

Black Sea Shared

Regional environmental NGO newsletter for the Black Sea



Issue 46 — 2010

In memoriam

The international Black Sea scientific community and civil society in Romania and the region have lost a renowned member and leader, Professor Dr. Dan Gabriel Manoleli (1942—2010), chairman of the Black Sea NGO Network. We are all saddened by the passing of one of our most eminent activists. A distinguished academic, marine biologist and environmental management expert, he contributed in a pioneering way to the development of civil society across the borders. We can think of no greater tribute to Dan than to carry on the work to which he dedicated so much time and effort: protection of nature and the Black Sea for the benefit of all people in the region. Thus, he lives on in our hearts and through our efforts the work he began will also live on.



Dan Manoleli (first L) at a meeting of the European Seas Environmental Cooperation (ESEC) coalition, Rome, 2009

3rd EU Maritime Day

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. 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. A presentation was delivered about the progress and opportunities provided by the Upgrade Black Sea SCENE 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 Upgrade Black Sea SCENE 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.



Gijón 2010
European Maritime Day
Stakeholder Conference, 18-21 May



European Fish Week petition

'The Ocean 2012 NGO coalition addressed a petition to Commissioner Maria Damanaki to mark the European Fish Week 15 – 17 June 2010. Networks from all the regional seas of the EU supported the petition: Global fish stocks like bluefin tuna are in decline; in Europe over 80 percent are overfished and a third are outside safe limits.



The European Union and its member states have failed to manage fisheries responsibly on our



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

behalf. For too long, short-term interest has hijacked European fisheries management. But now the reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy provides the opportunity for a new policy that will stop overfishing, end destructive fishing and deliver fair and equitable use of abundant fish stocks. We, the undersigned, ask you to enshrine environmental sustainability as the overarching principle of the future Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in order to achieve long term economic and social sustainability.

Marine Biogeographic Seminar



The third Natura 2000 marine biogeographical 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 Upgrade Black Sea SCENE 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. 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.

Coastal Natura 2000 project

The Black Sea NGO Network in 2010 finalized the implementation of the project 'Public Support for the Sustainable Management of the Natura 2000 Sites along the Black Sea Coast' supported by the FM of EEA. The project goal was to provide public support to the protection of biodiversity in Natura 2000 sites along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast through strengthening the capacity of civil society

to influence the work of the public sector to implement sustainable solutions for environmental management, partly using the experience of the Norwegian expert. The project has achieved its objectives by implementing informational, educational, campaigning and planning activities, associated with protection of biodiversity and the enforcement of Natura 2000 along the Black Sea coast. The activities comprised two educational seminars for representatives of NGOs, media, local experts and businesses; the development and publication of a set of thematic materials by Bulgarian authors and the Norwegian expert at the dedicated information and reference website located at natura.bsnn.org.



The project also included a campaign against fragmentation of the coastal Natura 2000 sites; the preparation of concerned stakeholders in the region of the Bosnia SCI for planning the site management and the production of a draft management plan; the holding of a round table for exchange of expertise between NGOs, media and the authorities and the setting up of an informal network for continuation of project activities on national level and with trans-border aspects.

Planning for site of Community importance

The partner NGO from Burgas, BAEST conducted awareness activities about Natura 2000 and the future planning process for the designated sites. The experts focused their attention on the Bosnia site of community importance, a wooded area on the southern coast designated under the EU Habitats' Directive. First the project team made a plan for educating the independent NGO experts and the local administrations about Natura 2000 and the future planning process related to the management of the sites. The next step was to

review in a realistic way the main stakeholders in the area and further from the site and to designate those likely to be most actively involved in the planning process. The NGO activists visited all villages with lands in the Bosnia site. Apart from those the team involved other important stakeholders in the communication: local authorities, the state forestry, environmental agencies and water companies, owners of the two reservoirs in the vicinity of the site, some businesses, local community leaders, teachers etc.

Working meeting of THESEUS

Upgrade Black Sea SCENE – a regional research infrastructure with over 50 partners – 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 Upgrade Black Sea SCENE 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.



Regional expert meeting

The BSNN and partners from the littoral countries started the implementation of the project 'Regional Exchange of Best Practices in Influencing the Public Sector', supported by the Black Sea Trust, a project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. The first event of the project was a regional expert meeting in Varna, Bulgaria on 13 – 15 November, 2010. Experts from Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Turkey representing six partner NGOs have agreed to act as facilitators of an exchange of best practices in good governance. The partners identified best

practices on national level and plan to hold six in-country meetings with NGOs to collect more information and provide input for a regional website of case studies of influence on public sector policies. The partners will adopt a communication mechanism on how to agree on providing support to campaigns and initiatives on national or cross-border level.



Access to information award

Black Sea NGO Network received a honorary award for contribution in the field of freedom of information on the Right to Know Day, 28 September 2010. The selection of nominees and the Awards Ceremony was organized by the Access to Information Programme, Bulgaria. The award was bestowed for active use of the Law for access to public information and popularization of the freedom of information in active cooperation with media and journalists in the course of investigations.



Environmental education for the Black Sea

Black Sea NGOs in Ukraine have developed some good practices in sustainable environmental

education through conducting of regular coordinated information and awareness campaigns. The environmental activists have come to the conclusion that the role of those campaigns is very significant in view of their role in providing information about the environmental degradation in the Northwestern coast of the Black Sea coast and the sustainable solutions to environmental problems.

The creation and functioning of the Regional Center of Popularization of Ecological Knowledge in Odessa State Environmental University is an example of successful cooperation between NGOs and government in the context of best practices of environmental management in the Black Sea region. Pupils, students, teachers, lecturers, representatives of local authorities and decision-makers are involved in organization of ECOcamps, ECOforums and ECOfestivals.

Joint cooperation of Regional Center of Popularization of Ecological Knowledge and Youth Environmental Center named by V. I. Vernadsky covers the South of Ukraine and annually invites about 100 thousand people to participate in environmental actions. Among the organizations that are actively involved in informational campaigns there are: Black Sea NGO Network, National Ecocenter of Ukraine (Nikolaev, Odessa Branches), NGO "MAMA-86 Odessa, NGO "Renaissance" (Tatarbunari), Wetlands International, «Bukvitsa», International Environmental Association of River Keepers «Eco-TIRAS», Odessa State Environmental University, Chernivtsi Regional socio-environmental youth association, NGO «Ecospectrum», Lviv Regional Production Department for Water Management, Black Sea State University and others.

Leading experts, scientists and public figures have been involved in seminars and trainings: Regional business-game "How I see the Black Sea Shore" (2006), personal growth training "Four Steps to Happiness" (2008), scientific practical seminar "Nizhnednestrovsky National Park with the eye of the young" (2009), scientific practical seminar «Theory and Practice of Social Communications» (2010), «The Problems of Integrated Management of Uzhny Bug River in Odessa Region» (2010) festivals «Thinking about the Earth» and «Marine Fairy».

The cooperation of the Youth Ecocentre with

Odessa State Environmental University is the example of Public Society development, environmental democracy, environmental education and Black Sea nature protection. A positive experience of that activity allows to involve students in work for nature conservation, widen their outlook for environment consciousness, and gain the experience in experimental work during complex ecological expeditions, environmental conferences, actions and other events. This experience should be distributed, multiplied and used by other environmental NGOs and High Schools.

Newsletter of the Black Sea NGO Network

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