



<b>Balkan Environmental Association (B.EN.A.) - Developing a Scientific Network in the Balkan and Black Sea Region (Mariana Golumbeanu)</b>	<b>“Cercetari Marine” Issue no. 44  Pages 201-213</b>	<b>2014</b>
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## **BALKAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION (B.EN.A.) - DEVELOPING A SCIENTIFIC NETWORK IN THE BALKAN AND BLACK SEA REGION**

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The Balkan Environmental Association (B.EN.A) is an international nongovernmental scientific organization tasked with preserving the environment and culture of Balkan countries. Nowadays, the association has more than 4,000 active members. The organization is aimed at developing the cooperation and the exchange of environmental information among its members, as well as identifying and appraising the current problems of environmental protection on a national, regional and international basis.

### **The primary aims of B.EN.A. are:**

- To examine and appraise the current problems of environmental protection on a regional, national and international basis;
- To advise the regulatory bodies of the various Balkan and Black Sea countries about decisions concerning the evaluation of the risk of chemicals and physical agents;
- To develop international cooperation on reducing transboundary pollution which will affects public health;
- To develop strategies and options for the environmental protection;
- To develop the environmental quality management systems for the Balkan and Black Sea region;
- To develop international programs for the restoration and the sustainable improvement of the ecological safety of cross-border regions;
- To plan and organize scientific events and other activities on environmental issues.



B.EN.A's specialists are involved in the study of pollution (air, water, soil, agricultural, industrial); ecology; risk assessment; waste management; radioactivity; clean technologies; environmental education, environmental legislation, management and informatics; health impact and computer application to environmental issues.

***B.EN.A.'s INFRASTRUCTURE is based in Academic Institutions and forms an environmental scientific network, as follow:***



**International Bureau of B.EN.A. - Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, Greece**



**AL-B.EN.A., University of Tirana, Albania**



**BG-B.EN.A., Agricultural University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria**



**BiH-B.EN.A., University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**



**CR-B.EN.A., University of Zagreb, Croatia**



**FY-B.EN.A., Institute of Public Health, Skopje, FYR Macedonia**



**MOLD-B.EN.A., Institute of Electronic Engineering and Industrial Technologies of Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Kishinev, Moldova**



**MONTE-B.EN.A., University of Podgorica, Montenegro**



**RO-B.EN.A., National Institute for Research and Development of Industrial Ecology (ECOIND) in Bucharest, Romania**



**RS-B.EN.A., VINCA Institute of Nuclear Sciences of Belgrade, Serbia**



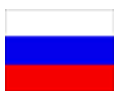
**TU-B.EN.A., Istanbul Technical University, Turkey**

***International Research Secretariate for Southeastern Europe - Balkan  
Environmental Association (ISSE-BENA)***  
***NIRDEP - National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa",  
Constanta, Romania***

The “***Liaison Offices***” have the mission to help conserve, improve and sustain natural resources and the environment and are in a position to identify emerging environmental issues, in particular:



***Liaison Office of Ukraine***, in the Ukrainian Scientific Center of the Ecology of Seas (UkrCES) in Odessa, Ukraine



***Liaison Office of Russian Federation***

- National Research Institute of the Azov Sea Fishery Problems (NRIASF), Rostov on Don
- Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO) Moscow



***Liaison Office of Georgia***, in Technical University of Tbilisi, Georgia



***Liaison Office of Central Europe***, Tuscia University, Faculty of Ecological and Biological Sciences, Viterbo, Italy



***Liaison Office for Western Europe***

University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal



***Liaison Office of Armenia***

Centre for Ecological - Nonosphere Studies of National Academy of Science, Yerevan, Armenia



***Liaison Office of Southern Europe***

University of Malta, Msida, Valletta, Malta



***Liaison Office*** in Namik Kemal University of Tekirdag, Turkey



For better coordination of the association activities, the International Board of BENA proposed the functioning of the **International Centers/Offices** on different environmental topics:

- ***International Centre of Environmental Protection and Food Quality Control***, in “1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania
- ***International Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture, in the Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Varna (IFA)***, Bulgaria
- ***International Office of Agricultural Protection and its Impact on the Food Chain***, in the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences “Gheorghe Ionescu-Sisesti”, Bucharest, Romania; ***Liaison Office: Faculty of Food Sciences and Technology, ”Dunarea de Jos ”University of Galati***, Romania
- ***International Centre of Environmental Medicine, in the Republic Institute for Health Protection***, Skopje, FYR of Macedonia
- ***International Office of Natural Sciences, in the Natural Sciences Museum Complex - Dolphinarium***, Constanta, Romania
- ***International Office of Renewable Energy, Biofuels, Clean Technologies, Global Meteorological and Climatological Changes***, in the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Polytechnic University of Timisoara, Romania
- ***International Centre for Ecological Management of Wetlands and Protected Areas***, in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Agriculture, “Ovidius” University of Constanta, Romania
- ***International Center of Radioactivity Measurements in S.E. Europe and Advisory Body for Physics, Physico-Chemistry, Biology, Environmental Sciences, Nuclear, Fossil and Renewable Sources***, in VINCA – Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia
- ***International Center of Water Quality and sediment control of Danube***, in Uzlina, Danube Delta (Romania). It has been established with instrumentation offered by TUBORG Romania
- ***International Centre of Chemical Application and its Impact to Life and Environment***, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Chemistry, Serbia
- ***International Centre for Nano and Ecological Biotechnologies***, Polytechnic University of Bucharest, Romania
- ***International Office of Environmental Education***, in University of Craiova, Romania

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### SPONSORSHIP OF RESEARCH PROJECTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Since 2001 up today, B.EN.A. developed in the Balkan region the *Program for research projects and scholarships*. As results were funded **147 research projects** and **263 scholarships** for young scientists.

The Calls were developed in the following environmental topics: pollution control in environmental media for hot points identification, new methods/techniques development in relation with international requirements; environmental impact/risk assessment for identification of areas, where pollution abatement, clean production or ecological reconstruction are required; environmental technologies (drinking water, waste water, wastes); training and consulting for EMS (ISO 14001) and QMS (EN 45001) development and implementation for certification/accreditation etc.



## TRAINING PROGRAM ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONS

B.EN.A. is running several **TRAINING CENTERS on ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONS** for specialists and unemployed people, in order to improve their professional status and to update their knowledge on modern environment management, in order to face the job market demands.

The Training Centers were funded by the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hellenic Republic (Department of International Development and Co-operation-HELLENIC AID)* in 2002 and were running for two years program, having the great impact and success in the region.

B.EN.A. continues its efforts for the sustaining training activity on environmental professions with the support of private companies like: **TITAN S.A., CARPATCEMENT Heidelberg Cement Group, BANCPOST Romania, TOMINI TRADING SRL, PROCTER & GAMBLE, ANCDPI, Balkan Mineral and Mining.**

During 2002-2014 more than **1,400 persons graduated the courses on environmental professions** in Constanta, Bucharest, Plovdiv, Varna, Skopje and Belgrade. The Training Centers are functioning as follow:

1. **Training Center on „Environmental management”** specialization in the National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa” Constanta, ROMANIA.
2. **Training Center on “Eco-agro-tourism and organic agriculture”,** located in the Agricultural University of Plovdiv, BULGARIA.
3. **Training Center on “Public Health Impact”** specialization, in the Faculty of Medicine, Skopje, FYR of Macedonia.
4. **Training Courses in “Sustainable Fishery” specialization** running in the in National Institute of Fishery and Aquaculture (IFA) in Varna, BULGARIA.
5. **Training Courses on “Sustainable Development in the frame of EU Legislation Harmonization”,** in the Faculty of Chemistry, University of Belgrade, SERBIA.

**B.EN.A. is member of the International SKILLSnet of CEDEFOP - European Union Center for the Development of Vocational Education and Training.**



## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION

**Journal of Environmental Protection and Ecology (JEPE) is the official journal of B.EN.A., which is starting to serve as a digital library for environmental issues.**

The Journal of Environmental Protection and Ecology (JEPE) is indexed and abstracted in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SciSearch\*) and Journal Citation Reports/Science edition, Thomson Scientific, and in Elsevier Bibliographic Databases (Geobase and EMBiology), Ulrich Database. The Journal is refereed in Chemical Abstracts and Referativnii jurnal "Khimiya".

