CONNECT BLACK SEA

D4.1 Dissemination, Communication, and Exploitation Plan

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1. Executive Summary

Objective:

The Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation Plan (DCEP) describes the activities to be performed and the dissemination and exploitation means any effort that will be spent in order to promote Black Sea CONNECT and any other activities associated with the project. Furthermore, it delineates the strategies that will be used to disseminate and exploit Black Sea CONNECT outcomes, achievements and progress.

Rationale:

The DCEP is designed to identify the project's target groups and key stakeholders, define the dissemination means, describe the methods of dissemination and classify the project-related events and conferences. Emphasis is also given on the internal process used to manage results & knowledge outputs, thereby ensuring proper exploitation of results.

The Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation Plan contains a set of rules to ensure that all relevant knowledge coming out of the project is carefully managed. The rules are set up to:

- Disseminate the Black Sea CONNECT project and its results in the best way possible, ensuring information provision and awareness-raising.
- Ensure all outputs and resources produced in the Black Sea CONNECT project are transferred to target audience. The transfer will ensure that relevant information and knowledge is customized so that it is ready for uptake by different target end-users.
- Ensure Black Sea CONNECT's foreground and Intellectual Property (IP) are properly managed.

Black Sea CONNECT will develop and make use of the latest tools, resources, and communication channels resulting in cost-effectiveness and maximum impact. A dedicated Work Package named WP4: Visibility and Dissemination (WP4) will ensure effective external communication, dissemination, and outreach of all project activities, thus boosting Blue Growth in the Black Sea by promoting the concrete and operational implementation of the Black Sea SRIA, converting its outputs into actions.

The Dissemination and Exploitation Plan has been developed by METU as the task leader of Task 4.1: Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation. However, all project partners are encouraged to participate in dissemination and exploitation actions in order to help in realising the potential of our seas and oceans for jobs and growth.

2. Introduction

Black Sea CONNECT will primarily support the activities of the Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative towards the generation of mechanisms to systematically update the SRIA and create an Implementation Plan to fulfil the needs of the SRIA. The holistic approach within the CSA will also enable the implementation of agreed joint actions and the formation of an operational network of funders and key players. This will ensure the sustainability of the CSA impacts well beyond the lifetime of a typical project.

While developing the SRIA and its Implementation Plan, Black Sea CONNECT will lead to an improved understanding of Blue Growth with an increasing stakeholder involvement in the region. The CSA results will be used by the Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative to provide specific, targeted advice to the EU and national policymakers. The action's results will support innovation and social dialogue in the area of Blue Growth. Through intense efforts dedicated to dissemination, education and outreach, the challenges and the potential of the Black Sea will be more visible at the EU and global level and the Black Sea will be on par with other European sea basins such as the Atlantic, Baltic and North Seas and the Mediterranean. Black Sea CONNECT activities, ranging from actions for the health of the Black Sea to the dissemination of results to a broad range of target public audiences, will also be in line with the EU Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) principles, denoting the alignment of innovation and research to the values, needs and expectations of society to identify and deliver new solutions to societal challenges.

Awareness, understanding, and participation are key drivers of the Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation Plan (DCEP), which is developed as a deliverable of the project and regularly updated, in cooperation with the coordination and management activities. An outline of the plan reporting cornerstone dissemination and exploitation measures is presented below, including a preliminary timing indication. The Plan addresses both general measures for multiple targets and tailored events. Its effectiveness will rely on Consortium's networks and leverage on the pivotal role of the involved stakeholders.

3. Dissemination Strategy
3.1. Objectives
3.1.1.   Overall Objectives

The overall objective of Black Sea CONNECT Coordination and Support Action (CSA) is to coordinate the implementation of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), based on the defined principles in the Burgas Vision Paper and support the development of the Blue Growth in the Black Sea. The SRIA and its Implementation Plan will guide stakeholders from academia, funding agencies, industry, policy and society to address together with the fundamental Black Sea challenges, to promote blue growth and economic prosperity of the Black Sea region, to build critical support systems and innovative research infrastructure and to improve education and capacity building.

The core contribution of the Black Sea CONNECT project will be to scientifically, technically and logistically support the Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative towards the implementation of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, 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.

3.1.2.   Specific Objectives

To ensure effective dissemination, technology transfer, and take-up, WP4 will focus on multiple tasks related to dissemination, outreach, and uptake of results. The overall aim is to ensure effective external communication, dissemination, and optimal knowledge transfer of project progress and applications leading to exploitation of project outputs.

The specific objectives of WP4 are:

1. To develop a dissemination, communication and exploitation plan (DCEP), which will identify the target audiences and communities, communication strategies to be used, specific activities to promote the project outcomes as well as raise awareness on the subject.
2. To create a branding identity for the Blue Growth Initiative for Research and Innovation in the Black Sea, and suitable promotional materials to address key target groups.
3. To establish appropriate communication and dissemination channels with research, policy, industry and society.
4. To evaluate the existing experience and promote new and innovative approaches on cooperative training and co-education to improve the professional skills and competences of those working and being trained to work within the blue economy in the Black Sea region.
5. To disseminate project results in a way that will reinforce the understanding, uptake of the Blue Growth concept among stakeholders and citizens.

The Dissemination, Communication, and Exploitation Plan has been validated by the Consortium during the Kick-off Meeting but will be re-evaluated for effectiveness and adjusted, if needed, at yearly intervals.

All project partners are involved in dissemination and exploitation to foster awareness and transfer results for impact, especially in their own countries and communities.

3.1.3. *Dissemination Plan Adaptation*

Dissemination activities will be an on-going process across the full project duration. Dissemination activities will involve all consortium members. WP4 will play a crucial role across the whole project accomplishment: firstly, to attract the attention of stakeholders around the Black Sea and facilitate interaction and engagement; secondly, to underpin the strategy legitimacy through facilitating participatory processes, transparency and openness; and lastly, to establish a clear image about the importance of Blue Growth in the Black Sea. This will benefit from the crosscutting use of ocean literacy throughout the project. These activities will increase the public's understanding of the importance of the marine environment, its resources, and the sustainable performance of the activities based upon the sea.

All partners will actively engage in dissemination and communication activities, with the support of their networks, to rally all interested national and regional stakeholders and ensure broad involvement and take up from the outset of the project. The dissemination strategy will introduce the image of Blue Growth in the Black Sea through the consistency and impact of the strategy and through innovative ocean literacy efforts encompassing a broad dissemination of results.

The Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation Plan will be adapted according to the project work progress; amendments, new activities and assets (if any) and reported in the Visibility and Dissemination Reports (D4.3, D4.4) at M18 and M36.

