



2nd HIGH-TECH SUMMIT FOR THE BLACK SEA

16.10.2024 Sofia, BULGARIA

The High-Tech Summit for the Black Sea (HTS4BS), funded under H2020 BRIDGE-BS, is a significant research-based forum focused on ocean digitalization and Industry 4.0. It brings together blue economy innovators from the Black Sea region and beyond, fostering dialogue among industry members, academia, research organizations, investors, policymakers, and civil society.

The first edition took place in Varna, Bulgaria in September 2022, and the second edition is scheduled for Sofia, Bulgaria on the 16 October 2024 with in person attendance.

Building on BRIDGE-BS first outcomes as well as local and regional stakeholders' inputs, the event will showcase business ideas supported by the **Black Sea Accelerator**, with discussions spanning from renewable maritime energy, sustainable aquaculture, blue biotech, green and digital ports, yachting, circular economy, environmental monitoring, and marine security. Interactive sessions will facilitate business idea presentations, projects and matchmaking with partners and investors.

There will be interactive sessions offering opportunities for showcasing business ideas, projects and matchmaking with partners and investors.

The event will also be an occasion to showcase the business ideas supported by the **Black Sea Accelerator**, promoted in cooperation with the DOORS project, and to host some pitching sessions for those ideas towards international sustainable investors, while awarding those deemed to have a greater impact and those who made a greater improvement throughout the acceleration support.

Additionally, to maximize synergies with other relevant actions in the Black Sea, 2nd HTS4BS is organized back-to-back with the **Horizon Europe Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) Black Sea Regional Workshop** that will take place on 17 October in the same venue.



DRAFT AGENDA

16.10.2024

International Business School, Sofia Bulgaria

VAN GOGH HALL

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| 09:00 - 09:30 | Summit Opening |
| 09:30 - 10:30 | One year ahead: Technological Opportunities for the Black Sea Region |
| 09:30 - 10:00 | <i>Regional scenarios for sustainable blue economy</i> |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | <i>Roundtable: Challenges and opportunities for investments, capacity and policymaking Q&A</i> |
| 10:30 -14:30 | Sector Talk: Living Labs and Innovative Solutions |
| 10:30 - 11:15 | <p>Waste-to-Energy and Renewable Maritime Energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore waste-to-energy technologies. • Discuss the potential of offshore wind in the Black Sea region. • Showcase practical examples. • Q&A |
| 11:15 - 11:45 | <p>Innovative Aquaculture and Biotechnology Bi-Products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight advancements in aquaculture. • Discuss biotechnology applications. • Showcase practical examples. • Q&A |
| 11:45 - 12:30 | <p>Green transport and ports (including yachting and marinas):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcase practical examples. • Q&A |
| 12:30 - 14:30 | <p>Lunch-Break: showcase of projects/businesses/ideas and Match-Making Talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short sessions for networking and collaboration. • Match participants with common interests. |
| 14:30 - 16:00 | Black Sea Accelerator: pitching session |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitching from the Black Sea Accelerator Participants <p>Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Investors</i> |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Coffee-break and matchmaking |
| 16:30 – 18:00 | Cross-Cutting Topics: Digital Twins, Automation, and Circular Models |
| 16:30 – 17:30 | |
| 17:30 | Closing Awards Session for Accelerator Participants |
| 17:45 | Closing of works and continuing the matchmaking |

