

# SEArica Conference on the Black Sea

## How can regional frameworks foster sustainable blue growth in the Black Sea basin?

03.12..2020



Black Sea SRIA and Black  
Sea CONNECT

Baris Salihoglu  
CSA Coordinator  
METU-IMS

[baris@ims.metu.edu.tr](mailto:baris@ims.metu.edu.tr)



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# Why is Black Sea Unique?



4869 km  
of coastline

10 large rivers flowing to the sea,  
with a total river input exceeding  
350 km<sup>3</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>

421 638 km<sup>2</sup>  
Total Area

5 ratio of the Black Sea catchment  
area to the sea's area

160 million  
Population of Black Sea  
coasts and catchment

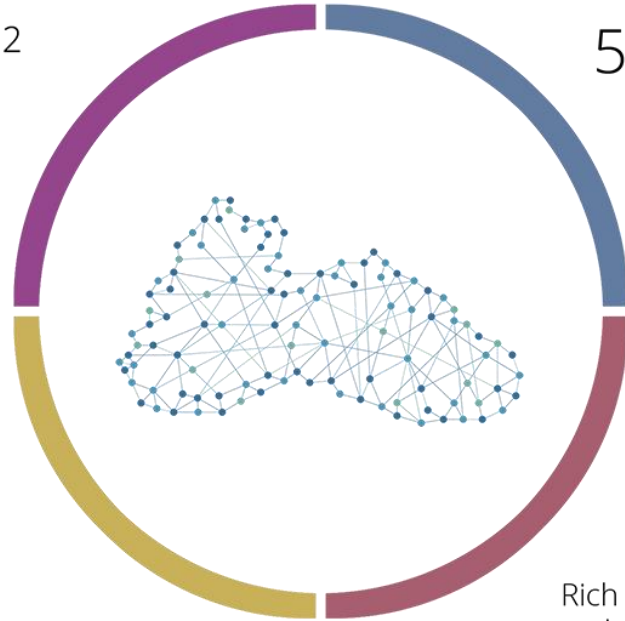
Deep Black Sea as the  
paleoclimate archive of past  
5 million years

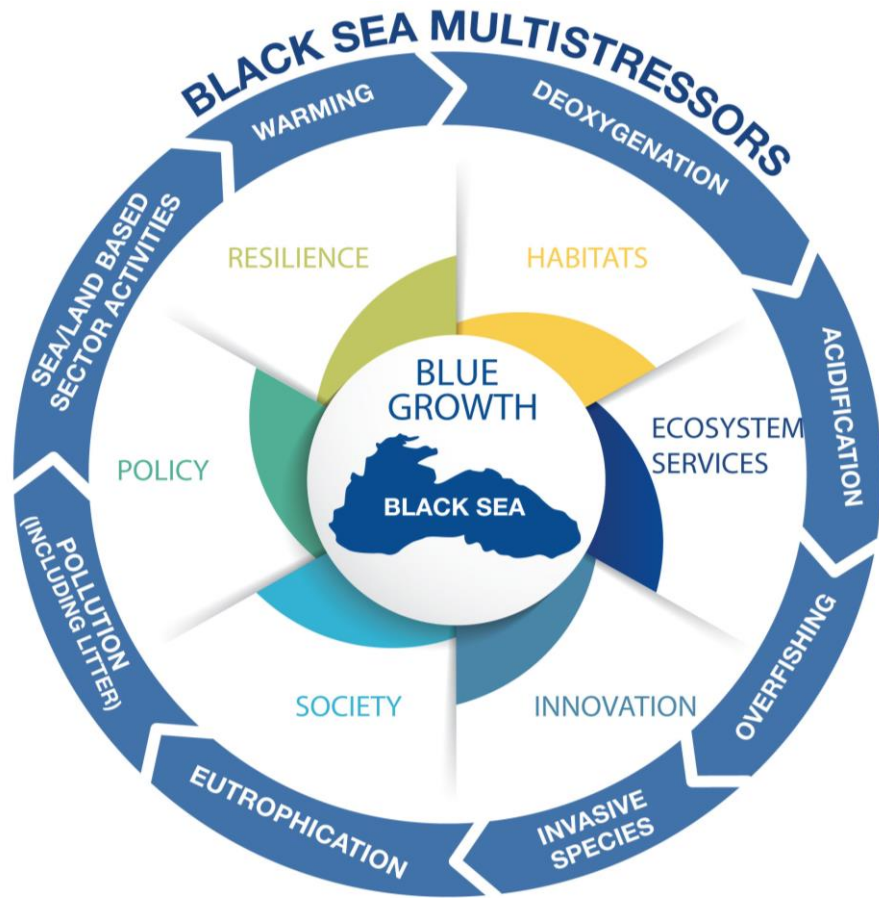
90%  
of oxygen free,  
H<sub>2</sub>S-rich volume

