



A Journey Coming to Completion

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

LEARN4SEA at “Wilhelm Moldovan” School in Constanța

On January 29, 2026, we visited the 3rd and 4th grade students of “Wilhelm Moldovan” School in Constanța, where an informal learning activity was carried out as part of the LEARN4SEA project.

During the session, we discussed environmental protection and the actions each of us could take to help preserve our planet. The students were enthusiastic, curious, and highly engaged throughout the activity. They asked thoughtful questions and demonstrated a strong awareness of pollution-related issues, as well as a genuine willingness to contribute to positive change. A particularly appreciated part of the event was the opportunity to use Virtual Reality headsets to explore educational materials developed by CERONAV specialists. Combined with educational games, these resources transformed learning into an interactive and enjoyable experience.

We were pleased to see such enthusiasm, environmental awareness, and a strong sense of responsibility among the younger generation. Their interest and engagement gave us confidence that the future of our communities and our environment is in good hands.



2nd National Workshop in Varna, Bulgaria, Highlighted the Role of Synergy Between Technological Innovations and Environmental Responsibility



On February 24, 2026, the Black Sea-Danube Association for Research and Development (BDCA) hosted the 2nd National Workshop under the LEARN4SEA project. The meeting brought together representatives of local and regional authorities, research institutions, educational organizations, the private sector, and civil society.

Among the participants were senior experts from the Regional Administration of Varna, the Vice Mayor of Shabla, representatives of Maritime Cluster Bulgaria, the Technical University of Varna, the Institute of Fish Resources, the Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovations – Varna, two high schools, and other stakeholders.

At the heart of the discussions was a shared understanding that protecting the Black Sea region required not only policies and infrastructure but also informed and responsible communities. Participants discussed practical approaches to environmental protection through behavioural change, education, innovation, and active civic engagement. An inspiring contribution came from Secondary School “Kapitan Petko Voyvoda,” part of the international Eco-Schools Programme under the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), as well as from Varna Maritime High School, demonstrating once again how schools nurtured environmental responsibility from an early age. An Immersive Virtual Reality (VR) environment was also demonstrated, showcasing innovative educational applications capable of deepening environmental understanding and sparking greater interest among young people. The workshop concluded with a roundtable discussion and recommendations aimed at strengthening cooperation among local stakeholders and safeguarding the Black Sea for future generations.



Visit to the LEARN4SEA Environmental Information Centre

On March 23, 2026, the LEARN4SEA Environmental Information Centre in Varna and the BDCA team hosted representatives of the Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovations – Varna (RAPIV), together with participants in the STREAM IT talent programme.

During the visit, the girls learned more about a wide range of activities related to environmental protection, water monitoring, and air quality monitoring. The programme also included interactive games through which

participants tested and expanded their knowledge of the Black Sea and its inhabitants.

A particularly exciting moment was the opportunity to try the latest VR training programme with an environmental focus, developed within the LEARN4SEA project. This innovative experience transformed learning into a truly engaging and memorable journey.

The event was highly inspiring and clearly demonstrated the important role of science and technology in nature conservation.



LEARN4SEA with Seventh-Grade Students from Ovidius High School

On 30 March 2026, twenty-five seventh-grade students from Ovidius High School in Constanța, Romania, visited CERONAV as part of an informal learning activity organized within the LEARN4SEA project. The visit offered students a unique opportunity to discover the maritime world through innovative and interactive educational experiences. During the session, they learned about the LEARN4SEA project, its objectives, and its contribution to promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices among young people. The students enthusiastically explored a series of educational games designed by the project team and tested the project's Virtual Reality application, gaining an immersive perspective on maritime and environmental topics.



A highlight of the visit was the opportunity to explore CERONAV's advanced simulators and maritime technologies, providing participants with valuable insights into modern maritime training and careers at sea. Through engaging discussions and hands-on activities, students reflected on the importance of adopting environmentally responsible behaviours and the role each individual can play in reducing pollution and protecting marine ecosystems. The students' curiosity and active participation transformed the visit into a truly rewarding educational experience. The activity not only broadened their understanding of the maritime sector but also inspired a greater appreciation for environmental protection, encouraging them to become more informed and responsible citizens of the future.



LEARN4SEA in Batumi, Georgia: Inspiring the Next Generation

The National Environmental Agency implemented a variety of educational activities in Batumi to raise environmental awareness among schoolchildren during the month of April 2026. As part of the event, a meeting with students was held at the regional office of the agency, where specialists from the Environmental Pollution Monitoring Department provided information about atmospheric air quality monitoring. Students also delivered presentations regarding the Black Sea.

