

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

29.10.2020



## Status of Black Sea SRIA Implementation

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The activities of the Black Sea CONNECT Coordination and Support Action are funded the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 860055.

# 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

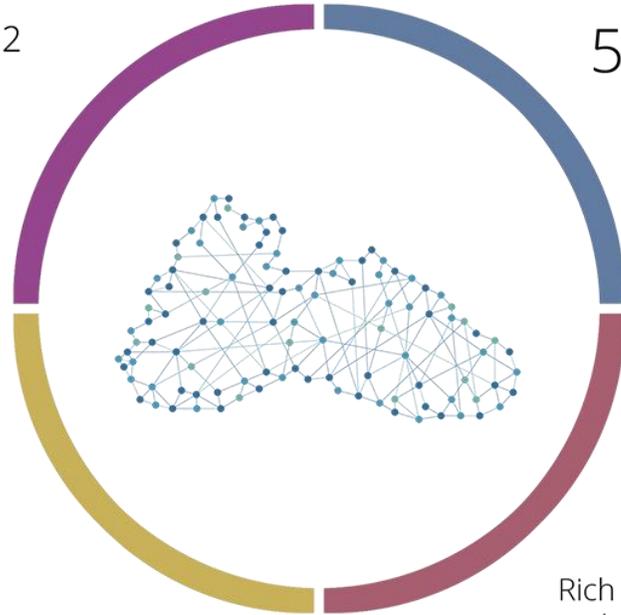
Deep Black Sea as the  
paleoclimate archive of past  
5 million years

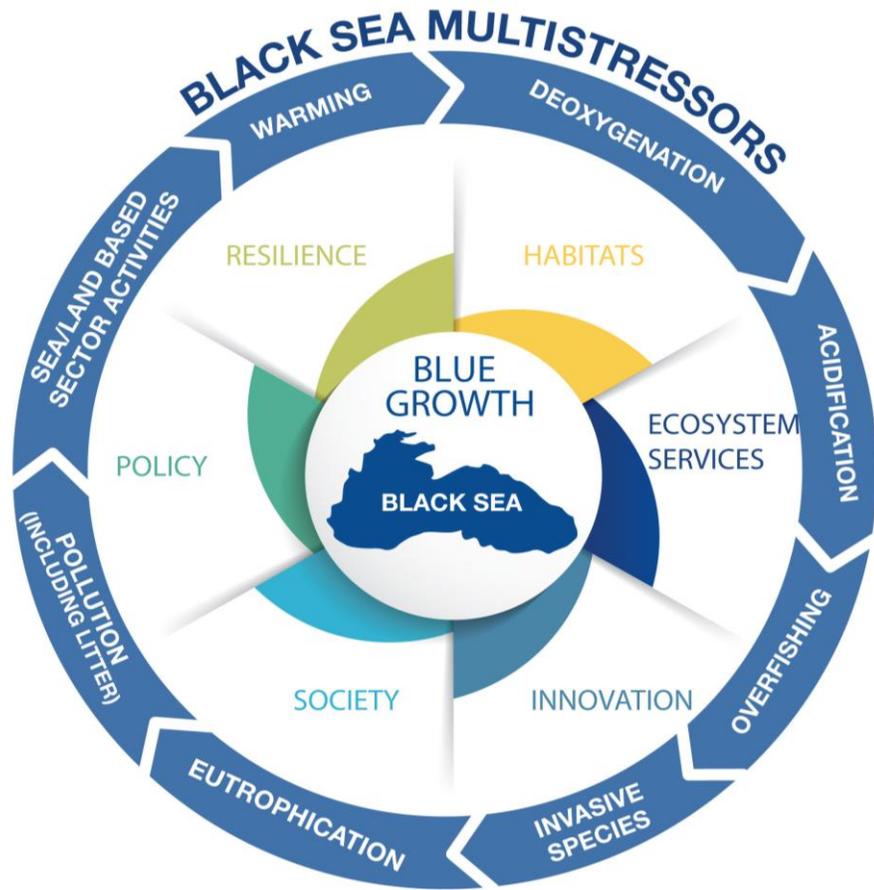
90%  
of oxygen free,  
H<sub>2</sub>S-rich volume

18  
major sea ports

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

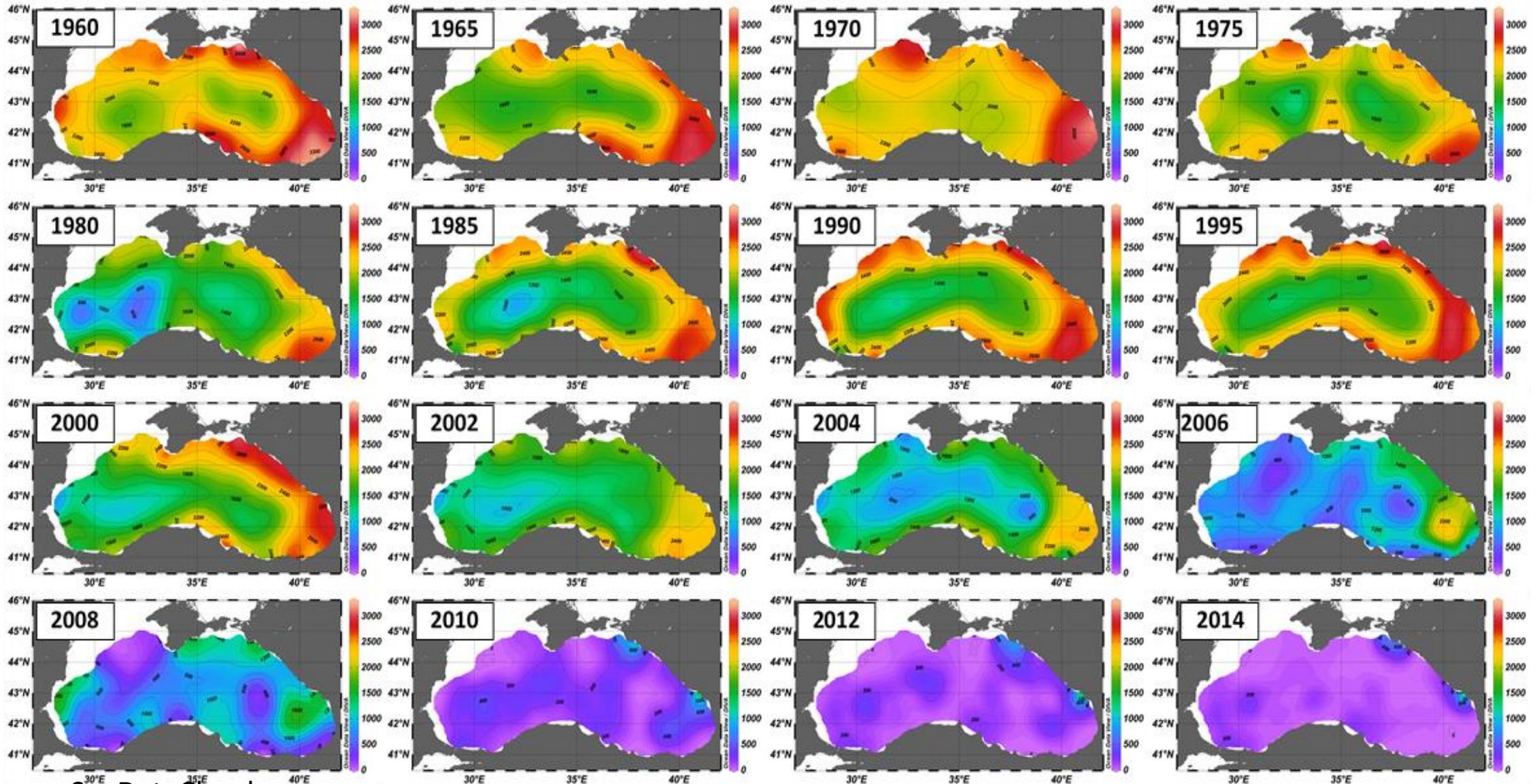
30 to 8  
Reduction in the number of fish  
species with economical significance





