



DEPARTMENT OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Follow-up

International Conference on:

“Implementation of the UN 2030 SDGs in the Black Sea Region”

Place: House of Parliament - Nicolae Iorga Hall, Bucharest, Romania

Date: 4-5 October, 2019

GENERAL ISSUES

The conference was an important opportunity to share best practices and knowledge about the new directions to be followed in designing policies aimed at "Implementing UN 2030 SDGs in the Black Sea Region". Meeting the partners, the "family" of the Black Sea Region, the Conference provided a framework for dialogue and exchange of ideas among different stakeholders such as governmental agencies, universities, research and development institutes, innovative clusters and networks, youth organizations, NGOs and different other contributors from different disciplines that gathered together in order to support the implementation of 2030 Agenda.

A variety of speakers and interactive discussions sought to emphasize some important efforts regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. More than 90 participants from 9 countries, as Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Slovenia and Romania, attended the conference.

The Department of Sustainable Development – Government of Romania organized the conference in cooperation with Black Sea Universities Network, Black Sea Economic Cooperation, and Sustainable Development Solution Network.



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OCTOBER 4th, 2019

WELCOME SPEECHES

László BORBÉLY - *State Counsellor, National Coordinator for SDGs - Department of Sustainable Development, Romanian Government*

Professor Eden MAMUT - *Secretary General, Black Sea Universities Network*

H.E. Aristotelis V. XENAKIS - *Hellenic BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office*

Ambassador Traian CHEBELEU - *Deputy Secretary General, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Permanent International Secretariat*

GOVERNMENTAL AND DIPLOMACY

Ambassador Sergiu CELAC

Honorary Chairman, New Strategy Center

Professor Emeritus Dan GRIGORESCU

Scientific Director, The Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization (message from Emil CONSTANTINESCU - Former President of Romania)

Ermelinda DURMISHI

Advisor of Minister of Education Sport and Youth, Albania

Timotej ŠOOŠ

Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Bucharest



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Professor Jeffrey SACHS

Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (live online speech)

Skills, education and innovation are quite fundamental in the process of SDGs implementation; improvement of health, fight against diseases due to pollution, and digital revolution are among the most important challenges nowadays. His recommendation is to examine in detail, at country level and BSEC region, what changes have major impacts and what policies need to be developed to support a real sustainable development. It is a huge commitment in the Black Sea region to contribute to the EU effort. The success is depending on the new formula of cooperation inside EU and globally. A new mobilization and concentration is needed to move on this path.

László BORBÉLY

State Counsellor, National Coordinator for SDGs - Department of Sustainable Development, Romanian Government

In the spirit of the SDGs, a stronger and more comprehensive strategy is needed at EU level. With regard to the 2030 Agenda, Romania acts and is already recognized as a Regional Hub for sustainable development in South-East of Europe and as an initiator of the launch of Global HUB with 8 pillars of sustainable development.

On the national level, the Department supports the development of a stronger and more robust institutional framework. Romania has established the *Sustainable Development Hubs* at the level of central public authorities with competency in the field of sustainable development. This initiative was underlined by the President of Romania at the SDG Forum "Leaders Dialogue 5 - Partnerships for Sustainable Development", on 25th September, 2019.

The provision of training courses will be facilitated given by *experts in sustainable development* for the staff involved in the implementation of the Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. In order to effectively implement the Strategy, it is necessary to enjoy the support and involvement of all actors; a comprehensive perspective on SDGs involves local communities, scientific groups and civil society. In order to ensure the coherence of the policies in this field, it is also necessary to strengthen the strategic framework by drawing up an Action Plan, create an appropriate legal and institutional framework and update the set of specific national indicators.



ACADEMIA (Universities and R&D Institutes)

Professor Eden MAMUT

Secretary General, Black Sea Universities Network

The Black Sea Universities Network is a platform meant to support the implementation of SDG in BSR. It is a nexus for developing scientific, cultural and educational cooperation and exchanges among the universities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States and other institutions with similar concern for the sustainable development of the BSR. The network connects 115 Universities of 12 BSEC member countries. Networking Geography represent busting the mobility of students, researchers and professors, cooperation for open science, to offers the policy makers solutions especially related climate changes and green energy, and sustainable agriculture in partnership with FAO and eradication of poverty.

