## Press announcement



## Press-tour devoted to the start of the Ukrainian-Georgian Black Sea Surveys and opportunity to visit the biggest research vessel in the European Union «MARE NIGRUM»

What happens with flora and fauna in conditions of climate change, ever increasing input of new emerging organic pollutants, accumulation of marine litter? Who inhabits deep water part of the sea without oxygen? Which new invasive species replace local marine inhabitants? What are novel methods and equipment for the Black Sea environmental status determination?

United Nations Development Programme and the European Union invites journalists for the press-tour, press conference and excursion to the unique research vessel (RV) "Mare Nigrum", which right after the press-conference will leave for the deep water open sea sampling in the central part of the Black Sea. Joint surveys will be conducted at the territory of Ukraine and Georgia.

The event will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2016, from 11:00 to 13:00 in Odessa marine port terminal, pier # 15 near the RV "Mare Nigrum". Registration is at 10:30. <u>Preliminary accreditation is obligatory!</u>

These surveys are the **first** deep open Black Sea surveys in the territorial waters of Ukraine and Georgia; **for the first time** the parameters for determination of the good environmental status of the Black Sea will be defined; **for the first time** the screening of emerging organic pollutants, large-scale study of marine litter; photographic identity catalogue of dolphins' populations will be performed; **for the first time** marine microbes will be identified by their DNA; **first** in XXI century study of the life in hydrogen sulphide layers; **first** determination of the status of the sea by the algae species and **for the first time**, detailed study of hypoxia will be carried out.

The event will bring together the representatives of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), EU Delegation in Ukraine, Ukrainian Scientific Center of Ecology of the Sea, Institute of Marine Biology of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and National Environmental Agency "Black Sea Monitoring Center", Georgia.

The surveys will contribute to the implementation of EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in the field of environment, addressing namely the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive in part of the initial assessment of marine waters and the EU Water Framework Directive in part of the status assessment of the coastal zones.

The Joint Black Sea surveys are conducted within the framework of the project 'Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea" (EMBLAS). The project is co-financed by the European Commission (EC) and UNDP. The overall objective of the project is to help improve the protection of the Black Sea environment. More information is to be found at <a href="http://emblasproject.org/">http://emblasproject.org/</a>. The diary of the surveys and information about newly obtained data with details on achievements of the surveys are available at the daily updated Facebook page <a href="https://www.facebook.com/UNDPUkraine">www.facebook.com/UNDPUkraine</a> and twitter.com/UNDPUkraine.

The accreditation is obligatory – till 17:00 19 May at <u>yevgeniy.zelenko@undp.org</u>. For outside journalists, DSA for one night in the hotel and travel reimbursement is offered (by bus, train; passport, originals of the travel document, copy of return ticket and confirmation of the participation are required).