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

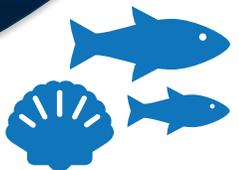
## Initial focus areas



Biotech



Renewable Energy



Sustainable Sea Food

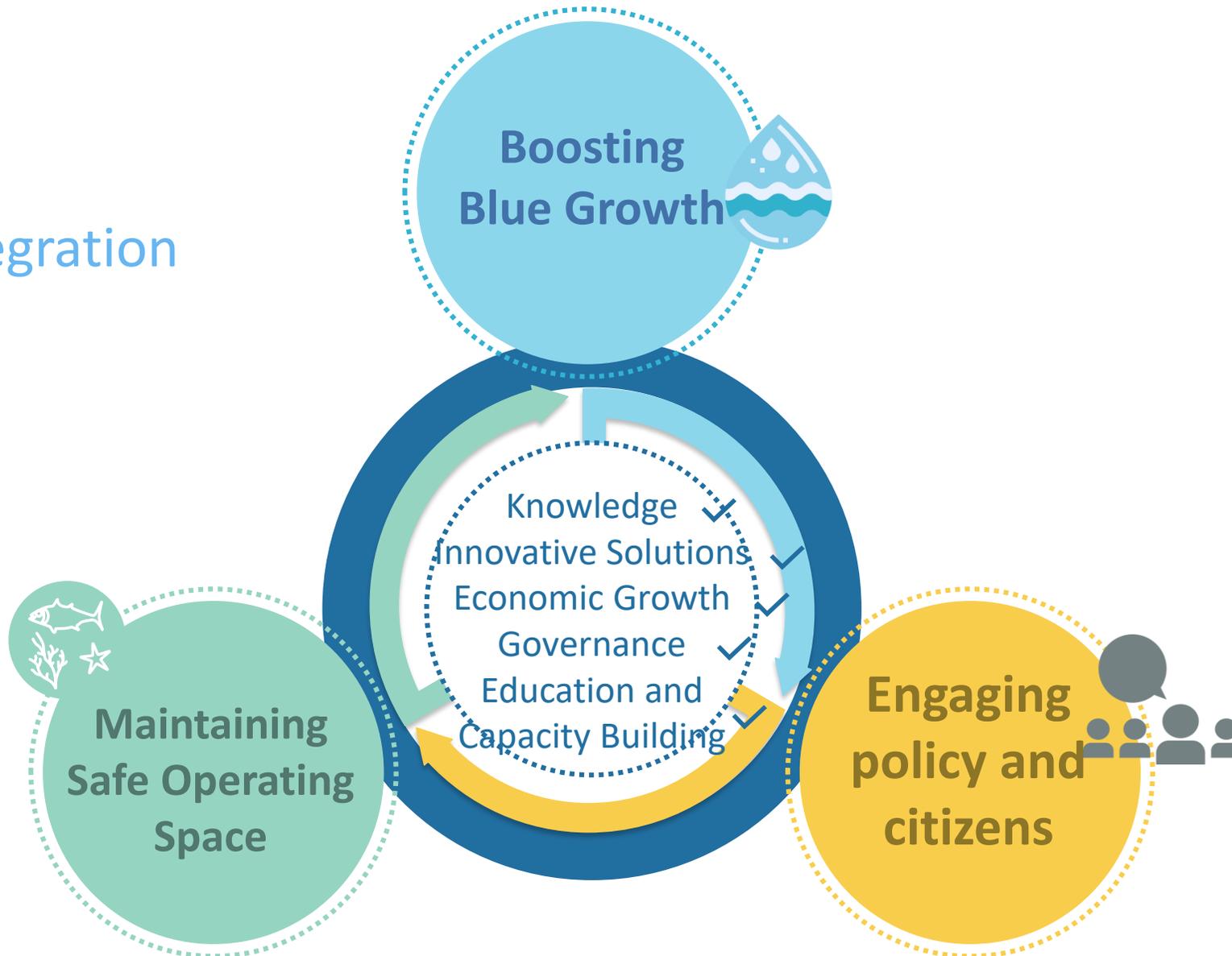


Mineral Resources



Tourism

Global integration



## 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



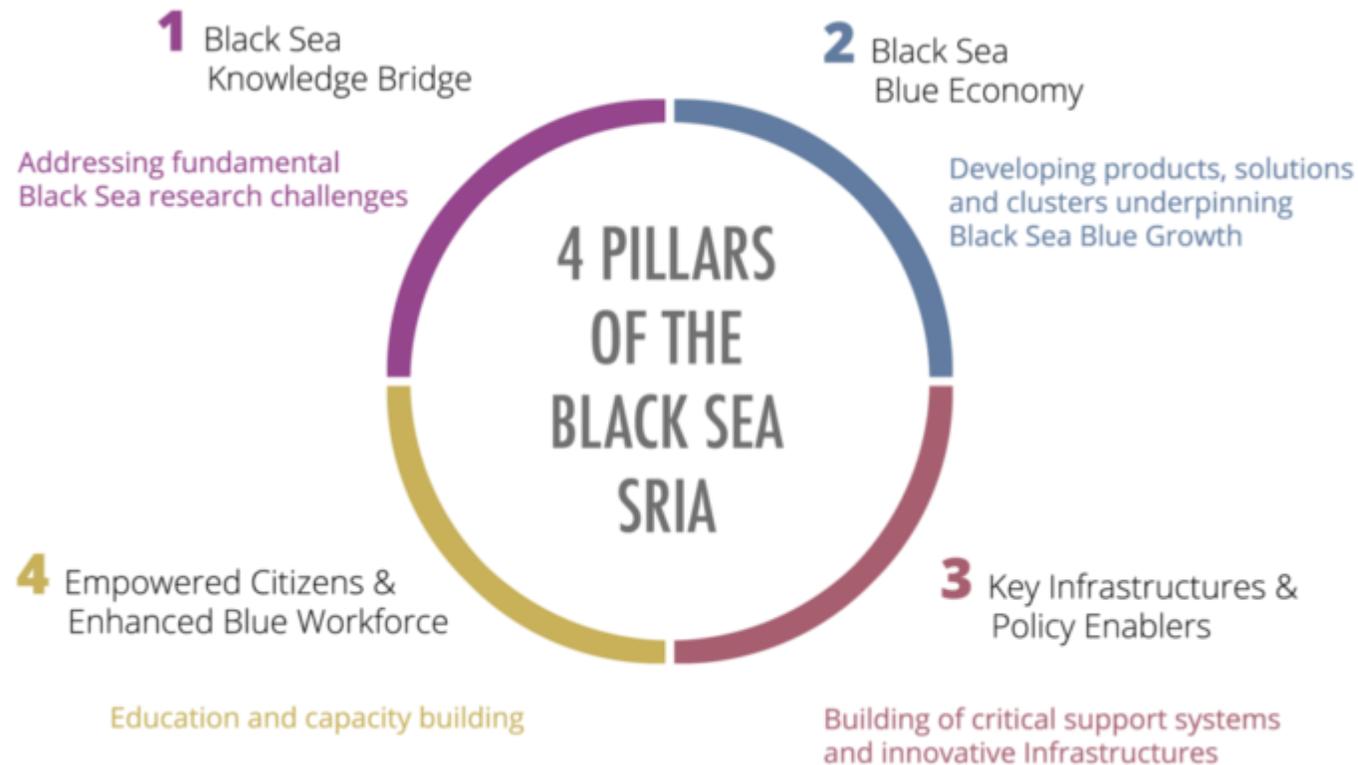
### Baltic Sea



### Mediterranean



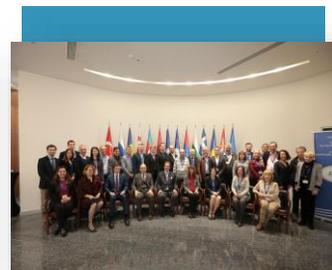
The Blue Growth Initiative for Research and Innovation in the Black Sea has determined four main pillars based on the Burgas Vision Paper and the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.



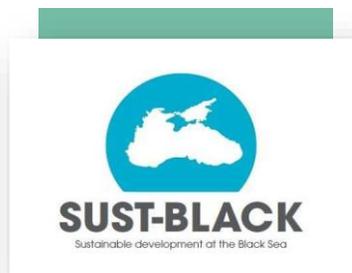


# Black Sea Journey so far..

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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

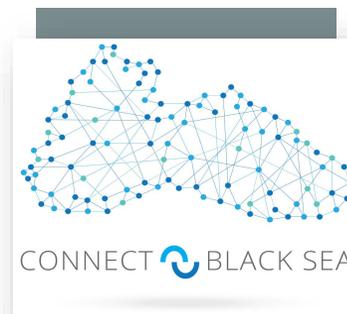


SRIA National Stakeholder Consultation Meetings

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

Connect2BlackSea.org

## 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

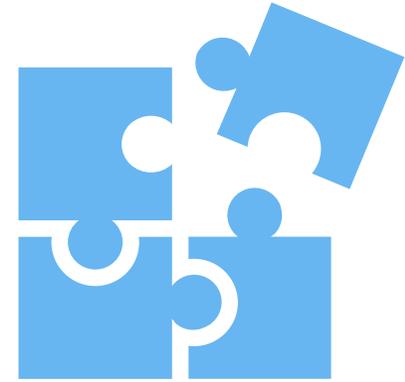


