

Speech by Simion Nicolaev, Director General, National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa", Romania, at EurOCEAN 2019 conference in Paris, 12 June 2019

Dear colleagues,

I would like to thank the organizers for inviting me and my colleagues, representing the NIMRD "Grigore Antipa", at this prestigious Conference.

Let me start with a short consideration on the Black Sea regional perspective for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Until 1990, in the Black Sea region, due to political reasons, it was strongly promoted a regime to develop scientific research and apply maritime management, individually by each country.

After 1992, step by step, was started a process of cooperation, stimulated by international organizations (WB, UNDP, UNEP, EU); this process concluded by the signing of the Bucharest Convention and by the development of the two major environmental projects, and, in the end, by the adoption of BSSAP.

Despite some difficulties, the process of integration continues and, as you have probably heard, in May 2019, the Ministries responsible for maritime affairs adopted the Black Sea Common Agenda;

One of the most important sectorial support of this Agenda is represented by the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for Black Sea adopted also in May of this year in the corresponding Conference held in Bucharest.

In our opinion, both documents contain very similar objectives with those existing in 2030 Agenda and can be considered the main pillars for the future.

On a national perspective, for the marine science contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals in the Black Sea, I would like to inform you that in Romania there are only two main research entities involved in marine research and development:

- the NIMRD "G. Antipa", represented by me and

- GEOCOMAR represented by dr. Adrian Stanica

The "Grigore Antipa" Institute is fully involved in all Black Sea national and regional projects, and cooperates with all main research entities from Black Sea riparian countries.

The main role of the Institute is to develop fundamental and applied research on general oceanography, marine technology, biology, ecology, marine living resources, microbiology, marine plastic pollution, etc.

Our work is strongly supported by the Nation Center of Competences, developed in our premises:

- National Oceanographic and Environmental Data Center created under IOC umbrella (EuroGOOS);
- Center of Competences for Space Technologies develop with support of ROSA (Romanian Space Agency);
- Demonstrative Center for Aquaculture develop under FAO/GFCM coordination;

The institute is involved in the fulfillment of the techno-scientific duties of

- the Ministry of Research and Innovation,
- the Ministry of Environment – mainly for Natura 2000 Network;
- the Ministry of Waters – for MSFD and ICZM process;
- the Ministry of Agriculture - National Program for collection of Fisheries Data;
- the Ministry of Regional Development – for Marine Spatial Planning

We are also providing scientific counseling to BSC, GFCM, CIESM etc.

As a conclusion, in cooperation with scientific communities of Black Sea countries, we consider that in Romania there is scientific and technical potential to implement the provision of the 2030 Agenda based on specific tasks of the BS Common Maritime Agenda, and the objectives of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.

In the same time, we consider that in Black Sea region, there are a lot of opportunities for cooperation between scientific communities of the riparian countries, ensuring achievement of regional objectives of Agenda 2030.

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