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Project BlasNET

**Black Sea Network For Regional Development
under the Joint Operational Programme “Black
Sea Basin” 2007-2013**

Dr. Dimitar Radev, RAPIV

Launch Conference,
Thessaloniki, 11 January 2012





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CONTENTS

1. JOP Black Sea Basin 2007 – 2013

2. BlasNET project:

- *Project partnership;*
- *Project objectives and main activities;*
- *Expected Results.*

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About the Programme

The Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013 is a programme under the European Neighborhood & Partnership Instrument (ENPI) of the EU. It aims to contribute to: “a stronger and sustainable economic and social development of the regions of the Black Sea Basin”.

The programme’s three **specific objectives**, are:

- Promoting economic and social development in the border areas
- Working together to address common challenges
- Promoting local, people-to-people cooperation

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Eligible areas

The following regions or countries form the eligible area of the Black Sea Programme:

Bulgaria: NUTS II regions of South East and Nord East

Greece: NUTS II regions of Central Macedonia, Eastern Macedonia and Thrace

Romania: NUTS II region of South-East

Turkey: NUTS II equivalent regions of Istanbul, Tekirdag, Kocaeli, Zonguldak, Kastamonu, Samsun and Trabzon.

Ukraine: Odessa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Zaporoshye and Donetsk Oblasts, Crimea Republic and Sevastopol

Armenia, Georgia, R. Moldova: all regions



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**The Project Black Sea Network for Regional
Development - BlasNET**

The project is funded under
the First Call for Proposals
of the Programme.

It started on 17th September
2011 and its duration is 24
months.

Total budget of the project:
492,084.53





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Project partnership

Beneficiary:

Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovations -Varna (RAPIV), North-East Region of Bulgaria.

Partners:

1. Research Committee of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Urban and Regional Innovation Research Unit (AUTH URENIO), Central Macedonia, Greece;
2. SMEs Association of Constanta (PIMM), South-East Planning Region, Romania;
3. Organization for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Development (ODIMM) within the Ministry of Economy and Trade of the Republic of Moldova;
4. Agency of Economic Development of Sevastopol, (AEDS) Sevastopol, Ukraine.

Associated partner: Odisseus S.r.l., Genoa, Liguria, Italy.





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Research Committee of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Urban and Regional Innovation Research Unit (AUTH URENIO)



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SME's Association of Constanta

Structure and dimensions of the organization

The SME's Association of Constanta is a non-governmental, non-political and nonprofit organization, a regional structure of National Council of Romanian Private Small and Medium Enterprises, the only representative association at the national level for SMEs.

At the local level, the SME's Association of Constanta has promoted since the beginning the necessity to create an Alliance for a durable economic development in Constanta and to set a partnership with Constanta Prefecture, with universities, associations and other nongovernmental organization representative for Constanta County.

The organization actively contributes to business development, facilitating access to projects developed by its specialized departments:

- The Lobby Department;
- The Project Department;
- The IMM Business Centre.

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Organization for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Development (ODIMM)

Structure of the organization

ODIMM is a non-governmental organization within the Ministry of Economy and Trade of the Republic of Moldova.

Its mission is to boost the national economy competitiveness by supporting the SME sector development in the country. The main objective of the organization is to become a promoter for SME sector development in the Republic of Moldova.

Some of ODIMM's current activities

- Credit Guaranteeing activities for micro and small SME;
- Studies and researches on SME development opportunities;
- Program for attracting remittances into economy “PARE 1+1”
- Training program for SME: “Efficient Business Management”;
- National Program “Economic Empowerment of the Young People”(trainings + credits + grants);
- Information through web portal www.businessportal.md and web page www.odimm.md;
- Business Incubators creation;
- Consulting services for SME;
- Etc.

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Agency of Economic Development of Sevastopol (AEDS)



Agency of Economic Development of Sevastopol (AEDS) was established in 1997.

The Agency so far has organized more than 100 international forums, exhibitions and conferences in Sevastopol and abroad. The emphasis is put on the support of small and medium enterprises in the pilot sectors - tourism, trade and marine, etc.

The Agency is also a co-founder of the annual international inventions and new technologies fair “New Age” with participations of inventors from 35 countries.



