



NEWSLETTER

of BS-ERA.NET Project

Networking on Science and Technology in the Black Sea Region



BS-ERA.NET

HIGHLIGHTS

- **BS-ERA.NET Final Conference**
- **Black Sea Research Programme**
- **EU News**
- **News from the Black Sea Region**

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Towards a joint approach to a sustainable S&T programme in and with the Black Sea Region

BS-ERA.NET is a networking project aimed at integrating the participating countries from the Black Sea extended region in the European Research Area by linking research activities within existing national, bilateral and regional RTD programmes.

The main instrument for such joint activities, projects and programmes in the region is defined by the Black Sea Research Programme as a deliverable of BS-ERA.NET project. The Programme is bringing to EU-Black Sea partnership a useful cooperation tool to be implemented according to the needs of the targeted cooperation.

The overall goal of the Final BS-ERA.NET Conference entitled "*Towards a joint approach to a sustainable S&T programme in and with the Black Sea Region*" is to present a key-turn ready Black Sea Research Programme (BSRP) as well as good practice of its implementation under First Pilot BS-ERA.NET Joint Call to research community, policy makers and stakeholders. Besides, new opportunities for collaborative research in the Black Sea Region will be discussed. The Conference will be held in Bucharest between 11-12 December, 2012.

The conference will provide a field for fruitful and constructive discussions by bringing together experts and decision makers from the extended Black Sea Region and beyond, representatives of the European Commission, International organizations and involved regional initiatives.

Two main sessions will be organized as follow:

The 1st day of the Conference is dedicated to BSRP and PJC funded projects. At this session it is expected to attend the Steering Board members, BS-ERA.NET partners and coordinators of project funding through PJC, stakeholders: decision makers in the field of Research and International Cooperation, organizations interested in cooperation at Black Sea, EU representatives.

The 2nd day is dedicated to the administrative matters of the project and Final Report for EU Commission. At this session it is expected to attend the BS-ERA.NET partners.

Dr. Serban Panaitescu
BS-ERA.NET Coordinator

Conference "From Dialogue to Join Programmes"

Between 10-11 October 2012, the German Federal Ministry of Research (BMBF) organized the conference "From Dialogue to Join Programmes. Achievements and perspectives of stakeholder coordination in Science, Technology and Innovation between EU, Associated countries, Russia and other Eastern European and Central Asian countries."

The conference was hosted by the BMBF and organized in collaboration with the International Bureau of the BMBF (German Aerospace Center DLR), the ERA-NET RUSSIAN and other four projects: BS-ERA.NET, IncoNet, bilateral, RUSSIAN, bilateral-UKR * AINA, funded Framework Program 7 (FP7).

German Federal Ministry of Education and Research is a partner in several EU funded projects dedicated to bilateral cooperation between the EU and EECA CDI.

In this role, he assumed responsibility BMBF promotion of science and innovation in Europe. Therefore invitations were institutions responsible for funding research programs, policy makers and coordinators of projects and programs at national and international impact.

The main objective of this conference was to promote and strengthen bilateral cooperation between EU and EECA countries and creating synergies between programs financed.

Other objectives were:

- Reflection and evaluation of experiences gained so far in the coordination of bilateral and multilateral focusing on ERA-NET and IncoNets;
- Develop scenarios for synergies between programs and initiatives of cooperation;
- Opportunities and limits of coordinated actions;
- Proposing concrete measures for better coordination between actors from politics, science and the private sector.

The second conference organized in the frame of BS-ERA.NET project „New opportunities for collaborative research in the Black Sea Area" aimed to present the results of this project, the Black Sea Research Programme (BSRP), projects funded by Pilot Join Call (monitoring the performance of call, interviews with participants and representatives of the joint secretariat) and identifying ways of developing and implementing BSRP.



Black Sea Research Programme

The development of a "Black Sea Research Programme" constitutes a task and a deliverable of the BS-ERANET project. To implement this task a Task Force has been set-up as a nucleus of the Steering Board of the BS-ERA.NET. The Task Force produced its first draft after its first meeting in Istanbul on 3/11/2010.

After consultation and consolidation by the Task Force members, the draft was presented to the BS-ERANET Steering Board for further improvement.

With the prolongation of the BS-ERA.NET for one more year, it was decided that the draft BSRP should be developed further in order to become more comprehensive. This document constitutes the core of the Black Sea Research Programme, designed for the interested stakeholders in the Black Sea Region and the European Union. It gives the essentials of the programme, nevertheless, as with each Research Programme; it needs funding and thus further elaboration by the funding parties.

