



PRESS RELEASE
BBSEA PROGRAM SEEKS FEEDBACK IN NATIONAL CONSULTATION
WORKSHOP IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Nearly 50 people participated in BSEC PERMIS's latest 'National Consultation' workshop on 1 October 2021 about the flagship Blueing the Black Sea Program (BBSEA) to tackle marine pollution in the Black Sea region, this time focusing on the Russian Federation. The session, held in conjunction with the World Bank, the Black Sea Commission and the Russian Federal Ministries as well as Rostov and Krasnodar Regions secured a big tranche of ideas and suggestions from the expert audience to help develop the BBSEA program and the implementation of the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) in Russia and beyond.

In two highly interactive sessions, the workshop sought feedback on: Russia's key pollution sources and challenges; what policy frameworks are already in place; who are the key stakeholders; and what are the possible sources of funding and investment. The answers will shape the diagnostic outline for the BBSEA plan and the action phase itself.

The program is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and supported by the World Bank in line with the Common Maritime Agenda signed by the six Black Sea littoral countries and Moldova in 2019.

The Russian 'National Consultation' was distinctive in that it also featured a presentation on the ecosystem approach in maritime activities, as well as Russian approach towards the CMA and the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

Speaking on behalf of the Russian Government, H.E. Mr. Sergey IERIOMIN, Minister of Natural Resources of the Krasnodar Region, supported the BBSEA project and the importance of the CMA for Russia and the wider Black Sea region.

In his opening remarks, the Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Lazar COMANESCU said "the precise architecture of the BBSEA is yet to be defined" hence the need for the country consultation sessions. But, "we recognize that marine litter and marine pollution are not a challenge for one country alone, it is a regional challenge. A problem that requires a regional solution based on consistent multilateral cooperation supported by adequate and consistent funding".