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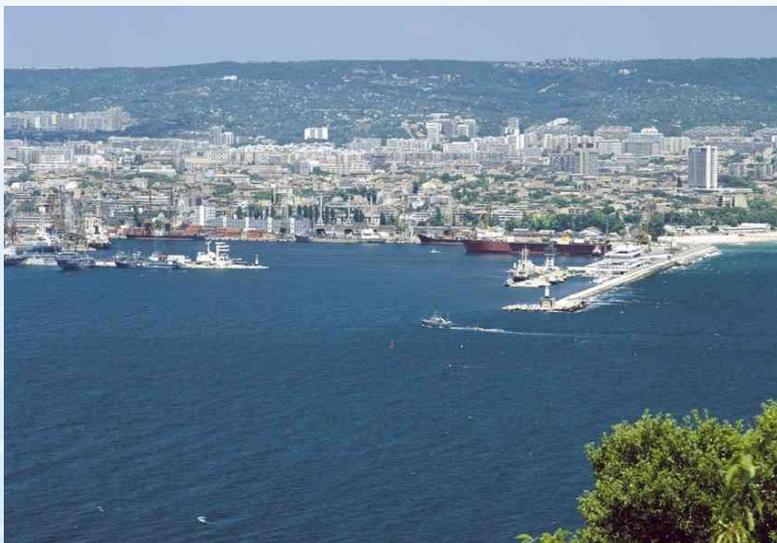


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Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovations - Varna (RAPIV)



Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovations (RAPIV) is a non-governmental utilitarian non-profit organization, carrying out its activities in public benefit, for stimulating regional economy, through the development of entrepreneurship and innovations.

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Members of the Association



- ❖ **Local Authorities**
 - District Administration – Varna
 - The Municipality of Varna
 - The Municipality of Aksakovo
- ❖ **Universities in the city of Varna**
- ❖ **Scientific and Research Institutes;**
- ❖ **NGOs**
- ❖ **Business**
- ❖ **Bank**

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RAPIV – Main Activities



- ❖ High-Technology Business Incubator
- ❖ Centre for Innovations and Technology Transfer
- ❖ Establishment of a High-Technology Park



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High Technology Business Incubator-Varna

PRIORITIES For the admission of companies

- ❖ Information and Communication Technologies;
- ❖ Technologies for protection of the environment and the sustainable development (incl. alternative energy);
- ❖ Advanced marine technologies;
- ❖ Medical and Pharmaceutical Products and technologies.



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Projects within the INTERREG IV C Programme

❖ REGIOCLIMA - Regional cooperation towards adaptation to climate change

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To assist societies to adapt to the new climate conditions both by minimising the risk of damage and exploiting the new opportunities arising from a changing climate.

DURATION: 36 months. **BUDGET:** 1.999.970,00€

DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

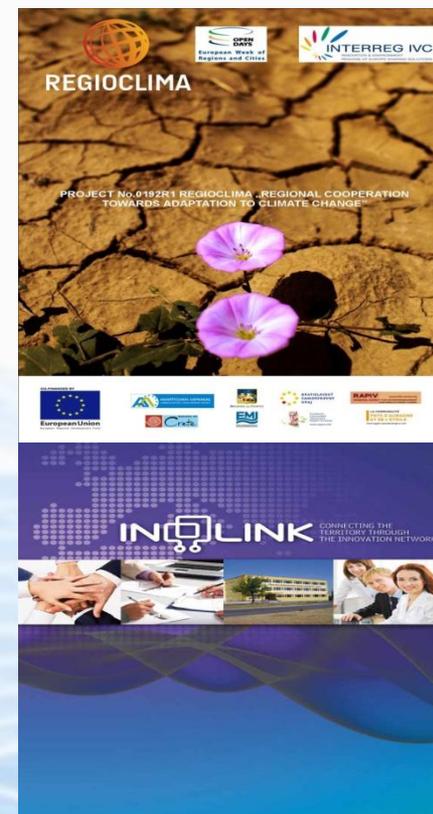
PARTNERS: Cyprus, Italy, Spain, Estonia, Slovakia, France, Greece, Bulgaria

❖ INOLINK- Connecting the Territory Through Innovation Network

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To improve the territorial reach of regional innovation policies, through a better connection of peripheral areas with the regional innovation systems, in order to improve the diffusion of innovation and balanced economic and technological development throughout the EU territory.

BUDGET: 1 976 077 €

PARTNERS: Bulgaria, Germany, France, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, UK



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Other projects implemented by RAPIV

Innovations

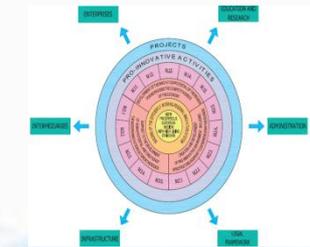
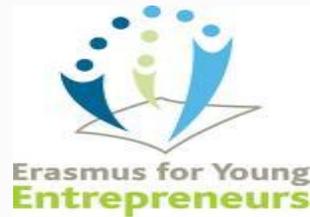
- ❖ **Project COLUMBUS 3**, Programme Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs of the EC.
- ❖ **Project under Law 84/2001 ICE 061966** -Creation of a network for the support of local SMEs in the high technology in Bulgaria and Romania through SMEs from Liguria, Italy.
- ❖ **Project “Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS) for the North-East Planning Region (NEPR)”**, carried out within 6th FP of the EC.
- ❖ **EOS Project “Euro office services”**, under 6th FP.

