



PRESS RELEASE
ON THE WORKSHOP ON SUPPORTING YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN
CULTURAL TOURISM FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES
IN THE BLACK SEA REGION
Mersin, 30th November 2021

The first “CulTourE4Youth” Workshop was held successfully in Mersin, organized by the Middle East Technical University Institute of Marine Sciences (METU-IMS) on 30 November 2021. The Workshop gathered together young entrepreneurs of ages 18 to 30 in the field of maritime and cultural tourism, representatives of international institutions, academicians, regional authorities, business operators and training institutions.

Opening speeches, where the scope of the project, as well as the objectives of the Workshop were delivered by Mr. Baris Salihoglu, Director of the METU-IMS, Ms. Rositsa Stoeva, Executive Manager in charge of project management in the BSEC PERMIS and Ms. Georgia Chantzi, Research and Policy Development Manager of the ICBSS.

This one-day event was perceived as an opportunity for young people from the region to get information from the local authorities about the opportunities related to cultural tourism in their region, as well as to exchange good practices when it comes to the entrepreneurship activities.

Speakers from the Mersin Chamber of Shipping, Mimar Sinan University, Mersin University, TOBB Mersin Provincial Young Entrepreneurs Board Management, Mersin Sailing Academy and others were invited to deliver a speech and interact with the young entrepreneurs present at the event.

The interaction between the young entrepreneurs and the speakers continued in the networking event held following the Workshop. Around 55 people participated in the event.

As part of the Project, a Preliminary Analysis has been conducted to assess challenges and priorities for youth entrepreneurship in cultural tourism, available [here](#). Additionally, an online questionnaire has been launched to gather input from stakeholders and young people from the Black Sea Region, available [here](#).

The Project’s Final Conference will be held in Batumi, on 17 February 2022, organized by the project partner CPMR Balkan and Black Sea Commission (BBSC).

“CulTourE4Youth” project runs for 12 months under the coordination of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), in cooperation with the Balkan and Black Sea Commission (BBSC) of the Conference of the Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR) and the Middle East Technical University Institute of Marine Sciences (METU-IMS).

The Project “Supporting Youth Entrepreneurship in cultural tourism for coastal communities in the Black Sea region” or “CulTourE4Youth” is co-funded by the European Commission under Grant Contract ENI/2020/421-957, coordinated by the BSEC PERMIS.