

EU supports better cooperation in the Black Sea region

- The **European Union's** maritime boundaries reached the shores of the Black Sea in 2007 with the accession of Bulgaria and Romania.
- In the same year, the EU launched the **Black Sea Synergy** initiative for developing deeper regional cooperation involving **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Romania, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Turkey** and **Ukraine**.
- With the support of the EU, Black Sea countries are making good progress on **maritime affairs and blue economy**, with a particular focus on **marine research and innovation, blue skills and careers** and **preservation of the marine environment**.

Blue economy – All economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts. It covers a wide range of interlinked sectors, both established and emerging, such as aquaculture, fisheries, shipbuilding, coastal tourism, marine extraction of oil and gas, maritime transport, environmental protection, wind and ocean energy and biotechnology.

Since 2015

Maritime policy: EUR 9.9 million from European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and the European Neighbourhood Instrument
Fisheries: EUR 3.7 million from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
Research and innovation: EUR 20 million from Horizon 2020

The 2018 European Maritime Day in the Bulgarian city of Burgas took place for the first time on the shores of the Black Sea and proved to be one of the most successful events of its kind, attracting almost 1,000 participants from all over Europe.

Timeline

- **2016** Bucharest Declaration Towards Enhanced Cooperation on Black Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture
- **2018** Sofia Ministerial Declaration on Black Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture
- **2018** Burgas Ministerial Declaration "Towards a Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea"
- **2018** Burgas Vision Paper "A Blue Growth Initiative for Research and Innovation in the Black Sea"
- **2019** Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea

Projects and programmes



The **EU Black Sea Basin Cross-Border Cooperation Programme** has a particular importance for the development of communities along the Black Sea region. It provides significant support for building local economies. For the 2014-2020 period, EUR 44.13 million were made available by this programme and more than 24 key projects were financed in areas such as business development, environmental protection, action against climate change, and encouraging contacts between people.

PROGRAMME: *EU Black Sea Basin Cross-Border Cooperation Programme*
blacksea-cbc.net

The Black Sea remains one of the seas most heavily impacted by human activities in the world. Since 2013, the EU has supported a project that has, among other achievements, launched an online Black Sea **water quality database** providing much more detailed information about the state of the sea.

PROJECT: *Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea*
emblasproject.org



Raising **safety, security and protection of marine environments standards** for Black and Caspian Seas through a project managed by the European Maritime Safety Agency.

PROJECT: *The Black and Caspian Sea project*
www.emsa.europa.eu

Establishing a **blue economy careers centre** that aims to attract young people and experienced workers to fill skills gaps. This way, the EU funded project supports activities to increase employability in key sectors of the blue economy in the region: maritime transport, cruises and nautical tourism, aquaculture, and offshore oil and gas.

PROJECT: *Blue Careers Centre of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea*
www.bluecareers.org



The Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea provides guidance and support to public authorities and stakeholders in the coastal countries, including in the Republic of Moldova, helping them unlock the potential of the blue economy.

PROJECT: *Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea*
www.blackseablueeconomy.eu

The European Copernicus programme has been running an operational Black Sea **ocean forecasting centre** since 2016. It is a European public service to support maritime safety, weather forecasting, marine resources and coastal environment management.

PROJECT: *Black Sea Copernicus ocean forecasting centre*
marine.copernicus.eu



Supporting **waterway transport** between Central Europe, the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea and the Far East by facilitating cooperation between ports, regions and related associations. At present, aging infrastructure and inefficient services limit the potential of the water transport system.

PROGRAMME: *DBS Gateway Region*
www.interreg-danube.eu

Providing space for debate, mutual knowledge and cooperation among civil society representatives in the Black Sea region. This EU funded project is aimed at fostering regional cooperation among **civil society organisations** that support the creation of joint partnerships and projects

PROJECT: *Black Sea NGO Forum*
www.blackseango.org

