Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea

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The overall objective
 to set up initiatives that will help improve the protection of the Black Sea environment

The specific objectives:
 to improve availability and quality of data on the chemical and biological status of the Black Sea, in line with expected Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and Black Sea SAP needs;
 to improve partner countries' ability to perform marine environmental monitoring along MSFD principles, considering Black Sea Diagnostic Report
Project partners

GEORGIA
- Iv.Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
- National Environmental Agency “Black Sea Monitoring Center”

RUSSIA
- State Oceanographic Institute
- P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology

UKRAINE
- Marine Hydrophysical Institute
- Odessa National University I.I. Mechnikov
- Ukrainian Scientific Center of Ecology of the Sea
- A.O. Kovalevskiy Institute of Biology of Southern Seas
- Odessa Branch, Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas

INTERNATIONAL
- Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission (BSC PS) - international
Review of the national monitoring systems and tools for assessing data obtained from monitoring activities

The overall aim of this PA is to analyse national and regional monitoring systems (legal and institutional framework of the different types, their design and implementation) and data management/assessment tools availability (including models and data bases existing at the national, regional and other levels), so that gaps are identified, and requirements and recommendations for improvements are clearly specified.
The Diagnostic Report

**Essence:** Gap Analyses

**Content:** VIII Chapters, IX Annexes

**Each Chapter:** supplemented with conclusions and recommendations on improvements
Content of the report

State of the art in the beneficiary countries (as per 2013-early 2014)

- Introduction – the aim of the exercise and the vision
- Chapter I and II:
  - Legal/policy framework (global, regional and national levels)
  - Institutional framework
  - Monitoring itself, including non-mandatory and operational monitoring, QA/QC, reporting of raw data
  - Data management (databases, data products, DQC), assessments
- Progress in WQ/GES classifications (Chapter III)
- IVE (Chapter IV)
- Training needs (Chapter V)
- Data availability (Chapter VI)
- Needs in harmonization (Chapter VII)
- Overall summary (Chapter VIII)
The needs in harmonization are seen in the following domains:

- Policy issues (GES, environmental targets, monitoring strategies/programmes)
- Monitoring methods, QA/QC
- Data management, products, DQC
- Data reporting (in the frames of the various obligations)
- Assessments (methodologies)
Support to implementation of countries obligations under the Bucharest and other related Conventions and Agreements

- Further development of compliance indicators and related indicator-based reporting in cooperation with the BSC Advisory Groups
- Consultation with experts on the needs in harmonization, organization of a workshop (Water Quality/GES Workshop back to back with a BSC PMA AG meeting, discuss the WQ Methodology and the Revised Monitoring Programmes, prepared under Project Activity 3
- Elaboration of Regional Water Quality (WQ)/GES Classification Methodology and testing in cooperation with the PMA AG and PMA AC;
Development of cost-effective and harmonised biological and chemical monitoring programmes

The overall aim of this PA is to support the revision of the national (in GE, RU and UA) and regional monitoring programmes.
Assessment of needs regarding laboratory infrastructure, equipment, and training, promotion of the recommendations

The overall aim of this PA is to enhance the efficient use of infrastructure/equipment in the region (knowing the existing capacities) and to find out what kind of trainings are generally needed to improve the performance in monitoring.
Elaboration and implementation of the comprehensive training programme on monitoring methods and quality assurance

The overall aim of this PA is to produce a Training Program and ensure its initial implementation (with input from PA4 and further analysis conducted specifically for monitoring methods and QA/QC).
Prepare methodology for Joint Black Sea Surveys

The overall aim of this PA is to promote the idea on the need of BS Joint Surveys and propose methodology for them.
Development of the web-based Black Sea Water Quality Database prototype

The overall aim of this PA is to support the further development of Black Sea regional databases (components of BSIS) – Water Quality, *Mnemiopsis* and Phytoplankton and enhancing of their compatibility/interoperability with WISE-MARINE and SEIS.
Dissemination of Knowledge and Best Practices, Public Awareness and Visibility

The overall aim of this PA is to develop the Project ownership, visibility, widely disseminate results achieved/deliverables produced and to ensure the Project is not forgotten after it ends but will bring to generation of further activities (sustainability of the Project outcomes, in other words).
Thank you!

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