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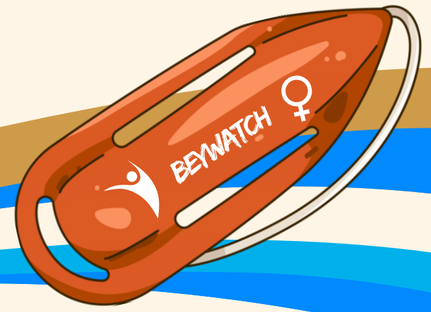
BLACK SEA BEYWATCH

Black Sea Blue Economy Youth and Women Watch

Tuesday, 20 October 2026

Who steers blue transition?

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UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
DEPARTMENT OF SHIPPING TRADE AND TRANSPORT

ICBSS
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR BLACK SEA STUDIES
BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

A port city is more than a port

Kavala combines citizen engagement, sustainable tourism and climate adaptation through municipal and transnational action.

Who participates? Who influences investment and adaptation decisions? Who benefits?



KAVALA'S OPPORTUNITY

Kavala stakeholder groups and umrella organization Kavala Urban Centre functions as a civic interface: residents, civil society, experts and municipal services co-defining problems and testing responses.

WHAT OTHER CITIES CAN TRANSFER

Not a building. A method: accessible forums → co-designed pilots → clear municipal ownership → published decisions and feedback.

Consultation without a route to the budget is theatre.

Why co-designing policy matters in a port city?

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FROM CONSULTATION TO CO-PRODUCTION

The Kavala Urban Centre/ LAP TEAM/ LAND LAB is a meeting point for citizens, civil society, researchers and municipal departments.

BETTER PROBLEM DEFINITION

Residents reveal everyday barriers, climate discomfort and unequal access that top-down planning can overlook.

TRUST AND IMPLEMENTATION

Participation improves legitimacy when communities can see how their input changes priorities, budgets and action.



Four projects, one connected transition



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NEXT Black Sea Basin
LAP BLACK

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SUSDEST - NET

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Sustain-2

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Green Urban Resilience



The sea connects our cities. Our institutions still too often work in silos.

SUSDEST-NET

Destination governance, ESG, monitoring and local partnerships

SUSTAIN-2

Sustainability tools and skills for small tourism and F&B businesses

LAP-BLACK

Local adaptation plans, teams and participatory climate action

GREEN URBAN RESILIENCE

Heat mapping, green infrastructure and public-space pilots

Do project tools become municipal policies, budgets and permanent capacity?

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A SEAT AT THE TABLE IS NOT POWER.

CERV project Cities4Her exposed the distance between formal representation and substantive equality.

96
municipalities

11
regions

542
participants

THE FINDING • Equality committees can exist on paper yet lack regular work, clear objectives and a real link to municipal planning.

THE QUESTION • Who sets the agenda, shapes investments and approves the budget?

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STOP COUNTING SEATS. COUNT INFLUENCE.

Six commitments for women to shape the blue and green transition not merely attend it.

01 **Give equality bodies a route to decisions**
Formal input into planning, climate and blue-economy investments

02 **Put money behind equality**
Costed Local Gender Equality Action Plans and gender-responsive budgets

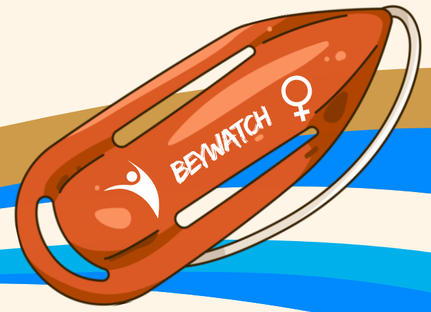
03 **Publish an influence dashboard**
Track proposals adopted, leadership roles and funding decisions

04 **Design access from the start**
Accessible venues, formats, transport and care-aware participation

05 **Share agenda-setting power**
Women, youth and disability organisations in co-design and review

06 **Make city diplomacy accountable**
Peer review commitments across Black Sea municipalities

WHO PARTICIPATES? WHO DECIDES? WHO BENEFITS?



Thank you

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