



FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS OF IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT OF CMA AND SRIA IN UKRAINE

Wednesday, 3 March 2021

The first Ukrainian national event, Financial Instruments of Implementation Support of CMA and SRIA in Ukraine, took place in a digital format (online) on 3 March 2021.

The event brought together stakeholders from Ukraine and Europe to explore the services provided by the BSAM (central team and in particular its NH) to support the engagement of national stakeholders in the EU funding calls or in project development.

Initiated by the national hub of the Black Sea Assistance Mechanism, the national event aimed to raise awareness of the opportunities presented by the blue economy in the Black Sea region for the upcoming EU funding possibilities. These funding possibilities could enable Ukraine to support their commitment to the CMA implementation at national and regional level thanks to cooperation such as with the World Bank (i.e., BBSEA).

The event also provided the opportunity for sharing best practices and lessons learnt from national stakeholders in previous bidding for EU calls.

Approximately **90 participants** from the following countries attended the event: Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Netherlands, Romania, Turkey, and Ukraine.

A post-event survey was conducted which showed a great level of interest from the participants in the EU funding opportunities. Around half of the participants mentioned the difficulties in applying and submitting proposals for getting access to international funding. They confirmed that the event provided them with useful information for the upcoming EU funding opportunities for Ukraine.

The event objectives were:

- to provide an **overall view of the tools and assistance available in Ukraine** for the effective implementation of the Common Maritime Agenda and its research & innovation Pillar (SRIA) for a healthy and sustainable blue economy;
- to **share issues and best practices on EU funding calls**;
- to **provide practical guidance** to the various stakeholders in the Ukrainian blue economy (authorities, universities, SMEs, CSOs, etc): what's in it for them, what are the specific requirements to be eligible and what they have to gain from future financing streams.

To achieve such objectives, the event was structured around two sets of questions:

- In the first part, the **instrument of financial support to Ukrainian projects** was presented, where BSAM, in particular thanks to its NHs, can guide stakeholders through concrete opportunities to develop projects at national level that support the CMA.
- In a second group of questions/exchanges, the representatives of key Ukrainian stakeholders shared their **views and experiences in EU-funded projects**, as well as their own project ideas.

During the event, a large range of participants were involved, including representatives of NGOs, academia, public authorities, and business.

As a result, it was possible to identify that many stakeholders in Ukraine have already had experience with EU instrument participations, or are ready for such activities.

Nevertheless, the event highlighted some issues with the national legislation with regard to efficient access and use of these opportunities by Ukrainian stakeholders. These issues are the prerogatives of Ukrainian public authorities.

The results of the event can be summarised as follows:

- ✓ **It succeeded in opening the discussion on specific financing opportunities and challenges;**
 - it provided the audience with an understanding of mechanisms for attracting monetary funds or finding new opportunities for financial support;
 - it provided an opportunity for engagement with the Ukrainian blue community for the implementation of the CMA and SRIA at national level;
 - it presented the new Black Sea Assistance Mechanism ensuring that the Ukraine NH be identified as the contact point for national stakeholders regarding the CMA implementation, with the promotion of the services provided by the BSAM (central team and in particular its NH) and CONNECT.
- ✓ **It is the starting point for continuous engagement of national stakeholders in EU funding calls or in project development.**

EVENT AGENDA

10.15 – 10.30 Virtual meeting opening

10.30 – 10.50 Welcome speeches from representatives of the EU and national authorities

Moderator: Frédérick Herpers (BSAM)

- Vasyl Bodnar - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Patrizia Busolini - EC DG MARE or EU Delegation in Ukraine
- Rostyslav Tomenchuk - Director General of the Directorate of Coordination of the International Technical Support of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
- Yulia Bezvershenko - Director General of the Directorate of Science and Innovation - Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

10.50 – 11.30 The instruments of implementation support of CMA connected projects: today and tomorrow

Moderator: Frédérick Herpers (BSAM)

- Frédérick Herpers – BSAM Central Team - *Brief introduction of the Black Sea Assistance Mechanism (BSAM) and the services for CMA implementation (monitoring/project development support)*
- Patrizia Busolini - EC DG MARE - *Overview of EU funding opportunities ahead*
- Thanos Smanis - BSAM Central Team - *Overview of different streams and further insights on BSAM and BS VKC websites*
- Mustafa Yucel - CONNECT Black Sea Central Team - *Overall opportunities from SRIA*
- Ana Gheorghe - Managing Authority (MA) for the Interreg Black Sea Basin Programme, hosted by the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration located in Romania) - *Overall opportunities of the programme*
- Oksana Rakovych – World Bank - *Blueing the Black Sea, zoom-in on overall opportunities of the programme*

11.30 – 11.45 Virtual coffee break

11.45 – 13.15 Peer-to-peer practical exchange: concrete funding opportunities and challenges for Ukrainian stakeholders (Academia, NGOs, SMEs, etc.)

Moderator: Dmytro Cheberkus and Matteo Bocci (BSAM)

- Overall challenges and opportunities - Victor Komorin, Director of Ukrainian Scientific Center of Ecology of the Sea, Ukraine
- Academia - Adrian Stanica, National Institute for Research and Development of Marine Geology and Geoecology, Romania
- NGOs - Igor Studennikov, Executive Director of the NGO “Center of Regional Studies”, Ukraine.
- SMEs - Paul & Natasha Goriup, Salix Ltd, Ukraine ▪ Clusters - Tetiana Maievskaya & Yuriy Rud, Ukraine's Fishing Cluster of Innovations
- Academia - Valerii Khokhlov, Odesa State Environmental University
- Port Authorities - Dmytro Iakymenko, Administration of Sea Ports, Ukraine.

13.45 -14.00 Conclusions

Dmytro Cheberkus with Pavlo Syltanskyi – Ambassador at large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.