



## **Report on the Ukrainian National Workshop on Blue Growth in the Black Sea Kiev, Ministry of Infrastructure, 22/02/2018**

### **1. Overview of the National Workshop on Blue Growth in the Black Sea**

The workshop was held at the premises of the Ministry of Infrastructure and its duration exceeded the arranged time by an hour, since the participation of the attendees was very active and the discussions very lively, not only during the working group, but also during the plenary sessions. The agenda of the workshop is attached to the report.

### **2. List of points discussed**

#### **2.1. Introduction and Plenary Opening Session**

In the opening session Mr. Oleksandr Basiuk, Director of Department of Reforming and Functioning of Maritime and Inland Water Transport of the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine, introduced the topic of the workshop, shortly presented Ukraine's priorities on Blue Economy and expressed the country's sincere interest in the Facility.

The floor was then taken by Mr. Rieks Bosch, the Facility's Project Manager, and Mrs. Petya Genova, representative of the European Commission, DG MARE, who jointly explained the Facility's mission in supporting the participating countries' realization of national policies, in collaborating with each other in common issues and in funding relevant projects.

Opening remarks were also made by the representative of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, Mr. Strigunenko, who underlined that since the occupation of Crimea in 2014, Ukraine has lost infrastructure, resources and associated revenue in various blue economy sectors, such as transport, energy and tourism, and he thanked the EU for its support with the Facility. The deputy Head of State service of Ukraine for sea and river transport, the newly established Ukrainian Maritime Administration, Mr. Dmytro Petrenko, also expressed his appreciation for the Facility's initiative.





## **2.2. Blue Growth Session**

### **2.2.1. Integrated Maritime Policy presentation and discussion**

During this session, Mr. Frederick Herpers, the Facility's Sea Basins expert, presented what the Integrated Maritime Policy is, referring to concrete examples (cf. Facility presentation). Mrs. Genova explained thereafter the Facility's timeline up to 2020 and stressed that a slot specifically for the Black Sea is reserved on the budget after 2020.

A conversation followed concerning the process of the country assessment building, with the necessary support of the Ministries and several key stakeholders who are involved in blue economy in Ukraine. Mr. Herpers explained the rationale behind the country assessment and stressed that it is a document that belongs to the country and not to the Facility or to the EU; therefore, it is supposed to be completed and updated by the country with the assistance of the Facility. Besides, one of the goals of the workshop was to proceed with revising the preliminary assessment together with raising interest in Blue Economy and Blue Growth in Ukraine.

Some of the main issues identified by the Ministry of Infrastructure regarding the Facility were that they could not clearly understand its role and how it could practically help them, that the concept of Blue Economy was new to them and that they believed that there is a discrepancy between the way the EU and as a result the Facility work, on the one hand, and the way their national administration works, on the other.

To these concerns the Facility answered that coordination and integration are challenging for all countries-administrations and stakeholders and that the assessment's ultimate goal is to present an accurate description of Blue Economy in Ukraine, in order to attract investors who will be confident in the veracity of the data provided.

Representatives of all the Ministries took the floor, such as the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, the Ministry of Ecology and natural resources of Ukraine and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. Some of the main issues identified were the gap between the creation of policies, which exist in almost all relevant sectors, and their actual implementation, which is lacking. Moreover, it was mentioned that several partnerships and bilateral agreements exist between Ukraine and other Black Sea countries, therefore it was explained that the Facility's purpose is not to replace or duplicate their work, but that EU funding works as additional funding to already existing sources.

### **2.2.2. Initial Blue Growth Assessment presentation and discussion**





After the conclusion of the first round of discussions with the audience, Mr. Herpers went on to present the actual Blue Growth preliminary assessment on Ukraine. Mr. Bosch emphasized that the final version of the assessment should be completed by the summer 2018. It was indicated that the assessment is a very first draft to raise interest in and awareness of the potential for Blue Economy in Ukraine amongst public and private stakeholders and to strengthen interstate cooperation in the Black Sea.

