



Boosting the Blue Economy
in the Black Sea Region

NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME MESSAGE

Entrepreneurship and making business in the Black Sea Region

In 1997 I have initiated at the Neptun Tv Channel, a Tv Show called "Vision, Value & Courage" to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship and the best practices from the Constanta region. I was sure that there were many examples of entrepreneurs, and somebody had to discover and promote them. But, very soon, I understood that the entrepreneurial native talents have to be doubled by the knowledge and skills of making business. At those times, the business schools were at the very beginning in our region and the business education was not taken very serious.



The economy was passing a very major shift from a centralized socialist system to a very incipient market economy. Most of the business people were blocked in the 1st Law of making business as to maximize the profit. There were many opportunities in making profit but the business environment was fragile to secure long term running businesses. Even nowadays we could notice the distortions within different related markets, the state of law and other related aspects that have to give to the business people the required means to develop and operate long lasting business. As a consequence, the implementation of innovative solutions in business is threatened by the lack of a functional and safe market economy.

How to promote ecoinnovative blue businesses in such a context? This is the challenge for the [4BIZ Project](#) and in the last 2 years we have learned many lessons from the business sector that have to be shared. It is a unique chance to be a part of the large European Business family and we have to show the advantages to the local entrepreneurs and support them to integrate in this community and to apply the European business approach to blue economy in the Black Sea Region. In this issue of the Newsletter we summarize some of our activities under the frame of the 4BIZ project but, you have to join us to the Regional Business Forum on [9 and 10 of May, in Varna](#) to learn, to take the advantage and to contribute to the boosting of businesses in the blue economy sector in our Region. It looks like we have enough arguments for re-making a show about entrepreneurship and business in the new context. Please, send us your feedbacks and opinions about this subject and about any other subject related to blue economy in the Black Sea Region!

Warmly,

Project Coordinator, Prof. dr. Eden MAMUT

4BIZ EVENTS AND OTHER MEETINGS

International Workshop on "Policy Recommendations for Boosting Blue Economy in the Black Sea Region"

Under the frame of 4BIZ – Boosting Black Sea Blue Biz project it was organized the International Workshop on „Policy Recommendations for Boosting Blue Economy in the Black Sea Region“ on March 19th, 2024, at the European Parliament, in Brussels, Belgium.

The program includes speeches by members and specialists of the European Parliament and invited speakers. At the end of the workshop, it was planned to outline proposals for regional initiatives and blue economy projects.

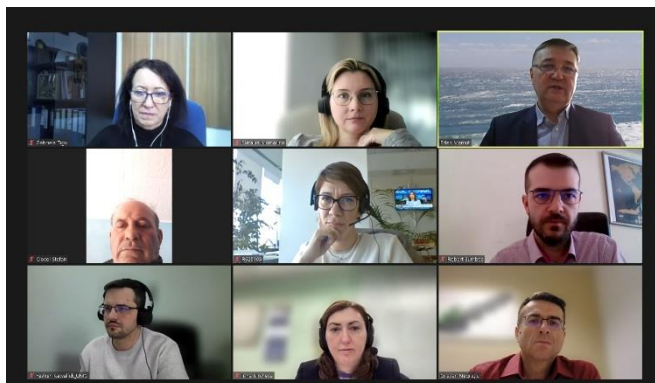


Concept Program Gallery

Online-meeting with investors for companies in the Blue economy sector of the Black Sea region - 3 -

Within the #4BIZproject framework, a meeting was held with investors for companies in the blue economy sector of the Black Sea region, namely from Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, and Ukraine. The investors were represented by Ms. Andrea Cosma from UniCredit Bank (corporate investment banking) and Mr. Cristian Negrutiu.

Participation in such events is crucial for the development of the private sector in the blue economy.



In summary, participation in workshops and investor meetings offers the following positive factors:

- revision of the enterprise's potential;
- identification of strengths and weaknesses;
- receiving objective feedback on the state of affairs and business proposals;
- opportunity to showcase the enterprise on an international platform and attract interest with its proposals.

Regional Business event “Boosting Black Sea Blue Biz – 4BIZ”, Constanta, Romania

Under the frame of the 4BIZ Project, on the 29th of February, 2024, it was organized the Regional Brokerage event „Boosting Black Sea Blue Biz – 4BIZ”, in Constanta. event gathered entrepreneurs, representatives of innovative companies, start-ups and stakeholders from Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia, Greece and France, including regional development agencies, chambers of commerce, innovative clusters, universities and support organizations.



event gathered entrepreneurs, representatives of innovative companies, start-ups and stakeholders from Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia, Greece and France, including regional development agencies, chambers of commerce, innovative clusters, universities and support organizations.

