EMD
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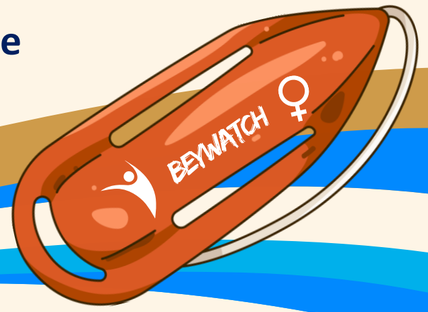
BLACK SEA BEYWATCH

Black Sea Blue Economy Youth and Women Watch

Tuesday, 20 October 2026

“Strengthening Black Sea City Diplomacy through Maritime Education and Women’s Networks”

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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

From Batumi: Connecting People, Institutions and Cities

- Maritime education, port activity, international business and community life are connected
- Cooperation becomes more effective when people from these different areas work together
- maritime academies and women’s professional networks can help connect local needs with international expertise and opportunities

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Georgia and the Middle Corridor:
A Regional Opportunity

- **Strategic link** between Central Asia, Azerbaijan and European markets
- **Black Sea ports** connecting rail, road and maritime routes
- **New opportunities** in logistics, maritime services and trade
- **Maritime education** preparing a skilled workforce
- **Women's networks** supporting expertise, leadership and career opportunities
- **Stronger partnerships** connecting port cities and maritime communities

Maritime Education as a Bridge between Port Cities

- International partnerships connecting maritime institutions and professionals
- Practical training linking students with shipping companies
- Academic exchanges and joint research building knowledge and trust
- Local–international connections supporting Batumi’s wider engagement
- Cooperation with WIMA Europe connecting education with women’s expertise and leadership

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WIMA Europe: Established in Georgia, Connecting across Europe

- **Registered** in Poti in January 2026; **launched** in Batumi in June
- **Advancing women's** participation, visibility and leadership in maritime, ports and logistics
- **Connecting professionals** across institutions and countries
- **Supporting** professional development and opportunities for younger generations
- **Bringing together** government, industry and academia, with support from Denmark and UNDP Georgia and participation from IMO

WIMA Europe

WIMA Europe in Action

- **Professional development:** Maritime leadership and soft-skills masterclass, Batumi — July 2026
- **High-level dialogue:** Workshop with the IMO Secretary-General and UNDP during GIMF — September 2026
- **Women's economic empowerment:** Joint workshop with UN Women Georgia on decent work — September 2026
- **Partnership building:** Connecting professionals, students, academia and international organisations
- **Long-term purpose:** Turning professional connections into opportunities for women in maritime

Connecting WIMA's Work to City Diplomacy

- **Connecting institutions:** Municipalities, ports, universities, businesses and professional networks
- **Bringing women's expertise** into maritime dialogue and decision-making
- **Supporting joint initiatives:** Skills development, mentoring and workplace visits
- **Linking governance levels:** Local priorities, national institutions and regional partners
- **Turning partnerships into results** through shared responsibilities and follow-up

A Practical Black Sea Cooperation Agenda

Proposed next steps:

- **Port-city dialogue:** Connect municipalities, academies, ports, businesses and women's networks
- **Mentoring and career opportunities:** Support students and early-career women through workplace visits and job shadowing
- **Joint project development:** Link maritime skills, women's leadership and sustainable port-city development
- **BSMA–WIMA cooperation:** Combine educational partnerships with professional expertise and regional networks

Connect regional growth with opportunities for women and young people.

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Thank You

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