



**INTERNATIONAL PERMANENT SECRETARIAT
BLACK SEA UNIVERSITIES NETWORK**

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BSUN - winner of the European Advanced SDG Award 2020

“Excellence in the implementation of the UN SDGs”

PRESS RELEASE

On August 24th, 2020 in a special ceremony hosted by the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, BSUN was declared a winner of the European Advanced SDG Award 2020 – “Excellence in the implementation of the UN SDGs”, for the section “Life on land / life below water / Biodiversity”.

The BSUN has been established in 1998 as an inter-university cooperation framework in the Black Sea Region. At present, it includes 120 member Universities from the 12 states that are members of Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization as: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. Since its establishment, the promotion of sustainable development in the Black Sea Region, was a main priority for the BSUN.

In 2008, in Kiev, The BSUN member Universities adopted the Declaration of the Universities Rectors on the Sustainable Development of the Black Sea Region and this document was a guide for all Universities of the Region for promoting sustainable development programs and initiatives.

In 2010, BSUN became a founding member of the UN Academic Impact initiative and in 2011 became the coordinator of the UNAI global hub on sustainable development.

In 2012, at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, BSUN had an active role in developing activities to promote the role of Universities for education on sustainable development.

There were many projects that have been carried out over the years in the field of marine ecosystems, water management, energy, transport or social cohesion. There were developed models for University-Industry partnerships as innovation clusters like MEDGreen Cluster on ecotechnologies and alternative energy sources that was established in 2013, Innovation Cluster “Danube – Danube Delta – Black Sea – 3D-BS” specialized on the sustainable development of river-sea large ecosystems in 2016 and many other initiatives. Since 2017, BSUN has been involved in the development of Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda on Blue Growth in the Black Sea Region.

In 2018, the BSUN in cooperation with the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki established the SDSN Black Sea in order to take over and to facilitate the exchange of best practices in the implementation of the SDGs with other regions around the globe.

In 2019, BSUN addressed an invitation to the heads of states from the Black Sea region, to organize a Regional Summit dedicated to the promotion of the “blue growth” initiative in the Black Sea region and to mark in this way the relaunch of the cooperation and dialogue in the region, putting in the centre the commitment for the conservation of the environment and of the resources in a climate of peace and mutual respect.

In 2019, BSUN organized the **International Conference on: „Implementation of the UN 2030 SDGs in the Black Sea Region”** in Bucharest, Romania that was the starting point for many other initiatives in the region (more details you may find at <https://bsun.org/pages/newsevents/events.php>).

In March, 2020, the BSUN organized the 1st Int. Conference on Blue Growth in the Black Sea Region and recently, BSUN has been accepted as a member of the University Consortium of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and is preparing a proposal for a cultural route dedicated to the promotion of the Blue Growth Traditions in the Lower Danube and Black Sea Region.



