

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 BRIDGEBS, 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; the second edition is scheduled for Sofia, Bulgaria on 16 October 2024 with in-person attendance.

Building on BRIDGE-BS's 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, the 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.

**2nd HIGH-TECH SUMMIT FOR THE BLACK SEA**

**International Business School, Sofia Bulgaria**

**16.10.2024**

**VAN GOGH HALL**

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| **08:30 –**  **09:00** | **Registration** |
| **09:00 – 09:30** | **Opening Talks**  **Moderator: Barış Salihoğlu** |
|  | * **Ambassador Lazar Comanescu,** Secretary General, The Permanent International Secretariat of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation * **Elisabetta Balzi,** Deputy Director and Head of Unit,DG Research and Innovation, European Commission * **Andreea Strachinescu,** Head of Unit,DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission |
| **09:30 – 10:45** | **One Year Ahead: Technological Opportunities for the Black Sea Region**  **Moderator: Matteo Bocci, Stratégies Mer et Littoral** |
| **09:30 – 10:00** | ***Regional scenarios for a sustainable blue economy***   * **Blue Economy Imaginaries,** Pierre-Mael Deffontaines, Stratégies Mer et Littoral * **Testing future scenarios,** Andrea Barbanti, The Marine Sciences Research Institute of the Italian National Research Council * **Transformative Pathways and Living Labs**, Alice Guittard, Athens University of Economics and Business |
| **10:00 – 10:45** | ***Roundtable:*** *Challenges and opportunities for investments, capacity and policymaking,*   * **Georgia's Innovation & Technology Agency,** Ketevan Buliskeria * **Eastern Black Sea Development Agency**, Mehmet Bozdogan * **Enterprise Europe Network, Marine Cluster Bulgaria,** Ilze Atanasova * **Maritime and Fisheries of Directorate of Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Bulgaria,** Boriana Vodenicharska * **Q&A** |
| **10:45 -**  **11:15** | **Coffee Break & Group Photo** |
| **11:15 – 13:00** | **Sector Talk: Innovative Solutions**  **Moderator: Ipek Hokkaci, Black Sea Economic Cooperation and and Matteo Bocci, Stratégies Mer et Littoral** |
| **11:15 – 12:00** | ***Waste-to-Energy and Renewable Maritime Energy:*** *Exploring waste-to-energy technologies, discussing the potential of offshore wind in the Black Sea region, and showcasing practical examples.*   * **Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski,** Mariya Trifonova * **Recycllux,** Sorina Uleia * **Black Sea Renewable Energy Coalition,** Murat Durak * **Ondokuz Mayıs University,** Kubilay Yildirim * **Q&A** |
| **12:00 – 12:45** | ***Innovative Aquaculture and Biotechnology Bi-Products:*** *Highlighting advancements in aquaculture, discussing biotechnology applications, and showcasing practical examples.*   * **BRIDGE-BS,** Nina Dzhembekova * **Georgian National Environmental Agency,** Ramaz Mikeladze * **BlueBurn,** Felix Ghyczy * **Q&A** |
| **12:45 – 13:30** | ***Green transport and ports (including yachting and marinas):*** *Showcasing practical examples.*   * **Galera 07,** Andrey Stanev * **Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure**, Stela Atanasova * **Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia,** Nino Bagdavadze * **Q&A** |
| **13:30 – 14:30** | **Lunch-Break: a showcase of projects/businesses/ideas and Match-Making Talks**  Short sessions for networking and collaboration. |
| **14:30 – 16:00** | **Black Sea Accelerator: Pitching Session**  **Moderator: Marilou Suc, Black Sea Accelerator and Matteo Bocci, Stratégies Mer et Littoral** |
| **14:30 – 15:00** | ***Black Sea Accelerator (BSA)***   * **Presentation of BSA of 2 calls,** Ipek Hokkaci, Black Sea Economic Cooperation & Pierre-Maël Deffontaines, Stratégies Mer et Littoral |
| **15:00 – 16:00** | ***Pitching Session of Black Sea Accelerators***   * **Tresoil,** Roger Preston * **Recycllux,** Sorina Uleia * **Ondokuz Mayıs University,** Kubilay Yildirim   **Panel**   * **Black Sea Trade & Development Bank**, Panayotis Gavras * **ALW Finance & Innovation,** Anne Lebreton-Wolf * **Morningside Hill,** Ani Stancheva * **Middle East Technical University/BRIDGE-BS**, Mustafa Yücel * **Fund of funds Bulgaria,** Dotchka Vassileva |
| **16:00 – 16:30** | **Coffee-break and matchmaking** |
| **16:30 – 17:30** | **Cross-Cutting Topics: Digital Twins, Automation, and Circular Models**  **Moderator: Patrizio Mariani, Technical University of Denmark** |
| **16:30 – 17:30** | * **VLIZ/EDITO,** Frederic Leclercq * **GeoEcoMar/DOORS**, Adrian Stanica * **Middle East Technical University/BRIDGE-BS,** Baris Salihoğlu * **Senior srl,** Antonio Vicente Amendola |
| **17:30 – 18:00** | **Closing Awards Session for Black Sea Accelerator Participants**  **Moderator: Ipek Hokkaci, Black Sea Economic Cooperation & Pierre-Maël Deffontaines, Stratégies Mer et Littoral** |
|  | **Awarding Ceremony** |
|  | **Closing Remarks**   * Mustafa Yücel, Middle East Technical University/BRIDGE-BS |
| **18:00 – 19:30** | **Reception** |

