



CONNECT  BLACK SEA



# BLACK SEA YOUNG AMBASSADORS

## 2022-2024

### INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS



# **BLACK SEA YOUNG AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME**

## **2022 - 2024**

The Black Sea is looking for its new young ambassadors who will be a BRIDGE between scientists and the general public!

### **The Black Sea Young Ambassadors Programme**

The Black Sea Young Ambassadors Programme (BSYAP) is an ongoing programme developed in September 2020, under the H2020-funded [Black Sea CONNECT](#) CSA, to unite youth for the future of the Black Sea, for a healthy, resilient, and the sustainable Black Sea.

The first cohort of young ambassadors has played an important role in advocating marine sciences and a sustainable blue economy in the Black Sea, and in promoting the goals of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (Black Sea SRIA). The BSYAs have brought a novel dynamic to the Black Sea CONNECT CSA, especially regarding visibility and dissemination efforts. They have become a voice for the Black Sea youth in different platforms and places, with the vision of re-connecting and creating the missing links in the Black Sea between citizens and our oceans and seas, as well as policy and science. Last but not least, they have conducted bottom-up and local activities in their countries within the framework of the Awareness Raising Campaign.

After the positive impact of the first cohort and the success of the programme, the BSYAP has been linked with the H2020-funded [BRIDGE-BS](#) RIA project, to increase the impact of the program and its visibility and to ensure its sustainability. With BRIDGE-BS, not only the foundations of the BSYAs' work and efforts but also the bridge they have established between society and science will be getting stronger and broader in scope.

### **Become the new voice of the Black Sea!**

With the aim of engaging a wider community of early career ocean professionals and equipping them with the necessary skills to become actors for change; the Black Sea Young Ambassadors Programme is looking for a new cohort of passionate and creative Young Ambassadors.

In the new cohort, each Ambassador will be asked to work more specifically on at least one of the Blue Economy themes according to their profession, such as Blue Bioeconomy & Biotechnology, Marine fisheries, aquaculture, and living resources, Marine non-living resources (oil and gas, other minerals) Marine renewable energy (Offshore wind energy, wave energy), Maritime transport, Research & Education, Tourism (Coastal and Cruise), Shipbuilding and repair, Cultural Heritage. Ambassadors will be asked to focus their activity more specifically on the sector(s) that they are interested in/have experienced.

The engagement of the Young Ambassadors will enhance the visibility and actions of the Blue Growth Initiative in the Black Sea, increase the countries' potential, and spread the research outputs and activities related to the Black Sea CONNECT and BRIDGE-BS.

The Young Ambassadors will collaborate with experienced mentors in the relevant countries around the Black Sea and Europe, to promote mutual understanding, increase leadership skills, and prepare youth to make a difference in their communities.

## Information about the Programme

Within this program, Young Black Sea Ambassadors from Black Sea riparian countries, including the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Republic of Turkey, and Ukraine, as well as the Republic of Moldova, together with the ambassadors of different sea basins, will engage with key actors from political, social, economic and scientific fields to develop the necessary skills to become actors for change in 2022-2024 and beyond.

### Objectives of the Black Sea Young Ambassadors Programme

- Training and equipping a new generation of young Black Sea citizens with knowledge, practical skills, and the potential to address issues on marine science, science & policy integration, and sustainable blue economy in the region.
- Developing a network of young influencers willing to be actors for positive change in their communities, countries, and beyond.
- Contributing to, and promoting, a richer mutual understanding of, values, identity, history, and cultures through a collective learning experience.
- Empowering the Young Ambassadors to take an active role in their communities and provide them with tools for social transformation.
- Allowing Young Ambassadors to meet scientists from leading Marine Science Institutes in Europe and beyond, contributing to their academic and professional career development.