Rich in energy sources  
such as wave, currents, offshore wind,  
H<sub>2</sub>S, gas hydrates

18  
major sea ports

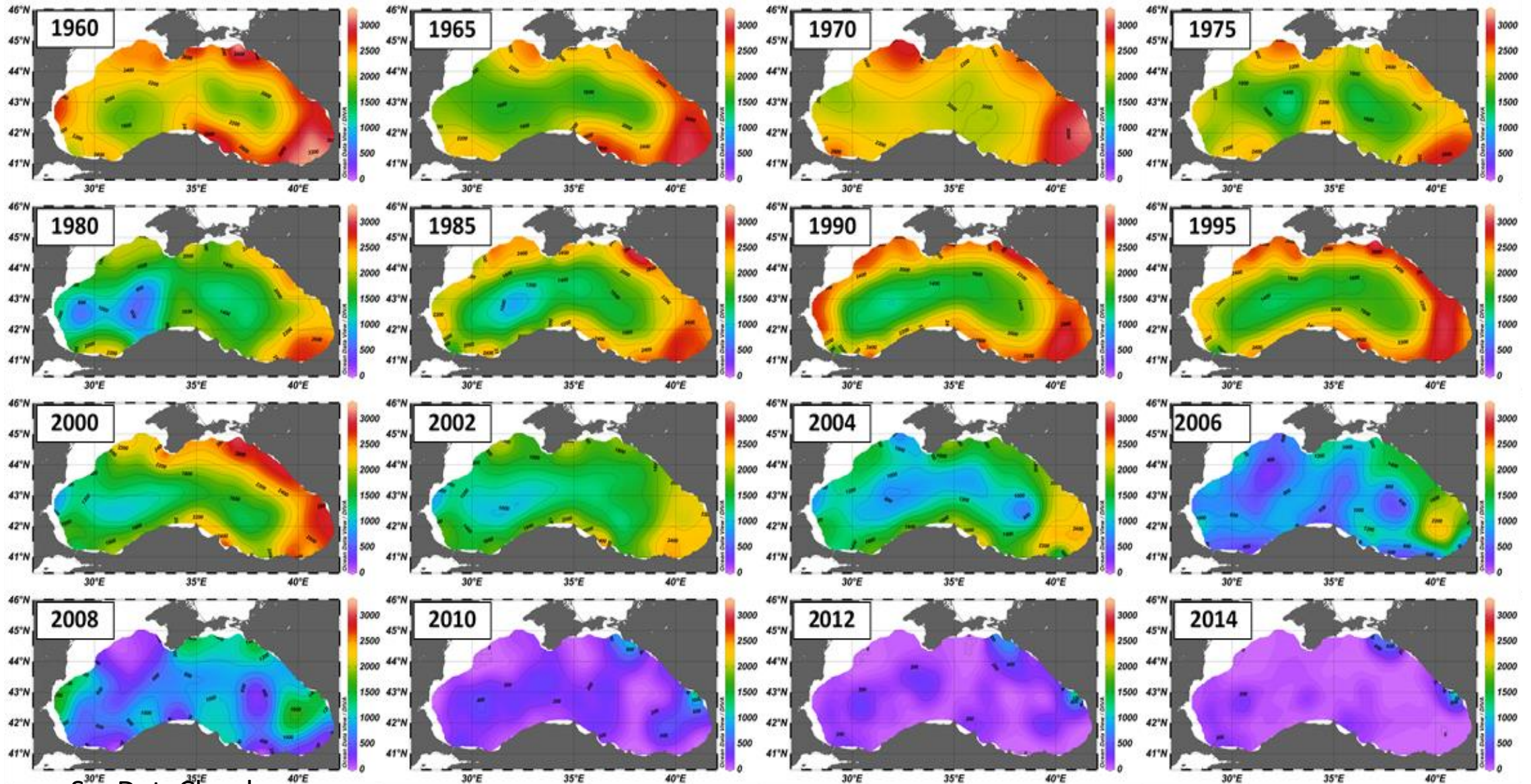
30 to 8  
Reduction in the number of fish  
species with economical significance





With unique habitats, abundant resources and rich cultural heritage, **the Black Sea** is vital to its coastal communities.

The Black Sea ecosystem is also unique in being susceptible to increasingly negative impacts from **several human-induced stressors, such as eutrophication and hypoxia, overfishing, and introduction of alien species.** Superimposed on these are the effects of **climate change on the ecosystem.**



*If we are to save our sea, use its resources in sustainable way and build a prosperous economy in our region for the long term, we will need a new approach.*

## What is Blue Growth?

Blue Growth is the long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole.

