

***Scientific events: National workshop, with international participation, regarding “The Development of an Indicative Ecologically Coherent Network of sub-tidal Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Bulgaria and Romania” (BBI-Matra project: 2006-2008), April 9<sup>th</sup> 2008, Constantza, Romania***

At the workshop, the results obtained within the project between 2006 and 2008 were presented. 50 participants attended the workshop (47 from Romania, 2 from Bulgaria and 1 from Georgia), from the following areas of interest: Central authorities (MWSO + MER): 2 people (4%); Research (3): 26 people (52%); NGO's (4): 5 people (10%); Universities (2): 3 people (6%); Museums (1): 3 people (6%); Media (1): 1 people (2%); Local authorities (AEP, DWDL, City Hall): 7 people (14%); PA Custodians, Administrators (3): 3 people (6%); Total (19): 50 people (100%)

The presentations (realized by Dr. Tania Zaharia, ph. D applicant Dragos Micu and Victor Nita from NIMRD and Ion Munteanu from DDBRA Tulcea) made by the participants at the project were focused on:

- the benefits, the nomination criteria, as well as the parametres of the Marine Protected Areas, which were taken into account when selecting the sites chosen to become parts of a coherent ecological MPA network;
- the Marine Protected Areas network in Romania, according to the *Order of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development No. 1964 / 5 December 2007 regarding the nomination of the sites with community interest as integrated part of the ecological European network Natura 2000 in Romania.*

Conclusions, Recommendations, Proposals of the workshop:

- The concern of the participants regarding the protection and preservation of the marine environment is to be highlighted;
- The potential of Marine Protected Areas for the sustainable management of the marine environment was emphasized;
- The potential conflicts related to the development of the Natura 2000 ecological network in Dobrogea were highlighted, but a series of clarifications were made as far as human activities within their perimeter are concerned;
- Possible financing programmes were identified for the concerns regarding the sustainable management of the marine environment (such as CBC Phare, Operational Programmes etc.);

- Partnerships between the interested factors were established, regarding awareness activities;
- The continuation of the researches regarding the knowledge of the existing MPA's was recommended, as well as the mapping of the habitats in them and supporting the managers in elaborating the regulations and the management plans.



Dr. Tania Zaharia