Technology transfer

- ❖ **Creation of “Marine Technologies transfer Centre”** with the Naval Academy under PHARE Programme.

Regional investments

- ❖ **Creation of a “Regional One Stop Investment Office”**, under PHARE Programme.



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Cooperation with Municipality of Varna

Municipality of Varna and RAPIV collaborate in different projects for stimulating regional economy on the basis of innovations.

RAPIV developed: Actualization of the Plan for development of Varna Municipality for the period 2007-2013, Contract: Д-8-9200/1419.



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Partnership with the business in the sectors

TOURISM

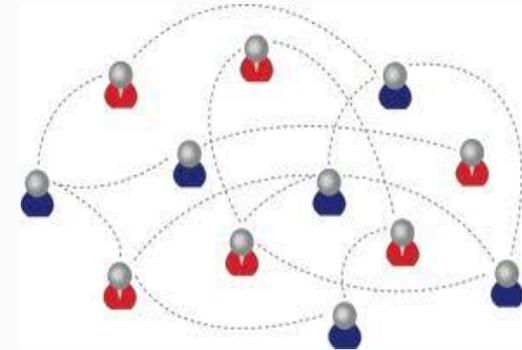
MARINE INDUSTRY

**INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY**



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BlasNET Project Objectives



Overall Objective

The overall objective of the project "Black Sea Network for Regional Development" is to achieve sustainable economic growth of the regions-partners under the project, to improve the competitiveness of their SMEs and their performance on the international markets, through increasing the potential and international relations of the regional stakeholders, by establishing a network among them. This network will directly reflect to the competitiveness and potential of the SMEs from the region.



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BlasNET Project Objectives

Specific Objectives

- The establishment of a "Black Sea Network for Regional Development" that will involve organizations that support SMEs.
- Raise the level of the services provided by such kind of organizations (created at different times, under different legal form) through exchange of experience, trainings, mutual projects and synergies with other European networks.
- Supporting SMEs from the region to establish business contacts among them and with European partners;
- Raising the innovative level and competitiveness of the SMEs from the region and enabling regional economies to better adopt innovations;
Creation of sustainable business information environment for SMEs from the Black Sea Basin region.

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BlasNET Project Activities

GA 1: Investigation and Analyses – responsible partner URENIO:

- Formation of 5 working groups at regional level from leading regional experts in the priority economic sectors for the Black Sea countries, like tourism, marine industry and ICT.
- Analyses of the SMEs needs of business-support services and of SMEs services providers for each of the partners-regions.
- Joint analysis of the current situation of SMEs sector and SMEs support organization for the Black Sea Basin will be developed, which will contribute for determining the needs of SMEs and will lay the grounds for the creation of the Black Sea Network for Regional Development.
- Concrete measures and recommendations for cooperation among partner-regions will be elaborated on the basis of the analyses and discussions.

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BlasNET Project Activities

GA2: Exchange of Experience and Networking –responsible partner RAPIV

- Identification and collection of good practices. Partners will exchange experience on how they communicate with the regional SMEs, what type of services they provide and what problems they encounter in their work with SMEs.
- Development of web portal for the presentation of the Network in the Internet.
- International events:
 - International Seminar in Chisinau, Moldova.
 - International Workshops in Constanta, Romania and Sevastopol, Ukraine.
- Determination of the structure of the Black Sea Network for Regional Development and its future development, with the help of leading experts;
- Meetings with regional and national policy-makers and with European networks. The Network will seek the support from the business representatives, as well as from other successful European networks, policy - makers and main regional and national stakeholders.

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BlasNET Project Activities

GA3: Visibility of the Action – responsible partner ODIMM:

- Launch and Final Conferences in Thessaloniki, Greece and Varna, Bulgaria- for the announcement of the project, its main objectives and results.
- Elaboration of leaflets, brochures, roll - ups, dedicated on the project and its outputs;
- Organization of Press-conferences and press releases.

GA4: Management and Coordination of the Action - responsible partner RAPIV

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Benefits for the target groups and final beneficiaries

Organizations supporting SMEs





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Expected results of the project

- Created Black Sea Network for Regional Development. The Network is expected to grow and to involve organizations from all the countries of the Black Sea Basin, enlarging the group of its final beneficiaries on SMEs from other regions and other economic sectors
- Detailed analysis of the SMEs sector and business infrastructure in the regions-partners and the region of the Black Sea Basin.
- Elaborated measures and recommendations for cooperation among partner-regions in the field of supporting SMEs.
- Created stable links among the regional target groups.
- Established international partnerships, receiving business support services, receiving information etc.
- Obtained support for the Network by the local and regional administrations of the regions-partners.
- Created synergies and established partnerships with other European networks

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Thank you for your attention!

