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GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA

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HERAS

SUBMARINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF THE WESTERN BLACK SEA SHELF

Historical heritage along North Bulgarian Black Sea shelf and perspectives for underwater adventure tourism (HERAS Project)

www.herasprojectcbc.eu

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ROMANIA - BULGARIA

Cross Border Cooperation Programme

1869

Common borders. Common solutions.

Second Black Sea Stakeholder Conference

24 March 2015 Sofia, Bulgaria

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INSTUTUTE OF OCEANOLOGY, BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (IO-BAS)

IO-BAS was established in 1973 and is affiliated to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (http://www.bas.bg). The multidisciplinary research activities are focused on the coastal zone processes, coastal geomorphology, marine/coastal GIS, marine biology and ecology, ocean technologies, marine chemistry, marine geology and archaeology, marine physics. The total number of scientific staff is almost 50 as the total personnel is 120.

Traditionally involved in all aspects of marine and coastal investigations IO-BAS also offers consulting and expert services, environmental impact assessment studies and ICZM expertise, PhD education and training. The IO-BAS scientists/experts are involved in consulting decision and policy makers for elaboration of environmental friendly regulations and guidelines for sustainable management of Black Sea natural resources at governmental and local authorities' level.

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HERAS PROJECT – FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIP

- **Priority Axis 3:** Social and Economic Development, CBC Programme Romania-Bulgaria 2007–2013 (**www.cbcromaniabulgaria.eu**)
- **Project duration:**18 months (24.08.2013 - 23.02.2015)
- **Project budget:** 1,411,712.74 Euro, co-financed by European Union under ERDF and by participating countries

- **Project Coordinator:**
  National Institute of Marine Geology and Geoecology (GeoEcoMar), Constanta branch, Romania

Partnership:

- Institute of Oceanology – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IO-BAS), Varna, Bulgaria
- Museum for National History and Archeology Constanta, Romania
- Historical Museum, Kavarna, Bulgaria
- NGO "Respiro Underwater Research Society, Constanta, Romania

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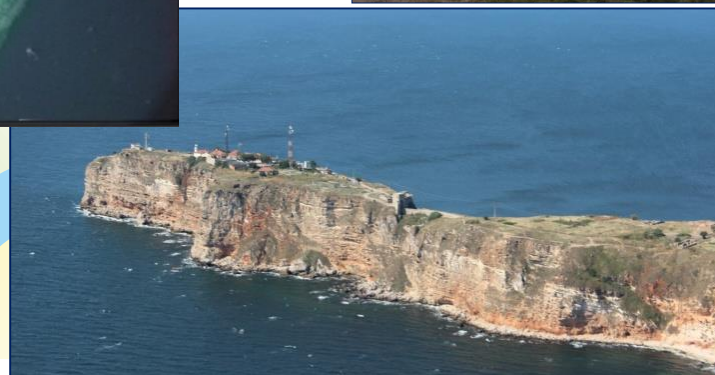
Overall and Specific Project Objectives

Development of tourist potential of the western Black Sea coast by identification and promotion of the common underwater multi-millenary cultural heritage resources

- Stimulating cross-border cooperation between research institutes and museums to create a geoarchaeological network;
- Investigate and promote the common archaeological heritage for Constanta – Kaliakra area;
- Support the development of submarine archaeological adventure tourism plans.



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HERAS PROJECT MAIN OUTPUTS

- HERAS Book “Underwater Archaeological Heritage of the Western Black Sea Shelf”.
- Shallow and deep-water archeological surveys along North Bulgarian coast (area of capes of Sivriburun and Kaliakra): 85 promising targets were identified, as 8 are considered with high priority.
- Selected sites to be promoted for underwater heritage tours under existing UNESCO, EU and national ICZM and other specific frameworks.
- Developed cross-border management plan – a guide for underwater heritage adventure tourism along the Black Sea.