The event aimed to offer a framework for B2B, B2G, B2C collaborations by facilitating the exchange of Blue Business ideas, best practices and knowledge in order to identify new directions to be followed for conceiving successful entrepreneurial activities.

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With spoke a welcome speech at the opening pannel Prof. Eden **MAMUT**, 4BIZ Project Coordinator Ion **MOCANU**, President, Galati Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (online), Sonia **KARASAVVIDOU**, Project Officer, European Commission, Olena **ZHUKOVA** Executive Director of the PU “Ukrainian Maritime Cluster”, **Mehmet Bozdogan** Head of the Project Development and Implementation Unit at Eastern Black Sea Development Agency (**DOKA**)

During the speech, the 4BIZproject coordinator informed the participants of the event with the results of the project implementation, at which stage it is and voiced the main policy recommendation for support blue business in the Black Sea region. Namely:

- Strengthening the framework for promoting the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship with a deep respect to the marine and coastal environment: the Sikorsky Innovation Challenge model
- Establishing and supporting the development of competence centres on blue economy by the involvement of universities and scientific research communities
- Highly professional support services for the entrepreneurs and managers of businesses in the field of blue economy
- Dedicated/targeted investments funds with expertise in blue economy businesses specific for the conditions of the Black Sea Region
- Inter-governmental cooperation for large scale projects as the ferry-line connections between the Black Sea Ports

[Learn more](#)



Implementation of Support Services for The Pilot Companies



Under EMFAF 4BIZ Project's "Implementation of Support Services for The Pilot Companies" work package activity, trainings were given to 5 aquaculture and fisheries processing MSMEs of Trabzon in the field of R&D, efficiency, innovation, quality assurance systems, aquaculture technics, product diversification, sustainable environment, circular economy, fish diseases and diagnosis in SUMAE (Central Fisheries Research Institute) by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University and SUMAE experts.

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With the help of these trainings, increasing these 5 MSMEs institutional capacities are targeted. 3 of MSMEs planning to invest in Atlantic Salmon which is a new and high value-added export product for our region, received trainings on advanced farming techniques and these companies started to make regulatory researches, technical and financial analyses for the realization of this investment. Mentoring service in the field of production of protein hydrolyzate from fish waste, has been started for one of MSMEs by SUMAE experts. Additionally, to develop the entrepreneurship and investment capacity of these 5 MSMEs, business counselling service under DOKA specialists guidance in the field of public supports and incentives, investment licences and permissions is ongoing effectively.



ICBSS' PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL BROKERAGE EVENT "BOOSTING BLACK SEA BLUE BIZ- 4BIZproject"

The **International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)** participated in the **Regional Brokerage Event "Boosting Black Sea Blue Biz - 4BIZproject"** that was held on 29 February 2024 in a hybrid format (in Constanta, Romania and online).

ICBSS – as a core partner of the 4BIZ project, in charge of promoting inter-basin cooperation and knowledge exchange – presented its comparative analysis on the Funding Support for Cooperative Projects on Blue Economy in other sea basins (Baltic Sea, Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea including Adriatic and Ionian Region).

This event provided a framework for fostering B2B, B2C & B2G collaborations and encouraged the sharing of innovative business ideas, best practices, and knowledge in Blue Business sectors, in order to pave the way for new opportunities in entrepreneurial endeavors.

[Learn more](#)



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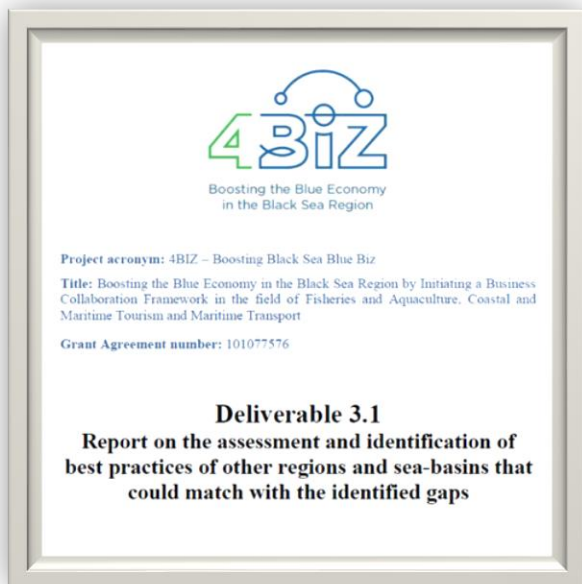
ICBSS' COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ON BLUE ECONOMY BETWEEN THE BLACK SEA & OTHER EU SEA-BASINS

Within the framework of the 4BIZ project, the **International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)** extended **research outside the Black Sea to other EU sea basins, i.e. Baltic Sea, Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea including Adriatic and Ionian Region**, with the aim to identify good practices at policy and operational levels that could support the mitigation of challenges for blue businesses in the Black Sea.

