



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Participation of ICBSS Director General, Mr. Georgios Mitrakos, at the Three Seas Initiative Conference “The Three Seas Initiative as a subject of academic research: regional cooperation in Central Europe in different approaches”**

On 10 June 2024, the ICBSS Director General, Mr. Georgios Mitrakos, participated at the **Three Seas Initiative (3SI) Conference “The Three Seas Initiative: an original concept of regional cooperation in different approaches”**, held in Warsaw, and organized by the 3SI Research Center of the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences (ISP-PAN), under the patronage of President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda.

The ICBSS Director General, Mr. Georgios Mitrakos, during his participation in the panel **“The Three Seas Initiative in the studies of analytical centers and think tanks: discussing regional cooperation in Central Europe”** discussed strategies to enhance regional cooperation, like the 3SI, among policymakers, sharing the experience of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC). Mr. Mitrakos also underlined the opportunity of the 3SI to become a regional development project with geopolitical significance, and highlighted underlying risks, such as the lack of interest from investors, that might delay the launch of regional infrastructure projects, thus jeopardizing the Initiative’s potential.

During the event, a scientific monograph on the 3SI concept through different approaches was presented, featuring a foreword by **Ambassador Gediminas Varvuolis**, who serves as the Ambassador for Connectivity and the Three Seas Initiative at Lithuania’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and edited by **Professor Agnieszka Orzelska - Stączek**, head of the 3SI Research Center of ISP-PAN.

The conference was attended by Ambassadors, analysts, and scientists from various institutions from the 3SI Member States.

The visit reflected ICBSS' commitment to fostering dialogues, sharing knowledge, and building partnerships to support sustainability and development in the wider Black Sea region and beyond.

For more information about the ICBSS, please visit <https://icbss.org/>

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**About the ICBS:** The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBS) 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 Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), and its think-tank. Thus, the ICBS 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 of fostering multilateral cooperation among the BSEC member states as well as with their international partners.