



2020 Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS ONLINE CONFERENCE

Thursday 10 December 2020 (10:00 – 13:30 EET)





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Agenda

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|----------------------|---|
| 10.30 – 10.40 | Welcome addresses - Bulgarian Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications |
| 10.40 – 10.50 | Key message - DG MARE Director-General |
| 10.50 – 11.00 | Key note speech - BSEC Permis Secretary General |
| 11.00 – 11.20 | Plenary session 1: CMA: challenges and opportunities for a sustainable and resilient blue economy across the Black Sea |
| 11.20– 11.25 | Introduction to the parallel sessions
<i>Reconnecting stakeholders and project ideas in the Black Sea</i> |
| 11.30 - 12.30 | Three parallel thematic sessions: Refreshing project ideas and stepping them up to the CMA |
| 12.40 - 13.00 | Plenary session 2: Wrap-up of parallel workshops: stakeholders' reflections on project ideas |
| 13.00 – 13.25 | Plenary session 3: Investment opportunities in the Black Sea |
| 13.20 – 13.30 | Final conclusions: Bulgarian Coordination |



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Key outcomes
Plenary session 1

**CMA: challenges and opportunities for a sustainable
and resilient blue economy across the Black Sea**



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- Build upon COVID recovery as an opportunity to boost longer-term resilience and full sustainability
- Confirmation to support the three sectors (coastal tourism, maritime transport, fisheries & aquaculture) for a more sustainable and resilient blue economy
- Strong coordination is requested for an effective and efficient implementation
- Need to engage all the stakeholders at regional, national and local levels in the CMA implementation
- Importance to set public private partnerships and to support SMEs
- New opportunities for research and innovation with the SRIA (R&D CMA pillar) and its action Plan
- Need to be operational and closed to the ground by defining and implementing projects supporting the CMA with a coordinated support of the Black Sea Assistance Mechanism and Black Sea Connect



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Parallel sessions



What was the approach proposed for the panel sessions?

The panels discussed some **potential project ideas**, to identify elements that can be retained in order to develop future blue economy flagship projects.

It also aimed to **renew the engagement with regional stakeholders** to support the implementation of the CMA and its goals/priorities.

Building on previous project pipelines, the session discussed elements that can be retained in order to **develop future flagship projects** through the support of the Black Sea Assistance Mechanism (BSAM).



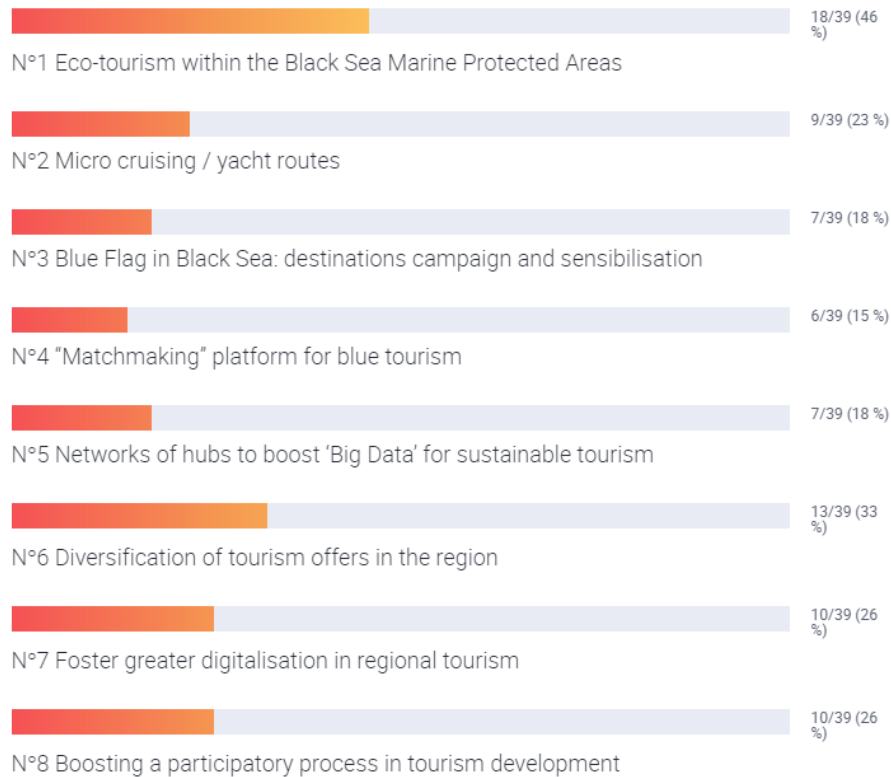


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Results of voting: Parallel Session 1 (Maritime and Coastal Tourism)

1 please select the 3 preferred project ideas for coastal and maritime tourism for the Black Sea *Multiple choice type*



Eco-tourism within the Black Sea Marine Protected Areas

Project to promote the establishment of ecological and natural heritage routes among the Black Sea Marine Protected Areas considering integrated coastal zone management.

