Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin

Co-funded by the European Union

LEARN4SEA

NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2025

Project co-funded by the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme

A look back at key project milestones – March to June 2025

LEARN4SEA, a European-funded project co-financed by the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Program, is underway!

The primary aim of the project is to promote environmental awareness, encourage eco-friendly behaviour within communities, and reduce pollution.

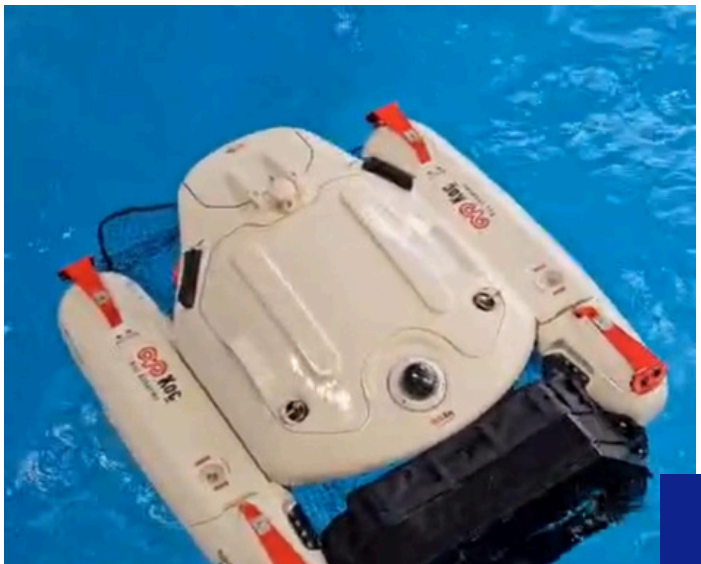
WHO WE ARE

· Romanian Maritime Training Centre, Romania (RO) - CERONAV (Lead Partner)
· Black Sea - Danube Association of Research and Development, Bulgaria (BG) - BDCA
· LEPL – National Environmental Agency, Georgia (GE) - NEA
· Piri Reis University, Türkiye (TR) - PRU
· Shabla Municipality, Bulgaria (BG) – SM

• Second Transnational Meeting in Istanbul

The second meeting of the LEARN4SEA project partners, coordinated by CERONAV, took place in Istanbul between April 10–12, 2025. The agenda focused on the implementation stage of project activities aimed at raising public awareness to protect the environment and reduce pollution in the Black Sea basin.
For increased impact, the meeting also included an informative session with stakeholders from Türkiye and Bulgaria. Discussions spanned key issues in environmental communication and citizen engagement strategies.

📍 Live from Piri Reis University:
During the event, the aerial drone and the remotely operated drone designed to collect floating waste were tested by the equipment suppliers and the host institution. All partners were present and actively provided technical feedback on the spot.



• Monitoring the Black Sea Ecosystem – Georgia

Between May 15–17, 2025, experts from the National Environment Agency of Georgia conducted a series of environmental monitoring activities in the Georgian waters of the Black Sea.
On board a research vessel, they carried out water sampling and on-site measurement of key physico - chemical parameters. The samples were preserved and transported to the NEA laboratory for further biological and chemical analyses. Final results will be published upon completion of the laboratory tests.
Monitoring took place along a strategically selected route, including Sarpi, near the Georgian-Turkish border. These results will contribute to a comprehensive assessment of the Black Sea's ecological condition under the LEARN4SEA project, co-funded by the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme.

For real-time air quality data, visit: www.uradmonitor.com

Strengthening Partnerships: CERONAV Meets Mare Nostrum

As part of the ongoing project actions, CERONAV team held a productive meeting with the management of the environmental NGO Mare Nostrum And engaged in fruitful discussions on future joint initiatives to increase environmental awareness across the Black Sea region.

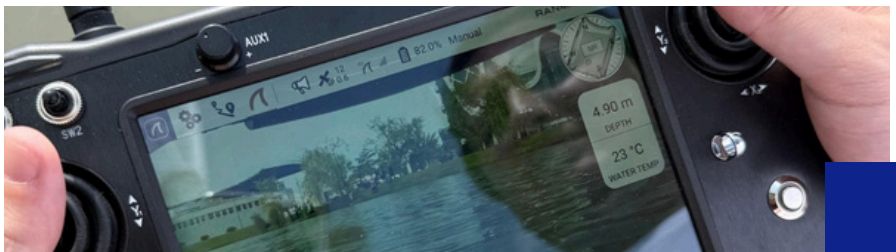
The meeting focused on:

- identifying shared goals in marine protection;
- integrating sustainability in maritime education;
- and reinforcing collaboration between educational institutions and civil society.

This exchange marked an important step in expanding the LEARN4SEA stakeholder network.

• Celebrating World Environment Day – Demonstration Campaigns

To mark World Environment Day, NEA Georgia carried out two impactful demonstration campaigns aimed at promoting environmental awareness and hands-on community action.
One of the highlights was a Black Sea beach cleaning campaign, where schoolchildren actively participated. This initiative empowered young people to become ambassadors for sustainability. Tailored promotional and educational materials were developed and shared during the event to encourage eco-friendly behaviour among youth.
In the second campaign, an advanced waste removal drone was demonstrated to local authorities, including Batumi City Hall and the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Adjara.
Together, through innovation, education, and action, these efforts contributed to building a cleaner, greener Black Sea region.



• Air Quality Monitoring – Summer Campaign Launched

The second air quality monitoring campaign began during the summer season of 2025, building on insights from the winter phase.

📍 Monitoring locations included:

- Tulcea, Constanța (Romania)
- Silistar, Shabla (Bulgaria)

Mobile air quality monitoring stations were deployed and started collecting real-time data to analyse seasonal differences in air quality.
The station at Silistar, one of the southernmost points of Bulgaria's coast, was fully operational — providing crucial insights into the dynamics of pollution and contributing to long-term sustainable development strategies in the Black Sea area.

• Over 1 Tonne of Waste Removed – Ezerets to Shabla Beach Campaign

On June 14, 2025, a large-scale waste collection campaign took place between Ezerets village and Shabla campsite, as part of the LEARN4SEA project.
More than 30 volunteers, including local residents, visiting citizens, and beachgoers, collected over 1 tonne of waste — mainly plastics, glass, metal, and even parts of discarded electronics.
Two parallel teams started from Ezerets and Shabla beaches.

- The Ezerets team collected over 500 kg of waste.
- The Shabla group filled nearly 50 bags.

The campaign successfully combined environmental and educational goals — fostering awareness and a commitment to biodiversity protection. Volunteers received tools, gloves, bags, transport, food, and water, ensuring safe and effective participation.
All collected waste was transported to licensed landfills and recycling centers.
Local partners, including Shabla Municipality and the Dobrogea Association, continue to promote community-driven environmental action — with more clean-up events planned soon.

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LEARN4SEA
Material editor: CERONAV;
Contact details of the material editor: alinaoprea@ceronav.ro;
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Stay Connected

Together, the LEARN4SEA community continues to build bridges between science, policy, and public participation — for a cleaner, healthier Black Sea.

Contact details

Lead Partner: CERONAV - Romanian Maritime Training Centre, Constanța, Romania;
Contact person: Mrs. Mihaela Vintila, +40.241.639 595/ext. 1117, mihaelavintila@ceronav.ro;
www.ceronav.ro.