



# Conference on **Blue Economy in the Black Sea**

Connecting the region through marine  
and maritime cooperation

## Speakers' guide

**Batumi, Georgia**

15 September 2017





**MS EKATERINE GRIGALAVA,**  
*Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia*

Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia since 2015. She is in charge of key national environmental policy directions, including climate change, ambient air protection, waste management, water and land resources management, protected areas, etc. She is also responsible for elaboration of environmental policy and management of international relations and cooperation with partner countries and organizations.

Prior to her current position, Ms. Grigalava has developed an interesting and extensive career, which she started in 2002 at the National Democratic Institute (NDI) working on civil and gender programs. Later she moved to the energy sector first working at BP Georgia and then gaining international experience in the field of stakeholder and ESIA management at Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) in Switzerland.

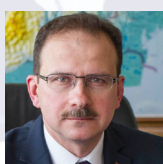
Ms. Grigalava holds MA in Public Administration from Georgian Institute of Public Affairs and has established an impressive professional networks as a fellow of Central Eurasia Leadership Alliance (CELA) and Central Asia-Caucasus Young Leaders Fellowship Program (Rumsfeld Foundation).



**MR KARMENU VELLA**

*EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (video message)*

Karmenu Vella is the European Commissioner for Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs. He was born in Malta on June 1950. Mr Vella graduated in Architecture and Civil Engineering, and later obtained a Master of Science in Tourism Management from University of Sheffield. He was first elected to Parliament in 1976 and continued to be re-elected in the elections that followed for nine consecutive times. During his political career he has been appointed Minister for Public Works, Minister for Industry and Minister for Tourism twice. Mr Vella had also held various senior posts in the private sector.



**MR VASYL POLUYKO**

*Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine*

Mr. Poluyko was born in Lviv city, Ukraine. He has graduated Lviv Ivan Franko State University on the specializations of Biophysics and Biology. Lately,

Mr. Poluyko worked as a lecturer of Kyiv Ivan Franko National University. Also. He was a President of the Foundation for the Development of Civil Organizations "Western Ukrainian Resource Center".

Mr. Poluyko was involved as an expert in international technical assistance projects such as CIDA, USAID, World Bank, Carpathian Foundation etc. From 1998 till 2002 was on the position of Deputy of Lviv city council.

## MS MARIA BABUKCHIEVA

*Head of River Basin Management Department,  
Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria*



## AMBASSADOR MICHAEL B. CHRISTIDES

*Secretary General, Organisation of the Black Sea Economic  
Cooperation (BSEC)*

Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, is the Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey.

Born in Thessaloniki, Greece in 1949, Ambassador Christides joined the Hellenic MFA in 1976 as first in his Class and served with distinction until his retirement in August 2014. Among other assignments he served as Ambassador of Greece to Bulgaria, to Turkey and to Argentina and held senior posts in the Hellenic MFA as Political Director for South East Europe, as Director General for International Organizations, International Security & Cooperation and as Director General for International Economic Relations.

Ambassador Christides, participated in many international meetings and conferences and has spent more than 20 years dealing with S.E. European / Balkan issues, while travelling extensively in the region. He acquired a broad knowledge of the political and economic realities there and established a wide personal network of high-level political, business, academic and media contacts. He speaks fluent English, German, French, Italian and moderately good Spanish.

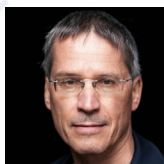
After his retirement Ambassador Christides was elected by the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs as Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, assuming his duties on 1 July 2015.

## MS CHRISTIANA KALOGIROU

*Regional Governor of North Aegean (Greece), President of the Balkan &  
Black Sea Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)*



Since the regional elections of 2014, she is the Governor of the North Aegean Region (consisting of the islands of Lesbos, Chios, Limnos, Samos Ikaria, Fournoi, Thymena, Agios Efstratios, Oinousses, Psara).