# HOW TO SUPPORT BLACK SEA SRIA AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION?



## Black Sea Working Group of Senior Officials (Black Sea WG-GSO)

 **BS WG-GSO is comprised of** 1. Members: Black Sea riparian country representatives, 2. Observers: Representatives of BSEC Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and Black Sea Commission, other countries or parties, coordinators of Black Sea Connect CSA



### Objectives of BS WG-GSO:

- Identify key policy priorities that need to be addressed in order to ensure a sustainable exploitation of the Black Sea. Review and update the Black Sea SRIA accordingly.
- Advise and develop a consensus on opportunities to align priorities and activities that are in line with the shared national, regional and/or European policy goals as well as R&D Strategies and Programmes in this area.
- Recommend national and regional governments as well as European Commission leverage funding strategies, develop research infrastructures sharing mechanisms at all levels (national, regional, European), and prevent duplication and fragmentation of research and innovation efforts and resources in this area.

## Horizon 2020

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

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

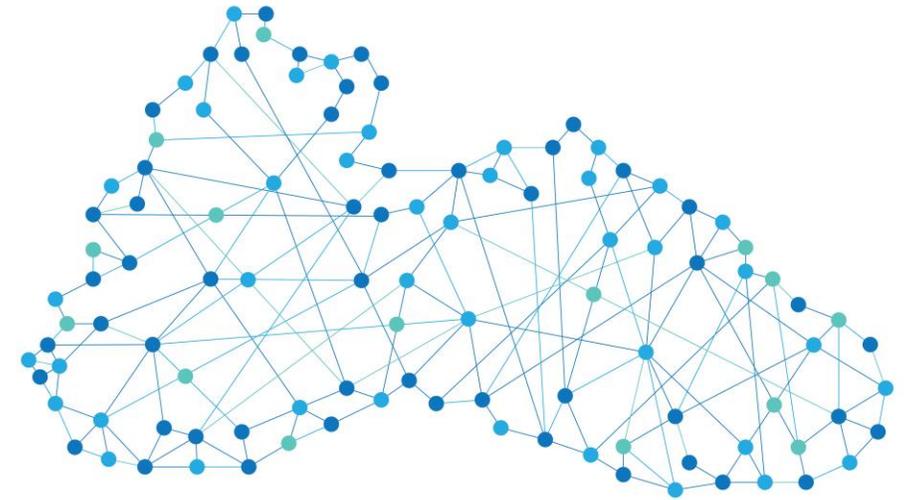
**Type of action:** Coordination and Support Action

