

Monthly E-Bulletin of the Project “Zero Waste Strategy for Good Environmental Status-BSB257”

E-Bulletin No:5

Common borders. Common solutions

This project is funded by the 1st Call for Proposal of the Joint Operational Programme “BLACK SEA BASIN 2014-2020”

Regional stakeholder seminar on blue economy - towards a common maritime agenda for the Black Sea

Following the 2018 Burgas Ministerial Declaration towards a Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea, the Facility for Blue Growth is pleased to announce the Regional stakeholder seminar on blue economy. The seminar will take place on 19 March 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey. Following a series of national roundtables in various Black Sea coastal countries, we would like to hear your views on areas of mutual interest and the actions needed to support the blue economy in the region.

The discussions will be organised around the following topics:

- Research and innovation;
- Maritime connectivity;
- Fisheries and aquaculture;
- Sustainability;
- Coastal and maritime tourism;
- Blue careers and skills;

The seminar will gather policy experts, scientists, entrepreneurs and regional organisations to debate on the challenges and opportunities for cooperation on marine and maritime affairs in the Black Sea. We will also seek to identify joint actions to support an innovative, resilient and sustainable blue economy in the region.

“BSB257 Zero Waste Strategy for Good Environmental Status-(ZEWSGES) Project” Monthly Project Coordination Meetings

The first and second monthly Project Coordination Meetings of “BSB257 Zero Waste Strategy for Good Environmental Status-(ZEWSGES)” Project were realised on Skype on the 30th of November 2018 and 11th of January 2019, respectively.



Project Coordinators, Marine Coordinators, Ecosystem Education Coordinators, Financial Coordinators of ZEWSGES Project from Namik Kemal University-Turkey, Tourism Development Council in Nessebar Municipality-Bulgaria, CIVITAS-Georgia, Ukraine Marine Environment



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Protection Association-Ukraine and an expert from SUM (Contracted Firm for Ecosystem Education Services) participated in the skype meetings.

Project activities were discussed. One of the most important topics of the discussion was Marine Clean-up activity. As proposed in the ZEWSGES Project Proposal, a reporting system will be developed to ensure long-term sustainability of management of a participatory process and reporting, will take place following the corresponding coastal clean-up and marine litter collection event. The reporting sheets will be developed to secure coherence between the different elements that partnering countries of the action have to report, while allowing for the necessary degree of flexibility to accommodate the different initial assessments on the status of implementation and comparison across target regions. Following the development of reporting sheets, an agreement on the overall conceptual approach to the reporting system as well as on the overall structure and content, the remaining reporting sheets will be developed in a quicker and smoother way which will be presented and discussed during the congress and workshop events. This reporting system will be conducted by the partnering institution responsible for organization of particular congress/workshop in a format compatible with relevant Directives of the EC, managed by the PCU and used as a platform for informing the general public through visualisation of the data to communicate the state of the environment for furthering scientific knowledge. The integration of marine data and information will be overseen by the Steering Committee.

In the first skype Coordination Meetings, the following points were underlined by the Marine Coordinators of ZWSGES Project for a good sustainable coordination at regional and national levels:

1. identification and setting up of the most suitable survey sites,
2. establishment of a good contact within the organizations/institutions carrying out the surveys,
3. development & maintenance of an effective survey system,
4. training of the surveyors,
5. entering the data into the database/QA of data regularly,
6. maintaining the database regularly,
7. analysing the data by an appropriate tool,
8. reporting regularly, and
9. improving the methodology continuously, and

In the selection of survey sites the following criteria will be considered:

Site location

- **In the vicinity of ports or harbours;**
- In the vicinity of river mouths;
- **In the vicinity of coastal urban areas;**
- **In the vicinity of tourists destinations;**
- In relatively remote areas.

Site features

- Having a minimum length of 100 m;
- Low to moderate slope;
- Clear access to sea;
- **Accessible to survey teams throughout the year;**
- **Ideally the site should not be subject to cleaning activities;**
- **Survey activities posing no threat to endangered or protected species.**



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As for the frequency and timing of surveys, at least four surveys per year in spring, summer, autumn and winter are recommended. However, because of the large seasonal variation in amounts of litter washed ashore, initially a higher frequency of surveys may be necessary in order to identify significant seasonal patterns, which can then be considered when treating raw data for long-term trend analyses.

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