

Research and Innovation in the Black Sea: Empowering the next generation for a healthy, resilient and productive Black Sea



CONNECT  BLACK SEA

Black Sea Young Ambassadors

<http://connect2blacksea.org/outreach/outh-ambassadors/>



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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE BLACK SEA

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION FOR A HEALTHY, RESILIENT AND PRODUCTIVE BLACK SEA



ONLINE EVENT
29-30 OCTOBER 2020

#ConnectBlackSeaYouth
#Connect2BlackSea



Who we are, Black Sea Young Ambassadors?



How we are CONNECT'ed to the Black Sea?

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MARIYA GABRIEL

European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth



BLACK SEA YOUNG AMBASSADORS



Irina Gancheva
Bulgaria

Oceanographer, University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

I'm a PhD student at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in Bulgaria and a young graduate trainee at the European Space Agency in ESRIN, Italy.

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

I'm passionate about oceans, understanding the Earth ecosystem and passing that knowledge to others. I've chosen my professional path to be connected with the Black Sea, as it's a unique water basin with great importance for both Europe and Asia.



Jennifer Mary Ivanoff
Bulgaria

Marine Scientist, IO-BAS

I am working in the Institute of Oceanology in Bulgaria, and at the beginning of next year, I will be starting my Ph.D. here, focusing in the Black Sea coastal waters.

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

One of my concerns has always been the implication and impact of humans in the natural environment and what we can do to improve our lives in a more sustainable way.





Dr. Stefania Klayn
Bulgaria

Marine Biologist, IBER-BAS

I study the biology and ecology of benthic invertebrates in the Black Sea, the health of marine ecosystems, and their functioning.

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

I have always loved the sea, so a career studying it, and working to protect it, seemed natural; in a way, the Black Sea has always been "my" sea.





Mariam Avakova
Georgia

Media Literacy Youth Trainer, IREX - Learn to Discern/Georgia

I hold a Master's Degree in Natural Resources (Environmental Protection and Ecology) from Ilia State University's Science and Engineering Faculty. My research areas: Natural Resources Management / Environment

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

Sea is the big magical world, which is not visible for everybody, it's wave, it's energy, it's strength, breathtaking and calm atmosphere, I love see, water, sky, nature at the same time to much, Sea is the space, where you can stay with your thoughts, yourself and enjoy your life, in deep sea in calm atmosphere you can feel and image, how the world, life is great. I love marine life too, especially love diving, it is my dream.





Salome Kobaidze
Georgia

Researcher, TSU

I am Salome Kobaidze, from Georgia, I am Ph.D student at Tbilisi state university with a research interest in Human Geography. Research in relation to Blue Economy and adaption of its core principles to the contemporary Georgian coastline and marine economy

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

My connection with the Black Sea began when I first heard the term blue economy and decided to undertake my future doctoral dissertation on this very subject. For me, the Black Sea is the door to the new tangible opportunities and hope for a prosperous future. It is also the opportunity to make real changes and drive the future of the Black Sea to better.



Elena Culighin
Moldova

Program Manager, NGO National Environmental Centre Researcher, Institute of Chemistry in Moldova

My activities aim at developing the environmental education among the population, raising awareness and mobilizing all citizens, as a joint effort of all the actors of society

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

One of the bigger lakes in Moldova; B. Lake, river basin of the Black Sea. We don't have direct access to black sea but this has access to Black Sea





Tatiana Semeniuc
Moldova
(N:Ukrainian-Bulgarian)

Intern, UNDP Moldova

I graduated from the Faculty of International Relations in 2020. Within the framework of the Diversity Intern Program, I took an internship at UNDP Moldova, at the Effective Governance Cluster, where I learned about the main problems in the implementation of projects and the importance of interaction between government agencies and scientists while implementing ecological projects.

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

I have a lot of memories from childhood, every year we went to black sea coast in Odessa, spend a lot of beautiful time, it was really fun. While being young ambassador, I hope I can make scientist to heard by government and we can make change!



Tudor Trifan
Moldova

- Superior engineer, Institute of Geology and Seismology

I study Geomatics at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi and Environmental Geography at Tiraspol State University to get master degree, also I work as a engineer at Institute of Geology and Seismology.

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

The Black Sea reminds me first of all of the summer holidays I spent on its shores when I was a child. Now for me the Black Sea basin with the rivers that flow into it is an object of study - being a geographer and being passionate about the past and the evolution of this territory from a geological point of view the Black Sea can hide many secrets that would help a better understanding of the evolution of this region as part of an ocean in the distant past.





Dr. Florin Zainescu
Romania

Coastal scientist , University of Bucharest and University of Aix-Marseille

I got my PhD from the University of Bucharest in Romania and Aix-Marseille University in France studying the river mouths of the Danube.

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

I spend my summer months in the Danube delta doing fieldwork and enjoying nature, whereas winters are reserved for the stressful activity of publishing of scientific papers.





Selma Menabit
Romania

Biologist, National Institute of Marine Geology and Geo-Ecology GeoEcoMar

Currently, I'm a PhD student at the Institute of Biology of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, studying the genetic diversity of benthic communities from the Danube-Danube Delta-Black Sea system

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

As a young researcher at GeoEcoMar, I'm involved in projects aiming at assessing the quality of the Black Sea ecosystems, with focus on marine benthic habitats. Every year, me and my colleagues carry out field campaigns in several locations in the Black Sea. I've got skills in collecting and preserving samples; also, in the laboratory, in sorting, identifying and genetic analysis of organisms. At the same time, I regularly carry out interactive and proactive activities with children, as part of the "School differently" program. The activities consist of theoretical and practical lessons concerning the biodiversity of the Black Sea, marine protected areas, impact of pollution.