Diversification of tourism offers in the region

Promote new services and products, towards the deseasonalisation of coastal and maritime touristic offer, support of youth tourism, combined with culture and natural heritage tourism, as well as cultural virtual diving heritage

Foster greater digitalisation in regional tourism

Support greater uptake of digital technologies and services, including through greater available and organised data at local level to adapt strategies to effective needs of coastal and maritime areas. Also foster potentials for boosting alternative tourism experiences through interactive maps and big data (to plan trips, etc)

Strong need to develop resilience and sustainable tourism



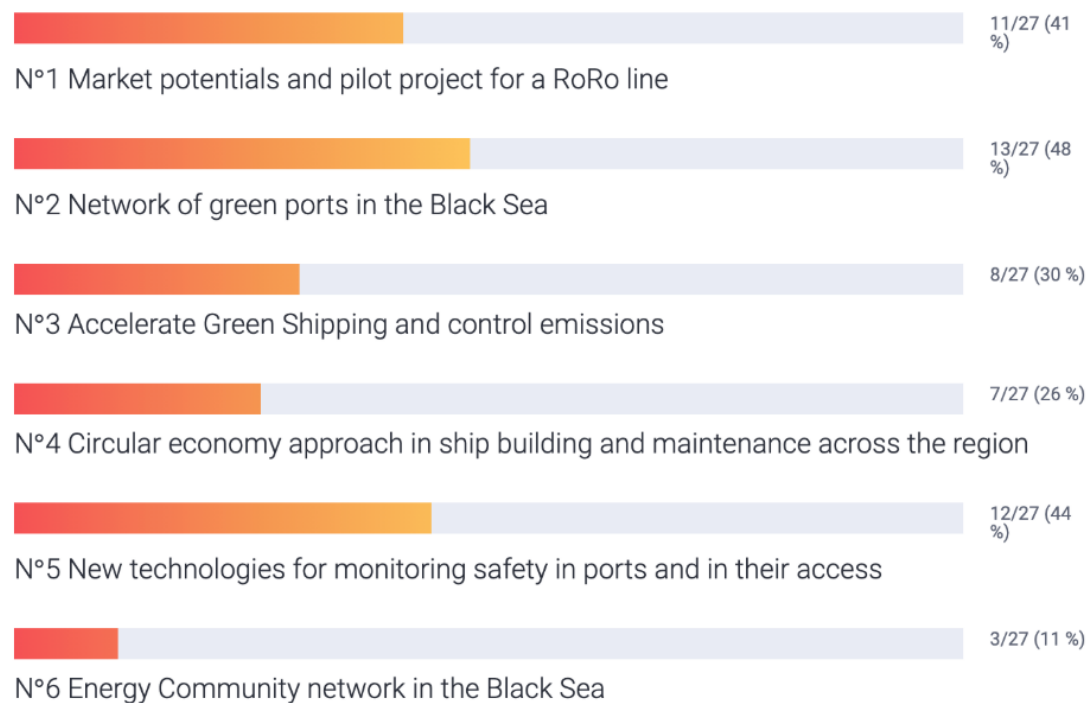
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Results of voting: Parallel Session 2 (Maritime Transport and Ports)

1

please select the 3 preferred project ideas for maritime transport and ports in the Black Sea **Multiple choice type**



Network of green ports in the Black Sea

Set-up of a network to boost local green ports, through pilot initiatives: Improving technologies for the quality of wastewater treatment and ship hulls (to reduce invasive species in ballast waters); Fostering alternative sources of propulsion, towards fully sustainable energy/fuel sources and local systems that meets high standards.

New technologies for monitoring safety in ports and in their access

Foster uptake of digitalisation and maritime high-techs devices in ports for water/air/environment quality as well as safety issues monitoring of through pilot demonstration actions.

Sup of a pilot in selected ports across the region, with the long-term view of setting up a network of digitalised ports in the Black Sea.

Market potentials and pilot project for a RoRo line

Set up a pilot project for a cross-border Ro-Ro in the region (possibly without any investment in new infrastructures). Based on a market study :

- Scoping study of Ro-Ro market potential in the Black Sea, with EU and Asia (e.g. cargo, destination, volume, etc.) and infrastructures.
- Feasibility study for the economic relevance of setting up Motorways of the Sea (MOS) in the Black Sea
- Definition a Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) for MOS in the Black Sea

Strong need to develop digitalisation for the trade and the environment



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Parallel Session 3 fisheries and aquaculture

- Projects to be defined in coordination with GFCM on going actions in the Black Sea to support the CMA implementation in particular Goal1/priority 3, to **“support sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Black Sea”**:
- GFCM is implementing several actions identified at Istanbul regional conference (2019)
- Anyway, the following projects ideas/needs were discussed during the panel
 - Aquaculture
 - For the socio economic dimension :
 - need to explore initiatives to develop product marketing/ access to market
 - need to enhance the dialogue between the sector and the authorities for level playing field (regulation) in the region
 - For the environmental dimension
 - Need to identify and monitor the aquaculture production pressures
 - Fisheries
 - For the socio economic dimension :
 - better understanding of the characteristics and needs of small scale fisheries
 - For the environmental dimension
 - better understanding of marine plastics pollution with a strong linkage with research



