

Project number 226160 – BS-ERA.NET

## BS - ERA.NET

### Networking on Science and Technology in the Black Sea Region

Instrument: Coordination and Support Actions (Coordinating type)

#### ***Deliverable 1.1***

#### **Web-based information tool linked to other regional**

Due date of deliverable: month 5

Actual submission date: month 5

Start date of project: 1 January 2009

Duration: 3 years

**Lead beneficiary for this deliverable: DLR**

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**Dissemination Level: PU**

**PU** = Public

**PP** = Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services).

**RE** = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services).

**CO** = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services).

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## **1. Executive Summary:**

This document dedicated to D1.1 contains a brief description of the formation and structure of the web portal. Furthermore, it offers information about the links to other regional initiatives and the database of the R&D programmes.

### **1 Introduction:**

The nature of D1.1 is a web based portal containing information about the BS ERA.Net project and the involved partner on one hand and information and web-links to other regional RD initiatives, organisations and news, on the other hand. This deliverable is highly linked to tasks in WP5 -Communication and Dissemination activities and the technical realisation but also contents of the website were managed here.

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The aim of the project web portal is to serve as a single point of access to information on R&D-related activities in the Black Sea Region (BSR), to joint activities EU-MS/AC and BSR countries and to S&T-related developments at European level targeting the BSR. One further goal is to involve external activities and cooperation experiences gathered by third parties into own work flow of the BS ERA.NET information & communication tools (website, web portal, and newsletter). Another objective is to identify synergies and benefits the BS-ERA.NET project could provide for other coordination and support activities targeting BS-ERA countries, with the overall aim to organize and to develop closer interactions and synergies among ongoing EU-financed coordination and support activities targeting the BSR on behalf of a higher efficiency and optimized efforts.

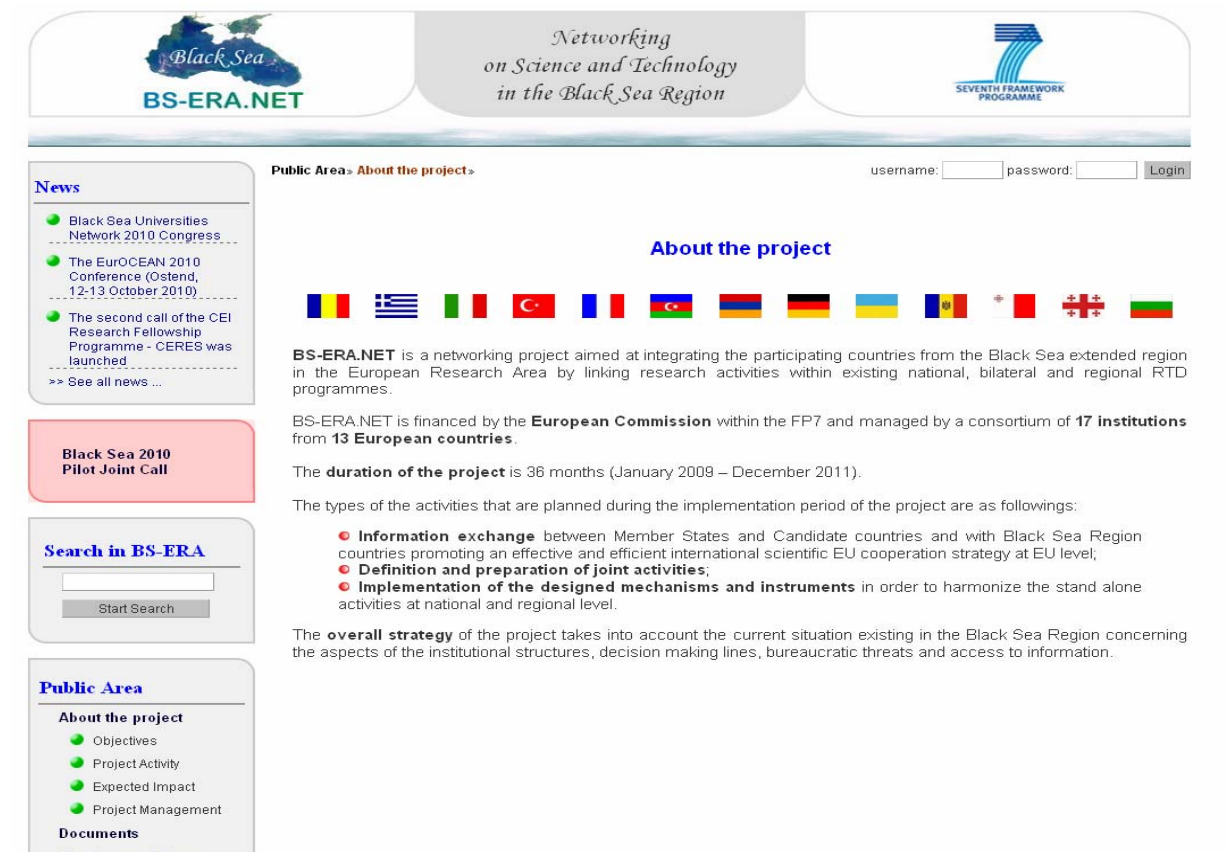
Information on regional activities as being the core objective of WP1 were obtained by collection of questionnaires separately dedicated to BS ERA.Net project partner and external organisations like Ministries and Programme owner and programme management agencies. Those information's are in detail described in the deliverables D1.2 – D1.4.