BSRP has been designed as a complementing instrument to existing policy documents with specific provisions on:

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

- Capacity Building;
- Mobility of Researchers;
- Innovation;
- Research Infrastructures;
- Monitoring, Foresight, Outreach, Dissemination.

One of the key points in establishment of a Joint Research Programme is the level of integration that the parties wish to establish. Although there are different levels of integration, the most relevant one would be the one used in the Pilot Joint Call of the BS-ERA.NET Project which was based on national funding and international evaluation. Thus, the group of National authorities and institutions that would be ready to contribute to the implementation of the Programme should be considered as Stakeholders or Programme Owners for the BSRP.

The funding mechanism for the BSRP should be based on contributions from interested countries (in EU and in the Black Sea region) and from organizations. Among such organizations we can mention the European Commission and in particular the ERANET+ and the ENP Instruments, but also others such as the World Bank, the UN, Foundations, etc. What is important is to set-up a systematic consultation process that would identify such donors for the core activities of the BSRP.

EC News

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

Enhancing and focusing EU international cooperation in research and innovation: A strategic approach (Brussels, 14.9.2012, COM(2012) 497 final)

This Communication proposes to enhance and focus the Union's international cooperation activities in research and innovation by using the dual approach of openness complemented by targeted international cooperation activities, developed on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit, optimal scale and scope, partnership, and synergy.

Horizon 2020 will be the main instrument for implementing the Union's international research and innovation cooperation actions, complemented where appropriate with national funding.

Targeted activities using the following instruments will implement the multi-annual roadmaps:

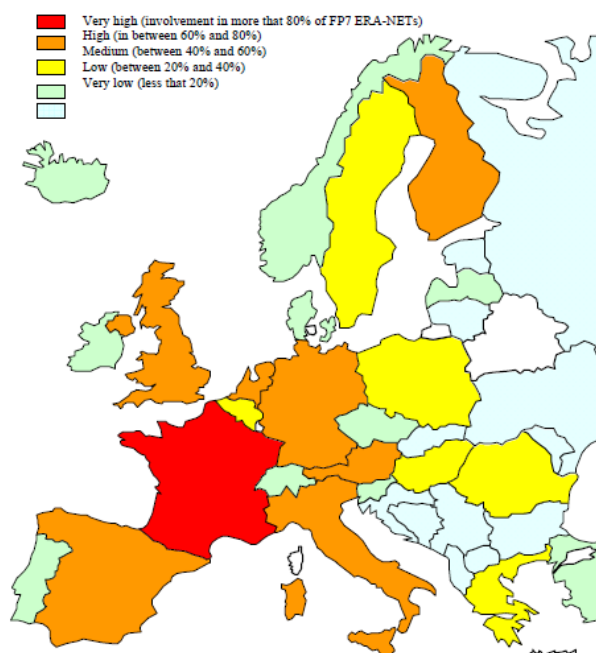
- research and innovation projects where the participation of third country entities is required and/or taken into account during evaluation;
- softer forms of cooperation such as networking between projects, clusters and/or programme managers;
- joint initiatives involving the Union and international partners:
 - coordinated calls: launched and evaluated in parallel in the Union and the third country;
 - joint calls: launched, evaluated, selected and funded jointly by the Union and the third country;
 - contributions from the Union to funding programmes of third countries or international organisations to cover the participation of the Union's entities in those programmes;
 - specific initiatives requiring joint funding from the Union, Member States, Associated Countries, and/or third countries to ensure optimal scale and scope, implemented through ERA-NETs, Article 185 or other instruments.

Fifth FP7 Monitoring Report

FP7 builds on the achievements and good practice of earlier Framework Programmes with a good deal of continuity both at an operational level and in terms of strategic objectives. There are however, a number of novelties which represent a significant change compared to previous Framework Programmes. These novelties were presented in more detail in the First FP7 Monitoring Report.

More detailed: http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/archive/fp7_monitoring_reports/fifth_fp7_monitoring_report.pdf

Figure: Country involvement in ERA-NETs and ERA-NET Plus



News from the Region

A Roadmap for awareness and implementation of energy efficiency and use of RES schemes in the Black Sea knowledge institutions

The Roadmap for awareness and implementation of energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources (RES) addresses "knowledge institutions" in the Black Sea countries that are willing to make a commitment to assess, manage and improve their energy performance, aiming at reducing their conventional energy use, using energy efficiently, introducing the use of renewable energy sources, mitigating the effects of climate change and, thus, saving costs. This roadmap is compiled in the frame of the research project "Green Cluster of Knowledge Institutions of Black Sea: A Roadmap on Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency for Research and Academic Institutions", which is coordinated by the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (Greece) with the participation of TUBITAK Marmara Research Center (Turkey) and National Research University – "Higher School of Economics" (Russia).

