

Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea, EMBLAS-II

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Project EMBLAS II (Phase 2) funded by the European Union and United Nations Development Programme was conducted in 2014-2018 and envisaged improving availability and quality of the Black Sea environmental data, to harmonize and adapt them to the requirements of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

Within the scope of the same Project, the National Pilot Monitoring Studies (NPMS) and Joint Open Sea Surveys (JOSS) were implemented with the major aim to introduce the new methodology developed within the scope of project EMBLAS-I envisaging the assessment of the deep Sea ecosystem for all participants based on MSFD principles and methodologies.

The major effort was directed towards the field works, laboratory treatment of materials and testing individual portion of the National Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programmes (N-BSIMAPs), as well as gaining the new high-quality data for transit and territorial waters by means of NPMS. Important works to test the new monitoring methods and assess the compliance of the national monitoring programmes with similar European methods were accomplished.

Despite the fact that both, in Phase 1 and Phase 2, the access to the accurate and reliable marine data was improved and significant steps were made to eliminate the limitations, the issue has not been solved to the desirable level, and under the financial support of the European Union and United Nations Development Programme, the work on the same problems with the new name of “EMBLAS-PLUS” will continue. This measure will further improve the opportunities of the Black Sea coastal countries in respect of the integrated environmental monitoring and assessment of the Sea environment.