STRUCTURE
AND
PORTFOLIO

OF

INTERSMARTS NETWORK

FOR
INTERDISCIPLINARY SOLUTIONS FOR SMART SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND SERVICES IN THE BLACK SEA BASIN
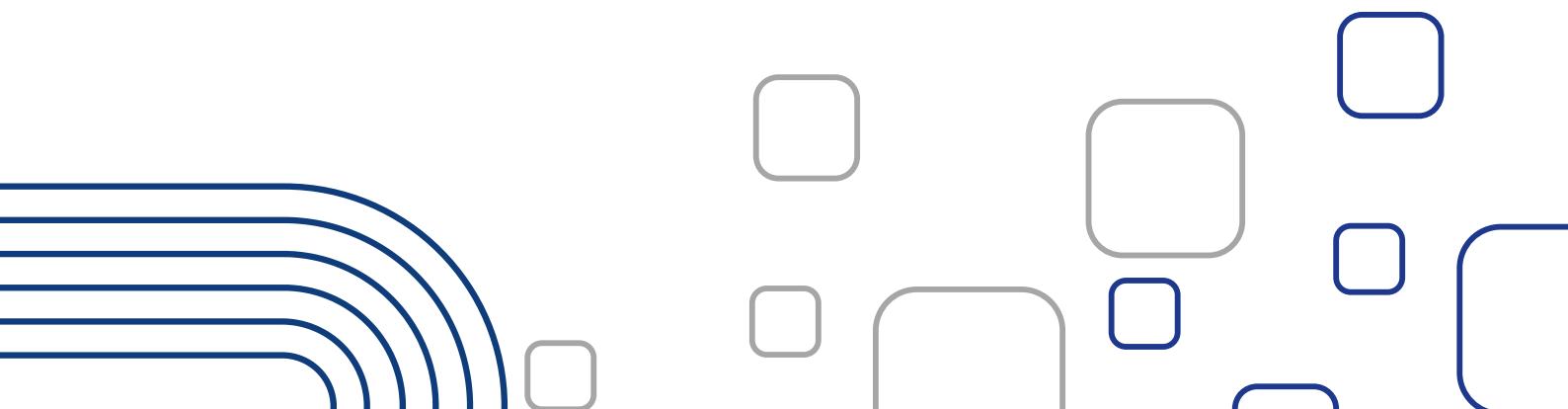
INTRODUCTION

The Network for Interdisciplinary Solutions for Smart Sustainable Tourism and Services in the Black Sea Basin, referred to as INTERSMARTS Network, is established within the project BSB00332 "Interdisciplinary Solutions for Smart Sustainable Tourism and Services for Blue Growth in the Black Sea Basin (INTERSMARTS)" with the support of Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme

It is established by the project partners:

1. Varna University of Management (Bulgaria)

2. International Hellenic University, Department of Organization Management, Marketing and Tourism (Greece)

3. Moldova State University, Faculty of Economic Sciences (Republic of Moldova)

4. Istanbul Development Agency (Turkey).

Image source: https://blacksea-cbc.net/interreg-next-bsb-2021-2027
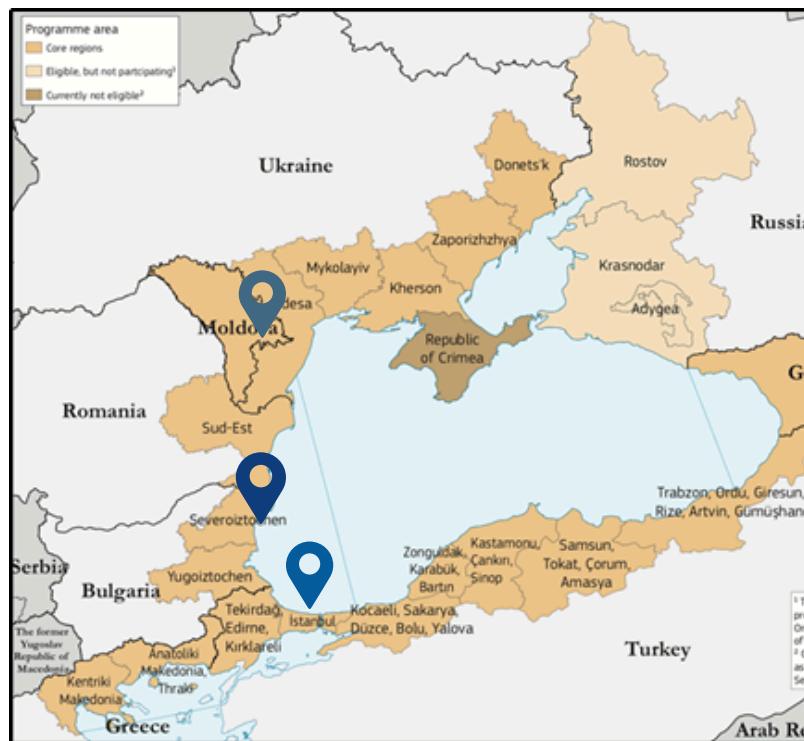
The membership in the INTERSMARTS network is voluntary and open to any research organisations that share the mission and principles of work as defined in this document.

INTERSMARTS Network is guided by the philosophy and principles of the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) for the Black Sea to enhance regional cooperation for achieving a sustainable Blue Economy in the Black Sea and its scientific pillar, the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea (SRIA) that fosters science-based decision-making. It embeds in real terms the macro-level objective to reinforce regional dialogue between participating countries and stakeholders to jointly address the challenges and opportunities of blue economy sectors in the area, ensuring environmental sustainability while fostering growth and promoting blue economy projects.

This Portfolio describes the structure, management, facilities, resources and services that the Network provides for the different categories of stakeholders in tourism and services as well as the general vision and philosophy it shall follow in its work.

