



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



General Fisheries Commission  
for the Mediterranean  
Commission générale des pêches  
pour la Méditerranée

## **GFCM SUBREGIONAL TECHNICAL UNIT FOR THE BLACK SEA (BSU)**

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **GFCM**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) established under the provisions of the UN-FAO Constitution. Its main objective is to ensure the conservation and the sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea (GFCM area of application).

The GFCM is currently composed of 24 Contracting Parties (23 member countries and the European Union) who contribute to the autonomous budget financing its functioning and 5 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Jordan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine). It also formally cooperates with a number of non-Contracting Parties (e.g. the Russian Federation) and partner organizations (inter-governmental, non-governmental and civil society organizations) operating in the area and sharing common objectives.

The GFCM, in carrying-out its workplan and objectives, promotes a subregional approach to fisheries management, to build upon subregional specificities and provide sound technical advice that is discussed among those experts, administrations and partners directly involved and concerned. To this end, it established four subregional committees for each Mediterranean subregion and a specific working group for the Black Sea. Subregional technical units were also established for each GFCM subregion to provide ad-hoc teams for the implementation of the GFCM workplan at subregional level.



#### **GFCM Working Group on the Black Sea (WGBS)**

The Working Group on the Black Sea was created in 2010 as an ad hoc mechanism for scientific work and decision-making for Black Sea riparian States, as the issues at stake in the region necessitated a regionally influential, widely recognized institutional arrangement. WGBS objectives are to provide scientific advice to the GFCM on matters linked to fisheries management and conservation, including biological, social and economic aspects.

## BlackSea4Fish Project

As the tasks assigned to the WGBS work program each year continued to grow, including in terms of cooperation among riparian countries and with a view to promoting this cooperation further, a new initiative to support sustainable fisheries in the Black Sea through a scientific and technical project was endorsed in 2016. The BlackSea4Fish cooperative regional project is expected to contribute to further bridging gaps at the regional level and to endowing the WGBS with the necessary resources to ensure that the mid-term strategy for the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries is efficiently implemented.

The project seeks to address the problems in the Black Sea implement activities and produce solutions under five main challenges and outputs, namely:

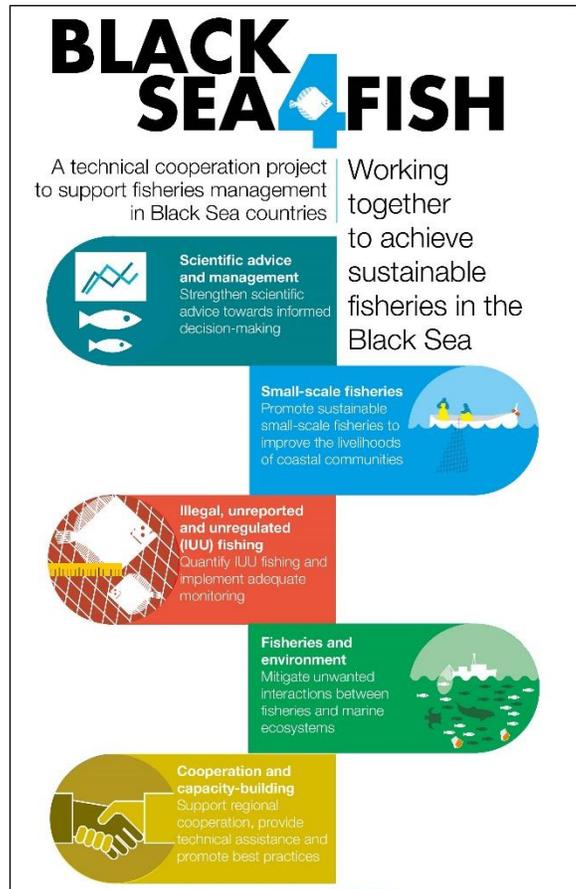
- 1) Scientific advice in support of management,
- 2) Sustainability of small-scale fisheries and the livelihoods for coastal communities,
- 3) Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing,
- 4) Mitigation of unwanted interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems and environment, and
- 5) Cooperation, outreach and dissemination of project results.

Together with the Coordinator, the BlackSea4Fish Project counts on a team based at the GFCM Subregional Technical Unit for the Black Sea (BSU) in Burgas, Bulgaria as well as the support of the GFCM Secretariat units based at GFCM headquarters in Rome, Italy.

### BlackSea4Fish Project Coordinator

Mr Ali Cemal Gücü is a Professor at the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Turkey. He graduated as a Biological Oceanographer in 1979, later received his MSc studying zooplankton dynamics in the Eastern Mediterranean, then jumped to the next trophic link in his PhD and worked on his beloved fishes, modelling their trophic relations in the North-eastern Mediterranean between 1987 and 1991. From 1989 to 1996, he acted as fisheries expert and programmer in various NATO Science for Peace and Science for Stability projects led by METU in the Black Sea, where he also practiced hydro-acoustics to assess the stocks of the Black Sea anchovy. Witnessing and sickened by the apparent loss of precious marine habitats and marine life around him, he led various conservation projects to save symbolic species.

Scientific interests of his include Lessepsian immigrants and how they change the Mediterranean Sea. Since 2011, he acts as the leading scientist in a national fisheries project aiming to level-up Turkish fisheries monitoring and management infrastructure in the Black Sea. Since 2018, he is responsible for the BlackSea4Fish Project, for which he's already organized numerous capacity-building activities, led the first transnational survey-at-sea for pelagic resources and currently coordinates the implementation of WGBS workplan and GFCM priorities in the area.