## Why is it important?



Job



Value



Sustainability

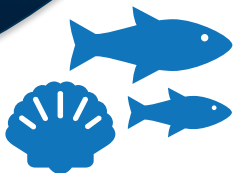
## Initial focus areas



Biotech



Renewable Energy



Sustainable Sea Food



Mineral Resources



Tourism

## WHAT IS THE SRIA?

- A reference framework
- Programmatic tool



## KEY OUTPUTS OF SRIA

- National level priorities identified
- Development of national Blue Growth agendas
- Science-based and well-informed decision-making
- Supporting the development of the Common Maritime Agenda



## ADDRESSES ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

- Established sectors such as shipping, shipbuilding, fisheries, traditional sun-sea tourism
- Emerging new sectors such as blue bioeconomy/biotechnology, ocean energy, offshore wind energy, coastal and environmental protection



## SRIA WILL GUIDE STAKEHOLDERS

- Academia
- Funding agencies
- Industry
- Policymakers
- Society



## Building on Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean Sea SRIAs

### Atlantic Ocean



### Baltic Sea



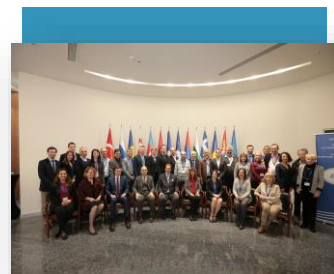
### Mediterranean





# Black Sea Journey so far..

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SRIA Development Process



Bucharest Declaration on SRIA



Black Sea CONNECT Kick-off



Black Sea Young Ambassadors P. Launch

2017



Launch of the Initiative

July 2017



Burgas EMD – Vision Paper for SRIA

August 2018



May 2019



Black Sea CONNECT CSA

October 2019



December 2019

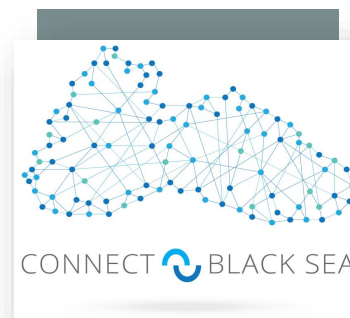


SRIA National Stakeholder Consultation Meetings

Sep-Oct 2020



October 2020





## **Milestones:**

*June 2018 – Burgas EMD – Vision Paper for SRIA*

*May 2019 - Romania – Launch of SRIA*



## **10 Workshops:**

1. Brussels June 2017
2. Batumi Sept 2017
3. Brussels Dec 2017
4. Istanbul March 2018
5. Burgas May 2018
6. Bucharest October 2018
7. Brussels January 2019
8. Istanbul March 2019
9. Bucharest May 2019
10. Brussels September 2019



# Launch of Black Sea SRIA

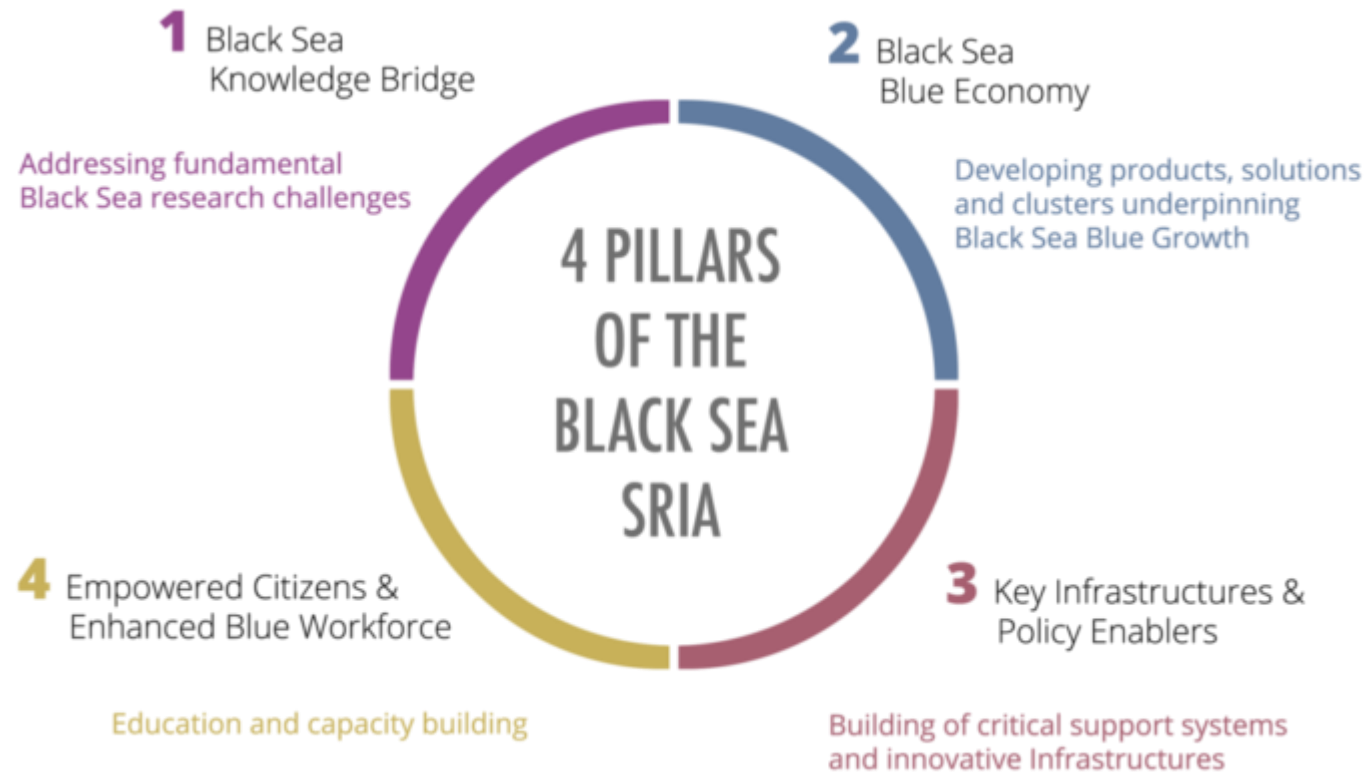
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## 8-9 May 2019, Bucharest, Romania




Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda was launched at the Sustainable Development in the Black Sea (Sust-Black) Event hosted by the Presidency of the Romanian EU Council

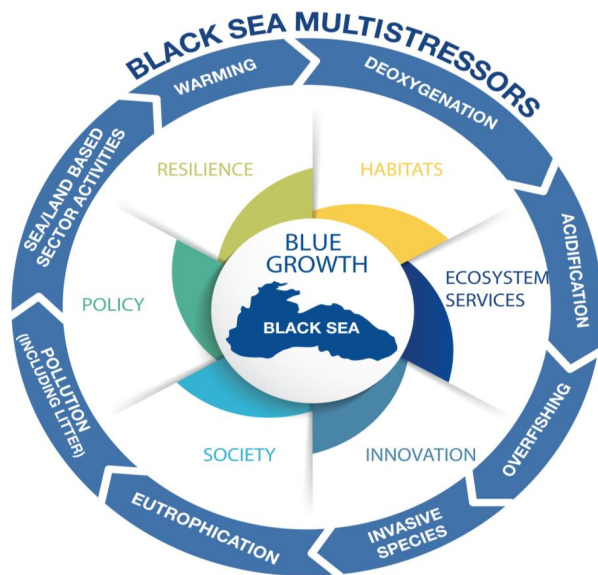


The Blue Growth Initiative for Research and Innovation in the Black Sea has determined four main pillars based on the Burgas Vision Paper and the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.





## Pillar 1: Addressing fundamental Black Sea research challenges

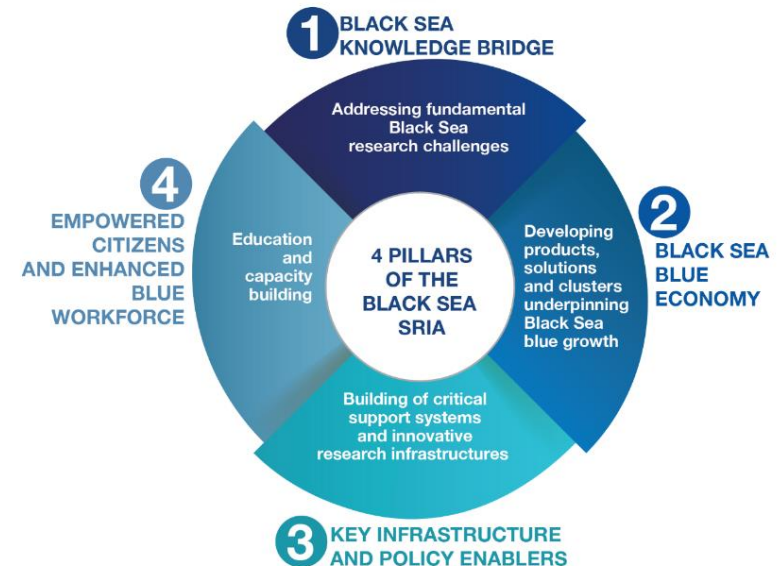
-  Address issues such as eutrophication, deoxygenation, invasive species, marine litter and enhancing food systems research
-  Quantify sources of external inputs to Black Sea and increase knowledge on ecosystem resilience through an improved understanding of specific Black Sea features
-  Integrate land-sea connection with deep basin and develop holistic management strategies




