



Project funded by  
The EUROPEAN UNION



## ECO-SATELLITE

### Development of a common intraregional monitoring system for the environmental protection and preservation of the Black Sea

It is widely recognized that the Black Sea faces serious environmental problems. Some of the major European rivers, e.g., Danube, Dniester, Dnister, Bug discharge into the Black Sea carrying not only nutrients that determined biological productivity, but significant pollution loads as well. About one tenth of the land area of continental Europe drains into this semi-enclosed sea, which is connected to the Mediterranean through the narrow Bosphorous strait.

The increased pollution load that enters the Black Sea has led to a significant deterioration of the marine ecosystem and to a sharp decline of fisheries resources. Pollutants, including agrochemicals, toxic metals and radionuclides, made their way into the sea either through the atmosphere or river discharges. Increased “nutrients” caused an overproduction of phytoplankton, which block the light to reach the sea grasses and algae. Industrial activity, mining, shipping, and offshore oil and gas exploration further contributed to the sea’s destruction. Tanker accidents and operational discharges caused oil pollution, and coastal industries discharged wastes directly, with little or no treatment. Some countries dumped solid waste into the sea or onto wetlands. Urban areas flushed untreated sewage; and poor planning destroyed much of the aesthetics of the coastlines.

In the above context, the **“ECO-SATELLITE”** action focuses on the protection and preservation of the Black Sea ecosystem, with its main emphasis given to river deltas and protected coastal regions at the seaside. It deals with environmental problems posing a threat that cannot be addressed individually, but only in an unified way.

The Overall objective of **“ECO-SATELLITE”** project is the creation of a common intraregional environmental monitoring system for the whole Black Sea Basin. The system will make use of the technological assets provided by the satellite data and by geomatics facilities. The project will contribute to the efforts of strengthening the joint knowledge and information base needed for the environmental protection and preservation of the Black Sea ecosystem, through the promotion of stronger integration and development of research between the involved partners and by exchanging scientific data and know-how in the fields of monitoring and protection of marine, coastal and wetland systems in the Black Sea Basin.

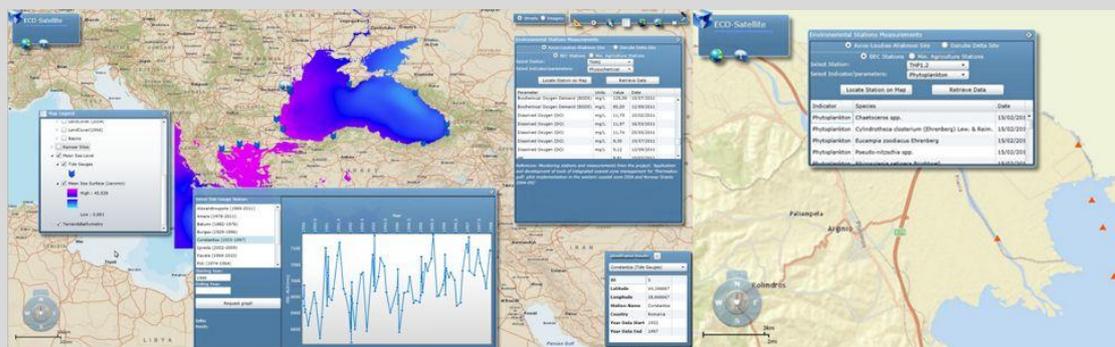
#### **Specific objectives of “ECO-SATELLITE”**

1. Develop and test a system for monitoring the state of marine, coastal and wetland ecosystems. This objective will increase the intraregional knowledge for the coastal

zones of Black Sea.

