

Black Sea Regional Stakeholders Conference

2021

Hackathon Session Questions

- 1. Is the concept still valuable and why?*
- 2. What improvements can be made and on which concrete actions?*
- 3. Which partner types (and next steps) should be foreseen?*



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Goal 1. Healthy marine and coastal ecosystems



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Establish a network between existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

OBJECTIVE

- Strengthen the **cooperation and further empowerment of MPAs**, as an essential tool for protecting ecosystems while allowing for sustainable development in the Black Sea.

RATIONALE

- MPAs provide an essential boost to the **protection of local heritage areas across the sea basin, while actively supporting fully sustainable economic activities**. That said, to be fully effective their status and capacity across the Black Sea should be further supported.

CONCEPT

In accordance with the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution:

- **Build on previous projects** (e.g., COCONET-MPAs) activities and ongoing initiatives (i.e. EMODNET) to strengthen and expand MPA cooperation – including through the set-up of a dedicated network;
- **Carry out management effectiveness appraisals** for all designated sites and support MPA capacity building through twinning and exchange visits – including with other sea basins;
- Establishment of a **digital platform for joint promotion and interaction within blue economy** sectors (e.g., tourism);
- Support ecological and natural heritage **'eco-tourism'** routes among the Black Sea Marine Protected Areas considering integrated coastal zone management.
- **Design and establish further MPAs in the region**, including coverage of NATURA 2000 birds and habitats protection objectives.

Foster digitalisation and maritime high-tech devices for water/air/environment quality and safety monitoring issues

OBJECTIVE

- Deployment of IT devices and drone technologies as a tool to **monitor Black Sea pollution hotspots** through the evolution of the Citizen Science Network.

RATIONALE

- Efforts are increasingly being made to address Marine Litter but a **wider range of sources of pollution should be tackled (eutrophication, waste management, river disposal, etc.)**.

CONCEPT

- **Build on the success of regional projects** (e.g. MARLITER, ANEMONE and LitOUTer) that started to develop networks of citizens, organisations, and local authorities across the Black Sea interested in monitoring and solving marine litter issue;
- **Expand the database with other sources of pollution**, as a way to support concrete actions to ensure a sustainable development of the blue economy across the Black Sea – and to allow for (a) cost-effectiveness, (b) prioritisation and (c) fine-tuning of policy activities by local authorities;
- The collected data will serve as an outreach tool to **create awareness around the growing concerns** on overall marine pollution and to identify pathways for sound policy response.

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Goal 2. Competitive, innovative and sustainable blue economy



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Set-up a network to boost local green and smart ports through coordinated pilot initiatives

OBJECTIVE

- Set-up a **network to boost local green and smart ports** for the implementation of energy-efficiency policies and measures and to improve regional uptake of low-carbon technologies and operations.

RATIONALE

- A strong need to explore pathways for **ports to become energy hubs towards a transition to sustainable and renewable energy** in the Black Sea.

CONCEPT

- Work with maritime administrations, port authorities and other relevant public and private stakeholders to **facilitate the uptake of low-carbon technologies and operations** through pilot projects;
- **Identify local barriers and bottlenecks to be addressed** to improving technologies to foster alternative sources of energy, towards fully sustainable energy/fuel sources;
- Support the **acceleration of innovative business models, SMEs and administrative practices** (e.g. innovative procurement to support local innovation).

Support local strategies for sustainable tourism in coastal and maritime areas including through greater use of digital tools

OBJECTIVE

- Support greater **uptake of innovative and sustainable services**, including through robust generation and access to data at local level and better understanding of the role to be played by big data.

RATIONALE

- Digitalisation and data analytics offers a huge opportunity to innovate and transform the sector but the **current understanding of how to apply this potential in practice remains largely unexplored.**

CONCEPT

- **Assess the many good practices available across the Black Sea** region and try to extract some general insights and recommendation for a full upscaling of digitalisation opportunities;
- Address **bottlenecks for a full uptake of sustainable tourism development** in a selected number of pilot areas;
- Foster **potentials for boosting alternative tourism experiences** through interactive maps and big data (e.g., multidisciplinary underwater archaeology exploration as a source for on and off-line experiences).

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Goal 3. Sustainable investment in the Black Sea blue economy



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Encouraging business hubs, business labs and accelerators for a sustainable and innovative blue economy across the Black Sea

OBJECTIVE

- Boost innovation and uptake of state-of-the-art technologies and business models, for businesses and other blue economy operators across the Black Sea.

RATIONALE

- Blue economy has great potentials for job and growth across the region but greater policy coordination and business support is needed for a sustainable blue economy to fulfil its potential in the Black Sea.

CONCEPT

- Promotion of 'maritime business networks' **and support to business ecosystems** in the BS;
- Support blue economy businesses to **identify and upscale innovative practices**;
- **Facilitate access to finance** to support 'business-models innovation';
- Dissemination of innovation potentials for **greater awareness for BS businesses and society**.

Supporting existing maritime clusters, or newly created innovation clusters, to improve regional cooperation

OBJECTIVE

- Support the **creation of sectoral clusters and further development of existing ones** as an essential tool to foster sustainable blue economy innovation and business support.

RATIONALE

- Maritime clusters are increasingly important **tools to support sustainable innovation, capacity building and access to finance for blue economy** stakeholders - their role should be strengthened.

CONCEPT

- **Map and screen the most relevant embryonic and emerging clusters** in the Black Sea – both in the maritime field as well as in other sectors with high potential for emerging blue economy activities;
- Identify areas of gaps and possibilities for the **set-up of innovative maritime cluster (emerging topics, critical value-chains, etc.)** and synergies needed to make those a reality;
- Provide an **overall platform for clusters** (maritime and non-maritime) to exchange views, discuss innovation possibilities and foster networking in the region – including for access to investments.