

FINAL CONFERENCE

 25 NOVEMBER 2025  HYBRID, BRUSSELS



CONCEPT NOTE

The Horizon 2020-funded **BRIDGE-BS (Advancing Black Sea Research and Innovation to Co-Develop Blue Growth within Resilient Ecosystems)** aims to advance the Black Sea's marine research and innovation to co-develop Blue Economy pathways under multi stressors for the sustainable utilization of the ecosystem services. The 4.5-year project will end in November 2025.

Clustering around three main nodes, including Service Dynamics, Blue Growth Incubators, and Empowered Citizens, BRIDGE-BS used pilot study sites at the local level, with findings contributing to interconnected work packages addressing the four pillars of the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (Black Sea SRIA). This way, BRIDGE-BS strives to achieve “a healthy, resilient and productive Black Sea by 2030” with awareness of the seriousness of the threat posed by the increasing human-induced pressures on the Black Sea.

The BRIDGE-BS project generated a new breakthrough in the understanding of the healthy planetary boundaries of a marine ecosystem. The project successfully demonstrated cutting-edge smart monitoring technologies, marine modelling simulating climate scenarios, and first-time resilience and cumulative impact assessments. Co-developed with communities through living labs, BRIDGE-BS paved a new way forward that secures a safe operating environmental space for a sustainable Blue Economy.

In the Final Conference of BRIDGE-BS, we will showcase the project's key achievements, highlight its legacy for the Black Sea region, showcase the [Black Sea DTO-demonstrator](#) and bring together policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to discuss the future of sustainable blue economy cooperation.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101000240

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DRAFT AGENDA

Registration [link](#)

Event Venue: [Sparks, Brussels](#)

12:00 – 13:30	Networking Lunch & Registration
13:30 – 14:00	• Wiebke Pankauke, Deputy HoU, Oceans, Seas and Waters • Lana Bezinovic Sostar, Policy Officer, Sea-basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security • Amb. Dr. Georgi Panayotov, Permanent International Secretariat of Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
14:00 – 14:15	Black Sea SRIA Implementation and overview of BRIDGE-BS impact • Barış Salihoğlu, BRIDGE-BS Coordinator, METU
14:15 – 15:30	BRIDGE-BS Key Outputs & Legacy Safe operating space • Black Sea DTO Demonstrator, Barış Salihoğlu, METU • BRIDGE-BS Database, Laura Boicenco, NIMRD • Modeling Framework, Marilaure Gregoire, Uliege • Resilience Analyses, Susa Niiranen, SU • Desired scenarios, Stefano Menegon, CNR • AI Tools For Understanding and Managing Black Sea Ecosystems, Philip Alexander Hedlund Smith, DTU, BRIDGE-BS PhD student • Q&A From communities to policy and innovation • Living Labs, Alice Guittard, AUEB • Smart Monitoring Systems, Kremena Stefanova, IO-BAS • Black Sea Accelerator, Matteo Bocci, SML • Policy Impact, Maria Perez, CETMAR • Capacity Building, Martha Papathanasiou, INDIGO-MED • A PhD Journey Through Bridging The Black Sea, Betül Bitir, METU, BRIDGE-BS PhD student • Q&A
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 16:45	Panel: What's next for the Black Sea? Moderator: Georgia Chantzi , ICBSS • Rositsa Stoeva, National Coordinator of the Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office of the BSEC Organization (July-December 2025), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria • Mihaela Mirea, Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea • Angiolo Boncompagni, Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership • Prof. Dr. Phoebe Koundouri, Co-chair and chief scientist for Global Sustainable Development Report
16:45 – 17:00	Closing



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