## 2 Web-based information tool to other regional initiatives

The web portal of the BS ERA.NET can be accessed at <http://www.bs-era.net/> and is separated in a public and internal area. Information for D1.1 are accommodated in the public area and organised as listed below:

- Information about the BS ERA.NET project and objectives
- Information about Project Partners and Contact Points Network
- Project Activity
- Documents for public use
- Meetings and Events of the BS ERA.NET
- Press & Media
- BS Region Initiatives
- R&D Programme Database
- Further Links

A more detailed plan dedicated to the project web portal functionalities is available within the Deliverable 5.1. A screenshot of the web portal is given in picture 1.



**Picture 1: Screenshot of the web portal**

In addition a during project lifetime permanently updated section and in accordance with the BS new initiatives is a link to other regional initiatives is found under “Links”.

#### **Black Sea Research Network**

The Black Sea Research Network (BSRN) is an action-focused and multidisciplinary network of policy-oriented research institutes that develop research programmes on issues of importance to the political, social and economic development of the Black Sea region. It represents an innovative attempt to structure and coordinate a network of research institutes (and researchers) focusing on the wider Black Sea region.  
[http://icbss.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=20&Itemid=34](http://icbss.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20&Itemid=34)

#### **Black Sea Universities Network**

The Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN) has been established based on the recommendation of the PABSEC Cultural, Education and Social Affairs Committee during the session held in Bucharest in August 1997. The BSUN was founded for the purpose of developing educational, scientific, and cultural cooperation and exchanges among the Universities of the BSEC Member States and other institutions with similar concern.  
[www.bsun.org](http://www.bsun.org)

#### **ICBSS**

The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) was founded in 1998 as a non-profit organisation. It has since fulfilled a dual function. On the one hand, it is an independent research and training institution focusing on the wider Black Sea region. On the other hand, it is a related body of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and serves as its acknowledged think-tank.  
<http://www.icbss.org/>

#### **Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation**

The Black Sea Trust will fund programs that strengthen cross-border ties, civic participation, democratic governance, and the rule of law in the wider Black Sea region. The broad goals of the Black Sea Trust include building trust among citizens in their public institutions and to strengthen this critical set of institutions; affirming the value of citizen participation in the democratic process; and fostering regional, cross-border ties in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.  
[www.gmfus.org/blacksea](http://www.gmfus.org/blacksea)

#### **Commission on the Black Sea**

The Commission on the Black Sea is a civil society initiative developed and launched jointly in 2009 by the Bertelsmann Stiftung, the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation, the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV), and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS).  
[www.blackseacom.eu](http://www.blackseacom.eu)

#### **Towards Integrated Marine Research Strategy and Programmes (SEAS- ERA)**

SEAS-ERA, as an overarching marine FP7 ERA-NET, is of strategic importance for the European Research Area. Several European strategic fora (e.g. ESFRI) and European Commissions Communications (e.g. Communication on Joint programming 2008) have emphasised marine research as a field where major synergistic benefits can be reached by improving the coordination of research and infrastructure investments. SEAS-ERA overall objective is to facilitate the establishment of a stable and durable structure for strengthening marine research across the European Sea Basins. To do so the project brings together 20 major European Marine Research Funding Organisations from 20 countries in the basin regions of the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, and the Marine Board-ESF.  
 Projects website: under construction

#### **Black Sea Economic Cooperation**

The BSEC came into existence as a unique and promising model of multilateral political and economic initiative aimed at fostering interaction and harmony among the Member States, as well as to ensure peace, stability and prosperity encouraging friendly and good-neighbourly relations in the Black Sea region.  
<http://www.bsec-organization.org/Pages/homepage.aspx>