3.2. Data Management and Intellectual Property Rights

3.2.1. Data Management

In relation to **Data Management**, the project will not produce classical scientific data based on novel research. Instead, it will collect information on stakeholders, funding agencies, marine and maritime policy, metadata on ongoing and past research. Furthermore, during the project, meetings will be held, agendas and meeting minutes will be produced, which will be made available on the webpage of the initiative within one month of their production. Proper scientific data from novel research might be produced under the framework of Transnational Joint Actions (WP3). These data will be managed according to FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) principles. A data management plan will be delivered following the launch of the project (deliverable D1.2, M6) describing the detailed procedures and protocols to be followed to ensure the correct availability, storage, back-up and archiving of all data. Also, the project coordination team will ensure the adherence of data publication to FAIR data principles and successful participation in the 'Pilot on Open Research Data in Horizon 2020'. Backup of all data and information related to the project will be done on a monthly basis on the main cluster repository of the project coordinator, METU-IMS. Data will be made available to the public and end users through the website, to be launched in the early months of the project (by M3, D4.2). The website will be the main node of data management and dissemination for Black Sea CONNECT, where relevant project outputs will be made publicly and freely accessible.

3.2.2. Intellectual Property Rights

Black Sea CONNECT, as a coordination and support action, does not aim to generate Intellectual Property (IP) as it does not plan any classical research activities producing new scientific data or know-how. Also, the data and metadata produced during the project will follow, as far as possible, an open access policy. Although the generation of new research data is not proposed, joint research actions might generate data and knowledge that could require IP protection. In these cases, the ownership of the apparent IP and potentially exploitable results will belong to the responsible partner/s or external stakeholders that generated it. In any case, legal protection will be ensured. To avoid conflicts that might arise after the new IP has been generated, the share of the ownership and the modality of time releasing the IPR to the project partners and to the public community will be discussed in a preliminary phase, before the IP is generated. Details related to background IP of the participating institutions will be specified in the Black Sea CONNECT consortium agreement to be prepared following the approval of Black Sea CONNECT proposal. The Consortium Agreement (CA) will manage IP cases based on the guiding principles of Horizon 2020 and the EC on intellectual property rights (IPR) management.

3.3. EC Rights & Obligations in relation to results

3.3.1. Ownership & protection of results

Results are owned by the beneficiary that generates them. "Two or more beneficiaries own results jointly if they have jointly generated them and it is not possible to establish the respective contribution of each beneficiary, or separate them for the purpose of applying for, obtaining or maintaining their protection" (see Grant Agreement Article 26). The joint owners must agree (in writing) on the allocation and terms of exercise of their joint ownership ('joint ownership agreement'), to ensure compliance with their obligations under the Grant Agreement (GA).

If valuable results are not protected, the Commission may, under certain circumstances, assume ownership of the results (for further details, please consult GA Article 27).

3.3.2. Protection of results
Each beneficiary has an obligation to protect its results. For any results that can reasonably be expected to be commercially or industrially exploited, beneficiaries must examine the possibility of protecting them and if possible, protect them even if this requires further research and development or private investment. ***ARTICLE 27 — PROTECTION OF RESULTS — VISIBILITY OF EU FUNDING prevails this article herein.***

3.3.3. Exploitation of results
Each beneficiary has an obligation to exploit its results. "Each beneficiary must – up to four years after the period set out in [GA] Article 3 - take measures aiming to ensure 'exploitation' of its results by: (a) using them in further research activities; (b) developing, creating or marketing a product or process; (c) creating and providing a service, or (d) using them in standardisation activities." For further details, please consult GA Article 28.

3.3.4. Dissemination of results — Open access — Visibility of EU funding
Obligation to disseminate:

"Unless it goes against their legitimate interests **each beneficiary must – as soon as possible – 'disseminate' their results** by disclosing them to the public". However, no dissemination may take place before a decision is made regarding possible protection (see paragraph 2.2). Other participants may object if their legitimate interests in relation to their foreground or background could potentially suffer harm. The beneficiary that intends to disseminate must give the other beneficiaries advance notice (together with sufficient information on the dissemination).

Open access:

For Horizon 2020, providing open access (free of charge, online access for any user) to publications in funded projects is an obligation for all grants. "**Each beneficiary must ensure open access (OA) to all peer-reviewed scientific publications** relating to its results" (GA Article 29).
Beneficiaries can choose one of two main ways to meet this requirement:
A. Self-archiving (also referred to as 'green' open access) means that the published article or the final peer-reviewed manuscript is archived (deposited) by the author - or a representative - in an online repository before, alongside or after its publication. Repository software usually allows authors to delay access to the article ('embargo period')
B. Open access publishing (also referred to as 'gold' open access) means that an article is immediately provided in open access mode as published. In this model, the payment of publication costs is shifted away from readers paying via subscriptions.

Beneficiaries must also provide open access, through the repository, to the bibliographic metadata that identify the deposited publication. These must be in a standard format and must include the following:
● the terms ["European Union (EU)" & "Horizon 2020"]["Euratom" & Euratom research & training programme 2014-2018"]

- the name of the action, acronym and grant number
- the publication date, the length of the embargo period (if applicable) and a persistent identifier.

The purpose of the bibliographic metadata requirement is to make it easier to find publications and ensure that EU funding is acknowledged. Information on EU funding must therefore be included as part of bibliographic metadata so that Horizon 2020 can be properly monitored, statistics produced, and the programme's impact assessed.

To monitor any embargo periods, the publication date and embargo period must be provided. The persistent identifier (for example a Digital Object Identifier) identifies the publication. It enables a link to be provided to an authoritative version of the publication.

In all cases, the Commission encourages authors to retain their copyright and grant adequate licences to publishers. Creative Commons offers useful licensing solutions.

This type of licence is a good legal tool for providing open access in its broadest sense.

Where possible, contributors should also be uniquely identifiable, and data uniquely attributable, through identifiers which are persistent, non-proprietary, open and interoperable (e.g. through leveraging existing sustainable initiatives such as ORCID for contributor identifiers and DataCite for data identifiers).

For more information on open access, please consult the Guidelines on Open Access to Scientific Publications and Research Data in Horizon 2020 (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-pilot-guide_en.pdf)

Obligation and right to use the EU emblem:
Article 29.4 states the obligation and right to use the EU emblem (Information on EU funding — Obligation and right to use the EU emblem). Therefore, any dissemination of results (in any form, including electronic) must:
a.   display the EU emblem and
b.   include the following text:
"This project has received funding from the [European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme] [Euratom research and training programme 2014-2018] under grant agreement No XXXX".

Any dissemination of results **must display the EU emblem and include the following text**:

- The activities of the Black Sea CONNECT Coordination and Support Action are funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 860055.
- This publication/multimedia/product/presentation reflects the views only of the author(s), and the European Union cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

A combined EU emblem and disclaimer graphic will be available at the website of the project.

Any dissemination of results or outputs must also indicate that it reflects only the author's view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

Partners should keep track of all their dissemination and exploitation activities, all of which should be reported by each partner at EC reporting stages and send WP leader, METU, on a 6-month basis. Partners are required to report any publication and dissemination activities on the Research Participant Portal.

