



Black Sea SCENE

Regional Project of the Black Sea Scientific Network

Information Brochure 2007

About Black Sea SCENE

The Black Sea SCENE is a three year project supported by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme promoting research and development. The Black Sea SCENE project is undertaken by 25 partners from Black Sea countries: Ukraine (5), Russia (7), Turkey (3), Romania (2), Bulgaria (4), Georgia (4), together with 7 partners from EU member states (6) and (1) Associated State. The project aims to establish a Black Sea Scientific Network of leading environmental and socio-economic research institutes, universities and NGOs from the countries around the Black Sea and to develop a virtual data and information infrastructure that will be populated and maintained by these organisations to improve the identification, access, exchange, quality indication and use of their data and information about the Black Sea. The partners will contribute to the transformation of the Black Sea SCENE information infrastructure into a user-friendly environmental knowledge platform.

The Black Sea SCENE research infrastructure will stimulate scientific cooperation, exchange of knowledge and expertise, and strengthen the regional capacity and performance of marine environmental data & information management, underpin harmonisation with European marine data quality control/assessment procedures and adoption of international meta-data standards and data-management practices, providing improved data & information delivery services for the Black Sea region at a European level.

The Black Sea SCENE partners are proactively addressing the end-users community to promote and disseminate the Black Sea SCENE activities and project results. They have been involved in the end-user and stakeholder consultation

process with the purpose to help extend the circle of end-users outside the scientific research community. The consultation of potential end-users serves to obtain requirements and feedback for the networking activities of the Black Sea SCENE and the development of the Black Sea virtual data and information infrastructure.



Black Sea SCENE Activities

Black Sea SCENE activities involve workshops about Black Sea and environment related data, its availability, quality and the terms of its use. Environmental and socio-economic scientists and technical specialists of the partners will meet regularly in Workshops to discuss and to formulate the specifications, to coordinate and tune the networking activities, to monitor and to evaluate the project progress, and to consider long term sustainability of the network and wider cooperation. At the workshops Common Data Quality Control procedures will be explored and harmonised, whereby partners from EU member states will demonstrate EU practices. Partners will compile overviews of their marine datasets



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and data acquisition activities using established European meta-data formats. Partners will assess the quality of their datasets and include Data Quality indicators in the meta-data. A virtual data and information infrastructure will be implemented to facilitate the access to meta-data and datasets. This will include a Black Sea regional portal with central meta-directories, equipped with dynamic mapping functions, and giving links to distributed datasets at partners. The infrastructure development will be tuned with the 6FP SeaDataNet infrastructure project. The Workshops and project will lead to a further regional cooperation between the institutes that will be beneficial for the regional capability. The Black Sea SCENE project started 1 December 2005 and has a duration of 3 years (end 30 November 2008)

Black Sea SCENE will mobilise a large number of Black Sea institutions that hold significant quantities of environmental and socio-economic data and information as well as knowledge and expertise. It will support the European research community by providing availability overviews and access to marine environmental and socio-economic Black Sea data.

Black Sea SCENE and the Black Sea virtual data and information infrastructure will encourage transnational and worldwide (IOC, NATO SfP, GEF, UNEP and UNDP projects) use of the available datasets. It will also improve the compatibility of archiving systems among regional partners.

End of first project year: 30 November 2006 - Main Achievements

- Organisation of 3 workshops (Haarlem - the Netherlands, Varna - Bulgaria and Athens - Greece)
- Launch of the project web portal
- Catalogue of environmental datasets, projects and cruises
- First edition of Promotion & Dissemination Plan
- Project flyer and project leaflet in English and Russian language

List of activities

Black Sea SCENE consists of 6 Networking Activities (NA):
 NA1 Management of CA Activities: Overall management and coordination of Black Sea SCENE activities and management of resources by a Project Coordination Group. Daily Management will be carried out by a Project Office (MARIS). *Objectives:* To ensure coordination of Networking Activities, budget control and timely delivery of deliverables.

