

Press release

Collaborative Project for the Black Sea Basin to Promote Sustainable Agricultural Practices Supporting Climate Change Adaptation

The Black Sea Eco-Academy of Batumi, Georgia with partners Black Sea NGO Network, Bulgaria, the Black Sea Branch of the Ukrainian Environmental Academy of Sciences, Ukraine, and the Eco Counselling Centre Cahul, Moldova have launched a new project '*Sustainable transnational platform for exchange of good practices and knowledge on regenerative agriculture and permaculture to support climate change mitigation and adaptation (AGRIPERMA)*' with support from Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme. The project aims to improve the knowledge of rural and farming communities in the four countries on ecosystem-based solutions in agriculture raising their awareness on the employment of sustainable agricultural practices supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation. Its duration is 18 months and it has a total budget of 438 445.00 euro with EU funding 394 600.50 euro.

AGRIPERMA promotes the adoption of environmentally friendly and innovative technologies in agricultural practices by establishing a regional cooperation network in the Black Sea region. The process of developing educational materials and examples of best practices is centred around the e-Farm electronic platform, a key joint output of the cooperation between project partners.

The regional stakeholders using the platform will learn of the importance of ecosystem-based solutions supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation and will be engaged in transnational exchange of good practices and knowledge. The open e-learning tools will provide user friendly access to materials and guidance to successful solutions about regenerative agriculture and permaculture and will help stakeholders exploit the opportunities for cross-border collaboration.

AGRIPERMA envisages capacity building activities and pilot projects to ensure the use of the ecosystem-based technologies and exploit the opportunities for sustainable solutions in the Black Sea Basin.

Other important products of the project are digital maps on land use, soil, agricultural crops, and current climate and future projections per country, four model designs for permaculture farming, three jointly produced modules for climate change and agriculture, innovation and eco-friendly agriculture and permaculture farming. Four pilot farming projects will be accomplished. A guidebook on regenerative agriculture and permaculture with link to the e-Farm platform will be produced in English and the national languages and promoted regionally.

As a result of the project implementation the small and medium sized farmers can use individually adapted permaculture, agricultural practice closest to the nature, with least impact on nature, economically cheap and least adverse effect; apply individual plan as advance resilience plans for future.

The project will enhance its impact through the envisaged mechanism for exchange and long-term support between members of the stakeholder and expert communities and the support for practical implementation of innovative agricultural practices.

AGRIPERMA continues the tradition of cooperation between the partners and builds on their experience to develop and offer open access platforms for effectively communication and engagement with a broad range of stakeholders in the Black Sea region, focusing on the involvement of the agricultural industry, the related authorities, communities and environmental management institutions and experts.

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