



Upgrade Black Sea SCENE

Regional Project of the Black Sea Scientific Network

Information Brochure 2010

About the project

The Upgrade Black Sea SCENE project funded by the FP7 EU (2009–2011) in its second year focused on the development and extension of the existing research infrastructure (<http://www.blackseascene.net/>) of marine environmental institutes and organisations from the Black Sea countries. Among the principal objectives of the project are: to implement common communication standards and adapted technologies to ensure the interoperability of data centres around the Black Sea; to network the existing and new Black Sea data centres, active in data collection, and provide integrated databases of standardised quality online; to realize and improve online access to in situ and remote sensing data, metadata and products; to adopt standardised methodologies for data quality checking to ensure the quality, compatibility and coherence of the data generated and issued by many different sources.

Promotion and dissemination

During 2010 the Black Sea NGO Network (BSNN) has been promoting the Upgrade Black Sea SCENE (UBSS) project at various regional and cross-border events, such as the 3rd EU Maritime Day Stakeholder Conference, the Black Sea Biogeographic Seminar for Natura 2000, the NGO Forum for the Black Sea, as well as other conferences, meetings and seminars.

Training with students

Upgrade Black Sea SCENE was introduced at a training session of students from the Varna Free University by Ralitsa Zhekova and Emma Gileva on 16 March 2010. The session was attended by 19 political science and international relations students who were interested in regional Black Sea issues and projects. The subject of the

presentation focused on the opportunities for trans-border scientific exchange and opportunities provided by the EU 7FP as an instrument for the implementation of the Black Sea Synergy. The training improved the students' awareness of the project and their knowledge of the regional players and stakeholders involved in regional policy and decision making about the Black Sea.

Working meeting of THESEUS

Upgrade Black Sea SCENE was promoted at a working meeting of the THESEUS 7FP project 'Innovative technologies for safer European coasts in a changing climate' at Varna Municipality on 8 April 2010. The BSNN coordinator attended the event and distributed project leaflets to 42 stakeholders from the local and central government and the maritime businesses. The promotion of UBSS helped outline the significance of data availability and accessibility, as well as data quality in the development of a systematic ICZM approach to deliver both low-risk coast for man's use and healthy coastal habitats for the evolving coastal zones subject to numerous pressures in a changing climate.

3rd EU Maritime Day



The project is supported by the the EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for research infrastructures.

The 3rd edition of the European Maritime Day, co-organised by the European Commission, the Spanish Presidency of the European Union and the Government of the Principality of Asturias, was held in Gijón on 18–21 May 2010. The representative of the Black Sea NGO Network attended the stakeholder events and took part in the European Seas Environmental Cooperation (ESEC) 2010 meeting focusing on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) implementation process. Ms. Zhekova delivered a presentation about the progress and opportunities provided by the UBSS project and the significance of involving various maritime stakeholders as end users of data and data provision services available within the project infrastructure. The presentation emphasized that the UBSS infrastructure will enhance the exchange of scientific knowledge and regional cooperation contributing to the better protection, rehabilitation and sustainable development of the Black Sea ecosystem. Ms. Zhekova also presented a poster and color copies of the BSNN brochure to all participants.

Marine Biogeographical Meeting

The third Natura 2000 marine seminar was held in Brindisi, Italy from the 15th to the 18th of June 2010, to examine site proposals covering three marine areas, the Black Sea, Mediterranean and Macaronesia. The seminar was spread over three days with each day being devoted to one of the regions. All participants, among them key EU biodiversity experts and scientists, received promotional publications and posters of UBSS project by the representatives of the Black Sea NGO Network. The issue of the availability and integration of databases and metadata bases was discussed with the experts. The BSNN coordinator distributed UBSS leaflets to all participants in the Black Sea seminar and the ETC experts. Ms. Dominique Richard of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity was particularly interested in the project and recommended that the project team of the BSNN should get acquainted with GRAMED Database. The Global and Regional Assessments of the Marine Environment Database (GRAMED) has been developed at the request of UNEP and IOC/UNESCO, as the lead agencies responsible for taking forward the "Assessment of Assessments" through the implementation of UNGA Resolution 60/30. It was first developed to

support the preparation of the 2007 report, Global Marine Assessments: A survey of global and regional assessments and related scientific activities of the marine environment and builds on the 2003 UNEP-WCMC/UNEP/ IOC-UNESCO report "Global Marine Assessments: A survey of global and regional marine environmental assessments and related scientific activities". The GRAMED Database is managed and hosted by UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK. Initially developed to support the work of the Group of Experts charged with carrying out the Assessment of Assessments, the database has been developed with the objective to provide support to a future regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment.

At the seminar it has become clear that all Member States have further work to do before the marine Natura 2000 network will be complete. The event was organised by the team from the Torre Guaceto Marine Protected Area with the support of the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea.



VEDA Meeting

On June 22, 2010 the BSNN coordinator presented the UBSS project at the cross border meeting of the Varna Economic Development Agency (VEDA). The event involved partners from coastal cities in Italy and Greece participating in the SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme AsviLoc Plus. BSNN was invited to present its experience with multi partner regional trans-border projects. The presentation focused on the opportunities provided by reliable scientific information to decision makers. The visitors and local participants improved their awareness of the

UBSS infrastructure and the opportunities provided by the available information to authorities and businesses.