Professor Alexandru OZUNU

Founder of Research Institute for Sustainability and Disaster Management, Dean of Faculty of Environmental Science and Engineering, "Babeş-Bolyai" University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Prof. Alexandru Ozunu underlined aspects regarding the improvement of the safety culture in Romania, the vulnerability and the capacity to respond to the natural and technological disasters, as earthquakes, landslides, mudflows, debris slide, heavy rainfalls and snows, blizzards, thunderstorms, and floods and flash-floods. The role of education in preparing the population for environmental emergencies is very important; the major environmental issues in Romania and some solutions for safety education are components of sustainable development.

PhD Eng. Adrian STĂNICĂ

General Manager, GeoEcoMar - National Institute for Research and Development for Marine Geology and Geoecology, Romania

Dr. Adrian Stănică, related to the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), presented the work carried out by Black Sea coastal countries experts (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine, Moldova), in cooperation with marine experts from leading European marine institutes and organizations, with the support of the European Commission. The four main pillar of the Black Sea SRIA are *Knowledge Bridge – Economy – Key Infrastructure and Policy Enablers – Empowered Citizens and Enhanced Blue Workforce*.

Assoc. prof. PhD. Simona BARA, Senior lecturer PhD. Elena PREDA

The Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania



BEST PRACTICES (Networks and professional associations)

Nicolaos THEODOSSIOU

Chair, Sustainable Development Solution Network - SDSN Black Sea

The UN Sustainable Development Solution Network mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving under the framework of sustainable development. SDSN brings together universities, research centers and other knowledge institutions focusing on:

- promoting practical solution initiatives and long-term pathways for sustainable development,
- promoting high-quality education and research collaboration,
- supporting governments in understanding and addressing the challenges, the effort to support top-down approach of sustainable development,
- encouraging down-top approach by empowering people, involving young generation in order to secure a prosperous future.

Dr. Ec. Constantin BOȘTINĂ

President, Association for Economic and Social Studies and Forecasts - ASPES

Mr. Boștină presented the Romanian Economic Model in the EU - Romania Horizon 2040 with the coordinates of the evolution of the Romanian economy, as a knowledge-based economy, in accordance with the national interest and with the new redefinitions in the evolution of the U.E. and the global economy. Generated by the academic, university, research and reflection environment, the business environment and representatives of young entrepreneurs and students - the next generation, the model aims to outline how Romania will evolve in the period 2018-2040 from an economic, social and educational point of view.

Octavian COSENCU

Vice-president, Romanian Actuarial Association

The Association activity aims to promote the actuarial profession in the insurance industry and, more broadly, in society, the education of the actuaries and the potential that their knowledge and skills represent in the financial services and not only, both in Romania and internationally.



CIVIL SOCIETY (NGOs, associations)

Dragoș TUȚĂ

*Founder of the **Sustainability Embassy, Romania***

The Embassy has the mission to promote the values of sustainability at political, social and economic level, in order to develop competences, programs and partnerships in Romania. It is the initiator of the Coalition for Sustainable Development, movement launched 6 months ago. Young people, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, local authorities, unions, employers' associations, research, development and innovation institutions, the academic community, mass media, the religious denominations, farmers, the elderly and families are invited to be involved in the activities related to the implementation of the Strategy. In order to ensure a constant dialogue, the establishment of a Coalition for Sustainable Development, made up of representatives of civil society, will be therefore facilitated.

Anca CIUCĂ

*Vice-president of **FOND, the Romanian NGDO Platform***

FOND is member of the CONCORD (European Confederation of NGOs active in development and relief) the International Forum of National NGO Platforms – Forus, CIVICUS and the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness. Its mission is to support the development and implementation of a coherent and effective policy of Romania in the fields of international development cooperation and humanitarian aid, to increase the capacity of the member organizations to educate the public on development cooperation by implementing projects and specific programs, networking, training sessions, research, public policy and advocacy activities. Currently FOND has 33 member organizations located all over Romania.

FOND is involved mainly in *SDG 17: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development, and Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.*

Ana-Maria PĂLĂDUȘ

*Vice-President, **REPER21***

The "REȚEAUA ONG 21" is an informal network with relevant, consistent and unitary contribution of the non-governmental sector in Romania to the development and implementation of public policy in the field of Education for Sustainable Development



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Cosmin BÂRZAN

President, the Civic Resource Centre

The Centre supports volunteering, as an activity carried out on its own initiative, by any person, for the benefit of others, without receiving material compensation. The GenerAction Project helps young people to find out about global issues, so that young people can get involved in sustainable development.