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MISSION, AIMS AND SUBJECT OF ACTIVITY OF THE NETWORK

INTERSMARTS Network for interdisciplinary solutions for smart sustainable tourism and services in the Black Sea Basin has the **mission** to incite cooperation and to increase the absorption of new knowledge and innovations in tourism and related services so as to improve their sustainability and activate their contribution to the blue growth of the Black Sea region. In the long run, the network is to change the traditional perceptions and to raise awareness on the knowledge-intensive nature of tourism within the blue growth framework. Thus, it aligns with Goal II "A competitive, innovative and sustainable blue economy for the Black Sea" of the Common Maritime Agenda as well as Pillar 1 "Addressing Fundamental Black Sea Research Challenges - Black Sea Knowledge Bridge" and Pillar 2 "Education and Capacity Building - Empowered Citizens and Enhanced Blue Skills" of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea.

The mission is achieved through the following **aims** within the first five years of operation:

Fostering Collaboration

Encouraging partnerships and cooperation between research and business organisations from various fields related to blue growth to promote knowledge sharing and cooperative initiatives across the Black Sea Basin.

Promoting Innovation

Enhancing the uptake of new knowledge, technologies, and innovative practices in the tourism sector.

Improving Sustainability

Demonstrate how sustainability is turned into a business practice based on the innovative utilisation of the new developments in modern economy – digital, experiential, sharing

Building Capacity

Provide training programs for professionals to enhance their skills in view of knowledge and innovation adoption about sustainable tourism and blue growth

Enhancing Contribution to Blue Growth

Strengthening the role of tourism and services in contributing to the blue growth strategy, which emphasises sustainable use of marine resources for economic development in the Black Sea region

Accordingly, the **activities** or the subject of operation include:

	Applied research, curriculum design and training at all levels of vocational education
	Gathering and sustaining an on-line set of resources and tools that can be used in the as ready-made solutions for businesses
	Sustaining an innovation management platform for interdisciplinary solutions for smart sustainable tourism and services in the Black Sea Basin
	Organisation of seminars, workshops, conferences, fairs, exchange of good practices and knowledge
	Counselling and mentorship services and fostering the adoption of the mentorship practice within and among companies
	Provision of individual consultations to enterprises (both start-up and established) and non-business entities (CSOs, cultural institutions, public organisations and authorities) about the new trends and opportunities relating to sustainability and blue growth
	Co-working in cross-regional and cross- sectoral partnerships amongst researchers, innovators, business (including start-ups) and branch organisations for expert support of the hospitality sector in the Black Sea Basin
	Research and dissemination of international, national and regional practices as well as the implementation and adoption of innovations and other novel technological and non-technological solutions in this regard
	Other activities that are compatible with the goals, aims and objectives specified above

MANAGERIAL PRINCIPLES

Openness – providing opportunities for communication, networking and co-working within a wider community outside the organisations that belong to the Network

Free sharing of the results - using open licences to share data, research, products and processes with the world as well as providing unrestricted access to the results of the Network's initiatives

Accessibility - providing easy and free access to the Network's services through modern information and communication channels

Transparency - openness and transparency in the work of the Network, including active work with the media to promote its achievements

Entrepreneurship – implementation of activities complying with the legal regulations in the territory of the Black Sea Basin

Partnership – observing the principles of partnership among all network members, and initiating and maintaining collaborations with organisations and institutions involved in the various sectors of blue economy and blue growth, including governmental and municipal bodies, NGOs, entrepreneurs and individuals, among others

Innovation - the introduction of innovative approaches and startup driven tech solutions in the implementation of the Network's activities, promotion of innovative methods and tools of action

Consensus among the co-workers that implement together activities and projects at the Network

Efficiency - optimal organisation and professional management of shared resources

Quality – offering high-standard services tailored to the needs of the target groups and stakeholders in the field of sustainable development, blue growth, tourism and services

Learner-centred training – providing for the generation of learner-driven outcomes that evolve with time and work and reliance on open educational resources

Sustainability in blue growth - building a sustainable economic system for education and utilising technological tools in research, training and dissemination that allow of resource efficiency, circular use and raising the sustainability culture of all beneficiaries involved in blue economy

Democracy and human rights – providing equal opportunities and benefits to all stakeholders, promoting diversity and intercultural awareness at every level of implementation. All target groups and participants will work together and cooperate to achieve the project goals, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, national background, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or on any other basis

Abiding the **Rule of Law** in terms of the relevant legislation at the national and EU level.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE. SEAT. MANAGEMENT. DECISION-MAKING

INTERSMARTS Network unites independent organisations whose teams jointly identify and promote smart and novel solutions that can help in tackling the main challenges to sustainability and blue growth in the Black Sea Basin with a focus on tourism and services. Since these challenges are expected to evolve with time, the co-working is organised in the frame of theme-specific task forces – temporary units consisting of experts from different disciplinary backgrounds – that join forces to contribute to these specific challenges.

For the first five years of operation, INTERSMARTS network focuses on four main issues that were identified as most urgent and omnipresent in the Black Sea Basin area in the process of elaboration of INTERSMARTS project:
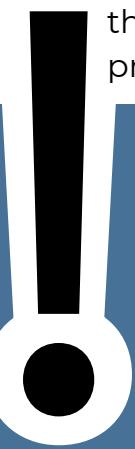
(i) overdevelopment and excessive use of natural resources

(ii) pollution and waste

(iii) seasonality and dependency on mass tourism

(iv) low innovation absorption and ineffective transfer of knowledge

Accordingly, 4 task forces are created within the INTERSMARTS network. The management of the task forces is divided among the founding members of the network based on their expertise, capacity and research interests. Further and in order to cross-fertilize expertise, researchers and experts, nominated by all network members, shall contribute to the work of each task force:

Task Force	Task Force	Task Force	Task Force
SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	**ANTI-POLLUTION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**	**SEASONALITY SOLUTIONS**	**TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND INNOVATIONS**
coordinated by the	coordinated by the	coordinated by the	coordinated by the
Moldova State University	**International Hellenic University**	**Varna University of Management**	**Istanbul Development Agency**

The physical premises of the task forces are respectively at the seats of the Varna University of Management (Bulgaria), International Hellenic University, Department of Organization Management, Marketing and Tourism (Greece), Moldova State University, Faculty of Economic Sciences (Republic of Moldova) and Istanbul Development Agency (Turkey).

