



BLACK SEA CONNECT MARINE LITTER ACTION FORUM

The Black Sea is a vital science laboratory with also a vast potential to boost the blue economy in Europe. 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, pollution, 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 Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda** (SRIA, 2019) emphasized the urgent need to identify multiple synergistic stressors (multistressors) interactions impacting ecosystem resilience and prioritized a set of actions for a healthy, resilient and productive Black Sea by 2030.

Marine litter, being one of the stressors that the Black Sea is suffering from, is also a common European challenge where Black Sea research and innovation stakeholders can provide unique contributions of global significance. With that aim, the Black Sea CONNECT Marine Litter Action Forum is organized on 14-15 November in Istanbul (Hybrid) under the umbrella of the Horizon 2020-funded [Black Sea CONNECT CSA](#).

The main objective of the 2-day event **is to present the actions already in place for existing and new initiatives and projects in order to best coordinate all efforts toward paving the way for future cutting-edge actions on marine litter pollution in the Black Sea.**

The Forum will strive to create a supportive environment for companies, research-performing organizations, and NGOs to exchange, present and discuss their knowledge and experiences on tackling marine litter in the region, as well as forming a platform of circular economy solutions with policymakers and experts participating in the Forum.

This event is structured around five main sessions:

- Policy Session; Links to Mission Ocean, Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, Common Maritime Agenda, and broader policy framework
- 1st Session: Marine Litter Pollution in the Black Sea
- 2nd Session: Plastic Circularity
- 3rd Session: Good Practices
- Round-table discussion on CONNECTing national and regional opportunities towards Implementing the SRIA for a pollution-free Black Sea

Draft Agenda

Day 1 - 14 November 2022

Hilton Maslak Hotel, Istanbul / Hybrid

GMT+3/Istanbul

Register via <https://form.jotform.com/222843829991369>

12:30 – 13:30	Registration opens for on-site participation (<i>Grand Ballroom, 1. Floor</i>) Poster Sessions, Exhibition and welcome coffee
13:30 – 14:30	Opening Session - European Opportunities and Current Policy Tools Towards A Healthy, Plastic-Free and Resilient Black Sea <u>Moderator:</u> Baris Salihoglu, METU Institute of Marine Sciences
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabetta Balzi, Head of Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission • Christos Economou, Head of Unit, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission • H.E. Ambassador Lazăr COMĂNESCU, Secretary General, Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC PERMIS) • Iryna Makarenko, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Black Sea Commission
14:30 – 16:00	Session 1. Marine Litter Pollution in the Black Sea <u>Moderator:</u> Vangelis Papathanassiou, METU Institute of Marine Sciences
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn Marine Litter into opportunities: join the Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters!” Sigi Gruber, Active Senior Adviser, European Commission • Ecological interactions of Marine Litter in the Black Sea Ulgen Aytan, Associate Professor, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University • Marine litter action plan paradigms in other sea basins Christos Ioakeimidis, Marine Litter Expert, UN Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) • Black Sea Young Ambassadors Pitch Elena Culighin, Selma Menabit, Salome Kobaidze
16:00–16:30	Coffee break
16:30–18:00	Session 2. Plastic Circularity <u>Moderator:</u> Olgac Guven, Akdeniz University
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical recycling (upcycling) process - Generating energy from plastic waste using chemical processes Nilgün Kıran Cılız, Professor, Bogazici University • Collection and recycling of micro/macro plastics using innovative technologies George Triantafyllou, Research Director, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) • Sustainable production and consumption practices and initiatives Feng Wang, Programme Officer, Consumption and Production Unit, UN Environment Programme • Plastics Circularity Shardul Agrawala, Head of the Environment and Economy Integration Division, OECD
18:00	Closing of the 1st day
18:00 – 19:30	Poster Session, Exhibition and Networking Reception Session (<i>Foyer area, 1. Floor</i>)
12:30-19:30	Palıkhane - Marine Litter Awareness Raising Exhibition Visual Storytelling of The Black Sea Photo Contest Exhibition Our exhibitions will be open for viewing all day long in the foyer area



Day 2 - 15 November 2022

Hilton Maslak Hotel, Istanbul / Hybrid
GMT+3/Istanbul

Register via <https://form.jotform.com/222843829991369>

08:30 – 09:00	Registration and welcome coffee (<i>Grand Ballroom, 1. Floor</i>)
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome speech and Summary of the 2. sessions for the 1st day
09:15 – 10:15	Session 3. Good Practices Moderator: Irina Stanciu, GEOECOMAR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Sea React! – Pilot innovative solutions for fighting marine litter in the Black Sea Rositsa Stoeva, Executive Manager in charge of project management, BSEC PERMIS • BlueMed: Pilot Action on A Healthy Plastic-Free Mediterranean Sea Fedra Francocci, National Research Council of Italy (CNR) • MAELSTROM Smart Technology for Marine Litter Sustainable Removal and Management Luis R. Vieira, Researcher at Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research, CIIMAR Q&A
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee Break
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LitOUTer: Raising Public Awareness and Reducing Marine Litter for Protection of the Black Sea Ecosystem Project Fatma Telli Karakoç, Karadeniz Technical University • Good practices for Sustainable Blue Economy and Marine Litter Depollution: The example of HCMR's spin-off MINDS George Triantaphyllidis, Manager, MINDS Technologies & Environmental Sciences PC • Plastic Pirates – Go Europe: European Research Area funded pilot citizen science campaign Milen Baltov, Vice-Rector of Research and International Cooperation, Burgas Free University, Bulgaria • Erasmus Maris: Co-creation of knowledge with secondary schools for the preservation of the marine environment Kamel Labibes, Chairman of Ayam Sailing Europe Q&A
12:10 – 13:00	Round table discussion - CONNECTing national and regional opportunities towards Implementing the SRIA for a pollution-free Black Sea: View from Countries Moderator: Mustafa Yucel, Co-coordinator of Black Sea CONNECT, METU-IMS
	Panellists: Members of the Operational Network of Funders of the Black Sea SRIA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milen Baltov, Vice-Rector of Research and International Cooperation, Burgas Free University, Bulgaria • Tea Tarielashvili, Specialist of the Department of Higher Education and Science, Georgia • Viorel Vulturescu, Director, European and International Relations Department, Ministry of Education and Research, Romania (TBC) • Sveatoslav Postoroncă Representative of Moldovan Office for Science and Technology in EU, MOST • Melike Ergun, Programme Coordinator, International Cooperation Department, The Scientific and Technological Research Council (TUBITAK), Turkey • Representative from Ukraine, (TBC)
	Q&A 10 min
13:00 – 13:15	Closing Remarks Baris Salihoglu, Coordinator of Black Sea CONNECT, METU-IMS
13:15 – 15:00	Networking Lunch, Exhibition and Poster Session
12:30-19:30	Palikhane - Marine Litter Awareness Raising Exhibition (<i>Foyer area, 1. Floor</i>) Visual Storytelling of The Black Sea Photo Contest Exhibition Our exhibitions will be open for viewing all day long in the foyer area