This roadmap is a voluntary tool designed with a view to transferring knowledge and know-how to the BSEC Member States from international, European or Black Sea best practices of academic or research centers and consequently to guide them towards implementing simple and soft green practices, in order to become more energy and cost-efficient.

The development of this roadmap was mainly based on:

- The international and European existing manuals and guidelines for the improvement of energy performance of an institution / organization, such as the ISO 14001 manual, the Energy Star guidelines and the Energy Management Audit Scheme (EMAS) toolkit
- The current national legal frameworks of the Black Sea countries participating in the project (Greece, Turkey and Russia) and coordinated efforts of the Black Sea countries to strengthen efficient energy performance (conventions, the outcomes of the Black Sea Economic Organisation's Working Group and Task Force on Energy, etc.) that provide suitable legal and institutional frameworks for the implementation of this Roadmap
- A number of international, European and Black Sea best practices in the sphere of energy efficiency and RES that have been successfully implemented in knowledge institutions.

The full text of the Roadmap can be download from:
<http://www.icbss.org/>

Adoption of the Resolution on UN-BSEC Cooperation by the UN General Assembly

The United Nations 67th General Assembly adopted, by consensus, the Resolution on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, on 19 November 2012, in New York.

In addition to the BSEC Member States, some BSEC Observers, Sectoral Dialogue Partners and other states also co-sponsored the Resolution, including the Czech Republic, France, Israel, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, the United States of America, Japan, Montenegro, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, Estonia, Canada, Belgium, Portugal, Denmark, Norway and Spain.

The Republic of Turkey which holds the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, introduced the Draft Resolution to the General Assembly. H.E. Ambassador Dr. Victor TVIRCUN, Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat, addressed the UN General Assembly in New York on the occasion of the adoption of the Resolution. In his statement, Secretary General H.E. Ambassador Dr. TVIRCUN reviewed some of the most important developments since the adoption of the last UN General Assembly Resolution on UN-BSEC Cooperation in December 2010.

The text of the Resolution and the statement of the BSEC Secretary General can be found at <http://www.bsec-organization.org>

Austria

Black Sea Region Conference Graz, 2012

The Conference took place in Graz, Austria on 9th of November 2012. An objective of the conference are to give new impetus to the continuation of workshops and thematically specified meetings in order to implement concrete projects concerning relevant topics and to call on concrete means of financial support from the European Union. The following topics were discussed:

- Providing background information and contacts concerning the Black Sea region
- Establishing a regional forum for exchange
- Contributing to the Eastern Partnership in the frame of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership programme (ENP)
- Strengthening the regional dimension of already existing federal external relations
- Focussing on already existing Styrian contacts to the black sea region
- Enabling the implementation of concrete projects with the Black Sea region.

Representatives and managers in areas like research, education, business, culture and administration, stakeholders concerned with the Black Sea region, the network of partner regions of the Land Steiermark as well as Members of the civil society interested in the Black Sea region were invited for this Conference.

Source: <http://www.europa.steiermark.at>

Greece

Workshop on "Black Sea Knowledge Institutions Turn Green"

On October 16, 2012, the ICBSS organised a Workshop on "Black Sea Knowledge Institutions Turn Green". The Workshop was organised within the framework of the research project "Green Cluster of Knowledge Institutions of the Black Sea: A Roadmap on Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency for Research and Academic Institutions", which is co-funded by the BSEC-Hellenic Development Fund (HDF) and coordinated by the ICBSS, aiming at transferring know-how and at enhancing capacity building and cooperation linkages in the fields of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources to research and academic institutions of the Black Sea countries and beyond.

The Workshop aimed at further promoting the project's outcomes and for this purpose, it successfully brought together representatives from the academic and research communities as well as, from the public and private sector.

The establishment of a Network of "Green Cluster of Black Sea Knowledge Institutions", that constitutes the flagship of the project, is committed to support regional partnership; to address the key energy challenges; to disseminate the project's outcomes and to promote the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency practices in the Black Sea area.

More information at: <http://www.icbss.org/>

Italy

Annual congress of the Italian Association for Central Asian and Caucasian studies

The annual congress of ASIAC was held on 22th and 23th of November 2012 in Ravenna (Italy). The Italian Association for Central Asian and Caucasian studies (ASIAC) is promoting the cultural and scientific knowledge exchanges and collaboration relations between Italy and the countries from the Central Asian and Caucasian region. Its members are mainly universities and other cultural institutions and it supports meetings between scholars and coordinates various research activities. ASIAC targets also industry representatives or humanitarian organisations, which have their activities in the Central Asian and Caucasian region, as well as ministries and other government entities involved in diplomatic and political initiatives, and representatives of the press.

