



PRESS RELEASE

2nd HIGH-TECH SUMMIT FOR THE BLACK SEA (HTS4BS)

BSEC PERMIS 2nd edition of the High-Tech Summit for the Black Sea took place in Sofia on 16 October 2024.

The Summit was organized by BSEC PERMIS within the H2020-funded BRIDGE-BS project, and focused mainly on ocean digitalization and Industry 4.0. It brought together blue economy innovators from the Black Sea region and beyond, fostering dialogue among industry, academia, research organizations, investors, policymakers, and civil society.

The event was opened by BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu who, addressing the participants, stressed that BSEC Organization supports all activities aimed at sustainable Blue Economy developments in the Black Sea region. He referred in this context, to the PERMIS's active involvement in the drafting and endorsement in 2019 of the Common Maritime Agenda of the Black Sea (CMA), which is one of the best examples of a fruitful BSEC-EU interaction. The Secretary General further emphasized that appropriately tackling the challenges in the region, including those related to research and innovation, necessarily requires a long-term approach. The efforts of BSEC toward further strengthening its project-oriented character was also highlighted, as was the importance of further enhancing the BSEC-EU cooperation.

The Summit took place in interactive sessions offering opportunities for showcasing business ideas from the Black Sea Accelerator, projects, and matchmaking with partners and investors. Dedicated stands were also organized, with BSEC PERMIS participating with its own stand consisting of BSEC brochures, booklets related to the implemented Blue Economy projects, newsletters and other materials. Around 100 people participated in the Summit.

In order to maximize the synergies with other relevant project-oriented actions in the Black Sea, the 2nd HTS4BS was organized back-to-back with the Horizon Europe Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) Black Sea Regional Workshop on 17 October 2024. BSEC PERMIS was invited to present the regional perspective with regard to the economic dimension of the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea (CMA).