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1. ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMME 2007-2013 THESSALONIKI, GREECE, ON 25TH OF NOVEMBER 2010



More than 150 participants from the 8 countries participating in the Programme attended on the 25th November 2010 the annual conference organised in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The conference gathered representatives of national, regional and local authorities, non-Governmental Organisations, researchers and academics, as well as representatives of the European Commission and other stakeholders active in the Black Sea Basin, such as the Black Sea

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions.

The event was organized by the Joint Managing Authority (the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, Romania) in cooperation with the Greek National Authority (Ministry of Economy, Competitiveness and Shipping) and the National Authorities from Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Turkey, the European Commission and the Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI).

The first part of the day of the conference focused on showing the added value of the Programme for the participating countries, the progress achieved by the programme bodies in the implementation of this European programme in the Black Sea region, its relation to other initiatives like the Black Sea Synergy, and perspectives for the future programming period.

The second part of the day, organised in collaboration with RCBI, was dedicated to the creation of partnerships and development of project ideas in the context of the future call for proposals to be launched in 2011.



Most of the participants considered the event very useful and considered that similar events should be organized in the future; 87% found a partner and 90% expressed their intention in submitting a project application for the next call.

2. STATE OF PLAY OF THE BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMME

2010 was an important year marked by significant progress in the implementation of the Programme but also by challenges.

One of the most expected news 2010 was that on the 3-4 of November 2010 the Joint Monitoring Committee approved the list of the projects under the first call for proposals proposed for funding by the Selection Committee. In addition, the Joint Monitoring Committee decided to increase the amount of the ENPI funds allocated to the first call from €3,311,369 to €5,873,760.

In total, 16 projects were approved in the areas of sustainable economic development, tourism, nature and environment protection and cultural cooperation, areas that

correspond to the three priorities of the Programme.

The final results of the selection process of projects submitted under the first call for proposals were communicated to the Applicants through official letters in December 2010.

Currently the pre-contracting phase of selected projects is underway, and shall be followed by the signature of the contracts before the end of March 2011.

As a consequence of the progress registered in the implementation of the Programme the European Commission decided to supplement the ENPI budget of the Programme with an additional €2,990,571, considering the continuous progress registered in the implementation of the programme. Thus, the total ENPI budget for the programming period (2007-2013) is now €21,296,515.

The Joint Managing Authority and the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Black Sea Basin Programme 2007-2013 are planning to launch the second call for proposals in the first quarter of 2011.

Cross-border cooperation projects will be financed within this call in the areas of sustainable economic development, tourism, nature and environmental protection and also cultural cooperation, areas that correspond to the three priorities of the Programme.

For this second call for proposals, the Joint Managing Authority is working on a new version of the Guidelines for Grant Applicants, according to the updated Practical Guide for Contract Procedures for

EU external actions (PraG) which can be downloaded at: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/practical_guide/documents/2010_prag_en.pdf

As in the previous period, the JMA together with the Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) and the National Authorities from the participating countries in the Programme and the National Info Points will organize two dedicated Partnership Forums (in Armenia and Turkey) and at least 2 project preparation workshops in each participating country, aiming at supporting the potential beneficiaries to develop good quality projects that contribute to the indicators set up in the joint operational programme.

The calendar of events, and additional information concerning the launch of the second call for proposals, will be published in the coming months on the Programme website (www.blacksea-cbc.net). We expect the JTS to be functional from April 2011.

The JMA launched a public procurement procedure for identifying and selecting several qualified and experienced experts in order to ensure the functioning of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Programme.

The Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) shall assist the JMA and the JMC in carrying out their duties. The JTS comprises 3 units: the management and project monitoring unit, the financial management unit and the communication and information unit. The following job positions will be filled: head of JTS, 5 project managers, 2 financial managers and one communication and information manager.

The Joint Technical Secretariat is established within the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, in Bucharest, Romania. The activities of the JTS will be carried out in Bucharest, at the headquarters, as well as in the eligible areas of the Programme.

3. THE RESOLUTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE BLACK SEA



On the 20th of January 2011 the European Parliament adopted a Report on the EU Strategy for the Black Sea.