The main offices of the Network are called "contact points" and are located at the following physical and contact addresses:

Contact point Bulgaria
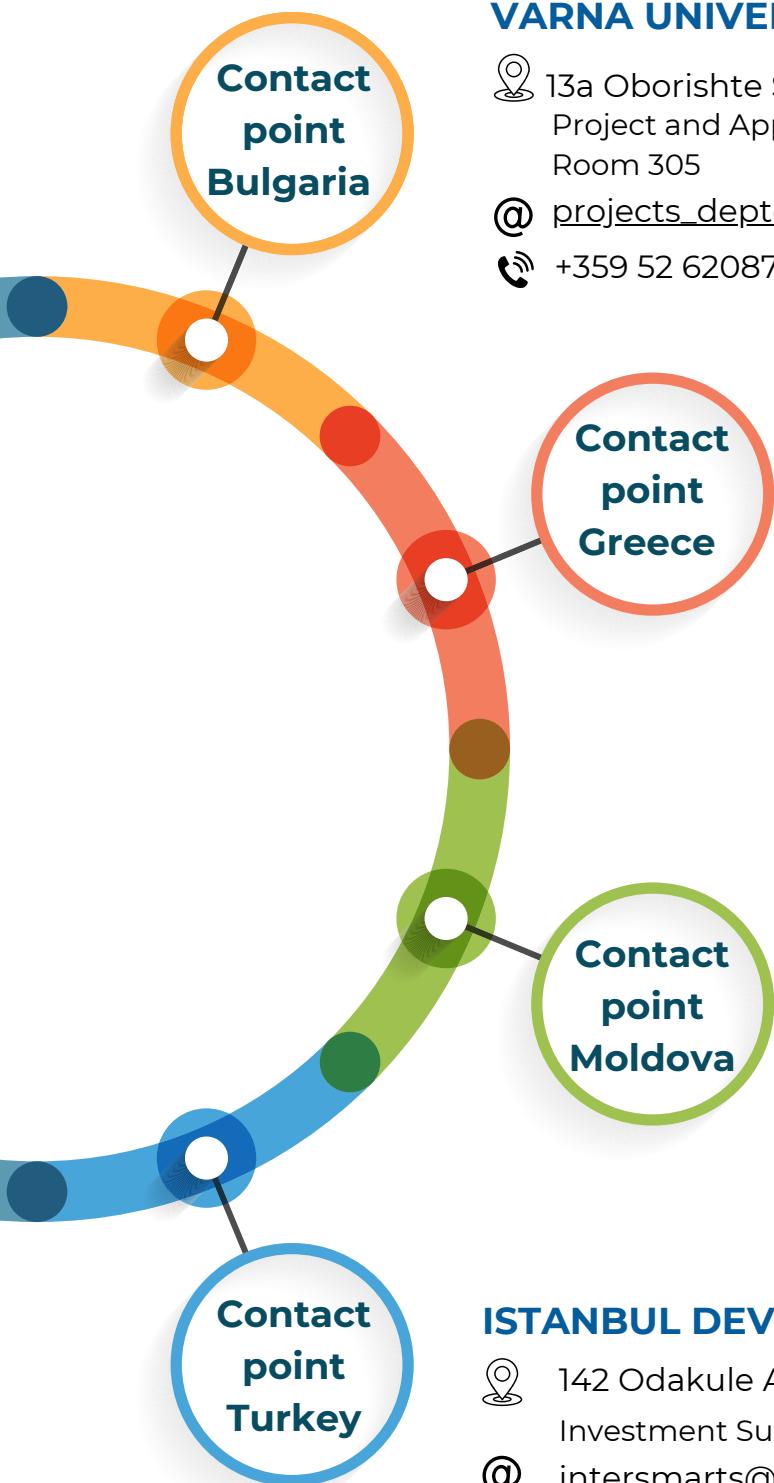
VARNA UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT

📍 13a Oborishte Street, Varna
Project and Applied Research Department,
Room 305

@ projects_dept@vumk.eu

📞 +359 52 620871

Contact point Greece

INTERNATIONAL HELLENIC UNIVERSITY

📍 14 km THESSALONIKI-N. MOUDANIA,
Thessaloniki 57001
Department of Organization
Management, Marketing and Tourism,
Lab 108

@ kassianp@ihu.gr

📞 +30 2310013556

Contact point Moldova

MOLDOVA STATE UNIVERSITY

📍 60 A. Mateevici street, Chisinau
Faculty of Economic Sciences,
Room 338

@ fse@usm.md

📞 +373 68120207

Contact point Turkey

ISTANBUL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

📍 142 Odakule Asmalimescit Mah. Beyoglu, Istanbul
Investment Support Office

@ intersmarts@istka.org.tr

📞 +90 212 468 3400

When new members are admitted to the network, they are requested to establish contact points within their institutions as well.

The **overall management** of the network of the INTERSMARTS Network is done jointly by the four (4) establishing partners.

The functioning of the network is supervised by a **Joint Advisory Board**, where each partner organisation is represented by 1 expert. When the number of network members increases, so does the number of member representatives in the Advisory Board. Each of the representatives is entitled to one vote in decisions concerning the Network's activity as all decisions must be made with a consensus between the representatives. At the highest managerial level, the Network is accountable to the legal representatives of the member organisations. As the network contact points and the task forces are not legal persons, each partner organisation takes the ultimate responsibility for the contact point that it has created and for the task force it manages.

The Advisory Board will be chaired on a rotating 4-months basis by the founding partners of the INTERSMARTS Network in the order in which they act as project partners in the INTERSMARTS project.

For managerial and administration purposes and decision making process **in-person and on-line meetings** are organised, at which are reviewed and discussed common topics, related to the financing, development and diversification of the activities, accountability and visibility of the Network, as well as other specialised issues, coming from the current work of the structure.