**Black Sea Accelerator Short-list of Participants for the Most Impactful Solution Award**

**Boatmate - Digital platform for the recreational boating industry, Murat GURHAN** - Boatmate is a comprehensive digital platform dedicated to fostering sustainable growth in the recreational boating industry. By providing a centralized hub for innovative digital solutions, Boatmate empowers businesses to accelerate their digital transformation and drive positive change

**Çaçan Energy - Portable solar panels and wind turbines, Burak ÇAÇAN** - Çaçan Energy is committed to reducing carbon emissions by utilizing portable solar panels and wind turbines. We are selling 1.2 kw portable powerstation products, with plans to release 5kw and kw products in 2024. We will develop our portable electrical car charging units by the end of 2025. Our Product is already on the market and we are selling our products online.

**Galera 07 - Solar electrical water taxi, Mr. Andrei STANEV** - Galera 07 LTD is innovative shipbuilding company concentrated in to building eco-friendly water transport such as solar catamaran for 100 pax (already built for Burgas Municipality) and full electrical river catamaran for 28pax (already built for Silistra Municipality). Our target is to start building solar electrical water taxi.

**RDFind - Matchmaking between companies and researchers in the Blue Economy, Ms Cristina DRAGOMIR** - Digital platform where researchers can be promoted and companies needing research can identify them easily. The platform will use Al capabilities to match the companies with researchers with relevant expertise for their needs. The researchers will upload their profile for free. The companies searching researchers to contract will pay for the service of identifying the researcher with the appropriate expertise. For the first stage, the platform will be dedicated to companies and researchers within the maritime sector.

**R.E.N.E.W. Nets - Recycled Eco-Friendly Nets for Environmental Welfare, Ms Tatiana SITCHINAVA** - R.E.N.E.W. Nets are revolutionizing the fight against plastic pollution in the Black Sea. We convert waste into high-quality, sustainable fishing nets that safeguard marine life while empowering local fishermen. Our initiative generates jobs in recycling and manufacturing, driving economic growth and environmental stewardship. Together, let's embrace the spirit of "Acta non verba"-deeds, not words and create a cleaner, healthier ocean for future generations!

**TramshipOS - Automated maritime services platform, Mr Jaba TARIMANASHVILI** - The project aims to create a global, automated maritime services platform, focusing initially on the tramp shipping sector. This platform will integrate ship agency operations, automate port cost calculations, and provide advanced voyage planning solutions. It will connect stakeholders across the maritime industry, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations and enhancing operational efficiency.

**13 MARI - Reducing the drag and fuel consumption of cargo ships, Mr Krassi FOTEV** - 13 Mari introduced a ship-tuning solution that merges novelty with ancient nature concepts, ultimately reducing the drag and fuel consumption of cargo ships. The invention, called 13 Mari Elements, uses the simplicity of ripple- shaped composite elements, leveraging existing technologies to enhance the flow and efficiency of maritime vessels.

**HydrocollacoidBS - gel-forming agent production from macroalges collected from Blacksea, Kubilay Yıldırım** - Sustainable production of agar and alginate, two critical gelling agents used in critical industries (cosmetic, food, biotechnology and biomedical). By utilising endogenous species (like Gelidium, Gracilaria C. Barbata) from the Black Sea region of Turkey, the team has optimised production techniques through patented spray-dryer technology. This innovation has led to the development of products such as food additives, wound healing materials, seed encapsulation products, and biofertilizers. Backed by financial support from the Turkish Scientific Council, the project aims to address the environmental challenges caused by climate change and excessive fertilizer use, which have led to rapid macroalgae growth.

**TRESOILPower2X - Digital Twins Waste Plastic to Energy, Roger Preston** - A sustainable waste-to-energy solution that converts waste plastic into green hydrogen, ammonia, and carbon black. The project uses Digital Twin technology to create a virtual model of the plant, allowing real-time performance monitoring, risk management, and decision-making. The goal is to deploy modular, scalable, zero-emission plants along the Danube River to support green hydrogen production and address both waste management and clean energy demands.

**Recycllux - marine plastic waste management, Sorina Uleia** - An end-to-end solution for marine plastic waste management, leveraging cutting-edge technologies such as Earth Observation, AI, and Blockchain. The project enables the identification, collection, and recycling of marine plastics, fostering partnerships with fishing vessels, companies, NGOs, and recycling facilities to create a collaborative ecosystem. The system also allows companies to meet sustainability goals while contributing to a circular economy for plastics.