## Pillar 2: Developing products, solutions and clusters underpinning Black Sea Blue Growth

-  Promote methodologies for science-based policymaking
-  Develop innovation on existing and emerging blue economy sectors such as renewable energy, sustainable fisheries, high-tech aquaculture, novel products from unique organisms, tourism and innovative litter management




### FOUR MAIN PILLARS OF THE BLACK SEA SRIA

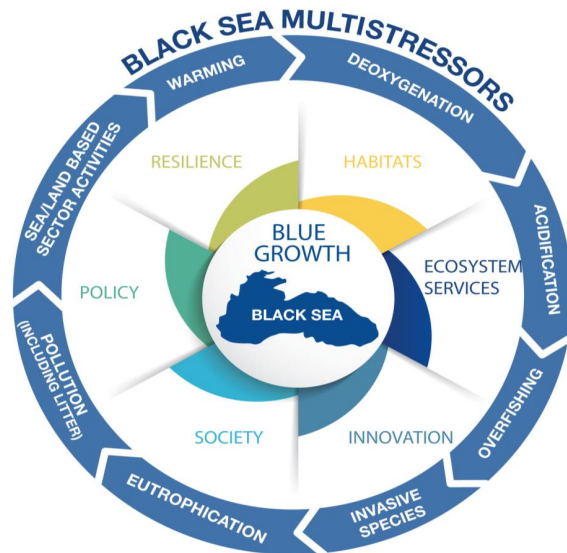


## Pillar 3 - Building of critical support systems and research infrastructures for communities

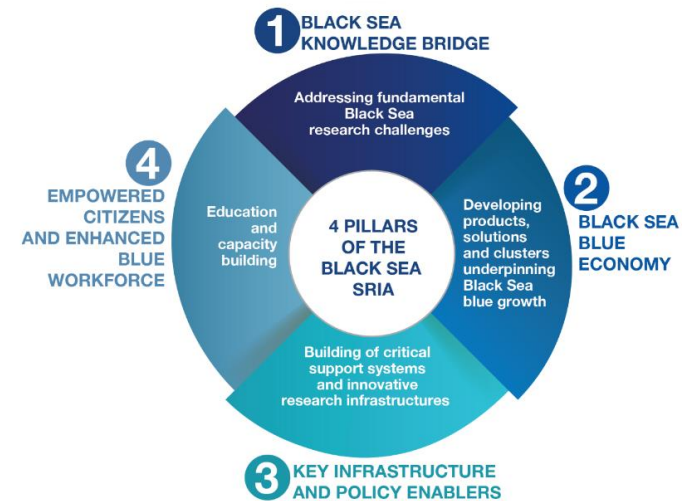
-  *Promote smart, integrated observing and monitoring systems in service of citizens for a sustainable ecosystem and adaptive management*
-  *Common monitoring standards and research infrastructures in support of policy*
-  *Support innovators and entrepreneurs oriented towards circular blue bioeconomy of the Black Sea*

## Pillar 4 - Education and capacity building

-  *Develop and integrate learning and training programs active in the blue economy sectors*
-  *Ocean-engaged citizens for a clean, plastic-free, healthy Black Sea*
-  *Conduct outreach and science communication towards contributing to enhanced science-policy dialogue*



### FOUR MAIN PILLARS OF THE BLACK SEA SRIA



# HOW TO SUPPORT BLACK SEA SRIA AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION?



Horizon 2020

**Call:** H2020-BG-2018-2020  
(Blue Growth)

**Topic:** LC-BG-09-2019

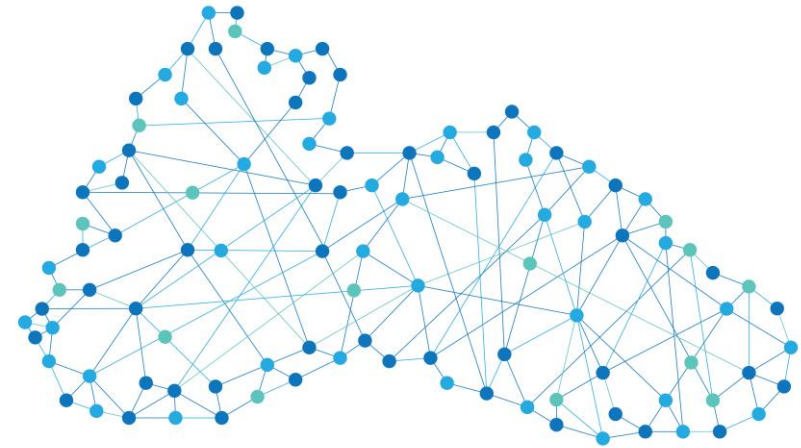
**Type of action:** Coordination and Support Action