Dr. Orieta HULEA

Country Director, WWF Romania

WWF Romania focuses on the nature in all SDGs, how nature-based solutions can help people achieve all the sustainable development goals. The key levers to catalyse nature-based solutions for SDGs are: mainstreaming nature into decision-making, strengthening good governance, and building multi-stakeholders partnerships.



OCTOBER 5th, 2019

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Professor Karin MARKIDES

President, American University of Armenia

Prof. MARKIDES opened the second day of the conference by underlining the *universities' role in solving complex challenges*", the importance of the education, innovation and networking from the perspective of sustainable development.

Professor Nicolae ȚĂPUȘ

University "Politehnica" of Bucharest, Romania

The presentation *"Implementing Effective Education & Scientific Research Projects for Promoting Sustainability"* highlighted some impressive achievements of the university: over 30 000 students in 200 years of history, partnerships with some of the most prestigious and innovative universities in the world, 35 jobs created in R&Ds etc. University "Politehnica" of Bucharest has the mission to bring together education, training and scientific research. The role of this intersection is to increase knowledge and innovation, two key concepts of knowledge-based economy and society.

Professor Nicolaos THEODOSSIOU

Chair, Sustainable Development Solution Network - SDSN Black Sea

Prof. Theodossiou mentioned that education and research are found in a number of the SDGs and academia has a role in addressing these. However, the contribution of universities to the SDGs is much broader, as they can support the implementation of every one of the SDGs as well as the implementation of the SDG framework itself.

He also presented the UN SDSN 4-Seas Project, i.e. *Med-Black-Caspian-Aral Seas: From source to sea*. The aims of this project are: RESEARCH, EDUCATION, REPOSITORY, INNOVATION, and POLICY.



SPEAKERS

PhD Mihnea DULEA

Senior Researcher grade 1, Head of Department of Computational Physics, “Horia Hulubei” R&D National Institute of Physics & Nuclear Engineering

Mr. Dulea noticed that the beginning of the distributed infrastructure for scientific computing in Romania is related to the necessity of the computational support for the processing and analysis of a large amount of experimental data by the groups of researchers in elementary particle and high energy physics. He presented the *Romanian National Grid Infrastructure (NGI_RO)*, it is an open consortium of seven research and academic institutions. Their purpose is to promote, implement, maintain and operate the national distributed computing infrastructure for science and education. He mentioned that the main objective of the *NGI_RO* is the provision of top quality services of grid and cloud computing, data storage and management, to the national research and academic communities.

PhD Paul GASNER

RoEduNet Iași, Romania

He presented several innovative issues, related to “*DANUBIUS PP - The System of Data Collection, Data Processing and Interoperability of Data Sources in the DANUBIUS RI*”, such as: a fundamentally new approach to research on River-Sea Systems (RSS), particularly at the freshwater-marine interface, spanning traditional disciplinary and geographic boundaries; building on existing expertise across Europe to support interdisciplinary research spanning the environmental, social and economic sciences; providing access to a range of sites, facilities and expertise, a ‘one-stop shop’ for knowledge exchange, access to harmonized data, and a platform for interdisciplinary research, education and training; supporting research on the interactions and transitional zones between coastal marine and freshwater areas, and being developed by partners in 16 countries in Europe under the lead of Romania, with expressions of interest and support from the scientific community in many others in Europe and worldwide.



Professor Viktor Anatoliiovych MAZUR

Rector, Vinnytsia National Agrarian University, Ukraine

Prof. Mazur presented the *role of agrarian education in the context of planning the sustainable development of Ukraine until 2030 and the strategic national goals*: guaranteeing of the food security of the state; ensuring of predictability of development and long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector through the development of various forms of management; promoting the development of rural settlements and the formation of the middle class in the countryside by providing employment to the rural population and raising the level of income; improving of the system of higher agrarian education according to the requirements of a single European space.

He also expressed the importance of collaboration and partnerships. He mentioned that, today, the All-Ukrainian Scientific and Educational Consortium is a smithy for the plant, horticulture, vegetable, livestock, aquaculture, machine-building, forestry, food and processing industries of Ukraine. Practical training of students in the Consortium is another advantage of such an association of educational, scientific and breeding establishments in structural units in which students are active participants in scientific research, breeding work, research production. Today it is already a full-fledged Pilot Project of the Consortium supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. The peculiarity of the project is that the collective farms and peasant farms are formed from representatives of different faculties: economics, management, agronomy, technological and law.

