



PRESS RELEASE



BSEC PERMIS is happy to announce the launch of a new website dedicated to improving knowledge and fostering innovation within the Blue Economy – the sustainable growth of maritime resources – of the Black Sea basin.

The objective of the Black Sea Virtual Knowledge Centre (BSVVC) ([www.bsec-bsvvc.org](http://www.bsec-bsvvc.org)) is to provide a centralized platform for information on the Blue Economy in the Black Sea and to improve synergies between stakeholders and Blue Economy related projects in the region, while functioning as stakeholders' platform.

The BSVVC is a project financed by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund of the European Union and managed by the Permanent International Secretariat of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC PERMIS) for a duration of 24 months.

The objective of the BSVVC is to support a sustainable Blue Economy in the region by contributing to the implementation of the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea (CMA). The project will provide the means to disseminate information, ensure synergies and raise awareness about opportunities in the Blue Economy sector. It also aims to support the work of the CMA Black Sea Steering Group, by providing regular updates on progress in the implementation of the CMA. The BSEC PERMIS will contribute to the establishment of complementarities and links with other relevant initiatives that are funded by the European Union, for example the Black Sea CONNECT CSA project related to the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea (SRIA) <http://connect2blacksea.org>

On the BSVVC website will be all the information, news and events about the maritime economy and sustainable growth of the resources of the Black Sea in one place. It features information on funding opportunities for Blue Economy businesses and provides scope to register and share insights with fellow stakeholders. It will build on the "Facility for Blue Growth" and allow access to the activities of relevant BSEC Working Groups. An "Online Help Desk" within the site will allow users to ask questions, find information, get technical support and to propose future ideas.



The BSVKC engagement of stakeholders is one of the key priorities of this project and will be developed through the “Black Sea Blue Economy Community” and stakeholders surveys. These interactive tools will support the identification of the needs of Black Sea maritime stakeholders and national and regional networks development, as well as support exchange of information, projects ideas, cooperation opportunities and best practices.