**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



**Barış Salihoglu**  
**Coordinator**



**Pınar Uygurer**  
**Project Manager**



**Ezgi Sahin**  
**Communication Manager**



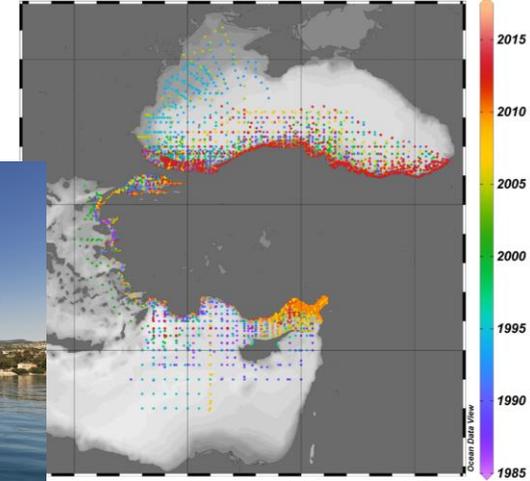
**Vangelis Papathanassiou**  
**Co-coordinator**



**Mustafa Yucel**  
**Co-coordinator**



**Sara Banu Akkas,**  
**METU Research Coordinator**



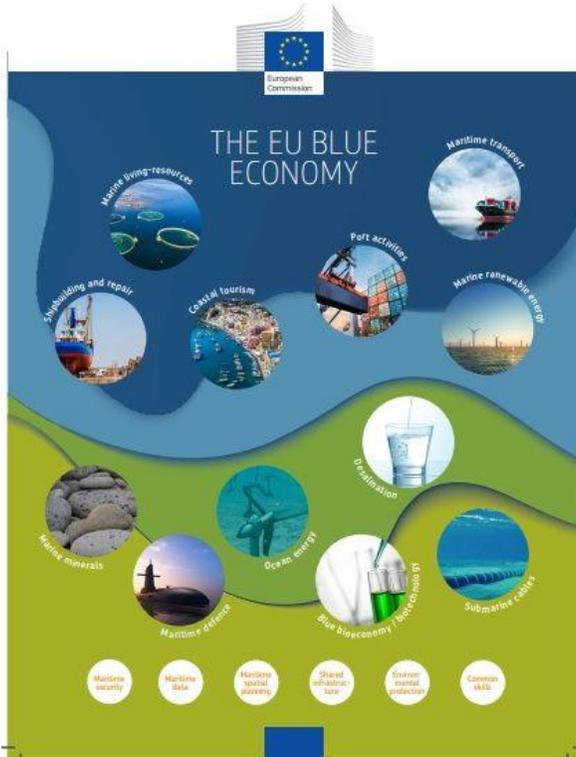
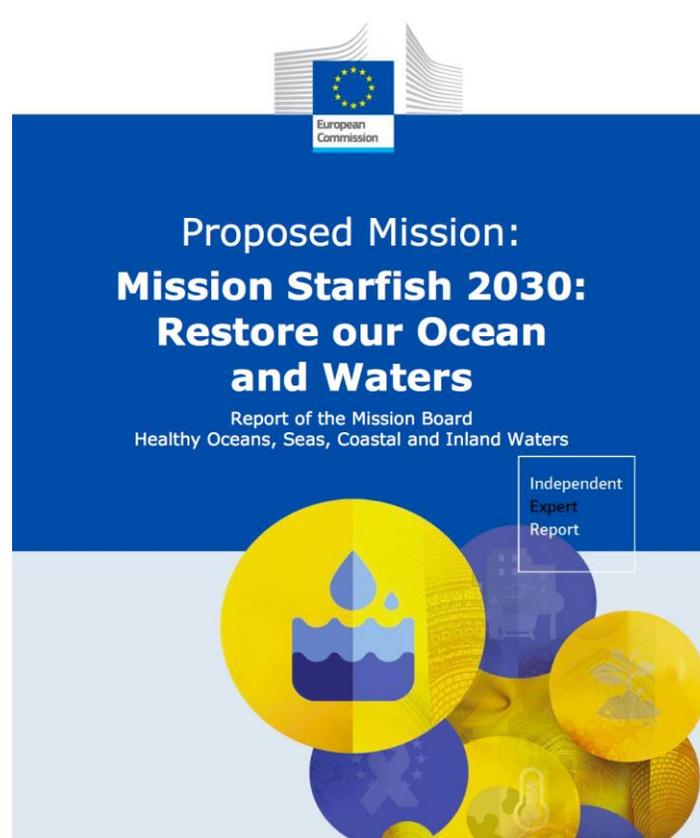
**Fourteen organizations (including universities, research institutions, intergovernmental organisations, research & funding agencies and NGO's) from nine countries are involved in the project; the Black Sea coastal countries, namely the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation,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



