

Project co-funded by European Union through Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme



LEARN4SEA Project moving forward

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

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

Synergies for Cleaner Waters

Synergies between two Interreg projects, LEARN4SEA and AQUATIC PLASTIC were created during a roundtable event organised by Mare Nostrum NGO, in collaboration with the Romanian Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, and hosted by CERONAV at the end of June 2025.

The event brought together 33 participants, representatives of national and local public administration, environmental agencies, research institutes, educational and training institutions, NGOs, and the business sector, to discuss concrete solutions for reducing water pollution.

Two key topics were addressed in depth:

- National legislation on river waste
- Monitoring of microplastics in Romania

The event concluded with a practical demonstration on Lake Siutghiol, where **CERONAV** presented a remotely operated aquatic drone designed to clean the water surface — a significant step forward in the efforts to reduce pollution in the region.



LEARN4SEA at the 16th "The Sweetest Day" Festival in Varna



On August 2, 2025, the Black Sea Danube Association for Research and Development (BDCA) took part in the 16th edition of 'The Sweetest Day' festival in Varna – a joyful summer celebration that turned the main entrance of the Sea Garden into a space full of music, dance, creative workshops, games, and inspiring educational initiatives.

As part of the event, the BDCA team presented the LEARN4SEA project through an informational poster that introduced visitors to the project's goals and activities. A key highlight was the announcement of the upcoming opening of an Environmental Information Center in Varna, which will be part of the international network established within LEARN4SEA.

The team engaged with dozens of festival-goers, answering questions about marine and coastal protection and sharing details about future educational events and opportunities that will take place at the center. The festival brought together a wide range of participants, including educational institutions like Britanica and MindHub, social causes such as "Believe and Help," corporate demonstrations, as well as culinary activities. The day concluded with performances by young artists, adding a festive note to a meaningful and engaging event.



Romania and Bulgaria unite for a cleaner Black Sea

On 20 September 2025, a cross-border clean-up campaign took place in both Romania and Bulgaria within the LEARN4SEA project. In Romania, the action was carried out in Limanu, with the participation of project partners from Bulgaria, Shabla Municipality and the Danube–Black Sea Research and Development Association (BDCA) from Varna. Over 100 participants in Romania, most of them pupils of School no. 1 Limanu, collected waste in 2 Mai village and also learned about ways to safeguard the environment. In parallel, the action in Bulgaria

took place on Durankulak beach, within Shabla Municipality. The event brought together dozens of volunteers of all ages — families with children, groups of friends, and even strangers who worked side by side. Their smiles, energy, and commitment turned the campaign into a powerful message of community spirit. Dozens of bags of waste were collected, giving the coastline a chance to breathe freely again. Together, we contribute to a cleaner environment and strengthened cooperation in the Black Sea Basin!



Playing for the planet: LEARN4SEA inspires young champions in Constanța

On October 14th, an informal training coordinated by CERONAV and focused on environmental issues - especially what children can do to reduce pollution - took place with the amazing support of Asociatia Sportiva Seamen's Kids.

Important concepts were introduced by the trainers who engaged the young players into games of recycling plastic, metal and paper right there on the football pitch.

Sports and an awareness raising action came together in a lively and meaningful training session to shape healthy and environmental-friendly future generations.



Beach cleanup in Turkiye

On October 10, 2025, Piri Reis University held an environmental cleanup event at the public beach in the district of Tuzla.

Due to the end of the summer season and recent storms in the region, the public beach had become quite dirty, so it was cleaned up together with students from the university clubs.

The students, who greatly appreciated the promotional materials acquired within LEARN4SEA project, did not leave any non-natural waste on the beach while the marine drone, Jellyfishbot, collected all the waste from the sea surface.





LEARN4SEA partners gather in Tulcea for Pilot Action and project meeting!

On 20–21 October 2025, the LEARN4SEA project partners met in Tulcea, Romania, for two days of collaboration, innovation, and hands-on testing, hosted by CERONAV. During the Pilot Action, participants tested the innovative LEARN4SEA methodology for assessing air and water quality in the Black Sea Basin. The event, co-organized by CERONAV and the National Environmental Agency of Georgia (NEA) with support from DDNI, brought together experts, researchers, and stakeholders from across the region.