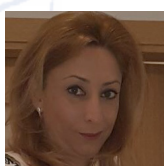
## MR BERNHARD FRIESS,

*Director, Maritime Policy and Blue Economy, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission*

Since January 2017, Bernhard Friess has been Director responsible for "Maritime Policy and Blue Economy" in the European Commission's Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate-General.

Mr Friess studied Law at Munich University. His career with the European Commission included assignments in the areas Competition Policy, Internal Market Policy, Maritime Policy and Fisheries, and Education and Training.

Mr Friess has held positions as Head of Unit responsible for competition enforcement in banking, insurance, securities and financial services markets; as Head of Unit responsible for coordinating internal market policy; as Director for planning, personnel and communication; and as Director for maritime policy and fisheries in the areas of the Atlantic, Arctic, North Sea, Baltic Sea and the EU's outermost regions.



## MS LAURA BOBARNAC,

*Deputy Head, Joint Managing Authority, Ministry of Regional Development of Romania*

Mrs. Bobarnac is a Romanian expert with an extensive experience in public administration in general and in cross-border cooperation, in particular. She has been working in the Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds (former Ministry of European Integration) since 2001, while from 2006 she has been working within the Managing Authority (MA) for the Joint Operation Programme Black Sea Basin.

Currently, she is the Head of unit in charge with the overall management and coordination of operational functions of the BSB MA and the Deputy Head of the MA.

Her educational background includes a law degree from the Romanian American University in Bucharest and a Master degree in the field of public administration, also various trainings regarding the EU policies and funds.



## MR ANDRZEJ CIEŚLAK,

*Consultant, Maritime Office in Gdynia, Poland*

Consultant for the Maritime Office in Gdynia, Poland. Is an expert on maritime spatial planning and coastal zone management. He has been instrumental in the development of the Polish long term coastal protection strategy, introduction in Poland of the concept of ICZM (since 1996), development of the basics for the Polish national ICZM, development of regulations for spatial planning of sea areas and decision making on space use in the sea and the so-called "coastal belt" areas, design of numerous medium and large scale coastal protection systems.

Mr. Cieślak participated in a number of international projects concerning risk management and space management in the coastal zone and MSP. Between 2003 and 2015 was the Polish member of the National ICZM Expert Group at DG ENV. Co-chair of the HELCOM/VASAB Working Group on Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea Area from its inception in 2010 until end of 2016.



## DR INGELA ISAKSSON,

*Project Manager, Baltic SCOPE, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management*

Dr Ingela Isaksson has been working with ICZM and MSP since 2006. She coordinates collaboration at different scales: local, regional, national and international. Ingela holds a position at a regional governmental agency, County Administrative Board (CAB) of Västra Götaland, and has assignment for national governmental agency, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management.

Ingela is currently in charge of coordination of the EU-funded collaboration recently finalized Baltic SCOPE (2015-2017) in the Baltic Sea Region. Ingela has regional responsibility to coordinate one of three MSPs under development in Sweden, the Skagerrak and Kattegatt MSP. She has more than 20 years' experience as project leader and has been coordinating transboundary collaboration at different scales: local, regional, national and international. Ingela holds a PhD in marine zoology. Main research areas include shallow coastal marine ecosystems, plant-animal interactions, eutrophication related issues and biodiversity.



## MS MARTINA MARIA PAOLA ROSSI,

*Manager, Maritime Technology Cluster FVG, Italy*

Since 2015 appointed Cluster Manager in charge of the general management of the activities of the Maritime Technology Cluster of the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy), directly reporting to the CEO. After the technical education in the field of Interior and Yacht Design ended with a Masters' Degree in 2009, she gained a 5 – year experience in project management within technology clusters management organizations in the maritime technology field, developing relevant national and international supporting collaboration activities in the maritime field.

Project Manager in clusters environment since 2011, her experience is mainly related to the management of regional (ERDF funded projects), national and international cooperative projects (MED Programme, EASME-EMFF initiatives) as well as the design and organization of supporting activities focused on innovation and training for local maritime actors, also bilaterally with other maritime regions in Europe.

