

## **“BEST PROJECT” Award for the 4BIZ Project**

The 4BIZ Project “Boosting Black Sea Blue Biz” was Awarded by the European Commission as the “BEST PROJECT” at the category “Fostering Investment in the Black Sea Blue Economy”. The Award Ceremony was organized during the Black Sea Stakeholder Conference, on November 23rd, 2023, in Bucharest.

This Award Category emphasized the contributions of the candidate projects to preparing the access to financial resources, promoting sustainable investment in the Blue Economy, and supporting maritime entrepreneurship and clusters.

At the Conference the 4BIZ Project Consortium was represented by Prof. Eden MAMUT, the Coordinator of the 4BIZ Project and Secretary General of the Black Sea Universities Network.

The 4BIZ Project is financed by the European Commission under the EMFAF Program, that is administrated by CINEA.

The overall objective of the Project is to develop cooperation in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, coastal and maritime tourism, and maritime transport by putting together the business actors with stakeholders from the Black Sea countries. In this direction, it is aimed to develop local capacity for support services, increase digitalization and innovation capabilities.

The 4BIZ consortium includes 9 partners and 17 associated partners from Romania, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Turkey, Georgia and Ukraine.

The coordinator of the Project is the Black Sea Universities Network and the partners are the followings:

- International Centre for Black Sea Studies, represented by Georgia CHANTZI
- Galati Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, represented by Manuela Mioara BACIU
- National Technical University of Ukraine Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, represented by Prof. Sergiy SHUKAYEV
- Public Union "Ukrainian Maritime Cluster", represented by Dr. Olena ZHUKOVA
- Lepi Teaching University-Batumi State Maritime Academy, represented by Teona DZNELADZE
- Dogu Karadeniz Kalkinma Ajansi Baskanligi, represented by Mehmet BOZDOĞAN
- Marine Cluster Bulgaria, represented by Ilze ATANASOVA
- Bucharest University of Economic Studies, represented by Prof. Gabriela TIGU

The Associated partners are the followings:

- Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

- Conference des Regions Peripheriques Maritimes d'Europe Association
- Varnenska Targovsko-Industrialna Kamara
- Innovation Cluster MEDGreen
- Local Group for Sustainable Fishing in the Danube Delta Association
- Business Support Centre Llc
- Association 'Industrial Automation' of Ukraine
- Admiral Makarov National University of Shipbuilding
- The Mykolaiv Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Central Fisheries Research Institute (SUMAE)
- Karadeniz Teknik Universitesi
- Tourism Institute, Georgia
- Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency
- Women's International Shipping and Trading Association
- State Higher Education Institution Pryazovskyi State Technical University
- Kherson State University