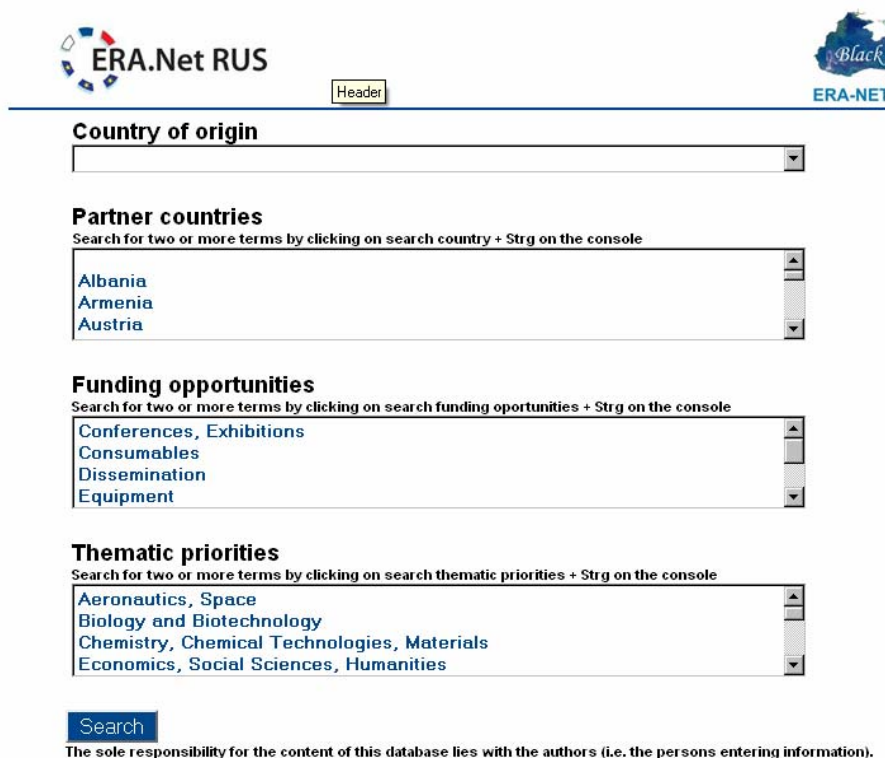
#### **The Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution**

The Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (the Black Sea Commission or BSC) via its Permanent Secretariat is the intergovernmental body established in implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention), its Protocols and the Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea.  
<http://www.blacksea-commission.org/main.htm>

**Picture 2: Screen shot of the “Black Sea region- links to other initiatives” web page.**

### 3 Database of R&D programmes

Through the BS-ERANET and the ERA.NET RUS fact sheets for existing R&D programmes in the BS region have been collected. This information were assembled to full fill Deliverable 1.2 but are additionally used to inform scientist about existing funding opportunities. Based on these fact sheets a searchable database was implemented and is available through the BS ERA.Net website (picture 3). The programme fact sheets contain basic information about the programmes and a link to the websites and contact persons of the programme owners.



The screenshot shows the ERA.Net RUS website interface. At the top, there is a header with the ERA.Net RUS logo, a 'Header' button, and the Black Sea BS-ERA.NET logo. Below the header, there are four main sections for filtering search results:

- Country of origin:** A dropdown menu.
- Partner countries:** A search box with the instruction 'Search for two or more terms by clicking on search country + Strg on the console'. The results list: Albania, Armenia, Austria.
- Funding opportunities:** A search box with the instruction 'Search for two or more terms by clicking on search funding opportunities + Strg on the console'. The results list: Conferences, Exhibitions, Consumables, Dissemination, Equipment.
- Thematic priorities:** A search box with the instruction 'Search for two or more terms by clicking on search thematic priorities + Strg on the console'. The results list: Aeronautics, Space, Biology and Biotechnology, Chemistry, Chemical Technologies, Materials, Economics, Social Sciences, Humanities.

At the bottom of these sections is a blue 'Search' button. Below the button, a disclaimer states: 'The sole responsibility for the content of this database lies with the authors (i.e. the persons entering information).'

**Picture 3: Searchable database for RD programmes**

### 4 Conclusions

The Web Portal serves as a major dissemination tool for scientific activities and cooperation possibilities into/within BS Countries. The user target group complains the general public, which is interested in R&D cooperation with this region as well as the project partners. Due to the support of the regional correspondents the web portal popularizes comprehensive information at first hand.