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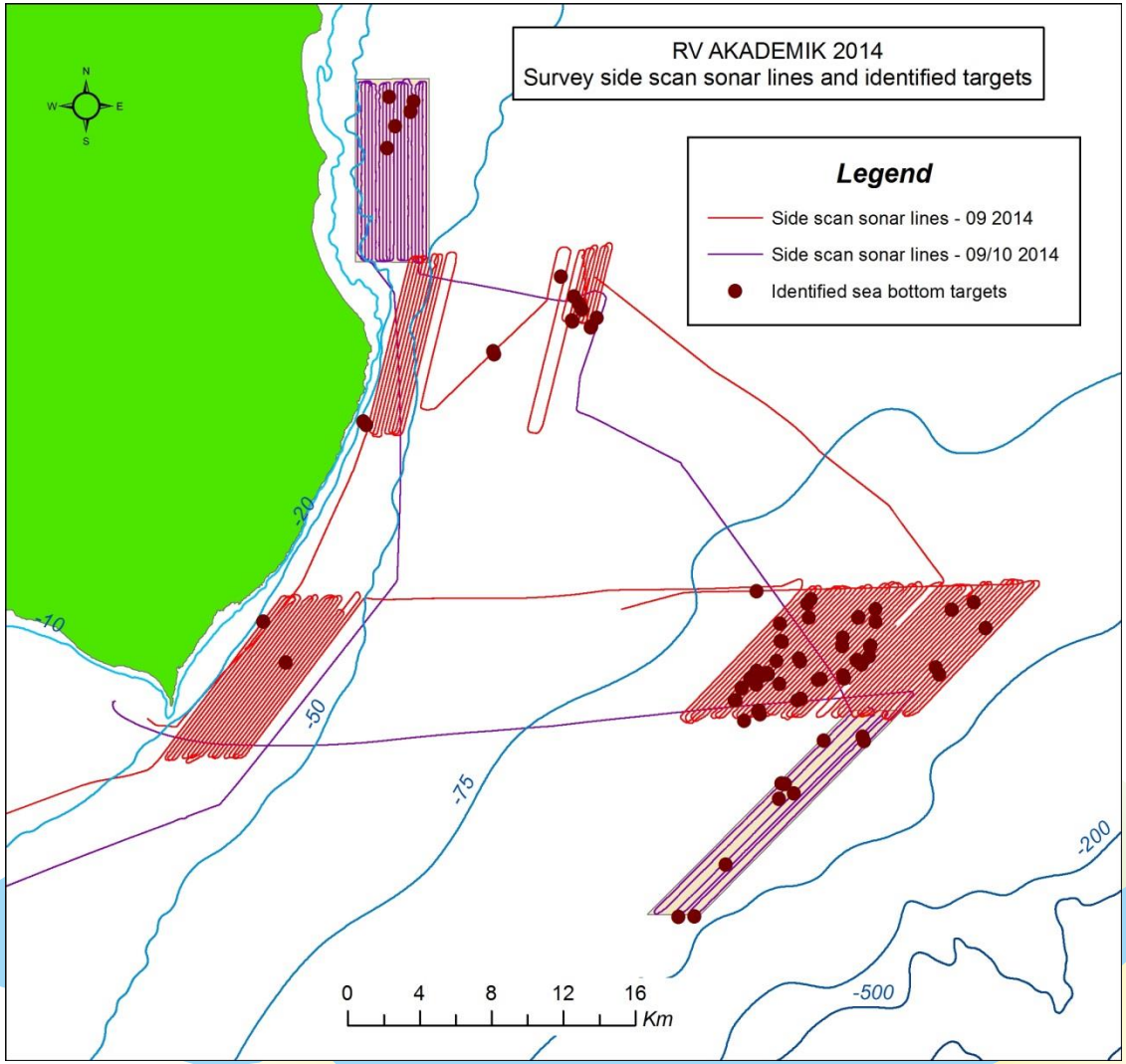
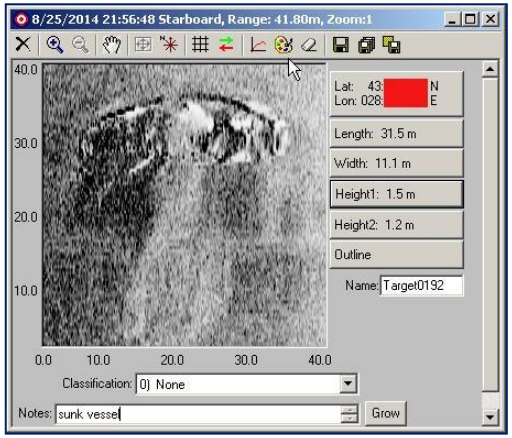
Shallow and Deep-water Archaeological Survey along North Bulgarian Shelf





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Identified wooden shipwrecks - at 30 and 60 m depth

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UNDERWATER HERITAGE TOURISM MANAGEMENT PLAN

- **Objectives:**
  - Economic sustainable development of the border areas, achieved through joint initiatives in identifying and improving mutual advantages and minimizing disadvantages.
  - Social and cultural cohesion through cooperative actions between people and communities.
  - Supporting the development and promotion of integrated tourism products between borders.
  - Stimulating cooperation and collaboration between universities, research institutions and business environment.
- **Legal basis:** UNESCO regulations regarding underwater exploration (UNESCO Convention on Underwater Cultural Heritage) and a set of standards regarding recreational diving, standards recommended by the international certification agencies for diving centers and recreational divers (PADI, SSI, GUE etc.)
- **Safety regulations regarding recreational diving**
- **Practicing underwater tourism** (shipwreck diving regulations; rules for protection of shipwrecks)
- **Protection of submerged cultural heritage**
- **Other tourism opportunities along the Black Sea coast** (fishing, golf, nature-based tourism, archaeological sites, caves, protected coastal areas/NATURA 2000 sites, yachting etc.)

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Protection of Black Sea underwater cultural and historical heritage in the context of Marine Spatial Planning

- The underwater cultural and historical heritage of the Black Sea represents the unique history and identity of the region.

- Protection of underwater cultural heritage might be an issues due to many existing and potential conflicts and synergies with other sea uses, including coastal and marine tourism.

- Possibilities to address the issue within the MSP: "When developed properly, marine spatial planning can have significant economic, social, and environmental benefits, like Identification and improved protection of cultural heritage" (*Ehler, Charles, and Fanny Douvere. 2009. Marine Spatial Planning: a step-by-step approach toward ecosystem-based management. Intergovernmental OceanographicCommission and Man and the Biosphere Programme. IOC Manual and Guides No. 53, ICAM Dossier No. 6. Paris: UNESCO).*

- Within the context of MSP we can find solutions how to balance its protection, research, and tourism potential.

- Preservation of underwater cultural and historical heritage should become essential policy planning issue regarding maritime space in the Black Sea Basin.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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Investing in your future!
Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 is co-financed by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund

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