**Proposal number:** 860055

**Project acronym:** Black Sea CONNECT

**PROJECT name:** Coordination of Marine and  
Maritime Research and Innovation in the Black Sea

**Duration:** 10.2019-10.2022



CONNECT  BLACK SEA

**Fourteen organizations (including universities, research institutions, intergovernmental organisations, research & funding agencies and NGO's) from nine countries are involved in the project; the Black Sea coastal countries, namely the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey, Ukraine as well as Republic of Moldova and European Union countries Germany and France.**





- *Black Sea CONNECT CSA will scientifically, technically and logistically support the Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative towards the implementation of the SRIA, with a view on boosting the Blue Economy in the region.*
- *Black Sea CONNECT will develop and promote a shared vision for a productive, healthy, resilient, sustainable and better valued Black Sea.*

## **The specific objectives of Black Sea CONNECT**



Support the Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative to consolidate and update the SRIA



Develop the SRIA Implementation Plan



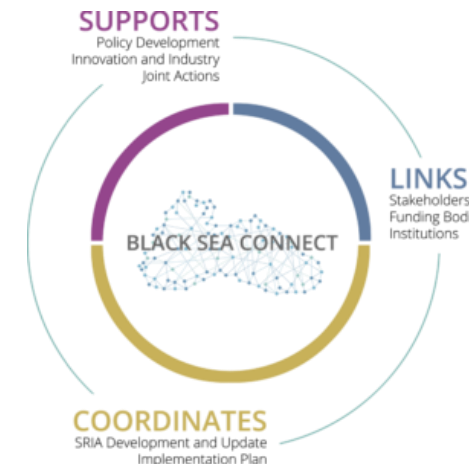
The establishment of an operational network for the Black Sea Region



Support the design and implementation of new transnational joint activities



Making the Black Sea visible through empowered Black Sea societies



Opening plenary speakers included, **Sigi Gruber**, Head of Unit (Healthy Seas and Oceans) at DG RTD; **Andreea Străchinescu**, Head of Unit, (Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment), DG MARE, H.E. Ambassador M. **Kemal Bozay**, Turkish Ambassador to Permanent Representation of Turkey to the EU; and **Prof. Dr. Mehmet Zeyrek**, Vice Rector of METU **Prof. Dr. Baris Salihoglu**, Coordinator of Black Sea CONNECT CSA.







High Level Panel entitled "**Towards a healthy, resilient and productive Black Sea: the broader sea basin policy landscape**" was held on the second day to connect and bridge knowledge and policy across EC's different units dealing with marine and maritime policy, research and innovation.



Panel participants included **John Bell**, Director of Healthy Planet Directorate in DG RTD, **Christos Economou**, Head of Unit of the Sea Basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security in DG MARE and **Radoslaw Darski**, Deputy Head of Division in European External Action Service – EEAS.



## John Bell:

-  **Science** to serve as a **bridge** to **CONNECT** the society
-  We all need to be **CONNECTED** to our basins
-  Knowledge as the currency for the economy
-  Black Sea is a microcosms and science is one of the few areas where people can talk to each other

## Christos Economou:

-  When talking about the dimension of sea basins touching the real concerns of the citizens, do not stay elite. Relating to the stakeholders, citizens, politicians
-  About the Green deal: We cannot exclude sectors. They should function but without harming the environment

## SRIA Implementation Plan

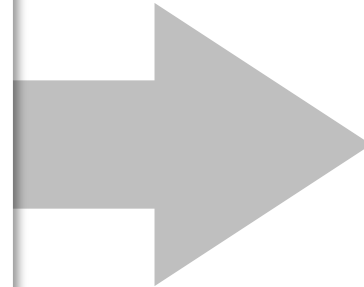
- National Consultations
- Links to Ministries and funding agencies
- Operational network established

## Visibility and Outreach

- Young Ambassadors
- Black Sea website and channels
- Training/up-skilling of citizens

## Big Picture

- Contribute to Mission, Partnership, Green deal, and SDG's
- Put Black Sea on a world map!





National SRIA Consultations in 7 countries



At least 600 stakeholders reached out



Online platforms enabled high amounts of input  
Preliminary results:



SRIA actions are still relevant



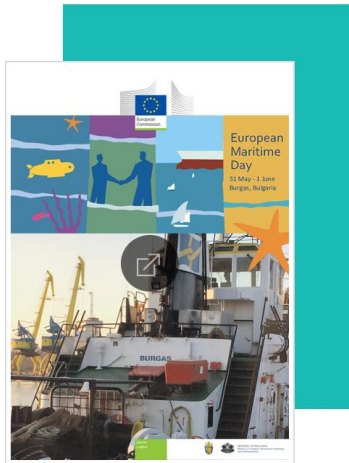
New priorities: Digitalization, COVID-19 impacts



