

Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2007-2013”

December 2014

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THE STATUS QUO OF THE BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMME 2007-2013

The 2007-2013 Black Sea Basin Programme is currently facing the peak phase of projects implementation.

Out of the 62 signed contracts under the two calls for proposals, 19 projects are finalized and 41 projects are under implementation, most of them finalising in 2015. Two projects were terminated.

Concrete results achieved so far:

Measure 1.1: Strengthening accessibility and connectivity for new intra-regional information, communication, transport and trade links

Results:

- Four regional market studies
- Three international exhibitions
- Two business forums

- One online stock market exchange
- One brokerage event
- Elaboration of an electronic guide “Europeanization of own business”

Measure 1.2 Creation of tourism networks in order to promote joint tourism development initiatives and traditional products

Results:

- One tourism advertising festival
- A common strategy for tourism development for Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova
- A promotional film for tourism (in Romania, Bulgaria, R.Moldova)
- Elaboration of “Best practice manual for tourism activity”
- Exhibition about Black Sea ports’ history
- Maritime routes web site

Measure 1.3 Creation of administrative capacity for the design and implementation of local and regional development policies

Results:

- Developing an industrial symbiosis strategy
- A Black Sea Network for Regional Development
- Two international workshops dedicated to regional development
- A guide on integrated urban development planning



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Measure 2.1 Strengthening the joint knowledge and information base needed to address common challenges in the environmental protection of river and maritime systems

Results:

- Creation of an integrated multi-level monitoring system for the Black Sea
- Elaboration of a “Black Sea Seismicity Monitoring and Early Warning System Alignment” Plan
- Creation of a WEB portal “Seismic Safety Network - web portal”
- Elaboration of a “Black Sea Earthquake Safety Net” book
- Elaboration of Management for the Black Sea Fisheries Plan

Measure 2.2 Promoting research and innovation in the field of conservation and environmental protection of protected natural areas

Results:

- Creation of a regional interpretative trails network
- Organisation of one summer school

Measure 2.3 Promotion of cooperation initiatives aimed at innovation in technologies and management of Waste and Wastewater Management systems

Results:

- 3 training courses on municipal solid waste management (MSWM) in Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria
- One regional conference on best practices on MSW management

Measure 3.1 Promoting cultural networking and educational exchange in the Black Sea Basin communities

Results:

- Development and creation of a Virtual Tour “Black Sea Culture Heritage”
- Publication of a handbook “Cultural Animation in the Black Sea Region”
- Elaboration of an interdisciplinary educational programme for professional training in “Cultural Animation”
- International culture festival: “Black Sea Cultural Heritage”
- Cross border children folklore festival “Friendship without borders”
- Cross border folk festival for adults



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Our events in 2014:

Project Implementation Training for IPA Beneficiaries, Istanbul, 18th-19th February 2014

Ministry for EU Affairs in Turkey, as National Authority in the ENPI Black Sea Basin CBC Programme organized a Project Implementation Training on 18-19 February 2014 for the projects implemented under the first and second calls for proposals.

Information regarding implementation and reporting was provided within the context of the training.

Training seminar for ENPI Grant Beneficiaries and Partners, Bucharest, 18th of June, 2014



The Joint Managing Authority for the Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2007-2013”, in cooperation with the Joint Technical Secretariat organized on the 18th of June, in Bucharest, the third training seminar for Grant Beneficiaries and Partners.

The participants discussed about the basic rules in implementing the projects, the method for a proper allocation of resources (financial, technical and human) and the activities so that reach the objectives assumed.

Aspects of financial reporting and payment claim were of great interest, especially considering that most of the projects are preparing to submit the Interim Report and the beneficiaries and partners received assistance in correctly filling in the templates required.

Moreover, the aspects regarding the expenditure verification generated extensive discussions, various options being analysed regarding the most efficient way to develop the consolidated report in due time in order for the projects to timely submit the interim and final request for payment.



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The Ninth Meeting of the JMC



The 9th meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) of the Black Sea Basin Programme was held in Tulcea, Romania, between 9-10th of October 2014.

The JMC reviewed some management decisions taken by the JMA related to the contracting process of the applications submitted under the second call of proposals and also discussed aspects related to the implementation of the projects awarded under the two calls of proposals, the results achieved so far by the projects and the status of the financial implementation of the joint operational programme. Preliminary discussions regarding programme closure were carried out, as well.

MEET OUR PROJECTS: INTERPRETATIVE TRAILS ON THE GROUND

Project of non-governmental organizations from five Black Sea countries has contributed to the improvement of management of protected territories and started the establishment of regional network of interpretative trails

The Black Sea NGO Network of Varna, Bulgaria with partners from four other Black Sea countries (Mare Nostrum of Constanta, Romania, the Black Sea Branch of the Ukrainian Environmental Academy of Science from Odessa, the Foundation for Sustainable Development of Cahul, Moldova and the Black Sea EcoAcademy of Batumi, Georgia) has implemented the project “Interpretative Trails on the Ground - Support to the Management of Natural Protected Areas in the Black Sea Region (InterTrails)”, funded by the European Union through the Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2007 - 2013”.

The total project cost of the two-year project was about 390 000 euro.

The focus of the project was to design and create interpretative trails in protected territories in the Black Sea region. The trails are routes inside the park which comprise nature landmarks and specific items of interest to be shown and their significance explained to the visitors. Those can include plant and tree species specific to the region or the area. If there are endangered species of plant and animal life, they can also be included in the interactive



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presentation. Explanations about habitats, voices of birds, footsteps and traces of animals can also form part of the interpretation. Each trail can include about 20 or more points to be addressed in the interpretative explanation. It can be delivered in foreign languages as well depending on the interest in the trail.