The **operational activity** of each contact point is managed by the relative responsible partner. Each one of the contact points functions in accordance with the present Portfolio and the established institutional plans for diversification of the activities adopted by the Advisory Board.

Image source: Canva

TEAM AND EXPERTISE

The contact points perform their activities via teams of at least 3 members:

Contact Point Coordinator
(1 position, nominated by the host institution)

The Contact Point Coordinator will be responsible for the overall management and coordination of the activities in line with this Portfolio. S/he will organise and launch the starting activities of the network and task forces, plan and organise the post-project activities together with the Advisory Board, sustain the relations with the target groups and beneficiaries, manage the Network's facilities and report to the Advisory Board and the management of the host organisation.
The Contact Point coordinators shall serve as Task-Force coordinators for the respective task forces that are managed by their institutions as long as the task forces function.

Experts
(2 positions)

The experts are researchers with established experience in applied projects and in working at business and/or policy-making level besides in academia. They provide the services of the network and contribute actively to networking, visibility, attraction of co-workers and contributors and impact.
The team is initially employed within the INTERSMARTS project. Upon the completion of the project they shall support the activities as part of their regular activities and shall integrate them within other applied research, education, training and counselling activities.

SERVICES

Blue growth and smart development are emerging priorities for businesses and policymakers in the Black Sea Basin. These concepts are shaping the future of tourism and services by promoting the diversification of traditional economic activities and offering alternative income streams through marine and coastal services. Blue-growth approach is crucial for enhancing the resilience of communities that depend heavily on tourism. Its establishment as a market niche must be accompanied by targeted intervention about the development of the potential of the area in this regard.

Against this background, the INTERSMARTS Network is offering 4 (four) clusters of services that integrate its main activities

1 **Applied Research and Experimentation**

2 **Mapping and promotion of good practices**

3 **Networking and co-creation**

4 **Training and Mentoring**

1 Applied Research and Experimentation

Rationale

Business in the Black Sea region suffers from the outdated perception that tourism is a knowledge- and technology non-intensive industry. This misconception has hindered the region's ability to fully capitalise on the potential of modern technological advancements and the broader opportunities associated with the blue economy. In reality, technology plays a crucial role in the personalization of experiences, connecting people to locations, and maintaining the sustainability aspect of the service economy. Furthermore, the concept of blue growth — sustainable economic growth derived from marine resources — can be integrated into the tourism sector by promoting eco-friendly maritime activities and coastal tourism, which are increasingly sought after by global travellers. To achieve this, novel business models that align with the principles of the blue economy are essential for the vitality of businesses in the region. Applied research in this direction needs to be promoted to explore new ways in which technology and sustainability can be intertwined within the tourism sector and services.

Image source: Freepik.com

Activities

In Cluster 1 "Applied research and experimentation" the INTERSMARTS Network steps on the research, performed regarding the regional needs about the development of sustainable tourism and blue economy, and performs other related activities:

Problem-specific needs assessment, conducted by specifically designed task-forces gathering leading experts from all network members

Analyses, surveys, studies about state of art of blue economy, blue growth, tourism and related sectors in the Black Sea Basin

Identification and promotion of technological and non-technological innovations that can improve the viability and sustainability of the businesses and activities in tourism

Identification and promotion of new activities and services that are associated with blue growth and sustainable tourism

Analyses of existing policies and regulations affecting blue economy and sustainable tourism activities

Development of **policy recommendations** to support the different aspects of sustainable tourism and blue growth

Development of **planning tools**

Elaboration and testing of pilot models and innovative solutions

Adopt **data-driven approaches** to enhance efficiency and sustainability

Other relevant research activities implemented in an open-laboratory environment

The participation in and access to the research results remains open to all interested stakeholders.

2

Mapping and promotion of best practices

Rationale

In the Black Sea Basin, the tourism and services sectors are poised to benefit significantly from the integration of sustainable and innovative practices. However, many businesses and stakeholders still operate with traditional, less efficient models that limit their potential for growth within the framework of blue economy principles. To overcome these limitations, there is a need to identify and map best practices that demonstrate how sustainable tourism and service initiatives can contribute to both economic development and environmental preservation. Mapping these best practices will provide tangible examples of success, allowing other businesses and stakeholders to replicate and adapt proven strategies to their specific contexts.

By promoting these practices through Cluster 2 "Mapping and promotion of best practices", the INTERSMARTS Network aims to inspire stakeholders across the region to adopt sustainable, innovative approaches that align with blue growth objectives. The sharing of such practices serves as a catalyst for transformation, driving forward the adoption of smart, technology-driven, and environmentally conscious business models that can strengthen the resilience of the tourism and service industries. Furthermore, by highlighting successful case studies, the Network contributes to policy advocacy and development, encouraging more supportive frameworks at the local, regional, and national levels.


