



BRIDGE-BS

Advancing Black Sea Research and Innovation to Co-Develop Blue Growth within Resilient Ecosystems

**KICK-OFF MEETING
12-13 JULY 2021
ONLINE**

The Black Sea is a vital resource with vast potential to boost the societal value of the blue economy for its surrounding countries. Blue Growth has a great potential for the Black Sea countries and for Europe as a whole as it can be considered an instrument to promote stability and empower the coastal communities in the region¹. While the Black Sea is a unique sea basin that is rich in biodiversity, heritage, and natural resources, the basin is increasingly under pressure due mainly to the increasing impacts from human-induced factors, such as eutrophication and hypoxia, overfishing, and the introduction of alien species, in addition to the effects of climate change.

In recognition of the importance of these and the significant influence of multistressors on the Black Sea ecosystems and its services, **the Burgas Vision Paper** (VP, 2018), **the Common Maritime Agenda** (CMA, 2019), and **the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda** (SRIA, 2019) emphasized the urgent need to identify synergistic multiple stressors (multistressors) interactions impacting ecosystem resilience and prioritized a set of actions for 'a healthy, resilient and productive Black Sea by 2030'. In order to boost Black Sea's blue economy, it is a prerequisite that Black Sea's ecosystem services and their resilience to stressors are assessed, predicted, and managed via the development and application of state-of-the-art management tools.

With that aim, two main implementing actions supporting the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda were granted under the Blue Growth Call of H2020 in 2020. While the **BRIDGE-BS (Advancing Black Sea Research and Innovation to Co-Develop Blue Growth within Resilient Ecosystems)** focuses on ecosystem resilience, services, and development of the blue economy; the complementary **DOORS (Developing Optimal and Open Research Support for the Black Sea)** will focus on developing integrated observing systems, land-sea interactions, and the deep sea.

Leveraging the EU funded H2020 CSA [Black Sea CONNECT](#) (2019/10 - 2022/10), BRIDGE-BS will map, monitor, and model ecosystem services and their responses to stressors in order to identify the **safe operating space** (Rockström et al., 2009) within which sustainable, climate-neutral blue economy can develop. To achieve this, BRIDGE-BS will advance knowledge and deliver research under three **Nodes: Service Dynamics, Blue Growth Incubators, and Empowered Citizens**.

On the **12-13th of July 2021**, BRIDGE-BS will be formally launched. After a 2-hour public session featuring BRIDGE-BS and DOORS and the synergies between them, the internal work within the BRIDGE-BS consortium will take place during the 2-day virtual kick-off meeting.

¹ http://connect2blacksea.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Black_Sea_SRIA_Final.pdf



DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1	PLENARY OPENING - OPEN TO BROADER STAKEHOLDERS	
CEST	12 July 2021	
	Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_h8taC2AWTEudg_4cA-Aygw	
12:45	Virtual access and netiquette	
13:00	Welcome	Baris Salihoglu , BRIDGE-BS Coordinator
13:10	Opening Remarks	Mustafa Verşan Kok , Rector, METU
13:20	Policy Plenary	Moderated by Wendy Bonne , DG Research and Innovation Jocelyn Guitton , European External Action Service Patrizia Busolini , DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
13:50	Keynote Speech on the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda: A perspective into the Black Sea	Sigi Gruber , Active Senior Advisor, DG Research and Innovation
14:10	For a healthy, sustainable and resilient Black Sea by 2030: H2020 funded RIA's	DOORS : Developing Optimal and Open Research Support for the Black Sea, Adrian Stanica , GEOECOMAR BRIDGE-BS : Advancing Black Sea Research and Innovation to Co-Develop Blue Growth within Resilient Ecosystems, Mustafa Yucel , METU
15:00	Synergies towards Black Sea SRIA Implementation - Input from stakeholders	Moderated by Baris Salihoglu , BRIDGE-BS Coordinator



Day 1	12 July	
	Registration Link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAKd-mppjwrGtPXU0msxWiC7RmOHHWfXvBJ	
	(Same link for the internal meetings to take place on 12-13 July)	
CEST	Moderator: Baris Salihoglu	
15:30	Management procedures and project-specific remarks	Gonzalo Garcia de Arboleya , Research Executive Agency
Presentation of the Work Packages (20 min presentation 25 min Q&A)		
15:45	WP1 Knowledge base for the Black Sea	Laura Boicenco , NIMRD, WP1 Lead (Co-lead: Viktor Komorin, UkrSCES)
16:30	WP2 Ecosystem dynamics under multistressors	Marilaure Gregoire , Uliege WP2 Lead (Co-lead: George Triantafyllou, HCMR)
17:15	WP3 Resilience for a healthy Black Sea ecosystem	Susa Niiranen , SU, WP3 Lead (Co-lead: Georgi Daskalov, IBER-BAS)
Day 2	13 July 2021	
	Registration Link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAKd-mppjwrGtPXU0msxWiC7RmOHHWfXvBJ	
	(Same link for the internal meetings to take place on 12-13 July)	
CEST	Moderator: Baris Salihoglu	
Presentation of the Work Packages (20 min presentation 25 min Q&A)		
09:30	WP4 Adaptive Management	Andrea Barbanti , CNR, WP4 Lead (Co-lead: Dan Vasiliu , GEOECOMAR)
10:15	WP5 Smart observations and technologies	Mustafa Yucel , METU, WP5 (Co-lead: Kremena Stefanova , IO-BAS)
11:00	WP6 Socio-economics and social innovations	Phoebe Koundouri , AUEB, WP6 Lead (Co-lead: Yakup Peker , TEPAV)
11:45	WP7 Accelerating 'Industry 4.0' business models	Frédérick Herpers , SML Patrizio Mariani , DTU, WP7 Lead (Co-lead: Matteo Bocci, SML)
12:30	Break	
13:00	WP8 Science-based policy making for Blue Growth	Georgia Chantzi , ICBSS, WP8 Lead (Co-lead: Rosa Fernández , CETMAR)
13:45	WP9 Education and Capacity Building	Martha Papathanasiou , INDIGO-MED, WP9 Lead (Co-lead: Bayram Ozturk, TUDAV)
14:30	WP10 Coordination and Management	Pinar Uygurer , BRIDGE-BS Project Manager
15:15	Break	
15:30	Planning the next 6 months and Upcoming Deliverables	Moderated Discussions
16:00	Remarks from the Advisory Board	Moderated by Baris Salihoglu Tour de Table: input from the Advisory Board
16:30	Summary and wrap up	Baris Salihoglu , BRIDGE-BS Coordinator & Mustafa Yucel , BRIDGE-BS Co-coordinator