The interactive sessions led by Adrian Burada (DDNI) encouraged discussions on methodology and tools, while participants shared ideas and feedback to further improve environmental monitoring and community engagement. The following day focused on reviewing results, identifying next steps, and discussing topics such as:

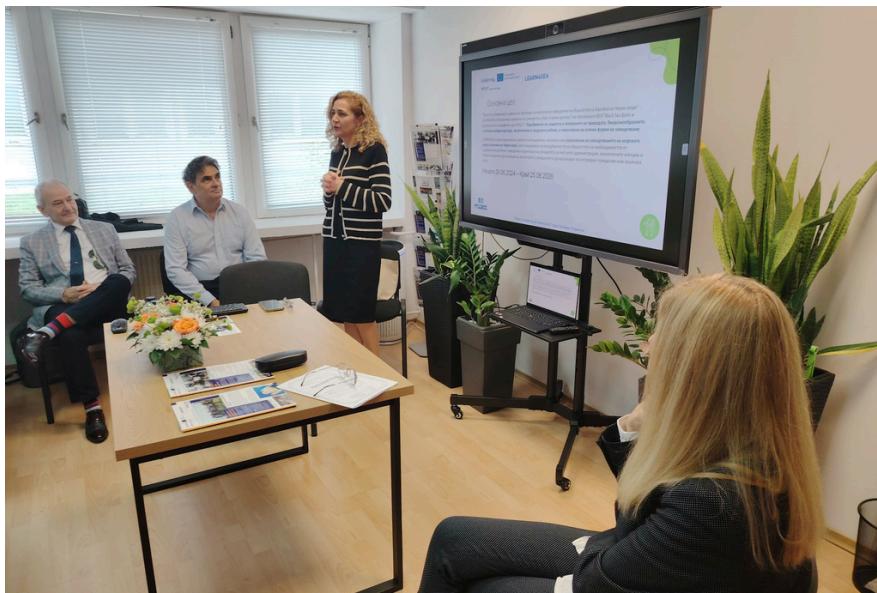
- Environmental Information Centres (EICs)
- Educational materials and training programmes
- Awareness-raising and communication activities

In the afternoon, partners carried out an observational study in the beautiful Danube Delta, analyzing areas differently affected by pollution and exploring practical applications of the new methodology.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to advancing environmental monitoring and supporting a cleaner, healthier Black Sea Basin.



Official Launch of the LEARN4SEA Environmental Information Centre in Varna!



On October 24, 2025, the LEARN4SEA Environmental Information Centre officially opened its doors in Varna, Bulgaria. Established by the Black Sea – Danube Association for Research and Development (BDCA), the new Centre aims to promote environmental responsibility and education across the Black Sea Basin.

Funded under the INTERREG NEXT Black Sea Basin 2021–2027 Programme, the project brings innovation to environmental learning through virtual reality, educational materials, and drone demonstrations — helping communities better understand and protect our shared marine environment.



The Centre, located at the High-Tech Business Incubator – Varna (Asparuhovo district), was inaugurated in the presence of representatives from academia, science, NGOs, and local authorities.

Among the guests were Marine Cluster Bulgaria, Shabla Municipality, the Technical University of Varna, the Institute of Fish Resources, the Centre of Hydro- and Aerodynamics (BAS), the Institute for Ecological Modernization, SGS Bulgaria, and CERONAV, the project's Lead Partner.

Three similar Environmental Information Centres are also being established in Romania, Türkiye, and Georgia, each tailored to local needs.

The Varna Centre features VR equipment, a multimedia learning unit, and water & aerial drones for demonstrations and training. Together, we're taking another step toward a cleaner, more sustainable Black Sea region!



CERONAV at Interreg 35, Interreg Romania!

CERONAV as the lead partner of LEARN4SEA project, participated in the Interreg 35 – Interreg Romania anniversary event. The institution was honored to be selected from hundreds of beneficiaries over 18 years of Interreg programmes in Romania as a best practice example for successful project implementation and transnational cooperation.

At the event, CERONAV presented the main achievements of LEARN4SEA involving partners from Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, and Türkiye, aimed at reducing pollution in the Black Sea Basin and promoting sustainable environmental behaviour among communities.

CERONAV's participation highlighted the project's impact and the potential for sustainable, collaborative solutions across the Black Sea Basin region.

Key highlights included:

- Innovative research and monitoring of air and water quality in coastal areas;
- Environmental Information Centres (EICs) in each partner country, serving as hubs for education, awareness, and practical engagement;
- Virtual Reality (VR) educational materials for children and youth, providing interactive experiences to learn about waste separation, pollution reduction, and environmental protection;
- On-site VR demonstrations, led by CERONAV experts, allowing participants to experience firsthand the educational content developed by the project team;
- Floating drones for water cleaning, showcased during practical demonstrations within the project.

LEARN4SEA demonstrates how education, technology, and cooperation can inspire behavioural change, raise awareness, and empower communities to protect the environment.

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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