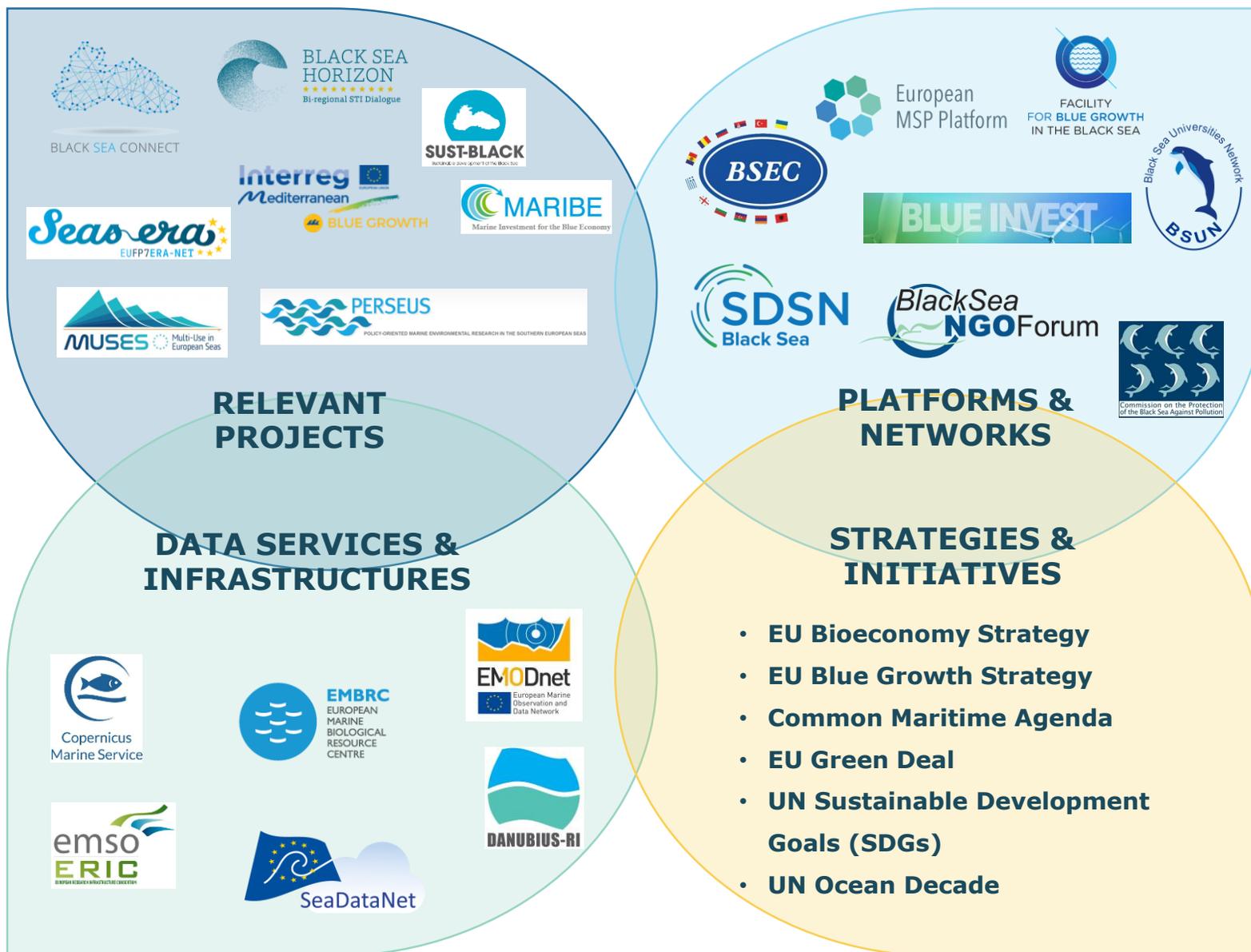
- *Black Sea CONNECT CSA will scientifically, technically and logistically support the Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative towards the implementation of the SRIA, with a view on boosting the Blue Economy in the region.*
- *Black Sea CONNECT will develop and promote a shared vision for a productive, healthy,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

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

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 01 | Support the Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative to consolidate and update the SRIA |
| 02 | Develop the SRIA Implementation Plan  |
| 03 | The establishment of an operational network for the Black Sea Region            |
| 04 | Support the design and implementation of new transnational joint activities     |
| 05 | Making the Black Sea visible through empowered Black Sea societies              |



**2021-2030** United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development





# Kick-off 10-11 December 2019

Connect2BlackSea.org



**John Bell**, Director of Healthy Planet Directorate in DG RTD,  
**Christos Economou**, acting Director for Blue Economy in  
DG MARE

**Radoslaw Darski**, Deputy Head of Division in European  
External Action Service – EEAS.



## SRIA Implementation Plan

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

## Visibility and Outreach

- Young ambassadors
- Black Sea web site and channels
- Training/up-skilling of citizens

## Big Picture

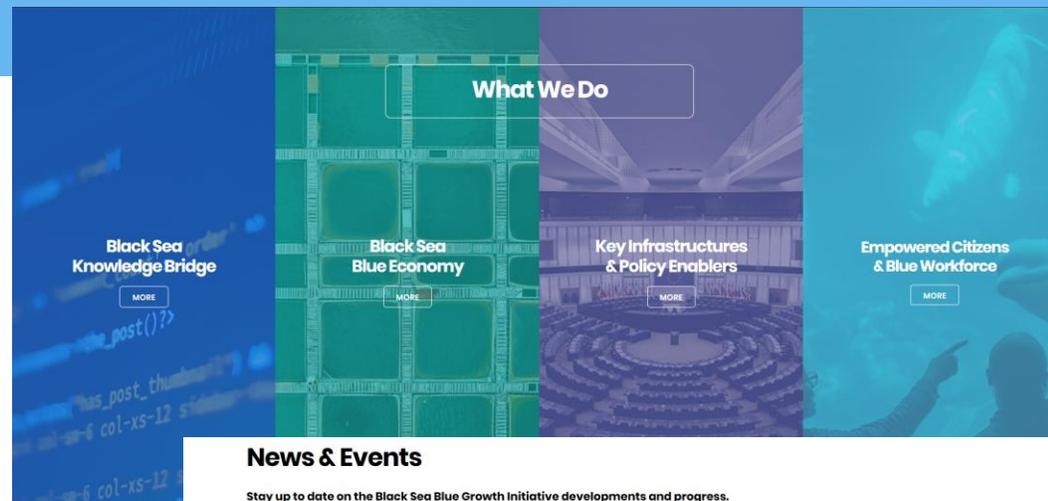
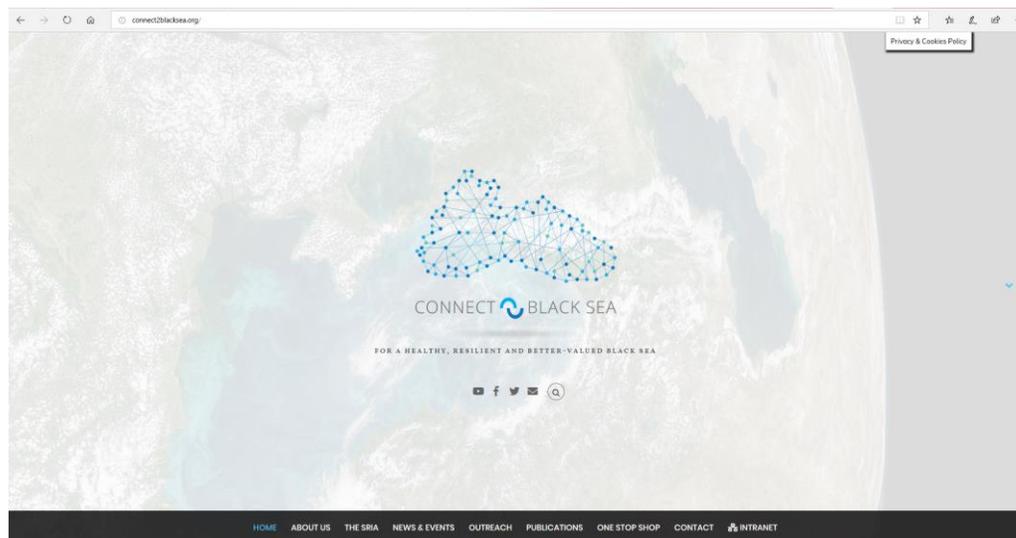
- Contribute to Mission, Partnership and SDGs
- Put Black Sea on a world map!