Moreover, since the establishment of the "Italian National Technology Cluster for surface and waterborne mobility" in 2014, she is in charge of the coordination of the National Waterborne Working Group.



## MR NILS JANSONS,

*Deputy Head of Division for Eastern Partnership, regional cooperation & OSCE, European External Action Service*

Nils JANSONS, born in 1968 in Riga, Latvia, has graduated the Institute of Precision Mechanics and Optics in St.Petersburg. He joined Latvia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in 1993 as a desk officer in the International Organizations Department. In 1995 he was posted to the Latvian Embassy in Brussels.

From 1998 till 2003 he served as the MFA's Head of Security Policy Division, later Director of the Security Policy Department. During the year 2000 Mr. Jansons completed a course at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London. In 2003 Mr. Jansons again moved to Brussels as the Deputy Permanent Representative of Latvia at the North Atlantic Council. He returned to Riga in 2007 to take up the position of Deputy Political Director of the MFA.

In 2008 Mr. Jansons was appointed Latvia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the UN, OSCE and other international organizations in Vienna. Concurrently, he served as Latvia's non-resident Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia. In September 2010 Mr Jansons joined the EU service as the Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to South Africa. Since September 2014 he holds the position of Deputy Head of Division at the EEAS Headquarters, responsible for Eastern Partnership, regional cooperation and OSCE. Mr. Jansons is married, with a daughter.



**MR ANTONIO CASTILLO,**  
*Head of Office in Chisinau, European Investment Bank*

Antonio Castillo Fernández, Head of the European Investment Bank (EIB) Representation to Moldova.

Since August 2016, Mr. Castillo is responsible for the EIB's representation office to Moldova in Chisinau. Mr. Castillo joined the EIB in 2008 as a Loan Officer. For most of this time, Mr. Castillo has been working in the implementation Division in the Iberia Department, covering a wide range of lending projects with State, public and municipal entities, banks and private sector in Spain and Portugal.

Prior to joining EIB, Mr. Castillo has spent over fifteen years working at Clearstream Banking Luxembourg SA, an International Custody and Settlement Depository, which now belongs to Deutsche Börse AG. Mr. Castillo started his professional career in 1990 at TSB PBI Luxembourg SA, working in the Fund Administration business.

Mr. Castillo received his first degree in economics from the Autónoma University of Madrid (Spain) in 1988 with majors in finance and obtained a MBA qualification from Scottish Business Schools in the University of Stirling (Scotland, UK) in 1989.



**MS SIEGLINDE GRUBER,**  
*Head of Unit, Marine Research Unit, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (RTD), European Commission*

I have been Head of the Marine Resources Unit, in the Directorate General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, since 2014. The Unit defines, implements and monitors Research and Innovation objectives and priorities to support the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy and its related Seabasin Strategies, thereby contributing to the sustainable and responsible management of marine resources, both in Europe and globally.

In 2011, I headed the Unit responsible for EU S&T cooperation with North America, Latin America and the Caribbean; in 2007, I headed the Unit responsible for Relations with Third Countries. Prior to that I was Head of Sector for Researchers' Careers with responsibilities related to the European Charter for Researchers, the Modernising Agenda of European Universities and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.

I started to work for the European Commission in 1991, as an expert for the LINGUA Programme. Afterwards I worked in the Directorate General for Education and Training where I was responsible for the actions dealing with foreign language learning for vocational training and for policy development of the European Union's vocational training programme, the Leonardo da Vinci Programme. Prior to joining the European Commission, I worked in the public and private sector in Italy and Germany.

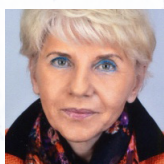


## DR ADRIAN STANICA,

*Chairman of the Scientific Council of National Research and Development Institute for Marine Geology and Geoecology (GeoEcoMar)*

Main scientific expertise in coastal dynamics and natural resources management, PhD in geology, University of Bucharest, 2003, degree in geology, Univ. of Bucharest, Master in Economy of Energy and Environment, Scuola Superiore "Enrico Mattei", Milan, Italy: 1993 – 1994; 2002 – 2003: Marie Curie PhD Fellow at the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Venice, Italy; NATO-CNR senior fellowship – Istituto di Scienze Marine – Venice, Italy, 2004, 2005. Researcher with GeoEcoMar since 1994.