NA2 Black Sea SCENE Workshops Activity: Organisation of 7 Black Sea SCENE workshops for tuning the networking activities and 2 special Workshops: a Data Quality Control & Assessment Workshop and a Data Management Workshop. *Objectives:* To establish a Black Sea Scientific Network of leading environmental and socio-economic research institutes, universities and NGO's from the countries around the Black Sea, that will meet in regular Workshops, together with partners from EU member states:

- To discuss and to tune the content and coherence of the Networking Activities NA3—NA6
- To monitor and to evaluate the progress of the Networking Activities NA3—NA6
- To discuss and to prepare long term arrangements for sustaining the Black Sea SCENE network and the Black Sea virtual data and information infrastructure
- To stimulate mutual capacity building by exchanging experiences in data management, QC and assessments

NA3 Inventory of Data Quality Control (DQC) and Data Quality Assessment (DQA) methods within the Black Sea countries and EU and Data Quality Assessment on partners data
Activities: Introduction of EU DQC and DQA methods/procedures. Inventory of partners of DQC and DQA methods/procedures within Black Sea countries and comparison with EU practices. Establishing a harmonised approach to DQC and DQA. Partners will assess the quality of their data by systematic sampling and benchmarking, resulting in

so-called Data Quality Labels, that are included in the meta-data records. *Objective:* To determine the present quality of Black Sea datasets, managed by the regional partners, and to harmonise the future quality of datasets by exploring and harmonising common DQC and DQA methods.

NA4 Harmonisation and conversion of partner's data & information to internationally agreed meta-data formats and exchange formats *Activities:* Introduction and transfer of internationally agreed meta-directories and (meta)data formats. Partners will collect meta-data of their datasets, populating the meta-directories. Partners will adopt formats for data exchange *Objective:* To adopt and to implement internationally agreed protocols for cataloguing and exchanging Black Sea datasets, managed by the regional partners.

NA5 Development Black Sea virtual data and information infrastructure *Activities:* To draft a conceptual design and functional specifications of the Black Sea virtual data and information infrastructure. To develop and to integrate the components of the infrastructure. To connect the infrastructure to local systems of partners. *Objective:* To develop and to implement a Black Sea virtual data and information infrastructure, including a Black Sea regional portal, to facilitate the access to meta-data and distributed datasets, managed by the regional partners.

NA6 Public awareness, promotion, dissemination and exploitation, including Promotion and Dissemination Workshop *Activities:* Public Awareness, Promotion and Dissemination activities. Drafting and discussing a plan for sustainable exploitation of the Black Sea SCENE infrastructure. *Objective:* To promote, to disseminate, to maintain and to plan future exploitation of the Black Sea SCENE virtual data and information infrastructure.



Launch of the project web portal

From January to May 2006 the Black Sea SCENE project web portal as well as the Extranet was developed. Both were officially launched during the Varna Workshop in June 2006. The Black Sea SCENE portal <http://www.blackseascene.net> includes the following chapters: introduction, project objectives, project work plan, project planning, partners, contact, country profiles, link to the Extranet and news. Access to the Extranet http://www.blackseascene.net/v_forum/password.asp is provided to the project partners to download documents belonging to the Networking Activities. The opening page of the Extranet is NA 1: Project Management. After clicking on one of the Agenda items, the user will be getting access to the downloadable agenda and possibility to go in forum discussion. Per Networking Activity an overview of all downloads related to the concerning NA can be obtained. The forum module is intended for the use of partners and other authorised persons, so that they can comment and discuss produced drafts of documents and reports through "post reply". The Extranet will also be used for public discussions, end-user consultation, promotion and dissemination. For this specific purpose part of the Extranet will be made publicly accessible after registration of the logged-in person.

