



The Black Sea Universities Network organized in 2021 the first edition of the Black Sea CONNECT Art Fair “*Healing the Black Sea by Art*”, as a virtual exhibition hosted on the <https://bsun.org/> platform. The event was dedicated to the International Black Sea Action Day.

The virtual exhibition offered the opportunity to join a virtual showroom of creations (painting/ photo/ construction with materials consisted from marine litter) with recorded presentations/text descriptions, where the language of visual arts generated synergies for promoting the protection of the Black Sea.

The emphasis was to promote the Blue Economy strategy among the young generation from the riparian countries of the Black Sea. For this purpose, this event was dedicated to the students.

The event used the artworks and the educational context as a source of empowering awareness to guide us towards taking action for protecting the Black Sea. It featured collaboratively speaking stories that reiterated among the public for the embracement and the engagement of the reality through art, in order to witness the messages sent from the sea.



The partner organizations were represented by: Odessa State Ecological University from Ukraine, “Ovidius” University of Constanta from Romania, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University from Türkiye, The Romanian Union of Plastic Artists and PTC Inc. Europe.

The International Jury included the following personalities: Prof. Triantafyllos A.D. Almpanis, Rector of University of Ioannina - Greece, Prof. Gulchokra Mammadova, Rector of Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction – Azerbaijan, Prof. Sergiy Stepanenko, Rector of Odessa State Environmental University – Ukraine, Mrs. Ezgi Sahin Yucel, Communication Manager of Black Sea CONNECT Project.

The event gathered a number of 8 art works from the following countries: Romania, Azerbaijan and Greece.

The distinguished members of the jury evaluated the submitted artworks and voted individually, taking into consideration the following aspects of the artworks: Originality, Quality, Expressiveness, Impact, Added-value to the promotion of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda on Blue Growth in the Black Sea.

The winners of the Black Sea CONNECT Art Fair “*Healing the Black Sea by Art*” were: student Tunzala Macidova from Western Caspian University – 1st Prize, student Revan Kerimov from Western Caspian University – 2nd Prize and student Nikos Karakolis from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki – 3rd Prize.



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