Image source: Freepik.com

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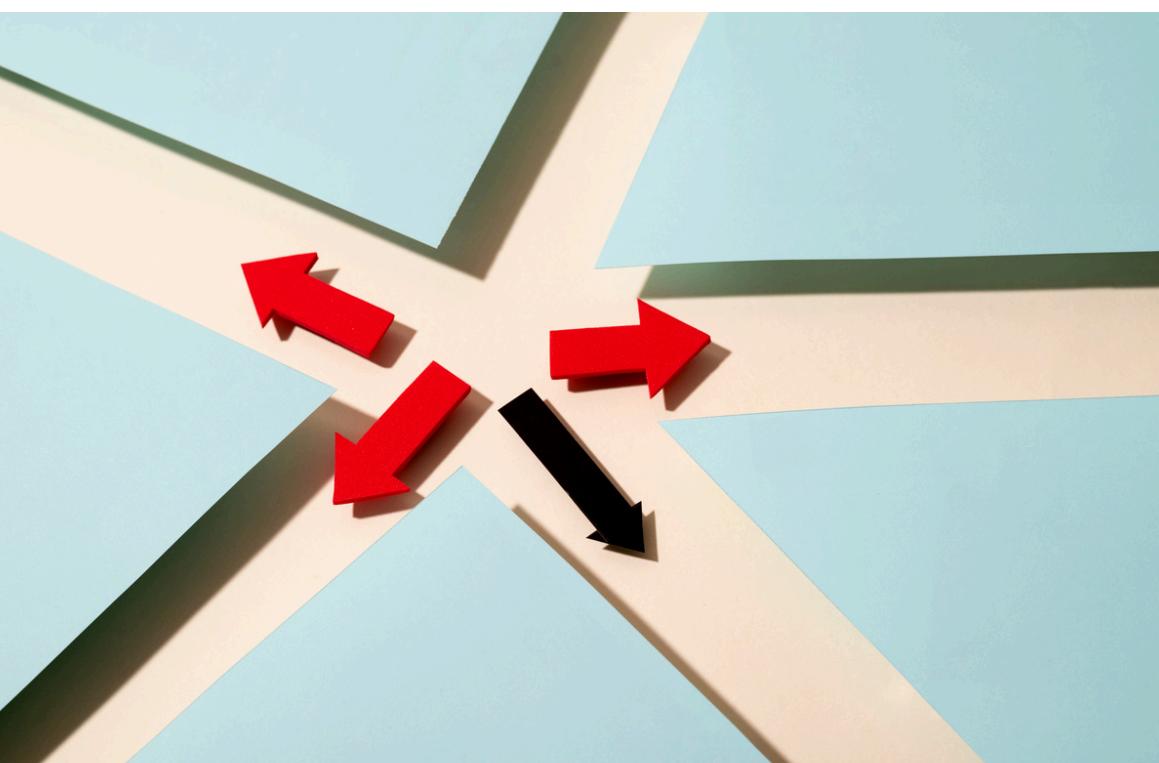
Activities
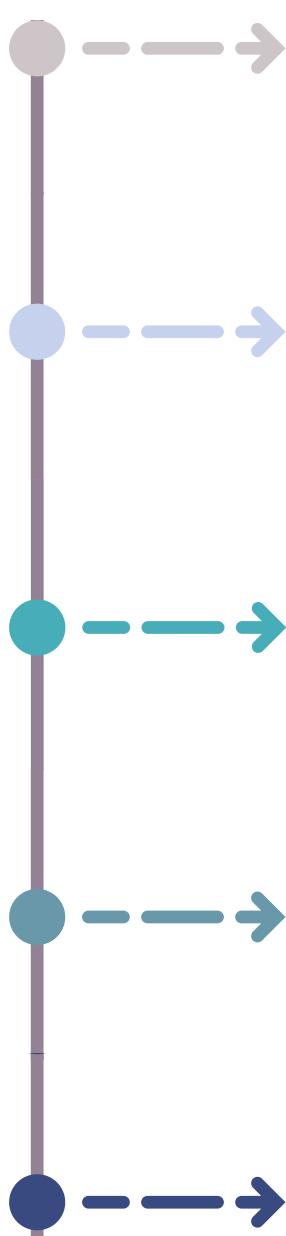
Identification of Best Practices - the INTERSMARTS Network will conduct a broad review of sustainable tourism and blue economy practices across the Black Sea region. This process will focus on identifying successful initiatives, including innovative technologies and resource management strategies that align with sustainability and economic growth goals. Also, Stakeholders will be engaged to highlight exemplary projects that demonstrate innovation, environmental impact, economic feasibility, and potential for broader application.

Management of Visual and Online Resources - the Network will oversee the maintenance of visual and online resources developed during the project, including an online database of applied research and innovations focused on smart and sustainable tourism in the Black Sea Basin, and the INTERSMARTS Innovation Management Platform.

Content Expansion - the Network will actively work to expand the existing resources by incorporating new information, case studies, video materials, and other relevant content contributed by stakeholders and through similar initiatives. This will ensure the resources remain up-to-date and valuable to users.

Digital Promotion - to increase the visibility and impact of these resources, the Network will engage in active digital promotion, utilising various channels such as social media, newsletters, and partner websites to reach a wider audience.

Open Access for Stakeholders - sustaining digital resources that are freely accessible to all interested stakeholders, encouraging wide use and participation in the exchange of knowledge and innovations.
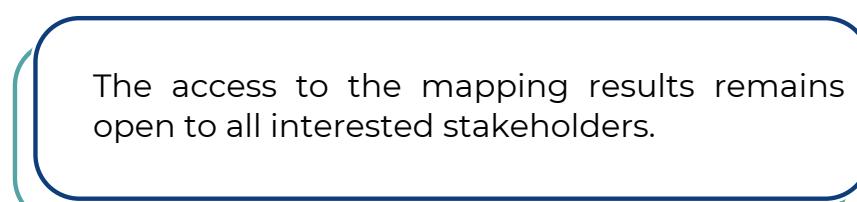
The access to the mapping results remains open to all interested stakeholders.

3 Networking and co-creation

Rationale

In the context of the Black Sea region, cross-border collaboration and innovation are essential to unlocking the full potential of sustainable tourism and blue growth. The INTERSMARTS Network is designed to overcome these challenges by fostering strong ties between academia, industry, public authorities, and NGOs through networking and co-creation initiatives. By creating a community of practice, the Network provides a platform for like-minded professionals and experts to come together, share knowledge, and develop innovative solutions. This collaborative approach will support the transition towards sustainable tourism, eco-friendly business practices, and the adoption of blue economy principles, ensuring that the region remains competitive in the global market while protecting its unique environmental and cultural resources.