Supporting development of national Blue Growth R&I strategies



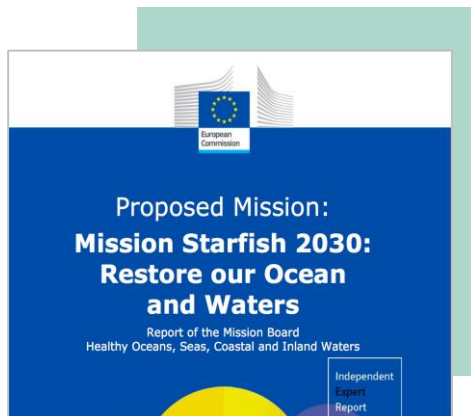
## 2018 Burgas Vision Paper



## 2019 Black Sea SRIA



## 2021 (1st draft) Implementation Plan



*The transnational joint actions will be concrete, mutually agreed actions that will involve at least three of the riparian countries in the Black Sea on how blue growth research and innovation strategy will be implemented.*

*The topic of the actions will include at least three actions on three general themes. Other options will be also considered, a comprehensive characterization of these joint actions will be presented to the Black Sea GSO WG.*

## Education

To develop, share and transfer best practices and innovative approaches in the fields marine and maritime education and training.

Development of joint curricula, ecosystem-based management, Erasmus+ programme etc.

## Ecosystem

Actions focusing on the natural environment of Black Sea will be undertaken, focusing on the integrated, joint shipboard studies (joint expeditions) from land-sea connection to open and deep seas.



## Innovation

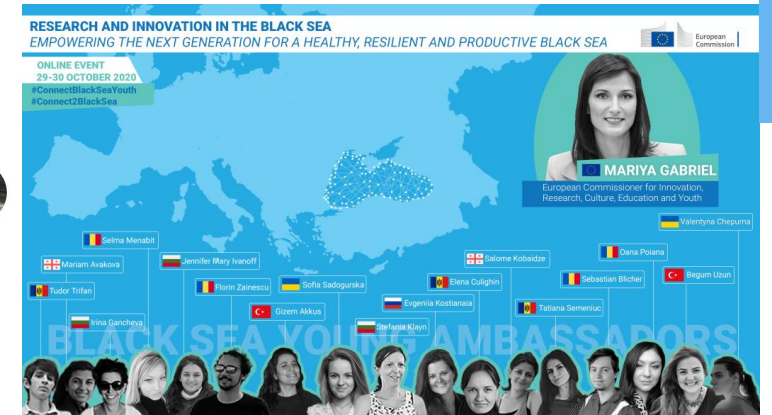
Novel approaches in aquaculture, reducing and clean-up of marine plastics, or the design of a new, Black Sea-specific marine and maritime cluster with dedicated activities, will be considered

## Ecosystem: Impacts of COVID-19 on Ecosystem



Roundtable discussion on COVID-19

## Education & Innovation: Young Ambassadors Programme



## Innovation: Marine Plastic







# Black Sea CONNECT COVID-19 Joint Action: Towards a Green Recovery

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Outputs of the COVID-19 Panel at the “**Research and Innovation in the Black Sea: Empowering the Next Generation for a Healthy, Resilient and Productive Black Sea**” Event on 29-30 October 2020:



R&I slowed down, sectors affected but recovery has begun.



Impact of COVID-19 on research and innovation activities and Black Sea ecosystem needs to be assessed



Global as well as regional cooperation is critical in the post-COVID era.



Broad public support, including the youth, is needed with multi-stakeholder and participatory approach.



New opportunities in digitalization for more resilient blue economy sectors.



Sharing (ideas, results, progress, dialogue) will be more important in the post-COVID era.