Participants became familiar with modern technologies, including educational games on environmental topics using Virtual Reality headsets.

The students also visited an atmospheric air quality monitoring station and gained practical insight into how it operated.

In addition, the innovative drone designed to collect waste from the water surface, part of the Georgian EIC, was demonstrated on the lake in Batumi Central Park. This technology had already been successfully implemented in many European countries and played an important role in reducing pollution in seas and lakes.

All these activities were carried out within the framework of the LEARN4SEA project, and aimed to raise environmental awareness, strengthen environmentally responsible attitudes among citizens, and reduce pollution throughout the Black Sea Basin.





Strengthening Cooperation for Black Sea Innovation and Learning

Representatives of the LEARN4SEA project actively participated in the ANEMONE PLUS (BSB00949) Phase 1 Stakeholder Co-Design Workshop, held on April 22, 2026, in Constanța, Romania.

The event, organized under the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme 2021–2027, brought together key stakeholders from governance, research, business, and civil society to contribute to the co-design of a WebGIS platform aimed at assessing the vulnerability of the Black Sea marine ecosystem to anthropogenic pressures.

During the session dedicated to Interreg projects on the Romanian Black Sea coast, LEARN4SEA representatives showcased the project's innovative approach to maritime education and capacity building.

A highlight of the participation was the hands-on demonstration of immersive learning materials developed in Virtual Reality (VR) by CERONAV experts. Participants had the opportunity to test these training modules using VR headsets acquired through the project and experienced first-hand how digital technologies can enhance skills development in the blue economy sector.

The workshop provided a valuable platform for:

- Exchanging knowledge and best practices across Interreg initiatives;
- Fostering synergies between projects addressing environmental protection and maritime training;
- Engaging stakeholders in participatory co-creation processes.

LEARN4SEA continues to promote innovative, digital, and practice-oriented learning solutions, contributing to a more resilient and sustainable Black Sea region.





Environmental Education Promoted at the First “Meeting with Turquoise” Festival

Environmental education was successfully promoted during the first “Meeting with Turquoise” (Turkuazla Buluşma) Festival, held on April 28, 2026, at Tuzla Kamil Abduş Lagoon Park in Istanbul. Organized under the slogan “Let’s Keep Our Seas Clean,” the event brought together students, educators, NGOs, public institutions, and local stakeholders to raise awareness about marine pollution, environmental responsibility, and sustainable solutions.

More than 1,000 participants attended the festival, including 650 middle school students. A key highlight of the event was the presentation of LEARN4SEA’s technology-based environmental education tools, including VR educational games, sea and air drones, educational videos, and an air purifier. The VR recycling game developed by Piri Reis University within the project attracted particular interest, helping students learn proper waste sorting through interactive experiences. By combining environmental education, technology, and youth engagement, the event strengthened public awareness of marine protection and showcased the positive impact of EU-supported cooperation on local communities.





Launch of the Environmental Information Centre, Constanța, ROMANIA within the pilot action testing the EICs network of the LEARN4SEA project

On May 15th, 2026, the LEARN4SEA Environmental Information Center was officially launched in Constanța by the Romanian Maritime Training Centre - CERONAV. The participants were representatives of NGOs, research institutions, academia (both secondary schools and higher education institutions), as well as the very notable presence of representatives of Constanța County School Inspectorate and Interreg NEXB BSB Programme. In addition, members of the press, representing 9 different media organisations, were present. The Project Partners BDCA (Bulgaria) and PRU (Türkiye) also participated in the event.

The pilot action (Output 1.2) tested the newly developed Network of interconnected EICs for raised awareness and improved environmental-friendly behaviour of communities in the Black Sea Basin with the main objective of evaluating the feasibility and effectiveness of the newly developed solution to the lack of a platform for smart informal education for enhanced environment protection and reduced pollution in the region.

The web portal connecting the EICs has successfully achieved its intended objectives and is perceived by users as a highly valuable tool for environmental information dissemination and informal education, according to the feedback received from the stakeholders. The consistently high ratings across all evaluation criteria confirm that the platform provides an effective, accessible, and user-friendly solution for increasing environmental awareness within the Black Sea Basin region.

The centre established by CERONAV in Constanța serves as a regional hub for environmental awareness, informal education and stakeholder engagement in the Romanian Black Sea coastal area, and is designed to support a wide range of beneficiaries, including pupils, students, teachers, researchers, local and regional authorities, environmental NGOs, media representatives and members of the general public interested in environmental protection.

Disclaimer

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Publishing date: 23.06.2026.

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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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