NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY, 2025

Project co-funded by the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme

LEARN4SEA Project is underway!

We are pleased to announce that LEARN4SEA, a new European-funded project co-financed by the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Program, is underway!

The primary aim of the project is to promote environmental awareness, encourage eco-friendly behaviour within communities, and reduce pollution.

WHO WE ARE

· Romanian Maritime Training Centre, Romania (RO) - CERONAV (Lead Partner)
· Black Sea - Danube Association of Research and Development, Bulgaria (BG) - BDCA
· LEPL – National Environmental Agency, Georgia (GE) - NEA
· Piri Reis University, Türkiye (TR) - PRU
· Shabla Municipality, Bulgaria (BG) – SM

• Successful LEARN4SEA Kick-off Meeting in Batumi, Georgia

On September 4th-5th, the National Environmental Agency (NEA) hosted the Kick-off Meeting for the LEARN4SEA Project in Batumi, Georgia.

The event brought together project partners, experts, and stakeholders from across the Black Sea Basin who are involved in environmental protection. Over two days, project partners presented key project activities and engaged in discussions with stakeholders about the tools and solutions that will be developed to achieve the project outcomes:

Innovative Methodology
A specialized methodology for environmental specialists will be developed to help local authorities implement pollution reduction initiatives.

Environmental Information Centres
Each partner country (Romania, Bulgaria, Türkiye, and Georgia) will establish an Environmental Information Centre, providing education and real-time environmental data.

Cooperation Guidelines
A structured framework will bridge the gap between decision-makers and local communities, featuring best practices and pollution reduction initiatives.
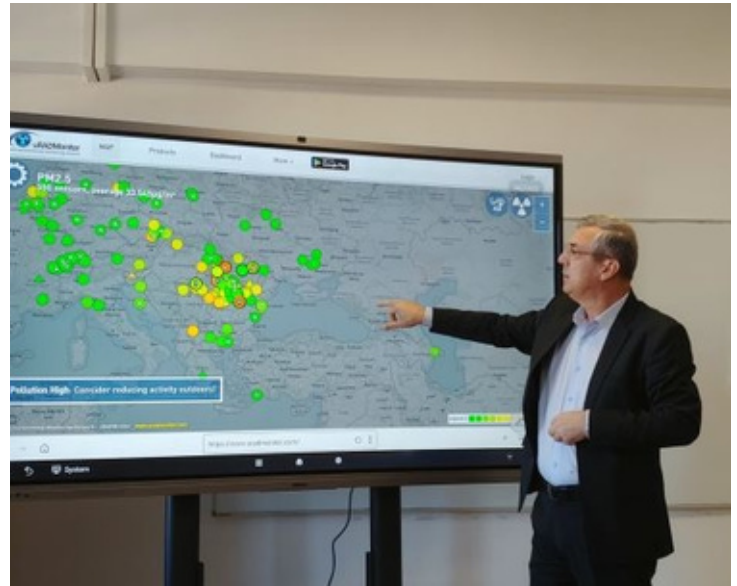
Awareness campaigns will use Virtual Reality training and customized materials for diverse audiences, from children to professionals.
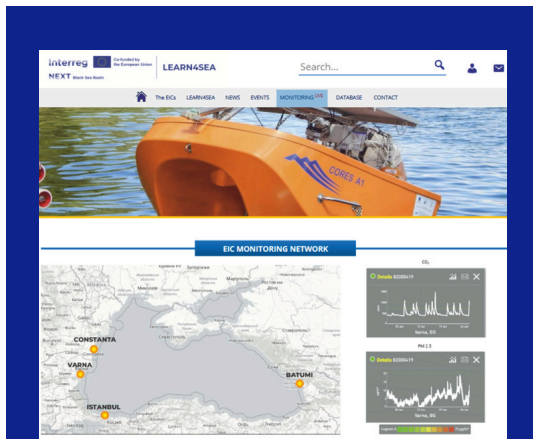
• Raising Awareness Through Air Quality Monitoring

As part of the project's activities, air quality measurement sensors were purchased and deployed both indoors and outdoors to assess the levels of various relevant pollutants.
Partner locations are officially on the global map of the equipment supplier, featuring active sensors and live recommendations for the general public.