The H2020 online manual provides brief descriptions on how to complete your tasks, guidance notes, templates, user manuals of the relevant tools and frequently asked questions. To access the manual: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/index_en.htm

The project will participate, as requested in the call for proposal, in the Pilot on Open Research Data in Horizon 2020 (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-pilot-guide_en.pdf).

Therefore, open access to research data and scientific publications produced in the project will be assured in compliance with articles 29.2 and 29.3 of the Grant Agreement and according to the relevant EC guidelines.

The project, due to its nature and objectives, will generate relevant information for stakeholders and for the scientific community, although not new traditional raw scientific data. The project will collect and connect processed data and information from available sources/providers on a wide number of arguments, e.g. environmental status and components; marine and maritime economic sectors; recent and ongoing research projects and initiatives; research infrastructures; research institutes and key stakeholders; existing data repositories and portals; programmes, funding streams and agencies; EU, national and regional policies, etc. All these elements of information are needed to properly address the SRIA consolidation and update, and the Implementation Plan.

No common standards are available for those data and metadata, while specific attention will be given to metadata such as: source, underlying raw data formats and availability, level of confidentiality. Restrictions on data availability will be clearly evidenced and duly justified.

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

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3.4. Stakeholders

The development of innovative ways to engage stakeholders and society in the project is a crucial component for its success, implementation and legacy. Black Sea CONNECT focuses on a two-way dissemination approach, from local to international level towards different stakeholders and through multiple channels. The project will address issues mentioned in the SRIA and will involve all relevant stakeholders, including scientists, policy makers, industry and the public at large. It will spread competitiveness opportunities and comprehensively engage the public, increasing the awareness of the opportunities presented by Blue Growth. The objective is also to enhance awareness, understanding, and participation in several actions that will be designed in the course of the project. Black Sea CONNECT will develop a strategy to support public outreach, involving citizens in scientific work and actions such as enhancing monitoring capabilities while also empowering citizens. This will ultimately increase the public awareness and trust and help enhance public support (including funding).

Additionally, Black Sea CONNECT will focus on developing strategies to help increase ocean literacy. The actions and strategies of the dissemination and exploitation activities will be targeted to specific stakeholders and potential end users of Black Sea CONNECT. In addition to the CSA consortium, they can be broadly divided into four groups, including but not limited to the subgroups listed below:

- **Science and research community**: National, EU and international universities; academic, research and development institutions; scientific steering groups and committees; and centers of excellence which already are or have the potential to be involved in Blue Growth-related activities in natural, physical and social sciences.
- **Policy and decision makers:** Government ministries and institutions; public funding agencies; national/regional/international organizations; EU Commission, public authorities and intergovernmental bodies.
- **Industry and business sectors:** Local/national/regional/international companies/corporations/SMEs involved in Blue Growth sectors (especially aquaculture, coastal tourism and marine energy); companies/start-ups/entrepreneurs/investors for marine and maritime research development and innovation; industry and business associations.
- **General public:** NGOs (especially focusing on sustainable development and environmental protection); K12/undergraduate/early-graduate education; public at large.
- **Media:** Journalists, online magazines about tourism, business development and innovation, Blue Growth Industry Press (B2B).

The table below summarises the target audiences, the tools which will be used and the expected impact of the project's dissemination activities.

Table 1. Summary of target audiences, dissemination activities and tools.
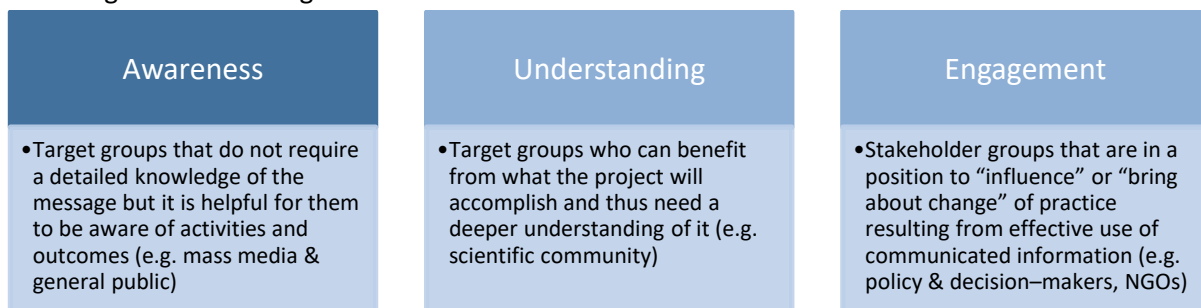
Target Audience	Expected impact	Dissemination Tools
Black Sea CONNECT Consortium	• Ensure successful progress of the project • Monitor the implementation of processes like update of the SRIA and Implementation Plan	• Project digital repository/portal • Email and video-conferencing • Work package and project meetings
Science and research community	• Increase national and regional awareness regarding Blue Growth research • Provide leadership for wider inclusion of Blue Growth in national and regional research agendas • Integration with existing regional and international Blue Growth research initiatives • Increase potential of interdisciplinary collaboration • Improve scientific knowledge and technical know-how exchange	• Participation in project meetings and workshops • Project website, social media postings, newsletters, leaflets, brochures • Targeted visits, seminars, and focus group meetings • National and international scientific conferences and events; organising special sessions • Letters and articles to scientific journals
Policy and decision makers	• Bridge the knowledge-policy gap for adoption of Blue Growth strategies • Pioneer national adoption of Blue Growth strategies • Increase national and international consultation and project contracts • Better utilization of public research funding for societal benefit	• Participation in project meetings, workshops, and training seminars/workshops • Project website, social media, newsletters, leaflets, brochures • Networking, visits, and seminars • Event organisation/participation (in Turkey and partners' counties) for the opening and end of the project. • Policy-Brief at the end of the project, translated to national languages of Black Sea countries • Providing consultancy on marine/maritime and BG policy in ministerial meetings
Industry and business sectors	• Innovation opportunities in Black Sea • Improved business-research collaboration • Access to new customers in Black Sea countries	• Participation in blue economy events

		• Stakeholder conference in Black Sea countries with a major role for private sector.
General public	• Empower citizens, educate them on the benefits of sustainable, healthy seas and the interdependence people have with the ocean • A more ocean literate society able to make informed decisions about the ocean and its resources	• Website, social media, newsletters, leaflets, brochures • Project Videos (incl. animation) • Science Fairs • K12 education, such as Blue Growth, Water Management and MSP Business Game "If I am a Decision maker" • Online technical education for experts • Joint Educational Programmes • "Mobile" educational initiatives • Ocean literacy activities/events • Network and participation in ocean literacy conferences (EMSEA: European Marine Science Educators Association, CommOcean 2020 etc)
Mass Media	• Create and promote a positive image of the Black Sea and its Blue Growth potential	• Press Releases, Social Media posts, Articles in popular magazines and B2B press

For the purposes of this DCEP, 'Stakeholder' is defined as: "a person, group, organisation with an interest in the Black Sea CONNECT project". The most important stakeholders or key stakeholders, which will be addressed by the communication activities, will be called "Target Groups" for the purposes of the current document.

