

PRESS RELEASE

ALGAWA (BSB01314) launched: Nature-based floating wetland biofilters for pollution mitigation in the Black Sea Basin

The project **ALGAWA – Utilization of Macroalgae Biofilter for Wastewater Treatment (BSB01314)** has officially started under the **Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme (2021–2027)**. ALGAWA addresses a critical regional challenge: **aquatic pollution** that threatens biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, and the long-term provision of ecosystem services.

Scientific approach

The Black Sea Basin is impacted by pollutant inputs from **municipal wastewater, agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and marine contaminants**. ALGAWA develops and demonstrates “**Floating Wetland Biofilters**”, integrating **macrophytes and macroalgae** to support the removal of pollutants ranging from **nutrients to metals** across different aquatic environments. The project combines applied research and engineering with stakeholder engagement, including site selection, species screening, prototype design and installation, performance monitoring, and guidance for replication.

Expected outputs

ALGAWA will deliver:

- An **Action Plan** for adopting floating wetland biofilters as a benchmark solution for pollution mitigation in the Black Sea Basin;
- **Demonstrated biofilter prototypes**;
- A **cross-border collaboration network** for shared monitoring and performance evaluation;
- **Living Labs and public events** to strengthen awareness and uptake.

Consortium partners

- **International Hellenic University – Special Account for Research Funds** (Greece) (Lead Partner)
- **National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa”** (Romania)
- **Scientific Research Institution “Ukrainian Scientific Center of Ecology of the Sea”** (Ukraine)
- **Ondokuz Mayıs University** (Türkiye)

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

NEXT Black Sea Basin



Funding

Total budget: **EUR 549,911.88** | EU funding: **EUR 494,920.68** (Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme, 2021–2027)

Project channels:

Website: <http://algawa.food.ihu.gr>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/algawaproject>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/algawa>

