

## Annex 1: Project description sheet



### **Technical and administrative support for the joint implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) in Bulgaria and Romania – Phase 2**

#### **PROJECT CONTEXT**

Following the submission of Member States' reports on assessment, good environmental status (GES) and targets for the marine environment, the Commission Article 12 report and related documents ([http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/implementation/reports\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/implementation/reports_en.htm)) and considering the forthcoming submission of the programmes of measures (2015), the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, 2008/56/EC) has entered a new phase of implementation.

In December 2013 the EU Marine Directors adopted the work programme for the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS WP) for the period 2014-2018. The CIS WP aims, amongst other issues, to address deficiencies and shortcomings of the first phase in relation to coherence and comparability of implementation by Member States within and in-between marine regions. It contains specific components for each of the four marine regions, considering their particular characteristics and needs, in order to facilitate MSFD implementation by the EU MS in these regions. In their meeting of June 2014, the Marine Directors endorsed a Recommendation on Programme of measures (PoM). A service contract (Phase I) related to technical and administrative support for joint implementation of the Black Sea component of MSFD CIS WP 2014-2018 by Bulgaria and Romania and for regional and interregional cooperation (focusing on monitoring programmes), is ongoing <http://www.msfdblacksea.eu/>. The present service request prepares the second phase (Phase II) of this work.

Measures under MSFD should be coordinated within each marine region and/or subregions (Art 5.2 and Annex VI.4). Cooperation should focus on measures of a transboundary nature, targeting ecosystems and/or pressures that transcend the national scale (e.g. management of MPAs; gas/oil exploitation in open seas; chemical contamination and nutrient enrichment, in particular through long-distance transport; seafloor protection, litter, underwater noise).

During a meeting organised by the Commission to discuss recommendations in the article 12 assessment reports, focused on the regional level, RO and BG agreed to work together to improve adequacy and coherence of the MSFD implementation, and to revise and further develop the coherent definition of GES, environmental targets and related indicators for their marine waters taking into account the assessment and the recommendations of the Commission. They also agreed to develop coordinated programmes of measures taking into account the revised GES and targets.

#### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

On this basis, and taking into account also the progress and interim results of the aforementioned service contract (phase I), the Commission feels it is worthwhile to further assist the process of coordinated MSFD implementation in the two countries and ultimately in the Black Sea marine region.

In particular, technical and administrative assistance is needed for:

- An increased information exchange, in particular concerning the numerous on-going and completed directly relevant projects, the results of which are not always (easily) accessible to the national administrations; the dedicated website created under the aforementioned ongoing service contract could also be used to facilitate information flow and probably for the public participation activities required for the preparation of the programmes of measures;

- On the basis of the results of the Phase I service contract, an identification of possible joint or coordinated measures and the implementation of the abovementioned recommendations adopted in June 2014 by the Marine Directors.

The coordination will form the basis of a joint or coordinated programme of measures for BG and RO, which could be complemented with national elements. Continuation of capacity building activities undertaken under the phase I service contract will be essential in creating a solid, coherent and shared scientific and technical basis, e.g. for establishing coordinated and efficient programmes of measures.

All the above actions could serve as a blueprint for the whole Black Sea region. They should be designed in such a way to allow the Black Sea Commission (BSC) or individual Black Sea countries to join the process at any time and use its deliverables for their own work and contribute to the updating of the Strategic Action Plan adopted by the 2009 Ministerial of the Bucharest Convention.

Based on the above, the specific objectives of this specific contract are, in particular to provide technical and administrative support for:

1. Consolidating the information basis for a more coherent and comparable joint implementation of the MSFD in Bulgaria and Romania,
2. Capacity building activities in the region with the view to strengthening the administrative and technical capabilities in Bulgaria and Romania for joint MSFD implementation.

Within each of these specific objectives, the identification of financing needs (to underpin the implementation of Article 22 MSFD) as well as of future implementation support needs (for example to guide future research and other support projects) for a successful MSFD implementation shall be considered, as and when appropriate.

## PROJECT OUTPUTS

The project will deliver improved coherence of the MSFD implementation by BG and RO. This will be done through (1) a consolidated information basis, (2) a select number of capacity building events. The capacity of the experts involved in MSFD implementation will be strengthened through the project, via information exchange, training and guidance. The results of the project will be disseminated through a public webpage and the EEA information exchange platform. The project will engage experts contributing to MSFD implementation in the Black Sea region (both from the BG and RO MS authorities, BG and RO research institutions and the Black Sea Convention).

## EXPECTED BENEFITS

**Environment:** The environmental benefits mainly relate to the improved integrated marine management of the Black Sea and the reduced impact on the marine environment, through a coherent and efficient MSFD implementation.

**Financial:** Within each of the specific objectives of the project, the identification of future financing needs (to underpin the implementation of Article 22 MSFD) for a successful MSFD implementation shall be considered, as and when appropriate.

**Coordination:** By setting-up interactive working meetings (capacity building events) with all relevant experts bilateral coordination will be enhanced between BG & RO, as well as within the Black Sea region.

## CONTACT DETAILS

The project is funded by the European Commission (DG Environment) and carried out by ARCADIS and its partners GeoEcomar and COWI.

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