The discussion that followed covered the topics of fisheries and tourism. One of the main problems identified was that notwithstanding the high level of education in Ukrainian universities, the research world is not in direct contact with the market. Possible solutions proposed included the participation of SMEs in projects funded by the EU and better dissemination of information amongst relevant stakeholders.

### **3. Working group**

Given the flow of the discussion, there was only one working group where all the participants sat around a table and collectively worked on the country assessment, providing and updating the information to identify Ukraine's drivers and brakes for Blue Economy at national level but also at Black Sea level. The discussed sectors were mainly fisheries, tourism, transport and infrastructure. Other sectors, such as renewable energy, safety and security, as well as education were also addressed.

The discussions during the working group were led in order to provide answers to the following issues: drivers and brakes for blue economy development, priorities on blue economy, synergies to support its development and the country's expectations of the facility. The outcomes and the revised Blue Economy assessment are under revision for approval by Ukraine's authorities.

### **3.1 Outcomes**

#### **3.1.1. What are the drivers/brakes for Blue Economy at national level but also in the Black Sea for Ukraine?**

Main drivers:

- Already many sectoral or thematic strategies and ongoing actions to develop Blue Economy (BE)
- Political will to develop Blue Economy through alignment with international legislation and standards





- Existing regional or neighbouring (e.g. RO, BG) sectoral cooperation in maritime economic activities and also in policy-driven activities (monitoring, observation, surveillance)
- Infrastructure development based on intermodality
- Awareness of rivers and marine ecosystem critical situation
- European Neighbourhood Instrument and its support framework for Ukraine

#### Major brakes:

- Weak level of confidence and interest of investors or donors in Blue Economy
- Level of requested efforts and national capacities to meet legal and operational implementation of international and EU legislation
- Low administration coordination (even if improving) to set up a maritime integrated vision
- Loss of revenue and level of investments in infrastructures to balance the losses associated with the occupation of the Crimea.
- Lack of innovation and transfer function from research to market

### **3. 1. 2. What are Ukraine's priorities for Blue Economy?**

- Support to existing maritime activities by improving infrastructures on coasts, rivers and land
- Development of enforcement and regulation capacities for operational implementation of related international (IMO, EU) and national legislation
- Development of sustainability and environmental protection (coastal zones, rivers, limans) and the cooperation of nature protection with other stakeholders like fisheries and tourism
- Development of cooperation on Blue Economy with neighbors but also within competing markets
- Raise awareness of Ukraine skills and upgrade them to meet international standards
- Set up a way to organize inter-ministerial dialogue supporting integrated maritime policy and its economic pillar, the Blue Economy

### **3.1.3. Which synergies (activities, governance) to support the development of Blue Economy in Ukraine?**

- Maritime transport and tourism
- In land and river tourism with cruise
- Nature protection with fisheries and tourism
- Bottom up projects supported by local authorities in line with national vision





- Shared diagnosis at national level but also with neighbours to identify shared objectives and common cooperation actions
- Enhancement of information sharing and dissemination between public and private stakeholders

### **3.1.4. What do you expect from the Facility to support Blue Economy development in Ukraine?**

- Support in adaptation of national legislation
- Support setting up of pilot project at local level involving local authorities (Oblast), assistance for capacity building and identification of funding opportunities
- Support awareness raising of maritime skills and assets
- Develop the liaison between Research, Education and maritime activities
- Support stakeholder network development at national and regional level to improve dialogue between stakeholders and administration
- Support development of attractiveness for investors through the promotion of Ukrainian maritime potentials
- Sustainability: any project supported by the facility should be sustainable and last beyond the project's lifetime

## **4. Conclusion and next steps**

After a very fruitful discussion, the Facility members thanked the participants for their contributions and informed them that they would proceed with amending the country assessment based on the information collected during the workshop. The Facility recalled the need to receive any updated information and the fact that the blue economy assessment is still a draft and its ownership needs to be taken over by national stakeholders in order for them to create a Ukrainian national vision of blue growth.

The outcomes and the revised Blue Economy assessment are under revision, pending approval by Ukraine's authorities. The updated assessment, after being approved, will be sent to all interested stakeholders and shared with the other countries around the Black Sea. Moreover, the stakeholders will be facilitated in communicating with each other, so that a network be created.

