

Partner organisations

- Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission (BSC-PS) – international
- National Environmental Agency „Black Sea Monitoring Center“ (NEA) – Georgia
- Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU) – Georgia
- P. P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology Russian Academy of Sciences (SIO-RAS) – Russia
- State Oceanographic Institute (SOI) – Russia
- Marine Hydrophysical Institute (MHI) – Ukraine
- Odessa National I. I. Mechnikov University (ONU) – Ukraine
- Ukrainian Scientific Center of Ecology of the Sea (UkrSCES) – Ukraine
- A.O. Kovalevskiy Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IBSS) – Ukraine
- Odessa branch, Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (OB-IBSS) – Ukraine



Partner projects

- EPIRB (<http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/en>)
- MISIS (<http://www.misisproject.eu/>)
- PERSEUS (<http://www.perseus-net.eu>)
- SEIS (<http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/>)
- COCONET (<http://www.coconet-fp7.eu/>)

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Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea (EMBLAS)

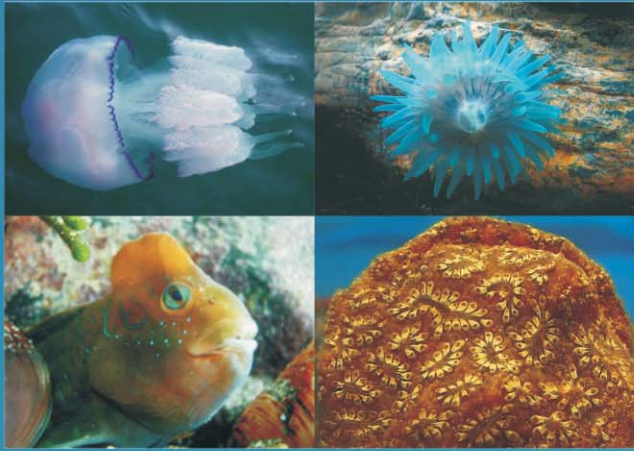
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GEORGIA

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Project background

The Black Sea is one of the most vulnerable regional seas in the world given its limited exchange of water with the open oceans and the large area of continental Europe from which it receives the drainage. The four strongly interlinked priority trans-boundary problems of the Black Sea are eutrophication - nutrient enrichment, changes in marine living resources, chemical pollution (including oil), and biodiversity/habitat changes, including alien species introduction - as well as the underlying root causes like industrial activities, agriculture, domestic wastewater, sea transport (oil spills, ballast water), and coastal zone degradation (urbanisation, tourism). The Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (Bucharest Convention) addresses these problems through enhanced cooperation among its signatories. The development/improvement of a monitoring network is considered to be a management target of high priority. Further coordination in policies and legislation between the Black Sea countries is also of common interest to the EU's partners countries – being also members of the Black Sea Commission (BSC) - in so far it influences their own ability to implement EU legislation and policies, notably the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

The overall project objective is to set up initiatives that will help improve the protection of the Black Sea environment. The project is addressing the overall need for support in protection and restoring the environmental quality and sustainability of the Black Sea.

The specific objectives are as follows:

- ❖ Improve availability and quality of data on the chemical and biological status of the Black Sea, in line with expected MSFD and Black Sea Strategic Action Plan needs;
- ❖ Improve partner countries' ability to perform marine environmental monitoring along MSFD principles, taking into account Black Sea Diagnostic Report.



The project activities

Activity 1: Review of the national monitoring systems and of the methodological tools for assessing marine environmental data

Activity 2: Support to the implementation of countries obligations under the Bucharest and other related Conventions and Agreements

Activity 3: Development of cost-effective and harmonised biological and chemical monitoring programmes in accordance with reporting obligations under multilateral environmental agreements, the WFD and the MSFD

Activity 4: An assessment of needs regarding laboratory infrastructure, equipment, and training

Activity 5: Elaboration and implementation of a first training programme round on monitoring methods and quality assurance adhering to ISO 17025 standard

Activity 6: Prepare the methodology for Joint Black Sea Surveys

Activity 7: Development of the web-based Black Sea Water Quality Database prototype