

Copernicus assisted environmental monitoring across the Black Sea Basin – PONTOS**Duration:** 01.07.2020 - 31.12.2022**Countries:**
Armenia**Total budget:** € 999 967**Website(s):** pontos-eu.aua.am/**Project description:****PROJECT SUMMARY**

PONTOS aims to enhance transboundary cooperation for large-scale, harmonized environmental monitoring across the countries of the Black Sea region and beyond. The vehicle towards this objective is the exploitation of numerous freely available and incrementally credible Copernicus data and services (e.g. Copernicus Land and Marine Environment Monitoring Services).

Intelligent fusion of data and information shall lead to novel services and products for actors operating along the coastal zone. Latter shall become, through PONTOS operational platform and mounted online services, freely available to and accessible by a multitude of local, national, and regional stakeholders. Transboundary spaceborne derived primary (e.g. images) and secondary (e.g. maps) products will be coupled with existing data and knowledge of in situ conditions. Tailored to the regional challenges, solutions will be generated by utilizing this information thesaurus and retrieving methods and results (e.g. online modules and models) from EU and national past and ongoing research and development projects. Citizens' current and future well-being will be the focus. As such, marine and lake coastal and inland human activities will be mapped targeting industry, recreation, agriculture, aquaculture, and commerce in Armenia, Georgia,

Expected results:

1. Integration of online services' tools based on Information Technology applications that leverage remotely sensed and Copernicus environmental data in tandem with in situ retrieved ones in an integrated and synergistic way to account for an efficient environmental monitoring for the Black Sea and its surrounding environment.
2. Improved availability and timeliness of cross-border compatible environmental monitoring data and information for the BSB.
3. Capacity building and homogenization across the Black Sea to comprehend and utilize provided online services through tailor-made training material and actions targeting on one side the young generation of actors and on the other side the established employees of the public and private sectors.
4. Establishment of a transnational and transdisciplinary cooperation team to act as the core of flexible local clusters involving stakeholder groups promoting data sharing via PONTOS proposed methodology and tools.
5. Raise awareness of the importance of water quality degradation for local and national sustainable development.