Mr. Igor SIRODOEV

University "Ovidius" of Constața, Romania

Mr. Sirodoev presented the Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Sustainable Development in the Black Sea Region. He mentioned priorities of *Blue Growth Strategy* and he listed some of the actual research projects: CIVITAS-PORTIS-Innovative and sustainable urban mobility solutions for European port cities, Horizon 2020(Mobility for Growth .5.5-2015; SciNetNatHazPrev-A Scientific network for earthquake, landslide and flood hazard prevention CBC; *CO-LAND: Inclusive Coastal Landscapes: Activating green and blue infrastructure for sustainable development of the urban-land interface, ERASMUS+*.



Professor Sergiy BYELIKOV

Rector, National University "Zaporizhzhia Politechnic", Ukraine

Prof. Byelikov presented the National University "Zaporizhzhia Politechnic" and he stressed the importance of collaboration. The cooperate with several institutions and universities, including Lund University, Lund, Sweden; Laboratory of Excellence "DAMAS" University of Lorraine-Metz, France; Institute of Nanotechnology (INT), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany; Institute of Fundamental Technological Research, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland. They have several interesting projects, such as: Biodegradable casting alloys based on magnesium for osteosynthesis and heat-resistant nickel alloys castings after hot isostatic pressing etc.

PhD Florin TATUI

Assistant Professor, University of Bucharest, Romania

Mr. Tatui presented several interesting scientific issues, related to the Black Sea coastline erosion: index-based sensitivity assessment and management-related issues, as: in-depth analysis of the causes of coastal erosion; permanent monitoring of the coastal behavior; need for the consideration in the future civil protection plans and coastal management works of the evaluation of coastal risk generated by storms with a solid scientific background; prioritisation of coastal protection works function of erosional risk – need for national/local hazard/risk maps; clarification of legal and administrative issues; clearly defining the responsibilities and jurisdiction of each actor; better cooperation between Black Sea riparian countries; better communication between public authorities, researchers, coastal engineering companies, on one hand, and local communities, on the other hand; changing the view/mentality of coastal planners for managing in a sustainable way the coastal hazards impact (erosion) through ‘soft’ solutions, and promoting soft solutions for the sustainable management of the coastal hazards impact.

Professor Eden MAMUT

Institute for Nanotechnologies & Alternative Energy Sources, University "Ovidius" of Constanta

Prof. Mamut presented the "Models for a Regional Master Program on Black Sea Studies - ARGOS". The aim of the ARGOS project was to achieve stronger regional partnership and cooperation in the field of higher education focusing on Renewable Energy Sources, which is a subject of common interest with a direct impact on a stronger and more sustainable economic and social development of the region of the Black Sea Basin. The activities realized in the frame of the project, as the development of standard module courses and the organization of very



useful e-seminars contributed to the promotion of the model of cooperation within the BSUN by knowledge sharing on cross border joint projects in the field of RES. In the last phase of the project, it has been developed a Massive Open Online Course Platform of the project (MOOC).

Prof. Eden MAMUT also presented “*Multiscale & Multiphysics Modelling & Simulation Concepts for Addressing Sustainability*”. He mentioned that multi-dimensional models or „multi-scale” as well as the integrated multi-phenomenological models or „multi- physics” have been developed in time, covering today a large number of applications including the materials science, the nano/microelectronics, the ecological reconstruction, the deactivation of the atomic armament and biotechnologies.

Prof. Eden MAMUT ended the conference, expressing his acknowledgements for speakers and participants, and his gratitude to the Department of Sustainable Development, Romanian Government for support, as well.

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

The most important message of the conference participants is focused on **partnership**. The implementation of the UN 2030 SDGs can only be achieved by uniting the efforts of all partner countries in the Black Sea area.

Higher Education is an essential pillar: Universities in the Black Sea area, entities such as BSEC and those coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be able to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices for the implementation of the SDGs. Also they should support educational, research and innovation programs on sustainable development.

The presentations of the participants who attended the Conference, during the two days, revealed that there must be a network, a collaboration and communication among different entities that can interact at governmental, parliamentary, academic and in partnership with civil society. All stakeholders from the Black Sea region should be included in order to ensure a coherence between the monitoring and coordination of these elements, Romania being a regional hub that supports the implementation of UN 2030 SDGs.

By coordinating regional actions, Romania, in particular, has an important role in strengthening the relationship among those stakeholders implementing the 2030 Agenda in the Black Sea region, by evaluation actions, transfer of know-how and best practices.