# Website – Main Page

## www.connect2blacksea.org

Connect2BlackSea.org



### News & Events

Stay up to date on the Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative developments and progress.

Check out our news section for more and don't forget to subscribe to our newsletter for regular updates!



Kick-off Meeting | Brussels

Kick-off Meeting | Brussels Towards a resilient, healthy and better-valued Black Sea by 2030: Implementation of the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, launched in Bucharest in May 2019, is now underway. The kick-off meeting of EU H2020 funded Black Sea CONNECT CSA will be held in Brussels on 10-11 December 2019. Location: Brussels [...]

### Recent Tweets



CONNECT Black Sea Relevance  
European Commission

Replying to @EU\_Commission  
We made recommendations on the following community measures:  
◆ When to initiate and end community measures  
◆ What social distancing measures to adopt  
◆ Infection prevention & control measures  
◆ When to introduce lockdown measures

Factsheet [pdf] | [europa.eu/IWN36hP](http://europa.eu/IWN36hP)

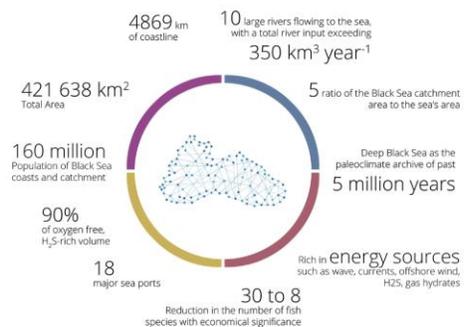
Embed

View on Twitter

### Why Black Sea?

The Black Sea, a unique sea basin, rich in biodiversity and heritage, but also where an exceptional combination of natural and human induced stressors co-occur.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### Outreach

Learn more about Black Sea Connect

Find out how the initiative will enhance awareness, understanding, and participation of all stakeholders, including increasing the public's awareness on Black Sea issues.

#### Citizens



You too can be a scientist! Join us in our future activities which will focus on the sustainable use of marine resources and marine environment protection! More to come soon.

#### Youth Forum



Network with peers! This section will provide a space for youth to discuss ideas, exchange knowledge and learn from each other. Make sure to come back and check what activities we plan for youth aged students.

#### Newsletter



Check what we are up to in the Blue Growth Newsletter!



# Socia Media Channels

Connect2BlackSea.org

**CONNECT Black Sea** @ConnectBlackSea · May 7

Would you like to be a voice of the #BlackSea? We are looking for passionate, engaged, and creative #YoungAmbassadors for Black Sea. Find out more and apply before May 31! [bit.ly/3djdNrd](https://bit.ly/3djdNrd) #Connect2BlackSea #BlackSeaYouth #JoinUs #MakeWaves



All-Atlantic Ocean Research Community and 9 others

3 comments 35 retweets 40 likes

**CONNECT Black Sea** @ConnectBlackSea · May 7

Can you help us to reach young ambassadors? @METU\_ODTU @BSECorg @GeoEcoMar @Tubitak @lfremer\_en @HZG\_de @Meeresforschung @ranepa\_eng @ocean\_ru @OceanConference @emseassociation @EMarineBoard @CPMR\_Europe @stracma @EuropeanYouthEU @DivaAmon @dina\_ep

5 retweets 5 likes

**Connect Black Sea**  
Published by Ezgi Sahin · 11 September

National SRIA Consultations will now be online!

National Black Sea SRIA Workshop aims to identify and set the national priorities within SRIA and provide concrete input to the Implementation Plan with tangible actions.

Five national workshops will be conducted within the next one month all over the Black Sea, and the first workshop will be held by Turkey on September 16, 2020. ... [See more](#)



1,493 People reached 163 Engagements [Boost post](#)

18 likes 10 shares

## Hashtags

**#BlackSeaConnect**  
**#Connect2BlackSea**

 @connect2blacksea

 @ConnectBlackSea

 Connect Black Sea

**CONNECT Black Sea**  
165 Tweets



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**CONNECT Black Sea**  
@ConnectBlackSea

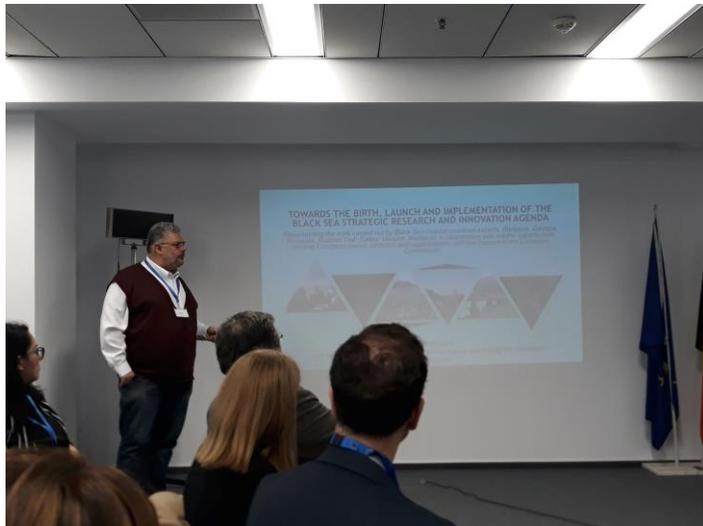
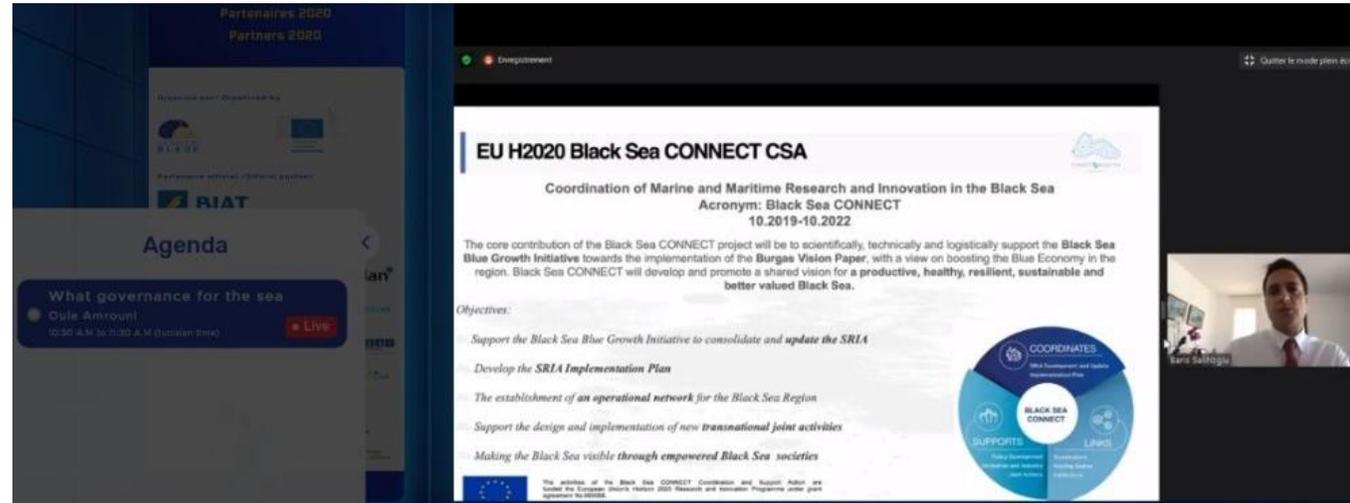
Updates from the #BlueGrowth Initiative for #Research & #Innovation in the #BlackSea, supported by the EU-funded H2020 Black Sea CONNECT CSA

