



PRESS RELEASE
**“BLUEING THE BLACK SEA” PROGRAMME HOLDS NATIONAL
CONSULTATION IN MOLDOVA**
(22 March 2021)

The latest of BSEC PERMIS’s ‘National Consultation’ workshops on the flagship Blueing the Black Sea Program (BBSEA) was held today– this time focusing on Moldova. The online session, held in conjunction with the World Bank, the Moldovan Government and the Common Maritime Agenda National Hub of Moldova, was aimed at introducing the BBSEA project to public authorities, policy makers, private organisations and financial institutions with an involvement in combating marine and river pollution in Moldova and in the Black Sea itself.

The program is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and supported by the World Bank in line with the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) signed by six Black Sea countries and Moldova in 2019. A preparatory action led by BSEC PERMIS will design the critical elements in the BBSEA-GEF Regional Project, to run until 2023, which will identify the causes and suggest investment possibilities to reduce pollution in the Black Sea and the waterways that flow into it.

Moldova doesn’t have immediate access to the Black Sea but its river basins Prut Basin and Nistru [Dnister] Basin are direct tributaries to it. They have high concentrations of ammonium (NH₄) and phosphate caused by insufficiently treated domestic and industrial wastewater and by agricultural run-off.

Using highly interactive tools in two Working Sessions, the workshop consulted the audience on Moldova’s key pollution challenges in order to build a diagnostic analysis of the sources, impacts, pressing issues, priorities and current prevention efforts which will shape the BBSEA program locally. It also tapped into the knowledge and expertise of the audience on how the program should be implemented in Moldova, gathering information on issues such as the cost of pollution in waterways, alignment with EU standards, current prevention efforts, the role of the private sector and ideas for other sources of funding.

Opening the workshop, BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. Christides told the audience their role was important as “you will formulate the action that will be taken in Moldova under the BBSEA”. He also showed the two powerful images of a baby amid a sea of waste that the world-famous photographer Karl Taylor has given BSEC permission to use in its efforts to combat the severe problem of marine pollution in the Black Sea.



On behalf of the Moldovan Government, Mr Ion Perju, Minister of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment said "On International World Water Day, the Republic of Moldova confirms our willingness to support these initiatives and the need for strong regional cooperation. We have big challenges, but the Black Sea could be an example to the world".

For the World Bank, Anna Akhalkatsi, Country Manager for Moldova, said that "the BBSEA program will allow Moldova to fill the funding gap to combat waterways pollution. It has a critical role to play in this project".

In concluding, BSEC's Ms Rositsa Stoeva, who presented a concise overview of the BBSEA program, praised the organisers and the audience for providing a number of valuable suggestions.