Each target group will be approached against the respective level of communication envisaged according to the following three levels of communication:

Awareness	Understanding	Engagement
• Target groups that do not require a detailed knowledge of the message but it is helpful for them to be aware of activities and outcomes (e.g. mass media & general public)	• Target groups who can benefit from what the project will accomplish and thus need a deeper understanding of it (e.g. scientific community)	• Stakeholder groups that are in a position to "influence" or "bring about change" of practice resulting from effective use of communicated information (e.g. policy & decision–makers, NGOs)

4. Dissemination Channels and Tools

4.1. Project Visual Identity and Logo

A specific project logo has been developed for project identity and branding. The logo was ready for the use of Consortium members before the kick-off meeting, to be used from the start of the project to ensure that all partners agree, and that a visual identity and online presence have been maintained from the start.

The logo depicts the connecting Black Sea basin and its actors for resilient, sustainable and well-valued sea through a minimalistic vectoral design.

Figure 1 – Vertical Logo	Figure 2 - Horizontal Logo
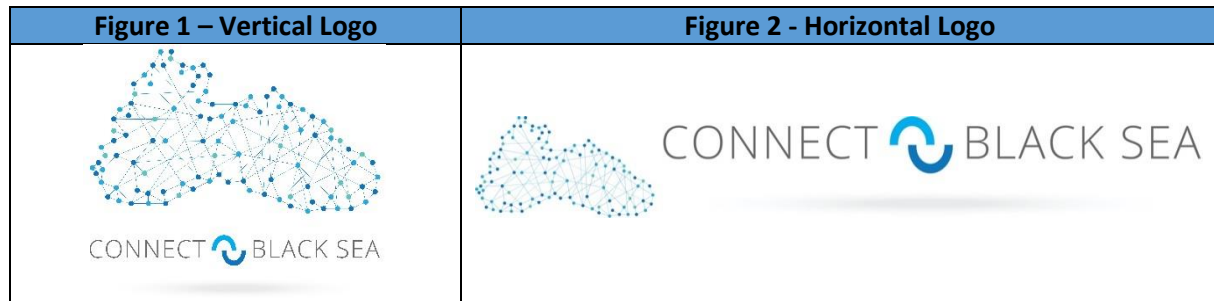
The project visual identity respects the following color codes:

Color Codes	
Blue	#1c75bc
Water Green	#60c5bd
Ciel	#27aae1
White	#ffffff
Font Colour	#666766

Various versions of the logo have been produced, in order to be used for different purposes: the primary logo will be designed for use on specific branding elements such as website, social media etc. as well as for promotional material such stickers, leaflets etc. Additionally, black and white versions in high and low resolutions for the web have been produced.

The logo will be included in all project promotional material including e-newsletters, factsheets etc. The final version of the visual identity will be uploaded on the project website.

4.2. Website

The **website** will be a virtual platform for communicating and promoting the overall Black Sea CONNECT activities. It will be a vehicle for running and promoting the project, providing a platform for project partners and stakeholders interested in the project. This tool will provide the main features of the action (e.g., objectives, timeframe, funding, etc.) in a clear and structured way. The website will not be a classical 'project' website, instead, the most essential function of the website will be to bring the Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative to the forefront, with Black Sea CONNECT and the EU funding acknowledged. Other Sea basin initiatives websites will be used as examples, such as AORA CSA of the

Atlantic Alliance (https://www.atlanticresource.org/aora). The website will feature dedicated areas for call information, news, events, an online repository of all publications and other materials produced under or as part of this CSA action. A highly connected platform to embedded social media accounts is envisaged, which will act together to disseminate the Initiative actions. These tools linked to the website will be open to third parties to access, exploit, and disseminate, free of charge for any user.

The website will be set up following the EU Project Websites – Best Practice Guidelines. The website is a core communication tool that will be the main real-time information source on the project throughout its lifetime. It will act as a communication resource to promote the project, its objectives, partnership and events as well as to update interested parties on progress, results and outcomes and a repository for public deliverables. The public project website will be visually attractive and informative and will also include a link to the web-based collaborative workspace to facilitate continuous project partner communication. New visual media will be used (videos, animations, infographics, social media etc.) on the website.

In November 2019, the first step of registering a domain for the project's website was completed with http://connect2blacksea.org as the selected domain. The next step involved developing the site menus and architecture, as well as the development of a Content Management System (CMS) that will be able to delineate the project architecture by organising the information in a meaningful and accessible way. This can prove to be rather important, since it could help in Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) that is the next step in setting up any website. This last action is useful in order to improve the 'visibility' of a website on the internet.

The continuous updating of the website will include an "Events" section, where all the events organised by the consortium as well as events where project partners are going to be represented and any other events of interest to the partnership are presented. A "News" section will be regularly updated with news on the project as well as external news relevant to Black Sea CONNECT, while the Communication Materials section will include project identity visuals, press releases, project factsheets, project videos, all available for download.

4.3. Social Media

Virtual social media channels are, nowadays, a necessity for the promotion of projects, initiatives as well as the website itself. Within this framework, the proposed website will develop an ongoing, parallel platform and strategy intended for social networking and web marketing of the project. This strategy will incorporate social networks (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) in order to build and maintain the public's awareness of Black Sea CONNECT project and Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative achievements. As well as raising awareness on project achievements, social media accounts will be used to disseminate general information, news, upcoming events, and updates about the project by transmitting catching messages.

Following social media channels will be used for the dissemination activities of the Black Sea CONNECT project.

Channel		Link
	Facebook	@connect2blacksea
	Twitter	@ConnectBlackSea
	YouTube	Connect Black Sea

This strategy will also involve user-generated content, content seeding and proactive marketing, both on the web and on mainstream scientific media. Partners will be encouraged to contribute to the social media channels, by 'liking', 'following', 'sharing' or 'retweeting' posts from the project's social media accounts. Additionally, partners should aim to promote the project through other Social Media channels, such as relevant Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn where possible. Additionally, partners will promote the project through their dissemination channels. Each partner will appoint a contact person for dissemination to raise awareness in their region, to ensure successful exploitation of project results and utilization after the project ends.

#BlackSeaConnect and #Connect2BlackSea are the official hashtags of the project and initiative, respectively. All partners should use this hashtag when they are posting about the project on Facebook and Twitter. When specific events are planned, new hashtags can be developed specifically for these events to improve visibility of events posts on social media.

For visibility activities, partner's dissemination channels will be used as well as the project's own dissemination channels. Each partner will appoint a contact person for dissemination. The table presents the partners dissemination channels which will be used during the project lifetime is given at Annex 5.