The report, entitled "**Report on the assessment and identification of best practices of other regions and sea-basins that could match with the identified gaps**", provides a review of policies

at regional and national level in the selected sea-basins, and highlights good practices of supporting mechanisms and blue businesses. Its results fed the ongoing research and consultation activities, and supported the development of pilot services under the 4BIZ project.

[Learn more](#) about the 4BIZ project deliverables & activities



EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date for the Regional Business Forum "Boosting Black Sea Blue Biz – 4BIZ"



Project 4BIZ - Boosting the Blue Economy in the Black Sea Region



Co-funded by
the European Union



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The Black Sea region is gearing up for an event that promises to transform the maritime industry. The Regional Business Forum "Boosting Black Sea Blue Biz – 4BIZ" is set to take place **on the 9th and 10th of May 2024** at Astor Garden Hotel in the Sts. Constantine and Helena resort, Varna, Bulgaria.

This two-day forum will bring together key stakeholders, entrepreneurs, and innovators from the Maritime Transport, Coastal and Maritime Tourism, and Fisheries and Aquacultures sectors. The aim of the event is to catalyze the growth of the Blue Economy in the Black Sea region and beyond.

Save the date to:

- Engage in insightful discussions on Blue Business ideas
- Network with industry experts, entrepreneurs, and investors
- Showcase innovative projects
- Discover new opportunities for collaboration and growth

The Regional Business Forum "Boosting Black Sea Blue Biz – 4BIZ" is an event for anyone passionate about the Blue Economy and the potential it holds for sustainable development. Join us as we embark on a journey to boost the Black Sea Blue Economy together. Stay tuned for more details and registration information coming soon!

The event is part of 4BIZ Project - Boosting the Blue Economy in the Black Sea Region activities
Are you ready to boost the Black Sea Blue Economy?



Save the Date: 9th-10th May 2024

Exciting news for the maritime industry! The Regional Business Forum "Boosting Black Sea Blue Biz – 4BIZ" will be held in Sts. Constantine and Helena resort, Varna, Bulgaria on 9th-10th May 2024.

Join us for two days of:

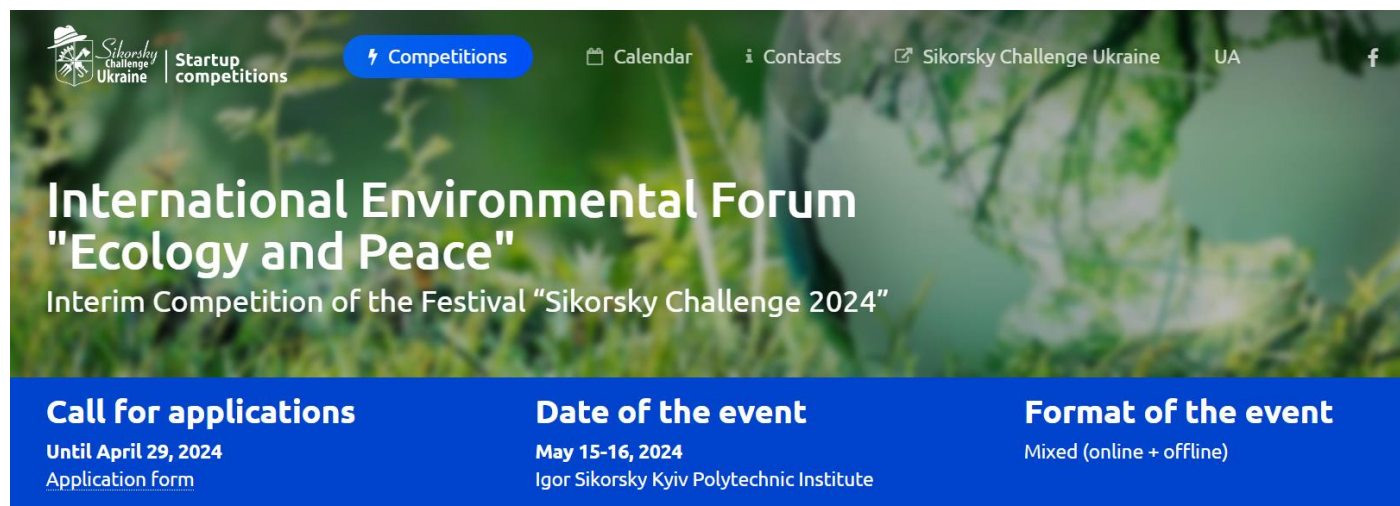
- Insightful discussions on Maritime Transport, Coastal Tourism, Fisheries, and more!
- Networking with industry experts, entrepreneurs, and investors from Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine and Spain.
- Showcasing innovative projects

This is your chance to be part of the growth and innovation in the Black Sea Blue Economy. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!

