



EUROPEAN UNION



# EU MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



**Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges**

## MISSION “RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS BY 2030”

*From the Danube source to Black Sea – Healthy Waters and healthy life*  
**15 October 2024**

**Burgas Free University, Burgas, Bulgaria**

Conference website: [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/events/upcoming-events/danube-source-black-sea-healthy-waters-and-healthy-life-2024-10-15\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/events/upcoming-events/danube-source-black-sea-healthy-waters-and-healthy-life-2024-10-15_en)

### DRAFT PROGRAMME

(version 24 August 2024)

**14 October afternoon:** side event organised by Mission Danube lighthouse, EcoDaLLi project (tbc)

**15 October**

*Moderator: Florence Ranson*

**08:30 – 09:15** Registration and welcome coffee

**09:15 – 10:10** Welcome & Opening remarks

**Milen Baltov**, Rector of the Burgas Free University

**Dimitar Nikolov**, Mayor of Burgas

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Iliana Ivanova**, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth (video message)
- **Peter Dimitrov**, Minister of Environment and Waters of Bulgaria (tbc)
- **Other Ministers tbc**
- **Kestutis Sadauskas**, Deputy Director-General, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission and Mission Manager (tbc)
- **Veronica Manfredi**, Director Zero Pollution, DG Environment, European Commission (tbc)

**10:10-11:10**

**Panel discussion 1: *Mission Restore our Ocean & Waters in the Danube and Black Sea lighthouse***

**PANELLISTS:**

- **Nadja Schlichenmaier**, coordinator EcoDalli project, Danube living labs, Steinbeis Europa (Germany)
- **Helmut Habersack**, coordinator Danube4all project, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (Austria)
- **Ekaterina Batchvarova**, coordinator DaWetRest project, Bulgarian Academy of Science (Bulgaria)
- **Elke Bucholz**, coordinator SpongeWorks project, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz University Hannover (Germany)
- **Boris Liptak**, Slovak environment agency, Charter Actions (Slovakia)
- **Iulian Nichersu**, Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, Charter actions (Romania)

**11:10-11:30 coffee break**

**11:30-12:30**

**Panel discussion 2: *Hand-in-hand with a variety of projects and initiatives***

**PANELLISTS**

- **Adrian Stanica**, coordinator DOORS project, Romanian National Institute of Marine Geology and Geoecology - GeoEcoMar (Romania)
- **Agustin Sanchez-Arcilla** (tbc) coordinator REST-COAST, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain)
- **Maiken Bjørkan** coordinator EMPOWERUS, Nordland Research Institute (Norway) Transitional Coastal Lab in Burgas Province, with the Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation
- **Baris Salihoglu**, coordinator BRIDGE-BS, Black Sea accelerator, Institute of Marine Sciences, Middle-East Technical University (Türkiye)
- **Ivana Lukic** coordinator MSP4BIO, S.PRO – Sustainable projects GMBH (Germany) BLACK SEA - Western Black Sea – Romania and Bulgaria | MSP4BIO
- **Eden Mamut**, coordinator Black Sea Universities Network International Permanent Secretariat and 4BIZ project
- **Ariane Blum**, Chief Executive Officer Water4All partnership

**12:30-13:45 Networking lunch**

**13:45-14:45**

**Panel discussion 3: What do we need for a resilient Danube and Black Sea**

**PANELLISTS**

- **Mihaela Mirea**, Black Sea CMA Assistance Mechanism
- **Viorel Vulturescu**, Black Sea Operational Network of Funders + vice-president of the SBEP General Assembly, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization (MCID, Romania)
- **Birgit Vogel**, Executive Secretary International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)
- **Barna Kovacs**, BIOEAST Secretary General, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the European Union

**14:45 - 15:15**

**Panel discussion 4: *Young people as changemakers for the Danube and Black Sea***

**PANELLISTS**

- **Olena Marushevskya**, CMA National Hub of Ukraine & Blue Rivers, Ukraine
- **Mustafa Yucel**, Black Sea Young Ambassador
- **Tbc**, Danube Youth Council
- **Tbc**, Plastic Pirates representative from Hungary, Slovenia or Bulgaria

**15:15- 15:30 Conclusions**

- **Ivelina Vasileva**, Mission Ocean & Waters Board member
- **John Bell**, Deputy Mission Manager and Director of Healthy Planet, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

**After conference:** 16:00 start transfer time by bus to Sofia