

ORGANIZATION

- The workshop is organised around oral and poster presentations.
- Sessions will be designed around dedicated topics related to the workshop's objectives.
- Presenters of both oral and poster presentations are required to submit abstracts, 200-250 words.
- The official language of the workshop is English.
- No participation/registration fee will be charged.
- Participants are expected to finance their own travel and accommodation expenses.

DEADLINES

Abstract Submission:	15 June 2016
Application Submission for the Advanced Training Course:	15 June 2016
Notification of Acceptance and preliminary programme:	July 2016
Registration:	September 2016

CONTACT

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→ BLACK SEA FROM SPACE WORKSHOP

28–30 September 2016 | Hotel Flora Constanța, Romania

BACKGROUND

The Black Sea region represents a high priority in the political arena, characterised by an emerging dynamic economic growth and affected by important environmental transformations and climate impacts that require continuous monitoring and assessment.

Since the early 1970s, the Black Sea has been affected by significant ecological alterations, essentially caused by anthropogenic factors. Dam constructions on the Danube River in combination with heavy nutrients discharge via the riverine runoff result in large alterations of its physical and biogeochemical properties, ultimately leading to an enhancement of the typical anoxic state of the deep waters. The Black Sea area has undergone significant transformations that caused important ecosystem changes (eutrophication, impacts on fish stock, alien species invasion), pollution that affects water quality (especially in a nearly closed sea), coastal erosion and impacts of global climatic processes such as the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO) and North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO).

In this context, Earth Observation (EO) represents an opportunity for innovative science, applications and information services to face some of these issues and at the same time a potential catalyser for innovation and growth in the region.

Nowadays, we are entering a new era for EO science and applications driven by the continuously increasing observation capacity offered by the Sentinel missions, the opportunities for science offered by the Earth Explorer series and the capabilities to look at the past offered by the existing long-term EO data archives. To maximize the full exploitation of this unprecedented ability of spaceborne Earth monitoring by the scientific community, industry and the public sector, dedicated research and development efforts are required.

The focus of this workshop is to assess the opportunities for EO research and development activities in the Black Sea Basin and the Danube Delta region that may be the basis for future ESA investments in terms of science, development of novel applications and testing of new information services to address some of the key information needs in this important area.

OBJECTIVES

- To review the main requirements from geo-information in the Black Sea and Danube Delta region from science to information services.
- To review the main activities, projects and initiatives taking place in the region where EO may contribute.
- To assess the potential of the increasing observation capacity offered by satellites to address the needs for science, applications and future information services.
- Discuss and agree on a number of key priority areas and requirements for research and development activities that may address the science and applications needs of a wide range of user sectors in the regions.

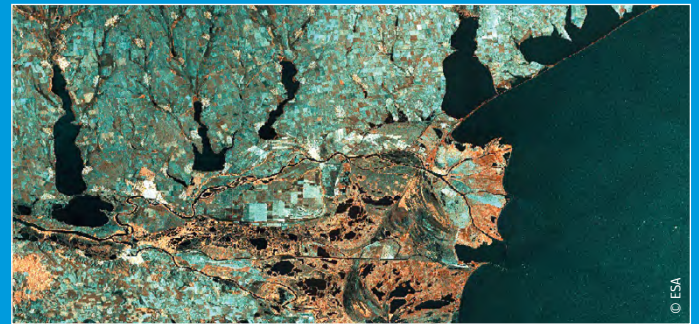
The main output of the project will be a Workshop Report summarising the key findings and recommendations for dedicated scientific activities, applications development and service innovation for a wide spectrum of users (scientific, institutional, private sector, international bodies) in this area. This report will support ESA in defining future investments in EO research and development activities to foster EO innovation in the region.

ADVANCED TRAINING COURSE

Prior to the workshop, an advanced training course on Black Sea Ocean Colour Remote Sensing with SNAP, Sentinel and Envisat data will be held between **September 26–27** at the National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa”, Constanța, Romania. PhD students, post-doctoral research scientists, early career scientists and users interested in Ocean Remote Sensing are invited to apply to the two-day training course on the subject.

The official language of the training course is English.

Participation will be limited to 20 students.



PRELIMINARY LIST OF RELEVANT TOPICS

Science:

- Ocean Science
- Land-ocean interactions
- Biodiversity, ecology and ecosystems
- Hydrology
- Water Cycle
- Carbon cycle
- Extremes (e.g., heat waves, draughts, floods)
- Climate Impacts

Applications:

- Pollution
- Oil spills
- Water quality
- Water management
- Coastal degradation/erosion and shorelines monitoring
- Marine monitoring/Operational oceanography
- Flooding
- Air quality
- Fisheries
- Wetland monitoring
- Ecosystem monitoring
- Urban impacts on coastal zones

Cooperation:

- Establish monitoring priorities
- Implement international cooperation and initiatives
- Regional implications of the environmental changes
- Improvement of monitoring abilities of the Black Sea Basin and the Danube Delta region
- Big data analytic capabilities