According to the report the EU should launch a fully-functional strategy to bring peace and stability to the Black Sea region and secure energy supplies, including a specific budget line and more EU human resources.

The Black Sea Strategy needs a specific EU budget line, which should prioritize funding for small-scale development projects and cross-border co-operation. Other top priorities should be the stabilizing the region, ensuring respect for human rights, managing migration, improving energy

security and promoting environmental and social development.

Also the report welcomes *the launch of the Joint Operational Programme for Cross-Border Cooperation in the Black Sea Basin under ENPI and believes that the large number of applications received reflects a high degree of interest in joint cooperation projects in the Black Sea region; applauds the approval of 16 new projects by the Joint Monitoring Committee in November 2010.*

The Black Sea Region Strategy encompasses three EU countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Greece), a candidate country (Turkey) and five east European neighbours (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), as well as Russia, as a strategic partner.

More details regarding the report can be found at the following link: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2011-0025+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>



4. REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE SUPPORT IN 2011 - AN INTERVIEW WITH PROJECT TEAM LEADER VERONICA VANN



What is RCBI planning to do for the BSB Programme in 2011?

As you know RCBI is an EU project which supports Partner Countries outside the EU to actively participate in the Black Sea Basin programme, so in 2011 we aim to give as much support as possible to help organisations in Armenia Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine to take part in this next, major call for proposals.

To help prepare for the second call for proposals, we will hold up to three project preparation workshops in each of these Partner Countries. These workshops will include tips on how to turn a project idea into a sound project proposal and how to fill in the application form.

Just before the call closes, there will be a follow up information workshop in each Partner Country so organisations can clarify those last minute issues that arise when completing their applications.

Organisations in the EU Member states are not forgotten - RCBI will assist the JMA to hold two Partner Forums, one in Armenia and one in Turkey, where organisations from both sides of the EU border can find partners, or to meet partners they have already found.

Training in ENPI CBC project management and implementation for successful

beneficiaries and partners from all countries is another major RCBI activity in 2011.

To be notified of RCBI events, people can register in the [RCBI database](#) or monitor the BSB and RCBI websites.

RCBI is also developing e-support. What is this?

E-support is online help which will be available 24/7 for ENPI CBC applicants, beneficiaries and partners in EU Member States, Turkey and Partner Countries.

The e-support will be based on the concrete tasks needed to develop a project proposal or implement a project. Users will not have to complete a course - they can pick and choose topics as needed.

Regional Capacity Building Initiative

The Black Sea Basin programme will be one of the first to have access to this support. Project identification and development e-support is scheduled to be ready for the second call for proposals. Topics include generating project ideas, filling in an application form including completing the log frame and the project budget and ENPI CBC Partners.

Project Management and Implementation is the other main e-support area. Topics include project start up, procuring services, reporting and payment claims and implementing activities and achieving results.

E-support will be accessed via the BSB and RCBI websites. Watch out for announcements of the start up date.

More information on RCBI support can be found on the website www.rcbi.info

5. ROMANIAN BSEC CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE (1 JANUARY - 30 JUNE 2011) - PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MANDATE



Romania took over the Chairmanship-in-Office (CiO) of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

(BSEC) on 1 January 2011, for a mandate of six months, until 30 June 2011.

As one of the three European Union Member States in the Black Sea region and as a founding Member State of BSEC, Romania's main objective for its CiO mandate is to enhance the cooperation and dialogue within the Organization, with the twin purpose to strengthen and increase the economic cooperation and to bring about a positive impact on the relations among Governments of all its Member States. Therefore, the CiO actions will aim at revitalizing the economic cooperation, achieving concrete results and emphasizing the project-oriented dimension of the Organization. These will result in turning the Organization into one of the main engines for economic growth in the region.

The approach is reflected in the motto of the Chairmanship: *Building Sustainability, Enhancing Commitments*, which mirrors the acronym of the Organization. The first two elements show the determination to imprint a more project-oriented approach of the BSEC, while by *Enhancing Commitments*,

Romania understands to promote common actions, which have an increased rate of success. The acronym also provides for the future outlook of BSEC, as its institutional maturity also calls out for shaping of its perspectives and future objectives.

