



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**BBSEA PROGRAM GETS EXCELLENT FEEDBACK IN ROMANIA**  
**'NATIONAL CONSULTATION' SESSION**  
*(22 April 2021)*

The latest 'National Consultation' workshop under BSEC's 'Blueing the Black Sea Programme' (BBSEA) featured the Government of Romania's highly innovative 'Integrated Nutrient Control Project' designed to reduce the discharge of nitrogen and phosphorous into the River Danube and the Black Sea. Through integrated land and water management, this world-leading initiative is bringing important environmental and social economic benefits to Romania.

The consultation session, organised in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, and the World Bank, who are supporting the BBSEA and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) who are funding it, also took soundings from the online audience of Romanian public officials, academics, technical experts and businesses on the overall plan to tackle marine pollution and catalyse the Black Sea's 'blue economy'. Through a highly interactive format, a series of excellent ideas were taken away to be incorporated into the programme when it enters its implementation phase later this year. These included suggestions on the pollution sources and human activities that impact on the health of freshwater ecosystems in Romania; existing projects there that could be incorporated into the BBSEA; how the World Bank and BSEC could support Romania in ensuring pollution free development of the blue economy in the Black Sea region and its waterways; and who are the existing institutions in Romania currently promoting investments in circular, green, recycling or marine pollution reduction activities?

In the Opening Remarks, Mr Ionut-Sorin Banciu, Romanian Secretary of State for the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, wished the session well and said the BBSEA programme was vitally important for the country and the region under the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) signed by the six Black Sea littoral countries and Moldova in 2019.

For the World Bank, Ms Gallina Vincelette, Country Director for the EU, said that the growing pollution problem in the Black Sea required a common and co-ordinated regional solution. "Romania has a critical role in this regional effort", she said. "The benefits of the Nutrient Pollution Project are not only for Romania but for sharing to the whole of the Black Sea region. We are very proud of its achievements so far".



The session had nearly 100 participants and in closing, the World Bank's Ms Berengere Prince, one of the leading lights in designing the BBSEA programme, said the interest and commitment to the pollution problems facing the Black Sea came out extremely strongly, as did "Romania's leading role in promoting regional cooperation on these issues".