The project has improved the knowledge and widened the expertise about nature assets and interpretation of a large and diverse group of stakeholders - environmental NGOs, scientists and experts, representatives of administrations and authorities, educators, tourist businesses and local coastal communities, about 38 000 people. The project partner set up three types of national and international sectoral teams covering the thematic areas of biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural aspects typical of the project. The teams comprise 43 experts from the three spheres and 5 scientific institutes, 5 government environmental agencies and 12 NGOs involved in the environmental management initiative. A regional workshop entitled ‘How to Interpret Black Sea Nature’ trained 57 experts, nature lovers and environmental activists from the six littoral countries in Varna, Bulgaria. It assisted the preparation for the trails development. In the process of project implementation a regional network of 20 interpretative trails has been established, four in each of the five project countries. Every trail comprises landmarks and interpretative points from the three thematic areas over 490 for the whole project. On the basis of that

material the teams produced 5 guides for trails in national languages, printed and disseminated 1000 copies of the guides. They were also translated in English and exchanged between the international sectoral teams. Five summer schools of environmental training in nature interpretation were held, and 252 nature interpreters were trained to acquire new skills in the innovative practices. In the education process, five education institutions were involved and one formal curriculum for nature interpreters was developed. Demonstration of nature interpreting on identified trails has been conducted, documented, promoted in media and among local communities to 15 000 people.

The project established a functional information and interpretation structure assisting promotion, awareness and interpretative activities. Each trail now has five information interpretative boards on its route to assist the interpretation process. The dedicated website with the project logo, slogan and characteristic design www.trails.bsnn.org holds all products and promotional materials and has an average of 600 visits per month. It is a web-based resource to be utilized now and in the future with possibility to integrate other participants from the region. The partnership also produced and disseminated 4000 brochures, 10 000 leaflets, 4000 maps and 5 documentary films shown to over 630 people. The partnership issued 40 press releases and 17 interviews and reports in the press, on TV and radio. Over 80 electronic sites reported on project events. The partners involved 20 000 people in



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visibility events and 15 000 inhabitants of nature protected areas in awareness events. The project was presented at one applied science conference and two international BSB JOP events. The final activity of the project was the conference entitled “Sustainable Approaches to Interpretation - Sharing Experiences from the Black Sea Region” with presentations, poster session, and a show of documentary films as well as demonstration of interpretation on two trails on the northern Bulgarian coast. A total of 59 experts and scientists from the project partners and associates were involved in the event and exchanged best practices and experience on interpretation and trails establishment.

Information boards on the Kaliakra interpretative trail on the northern Bulgarian coast



BLACK SEA BASIN 2014-2020: WHAT HAS HAPPED SO FAR, WHAT DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE?

The eligible area of the Black Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020:

Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, R. Moldova - all regions

Bulgaria - NUTS II regions of Severoiztochen and Yugoiztochen

Greece - NUTS II regions of Kentriki Makedonia and Anatoliki Makedonia - Thraki

Romania - NUTS II region of South-East

Russia - Rostov Oblast, Krasnodar Krai and Adygea Republic

Turkey - NUTS II equivalent regions of İstanbul, Tekirdağ, Kocaeli, Zonguldak, Kastamonu, Samsun and Trabzon

Ukraine¹ - Odessa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Zaporosh'ye and Donetsk Oblasts, Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol

¹ *The general EU restrictions on cooperation in regions that are illegally occupied by Russia are also applicable to CBC. Therefore, the regions of Sevastopol and the Crimea Republic are not currently eligible



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Programming process so far:

In 2014 the European Commission adopted the legal framework related to ENI Policy, respectively: the Programming Document for EU support to ENI Cross-Border Cooperation (2014-2020), the EU Regulation no. 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument and the Commission Implementing Regulation no. 897/2014 laying down specific provisions for the implementation of cross-border cooperation programmes financed under Regulation (EU) no. 232/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument.

Furthermore, over € 49 million (€39.04 million of ENI and ERDF funds and €10million IPA funds) have been assigned by the European Union to the ENI CBC Black Sea Basin Programme for the period 2014-2020.

Also, the Joint Programming Committee continued its work in 2014, 3 meetings have been held to further develop the Strategy part and the Implementation part of the BSB Programme.

Among the main achievement during the programming process it can be mentioned:

-The approval of the thematic objectives and priorities, as follows:

Objective	1 - Promote business and entrepreneurship within the Black Sea Basin
Priorities	1.1 Jointly promote business and entrepreneurship in the tourism and cultural sectors
	1.2 Increase cross-border trade opportunities and modernisation in the agricultural and connected sectors
Objective	2 - Promote coordination of environmental protection and joint reduction of marine litter in the Black Sea Basin
Priorities	2.1 Improve joint environmental monitoring
	2.2 Promote common awareness-raising and joint actions to reduce river and marine litter

Further details regarding the indicative activities can be found on the Programme’s webpage: <http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/index.php/eng/2014-2020/Draft-Strategy>.

-Appointment of the management and control structures in almost all of the participating countries (in some countries the process is still on-going): National Authority, Control Contact Point and Member of the Group of Auditors

-Approval the South East Regional Development Agency (SE RDA), Romania, to fulfil the role of the Joint Technical Secretariat for the ENI CBC 2014-2020.



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WHAT'S NEXT TO COME?

For BLACK SEA BASIN 2007-2013:

- Implementing and finalizing the projects from the second call for proposals
- Closure of the Programme and Final Conference

For BLACK SEA BASIN 2014-2020:

- Finalization of the BSB Programme - March 2015;
- Submission of BSB Programme to EC - May/June 2015;
- Negotiations and approval by EC - maximum 6 months since JOP submission;
- Signature of Financing Agreements between EC & Partner Countries - maximum one year from BSB Programme adoption;
- First call for proposals - first semester 2016.

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