



**PRESS RELEASE
ON THE FIRST REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE
AND LAUNCH MEETING OF THE BLUEING THE BLACK SEA (BBSEA)**

The First Regional Steering Committee and Launch Meeting of the Blueing the Black Sea (BBSEA) was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 11-12 June 2025. The Steering Committee was jointly organized by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the World Bank Group, and BSEC PERMIS.

The meeting was chaired by BSEC PERMIS Executive Manager Ambassador Venera Domi. Welcome and opening statements were delivered by BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Dimitrios Rallis, the Director of UNOPS Austria Multi-Country Office Ms. Simonetta Silgato, and the World Bank Group Program Leader Mr. Jean-Jacques Jordy.

Representatives from the World Bank Group made presentations on matters such as understanding and tackling Black Sea pollution.

UNOPS Representatives presented an overview of BBSEA, as well as the Eco-Innovation Challenge.

The Panel discussion on “Opportunities for Building Synergies”, as well as a Round Table discussion gave the participants the opportunity to exchange views and explore potential collaborations with other projects and outreach to different stakeholders.

The second day of the meeting was reserved for the Steering Committee Members only. Presentations and endorsements of regional Steering Committee TOR and Advisory Committee TOR, the Project and Annual Work Plan, as well as the presentation of Communication Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement were the main topics of the second day. Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu addressed the Committee and emphasized the importance of the project for our region as an important tool to boost and support innovation and environmental protection in the region. During the meeting of the Regional Steering Committee, BSEC was confirmed as an observer and, with other stakeholders of the region, as a part of the Advisory Committee.

For more information on Blueing the Black Sea Program (BBSEA) which aims to support the creation of a shared regional framework for sustainable management of the Black Sea, please visit: <https://bit.ly/43RXfqw>