Establishing and Operating an Innovative Marine Technology Transfer Network for Enhancing the Transition to a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Black Sea Basin (EfxINNOs)

Project Duration: 2024-2027

Contract number: BSB00193

Funded under: (Interreg VI-B) NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme; Programme priority: Blue and Smart Region; Specific objective RSO1.1: Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

Total project budget: 1,643,648.40 EUR

Coordinated by: Democritus University of Thrace-School of Engineering-Special Account for Research Funds

NIMRD Project Coordinator: dr. Răzvan Mateescu

The EfxINNOs project aims to develop and operate an innovative, cost-effective, and sustainable network of advanced monitoring platforms to enhance existing research infrastructures. This initiative will address the joint monitoring needs of EU policy instruments and the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring Assessment Program (BSIMAP), creating a vital link between the Black Sea and the North Aegean Sea. By advancing knowledge of marine ecosystem dynamics and the impacts of human-induced stressors, EfxINNOs seeks to close gaps in data collection, harmonization, and policy implementation across the Black Sea Basin (BSB) and the Mediterranean.

Specific objectives

- EfxINNOs will advance knowledge on marine ecosystem functioning, as well as on the impact of human stressors from land-based and maritime activities.
- The project will fill the gaps in data collection, data harmonization and policy implementation among the Black Sea Basin (BSB) and the Mediterranean.
- The project will develop a consistent approach for the protection and restoration of the Black Sea seabed ecosystems in line to MSFD.
- EfxINNOs will produce science-based policy tools to serve the directions set by the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution.

Project's outcomes

- Deployment of Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), and surface buoys for survey missions
- Harmonization of data and imagery, with standardized practices for generating seabed and underwater habitat videos
- Training sessions focused on marine monitoring operations
- Mapping of critical biodiversity conservation areas, supporting marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management
- Assessment of marine litter and pollution risks at all study sites
- Policy recommendations for improving the Black Sea marine environment
- Workshops dedicated to Black Sea ecosystem protection
- International report on the health of benthic ecosystems
- Regional hackathons in each participating country, engaging students, young researchers, and professionals

Partnerships

Greece (Project Lead: Democritus University of Thrace-School of Engineering-Special Account for Research Funds – DUTH), Bulgaria (Technical University of Varna; Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities – UBBSLA), Georgia (Ilia State University – ISU), Romania (**National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa" – NIMRD**), Türkiye (Istanbul University – IU)

Map of the partner countries

Source:
https://blacksea-cbc.net/images/interreg-next-bsb-projects/BSB00193_EfxINNOs/BSB00193_EfxINNOs.pdf