



BRIDGE-BS

Advancing Black Sea Research and Innovation to Co-Develop Blue Growth within Resilient Ecosystems

KICK-OFF MEETING

12-13 JULY 2021 ONLINE

The Black Sea is a vital resource with vast potential to boost the societal value of the blue economy for its surrounding countries. Blue Growth has a great potential for the Black Sea countries and for Europe as a whole as it can be considered an instrument to promote stability and empower the coastal communities in the region¹. While the Black Sea is a unique sea basin that is rich in biodiversity, heritage, and natural resources, the basin is increasingly under pressure due mainly to the increasing impacts from human-induced factors, such as eutrophication and hypoxia, overfishing, and the introduction of alien species, in addition to the effects of climate change.

In recognition of the importance of these and the significant influence of multistressors on the Black Sea ecosystems and its services, **the Burgas Vision Paper** (VP, 2018), **the Common Maritime Agenda** (CMA, 2019), and **the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda** (SRIA, 2019) emphasized the urgent need to identify synergistic multiple stressors (multistressors) interactions impacting ecosystem resilience and prioritized a set of actions for 'a healthy, resilient and productive Black Sea by 2030'. In order to boost Black Sea's blue economy, it is a prerequisite that Black Sea's ecosystem services and their resilience to stressors are assessed, predicted, and managed via the development and application of state-of-the-art management tools.

With that aim, two main implementing actions supporting the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda were granted under the Blue Growth Call of H2020 in 2020. While the **BRIDGE-BS (Advancing Black Sea Research and Innovation to Co-Develop Blue Growth within Resilient Ecosystems)** focuses on ecosystem resilience, services, and development of the blue economy; the complementary **DOORS (Developing Optimal and Open Research Support for the Black Sea)** will focus on developing integrated observing systems, land-sea interactions, and the deep sea.

Leveraging the EU funded H2020 CSA [Black Sea CONNECT](http://connect2blacksea.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Black_Sea_SRIA_Final.pdf) (2019/10 - 2022/10), BRIDGE-BS will map, monitor, and model ecosystem services and their responses to stressors in order to identify the **safe operating space** (Rockström et al., 2009) within which sustainable, climate-neutral blue economy can develop. To achieve this, BRIDGE-BS will advance knowledge and deliver research under three **Nodes: Service Dynamics, Blue Growth Incubators, and Empowered Citizens**.

¹ http://connect2blacksea.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Black_Sea_SRIA_Final.pdf



On the **12-13th of July 2021**, BRIDGE-BS will be formally launched. After a 2-hour public session featuring BRIDGE-BS and DOORS and the synergies between them, the internal work within the BRIDGE-BS consortium will take place during the 2-day virtual kick-off meeting.

DRAFT AGENDA

| Day 1 | | |
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| PLENARY OPENING - OPEN TO BROADER STAKEHOLDERS | | |
| 12 July 2021 | | |
| CEST | | |
| 12:45 | Virtual access and netiquette | |
| 13:00 | Welcome | Baris Salihoglu , BRIDGE-BS Coordinator |
| 13:10 | Opening Remarks | Mustafa Verşan Kok , Rector, METU |
| 13:20 | Policy Plenary | Moderated by Wendy Bonne , DG Research and Innovation Jocelyn Guitton , European External Action Service Patrizia Busolini , DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries |
| 13:50 | Keynote Speech on the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda: A perspective into the Black Sea | Sigi Gruber , Active Senior Advisor, DG Research and Innovation |
| 14:10 | For a healthy, sustainable and resilient Black Sea by 2030: H2020 funded RIA's | DOORS : Developing Optimal and Open Research Support for the Black Sea, Adrian Stanica , GEOECOMAR BRIDGE-BS : Advancing Black Sea Research and Innovation to Co-Develop Blue Growth within Resilient Ecosystems, Mustafa Yucel , METU |
| 15:00 | Synergies towards Black Sea SRIA Implementation - Input from stakeholders | Moderated by Baris Salihoglu , BRIDGE-BS Coordinator |



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| Day 1 | 12 July | |
| CEST | | |
| 15:30 | Management procedures and projectspecific remarks | Gonzalo Garcia de Arboleya , Research Executive Agency |
| Presentation of the Work Packages (20 min presentation 25 min Q&A) | | |
| 15:45 | WP1 Knowledge base for the Black Sea | Laura Boicenco , NIMRD, WP1 Lead (Co-lead: Viktor Komorin, UkrSCES) |
| 16:30 | WP2 Ecosystem dynamics under multistressors | Marilaure Gregoire , Uliege WP2 Lead (Co-lead: George Triantafyllou, HCMR) |
| 17:15 | WP3 Resilience for a healthy Black Sea ecosystem | Susa Niiranen , SU, WP3 Lead (Co-lead: Georgi Daskalov, IBER-BAS) |
| Day 2 | 13 July 2021 | |
| CEST | | |
| 09:30 | WP4 Adaptive Management | Andrea Barbanti , CNR, WP4 Lead (Co-lead: Dan Vasiliu , GEOECOMAR) |
| 10:15 | WP5 Smart observations and technologies | Mustafa Yucel , METU, WP5 (Co-lead: Kremena Stefanova , IO-BAS) |
| 11:00 | WP6 Socio-economics and social innovations | Phoebe Koundouri , AUEB, WP6 Lead (Co-lead: Yakup Peker , TEPAV) |
| 11:45 | WP7 Accelerating 'Industry 4.0' business models | Frédérick Herpers , SML Patrizio Mariani , DTU, WP7 Lead (Co-lead: Matteo Bocci, SML) |
| 12:30 | Break | |
| 13:00 | WP8 Science-based policy making for Blue Growth | Georgia Chantzi , ICBSS, WP8 Lead (Co-lead: Rosa Fernández , CETMAR) |
| 13:45 | WP9 Education and Capacity Building | Martha Papathanasiou , INDIGO-MED, WP9 Lead (Co-lead: Bayram Ozturk, TUDAV) |
| 14:30 | WP10 Coordination and Management | Pinar Uygurer , BRIDGE-BS Project Manager |
| 15:15 | Break | |
| 15:30 | Planning the next 6 months and Upcoming Deliverables | Moderated Discussions |
| 16:00 | Remarks from the Advisory Board | Moderated by Baris Salihoglu Tour de Table: input from the Advisory Board |
| 16:30 | Summary and wrap up | Baris Salihoglu , BRIDGE-BS Coordinator & Mustafa Yucel , BRIDGE-BS Co-coordinator |