4.4. Mass Media

Mass media outlets (newspapers, TV broadcasts, radio channels, online magazines etc.) will be also used to disseminate project-related news and activities. As the Black Sea CONNECT recognizes that the popular communication outlets may vary from country to country, partners are encouraged to use the mediums they see fit to increase the project visibility and impact to the maximum extent.

In order to optimise the communication through conventional media outlets:
- Full project name and funding disclaimer (European Union under Horizon2020) displayed correctly.
- Content to be published should comply with the principles of the DCEP.
- Communication deviating from the communication plan should preferably be checked with the project manager and project communication officer beforehand.

4.5. Templates

Standardised Word and PowerPoint templates have been developed, containing the visual identity (logo) and the basic description of the project. Word templets will be used for external and internal

deliverables and reports and PowerPoint templates will be used at internal and external events when presenting the project.

The PowerPoint presentation template can be adjusted according to presentation needs and the target audience. The standardised presentation will ensure that the project is presented consistently by Consortium members during presentations and/or events in which they take part. Consortium partners will be asked to use these PowerPoint and Word templates whenever they present the project somewhere or produce project-related documents. All presentation materials and project-related documents will be uploaded on the website for the partners' use.

4.6. Promotional Publications (brochures, flyers, fact sheets and roll-up banners)

Printed materials such as brochures, flyers, thematic area fact sheets and roll-up banners will also be produced as project dissemination material and their electronic version will be available on project website.

- *Brochures*

A project brochure will be developed to provide a detailed overview of the project. Its purpose is to create further awareness and stimulate interest among concerned actors. The brochure will contain a thorough explanation of the project rationale and delineating in detail the project objectives and methods. It should provide information on the project's major activities and identify their relevance for target groups. The brochure can also offer the opportunity to provide further details about the consortium, including a map and all institutional logos. Lastly, the brochure provides space for graphic elements such as tables and charts. Photographs and other illustrations will also be used.

The brochure format will be staple-bound no more than 8 pages long. Both paper and electronic versions will be produced and distributed to target groups, again mostly through the Consortium members or through events in which the project will participate. The brochure will also be available electronically on the website.

- *Flyer*

Regarding flyers, paper and electronic versions will be produced and distributed widely. In terms of content, the flyer will explain the rationale behind the project and outline the methodology as well as expected advantages for the stakeholders, partnership and contacts. The project's main objectives can be presented in bullet points. Finally, the consortium members should be presented together on a separate panel. The flyer will lead the reader to the project website for more information.

The number of flyers to be printed will depend on the number requested by each partner and the EC, considering printing and dissemination costs. The flyers and all other materials will also be electronically available on the website.

- *Factsheets*

Thematic factsheets will be produced with distinct target audiences (Science and Research Community, Industry and Business Sector and General Public).

All partners will be provided with an electronic copy of the project factsheet for distribution (print and/or electronic) to their network.

Partners are encouraged to translate the leaflet into their own language. Editable factsheet format will be provided to the partners for the translation. Translated factsheets will be available on the website.

4.7. Promotional video and educational motion graphics.

A promotional video featuring the Black Sea, its Blue Growth potential and the promotion of the Burgas Vision Paper principles and SRIA pillars will be produced to enhance the visibility of Black Sea CONNECT activities. The promotional video will be used in conferences, exhibitions, educational activities, science fairs/stands and at mobile exhibitions when possible.

Short educational motion graphics on topics such as; i) the importance of the Black Sea ii) stressors of Black Sea biodiversity and heritage; iii) blue growth in Black Sea, will be produced and released periodically throughout the project to increase awareness on a sustainable and environmentally friendly blue growth in the Black Sea. The videos will include 'call-to-action' activities to entice the audiences to participate in activities and engage more actively in the project. Both the project promotional video and educational motion graphics will be shared on selected websites (the project website, websites of project partners etc.) and social media platforms.

4.8. Blue Growth E-Newsletter

A dedicated newsletter on the activities of the Blue Growth Initiative for Research and Innovation in the Black Sea, as well the Black Sea CSA's own activities, will be developed and produced, at 6-month intervals. The electronic newsletter will highlight project progress and news as well as upcoming events and activities. The newsletter will be sent out to project partners, stakeholder contacts and other interested individuals or organisations. The Newsletters will also be available on the project website.

The newsletter will be created with the aim to inform about the four main pillars related to Blue Growth: i) new initiatives, ii) research projects, iii) funding/work opportunities, and iv) education and training opportunities.

Input from all partners is expected to feed the newsletters, including ideas and content. Partners will furthermore be expected to distribute the newsletter to their own networks in order to maximize the project's impact. It is also proposed, to create a stakeholder database (with contact details) in order to ensure that the newsletter reaches the right audience and is sent to a large list of subscribers.

5. Dissemination and Communication Activities

5.1. Internal Communication

Internal project communication will be carried out by the WP1 leader and project coordinator, METU. The WP1 Leader will ensure that communication between the project partners is running smoothly, facilitated by email and web conference tools or phone calls between Work Package Leaders/Partners and through regular meetings as required. In addition, WP1 will put in place an effective, efficient and responsive structure for the coordination and support action to ensure an open and engaged dialogue

at all times with the Black Sea Blue Growth initiative, the EC (Directorate-General Research and Innovation - DG RTD) and the High-Level Board (HLB) of the countries in the Black Sea.

5.2. Education, Outreach & Awareness Activities
5.2.1.   Events & meetings with the stakeholders

Communication actions towards different targets (scientific community, industry stakeholders, general public, and possibly decision makers) will be implemented to achieve the scientific strategy and take this action to a new stage. The meetings will bring together stakeholders dealing with marine and maritime issues from the entire region, including government representatives, regional and local authorities, international organizations, academia, the private sector and civil society representatives. Key inter-sectorial events will be organised on the side of existing platforms of the European Commission. The participation of the Consortium's partners, national and international stakeholders of the Black Sea and key actors of other Europeans Blue Growth initiatives will be promoted.

Table 2. List of upcoming networking events

Title	Aim and Scope	Date/Place
Regional workshop - Mediterranean - UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)	This event will provide a forum to gather ocean leaders/champions/key stakeholders to further discuss and prioritize the issues identified at the First Global Planning Meeting. Plenary and working groups will facilitate regional, interdisciplinary discussions across sectors (such as: ocean science and technology; ocean policy and sustainable development; business and industry; NGOs and civil society; donors and foundations) to identify concrete deliverables and partnerships to meet the Decade's six societal objectives.	21-23 January 2020 / Venice Italy
EU Maritime Day 2020	EMD is the annual two-day event during which Europe's maritime community meet to network, discuss and forge joint action on maritime affairs and sustainable blue growth. The opening session will target the "EU Maritime Policy towards 2050" and the plenary session will focus on 'Empowering Future Ocean Leaders'.	14-15 May 2020 / Cork, Ireland

More specifically, under WPs 1, 2 and 3 the following meetings are planned:

➢ **Periodical meetings** of the Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative will be organised, estimated to be 12 in total (4 per year); however, the number may change depending on the conditions, needs and issues. The exact dates of the meetings will be co-decided by the High-Level Board and will be communicated to the CSA coordinator.

