

***Scientific events: BSEC/PDF Black Sea project kick off meeting,  
Constanta / Romania, April 7-8, 2008***

The first BSEC / PDF project “Improvement of the scientific background for assuring sustainable development in the Black Sea coastal zone: a pre-feasibility study” related working meeting took place at the premises of the National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa” (NIMRD) in Constantza / Romania between April 7-8, 2008, in the presence of all partners, and according to the proposed Agenda

Dr.Eng. Simion Nicolaev, Director General of NIMRD, host and project initiator, has welcomed the participants Dr. Otilia Mihail representing the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr. Silviu Roman from the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, and project partners from abroad: Bulgaria, Georgia, Russian Federation and Ukraine according to list of participants.

The meeting has been chaired by Dr. Alexandru S. Bologa, Scientific Director of NIMRD.

For the beginning an overall presentation of the project has been delivered to the audience, remembering the initial considerably larger project content / design, and its reduction to the present BSEC Standard Application in accordance with the maximum possible amount of 15,000 USD.

By means of the Standard Application the foreseen project work packages and deliverables (reports) have been discussed.

The project includes four Work Packages:

- Work Package 1 – Improved Black Sea integrated marine monitoring system,
- Work Package 2 – Marine biodiversity and habitat protection,
- Work Package 3 – Marine living resources,
- Work Package 4 – Project for an informational data system for the coastal and marine zone.

Each Work Package has been discussed by means of Power Point presentations prepared by WP leaders Radu Mihnea, Drd. Valeria Abaza, Dr. Gheorghe Radu and Theodor M. Cristescu.

All above mentioned presentations have been commented and partners have expressed their opinions / considerations / suggestions, in order to complete them with own inputs during their future contributions to project deliverables.

Second project meeting has been kindly accepted to be organized and hosted by Partner 2 Institute of Oceanology (IO-BAS), in Varna / Bulgaria, between October 3-4, 2008, prior to Second Black Sea Conference (Sofia / Bulgaria, October 6-9, 2008) in order to enable easier participation of some project partners who intend to join also mentioned conference.

A separate debate has been devoted to the opportunity of extending present BSEC / PDF project / prefeasibility study at the larger initially designed / proposed scale.

After a general consensus in this respect, several possibilities of addressing a new project proposal have been reviewed.

It appeared that it would be most desirable to address it, after adequate preparation and consideration at second BSEC project meeting in Varna, as application to EC / Framework Programme 7, at appropriate call / position to be identified (improvement of infrastructure and regional cooperation) at earliest convenience.

The importance of a support from the Black Sea Commission and its Permanent Secretariat, as one of major project end users, was taken into consideration.

Dr. Alexandru S. Bologa