Turkey [connect2blacksea.org](https://connect2blacksea.org) Joined November 2019

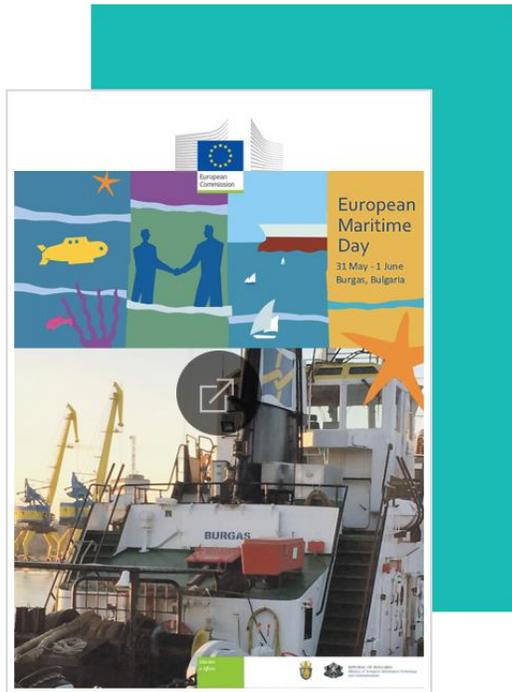
203 Following 219 Followers

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

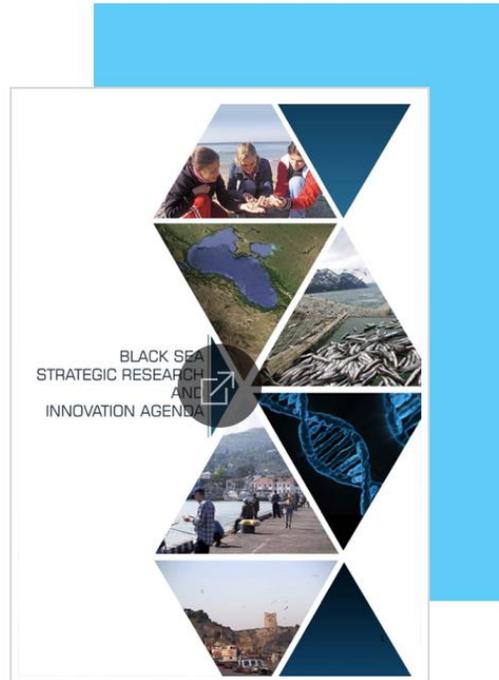
## 6 countries and many more virtual events



## Burgas Vision Paper



## Black Sea SRIA



## Implementation Plan



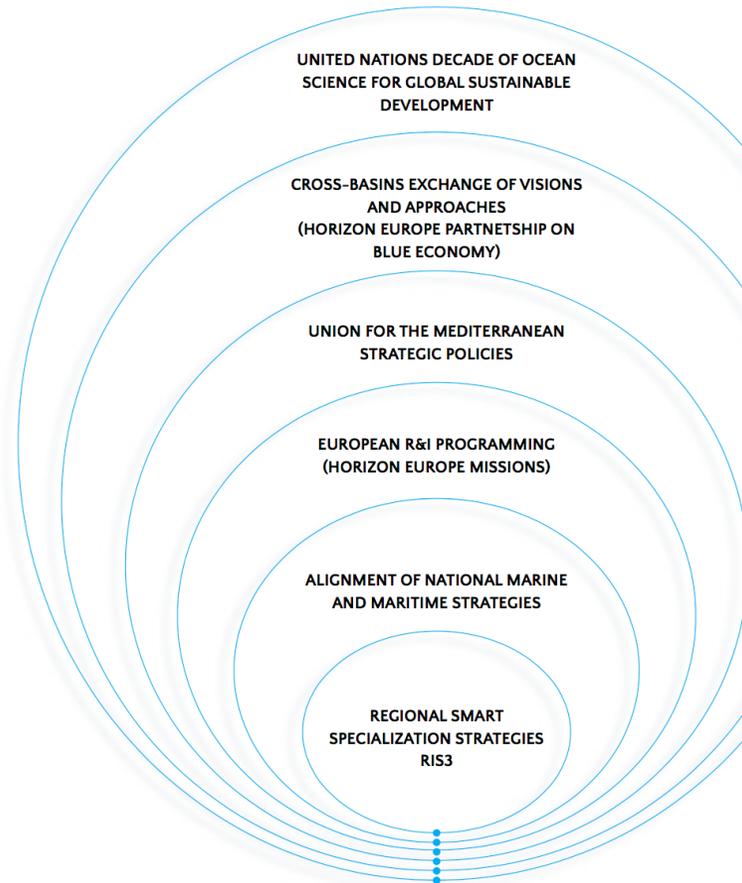


## An accountable and impactful SRIA Implementation Plan

-  will be built on the concrete actions defined by the Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative
-  will include mechanisms that will secure long term sustainability of the SRIA Implementation Plan beyond the conclusion of the project.
-  will also define, support and implement the effective cooperation and funding mechanisms, tools to implement the actions through joint transnational activities



