



**Coordination Meeting of Partner-Organizations/ Experts
of the project
“Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea” (EMBLAS)
21 May – 24 May, 2014;
Place: Radisson Blu Hotel, Batumi –
1 Ninoshvili Street – 6000 – Batumi – Georgia**

Day 1 – 21 May

*Arrival and accommodation
Dinner*

Day 2 – 22 May

Morning Session: 09:30 – 13:30

Chair: Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP-BRC)

1. **Activities, achievements, gaps in the 1st year of the project implementation (Review of where we stand in PA1 – PA7 activities accomplishment): presentation Project manager**
2. **EMBLAS Diagnostic Report (PA1, PA4): presentation Violeta Velikova/Sergey Konovalov**

Discussion on major gaps and uncertainties: All Experts (lead by Violeta Velikova)

(Note: There will be questions to all partner-organizations in relation to the gaps/uncertainties identified during the preparation of this major EMBLAS report)

Coffee break (11:00 – 11:30)

3. **Recommendations on the revision (modification) of national and regional monitoring programmes¹: optimistic and realistic scenarios (PA3 with input from PA1):**

Introduction to PA3 – Violeta Velikova

Short presentations (10 min) of all partner organizations on the issue:

- ONU
- UkrSCES
- IBSS
- OB-IBSS
- MHI
- TSU
- NEA
- SIO-RAS and its Southern Branch (Gelendzhik)
- BSC PS (on BSIMAP)
- SOI (20 min – with explanation to the partners how the work in PA3 is going to be organized, what template shall be followed to present the proposed revisions/modification of monitoring programmes)

¹ **Aim** of monitoring programmes modification – provide for knowledge-based and ecosystem-based environment protection management. See the **Introduction** of the EMBLAS Diagnostic Report for more information on the issue.

Discussion, conclusions, plan for the further work in preparation of proposals for the revision/modification of monitoring programmes (lead by SOI)

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

Afternoon Session: 14:30 – 18:30

Chair: Vasily Kostyushin (UNDP-BRC)

- 4. Operational (real-time) monitoring: options for its inclusion as integral part of national monitoring programmes, cost-effectiveness (PA3): presentation MHI**

Discussion, ideas: All Partner-organizations shall express opinion² (lead by MHI)

- 5. Training Programme, information on the preparation of the first training (PA5): presentation UkrSCES**

Discussion, recommendations for further development of the Programme and tentative trainings to be organized (according to the priorities in the EMBLAS beneficiary countries): All Partner-organizations shall express opinion³ (lead by UkrSCES)

Coffee break (16:00 – 16:30)

- 6. Compliance indicators (PA2): presentation BSC PS**

Discussion, recommendations for further development of the Indicators: All Partner-organizations shall express opinion (lead by BSC PS)

- 7. Joint Cruise Methodology (PA6): presentation SIO-RAS**

Discussion, recommendations for further development of the Methodology: All Partner-organizations shall express opinion (lead by SIO-RAS with the support of MHI)

Dinner: 19:30

Day 3 – 23 May

Morning Session: 09:30 – 13:30

Chair: Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP-BRC)

- 8. Water Quality (WQ) Database/Concept (PA7 with input from PA2): presentation UkrSCES**

Discussion, recommendations for further development of the WQ Database: All Partner-organizations shall express opinion (lead by UkrSCES)

- 9. Status of the regional Mnemiopsis Database, needs for further development and options for the development of a regional phytoplankton Database (PA7): presentation IBSS**

² The partners (order of Agenda Item 3 above to be followed) shall be ready to speak about available practices in real-time monitoring, which can be proposed to become the part of national monitoring programmes taking into consideration the aimed revision of the latter.

³ **Note:** In this Agenda, where **All partners are mentioned to express opinion**, the order of Agenda Item N3 will be followed. All partner-organizations are kindly asked to prepare opinion on the issues of discussions.

Discussion, recommendations for further development of the regional Mnemiopsis Database: Relevant experts shall express opinion (lead by IBSS)

Coffee break (11:00 – 11:30)

10. Report on the results of the Biological Guidelines Workshop (PA3): presentation OB-IBSS

Discussion, recommendations for further development of the Guidelines and other Guidelines to be attended in line with the priorities: Relevant experts shall express opinion (lead by OB-IBSS)

11. Set of SoPs, QA/QC and DQC Guidelines (PA5): presentation (jointly presented proposal by UkrSCES and MHI on the Set)

Discussion, recommendations for further development of the proposed set: All Partner-organizations shall express opinion (lead by UkrSCES)

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

Afternoon Session: 14:30 – 18:30

Chair: Violeta Velikova (UNDP-BRC)

Discussions/Questions on the activities for the 2nd year of the project (until the final meeting of Partners) regarding main deliverables (unattended above) and meetings/workshops in line with the WorkPlan of EMBLAS

- WQ/GES classification (PA2), State of the Art: reported and lead by UkrSCES and BSC PS
- Harmonization of chemical methods – which are the priorities? Where ISO 17025 is not applied and how we have to advance harmonization?: (PA2 and PA3) lead by UkrSCES
- Information on the status of SAP IR and SoE regional reports⁴ (PA2 – related to the work on compliance indicators and WQ/GES classification): reported and lead by BSC PS
- Needs of GE and UA for *ad hoc* support in relation to the Association Agreements (with EC)⁵ (PA2): reported by NFPs of GE and UA

Coffee break (16:00 – 16:30)

Discussions/Questions on the visual identity of the project, financial and reporting issues, and any other business: All Partner-organizations shall post questions and express opinion (lead by UNDP)

UNDP reminds about reporting obligations, status of contracts, and informs on payments.

Conclusions and closing of the meeting

Social Programme/Dinner: 19:30

Day 4 – 24 May

Departure of Participants

⁴ Regional Strategic Action Plan Implementation Report and Black Sea State of the Environment Report – 5-yearly.

⁵ *Ad hoc* support and advice on policies, legislative reforms and enforcement related to the relevant sections of the Association Agreements of Georgia and Ukraine. Such support was envisaged in EMBLAS.