



## Press Release

### **Subject: Kick Off Meeting of the project "Sailing across the Black Sea – SaBS" of Joint Operational Programme "BLACK SEA BASIN 2014-2020"**

Kick off meeting of the project Sailing across the Black Sea – SaBS took place on Friday November 16<sup>th</sup> at the premises of Port Authority of Alexandroupolis (POA) in Greece. The project is being implemented in the framework of Joint Operational Programme "BLACK SEA BASIN 2014-2020" of European Union.

The meeting was attended by Chairman and CEO of POA. Mr. Christos Doukas, the President of the Port of Burgas, Mr. Dian Dimov, a representative of the Municipality of Alexandroupolis, the Harbor Master, LT(N) Efstratios Psirras, and technical staff of the entities that are involved in the implementation of the project.

Port Authority of Alexandroupolis (POA) from Greece is the Leading project Partner. In the project are participating as project partners Sport fishing club "Glarus" from Burgas Port of Bulgaria and International Centre for Social Research and Policy Analysis from Batumi Georgia.

SaBS project nominated one of the highest evaluation scored during the assessment of the 2016 Call for Proposal and includes a budget of €1,237,786.00 euros. In the project have been foreseen significant actions, concerning the procurement of new equipment and infrastructure, that will be constructed in the ports of Alexandroupolis, Burgas and Batumi.

Ultimate project goal is the facilitation of cooperation relations between the 3 ports and the development of an enhanced port network that will include ports from North Aegean and Black Sea Regions. The development of the latest network will promote and facilitate sea and maritime tourism in both regions.

Key features of the project are:

- the procurement and construction of new floating docks for tourist boats in the port of Alexandroupolis,
- procurement of an Eco-friendly tourist boat in the Port of Burgas,
- construction of an interactive database for the virtualization of the routes providing open access to the information,
- construction of 3 info-points (one in each port),
- development of 6 new tourist routes aiming to create sailing trips (2 in each country),
- development of a complete guide/manual for boat owners that want to travel between
- BS ports and north Aegean Ports

Mr Doukas President of POA at his welcome speech highlighted that this project is the first tangible result of the cooperation of the three ports in maritime tourism sector.

**Common borders. Common solutions.**