➢ **High-level Board meetings & Operational Network** activities will be held twice per year, to include any thematic meetings to be held in collaboration with the representatives of innovation clusters or linked project coordinators. As such, the Initiative will consider inputs of a wide stakeholder platform with which the SRIA will be updated and the Implementation Plan will be generated.

➢ **General Assembly:** Project participants will physically meet at least once per year having thus a minimum of one General Assembly meeting per year. Management meetings may also be organised via videoconference/phone or any other virtual means that facilitate communication. It is expected that the yearly General Assemblies will be organized back to back with other project meetings. This will save time and financial resources and facilitate person-to-person interactions.

Under WP1, the organization of meetings of the HBL, to be decided in close contact with the EC will also be organised.

- *__Organising Events__*

During the project's lifetime, various events and activities will be organized (i.e. workshops, meetings). For organising successful meetings and facilitating the reporting process, partners are suggested to follow below mentioned steps. You can find detailed check list for communication activities in Annex 4.

1. Collecting the basic event materials (obligatory for reporting); i) attendance sheets ii) photos of the event.
2. Partners are encouraged to exploit the visibility opportunities in the local events they will be organizing to the maximum; post and pre-social media posts (both on their own and Black Sea CONNECT channels), photos, videos, small, interviews with participants etc.
3. Partners are encouraged to advertise their events in a timely manner to ensure participation and use the appropriate channels (social media accounts, websites, the Black Sea CONNECT channels, social media platforms etc.)
4. Partners are required to disclose the project logo and the European Union funding information in line with the Guidelines for the usage of the European Union logo. When in doubt, partners can contact the WP 4 leader/Project Manager.
5. Partners must contact the WP 4 leader/Project Manager for the compliance of visibility rules when using a template that is not provided by the WP leader.

During these events, limited personal data related to the potential stakeholders and external (non-consortium) participants who will attend project-related activities. Collected personal data is limited to name, professional title, email address and phone number. No sensitive data (such as participants' sexual behavior; illegal or political activities;) will be collected. In compliance with the GDPR

Regulation, the event organizing partner has to make sure that the data subject is provided with the information relating to processing to the data subject in a concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible form, using clear and plain language.

METU has provided a consent form template (Annex 1&2) for the Consortium to use when organizing events. With the information and consent form the partners organizing the events are responsible to inform the participants on the process of their personal data.

5.2.2.   Conferences & Exhibitions

Setting up booths in major Blue Growth events across Europe as well as national conferences will also be a major component of dissemination. Events where the Black Sea Initiative will be represented will include the GFCM Fish Forum, European Maritime Day, and regional blue economy stakeholder meetings. In addition, METU-IMS and most of the project partners regularly attend science festivals such as European Researchers' Night and will continue taking part in the coming year's events. In this framework, scientists, and students from the Black Sea CONNECT team will collaborate with the METU-IMS outreach group to integrate/translate scientific information to a non-academic public.

Furthermore, the project will aim to attend and organise art fairs. These will be a series of art events, such as photo contests and/or film festival will engage artists and the general public in expressing their views, concerns and relationship to the sea and its sustainability. One suggestion is to participate in the "I live by the Sea" photo contest, conducted yearly since 2017, by TodayWeHave (http://todaywehave.com/I_live_by_the_Sea_Contest.html) currently supported by many organisations such as EurOcean, Ciencia Viva etc. Participation in ocean literacy conferences, e.g. the European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA, www.emsea.eu) will be encouraged, including also the establishment of a solid collaboration link with EMSEA and the Black Sea, which is currently an underrepresented region.

Lastly, a Mobile Caravan exhibition is planned to take place, as the Secretariat of the Black Sea University Network (BSUN) has a spacious car that could be transformed into a mobile caravan. By developing digital applications based on multimedia and Augmented Reality (AR) technologies and their dissemination through the mobile caravan in the target areas, a large impact dissemination towards a large variety of population segments shall be obtained.

5.2.3.   Educational Activities & Resources

The aim here will be to raise awareness and develop a 'Black Sea Awareness' campaign among the public around the Black Sea countries and Europe. A central goal will be to educate the public on Blue Growth and promote the benefits for both coastal and inland communities and societies. This will pave the way for the public to transform to empowered citizens, able to make informed decisions about the seas and ocean. The Initiative will support a range of sea-awareness actions and the initial plans for educational activities have been blueprinted during the kick-off meeting and will be furthered developed as the project progresses. The central idea here is that Black Sea CONNECT will not invent a new type of activity but build on existing awareness and outreach activities of its partners.

- **Educational activities.** Educational activities focusing on the sustainable use of marine resources and marine environment protection will be addressed to primary and secondary school students (6-17 years old) of selected Black Sea countries, by the following actions:
  - ➢ A generic training course will be organized with a theoretical (thematic seminars, lessons) and practical section (interactive software, educational experiments and games). The activities may be embedded to, for example in the case of METU-IMS, the larger educational programme "I Know and Protect My Seas", successfully implemented since 2012 by the METU-IMS outreach group. The training course will be carried out in 5 meetings held between months 24 and 28 of the project, with a total of 150 students educated. The programme will be replicated also in some selected Black Sea countries.
  - ➢ Facilitating the bridging of formal education courses in schools organised with specialized museums and aquariums, micro-reservations from riparian countries and collaboration with specialized NGOs and Scouts organizations.
  - ➢ Establishing and maintaining open micro-labs for children to interact easily and sustainably with nature, flora and fauna of the Black Sea.
  - ➢ Organising an online archive of short movies, personal video records, photos and other study materials, focusing on multi media.
  - ➢ Facilitating the establishment of a network of summer school camps for children to encourage exchange of ideas on environmental issues specific to the various Black Sea coastal areas.
- **Online Training Platform** Using the platform www.BSUN.org for online courses the procedures for facilitating the delivery of open online courses on topics related to the Implementation Plan for a large variety of experts acting within some specialized organizations or as freelancers such as teachers, sailors, biologists and other specialists there will be developed. This shall lead to the establishment of a Massive Open Online Course – *MOOC on Blue Growth in the Black Sea Region*.
- **Hackathons** (Active involvement for Problem Solving): It can be organised as itinerant events around the Black Sea region in the form of small group camps for young students and researchers building Cooperative Problem-Solving Teams to address some very specific problems related to the Implementation Plan in different regions.
- **Black Sea Observatory on Blue Growth:** A section on the project website dedicated to the indexing of open publications on topics related to the Implementation Plan in order to facilitate the exchange of scientific results via open science actions, internet-based gatherings of scientists, policy makers and civil society to maximise the impact the science diplomacy in the region. Dissemination activities and external strategic communication will be an ongoing process across the project's duration. This will involve all partners in the different Tasks and will build on the work completed in WP4.
- **Gaming of Blue Growth in the Black Sea:** The Black Sea CONNECT will try to engage known software companies to create a game which have some simplified models on ecosystems services connected with blue growth principles especially under human impact scenarios (fisheries, energy and tourism).

