



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE CONFERENCE ON "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN 2030 SDGS
IN THE BLACK SEA REGION"
(Bucharest, 4-5 October 2019)**

The International Conference on "Implementation of the UN 2030 SDGs in the Black Sea Region", organized by the Department of Sustainable Development of the Romanian Government, in collaboration with the *Black Sea Universities Network* (BSUN), BSEC PERMIS and the Black Sea Chapter of the *Sustainable Development Solutions Network* (SDSN), was held in Bucharest on 4-5 October 2019. The Conference attended by over 90 participants, from the seven BSEC Member States was conceived as a platform for free debates among governmental agencies, universities, research and development institutions and NGOs, in order to identify directions and policies to be followed for the effective implementation of SDGs in the Black Sea area.

The discussions in the first day focused on governmental policies regarding the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda in the Black Sea region. The second day was the "scientific" part of the Conference, for presentation of advanced scientific achievements in the field of data collection, data processing, modeling, simulation, forecasting, as well as evaluation activities related to the implementation of the SDGs in the Black Sea region.

The Conference was opened with welcoming speeches made by Mr. László BORBÉLY, State Counsellor, National Coordinator for SDGs; Prof. Eden MAMUT, Secretary General of the Black Sea Universities Network; Mr. Aritotelis V. XENAKIS, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Embassy of the Hellenic Republic in Romania, representing the Hellenic BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office; and Ambassador Traian CHEBELEU, Deputy Secretary General of PERMIS.

The themes of the discussions held during the "scientific segment" of the Conference were as follows:

- "Advances Tools and Infrastructure for Modeling, Simulation and Data Processing"; and
- "Best Practices in Addressing the Implementation of SDGs".

It was highlighted that the States in the region are confronted with many trans-frontier problems and consequently the regional dimension of the implementation of the SDGs has to be developed. The importance of the *SDSN Black Sea* as well as the need for a more determined action at the level of governments, both nationally and regionally, were also stressed, by making effective use of the cooperation framework of BSEC and of the potential of BSUN in this regard. The establishment of an Observatory of the implementation of the SDGs in the Black Sea Region was also suggested in this respect.