



EU supports better cooperation
in the Black Sea region

Sustainability in the Black Sea regional cooperation: Advancing the Black Sea Synergy and the European Green Deal

Sustainable Blue Economy

16 November 2020, 15:00-16:00

This thematic session will focus on Sustainable Blue Economy and is jointly organised by DG MARE and DG RTD. Four EU-funded projects related to this theme in connection with the Green Deal will be presented. More specifically, the session will discuss issues related to regional initiatives that support the sustainable development of blue economy as a horizontal cross sector priority, sustainable tourism initiatives, research and innovation, and biodiversity in the Black Sea Region. Speakers and presenters will address various questions, such as: What is the project doing and where? How is the project doing it? How is it cooperating with similar complementary projects? Is the project seeking for synergies with the main regional actors/networks/institutions? What is the role of the EU? What are the outcomes? What is planned in the near future? Which are the options to ensure the continuation of the activities after the end of the project? Following these initial presentations, a debate will be opened with the wider audience, with a question/answer session and a forward-looking discussion.

The session will be moderated by Ms. Angela Grămadă, Project Manager "Building CSO Capacity for Regional Cooperation within the Black Sea Region", FOND, Romania.

15:00-15:05: Introduction

- Moderator introduces technical aspects as well as topic 'Sustainable Blue Economy'.

15:05-15:25: Presentation Projects

- ***Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea***. Mr. Frédéric Herpers, Team leader of the Black Sea Assistance Mechanism, Stratégies Mer et Littoral, France;
- ***Black Sea CONNECT***. Mr. Mustafa Yücel, Associate Professor and Vice Director Institute of Marine Sciences, Middle East Technical University, Turkey;
- ***Tourism 4.0 for the Black Sea (T4BS)***. Ms. Urska Starc Peceny, Chief Innovation Officer and Lead of Tourism 4.0 Department at Arctur, Slovenia, and Mr. Mamuka Berdzenishvili, Tourism Institute, Georgia;
- ***Ponto Caspian Rise and Demise (PRIDE)***. Mr. Frank Wesselingh, Senior Researcher Marine Biodiversity of Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, the Netherlands.

15:25-15:50: Discussion

- Debate on gaps, opportunities, lessons learned and next steps.

15:50-15:55: Concluding Remarks

- Conclusion by moderator, including identification of main outcomes.