6. Monitoring & Evaluation

The indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of the communication efforts are:

- Website hits on project website

- Social media metrics (e.g. views of profile, followers, "likes", re-tweets etc.)
- Information Materials requested/Downloaded
- Media coverage obtained
- Use of Extranet (file sharing, collaborative uses, messages)
- Public perceptions/behavioural change (through interviews, consultations etc.).

The Consortium members are expected to maintain constant communication with the Coordinator to provide information on their ongoing their dissemination and communication activities.   required to report their communication activities to METU on 6-months basis. The reporting template is presented in the Annex 3.

7. Validations and Recommendations

The Dissemination and Exploitation Plan was presented for comments to all partners during the Kick-off meeting. The document was also sent out to the Consortium for further feedback and comments which were incorporated into the final version of the first The Dissemination and Exploitation Plan. The communication strategy will be always agreed by the consortium, updated with partner inputs and then implemented during the project lifetime. The dissemination plan will be updated, if needed, at yearly intervals.

Annexes

Annex 1: Sample informed consent form

During Black Sea CONNECT-related events, limited personal data related to the potential stakeholders and external (non-consortium) participants who will attend project-related activities. Collected personal data is limited to name, professional title, email address and phone number. No sensitive data (such as participants' sexual behavior; illegal or political activities;) will be collected. In compliance with the GDPR Regulation, the event organizing partner has to make sure that the data subject is provided with the information relating to processing to the data subject in a concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible form, using clear and plain language.

METU has provided a consent form template (Annex 1&2) for the Consortium to use when organizing events. **With the information and consent form the partners organizing the events are responsible to inform the participants on the process of their personal data**. The filled formed must be kept in the event organizing partners records throughout the project lifetime.

Information Sheet

Project	Coordination of Marine and Maritime Research and Innovation in the Black Sea
Project Acronym	Black Sea CONNECT
Grant Agreement	860055
Funding Scheme	Horizon2020
Project Type	Coordination and Support Action
Start date of the project	01.10.2019
End date of the project	01.10.2022
Work Package Leader	Middle East Technical University (METU)

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

Introduction

Before deciding whether you want to participate or not, please read this document carefully. Please feel free to ask any questions to ensure that you fully understand the purpose and proceedings of this activity, including risks and benefits.

Compliance with legal and ethical regulations

We assure full compliance with European Union's GDPR legislation on data protection and ethical standards.

Purpose of the study

You have been invited to take part in an activity conducted under the framework of the H2020 project Black Sea CONNECT funded by the European Commission. The objective of the project is to create a network of stakeholders across different sectors in the Black Sea riparian countries for operationalizing the SRIA and Implementation Plan

Benefits

With your participation, you may engage in networking activities and learn more about Blue Growth and Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.

Risks

Black Sea CONNECT is implemented with the cooperation of many partners from the Black Sea riparian countries and Germany and France. The action, therefore, also involves non-European partners such as Turkey, Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine. Your data will be made available to project partners from these countries.

Safeguarding

Your data will be exclusively kept in the Black Sea CONNECT intranet. Any third party cannot access the data. The WP leader (METU), a public university, has provided appropriate safeguards measures for enforceable and effective data subject rights.

Privacy and confidentiality

Your data will be stored in the Black Sea CONNECT intranet tool, a platform that will not allow unauthorized access.

Voluntary nature of the study

Participation in this activity is entirely voluntary. You reserve the right to withdraw your data anytime.

Contact person

If you wish to learn more about the project, please contact the project manager, Pinar Uygurer, Institute of Marine Science of the Middle East Technical University (METU) email: pinaruygurer@ims.metu.edu.tr

If you have any questions regarding the processing of your data, please contact Ibrahim Calisir, Data Protection Officer of Black Sea CONNECT in the directorate of information technologies in METU, email: icalisir@metu.edu.tr

Annex 2: Informed Consent Form

Below you give your consent to voluntarily participate in the Black Sea CONNECT project activity. Read the information in this form carefully and consent with your signature below.

- I understand and approve that Black Sea CONNECT project use photographs, voice and video-recordings from the activity where I appear for communication and teaching purposes, e.g. for publication on social media.

- I have read and understood the information sheet or it has been read to me. I have been given the opportunity and enough time to ask questions about the study and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction

- I understand Black Sea CONNECT is an international project involving both EU and non-EU countries and my personal data will made available to Black Sea CONNECT partners.

- I understand that personal information collected about me, such as my name or where I live, will not be shared beyond the Black Sea CONNECT project.

- I am informed on the process of my data and who to contact if I need more information or withdraw my data.

- I understand that the information I provide will be used for reports, publications, websites and social media, and that the information that I give can be quoted in project outputs.

I have accurately read and fully understood the information given in this form, and I give my consent to participate in the Black Sea CONNECT activity by signing with my name below.

Name of the Participant   Signature   Date

Annex 3. Template for recording communication and dissemination activities

The Consortium members are expected to maintain constant communication with the Coordinator to provide information on their ongoing their dissemination and communication activities. They are required to report their communication activities to METU on a **6-months basis**.

Template for Recording Communication and Dissemination Activities				
Partner Name				
Partner Country				
Communication Tool	**Engagement (likes, shares, comments etc.), if available**	**Estimated number of persons reached**	**Date**	**Link to the content-if available**
	The activities of the Black Sea CONNECT Coordination and Support Action are funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 860055.			

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Annex 4. Communication Checklist

All Consortium members are responsible for dissemination activities at national and European level. This checklist is prepared to guide the partners for enabling efficient communication and dissemination. The list will be available on the intranet tool for the partners' access. It has been designed merely to serve as a reference document summarizing all the important points of DCEP in an easily digestible way. **Partners are not required to fill and report this back to the Coordinator**.

Partners are responsible for providing necessary information from their work to the WP1 leader for the website, policy briefs, e-newsletter, social media, etc.

Partners are also responsible for engaging their communication officers in national efforts to disseminate the produced knowledge, results and processes of Black Sea CONNECT to the target groups at the national level, and where relevant, at the EU level.