Networking and co-creation are fundamental to supporting knowledge management and the development of open innovations that transcend the boundaries of individual companies and organisations. This process is vital for sectors such as sustainable tourism and blue growth, where diverse expertise and collective problem-solving are key to addressing complex challenges. The Network will facilitate the co-creation of solutions by leveraging the collective intelligence of its members, promoting best practices, and integrating sustainable business models that align with blue growth objectives.
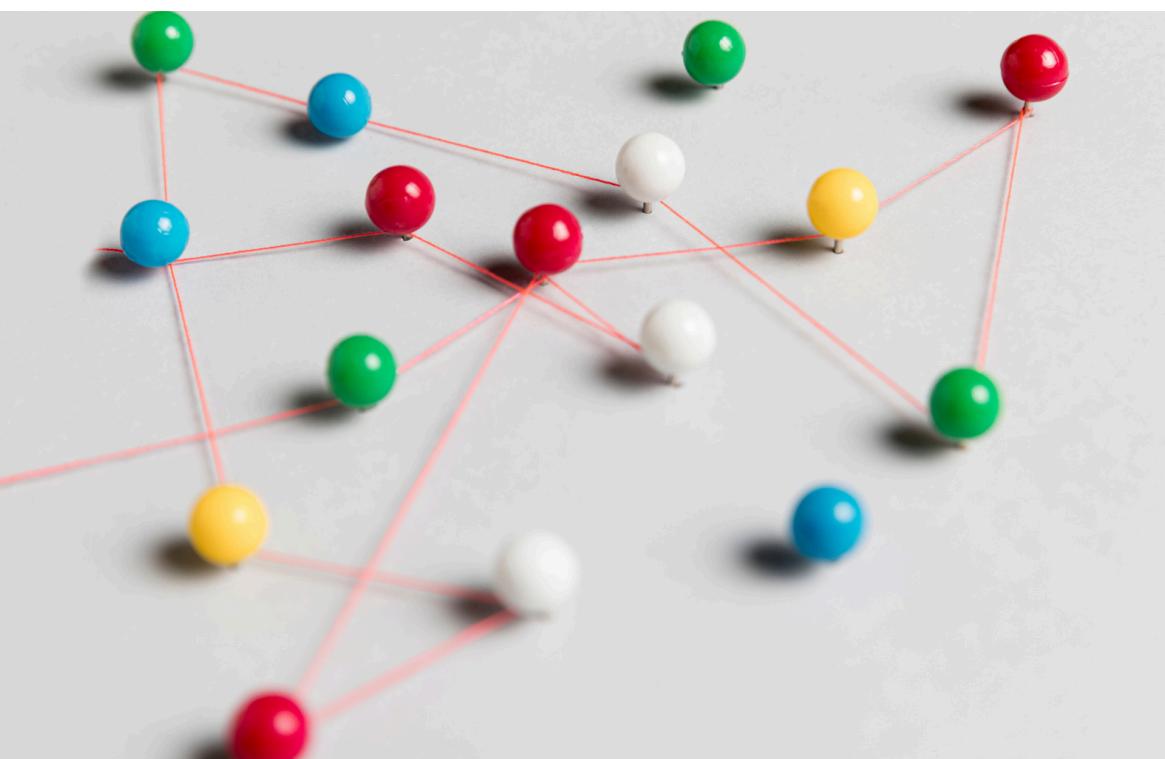

Image source: Freepik.com

Activities

In Cluster 3 "Networking and co-creation" the INTERSMARTS Network will focus on a range of activities that foster collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing in the Black Sea region:
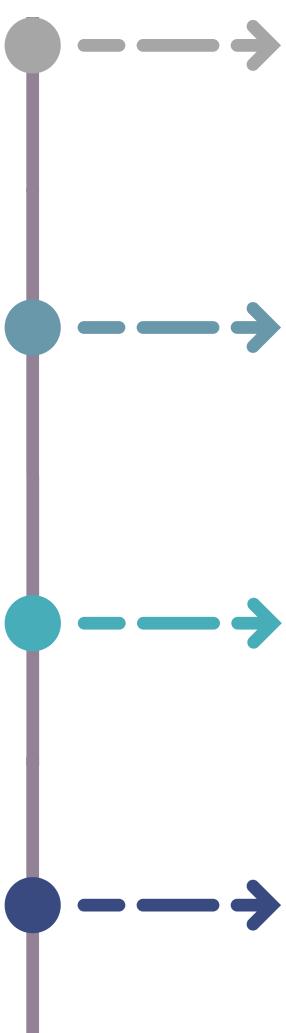
Creation of a Community of Practice - develop an active and ongoing network of professionals, researchers, and experts who collaborate on a regular basis. This community will focus on sharing practical insights, innovations, and new approaches to sustainable development, while fostering continuous dialogue among stakeholders.

National and International Workshops and Seminars - conduct webinars, on-site workshops, and regular seminars covering critical topics like digital transformation, sustainable resource management, and innovative practices for sustainable tourism.

Data-Driven Approaches - referring to the use of data-driven approaches to identify key trends, improve decision-making, and drive innovation. Data analysis tools and techniques are employed to understand the impact of technological adoption on sustainability, business models, and customer experiences in tourism.

Facilitation of Discussions and Knowledge-sharing - referring to the organisation of regular discussion forums, webinars, and consultations that enable stakeholders to exchange ideas and experiences. These sessions will focus on emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in sustainable tourism and the blue economy.

The access to the events and activities remains open to all interested stakeholders.

4 Training and mentoring

Rationale

The transition to smart, sustainable tourism in the Black Sea Basin requires a well-informed and skilled workforce, equipped with the latest knowledge and innovations in blue growth and sustainable tourism practices. However, many stakeholders, particularly SMEs, lack access to the necessary resources and expertise to implement these changes effectively. The INTERSMARTS Network addresses this gap by providing targeted training and mentoring programs designed to enhance the capabilities of key actors in the tourism and service sectors. By focusing on capacity building, the Network ensures that stakeholders can fully engage with and benefit from the innovative solutions and practices developed within the framework of sustainable tourism. This will lead to the creation of a more resilient, competitive, and sustainable tourism industry in the Black Sea region, in line with the broader goals of blue growth.