### The main topics of interest are:

- research and education for sustainable development,
- pollution: air, water, soil, agricultural, industrial,
- risk assessment,
- ecology,
- marine ecology,
- solid waste management,
- environmental protection and sustainable development,
- environmental radioactivity,
- environmental legislation,
- environmental management,
- clean technologies,
- environmental education,
- environmental informatics,
- computer applications in environmental issues



In 2014 was be issued the 15<sup>th</sup> volume

<http://www.jepe-journal.info/> <http://www.benaweb.gr/>

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## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

B.EN.A. organized and co-organized more than **75 scientific events on different environmental topics** in Greece, Romania, Croatia, Turkey, Albania, Serbia, Bulgaria and FYR Macedonia. Future events are scheduled for 2015.

### 2015

- **10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Agriculture**, Opatija, Croatia, 16- 20 February 2015 (Contact: Prof.dr. Milan Mesic, E-mail: mmesic@agr.hr);
- **5<sup>th</sup> BENA International Conference on “Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Development”**, “1 December 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania, 28-20 May 2015 (Contact: Prof. Dr. Maria Popa, E-mail: mariapopa2010@yahoo.com);
- **International Conference “Sea and Coastal Development in the frame of Sustainability - MACODESU2015”**, Kara Deniz University, Trabzon, Turkey, 18-20 September 2015, (Contact Prof.dr. Oner Demirel, E-mail: odofe01@yahoo.com);
- **International Conference “Marine and Fresh Water Ecology and Protection”**, Tuscia University, Viterbo, Italy, 1-3 October 2015, (Contact: Prof. Dr. Massimiliano Fenice, E-mail: fenice@unitus.it);
- **International Conference “Environmental Approaches - Moving Forward Agricultural Farms Sustainability”**, “Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University, Iasi, Romania, 22-25 October 2015 (Contact: Prof. Dr. Igor Cretescu, E-mail: icre@ch.tuiasi.ro);
- **3<sup>rd</sup> BENA International Conference, “Harmonization of Environmental Research and Teaching with Sustainable Policy HERTSPO2015”**, University of Shkodra, Albania, 13-15 November 2015 (Contact: Prof.dr. Adem Bekteshi, E-mail: abekteshi@unishk.edu.al).

### 2014

- **International Conference „New Tools for Sustainable Management of Aquatic Living Resources” (AQUALIRES 2014)**, jointly organized by the National Institute for R&D in Environmental Protection (INCDDPM), Balkan Environmental Association, under the auspices of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania, 16-17 January 2014, <http://aqualires.incdpm.ro/>;
- **International Congress on „Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Societies/Cities” (GREINSUS 2014)**, jointly organized by Ege University, Balkan Environmental Association, Izmir, Turkey, 8-10 May 2014, <http://www.greinsus2014.ege.edu.tr/>;





- **1<sup>st</sup> International Medical Conference "Environment and Public Health" (MEDENV 2014)**, jointly organized by Balkan Environmental Association (B.EN.A.), Clinical Infectious Diseases Hospital, Medical College of Physicians, European Environmental Association, Constanta City Hall, under the auspices of the Romanian Academy, Constanta, Romania, 12-14 September 2014, <http://medenv2014.xhost.ro/>;
- **International Workshop on LHC, Astrophysics, Medical and Environmental Physics**, jointly organized the Albanian Shkodra and Tirana Universities, by CERN, the French and Italian HEP community (CNRS-IN2P3, CEA-IRFU, INFN-Bari), the Albanian Astrophysics community and local BENA members, University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi", Albania, 6-8 October 2014, <https://indico.cern.ch/event/301017/>.