Coordinator of the DANUBIUS-RI (International Centre for Advanced Studies on River-Sea Systems) ESFRI Project, general coordinator of HORIZON 2020 DANUBIUS Preparatory Phase Project, general coordinator of FP7 DANCERS (DANube macroregion: Capacity building and Excellence in River Systems (basin, delta and sea)), Partner coordinator in FP6, FP7 and projects under other international programmes, 2006-7 – regional coordinator for Causal Analysis for the Black Sea Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (UNDP); East-European coordinator for NEAR 3 and 4 Swiss NSF funded projects (education towards sustainable use of water resources), partner in the Romanian team in JPI Water Challenges and FP7 WatEur (2013 – 2015), national representative and monitor for marine and earth sciences pan-european research infrastructures in ESFRI Environmental Working Group (2009 - 2015), member of the SedNet Steering Group (since 2014).



## PROF SNEJANKA MONCHEVA,

*Director, Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Science (IO BAS)*

She has an extensive research experience in Black Sea phytoplankton biodiversity and ecology, development of ecological indicators for marine health assessment, design of integrated monitoring strategies, highly qualified in marine ecology research. She is involved in National, Regional and International expert activities – national focal point in the Biodiversity Advisory Group (AG –CBD) to the Black Sea Commission, a member of the GIG-Black Sea – head of the group of phytoplankton indicators for implementation of WFD, member of the expert group on GES/MSFD to the Ministry of environment and water. She was a member of the European Biodiversity MSFD Task group and a national focal point for PESI, Member of SC of Global Water Partnership (representative for Central and Eastern Europe), an invited speaker to a series of Black Sea and international capacity building and scientific events. Prof. Moncheva is the principle author of Black Sea Phytoplankton Monitoring Guidelines (Moncheva, Parr, 2015) and Guidelines for quality control of biological data (Moncheva, 2015).

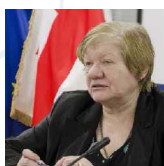
As an acknowledgement to her outstanding contribution to the Black Sea ecosystem research prof. Moncheva has been awarded the Black Sea Medal in 2011.

She has an extensive experience in Project coordination and networking, a coordinator of Center of Excellence Project and IO-BAS partner coordinator of more than 35 Projects under EC FP5, FP6 and FP7 and other funding schemes. She is an author of more than 120 scientific publications.



**MS SOPHIE BENBOW,**  
*Marine Programme Manager – Eurasia, Fauna & Flora International*

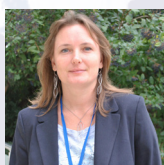
Sophie is a marine and fisheries scientist with more than 10 years' experience supporting developing coastal communities to enhance and sustain local fisheries. Previously she worked in Madagascar where she supported a regional assessment of the octopus fishery, promoting community led management of a temporary closure system to boost stocks. Since joining Fauna & Flora International Sophie has worked in the Asia Pacific region, providing remote technical support for the development of marine protected areas (MPA) in Cambodia, Myanmar and the Philippines, supported the East Africa team in the implementation of short term fisheries closures in Zanzibar, and currently focuses her efforts on marine and fisheries conservation projects in Turkey, Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe. Sophie is currently involved in the development of a conservation project to support Critically Endangered sturgeon species along Georgia's Black Sea coast and is interested in scoping for possible new MPA sites in the Black Sea region.



**MS MARIAM MAKAROVA,**  
*Head of Water Division, Integrated Management Department, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia*

I was born in 1950 in the city of Kutaisi, Georgia. In 1967 I entered and in 1972 graduated from the Georgian Polytechnic Institute with Diploma of Engineer-Chemist. From 1973 I am working in the field of environment protection, mainly on water management issues. Today my position is a Head of the Water Division, Integrated Management Department, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia.