### The roles of the Black Sea Young Ambassadors are

- Actively Advocating and promoting marine science, sustainable blue economy, and ocean literacy.
- Becoming a voice of the Black Sea and raising awareness on its challenges, marine ecosystem services, and blue economy activities with the support of Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative, EU Mission Ocean, and UN Ocean Decade.
- Participating and contributing to the Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative, Black Sea CONNECT and BRIDGE-BS, and European Commission events and activities.
- Assisting in the organization of regional and Black Sea Basin-scale events.
- Promoting and communicating specific and foresight activities related to Black Sea Blue Growth Initiative, Black Sea CONNECT, and BRIDGE-BS.
- Engaging in meetings, activities of education, outreach and advocacy, team-building exercises, and meetings with community leaders.
- Building knowledge and skills in working at the science-policy/industry/civil society/general public, interface.
- Campaigning and driving positive change in their own communities, countries, regionally, and beyond.
- Engaging with young people to contribute to building a generation that protects seas and oceans.
- Creating opportunities for further cooperation and collaboration and follow-up activities between the Black Sea and the EU sea basins.

### Activities of the Black Sea CONNECT Young Ambassadors

*(the commitment if selected as Black Sea Young Ambassador)*

Activities will include:

- Participation in an online orientation meeting (in late 2022 and early 2023), winter/spring school (in the first half of 2023), awareness-raising campaign development workshop (in the first half of

2023), Black Sea SRIA National Consultation Meeting in relevant Black Sea country (in 2023) and other training and capacity building activities.

- Participation in various activities, including online Black Tea Time Meetings, one or more Black Sea CONNECT & BRIDGE-BS General Assembly meeting(s), and/or other external events or workshops.
- Development of online or local awareness-raising campaigns and actions to address the challenges in the Black Sea and opportunities for a sustainable blue economy.
- Working with fellow young ambassadors in online and face-to-face meetings to finalize campaigns and actions, meeting regularly with mentors in the relevant countries around the Black Sea and Europe (to be held in 2022 and 2023).
- Contribute to the scientific outputs of Black Sea CONNECT and BRIDGE-BS projects in line with their background and expertise.

➤ For detailed information on Black Sea Young Ambassadors' activities you can visit the [webpage](#).

## Eligibility Criteria & Application Process

### Young Ambassadors should be:

- Curious about the world, and the ocean. Interested in community building, science diplomacy, public engagement, education and training, and youth issues.
- Good communicators, and willing to use their creativity, imagination, and communication skills to help promote Blue Economy in the region (via blogs/videos/social media posts/performances and articles).
- Proficient in English, with a high level of English skills in both spoken and written forms
- Comfortable with public speaking.
- Aged between 20-35 years.
- Able to travel within their country and/or internationally.
- One of the following: i) early career ocean professional (early in their career - 10 years or less of professional experience - in any field related to the ocean) ii) MSc/MA/Ph.D. student or post-doc researcher who can demonstrate marine and maritime research, policy-relevant science and/or industry, iii) science communicator, iv) environmental NGO, v) activist, vi) science diplomat from the Black Sea countries. viii) a representative from a business/start-up that works with the Blue Economy Sectors.
- Able to volunteer to work as an ambassador until 2024 with possible extension.
- Committed to working in this program for two years from the period November 2022 and 2024 with the possibility of extension.

### Application and announcement of results

Applicants are kindly requested to fill in the [online application form](#) (with the attachment of their CV) by 15 September 2022.

After reviewing the applications, shortlisted applicants will be contacted by the coordination team in the second half of September 2022. An online interview will be held with them. Selection results will be announced in late October 2022.

More information on the specific topics can be provided by sending an email to [bridgebs@ims.metu.edu.tr](mailto:bridgebs@ims.metu.edu.tr).

### **Engagement, Travel, and Financial Support for Events and Activities**

It is estimated that the engagement of the Young Ambassadors will be approximately 40 days per year (including the Winter/Spring School, 2023) and will last until the end of the project in 2024. As well as Winter/Spring School, the development of online or local campaigns and events will be supported by both the Black Sea CONNECT and BRIDGE-BS projects. Full travel support will be available to all selected Young Ambassadors to attend Black Sea CONNECT and BRIDGE-BS-related events. This long-term planning will help the Young Ambassadors to get involved in the assigned project from start to finish, meet and liaise with national and international experts, scientists, industry representatives, and stakeholders, and advocate their thoughts and reactions to achieve the goals of the Project during the meetings.



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[Black Sea Young Ambassadors Web Page](#)



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