

# Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020

Common borders. Common solutions.



## Spotlight on the Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020

2021 is marked by the beginning of a new EU funding cycle. While the projects are progressing at full speed, a new programming document is now genuinely beginning to take shape.

Find out in this issue of our newsletter how our projects continue to work together and how the new programme will support further cooperation in the Black Sea Basin.

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## Projects meeting original goals and being completed

### *1st Call for Proposals*

So far, 7 projects from the 1st Call for Proposals reached the end of the implementation period. From online platform to promote the trading opportunities in agriculture to participatory actions, each and every project left their mark on Black Sea Basin.

Here are listed the main achievements of these projects.

### ***Piloting Modern Trading Opportunities in Agriculture through Creation of the Innovative Online Platform – AgroNet (BSB294)***



*The main output of the project is the online multilingual agricultural trading platform AGRODEALS ([link to the platform](#)) that connects potential buyers and sellers, including distributors and processors. It aims to have a modern online space, where all information related to the trade of agricultural products are available free of charge in a consolidated space. The online platform enables business partners of agricultural products in the countries of the Black Sea region to connect with international buyers and receive important commercial information to support import and export processes.*

### ***Promoting tea as the engine of growth for the Black Sea Basin Area – TEAWAY (BSB541)***

*To enhance the capacities of the SMEs and local/regional producers who manufacturing typical and special tea products. Capacity Building Toolbox through the online platform was advanced. TEAWAY platform ([link to the platform](#)) contains a library with relevant documents prepared by the project partners, including tea sector reports, training materials, easy to be followed and a blog section.*



### ***Marine and River Litter Elimination New Approach – MARLENA (BSB139)***



*Project stressed on river and marine litter problems, the value of biodiversity and environmental protection involving the citizens in river and sea-coast clean-up campaigns and share good experiences ([link to the platform](#)) in reducing the pollution. Particular attention was paid to the development of environmentally and responsible-citizenship and ecological behavior among youth.*

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### **Sustainable Agricultural Trade Network in the Black Sea Basin – AgriTradeNet (BSB383)**



Through researches of local agricultural products, the project partners selected 6 products potential to receive geographical indication and to be placed under umbrella of local branding: white cheese - Bulgaria, virgin olive oil - Greece, berries - Republic of Moldova, tomato - Romania, strawberries - Turkey and honey - Ukraine. Further, the local producers market from Demirkoy was renovated and a producers database ([link to the database](#)) was developed to increase local business development value, strengthen rural integration and valorize local resources.

### **Zero Waste Strategy For Good Environmental Status – ZEWSGES (BSB257)**

The project advanced the concept of Zero Waste with a theoretical and a practical perspective. Common methodologies were developed to collect both social and economic data integrated in the Online Database and Reporting System for Collected Marine Debris ([link to the database](#)). On desk research was supplemented by clean-up operations of shorelines and the sea floor as well as school and public education Ecosystem Training Programme ([link to the training programme](#)).



### **Assessing the vulnerability of the Black Sea marine ecosystem to human pressures – ANEMONE (BSB319)**

Following the report on the state of Black Sea environment, the project partners sought for common agreed methodologies for monitoring, new tools, indicators and quality controlled and comparable data sets for the assessment of the ecological status. The Interactive Mapping ([link to the map](#)) contains the necessary set of utilities and tools for full-fledged work with spatial data collected during the project implementation. Further, the results of the case studies on beach litter and dolphins represented the ground of the educational and awareness raising campaigns held.



### **Waste Free Rivers for a Clean Black Sea – MWM-GMR (BSB457)**

Together with the project in Georgia municipal green waste composting was implemented for the first time and a Composting Center was constructed in Kutaisi. The good practices on waste management were introduced also in the city of Poti. The city of Ungheni, Republic of Moldova, implemented municipal WEEE. Further, an extensive awareness campaign was implemented during the project lifetime ([link to the project website](#)).



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## Black Sea Basin community

### 2nd Call for Proposals

Since January 2021, the last two projects were contracted and now the Black Sea Basin community reaches 56 projects. The total value of these projects is 27.8 million euro, 25.5 million euro from ENI funds.