My competences are: development of water legislation, regulation and assessment of water abstraction and wastewater discharge, coordination of the implementation international projects in the field of the water resources management. I am a Member of the Advisory Group on Control of Pollution from Land-based Sources, a subsidiary body of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution and a Member of a Global Water Partnership in Georgia.



**MS OLESYA PETROVYCH,**  
*Chief specialist, Department of Econet and Protected Areas, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine*

Since June 2011, Olesya Petrovych has been the Chief Specialist in the Department of Econet and Protected Areas of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

Ms Petrovych studied Biology at Taras Shevchenko Kiev National University. Her career with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources included establishment of Protected Areas and Ramsar wetlands, implementation of the Ramsar Convention and other international environmental agreements, and Education and Training of environmental professionals.

Ms Petrovych has held positions as Chief Specialist of the Unit responsible for coordination of researches, education and recreation activities within Protected Areas of Ukraine; she coordinates communication, education and public awareness and research activities in the PAs; she also works as the Secretary of the National Committee on Conservation, Sustainable Use and Restoration of Wetlands, and National Focal Point of CEPA program of the Ramsar Convention; also as Chief Specialist she coordinates creation of new wetlands, monitoring and plans for environmental measures within wetlands. Her special attention as a member of the BlackSeaWet Regional Ramsar Initiative is paid to the issues of conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems of the Azov and Black Sea basin.



## DR GILLES LERICOLAIS,

*Director, Management of European and International affairs, French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER)*

Dr. Gilles Lericolais has been a marine geologist/geophysicist at Ifremer since 1984. He joined more than 10 scientific cruises as a chief scientist. He has been site survey expert for Elf Aquitaine (TOTAL) from 1989 to 1991. Dr Gilles Lericolais has carried out several research surveys on different seas and Oceans (China Sea, Pacific, San Francisco Bay, Atlantic, North Sea, Mediterranean, Marmara and Black Sea...).

From 1997 to 2013, he has been leading collaborative projects focusing on the investigation of the sedimentary records and processes related to past-climate evolution. He has been the coordinator of European project dealing with marine environment.

From 2006 to 2011, he was in charge of the Laboratory of Sedimentary Environments of Ifremer and was responsible for the Ifremer project „Margins and Sedimentary systems”.

From 2007 to 2013, he was acting as an expert for IODP for ECORD and was nominated as Vice Chair of the Site Survey Panel for IODP in 2008 and Chair of this panel from 2009 to 2013.

Dr. Lericolais is the author of over 60 refereed publications (H-Index: 27), and member of the Editorial Board of the journal „Quaternaire”.

He is Vice-Chair of the European Marine Board, member of EurOcean and an alternate member of the Management Board and member of the Executive Committee of the JPI Oceans. He is one of the French representatives of the National board for the IOC of the UNESCO. He recently was nominated Chair of the ECORD Facility Board for 2016 to 2018.

In 2011, he was appointed as Director of the European and International Affairs of Ifremer in 2011 and therefore participates to the Management Board of Ifremer.



## MR STELIOS MITOLIDIS,

*Deputy Head of Unit, Fisheries Management Mediterranean and Black Sea, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE), European Commission*

Stelios Mitolidis, Deputy Head of Unit; Fisheries Management Mediterranean and Black Sea, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission.

He is an economist, studied in Greece and the United Kingdom. He has worked in the past on issues related with economics, trade, anti-dumping, subsidies and fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.



## PROF BAYRAM ÖZTÜRK,

*Director – Turkish Marine Research Foundation, Faculty of Fisheries, Istanbul University*

Bayram ÖZTÜRK, born in 1960, on the Black Sea coast of Turkey. After he got his Ph.D. on Marine Biology from the Institute of Marine Sciences, Istanbul University, in 1990, he has been studying on fishery science and biological oceanography in various seas and oceans in the world. He is the Founder and Director of Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), and currently Editor for the Journal of Black Sea and Mediterranean Environment ([www.blackmeditjournal.org](http://www.blackmeditjournal.org)). He has published four books and over 100 papers on fisheries, marine biology and ecology. He graduated Turkish Navy Diving School in 1987 and He is also scientific committee of CMAS as well.