## 2013

- **The 48<sup>th</sup> National Congress and 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Agriculture**, organized by the University of Osijek and University of Zagreb, co-organized by BENA, Opatija/Croatia, 17-22 February 2013, [http://sa.pfos.hr/index\\_en.html](http://sa.pfos.hr/index_en.html);
- **4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on "Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Development"**, organized by "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia and B.EN.A., 23-24 May 2013, Alba Iulia, Romania <http://www.uab.ro/conference/bena>;
- **1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on "Sustainability of Pharmaceutical, Medical and Ecological Education and research - SPHAMEER 2013"**, Balkan Environmental Association (B.EN.A.) and "Ovidius" University of Constanta, Romania, Faculty of Pharmacy and Faculty of Natural Sciences and Agricultural Sciences, under the auspices of the Romanian Academy, June 20-23, 2013, Constanta, Romania <http://sphameer2013.univ-ovidius.ro/>;
- **2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference Research and Education in Natural Sciences (RENS2013)**, organized by University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi" Faculty of Natural Sciences, Balkan Environmental Association (BENA), Water Research Institute of Shkodra Region (WRISHR), Centre for Economics and Ecosystem Management, Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, Shkodra, Albania, November 15-16, 2013, <http://www.rens2013.com/>.

## 2012

- **International Conference on "Sustainable Landscape Planning and Safe Environment"**, organized by Balkan Environmental Association (BENA), Istanbul Technical University (Faculty of Landscape Architecture), Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forests, Istanbul Metropolitan Planning, Istanbul/turkey, 21-24 June 2012, <http://www.bena2012.com>;



- **International Conference on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems (MarCoastEcos2012): *increasing knowledge for a sustainable conservation and management***, organized by University of Tirana, Association for Protection of Aquatic Wildlife of Albania, EuroMedLag - Endorsing institutions and organizations: EUCC, Conservatoire du Littoral, CoNISMa, MARS Network, EURONATUR, TETHYS, WWF, B.EN.A., MESAEP, MASH etc., Tirana, Albania 25-28 April 2012, <http://www.marcoastecos2012.al>;
- **The 47th National Congress and 7th International Congress on Agriculture**, organized by the University of Zagreb and University of Osijek, co-organized by BENA, Opatija/Croatia, 13-17 February 2012, <http://sa.agr.hr/general/organizers.html>.

## 2011

- ***The 46<sup>th</sup> National Congress and 6th International Congress on Agriculture***, organized by the University of Zagreb and University of Osijek, co-organized by BENA, Opatija/Croatia, 14-18 February 2011, [http://sa.pfos.hr/index\\_e.php](http://sa.pfos.hr/index_e.php);
- **3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on “Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Development”**, organized by “1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia and B.EN.A., 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Alba Iulia, Romania <http://www.uab.ro/conference/bena>;
- **International Conference on “Sustainable Development in Coastal Areas”** organized by B.EN.A. and the University of Ioannina in 29<sup>th</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011, Ioannina, Greece; <http://www.benaweb.gr/>;
- **International Symposium “Protection and Sustainable Management of the Black Sea Ecosystem, Third Millenium Imperative V<sup>th</sup> Edition”**, organized by the National Institute for Marine Research and Development „Grigore Antipa”, co-organized by B.EN.A. and the Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research, 29-30 September 2011, Constanta, Romania <http://www.rmri.ro>;
- **International Conference on: „Environmental Capacity Building” - ECB 2011**, organized by B.EN.A., Romanian Academy, European Center of Excellence for the Environment - “Dunarea de Jos” University of Galati, 11-13 November 2011, Bucharest, Romania; <http://www.benaweb.gr/>;
- **International Symposium “The Environment and Industry”** organized by the National Institute for Industrial Ecology ECOIND Bucharest, Romanian Society for Chemistry and co-organized by B.EN.A., 16-19 November 2011, Bucharest, Romania <http://www.incdecoind.ro/simi/simi2011/anunt-simpozion-2011.html>.

## 2010

- **The 45<sup>th</sup> National Congress and 5<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Agriculture**, organized by the University of Osijek and University of Zagreb, co-organized by BENA, Opatija/Croatia, 15-19 February 2010, <http://sa.pfos.hr/>;
- **International Workshop “Fishery and Aquaculture - A View Point upon the Sustainable Management of the Water Resources in Balkan Area”**, organized by the University “Dunarea de Jos” of Galati - Faculty of Food Science and Engineering in collaboration with Balkan Environmental Association B.EN.A., Romanian Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences, Research-Development Institute for Aquatic Ecology, Fishery and Aquaculture Galati, 26-28 May 2010, Galati/Romania [http://www.sia.ugal.ro/BENA-2010](http://www.sia.ugal.ro/BENA-2010;);
- **International Seminar in the frame of EU Project TR0703.01-03/35 – BENA and Urban and Public Health Association, Adnan Menderez University**, ADÜ Congress Center, Aydin, Turkey, 20-21 August 2010;
- **International Workshop „Global and Regional Environmental Protection”** organized by Polytechnic University of and B.EN.A., 26-28 November 2010, Timisoara/Romania, <http://benatim2010.mec.upt.ro/>.