Having in mind the savings estimated to be obtained from projects which ended the implementation period, with the view to ensure the framework for an efficient and timely use of the available financial resources allocated to the programme, the JMC decided in June 2021 to support one last additional project from the reserve list. Therefore, the contracting process will come soon to its end.

*The list with the awarded projects is published on the programme website: [www.blacksea-cbc.net](http://www.blacksea-cbc.net), section Our projects 2014-2020.*

**Project:** Knowing Circular Economy in Black Sea Basin BSB-CIRCLECON

BSB1021

**Start date:** 23.03.2021

**Partnership:** Bulgaria, Greece, Ukraine, Georgia and Turkey

**Overview:** The project focusses on spreading the Circular Economy model in the Black Sea Basin area.

**Project:** Black Sea Women Entrepreneurship Connection – Empowering Women through Tourism WE TOUR

BSB1030

**Start date:** 26.06.2021

**Partnership:** Greece, Georgia, Bulgaria, Armenia and Turkey

**Overview:** The project' aims to create a Cross-Border Business Network for Promotion of Women's Entrepreneurship, Life-long Cooperation, Training and networking.



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## Working together

2nd Call for Proposals

The projects are moving forward and the first results are delivered.

Section Projects news&events from the programme website: [www.blacksea-cbc.net](http://www.blacksea-cbc.net).



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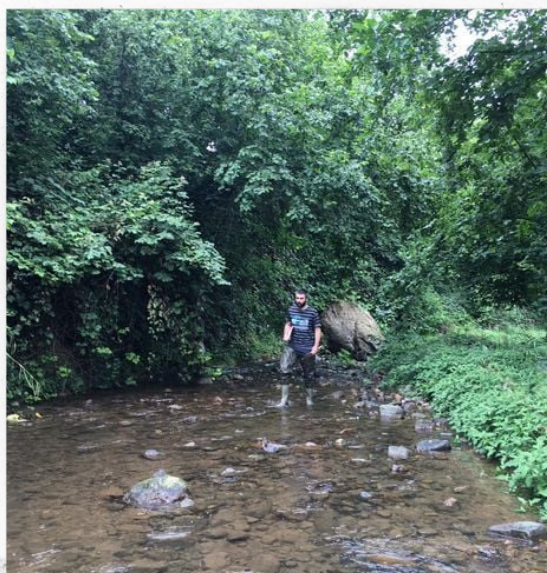


**BSB ECO MONITORING (BSB884)**  
*Field trip in Armenia*





**CRoCuS (BSB784)**  
**Training pack**

on the main sources of pollution of rivers and the best available solutions for reducing river littering

**Protect-Streams-4-Sea (BSB963)**  
*Field survey and erosion pins measurements performed in the study area from Turkey*




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## What's NEXT?

*Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme 2021-2027*

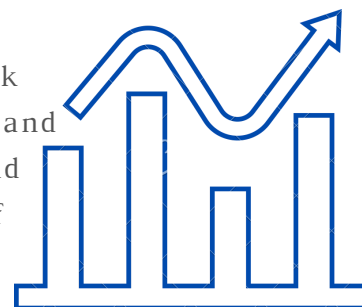
Preparations for the new programming period 2021-2027 have been in full swing in the first half of 2021 in the Black Sea Basin.

A draft **Territorial Analysis** was developed for the eligible area of the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme 2021-2027.

In order to explore the expectations of the stakeholders as **first step** for thematic concentration of the programme strategy, country events were organized and a first online questionnaire was published in February 2021 in order to receive inputs regarding the Policy, Interreg and specific objectives considered as relevant to receive support.

