



CPMR Balkan & Black Sea Regional Commission

2014 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13 June 2014, Edirne (TR)

Activity Report 2013-2014

During the last General Assembly of the Balkan and Black Sea Regional Commission (BBSRC) in Odessa (Ukraine), on the 26th of April 2013, which coincided with the appointment of the Deputy Governor of Edirne Province as President of the BBSRC, we set a number of priorities and targets. Among the ideas of the CPMR Secretariat General were the creation of working groups within our Commission, and a strengthened participation of the BBSRC Regions in the CPMR thematic working groups. The newly elected president highlighted the transnational cooperation and collaboration with other organisations.

On the 24th of May 2013, in Tulcea (Romania), an international seminar titled “Romanian Regions between the **Black Sea Synergy** and the **Danube Strategy**” took place. The CPMR was asked to communicate the proposals and recommendations for further involvement of the regional authorities in the preparation of the Operational Programme ETC Danube 2014-2020, and the Integrated Maritime Strategy for the Black Sea, for consideration by the relevant institutions and authorities.

During the BBSRC Pre-General Assembly of the 25th of September 2013, in Saint-Malo (France), it was stated that the headquarters in Kavala should become more active, that the schedule of dues should be reviewed and that the BBSRC membership should develop towards other countries. In addition, the creation of three working groups on respective priority areas - namely Business Cooperation (Sinop, Turkey), Tourism (Central Macedonia, Greece), External Cooperation (Odessa, Ukraine) - was agreed. Informal discussions in the course of the CPMR General Assembly of Saint-Malo led to the international seminar in Corfu (Greece), 18th-19th November 2013, on **EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region (EUSAIR)**. The abovementioned seminar preceded the Stakeholder Conference on the EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region (6th-7th of February in Athens, Greece)

and provided valuable feedback. Furthermore, a representative from the CPMR General Secretariat participated as a speaker during the 3rd meeting of the Commission for Transport and Infrastructure of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion, on the 4th of April 2013 in Rijeka (Croatia).

On the 15th of November 2013, the CPMR Vice-president, Mr Pavlos Damianidis, Deputy Regional Governor of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace - Greece, attended the third meeting of the Joint Programming Committee for the future **ENI CBC Black Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020**, in Kavala (Greece). A representative from the CPMR Secretariat was actively involved in the Annual Conference of the **Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2007-2013”** held in Istanbul, Turkey, on the 5th of December 2013. On the 28th - 29th of April 2013 we also observed the fourth meeting of the Joint Programming Committee for the future **ENI CBC Black Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020**, in Istanbul (Turkey). Moreover, a representative from the CPMR Secretariat General participated as a speaker in the Black Sea Stakeholders Conference on **“Sustainable development of the blue economy of the Black Sea”**, on the 30th of January in Bucharest (Romania). We hope that the results of our General Assembly will prove helpful to the evolution of the programmes related to this region.

At the end of 2013, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (**BSEC**) agreed to renew the sectoral dialogue partnership status to the CPMR for another period of two years. The CPMR would like to express its gratitude to the BSEC and we are already in touch with its Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) in order to enhance our cooperation. A first meeting with the Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, and a Project Coordinator from the BSEC Business Council has already been realized with a representative from the CPMR Secretariat General.

The BBSRC personnel collaborates closely with the leading Regions of the Working Groups on Business Cooperation (Sinop, Turkey) and Tourism (Central Macedonia, Greece). In mid April, we released a questionnaire on Coastal and Maritime Tourism, prepared by the ReShip Laboratory of the University of the Aegean, followed in May by a questionnaire on Business Cooperation prepared by Mr Berkol Alevli, Adviser to the BBSRC, Coordinator of Sinop Investment Support Office, North Anatolian Development Agency (TR). The BBSRC personnel work closely with Mr Berkol Alevli, so that these two new Working Groups will be able to propose concrete projects, when the calls for proposals of each cooperation programme begin, and align with the related working groups of the BSEC.

Today, we had the pleasure of inaugurating two of the three working groups (the External Cooperation Working Group remains on hold due to the situation in Ukraine) and we are glad to welcome the Region of Shkodra, Albania, as a new member to our Commission.