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Key outcomes
Plenary session 3

Investment opportunities in the Black Sea

Strong alignment to support the CMA implementation



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In the frame of the next multi annual EU program 2021/2017

- **DG NEAR**

- Capitalization on previous actions
 - Environment monitoring/protection :EMBLAS Project
 - local economic development: Municipal financing (Eastern partnership) EFP
- invest in the private sector to create sustainable jobs in particular for COVID 19 recovery (EFSP) with focus on the health system/healthy society/healthy people

- **DG RTD**

- Capitalization on previous actions (H2020) by using
 - Horizon results platform
 - Innovation radar
 - Research booster
- SRIA & Implementation plan (2021) and Black Sea Connect support
- Horizon Europe, 2021-2027, to boost scientific, economic and societal impact of EU funding, increasing prosperity and well-being of Europeans in particular under
 - Cluster 6 on **'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'**
 - Cluster 2 **Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society**
 - Cluster 4 **Digital, Industry and Space**
- European Partnership for a climate-neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy
- Co-Programmed Partnership Waterborne



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- Black Sea CBC program (funded by EU ENI)
 - Capitalization on the best practices and lessons learnt (period 2014-2020)
 - To identify stakeholders and develop future partnerships to support CMA implementation
- Interreg NEXT (Neighbourhood External) Black Sea Basin Programme 2021-2027
 - Eligible participating countries of the new Programme: Armenia, **Bulgaria**, Georgia, Greece, **Republic of Moldova**, **Romania**, **Russian Federation**, **Turkey** and **Ukraine**.
 - 80% to support the macroregion strategy and therefore the CMA
 - Since the beginning of the definition of the programming period , actors' consultation starting in January 2021 (objectives definition) to be followed by other at national and seabasin levels
 - Opportunity for stakeholders to be actors of the definition



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World Bank

- **Blueing the Black Sea (BBSEA) Program,**
 - to foster synergies amongst various national investments projects, trust-funds and partnerships
 - Long-term program objective to improve environmental health of the Black Sea and increase social and economic benefits for the population
 - the Pillar 1 “Save the Sea” aiming at reducing pollution in the Black Sea” by supporting individual countries diagnostic on pollution and synthesize the results in a regional report (PROBLUE) GEF Grant in the amount of USD 6.4M\$
 - Support at regional level in closed liaison with BSEC and BSC
- **On going and future support at national level in line CMA goals**
 - Russia & Bulgaria : Blue economy consent to develop synergies between sectors
 - Georgia & Ukraine : national action plan for climate change adaptation on coastal zones
 - Romania : 48M\$ loan to reduce nutrients water release in 2027 (to be replicated in Moldova)
 - Turkey : under preparation supporting program for livelihood security, climate change resilience on Black Sea costal zones up to 500 M\$ (EBRD loan)



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Short analysis of the event

- **Attendance: very good response and sustained involvement until the end**
 - **230** persons registered
 - Up to **160** persons attended at the same time in plenary and around **40** attendees in the three parallel sessions
 - Good **involvement and exchanges** during parallel sessions
- **Online activity: good dissemination of #CMA objectives on social media**
 - **Twitter:** 60 retweets, engagement rate of 2.0% for the day (good result 😊)
 - **Institutional accounts: MARE, GFCM, BSEC, BBSC** communicated about key messages during the event, with dedicated content (example of [DG MARE video for Bulgarian fisheries](#))
 - **An audience to engage with:** Young Black Sea Ambassadors, disseminators of a positive and motivational message – important when it comes to results dissemination.

Followers
623 ↑39



Profile visits
677 ↑155.5%





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Conclusions



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- The event marked an **important milestone** in the engagement of stakeholders in the process of implementing the CMA.
- It **recalled implemented actions or recently launched** (eg. BSC VKC, GFCM, EU funded projects)
- It **(re)launched the process of identification of flagship projects** by capitalizing on the work done and including the Post COVID-19 crisis recovery in three sectors (Maritime transport, Tourism, Fisheries and Aquaculture)
- It confirmed:
 - ✓ the **relevance of digitalisation** as a transversal axis of development/improvement for all 3 sectors (eg. for regulation (fisheries) or safety (shipping) or promotion (tourism));
 - ✓ the **need to recover the good environmental status** of marine ecosystem by reducing pollution, in particular marine litter in line with the BSC;
 - ✓ the **willingness and readiness** of the stakeholders to develop regional projects.
- The event was an opportunity to recall a **large range of upcoming funding opportunities** (DG RTD, DG NEAR, INTERREG CBC, World Bank) to support the CMA goals via cooperation within flagship projects.