2. Create a unified, easy to update geodatabase covering the entire Black Sea area in order to support the design of a common cross-border environmental policy for the Black Sea.
3. Develop a Web-GIS system which will contribute to the environmental protection of the Black Sea ecosystems as it will raise awareness through the presentation of the study results and facilitate decision making, with the use of a decision support module that includes an effective help desk support.
4. Diffuse the project knowledge and outputs through training, mass media actions, web-portal and e-lessons.
5. Increase the capacity of decision makers who are related to Black Sea environmental policy

The ultimate goal of the project is to inform the decision makers who are responsible for the Black Sea Environmental policies about critical issues regarding the pollution and/ or condition of the natural living resources of the Black Sea. In that way they can act in order to prevent pollution from spreading or restore the ecosystem to its previous status.



Print screen view of the WEB –GIS system that will be available in the web site of the project after March 2013.

The project started in October 2011 and its duration is 24 months.

Kick off meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece 23/01/2012

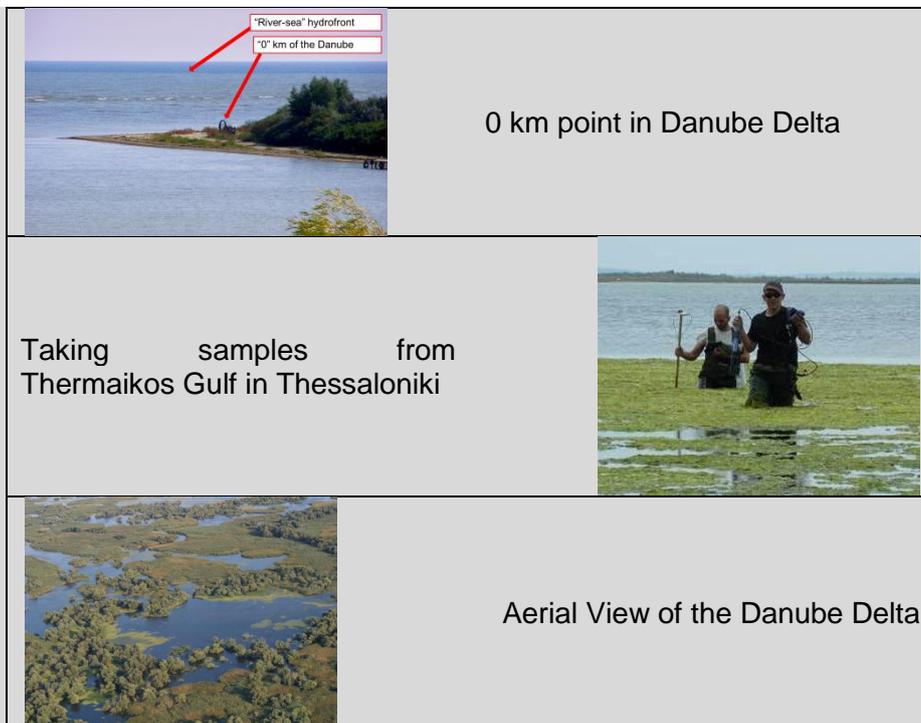


First project meeting, 11&12 July 2012, Odessa, Ukraine

Visit to the Danube Delta Institute for Research and Development in Tulcea, Romania, 23/10/2012



For more information about the “ECO-SATELLITE” project you can visit the web site of the project [www.eco-satellite.eu](http://www.eco-satellite.eu)



The Beneficiary of the project is the Decentralised Administration of Macedonia and Thrace, Thessaloniki, Greece. In addition, 5 more partners participate in the project which are:

- Aristotle’s University of Thessaloniki, Greece
- Balkan Environment Centre, Thessaloniki, Greece
- Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, Tulcea, Romania
- Odessa Branch Institute of Biology of Southern Seas, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Odessa, Ukraine
- District Administration Varna, Varna, , Bulgaria

ECO-SATELLITE is co-financed by 90% from the **“Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme”** and by 10% from national resources. The total budget of the project is 650.000,00. The Grant amount is 585.000,00 €

The **“Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme”** is co-Financed from the European Union through the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. More information about the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme could be found at: <http://www.blacksea-cbc.net>

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