*“We cannot go in parallel, we need to go together”*

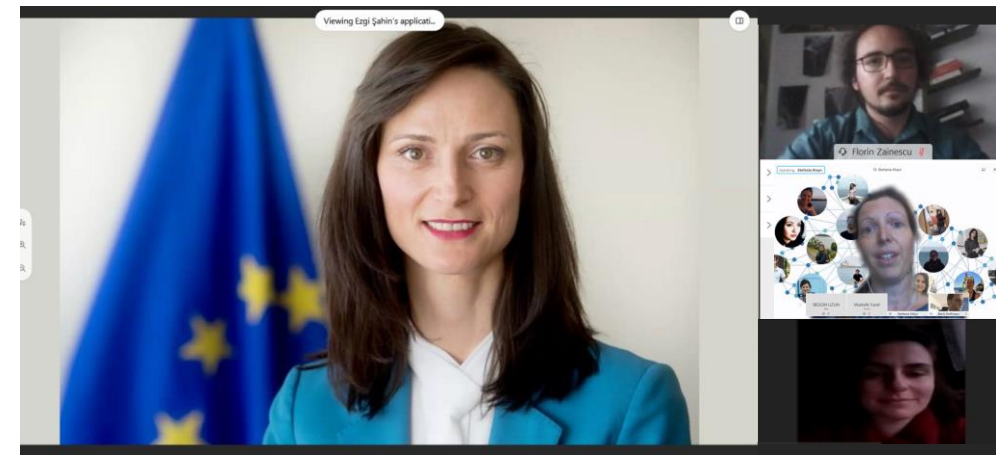
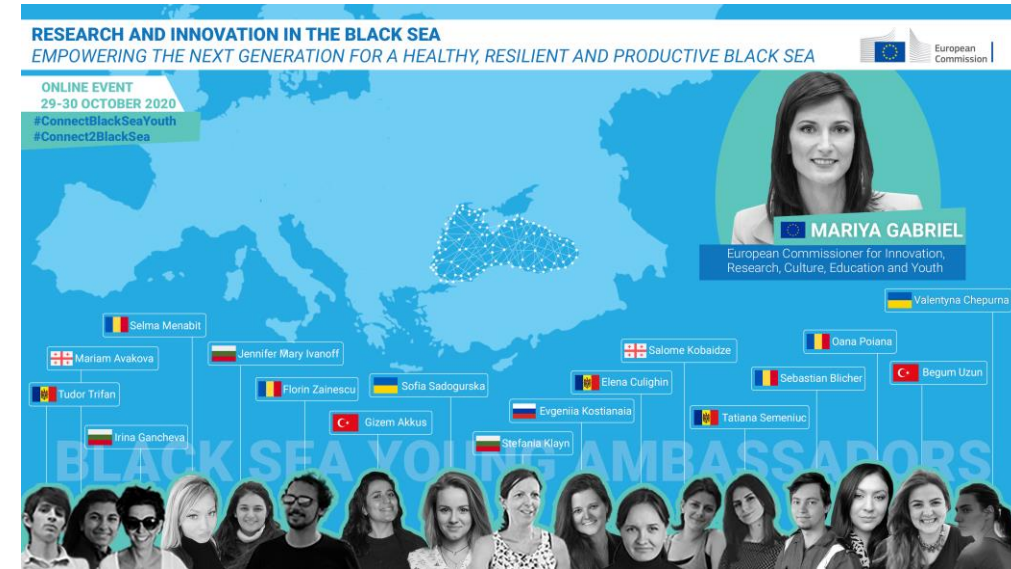










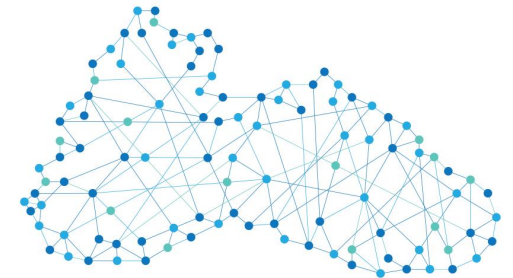
# Commissioner Maria Gabriel's Message to the Ambassadors

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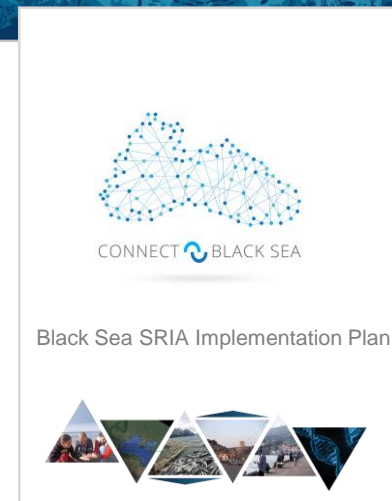
- Creation of a network and connect our Young ambassadors along and across the Black Sea region
- Strong connection between online action and offline impact
- Bringing Black Sea closer to the hearts of its people
- CONNECT'ivity: between scientist and citizens, citizens and the Black Sea, different sea-basin ambassadors
- Synergies: Mission Starfish, Horizon Europe, other EU programmes



-  SRIA update with national inputs received
-  Draft of the Implementation Plan
-  Further development and implementation of transnational joint activities
-  Operational network of funders and key players: best ways to creating and consolidating an effective network
-  Taking part in the UN Ocean Decade via the Ambassadors and other activities
-  Blue Economy Partnership under Horizon 2020



-  Rounds of National SRIA Consultations – Local stakeholders in the riparian countries (**marine and maritime research funding agencies** and other key players (such as universities, clusters, SMEs, NGOs, industry, innovators and civil society organizations))
-  Black sea Young Ambassador Programme – Youth and society at large (via Ambassador activities such as citizen science, capacity building etc.)
-  Operational Network of funders - Funding agencies, private companies



# THANK YOU!



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