Catalogue of environmental datasets, projects and cruises

Within NA4 the Black Sea country partners are preparing entries/records for European Directory of Marine Environmental Datasets (EDMED),

European Directory of Marine Environmental Research Projects (EDMERP), Cruise Summary Reports (CSR), Socio-economic and (thematic) mapping data, Common Data Index, being part of the Black Sea virtual data and information structure (NA5) (CDI meta-database), that will give a highly detailed index to individual datasets, managed by regional partners. From April to June 2006 the Black Sea country partners made an inventory of their datasets, projects and cruises, as well as of their dataset systems, if available. These inventories were presented and discussed during the second Black Sea scene workshop in Varna, Bulgaria from 21-14 June 2006. Regarding the datasets, environmental issues/impacts and economic issues, Black Sea country partners were also requested to point out the following matters: nature of data, geographical coverage, kind of data, available format, meta-data available, data source holder, EDMED/EDMERP/CSR available or not. The results have been presented in tables that are available on the <http://www.blackseascene.net>.

Data Quality Control

The central topic of the Athens workshop held 20-25 November 2006 was the presentation of data quality control (DQC) methods within the Black Sea organisations. The Black Sea partners presented the variety of DQC methods employed in their respective institutions and countries. DQC in Europe was presented by the EU partners with emphasis on Oslo-Paris Convention (OSPAR), 1992. Overview of the data flow was presented with some general recommendations and guidelines, specific to the type of data. Key questions for the Black Sea SCENE were outlined namely how to DQC-label EDMED, EDMERP, etc. in a consistent, flexible and understandable way, which includes data, that are varying in degree, heterogeneous and incomplete. Possible solutions were suggested. The approach to DQC of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) was also presented as well as the DQC Marine Data standards and protocols in the Netherlands (TNO B&O) and DQC procedure for oceanographic data in Greece (HNODC-HCMR). With respect to DQC

Marine biology and DATA in the EU, the workshop addressed: legislative and policy background, Natura 2000, EEA, core indicators for seas and coasts, European Topic Centre on Nature Protection and Biodiversity (Paris). Within NA4 the Black Sea country partners will submit dataset records to the European Directory of Marine Environmental Datasets (EDMED). Within the EDMED the DQC is not described in sufficient detail to get a good impression about the quality of the factual data within the datasets. Therefore a specific DQC content management system will be developed and filled to describe in an appropriate way the quality of the data. This data within the DQC-CMS will be related to corresponding EDMED record.



First edition of Promotion & Dissemination Plan

The first edition of the Promotion and Dissemination Plan was prepared within Networking Activity NA6, concerning Public Awareness, Promotion, Dissemination and Exploitation, with objective to promote, to disseminate, to maintain and to plan future exploitation of the Black Sea SCENE virtual data and information infrastructure. Networking Activity NA6 is carried out by an End-user Consultation, Promotion, Dissemination and Exploitation Task Group (EPDEG) consisting of the following partners: IO-BAS Bulgaria, Task Leader NA6, IMWM Poland, NIVA Norway,

TNO-NITG Netherlands, UkrSCES Ukraine, SIO-RAS Russian Federation, METU-IMS Turkey, BSNN Bulgaria, Sub-Contractor MARIS. The Promotion & Dissemination Plan consists of the following subjects: end-user and stakeholders consultation, promotion and dissemination, public awareness raising, exploitation after project end, logo for the Black Sea SCENE.

From month 4 of the project a start has been made with promotion and dissemination, proactively carried out through consultation of institutes, organisations and marine industries that have an interest in the Black Sea environment and need for marine environmental and socio-economic data and information, including use of questionnaires. The promotion and dissemination activities have been supported by the internet Forum facilities to be developed on the Black Sea SCENE web portal, that provide easy means for participating scientists and users to publish and to exchange relevant news and to communicate in an open, but focused environment.

One of the first activities was partner's identification at national and international level, of the potential groups of end-users. Thereafter, end-users have been addressed through a questionnaire to identify their key interests and expectations regarding the virtual data and information infrastructure and needs for data from potential end-users and stakeholders within the Black Sea region. The questionnaire provided To stakeholders and end-users information about their identity and received input about their patterns of information use and perceived information needs, as well as knowledge about databases. The questionnaire assessed the opinions of representative segments of stakeholders and end-users in each of the Black Sea countries by addressing to them ten questions and summarising the results in terms of priorities in needs and interests in data and data use. The results create a benchmark for assessment of regional information needs about the Black Sea and patterns of information use in the region.