The event is part of 4BIZ Project - Boosting the Blue Economy in the Black Sea Region activities and supported by Enterprise Europe Network.

[Learn more](#)

International Environmental Forum "Ecology and Peace"



The screenshot shows a website banner for the International Environmental Forum "Ecology and Peace". The banner features a background image of a bird in a tree. At the top left, there is a logo for "Sikorsky Challenge Ukraine" and "Startup competitions". The navigation menu includes "Competitions", "Calendar", "Contacts", "Sikorsky Challenge Ukraine", and "UA". The main text on the banner reads "International Environmental Forum 'Ecology and Peace'" and "Interim Competition of the Festival 'Sikorsky Challenge 2024'". Below the banner, there are three columns of information: "Call for applications" (Until April 29, 2024, Application Form), "Date of the event" (May 15-16, 2024, Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute), and "Format of the event" (Mixed (online + offline)).

On May 15-16, 2024, Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute will host **the International Environmental Forum "Ecology and Peace"** dedicated to solving the environmental problems caused by the ongoing full-scale Russian aggression in Ukraine.

The Forum will include a thematic competition as an intermediate stage of the Sikorsky Challenge 2024 International Festival of Innovation Projects.

Teams of promising projects selected by potential customers/investors during the interim competition will be able to go through an acceleration program tailored to these customers/investors, become finalists of the Sikorsky Challenge 2024 International Festival and receive financial support for their projects.



Topics of the competition:

- Humanitarian demining of territories
- Treatment of water and bodies of water
- Waste collection and disposal
- Other (in the context of environmental safety).

Since the Black Sea and Azov regions and maritime areas of Ukraine are among the most affected by the hostilities, the forum's topic is directly related to creating conditions for the development of the national blue economy. We invite all those interested and willing to offer their solutions to environmental problems in the field of the blue economy to participate in the forum and the competition of innovative projects.

Format of the event: mixed (online + in-person)

Application deadline: 28.04.2024.

[Application form](#)

4BIZ Innovation Challenge 2024

Competition of Innovative Projects, Business Ideas & Startup Ideas in the Field of Aquaculture and Fisheries

in the Black Sea Region

When: June 21st, 2024

Deadline: June 1st, 2024

Format: online / offline

The event shall be addressed to the students from [BSUN](#) member universities, but also to the students from other universities.

Organized by the [4BIZ Consortium Partners](#) shall organize, in collaboration with different BSUN member universities. The event from Constanta shall be organized in cooperation with "Ovidius" University of Constanta.

The topic of the event is dedicated to the field of aquaculture and fisheries, green transition approaches in this field, protection of marine habitats related to exploitation of fish and sea food resources, aquaculture and mariculture, use of satellite data for monitoring prevention and management of environmental issues related to anthropogenic activities in marine ecosystems, marine biology and genetics applied to the needs of the sector, logistic and



Competition of Innovative Projects, Business Ideas & Startup Ideas in the Field of Aquaculture and Fisheries in the Black Sea Region

June 21st, 2024



technology aspects, renewable energy sources and other topics related to the needs of sector by eco innovative solutions.

[Learn more](#) [Program and Concept](#) [Guidelines for applicants](#)

The Sikorsky Challenge Ukraine (SCU) - 2024

Call for applications	Date of the event	Format of the event
Until May 20, 2024 Application form	June 5, 2024 Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute	Mixed (online + offline)

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The Sikorsky Challenge Ukraine (SCU) innovation ecosystem has announced a competition [for startup projects](#) focused on artificial intelligence (). The competition aims to discover innovative solutions that will drive growth across various sectors of the Ukrainian economy.

We invite everyone who has groundbreaking ideas and developments in the field of artificial intelligence to participate. Participants of the Competition will have the opportunity to:

- Complete the program "Innovative Entrepreneurship and Practice of Launching Startup" (July 2024)
- Get support for incubation and acceleration of their startup projects (August 2024)
- Take part in the final of the Innovation Startup Competition "Sikorsky Challenge 2024" within the framework of the XIII International Festival of Innovation Projects "Sikorsky Challenge 2024"(October 2024)
- Receive financial support for the development of their startup projects.

Format of the event: mixed (online + in-person)

Date of the event: 05.06.2024

Application deadline: 20.05.2024

[Application form](#)

4BIZ PARTNERS

Project Coordinator – BLACK SEA UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

Prof. dr. Eden MAMUT

BLACK SEA UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

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- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/4bizproject>

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