

SEA (CI)-TIES

Strengthening Economic Alliances in the wider Black Sea region Through International Engagement & Shipping

Tuesday, 21 October 2025 (Chios, Greece)

Hybrid event organised by the



**UNIVERSITY OF THE
AEGEAN**

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
DEPARTMENT OF SHIPPING
TRADE AND TRANSPORT**

and kindly hosted by Koraes Library, Korai 2 - Chios 821 00 (GREECE)



Working language: English

The Draft Agenda is in Eastern European Summer Time (EEST)



DRAFT AGENDA

(as of 13 October)

10:00-11:00 EEST | Opening Session

- Welcome address by **Dr Maria B. LEKAKOU**, Professor in Maritime Economics, Department of Shipping, Trade and Transport, School of Business, University of the Aegean (Greece)
- “The maritime legacy of Chios Island and the importance of shipping for the development and growth of the wider Black Sea region”, by **Dr Gelina HARLAFTIS**, Director of Institute for Mediterranean Studies of the Foundation of Research and Technology-Hellas (IMS-FORTH), Professor of Maritime History, Department of History and Archeology, Faculty of Letters, University of Crete (Greece)
- “Collective Commitment in the Black Sea Region”, by **Mrs Rositsa STOEVA**, National Coordinator of the Bulgarian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office (July-December 2025), Head of Development Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria

11:00-11:30 Comfort break

11:30-13:30 EEST | State of play, challenges and cooperation initiatives at regional, European, and international levels

*Moderated by **Mr Stavros KALOGNOMOS**, PhD Candidate, Researcher, Research in Shipping and Ports Laboratory (RE.SHI.P.), Department of Shipping, Trade and Transport, School of Business, University of the Aegean (Greece)*

Keynote speaker: Representative from the Trabzon Metropolitan Municipality (Türkiye) on “The place of the blue economy in city diplomacy” *(tbc)*

- “Blue economy as a driver for development and innovation for coastal communities”, by **Ms Georgia CHANTZI**, Research and Policy Development Manager, International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)
- “Port cities and coastal communities”, by **Dr Maciej KOWALEWSKI**, Associate Professor, University of Szczecin/UNESCO Chair for Social Sustainability (Poland), RethinkBlue COST Action
- “More sustainable development of Port Cities, a global bet?”, by **Dr José SÁNCHEZ**, Director of Agenda AIVP 2030, Projects and Content, International Association Cities & Ports (AIVP)
- Representative from the Karadeniz Technical University (Türkiye) *(tbc)*
- “The role of universities alliances in better responding to the societal and environmental challenges faced by island and coastal communities”, by **Professor Milen BALTOV**, PhD – Rector of Burgas Free University (Bulgaria), member of the European University of Islands, Ports and Coastal Territories (EUNICOast) Alliance

Open discussion with participants



15:00-17:30 EEST | EU framework, and financial instruments in the wider Black Sea region and how the different stakeholders could benefit from them

*Moderated by **Dr Petros PALLIS**, Assoc. Prof. in Maritime and Ports Economics and Strategy, Department of Shipping, Trade and Transport, University of the Aegean (Greece)*

Keynote speaker: Ms Mihaela MIREA, Black Sea Assistance Mechanism (BSAM) Coordinator

- “The World Bank’s Blueing the Black Sea Program (BBSEA)”, by **Ms Tsitsino CHKADUA**, Programme Management Senior Officer, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- **Mr Leonid SIDORENKO**, Director, General Industries, Transport and Tourism I, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB)
- **Ms Linn SÖDERPALM**, Policy Advisor, Environment, Safety and Taxation, European Community Shipowners’ Associations (ECSA)
- **Representative from the Hellenic Shortsea Shipowners Association**, member of the European Shortsea Network *(tbc)*
- “Energy Supply Chain”, by **Mr Mario DOGLIANI**, Liguria Region (Italy), Leading Region of the Shipbuilding Alternative Fuels Propulsion Systems Alliance S3 Community of Practice
- **Mr Petros KOKKALIS**, Member of the European Parliament (2019-2024)
- **Prof. Athanasios PALLIS**, JMC in European port policy, University of Piraeus (Greece), Challenges of energy transition in port city territories, PACT COST Action

Open discussion with participants

- *Conclusions by the moderator*

End of the EMD hybrid event in Chios