On October 30th, 2024, CERONAV team, held discussions with 22 attendees from the naval transport sector, ensuring effective information sharing on the activities and the equipment procured within the project.

For real-time air quality data, visit: www.uradmonitor.com

New Environmental Information Centres

In each of the four countries in the partnership, Romania, Bulgaria, Türkiye and Georgia, an **Environmental Information Centre** will be set up. The centres will be equipped for actions to protect the environment and reduce pollution in the Black Sea Basin, while the network will be connected via a web portal.

Starting from a model in Interreg funded project GREEN DANUBE, each EIC will be adapted to the needs of the corresponding partner organization. Therefore, relevant equipment has been procured to be included in the centres, e.g. VR headsets and remotely operated drone to remove waste from water bodies.
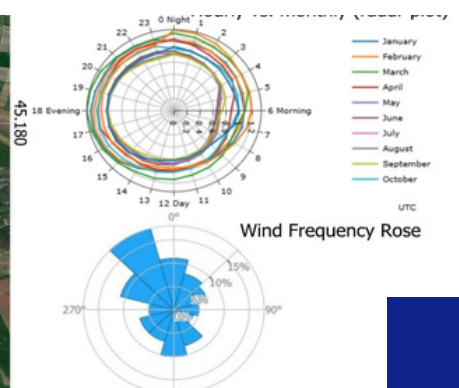

• First Air Quality Measurements Conducted by LEARN4SEA

The first round of air quality measurements, carried out by the DDNI team in collaboration with CERONAV, took place at the beginning of 2025!

Each location was monitored for 24 hours to gather crucial data for environmental research.

The first monitoring point was in the city of Tulcea, at the DDNI site, with the aim of capturing air quality in small communities (under 100,000 inhabitants). Potential factors influencing the air quality in the city of Tulcea are industrial and port activities, maritime traffic, and road traffic due to the presence of cars.
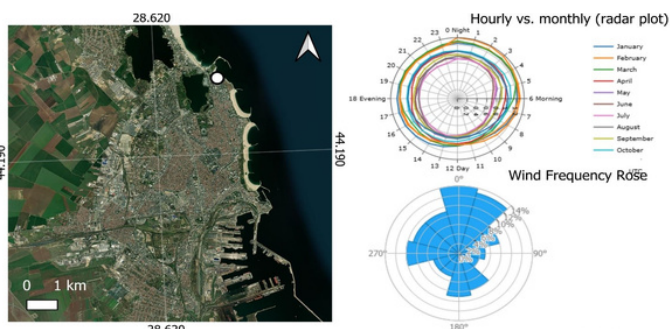
The **second monitoring point** was established in the city of Constanța, at CERONAV premises, with the aim of capturing air quality in large urban agglomerations along the Black Sea coast and crowded beaches.

For **monitoring point number 3**, the city of Shabla in Bulgaria, located in the northeastern part of Bulgaria in the Dobrici region, approximately 24 km from the Romanian border, was selected. It is the administrative center of the Shabla municipality and has a population of around 4,000 inhabitants.

Monitoring point number 4 was established at Silistar Beach, located in the southern part of the Bulgarian coastline, between the small towns of Sinemorets and Rezovo, near the border with Turkey. With a stretch of about 1 km along the Black Sea, this beach is part of the largest protected area in Bulgaria, Strandja Nature Park, covering about 1,161 km².

Looking Ahead

The LEARN4SEA project is committed to fostering environmental awareness and sustainable practices in the Black Sea Basin.
Stay tuned for updates on upcoming events, research findings, and educational initiatives!

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