Since 1999 to date, he has been working as a Professor on Marine Biology, Faculty of Fisheries, Istanbul University. He is also involved in three EU FP7 funded projects, Marlisco, Perseus and CoCoNet, for the latter of which he works as a Workpackage Leader. He is Turkish representative in CIESM.

Dr. Öztürk has over 2000 citation for marine science (See Bayram Öztürk Google Scholar Citation). He is also an expert for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

He was in Antarctica in 2014, 2015 and 2016. He was also the leader of the first Turkish Antarctica Expedition. His main interest is Global Marine Biodiversity and Assessment, Ocean Conservation, Alien species and Fisheries Governance issues. Dr. Öztürk speaks fluently English, French and Japanese.

## MS IRINA LOMASHVILI,

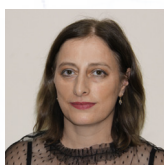
*Chief Specialist, Biodiversity and Forestry policy Department, Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia*

Senior Specialist of the Department of Biodiversity and Forestry Policy of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia since 2013.

Graduated from the Tbilisi State University In 1986 with Master Degree Diploma in Biology. From 1986 til 1995 worked in the I. Beritashvili Institute of Physiology as a scientific researcher.

Since 1995 till 2003 worked in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia in the Department of Environmental Policy and International Relations.

Main responsibilities in the Ministry are – focal point of some of the international treaties to which Georgia is a party, including ACCOBAMS (Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Conguous Atlantic Area); Black Sea fish stock, as a natural resource, and fisheries related issues falling under the responsibility of the Ministry; Contact person for the FAO/GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) since 2014.



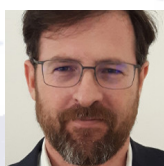
## MS MAIA CHKHOBADZE,

*Head of the Biodiversity Control Service, Environmental Supervising Department, Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia*

My name is Maia Chkhobadze. Since 1989 I have had an unbroken record of service in the field of environment protection and management of natural resources going through all the important stages of the public work and making each of my promotions step by step, during the last 28 years, the highest rank that I have achieved being Head of the Biodiversity Control Service.

During the period I had to work in the field of biodiversity control covering the fishery resources, the faunal object and the issues regulated by international conventions. As the Head of the Service I coordinated the work the regional services of the Environmental Supervision Department in the country. I also led the lecture course on the biodiversity issues to the beginners in the field.

The leading characteristic features of me as a state officer are: I can easily establish communication with persons of different ranks having a positive relationship with the colleagues and trying to take into account their individuals.



## MR MIGUEL BERNAL,

*Fishery Resources Officer, Secretariat of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)*

Dr. Miguel Bernal is the leading fisheries expert within the Secretariat of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of FAO. He is the responsible of coordinating the production of the scientific advice related to fisheries and marine ecosystems, delivered by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries as well as the Working Group of the Black Sea to the annual session of the GFCM.

He oversees the organization of the GFCM activities towards the improvement of advice on Mediterranean and Black Sea stocks and the implementation of sub-regional management plans in the area, and coordinates the publication of the FAO-GFCM report on the State of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries. He has previously worked in a number of top level universities and fisheries research institutes across the world, publishing numerous scientific papers, books and book chapters on a number of fisheries and marine ecosystems related topics.



**MR PASCAL SAVOURET,**  
*Executive Director, European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)*

Mr Pascal Savouret has been Executive Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency since 2011. He was born in France and has a solid background in fisheries control issues at European level.

He has been Deputy Director for Fisheries at the French Direction of Fisheries and Aquaculture since 2009. Before that, he had held different responsibilities in the French national administration, such as Director of Maritime Rescue Coordination and Head of Unit of Fisheries Control and of Fisheries Products.