## 2009

- International Workshop on **“Environmental, Nutrition, Health Relationship in the frame of EU Policy”**, in Galati, ROMANIA, co-organized by B.EN.A., Romanian Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, University “Dunarea de Jos” - Faculty of Biotechnology, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary (USAMV), Institute of Food Bioresources, January 16-17, 2009;
- **4<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Agriculture** Opatija, Croatia, organized by the Universities of Zagreb and Osijek, co-organized by B.EN.A., February 16-21, 2009;
- **3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on “Life Quality and Capacity Building in the frame of a Safe Environment”**, organized by B.EN.A. and the Municipality of Katerini, Prefecture of Pieria, GREECE, March 17-20, 2009;
- **2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on “Management and Sustainable Protection of Environment”** organized by “1st December 1918” University of Alba Iulia and B.EN.A., May 6-7, 2009;
- International Symposium on **“Sustainable Development in Southeast Europe”** organized by B.EN.A., Namik Kemal University, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey, June 17-20, 2009;
- **2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on “Impact of Environmental Pollution on Public Health”** organized by B.EN.A. and Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania, 15-18 July 2009;



- **International Symposium on “Pollution Management and Environmental Protection”**, organized by B.EN.A. and University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Albania, 16-20 September 2009;
- **International Symposium “The Environment and Industry”** organized by the National Institute for Industrial Ecology ECOIND Bucharest, Romanian Society for Chemistry and co-organized by B.EN.A., 28-30 October 2009;
- **2<sup>nd</sup> FP7 Workshop - Upgrade Black Sea Scene** - organized by B.EN.A. in Bucharest, Romania, 1-6 November 2009;
- **International Workshop and Round table: “Planning for sustainable development and implementation of strategies for the protection of wetlands, lakes and protected areas along the Black Sea Coast”**, 22-23 July 2008 organized by “Ovidius” University, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee (USA), B.EN.A. and the National Institute for Marine Research and Development „Grigore Antipa” Constanta, Romania.

**The scientific events were organized by B.EN.A. with the support of public institutions and local authorities:**

**Greece:** Alexander Technological Education Institution of Thessaloniki, University of Ioannina, Katerini Municipality, Pieria Prefecture, Florina Municipality, Preveza Municipality, Halkidiki Prefecture;

**Turkey:** Istanbul Technical University, Ministry of Environment and Forests of Turkey, Ege University of Izmir, “Namik Kemal” University of Tekirdag, Turkish Chemical Manufacturer Association, ISKI Istanbul, Istanbul Metropolitan Planning;

**Romania:** NIRDEP - National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa” Constanta, National Institute for Industrial Ecology - ECOIND Bucharest, Romanian Academy of Sciences, “1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Politehnic University of Timisoara, Transilvania University of Brasov, “Dunarea de Jos” University of Galati, Constanta Municipality, Constanta County Council, Alba Iulia Municipality, Sebes Municipality, Tulcea County Council;

**Serbia:** University of Belgrade, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Education, Belgrade Municipality, Rakovica Municipality;

**Croatia:** University of Zagreb, University of Osijek, Ministry of Environment;

**Albania:** University of Tirana - Faculty of Natural Sciences, Academy of Sciences, University of Vlora;

**Private companies:** TITAN Romania, TOMINI TRADING, CARLSBERG Serbia, TUBORG Romania, PROCTER & GAMBLE, ACDPI, COSMOTE, Turkish Chemical Manufacturer Association, ALPHA BANK Romania, PIRAEUS BANK, BANCPOST etc.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Environmental education has been once more recognized as a very powerful tool for the appropriate ecological knowledge of the coming generations and not only; it is the key factor for the active citizens of tomorrow. B.EN.A. puts all efforts to introduce the environmental principles and concepts to the young people and especially to pupils. The “feedback” from these actions is quite impressive and promising, as the *“kids are the only sure quality for the future of this planet”*.



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