



# Black Sea Research Programme



TÜBİTAK

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# Need for a Joint Programme (1)

- There was an extensive mapping exercise in BS-ERA.NET that showed the majority of the programmes in the region are bilateral.
- There are a number of initiatives, projects and programmes targeting the Black Sea region at the multilateral level but there is still a serious gap in this area.
- Success of BS-ERA.NET and ERA.NET-RUS Calls constitute further motive to establish a Research Programme.

## Need for a Joint Programme (2)

- The need for a sustainable multilateral programme is stated within the crucial document, 'BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership', that contains provisions on all major areas of cooperation, including on Science and Technology also. The document states that one of the objectives for the region should be:
  - *Facilitating closer cooperation in the fields of science and technology among the BSEC Member States, the BSEC Related Bodies and with other partners and international organizations in order to **encourage co-funding schemes for formulating and implementing regional research projects.***

- In 2010-11, a Pilot Joint Call for research proposals had been issued and financed by several EU Member States and countries of the Black Sea region under the BS-ERA.NET.
- Considering that fact, the BSRP could be seen as a systematic and improved repetition of this process (regarding the Pilot Joint Call under the BS-ERANET).

# Envisaged BSRP Activities

## **1. Support of Joint Research Projects (based on the experience of the BS-ERA.NET Pilot Joint Call - PJC)**

- In thematic priorities to be defined, along with the rules and regulations agreed by all participants, a joint call can be opened that would enable the researchers in and out of the region to submit joint research projects.

## **2. Capacity Building**

- Capacity building initiatives like workshops, training sessions that would target professionals from the Black Sea region in order to enhance the S&T capacity of the countries.

## **3. Mobility of Researchers**

- Schemes that would promote mobility of researchers among universities / research centers for short/long term periods.

## **4. Innovation**

- SMEs are the backbone of the economy in the Black Sea region that needs great support for further development. Initiatives that would strengthen the links between research and SMEs, as well as public-private partnerships have the potential to foster the research results uptake, the innovation and economic growth in BS.

## **5. Research Infrastructures**

- Strengthening research infrastructures with regional relevance and establishing procedures to promote mutual access to them.

## **6. Monitoring, Foresight, Outreach, Dissemination.**

- Activities that would help information exchange among stakeholders, as well as the formulation of policies in the long run.

## Level of Integration

- The model used in BS-ERA.NET Project - national funding and international evaluation – is a more realistic target rather than a real common pot.

## Stakeholders / Pos

- Should be formed on a variable geometry basis
- The BSRP should include a procedure for the identification and inclusion of additional interested stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the Programme.
- Once the GFP is established, an agreement (i.e. Consortium Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding) will be prepared to describe the basic rules for the cooperation in the implementation of the BSRP.

### Management Structure of BSRP

- The BSRP should be managed by a Steering Board that will include representatives of the Stakeholders.
- The Steering Board would be empowered to take all the decisions regarding the BSRP: the details of the Joint Calls (i.e. thematic fields, duration, budget), launching the Calls, establishing evaluation criteria and selecting evaluators. The final funding decision also would rest in the Steering Board. All the programme evaluation and management will be done by the Board.
- Evaluators for the Call will be selected by the Steering Board, preferably from a database already in place (like the EVAL-INCO that was used in BS-ERA.NET PJC). Another option could be to form a list of possible evaluators from each participating country with the suggestions of the funding organizations.

## Thematic Priorities

- There are different thematic priorities defined at various occasions in the Black Sea Region.
- During the BS-ERA.NET PJC, the decisions on the thematic fields were made taking into consideration the reports prepared and two of the most important fields, namely Energy and Environment were selected. The subtopics under them were selected with the workshops and reports prepared before, by ranking all the sub-topics by each funding party and a consensus was reached according to the results of this ranking process.
- In the priority topics identified for the BSRP, a similar procedure can be followed. There are reports prepared in other occasions in order to identify the sub-topics with a region-need point of view, and such reports can be taken into consideration when the funding parties would decide on the themes of the joint activities under BSRP.



# Features of the Black Sea Research Programme (4)

## Duration

- BSRP should be multiannual allowing for a systematic repetition of the foreseen activities.
- Duration of the BSRP could be set to 4 to 6 years, allowing for few cycles for the planned activities.

## Funding Mechanism and Budget

- Indicative target values for the annual and overall budget of the BSRP should be set from the beginning, based on the experience from the Pilot Joint Call, as well as the characteristics of the budget (common pot, virtual pot, etc.).
- The maximum amount per supported action should be defined, based on the overall available budget and on the type of activities to support. It is suggested that all the funding parties should specify the amount of funds that they could allocate for the joint activities. As the national funding organizations will only fund their national researchers, it is important that the parties stay committed to funding until the end in order to avoid any problems that would endanger activities of researchers and mutual collaboration.

# Implementation of BSRP

- Once a Group of Funding Parties has been formed, the structure of the programme should be decided upon. A possible timeline for BSRP activities would include following stages:
  - Determination of Programme Features
  - Thematic Fields
  - Call
  - Eligibility Check
  - Evaluation
  - Ranking
  - Contracting and funding of projects

Stages	Issues to be Determined	Management	Duration
<b>Determination of programme features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Determining whether it will be Joint Call or other specific measures (i.e. workshops summer schools)</li> <li>- Budgetary information on how much each participating funding organization will contribute</li> <li>- Duration, budget of individual project budgets, eligibility criteria etc.</li> </ul>	Steering Board	1,5 months
<b>Thematic Fields</b>	- Determination of the thematic fields for the Joint Activities.	Steering Board	
<b>Call</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of the Call documents</li> <li>- Opening the Call for Proposals</li> </ul>	Steering Board Joint Call Secretariat	3 months
<b>Eligibility Check</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General eligibility check</li> <li>- National eligibility check</li> </ul>	Joint Call Secretariat Funding Institutions	1 month
<b>Evaluation</b>	- Evaluation of the project proposals according to the criteria specified before	Evaluators Scientific Advisory Board	1,5 months
<b>Ranking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First draft ranking by the evaluators</li> <li>- Ranking by the SAB to be presented to SB</li> </ul>	Evaluators Scientific Advisory Board	0,5 months
<b>Contracting and funding of projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Final decisions on the funded projects</li> <li>- Contracting of the projects</li> </ul>	Steering Board	3 months

**Thank you..**

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