



## Clean rivers – clean sea

The Black Sea NGO Network of Varna, Bulgaria together with partners from four other Black Sea countries implements the project “Clean Rivers – Clean Sea! NGO actions for environmental protection within Black Sea area”. The project is aimed at developing the capacity of the NGO community in the sphere of international water management and pollution reduction of the Black Sea. The joint action is funded by the European Union through the Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2007–2013” and its total cost is € 587,000. The length of the project is two years.

Participants in the project are six non-governmental organizations from countries in the Black Sea basin. Beneficiary is the Eco Counseling Centre of Galati, Romania, working in partnership with the Ecological Counseling Center – Cahul, Moldova, the Black Sea NGO Network – Varna, Bulgaria, the Regional Environmental Centre – Moldova, Chisinau, the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus – Tbilisi, Georgia and the Society of Natural and Wildlife Conservation – Samsun, Turkey. The Specialized Administration of the province of Rize, Turkey is associate partner.

The project provides an overview of the achievements and prospects of the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive focusing on the implementation of the basin principle in water management. The main objective of the project is to improve the effectiveness of the measures taken by different stakeholders to address the issue of water pollution – a common environmental challenge for the Black Sea region.



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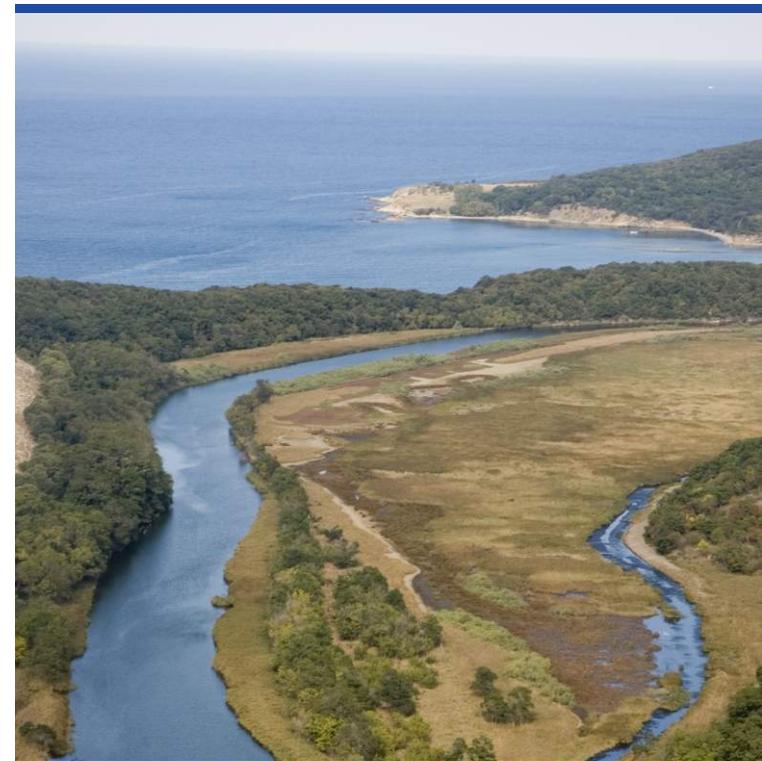
Project “Clean Rivers – Clean Sea! NGO actions for environmental protection within Black Sea area” (CRCS)  
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The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

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## Common borders. Common solutions.



## Clean Rivers for a Clean Sea



## The project

The project “Clean Rivers – Clean Sea! NGO actions for environmental protection within Black Sea area” has got the following specific objectives:

- To develop cooperation partnership among NGOs and other stakeholders to share experience about solutions to problems related to water pollution, our common regional challenge.
- To enhance the capacity of NGOs to provide support to the local and regional authorities in the process of water management.
- To raise public awareness and strengthen public participation by promoting the ecosystem based approach and advocacy for control on the pollution of waters in the Black Sea basin.

The project is designed to develop the capacity of NGOs in the region, to support their experts and volunteers, as well as youth and concerned citizens. The representatives of NGOs and volunteers are expected to develop new skills in advocacy and lobbying.

The partner NGOs will jointly implement a number of activities that will improve their knowledge of water management and pollution control; they will be introduced to techniques for influencing stakeholders in the public and private sectors.

## Main activities

The main project activities are divided into several groups.

The first of these provides for the establishment of national focus groups, with a focus on the sources of water pollution and stakeholders involvement in the waters management processes. The partners will produce a survey presenting in a popular version the problems of water management in the region in line with EU directives. The survey will define the role of NGOs in the implementation of these directives.

A dedicated project website with portal will be available on the internet ([www.cceg.ro/clean-rivers-clean-sea](http://www.cceg.ro/clean-rivers-clean-sea)) for information and training. A training module will be installed on the site to be used for training of activists and volunteers within the second group of activities in the project. They also envisage the holding of a regional conference.

The role of the Black Sea NGO Network is substantial in the third group of activities. In view of the experience of the organization in describing and promoting best practices of public participation in water management, it will support the development of a database of best practices and the holding of a conference for their distribution in Varna, Bulgaria.

During the entire project an information and education campaign will be conducted with the purpose to raise public awareness of the problems of protection of waters and the Black Sea.

## Waters in the region

The Black Sea is almost isolated from the world ocean but it is up to 2,212 metres deep in places and receives waters from a catchment area of 2,000,000 square kilometers, occupying about one third of continental Europe. The second, third and fourth largest European rivers (the Danube, the Dnieper and the Don) flow into the Black Sea. Each year the sea receives about 350 cubic kilometers of river waters from eighteen countries. Other major rivers that flow into the Black Sea are the Kuban, the Southern Bug, the Rioni, the Kazalarmak and the Kamchiya.

Fourteen Bulgarian rivers flow directly in the Black Sea but they are not very big and the total coastal discharge rate is less than 2 cubic kilometers per year. The biggest of those rivers is the Kamchiya. The river flow is highly variable and depends on the season. The most significant of these rivers are the Batova, the Devnenska, the Provadiyska, the Kamchiya, the Ropotamo and the Veleka.

The increased anthropogenic impact through intensive development of industry, tourism and the creation of large agglomerations along the coast leads to serious problems with the quality and purity of waters. The adoption of the Water Framework Directive of the European Union in 2000 was a key step as it introduced a new legislative approach based not on the administrative and state borders but on natural geographical and hydrological formations – the river basins. The Directive requires the coordination of all relevant EU policies and has a precise timetable envisaging the achievement of good status for all waters in Europe by 2015. A more recent EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive of 2008 promotes the sustainable use of the seas and the conservation of the marine ecosystems by supporting integrated efforts to achieve good environmental status of regional seas in Europe by 2020.