## Scope of the BlueMed Implementation Plan, from local to global scale



## HOW TO READ THE TEXT

- Priority number
- SRIA key challenge(s) the priority is connected
- Title of the Priority
- Statement summarizing the relevance of the Priority
- Operational receipt to reach a priority goal
- A set of Strategic Actions, i.e. larger and medium-long term initiatives and activities, with specific scientific or structural content, that require strong commitment and additional dedicated resources from Research Funders. For each Strategic Action, it is reported:
  - A set of Promotional Actions that are feasible to be possibly achieved with the support of the BlueMed CSA within the project's lifetime

## BLUEMED PRELIMINARY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Horizon 2020 - BG-13-2016  
Grant Agreement 727453

Coordination and Support Action

June 2020



An indicative timing for launching	
The suggested duration, i.e. timeframe	t <1-1 yr tt <5 yr ttt >5 yr
The proposed instrument to undertake them and	
A tentative budget scale	€ < 50 k€ €€ < 1 M€ - 1 M€ €€€ < 10 M€ €€€€ > 10M€

Network of **marine and maritime research funding agencies** and other key players (such as universities, clusters, SMEs, NGOs, industry, innovators and civil society organizations (CSOs)) with the goal to help the creation of the **Implementation Plan** and facilitate and support the dialogue and interaction among research funding agencies, institutes, private companies and relevant ongoing initiatives in the Black Sea area.

**The goal:** To help the creation of the Implementation Plan and facilitate and support the dialogue and interaction among research funding agencies, institutes, private companies and relevant ongoing initiatives in the Black Sea area.



*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.

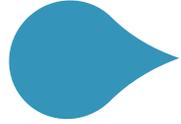
## Ecosystem

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

-  A dedicated task force within the CSA to conduct research as a joint action in line with the SRIA priorities
-  Integrating the topic in the national SRIA consultations
-  Creating a platform via the Connect2BlackSea website to showcase relevant studies on the Ecosystem and COVID-19 relation



## Education & Innovation: Young Ambassadors Programme

-  Developing innovative projects, actions, trainings with the Ambassadors and the CSA partners





# Black Sea Young Ambassadors

Connect2BlackSea.org

## 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



**MARIYA GABRIEL**

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

Valentyna Chepurna

Selma Menabit

Mariam Avakova

Jennifer Mary Ivanoff

Salome Kobaidze

Oana Poiana

Tudor Trifan

Florin Zainescu

Sofia Sadogurska

Elena Culighin

Sebastian Blicher

Begum Uzun

Irina Gancheva

Gizem Akkus

Evgeniia Kostianaia

Tatiana Semeniuc

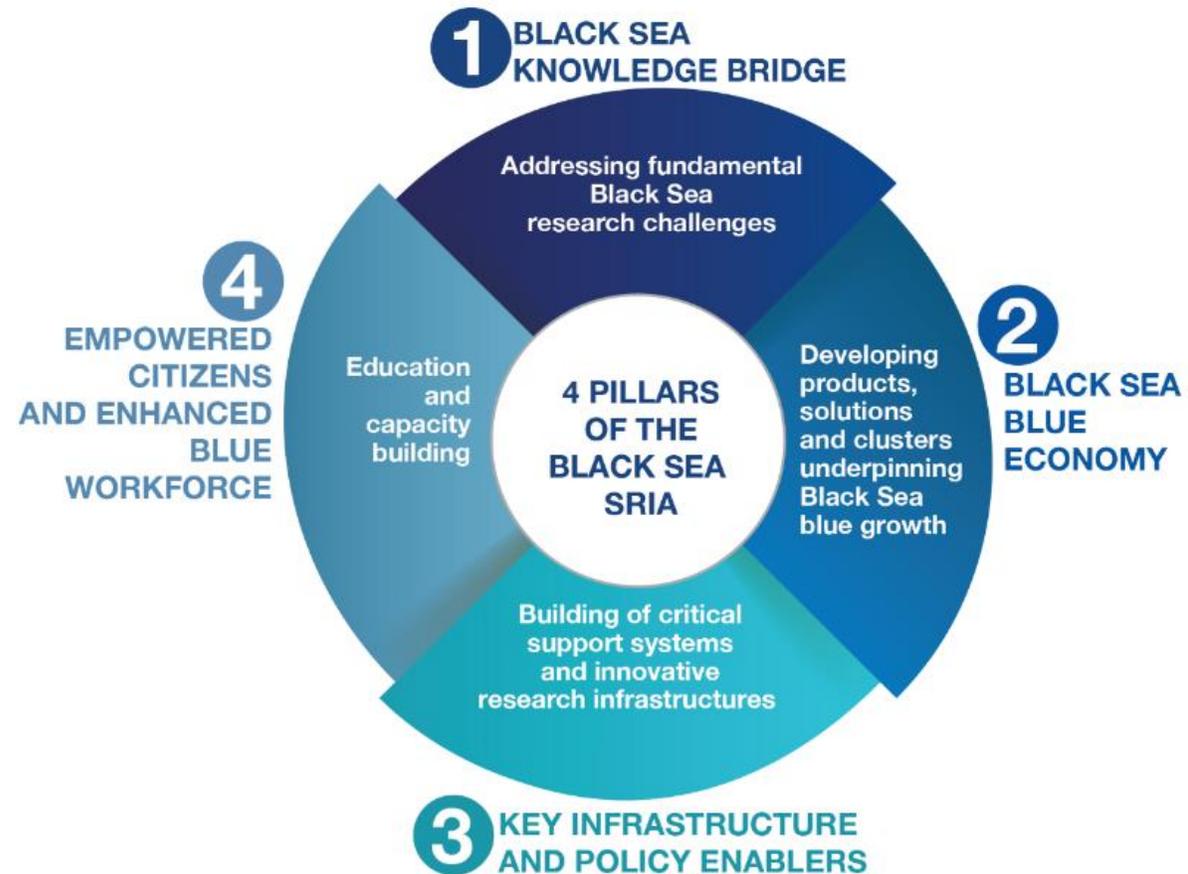
Stefania Klajn



BLACK SEA YOUNG AMBASSADORS



## FOUR MAIN PILLARS OF THE BLACK SEA SRIA





7 Countries

At least 600 stakeholders reached out

Online platforms enabled 'big data' – high amounts of input – still analysing