

Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea (EMBLAS-Plus)

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The main goal of the joint European Commission and United Nations (EC/UNDP) Project EMBLAS-Plus is to introduce the new methodology developed within the scope of EMBLAS-1/2 Projects envisaging the evaluation of the marine ecosystem based on the principles and methodologies of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) for all project participants. During the first and second phases, important works were accomplished to examine the new monitoring methods and evaluate the compliance of the national monitoring programs with similar European methodologies. Improvement of the access to accurate and reliable marine data was put on the agenda envisaging permanent continuation of the Black Sea environment monitoring similar to global monitoring programs. Consequently, in 2019, two expeditions were organized to evaluate solid marine litter (Descriptor 10: Marine Litter) in the water areas of Batumi, Kobuleti, Ureki, Poti and Kulevi (within 400 m from the coastline); besides, the monitoring of the mouths of four major rivers: Rioni, Supsa, Natanebi, Chorokhi was accomplished. As a result of the preliminary processing of the obtained materials, the waste (litter) was classified and “hot spots” were identified. In addition, a workshop was held in the city of Poti with the participation of the concerned parties, who thoroughly informed about the ongoing marine studies.