When he entered the EFCA, he had 26 years of work experience in the Navy and in the French maritime affairs administration.

He graduated at the Ecole d'administration des affaires maritimes in 1995.



**MS ELENA CARDAS,**  
*European Affairs Advisor, Association for Sustainable Development "Prut – Dunăre" Galati – FLAG Galati (Romania)*

Elena is from Galati Romania, Galati is the largest river and sea port on the Danube and the second largest Romanian port.

She graduated from Galati Danubius University, Law Faculty with Master Academic Studies on "Law and European Public Administration" and "European Law" as specializations.

Elena is European Affairs Advisor at Association for Sustainable Development "Prut – Dunăre" Galati – FLAG Galati, with ample experience in SMEs internationalization and territorial cohesion and cooperation within Black Sea Basin.

Elena also worked as Coordinator on Galati Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture – Enterprise Europe Network and Association of Cross Border Cooperation "Lower Danube Euroregion".

Married and mother of one 8 years old boy.



**DR LAURA ALEXANDROV**  
*(Mihaela Laurenta Alexandrov), Senior Researcher, National Institute for Marine Research and Development „Grigore Antipa”, Romania*

Mihaela Laurenta Alexandrov, senior researcher to National Institute for Marine Research and Development G. Antipa, Constanta, Romania, is graduated in Fisheries Engineering and has PhD in Industrial Engineering; it is postgraduated in Marine Ecology, Aquaculture and MSP). She represents the Focal Point of the MSP Platform for the Black Sea, providing regional news and information about MSP projects and practices. She elaborated Romania MSP Fish and contributed to the Black Sea MSP Fish elaboration. Laurenta is NIMRD project coordinator for MARSPLAN BS Project which support the MSP Directive 89/2014 in Romania and Bulgaria, where she is responsible for the Elaboration of detailed studies for a complete analysis of the Romanian and Bulgarian maritime area (Study 1.1.1) and Study Cases Eforie (coastal erosion) and Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture (Romania –Bulgaria). She coordinates also the Project ECOAST- COFASP Program in Romania, regarding: New methodologies for an ecosystem approach to spatial and temporal management of fisheries and aquaculture in coastal areas.

Her multi-disciplinary professional and academic background is based on fisheries, wetlands monitoring and management, ecological recovery, MSP. She has international experience being involved with responsibility in some European projects (PlanCoast-INTRREGIII, Tasaul-ESTROM, PEGASO-FP7, ResponSEable-H2020, SRCSSMBSF-JOP-CBC Black Sea, being member of others). She is specialized also in coastal limnology, recirculated systems for aquaculture, biological filters, eutrophication, biological effect of pollution, resulting a significant number of publications and presentations in these fields of activity.

## MR LEVAN AKHVLEDIANI,

*Chief Executive Officer, Anaklia Development Consortium (ADC), Georgia*



## MS IRINA ZAPATRINA,

*Chairman of the Board, Ukrainian Public-Private Partnership Development Support Centre*

Irina Zapatrina is Founder of PPP Academy, Member of Team of Specialists on PPP of UNECE, consultant of the World Bank and the EBRD on PPP issues, adviser of the Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine, correspondent from Ukraine of European Procurement and Public Private Partnership magazine.

Irina has large experience in preparation and implementation of infrastructure projects with participation of international financial organisations, worked as a deputy Minister of housing and communal services (2007-2010), deputy director of Scientific-research financial institute under the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine (2005-2007). She has 122 scientific and analytical publications in Ukraine and abroad, including personal monographs: Budget mechanism of economic growth; Public-private partnership: potential for emerging economies; Public-Private Partnership for Sustainable Development Goals.



## MR GEORGIOS CHRISTOFI,

*Head of Environment & Capacity Building Unit, European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)*

Born in Limassol, Cyprus in 1971, Completed studies in the National Technical University of Athens and got a Diploma and Master's degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering.