Documentation and Photographs	
Have you documented the activity you organized or participated by taking photographs?	☐
Do you make sure to keep the documentations (i.e. attendance list) orderly to be able to find it easily in the project-reporting period?	☐
Do you make sure to get the consent form from the participants stating that they are aware that their photographs could be used in various Black Sea CONNECT SoMe channels?	☐
Do you know that you are expected to fill the template for recording communication and dissemination activities and report it back to METU in every 6 months (Annex 3)?	☐
Visual Identity	
Do you make sure that you use the Black Sea CONNECT logo correct?	☐
Do you know that you have the obligation to use the EU logo with an indication of the Grant Agreement Number when producing any Black Sea CONNECT-related materials?	☐
Do you use the templates provided by the WP leader (METU) in the Communication Toolkit for presentations, documents and Black Sea CONNECT related materials?	☐
Website	
Have you presented Black Sea CONNECT at your institutional website and link to the project website?	☐
Do you maintain and regularly update your own language sub-website or webpages?	☐
Social Media (SoMe)	
Do you follow the Black Sea CONNECT accounts with your organization's Twitter and Facebook accounts and also with your private ones if relevant and if you use them for work-related purposes?	☐
Do you include Black Sea CONNECT project and CONNECT Black Sea initiative-related news and events in your organizations SoMe channels?	☐

Do you use #BlackSeaConnect and #Connect2BlackSea when posting about the project/initiative on your SoMe channels?	☐
Newsletters	
Do you also disseminate regular Black Sea CONNET newsletters to your network?	☐
Do you include Black Sea CONNECT project and CONNECT Black Sea initiative-related news and events in your organization's newsletters?	☐
Mass Media	
Do you target your national news outlets to publish press-releases, events and news related to the Black Sea CONNECT?	☐
Do you involve national media in national level activities whenever possible?	☐
Dissemination to Policymakers	
Do you disseminate Black Sea CONNECT related results, news and events to stakeholders and policy makers at the national level?	☐
Presentations	
Do you target presentation and dissemination opportunities at the national level, and present Black Sea CONNET work and outcomes when relevant?	☐

Annex 5: The partners dissemination channels

Middle East Technical University and METU - Institute of Marine Sciences, Turkey	
Website	www.metu.edu.tr/tr ims.metu.edu.tr/
Facebook	www.facebook.com/MiddleEastTechnicalUniversity www.facebook.com/ims.metu
Twitter	twitter.com/METU_ODTU twitter.com/METU_IMS
LinkedIn	www.linkedin.com/school/orta-doğu-teknik-üniversitesi/ www.linkedin.com/company/institute-of-marine-sciences-metu/
YouTube	www.youtube.com/user/middleastechuniv www.youtube.com/channel/UCKTF8AUrVEP3RLwSjC4Yhiw
Newsletter	kampus.metu.edu.tr/
Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Turkey	
Website	www.bsec-organization.org/
Facebook	www.facebook.com/BSECPERMIS/
Twitter	twitter.com/bsecorg?lang=en
Newsletter	www.bsec-organization.org/news-letter
GEOECOMAR - The National Institute for Research and Development of Marine Geology and Geoecology, Romania	
Website	www.geoecomar.ro/website/en/index.html
Facebook	www.facebook.com/Geoecomar/
Twitter	twitter.com/GeoEcoMar
YouTube	www.youtube.com/channel/UCXryBZBmRi2-4h8LcB4bkww
INCDM - Institutul National de Cercetare-Dezvoltare Marina "Grigore Antipa", Romania Romania	
Website	www.rmri.ro/Home/Home.html?lang=en
Facebook	www.facebook.com/INCDM/
Newsletter	www.rmri.ro/Home/News.html
IO-BAS - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Institute of Oceanology, Bulgaria	
Website	BG: www.io-bas.bg EN: www.io-bas.bg/index_en.html
Newsletter	www.io-bas.bg/index_en.html
TUBITAK - The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Turkey	
Website	www.tubitak.gov.tr/en
Facebook	www.facebook.com/tubitak

Twitter	twitter.com/tubitak
LinkedIn	www.linkedin.com/company/tubitak/
YouTube	www.youtube.com/user/tubitaktv
Newsletter	www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/content_files/iletisim/edergi/index.html

Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer, France	
Website	wwz.ifremer.fr/en
Facebook	www.facebook.com/ifremer.fr/
Twitter	twitter.com/ifremer_fr
LinkedIn	www.linkedin.com/company/ifremer/
YouTube	www.youtube.com/c/ifremertv

HZG - Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht Zentrum für Material- und Küstenforschung GmbH, also representing the German Marine Research Consortium KDM, Germany	
Website	www.hzg.de/index.php.en
Facebook	www.facebook.com/hzg.de/
Twitter	twitter.com/HZG_de
YouTube	www.youtube.com/user/HZGde
Newsletter	www.hzg.de/public_relations_media/news/index.php.en

UkrSCES - Ukrainian scientific Centre of Ecology of Sea, Ukraine	
Website	www.sea.gov.ua/?lang=en
Facebook	www.facebook.com/UkrSCES/
YouTube	www.youtube.com/channel/UCxpxrXdeZv9yCqvxiBB45Zw
Newsletter	www.sea.gov.ua/?lang=en

NWIM RANEPA - North-West Institute of Management of the RANEPA, Russia	
Website	sziu.ranepa.ru/english
Facebook	www.facebook.com/ranepa.sziu
Twitter	twitter.com/sziu_ranepa
LinkedIn	www.linkedin.com/school/российская-академия-народного-хозяйства-и-государc/about/
YouTube	www.youtube.com/c/sziuranepa

SIO-RAS - P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia	
Website	ocean.ru/en/
Facebook	www.facebook.com/pages/Институт-Океанологии-РАН/560434957316213?fref=ts

Twitter	twitter.com/ocean_ru
YouTube	www.youtube.com/channel/UCShIoORWQID9zTL2F8Z4sVw
Newsletter	ocean.ru/en/index.php?option=com_k2&view=itemlist&layout=category&task=category&id=4&Itemid=151
UTS - Tiraspol State University, Moldova	
Website	www.ust.md
Facebook	www.facebook.com/UniversitateadeStatdinTiradpol/
LinkedIn	www.linkedin.com/company/tiraspol-state-univesity/about/
YouTube	www.youtube.com/channel/UCfRoCbf-Q5GOhablUiSvH6Q
TSU - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia	
Website	www.tsu.ge/en/
Facebook	www.facebook.com/TbilisiStateUniversity
LinkedIn	www.linkedin.com/company/ivane-javakhishvili-tbilisi-state-university/
YouTube	www.youtube.com/user/TSUchannel
Newsletter	www.tsu.ge/en/government/administration/departments/pr/news/
BSUN - Secretariat of the Black Sea University Network, Romania	
Website	www.bsun.org/
Facebook	www.facebook.com/BlackSeaUniversitiesNetwork/
Twitter	twitter.com/bsun_ips
LinkedIn	www.linkedin.com/in/bsunips/
YouTube	www.youtube.com/channel/UC5v1YddxoYFKuq6g9S607xQ
Newsletter	bsun.org/pages/news-press.php