



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**ON THE 1ST HIGH-TECH SUMMIT FOR THE BLACK SEA AND THE BRIDGE-BS**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

On 27-29 September 2022, the 1st High-Tech Summit for the Black Sea and the BRIDGE-BS General Assembly took place in Varna, Republic of Bulgaria.

As partner of the "BRIDGE-BS: Advancing Black Sea Research and Innovation to Co-Develop Blue Growth within Resilient Ecosystems" project consortium, the BSEC PERMIS participated in both events, represented by Ms. Rositsa STOEVA, the responsible Executive Manager in charge of project management.

*The High-Tech Summit for the Black Sea* was a large research-based Black Sea forum on ocean digitalization and Industry 4.0 across academia, research organizations, investors, industry, and society at large. It aimed to provide a meeting point for industry and research to generate and incubate ideas for future blue economy innovative services, potentially across the various relevant economic activities for the Black Sea.

Both technology providers and technology users were invited to participate. International practitioners were also there to illustrate the potential of Industry 4.0 business models for innovation in the blue economy across other sea basins. The two-day Summit included also exhibitor stands, dedicated workshops for practitioners, as well as matchmaking sessions.

The BSEC PERMIS participated with a stand, jointly with the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), through which BSEC brochures, booklets related to the implemented Blue Economy projects, newsletters and other materials were offered to the general public.

*BRIDGE-BS General Assembly (GA)* took place back-to-back with the High-Tech Summit and was dedicated to take stock of the first year of the project's implementation stage. Among the discussed topics were the establishment of the Virtual Blue Career Center in the Black Sea (VBCC); launching of PhD Programs on Blue Growth; BRIDGE-BS 1<sup>st</sup> Summer School (23-25 August 2022, in Istanbul); Black Sea Youth Ambassadors Program was developed further with new cohort of young people; Ocean Literacy Network for the Black Sea has been developed and many others.

More than 200 participants took part in both events.

A detailed information about the meetings, as well as the project itself can be found at <http://bridgeblacksea.org/>