The 2012 annual congress of ASIAC was subdivided into two days. The first day has a monographic character dedicated to the theme "The conservation of the cultural heritage between Caucasus and Central Asia". The second day had a multidisciplinary character, presenting the

research initiatives in Italy targeting the Caucasian and Central Asian region.

The Black Sea Research Programme and the results of the first Pilot Join Call of the BS.ERA-NET project were presented during the annual congress of ASIAC by dr. Giuseppe Maino from ENEA.

More information about ASIAC and its annual conference can be found at <http://asiacnet.wordpress.com/>.

Moldova

Annual Conference of the Joint Operational Programme "Black Sea Basin 2007-2013" and European Cooperation Day

The Annual Conference of the Joint Operational Programme "Black Sea Basin 2007-2013" was held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova on 18-19 September 2012. Around 150 participants were present at the conference from 8 programme countries (Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine). The conference gathered representatives of the European Commission, local, regional and national authorities, non-governmental organisations, project beneficiaries/partners, consultancy and research organisations from the EU member/candidate states and partner countries.

The conference involved interactive discussions on the current status and future of European Neighbourhood Instrument, cross-border cooperation and the Programme. In addition, with the contents touched upon and profiles of the participants, the conference served as a useful platform to draw a general picture of cooperation and exchange of ideas to enhance and harmonize cooperation efforts. Therefore it resulted in positive outcomes not only for the Programme but also for the Black Sea Basin in general.

Details at: <http://www.blacksea-cbc.net>

OSCE supports environmental conference on Black Sea region in Tiraspol

A two-day international conference on environmental challenges in the Northern Black Sea region took place on 9-10 September Tiraspol, Moldova. The conference is organized by Transdniestrian regional authorities, academic institutions and NGOs, with the support of the OSCE Mission to Moldova. The conference, "Geo-Ecological and Bio-Ecological Challenges of the Northern Black Sea Region," brings together experts from the region to discuss sustainable management of natural resources and the environment in conditions of climatic change. Over 90 experts and NGO representatives from the Northern Black Sea

region, including experts from both banks of the Dniester/Nistru river, Romania, Russia and Ukraine will attend the event. The conference proceedings will be published in a book and made available online.

More at: <http://www.osce.org/moldova>

Ukraine

The Third International Black Sea Economic Forum

The Black Sea Economic Forum is a high-level continuous platform for dialogue among leading government and business stakeholders of the Black Sea region organized under the auspices of President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich by the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The Forum contributes to investment attractiveness, economic growth and competitiveness of the Black Sea region overall and Crimea in particular.

Hosted by the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the III International Black Sea Economic Forum took place on October 4-5, 2012 in Yalta, Ukraine. This year the forum proposed participants together to discuss projects and actions aimed at increasing the level of competitiveness of the Black Sea Region. As a regular high-level platform for dialogue among the leading government and business stakeholders, and international experts, the Forum was as usual provide a great opportunity to discuss crucial questions of regional economic development, the creation of effective partnerships, and the further promotion of innovative solutions in the Black Sea Region.

Source: www.Blackseaforum.com.ua

EURO VILLAGE INITIATIVE

The EU Delegation to Ukraine has launched an initiative "European Village – Our Continent. Our Future" in Kiev, Ukraine in parallel with the EURO 2012 Football Championship during the period 2 June – 1 July. The initiative aimed at showing cooperation between the EU and Ukraine and the CBC programmes involving Ukraine, were invited to showcase projects and initiatives involving Ukrainian regions.

In order to ensure visibility of the Programme and projects, the JMA and the JTS coordinated participation of the projects and organised participation of the Programme at this initiative.

The initiative comprised 11 themes and under each theme specific events took place at different times throughout June, namely thematic conferences, round table meetings, visibility at the temporary and permanent exhibition tents.

Details at: <http://eurovillage2012.org>

Upcoming Events

2013 Black Sea and Caspian Energy Conference

The conference presents a unique forum for discussion on investment opportunities in the oil and gas sector of the Black Sea and Caspian (BSC) region. This conference stands out from many other conferences that cover geological and engineering aspects of the region, by focusing on the investment and business opportunities. The aim is to provide leading international organisations, financial institutions, national and international oil and gas companies and regulators with practical solutions to address existing challenges and form successful business partnerships in the region.

The main topics:

- Role of the BSC region in the energy security of Europe
- Investment opportunities: responses to energy security challenges
- Challenges and their responses to investing in Unconventional Energy Sources in BSC
- Practical steps for creating favourable investment climate
- Practical steps for attracting foreign investment

The conference will take place in London on 14 February, 2013.

Details at: <http://www.blackseandcaspian.com>

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