Worked for three years in the private sector as a Naval Architect (mainly with passenger ships) before joining the Department of Merchant Shipping in 1999 (Maritime Administration of Cyprus). From 1999 until 2009 has served in many areas such as Flag State Inspector, Port State Control Inspector, ISM auditor and Flag coordinator for ISM and Flag State Implementation. During the same period attended several IMO and EU meetings as part of the Cyprus Delegation.

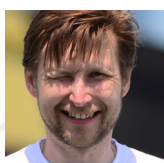
From July 2009 to January 2013 was posted as Counsellor for Maritime Affairs in the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the European Union. In this capacity followed the work of the Shipping Working Party, the Environment Working Party (for maritime issues) and Integrated Maritime Policy working group. During the Cyprus Presidency, second half of 2012, chaired both the Shipping Working Party and Integrated Maritime Policy, where he achieved a general approach in the Council for the two Directives on Flag and Port State Control obligations for compliance and enforcement of the MLC 2006 as well as the agreed text of the "Limassol Declaration" one of the milestones of the Cyprus Presidency.

As from January 2013 has the post of Head of Unit B.3 (Environment and Capacity Building) in the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). Under this capacity he is managing a team of 30 project officers. The Unit provides training to EU Member States, Enlargement Countries, Paris MoU states and European Neighbourhood beneficiary countries. It also provides technical, operational and scientific advice and assistance to the European Commission and the Member States in the development, implementation and enforcement of and European and International legislation in the areas of the Protection of the Marine Environment and Port State Control and finally develops hosts and maintains technical solutions thus supporting the building up of the necessary national capacity for the implementation of relevant legal acts.



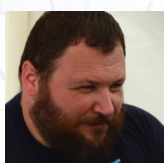
**MS. TAMAR BAGRATIA**  
*Head of National Environmental Agency, Georgia*

Tamar Bagratia had graduated from Tbilisi State University's faculty of geography-geology, specialized in Geography. She has many years working experience in non-governmental sector as well as in international organizations. Mrs. Bagratia has been managing National Environmental Agency since 2015. It is the legal entity of public law under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia which beside others is focused on environmental monitoring within the Black Sea Monitoring and Fishery and Environmental Monitoring departments. Mrs. Bagratia is actively involved in EMBLAS II project implementation phase within diverse range of activities.



**DR. VIKTOR KOMORIN**  
*Director of Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Ecology of the Sea, Ukraine*

Since obtaining his Ph.D in Geography, Dr. Viktor Komorin works for the Black Sea environmental monitoring. His specialization is physical oceanography and mathematical modelling of marine ecosystems. Since 2015, he has been chaired the Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Ecology of the Sea. The Institute acts as the Black Sea Regional Activity Center for Pollution Monitoring and Assessment in accordance with the "Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea". In EMBLAS II project, Dr. Viktor Komorin is a scientific coordinator of the Joint Black Sea Surveys 2017.



**DR. EUGEN DYKYI**  
*Deputy Director of Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Ecology of the Sea, Ukraine*

Dr. Eugen Dykyi has specialization in marine bottom vegetation. Having obtained his Ph.D in Biology, he was one of the first who has restarted a large scale underwater bottom vegetation surveys and mapping. Since 2015, he has been working as Deputy Director of Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Ecology of the Sea, responsible for scientific research. He is deeply involved in the process of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive implementation in Ukraine. In the EMBLAS II project, he coordinates metagenomic microbiological research and environmental DNA studies in the Black Sea.



**MS. OLENA MARUSHEVSKA**  
*PR expert of the EMBLAS II project*

Ms. Olena Marushevska has a large experience in capacity building, stakeholder involvement, communication and visibility in the field of water resources. She has conducted a number of public awareness campaigns on river conservation (in frame of the Danube Days), communal waste management, clean-up activities. She represents Ukraine in Public Participation Expert Group of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River. She is at present public relation expert of the EMBLAS II project, responsible for visibility of project results and public involvement into environmental monitoring.