ESEC Meeting in Brussels

On July 15 2010 the ESEC partnership and the nine more environmental NGO experts had a meeting in Brussels to work together on the setting of environmental targets for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). The meeting was yet another opportunity to present the UBSS leaflet to the new people in the group. The BSNN coordinator discussed with the participants the significance of information for decision making and monitoring of the environment, again in relation to the MSFD. The elaboration of the descriptors for the directive and the effort to put authoritative knowledge about the marine environment at the heart of decision-making, enabling better links between the scientific and policy worlds were central in the discussion. The participants improved their awareness of the UBSS and the Black Sea region.

ICZM networking meeting in Varna

The networking meeting on ICZM on 5 October 2010 involved a group of 22 experts from NGOs, coastal communities and administrations as well as some media representatives. The meeting made a review of the advance on the implementation of the ICZM principles on national level. It also reviewed the Black Sea NGO Network project 'Public Support for the Sustainable Management of Natura 2000 Sites along the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast' and planned follow up activities. Promotion and dissemination of Upgrade Black Sea SCENE has been carried out with poster and leaflets for all participants. The chair of the meeting outlined the significance of reliable data in the process of coastal zone planning.



New Bridges in Europe

A regional scientific conference for the wider Black Sea region was held at the Varna Free University (VFU) from 18 to 20 Oct 2010. The event was entitled "New Bridges in Europe – Opportunities for Cooperation in the Black Sea Region" and was organized by the VFU and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. Representatives of the Black Sea NGO Network attended the round table at the conference and disseminated UG BSS fliers to 50 participants. The round table discussed several project ideas, one of them focusing particularly on the collection and dissemination of data on regional issues. The participants improved their awareness of the UBSS infrastructure and the opportunities provided to scientific institutes and universities, to local authorities and businesses



International Black Sea Action Day celebration

As usual the Black Sea NGO Network (BSNN) has been promoting the UBSS project at various public awareness events and campaigns dedicated to dates on the environmental calendar. Promotion and dissemination of Upgrade Black Sea SCENE has been carried out proactively by BSNN through dissemination of fliers and display of a poster at press conference and NGO outdoor activities. Over 70 fliers were distributed among students, teachers and environmental activists taking part in the traditional Clean Beaches campaign alerting the public to problems of the Black Sea and the coast. The activity promoted understanding and dissemination of knowledge about the Black Sea environment and contributed to the introduction

of UBSS to the wider community and key stakeholders.



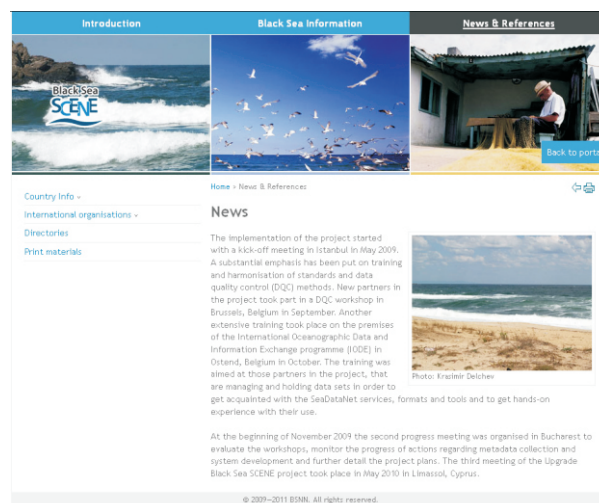
Focus on 'Black Sea Outlook'

The third bi-annual Black Sea Scientific Conference 'Black Sea Outlook' to be held from 31 October to 4 November 2011 in Odessa, Ukraine has focused the promotional efforts of the Black Sea NGO Network team on members of the scientific community in the coastal states. A good number of scientists are members of environmental NGOs or provide expertise to NGO projects and take part in civil society activities. The network members over the past two months disseminated information about the conference to their members and scientific advisers. So far eight scientists have confirmed their readiness to participate in the conference. Organizations in Ukraine will make further efforts to involve more local participants.

Despite the large number of project partners, holders of marine data, from the Black Sea countries and the EU, there are quite a few scientific institutes, universities and colleges in the region which are the target group for dissemination of information about the UBSS project and the conference. Scientists are important users of the project infrastructure and can benefit from closer involvement with the partners. By using the infrastructure they will receive a highly detailed insight in the availability and geographical spread of marine data across the different data centers and institutes across Europe. The 'Black Sea Outlook' is also expected to provide a regional focus on public awareness on Black Sea issues.

Interest in socio-economic data

Experts and NGO partners have been working on the further population of *scene.bsnn.org* with socio economic data, maps and images. A suitable way for increasing the public awareness about UBSS project is the visual presentation of the data through graphics. The link is becoming increasingly popular with NGOs and educational establishments. The information section contains a variety of socio-economic data about the Black Sea region. It also provides information on the European legislation concerning environmental protection, natural resources and specific actions aimed at the region. Maps of the EEZ (exclusive economic zones) in the Black Sea have been added as well.



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This information brochure has been produced by the team of the Black Sea NGO Network for the purposes of promotion and dissemination of the Upgrade Black Sea SCENE project among regional stakeholders and the wider regional community.