The priorities set for will focus on:

1. Continuing Romania's firm commitment to regional economic cooperation and BSEC.
2. Stimulating BSEC economic mission, with special emphasis on environment policies, energy, raising economic exchanges, trade and further building a framework for encouraging intra-regional investments.
3. Consolidating cooperation in the field of internal affairs, especially in combating organized crime and corruption.
4. Strengthening the EU-BSEC interaction, by stimulating common understanding and cooperation between BSEC and EU institutions and Member States.
5. Achieving further progress in the implementation of the Partnership for Environment and in launching of the other two Partnerships within the Black Sea Synergy, in consultation and cooperation with all BSEC Member States.
6. Furthering the unique role of BSEC in the region and its specific activities with a view to unlock the untapped potential of BSEC as a platform for dialogue and cooperation.
7. Enhancing the dialogue of BSEC with the international community and boosting the contribution of BSEC to strengthening the stability in the region, within the framework provided by the Charter.
8. Reinvigorating the ongoing internal process of reflection regarding the perspective of the Organization and its future objectives with a view to

strengthening the Organization as a factor for regional cooperation.

9. Increasing the interaction of BSEC with all its partners, observers and other related bodies, in order to enhance the importance of BSEC and turn this interaction to the benefit of its Member States.

6. BOOSTING THE INTERREGIONAL AND MARITIME FOUNDATIONS OF THE BLACK SEA COOPERATION: A ROLE FOR THE BALKAN AND BLACK SEA REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Balkan and Black Sea Regional Commission (BBSRC) is one of the 6 geographical commissions of the CPMR (www.cpmr.org). It aims to encourage dialogue and cooperation between sub-state spheres of government in the area, to constitute a lasting framework to support integration and improve the relations with the EU in the context of enlargement. It gathers 32 member Regions from Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania, Turkey and



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Common borders. Common solutions.

Ukraine. List of members:
<http://www.balkansblacksea.org/index.php?act=4>



Since 1990, CPMR has played a key role in proposing to the EU new programmes and new financial tools making it possible for regional and local authorities to implement transnational projects in various fields of territorial development: maritime transport, technology transfer, rural development, water management, tourism, etc. In the Atlantic, Baltic, Mediterranean, North Sea areas, the Regions have built between themselves common solid foundations, and pools of experts and politicians which really contribute to the shaping of EU policies in the European maritime basins.

CPMR considers the Black Sea CBC programme as an unique opportunity to build such an ambitious network in the area. Taking into account both the basic competencies of regional authorities and the main priorities of the programme, the BBSRC is available to help project leaders and various actors wishing to launch projects in fields like coastal zone management, maritime safety, sustainable tourism, short sea shipping, rural development. Contacts can be taken with:

Anthony Papadimitriou, BBSRC Executive Secretary, located in Athens:
apaplaw@hol.gr

Patrick Anvroin, CPMR Director in charge of the Black Sea:
patrick.anvroin@crpm.org

7. WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ENPI CBC PROGRAMMES? CHECK: WWW.ENPI-INFO.EU

This portal is one of the main communication tools of the ENPI Information and Communication Support Project, launched by the European Commission in January 2009 to make better known the relationship between the EU, its nine partner countries in the Mediterranean and six partner countries in the East. It follows on from the EuroMed Info Centre, a similar project focusing only on the Mediterranean



partner countries, which lasted from October 2005 to January 2009.

This three-year Project is funded by Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid office, which manages EU external aid programmes and is charged with turning political decisions into actions benefiting the partner countries and their citizens on the ground. It is financed under EuropeAid's Regional Information and Communication Programme.

The Project seeks to increase knowledge and raise awareness and understanding of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation (Barcelona Process) on the one hand, and the Partnership with the East on the other.



Programme funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION

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The Project gives special emphasis to the activities supported by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

(ENPI), the financial instrument through which decisions taken within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) are implemented.

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For the contact details of the National Info Points, please check the Programme's website at:

<http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/index.php/eng/Media/Common-objects/Contact>



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