Image source: Freepik.com

Activities

In Cluster 4 "Training and Mentoring" the following key activity are included:
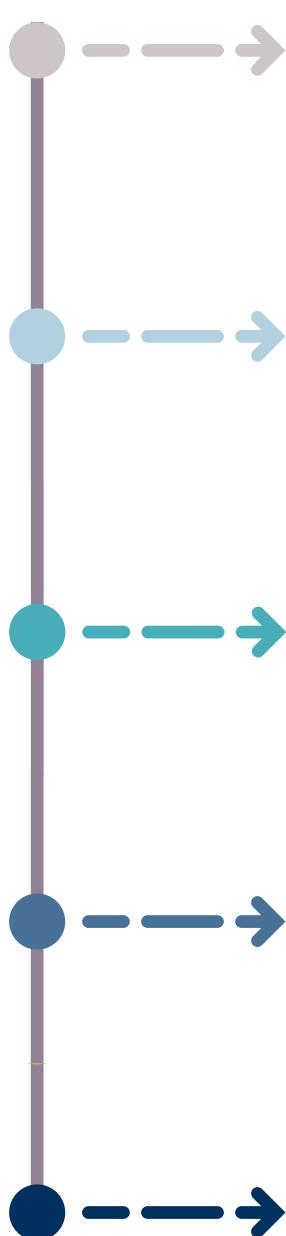
Elaboration of Open Educational Resources - development and distribution of educational resources that will be freely accessible through the INTERSMARTS Innovation Management Platform. These resources will provide continuous learning opportunities for all stakeholders, ensuring long-term knowledge dissemination.

Training Programs - development of customised training modules that address the specific needs of higher education institutions, SMEs, business support organisations, and public authorities, focusing on practical skills and the latest sustainable tourism trends.

Workshops, seminars and webinars - conducting regular on-site and on-line training sessions that provide hands-on learning experiences, covering critical topics like digital transformation and sustainable resource management.

Public Presentations and Idea Showcasing - organising public presentations to showcase business ideas generated within the Network, facilitating feedback and fostering potential collaborations.

Consultation and Mentoring on Request - offering personalised consultation and mentoring services to stakeholders, addressing their specific needs in adopting sustainable tourism practices.

The access to training and mentoring remains open to all interested stakeholders

TARGET GROUPS

The INTERSMARTS Network shall serve the following main groups of stakeholders:

Higher education and research institutions

Higher education and research institutions are involved as members of the INTERSMARTS Network. By engaging in interdisciplinary research towards blue growth higher education and research institutions perform their main social missions, contribute to societal needs, foster collaborations, transfer knowledge and technology and drive positive change in tourism and services. This enhances their academic standing, enriches the education and training programs, attracts research funding, leverages the relations with industry, equips faculty and students with valuable skills and experiences.

Business support (branch) organisations

Business support organisations are vital for overcoming the fragmentation of tourism and service sectors that undermine innovation absorption and widespread sustainability. A business support organisation is involved as a member of the INTERSMARTS Network. The Network equips business support organisations with knowledge, connections, and tools to better serve the tourism industry. It helps them align their services with industry needs, advocate for favourable policies, advise and contribute to the industry's long-term viability and success. This, in turn, strengthens their value proposition and relevance to the business community.

SMEs

The shift towards a smart and sustainable tourism in the Black Sea Basin depends on the modernisation and reorganisation of the SMEs that dominate the sector. At the same time, they avail of fewer resources – human, financial and technical - for experimentation with new business and service models, as well as with technologies. The INTERSMARTS network will provide them with successful solutions, relevant to the sector specifics, that can be replicated and/or scaled-up with fewer resources.

The SMEs will benefit most from the applied research, crowdsourcing and innovation resources, gathered within INTERSMARTS Network, from the mentoring services and innovation management platform for tailor-made solutions. The SMEs' representatives are expected to use the INTERSMARTS Innovation Management Platform both as "users" who share problems and cases on which they need expert advice and as "contributors" who advise their peers and share ideas, solutions, and best practices from experience.

Interest groups, including NGOs

NGOs and interest groups are expected to contribute to and benefit from the research, networking and co-creation. These organisations play a crucial role in advancing the blue economy by promoting and implementing smart tourism solutions that align with the principles of blue growth. By advocating for sustainable practices, fostering collaboration, and empowering communities, NGOs help ensure that novel solutions and technologies are utilised responsibly, benefitting both the tourism industry and the destinations it serves. As civil society organisations, NGOs are central to civic research and should be engaged to support Network members in attracting non-professional researchers. This process will, in turn, enhance the capacity, knowledge, and credibility of these organisations, adding significant value to the Network's activities.

Local, regional and national public authorities

Local public authorities are the representatives of the local communities, govern natural resources and tourism destinations. Smart and sustainable tourism solutions provide local authorities with the means to effectively manage destinations, promote sustainability, enhance visitor experiences, manage crises, drive economic growth, and foster stakeholder collaboration. By embracing these solutions, local authorities can create thriving, resilient tourism destinations that benefit both visitors & communities.

Regional authorities are responsible for managing regional smart specialisation that boost development, including sustainability. The Network will provide them with knowledge-exchange and cooperation bringing forward the regional know-how in this regard. By harnessing the collective strengths of these stakeholders, regions can position themselves as hubs of innovation, attract investment, and create a sustainable future.

National authorities in the project countries benefit from a regional network for smart and sustainable tourism through knowledge sharing, policy coordination, scalability of initiatives, access to data and research insights, resource mobilisation, and the development of common standards. The Network acts as a platform for collaboration, enabling national authorities to leverage the collective expertise, experiences, and resources of regional stakeholders, ultimately advancing sustainable tourism as a path for blue growth on a national scale.

RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

At the date of establishment, the Network uses current and non-current tangible and intangible assets, listed in the accounting reports of the partner institutions and acquired in the framework of project BSB00332 "Interdisciplinary Solutions for Smart Sustainable Tourism and Services for Blue Growth in the Black Sea Basin (INTERSMARTS)".