The Joint Programming Committee – body responsible for the preparation of the Interreg NEXT (Neighbourhood EXternal) Black Sea Basin Programme 2021-2027 – has discussed during its third meeting in February 2021 the conclusions of the consultations carried out during February 2021 and agreed the Policy Objectives (POs) and the Specific Objectives (SOs) to be funded under the future Programme:

- PO 1 – *A more competitive and smarter Europe and its Neighbourhood*, with one Specific Objective: SO 1 – developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies;
- PO 2 – *A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe and its Neighbourhood*, with two Specific Objectives: SO 4 – promoting climate change adaptation, and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches and SO 7 – enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution.





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As the main goal of the programming process was to identify and detail the fields of action and the potential specific actions to be promoted and funded under the programme, while duly respecting the partnership principle, stakeholders were further invited to take part in the **second round of consultations** by filling in a second online questionnaire and by participating in an online event for commenting on its results.

The Joint Programming Committee has discussed during its fourth meeting in May 2021 the outcome of the second round of consultations carried out during March – April 2021 the types of actions under the selected Policy Objectives relevant to receive support in the future Programme, the support of projects of limited financial volume and that the South-East Regional Development Agency from Romania to continue to play the role of Joint Secretariat for the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme 2021-2027.

The Managing Authority, with the support of TESIM ENI CBC – technical assistance project funded by the EU – will continue to hold consultations with key actors during 2021 over the eligible area of the Programme.

*New section open on the programme website: [Interreg NEXT BSB!](#)*



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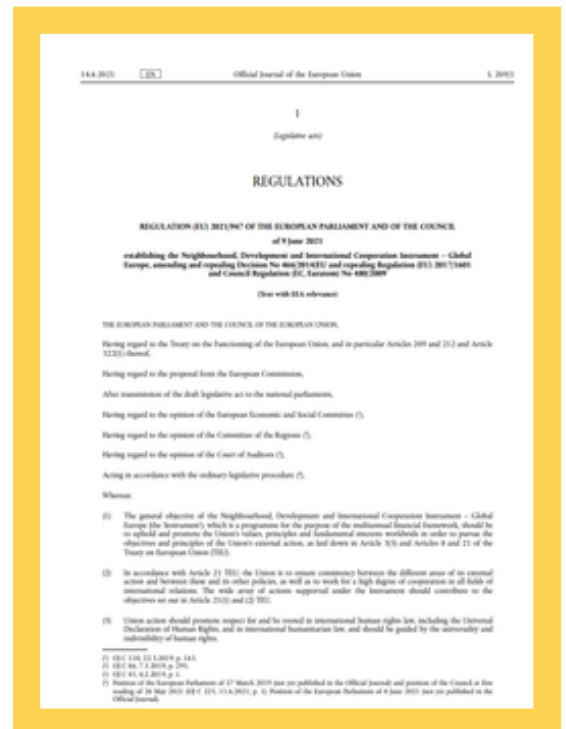
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# EU funds regulations for programming period 2021-2027 are out!

*Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme 2021-2027*

Three EU funds regulations (Common Provisions Regulation, European Regional Development Fund Regulation and Interreg Regulation) setting the main rules that govern the cooperation at external borders of the Union for the 2021-2027 period have been published on 30 June 2021 in the EU's Official Journal and enter into force on 1 July 2021.

Together with the Regulation establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe for the period 2021-2027, published in the EU's Official Journal earlier this month, the primary legislation for the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme 2021-2027 is now complete.



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## Interreg Maritime Roadshow

*#BlueInterreg*

We are entering a new financing period and new Interreg programmes are being built everywhere in Europe. Maritime cooperation will be needed and the new generation of Interreg programmes will continue to offer opportunities for maritime cooperation.

Interact programme recorded 5 video materials, one for each region, showing how manifold Interreg maritime cooperation can be. For this purpose, the videos feature specific maritime cooperation projects and their results to make Interreg cooperation more tangible.

### Featured projects

[RedMarLitter](#) (ENI CBC Black Sea)

[Bluefasma](#) (Interreg MED)

[I-STORMS](#) (Interreg Adrion)

*The video is available on YouTube.  
[Link to video on YouTube.](#)*

DOES MARITIME COOPERATION MATTER?

South-East Europe



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We wish you all a safe and fun  
**SUMMER!**

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