Project flyer and project leaflet

Project flyer and project leaflet in English and Russian have been produced and disseminated. In addition to that the Black Sea NGO Network produced its own flyer to disseminate at the Black Sea Forum in Bucharest on 5 June 2006 and at the regional meeting of youth activists from Black Sea NGOs in Varna, 15-18 September 2006. Promotion and dissemination was supported by distribution of user-friendly information folders/leaflets, NGO campaign marking the tenth anniversary of International Black Sea Day, a news spot on the BSNN website www.bseanetwork.org, a feature in the BSNN Newsletter 'Black Sea Shared', distribution of CESUM-BS end products and website, promotion at the NEAR 3 Workshop in Varna 26-28 October 2006 'Interactions in Water Related Science and Sustainability' an international collaboration networking activity between Switzerland, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine within CESUM-BS.



Black Sea SCENE partners

- Marine Information Service, Leidschendam, The Netherlands (MARIS)
- International Bureau of Environmental Studies, Brussels, Belgium (IBES)
- Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, Maritime Branch, Gdynia, Poland (IMWM)
- Norwegian Institute of Water Research, Oslo, Norway (NIVA)
- Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research, National Geological survey, Utrecht, the Netherlands (TNO-NITG)

- Fieldware International Ecological Development plc., Newbury, United Kingdom (FIED)
- Ukrainian Scientific Centre of the Ecology of Sea, Odessa, Ukraine (UkrSCES)
- Marine Hydro-physical Institute of Ukrainian National Academy of Science, Sevastopol, Ukraine (MHI)
- Ukrainian Scientific and Research Institute of Ecological Problems, Kharkiv, Ukraine (USRIEP)
- Odessa National University, Odessa, Ukraine (ONU)
- Moscow State University, Moscow, Russian Federation (MSU)
- State Oceanographic Institute, Russian Federal Service "Rosgidromet", Moscow, Russian Federation (SOI)
- Southern Branch of the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology Russian Academy of Science, Gelendzhik, Russian Federation (SBSIO-RAS)
- P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology Russian Academy of Science, Moscow, Russian Federation (SIO-RAS)
- Institute of Limnology Russian Academy of Science, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation (ILRAS)
- Space Research Institute Russian Academy of Science, Moscow, Russian Federation (IKI-RAS)
- All Russian Research Institute of Hydro-meteorological Information World Data Centre B, Obninsk, Russian Federation (RIHMI-WDC)
- Middle East Technical University, Institute of Marine Sciences, Erdemli, Turkey (METU-IMS)
- Sinop Fisheries Faculty of Ondokuz Mayıs University, Sinop, Turkey (OMU-SFF)
- Black Sea Technical University of Marine Sciences, Trabzon, Turkey (BSTU)
- Institute of Oceanology Bulgarian Academy of Science, Varna, Bulgaria (IO-BAS)
- Technical University Varna, Varna, Bulgaria (TUV)
- Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Varna, Bulgaria (IFA)
- National Institute for Marine Research and Development "GRIGORE ANTIPA", Constanta, Romania (NIMRD)

- Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia (TSU)
- M. Nodia Institute of Geophysics Georgian Academy of Science, Tbilisi, Georgia (IG-GAS)
- Department of Hydrometeorology of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Tbilisi, Georgia (DH-G)
- "SAKNAPIRDATVA" Georgian Coastal Protection Scientific-Industrial Center of Research and Governance of Coastal Formation Processes, Tbilisi, Georgia (GCP)
- Black Sea NGO Network, Varna, Bulgaria (BSNN)
- Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas, Sevastopol, Ukraine (IBSS)
- Hellenic National Oceanographic Data Centre, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HNODC-HCMR)



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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 BS SCENE project among regional stakeholders and the wider regional community.