THE CONTACT POINT AT THE VARNA UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT AVAILS OF:

- 1 in-office work station, equipped with notebooks for desk and field research
- 1 B/W multifunctional device;
- Telecommunications and internet connectivity
- Presentation equipment: multimedia projector, mobile stand/ table & screen,
- Contact point visualisation equipment: LED info display and LED frames for display of innovative solutions;
- Mobile LED banner.

THE CONTACT POINT AT THE INTERNATIONAL HELLENIC UNIVERSITY AVAILS OF:

- 1 in-office work station, equipped with notebooks for desk and field research
- Telecommunications and internet connectivity
- Lab furniture, desks, chairs, bookcases, cabinets.
- Room dividers

THE CONTACT POINT AT THE MOLDOVA STATE UNIVERSITY AVAILS OF:

- 1 in-office work station, equipped with notebooks for desk and field research
- Telecommunications and internet connectivity
- Lab furniture, desks, chairs, bookcases, cabinets.
- Room dividers

THE CONTACT POINT AT THE ISTANBUL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AVAILS OF:

- 1 in-office work station, equipped with notebooks for desk and field research
- 1 multifunctional device, 2 printers
- Telecommunications and internet connectivity
- Presentation equipment: multimedia projector, LED monitors
- Furniture, desks, chairs, bookcases, cabinets.

All of the above mentioned assets will be used with the aim to achieve the aims and the tasks of the network, and this does not exclude their usage for other non-profit purposes, corresponding with those of the partner organisations or multiplying the results and the effects of the INTRESMARTS project, by each partner institution in its capacity of owner of the assets.

FINANCING AND REPORTING

The financing of the activity of the Network is done through the following financial resources:

EVENTS

OWN FUNDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS, PROVIDED BY PARTNER INSTITUTIONS.

DONATIONS FROM SPONSORS AND SPONSORSHIP

The expenditure and reporting of the funds is done according to the rules of the applicable legislation or the regular policy of the partner institutions on the basis of the principles of legality, expediency and efficiency and in accordance with the financial legislation of the countries from which the funds originate.

PROJECTS

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES COMPLAINT WITH THE STATE-AID RULES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (1)

The Network Contact Points shall report their activities at two levels. First, to the Advisory Board, composed of representatives, nominated by the member organisation. This reporting will be performed twice a year and will be focused on the activities of the contact points, the task forces and their impact. Financial results will be reviewed only in order to evaluate the efficiency of the network and the value for money that it creates. Second, each of the contact points will report to the administrative and financial departments of the respective partners according to the internal financial and account policies and the national state accounting and financial regulations.

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(1) Information on state aid can be found on the European Commission's DG Competition website (http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/overview/index_en.html) and in Commission Notice on the notion of State aid as referred to in Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016XC0719(05)&from=EN).

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR NETWORKING

The Network is a non-formal, voluntary partnership among independent organisations. It initially unites four (4) open-laboratory structures in Bulgaria, Greece, Republic of Moldova and Turkey and works for the improvement of the sustainability performance and innovation absorption of tourism and services via interdisciplinary research, networking, co-creation and holistic knowledge generation in the Black Sea Basin. Therefore, it does not have rights in starting or implementing activities other than those specified in this network service portfolio.
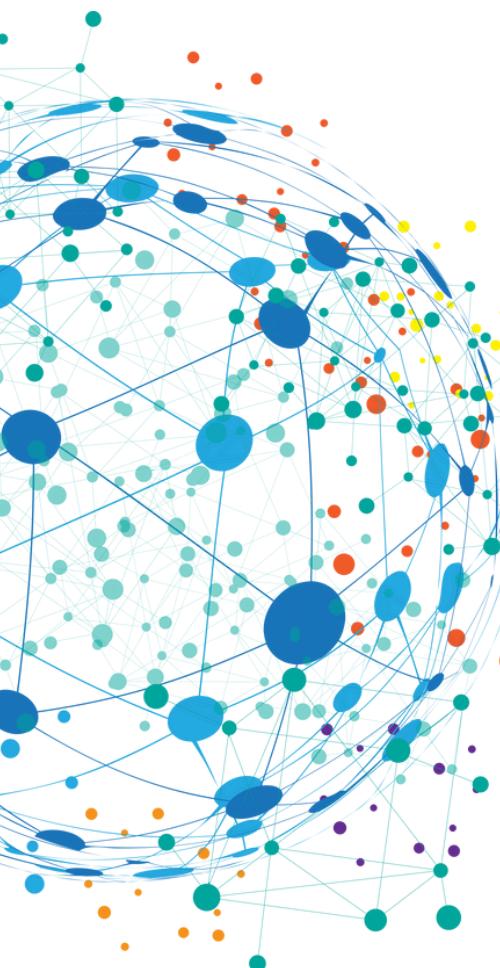
The diverse profile of the institutions that participate in and sustain the Network guarantees the interdisciplinary profile of the applied researchers and staff that shall be involved in the functioning. Membership in the Network is based on mutual respect, transparency, and shared goals, with clear roles and responsibilities defined for all participants.

The coordinators of the Contact Points plan and coordinate their activities within the network as well as joint initiatives and events within it. Their work is supported by the other members of the Contact Points' teams as well as by the hired and attracted personnel of the network member organisations. The coordinators meet at least once per year to streamline the activities of the network. The meetings can be done in one of the Contact points with physical presence, by telephone, video conference or any other on-line communication channel.

Networking efforts prioritise building strong, collaborative partnerships across sectors and regions. This includes forming alliances between public and private sectors, as well as fostering cross-border cooperation among neighbouring countries in the Black Sea region and beyond.

Interdisciplinary Solutions for Smart Sustainable Tourism and Services for Blue Growth in the Black Sea Basin
Project No BSB00332

The **INTERSMARTS** project is a transnational initiative aimed at enhancing sustainability and fostering **Blue Growth** by improving the innovation capacities of the tourism sector in the **Black Sea Region.**

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