Dr. Oana Poiană
Romania

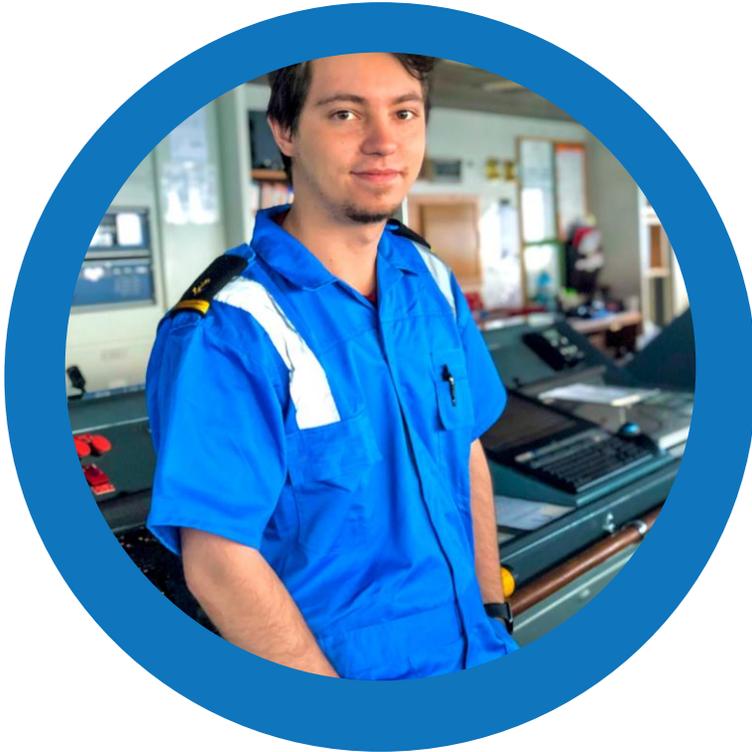
Postdoctoral researcher, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Faculty of European Studies

I graduated from the Faculty of Political Science, BBU, holds one MA in International Relations from Central European University (Budapest) and another one in European Affairs and Project Management from Faculty of European Studies (Cluj-Napoca).

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

For the last decade I have conducted research on the Black Sea regionalization process and Black Sea regional cooperation (with a focus on energy security sector) and more recently I have been teaching a course on the Black Sea region at the Faculty of European Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University.





Sebastian Costin Blicher
Romania

Deck Officer, Romania M.Sc. Student, Constanta Maritime University

I am Sebastian, I graduated from “Mircea cel Batran” Naval Academy and then I started working as a Deck Officer on container vessels.

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

Black Sea is a big part of my life because I live in Constanta, next to it, and also I am navigating through the seas and oceans of the world. In the past I had volunteered for different projects or internships like environmental project “Let’s do it Romania” or internship at the Ministry of Transportation - Naval Transportation office, which gave me a better insight between policy-making area and on the field job differences.





Evgeniia Kostianaia
Russia

Marine environmental researcher, Center for Coordination of Ocean Research at the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology

I am a marine environmental manager with research interests in ocean sustainability, marine pollution, marine spatial planning, ocean clusters, and climate change, and food security. I currently work at the Center for Coordination of Ocean Research at the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology.

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:





Dr. Begum Uzun
Turkey

Marine Biologist, PhD

Istanbul University, Faculty of Aquatic Sciences Department of Marine Biology

In my Ph.D. Study, my aim was to focus on studies about marine mammal genetics and combine both ecology and genetic basis for marine biology studies. I have been working in the Marine Biology Laboratory since 2013 and investigating the genetic structure of the different dolphins species in the Black Sea and plan conservation strategies for the species.

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

Since the dolphins are the top predators in the seas, conserving them means conserving the seas/oceans. If you follow the dolphins through the Turkish Straits System, they will take you to Black Sea for sure.





Gizem Akkus
Turkey

Ph.D. Student & Research Assistant, METU-IMS

Ph.D. Student at Middle East Technical University, Institute of Marine Sciences. My subjects are the growth-environment relationship of the Black Sea anchovy by using otolith bio-chronologies and stock assessments of the Black Sea fish sources.

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

What connects me to the Black Sea is "being part of its sustainability".





Sofia Sadogurska
Ukraine

Marine Biologist, Ph.D. Student at M.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany NASU

I am a marine biologist from Ukraine and I study marine algae from the Black and Mediterranean Seas. Currently, I'm a PhD Student at the M.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany NASU. My research is focused on the taxonomy, distribution, and conservation of brown algae.

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

«Studying black sea and discover its unknowns to protect it»





Valentyna Chepurna
Ukraine

Ph.D. Student, Odessa State Environmental University

The subject of my scientific research is forecast and verification of marine characteristics such as: salinity, temperature, waves, and sea level, ice, and more.

How am I CONNECT'ed to Black Sea:

I believe that working together with Black Sea countries could make a piece of the world better and fairer.