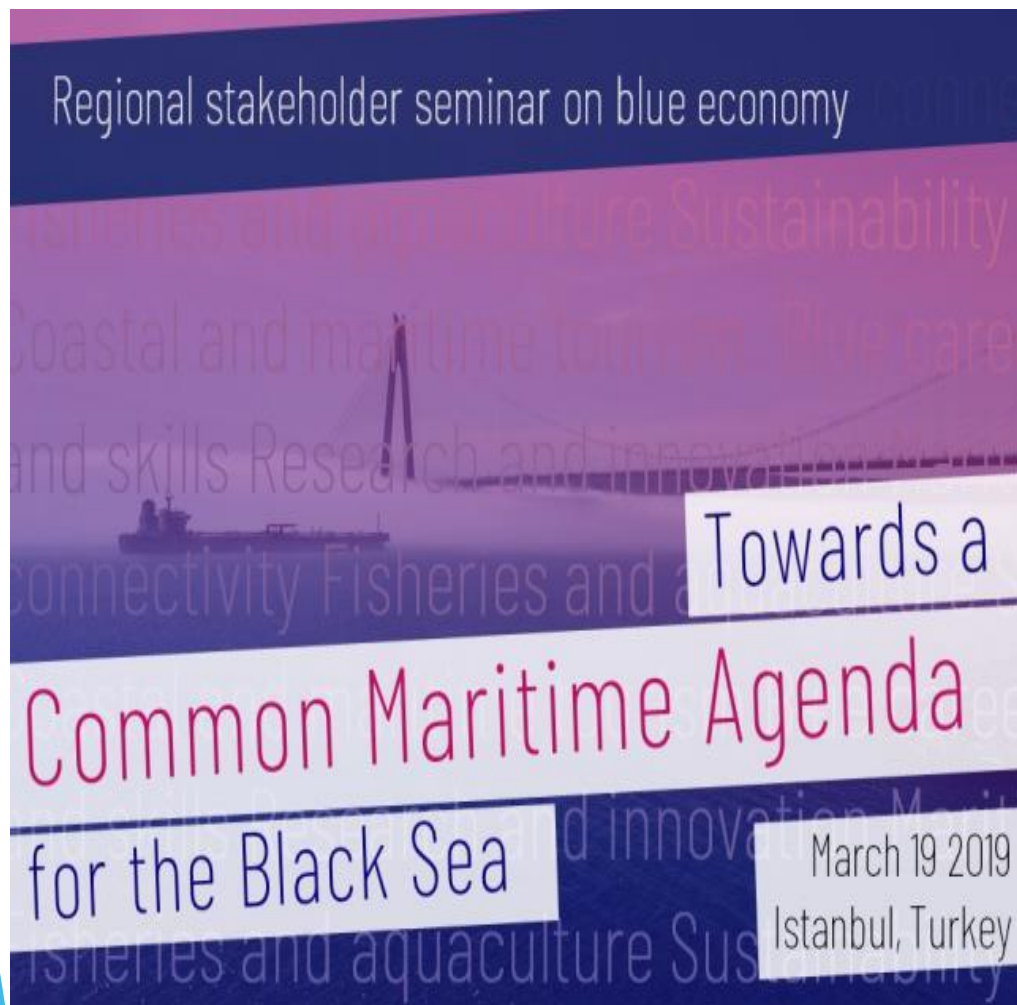
Facilitate engagement in and ownership of the topic of Blue Growth amongst society of the Black Sea countries

Common Maritime agenda for the Black Sea region agreed among the participating countries which will set common priorities and concrete actions for cooperation

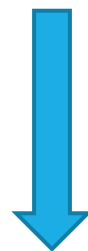


# Past and Future steps

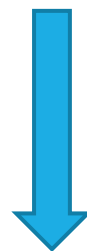




Objectives



Challenges



Project Ideas





# Regional Stakeholders Seminar on Blue Economy Istanbul, 19 March 2019

Outcome of workshop on:  
“Healthy marine environment and fight against  
plastic pollution”



# Objective 1 :Support the change of habits of citizens and businesses to address pollution

## Challenges according to the participants :

- ▶ Lack of public awareness about human impact on marine environment
- ▶ Weak understanding of production patterns
- ▶ Marine litter impact on biota is not widely investigated
- ▶ Lack of enforcement and regulatory measures



## Objective 2 :Develop marine protected areas and foster ecosystem planning to recover biological marine resources and mitigate climate change effects

### Challenges according to the participants :

- ▶ Limited MPAs with lack of management of wastes and litter
- ▶ MSP development needed
- ▶ Lack of public involvement in decision on establishing MPAs
- ▶ Scarcity of scientific data from MPAs (ex. litter in the water column)



## Objective 3 :Set up common monitoring and observation systems and practices to assess performance of the blue economy contribution towards a litter-free circular economy

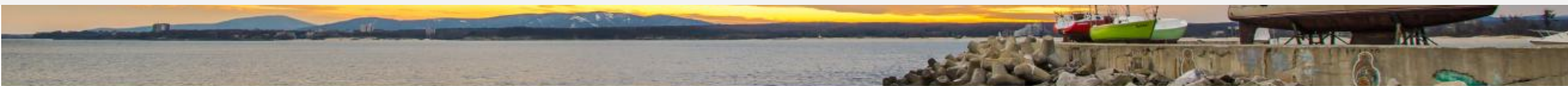
### Challenges according to the participants :

- ▶ Data collection and environmental monitoring at regional level
- ▶ Understanding dynamics of plastic movement
- ▶ Lack of data and access by decision makers
- ▶ Lack of awareness of hotspots and main sources



## Suggested actions and projects ideas for marine litter:

- ▶ Support the change of habits of citizens and businesses to address pollution
- ▶ Focus more effort on single use plastics awareness at all levels
- ▶ Set up common monitoring and observation systems - and practices to assess performance of the blue economy contribution towards a litter-free circular economy



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**The Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea provides guidance and support to governments, private investors, trade and industrial associations, research institutions and universities and to the general public regarding opportunities to engage in Blue Economy maritime activities in the Black Sea region.**

<http://blackseablueeconomy.eu>



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Thank you!

Thanos Smanis  
Environmental Consultant  
Member of the Facility Team