## **THE SUBREGIONAL TECHNICAL UNIT**

In cooperation with the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (EAFA) of Bulgaria, FAO/GFCM established its Subregional Technical Unit for the Black Sea (GFCM-BSU) in Burgas in May 2018 and tasked it with the overall identification, planning, implementation and monitoring of GFCM programmes and activities in the Black Sea region, in line with the workplan adopted regularly by the WGBS and the GFCM.

The BSU covers the following countries: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Turkey, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine.



The BSU plays an active role in promoting cooperation across Black Sea countries and in facilitating dialogue on regional issues and common transboundary challenges linked to fisheries and aquaculture in the Black Sea. It ensures a multi-disciplinary approach to field interventions. The BSU also assists riparian countries in effectively meeting their commitments vis-à-vis the GFCM, by supporting the organization of technical activities, trainings and any relevant action towards the achievement of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development.

Core functions of the GFCM Subregional Technical Unit for the Black Sea include:

- Promoting the attainment of GFCM priorities in the region
- Supporting the implementation of the WGBS workplan and the activities of the BlackSea4Fish Project
- Servicing riparian countries through the production of assessments and sectoral analysis
- Providing technical support and developing capacities of experts and institutions dedicated to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development
- Building regional partnerships and alliances
- Providing up-to-date information, knowledge and data

### **BSU Team**

At the BSU, Ms Yoana Georgieva provides expert support in technical matters linked to fisheries under the BlackSea4Fish Project, Mr Konstantin Petrov provides expert advice in technical cooperation matters and two interns are currently being recruited to assist the BlackSea4Fish Project workplan. In parallel, an Office Assistant post is being established to provide administrative backstopping to GFCM meetings and activities in the area, including but not limited to the BlackSea4Fish project. It is foreseen for the BSU team to keep on growing gradually. The BSU also benefits from ad-hoc support from colleagues from EAFA.

## Location

The BSU is situated within the premises of the Port of Burgas Head Office, opposite the building of Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (EAFA)

The full address is:

GFCM Subregional Technical Unit for the Black Sea (BSU) – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

c/o Port of Burgas

1, “Knyaz Alexander Batenberg” Street

8000 Burgas, Bulgaria



## Access

Each BlackSea4Fish Project staff receives an access badge upon arrival, to be obtained through the GFCM Secretariat. Access to the port territory may be issued upon presentation of an identity document (ID card).

## Use of premises

The BSU currently consists of 2 fully equipped offices situated on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the building of Port of Burgas and is entitled to use the EAFA meeting room situated in the adjacent building (seating around 25 participants and inclusive of projection facilities).

The office working language is English.

Working hours: 9:00 h and 17:30 h

The BSU can be accessed daily from Monday to Friday between 6:00 h and 18:00 h. The building is closed on Saturday and Sunday. The Port of Burgas has 24-hour security, which can open or close the building anytime if necessary, upon preliminary request.

The EAFA building just opposite (where the meeting room that can be used by the BlackSea4Fish Project is located) can be accessed between 8:00 h and 18:00 h from Monday to Friday.

Official holidays:

Date	Holiday	Notes
1 January	<u>New Year's Day</u>	Non-working day
3 March	Liberation Day	Non-working day
1 May	International Workers' Day	Non-working day
6 May	Saint George's Day	Non-working day
24 May	Bulgarian Education and Culture and Slavonic Literature Day	Non-working day
6 September	Unification Day	Non-working day
22 September	Independence Day	Non-working day
1 November	National Awakening Day	Non-attendance day for schools, otherwise a working day.
24 December	<u>Christmas Eve</u>	Non-working day
25 & 26 December	<u>Christmas</u>	Bulgarians have two days of Christmas, both called Christmas Day. Non-working days
<u>Moveable</u> (for 2019 – April 26 to April 29)	<u>Orthodox Good Friday &amp; Easter</u>	Good Friday, The Sunday and Monday of Easter are non-working days. Non-working days

## **BURGAS, BULGARIA**

### **Living in Burgas**

Burgas is the second largest city on the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast and the fourth-largest in Bulgaria after Sofia, Plovdiv, and Varna, with a population of 202,694 inhabitants.

The LUKOIL Neftochim Burgas is the largest oil refinery in southeastern Europe and the largest industrial enterprise. The Port of Burgas is the largest port in Bulgaria, and Burgas Airport is the second most important in the country. Burgas is the center of the Bulgarian fishing and fish processing industry.

**Time zone:** EET (Eastern European Time) GMT/UTC + 02:00 hour (March-October)

GMT/UTC + 03:00 hour (October-March)

**Climate:** Burgas has a humid subtropical climate but with continental influences. Summertime lasts about five months from mid-May until late September. Average temperatures during high season are 24 °C. Winters are milder compared with the inland part of the country, with average temperatures of 4 °-5 °C and below 0 °C during the night.

**Currency:** Lev (pl. Leva) (1BGN = 1.95583 Euro)

### **Useful emergency services and numbers:**

Emergency calls - 112

Ambulance – 150

Police – 166

Fire brigade – 160

**Country Code:** In order to make an outgoing international call to Bulgaria, the country code is +359.

**Power Supply :** 220V ±10% electrical supply. Supply frequency is 50Hz. Plug socket in use is the two-pinned Type F, also known as "Schuko"

### **Costs**

Bulgaria probably is the only country in Europe where with €1,000 you can have a better living standard than the average of the inhabitants of countries such as Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Sweden and Norway, which are among the richest countries in the world.

This money will be enough for you to buy quality food, to go outside with friends for a drink or to eat something, to pay the rent, to cover your monthly bills for electricity, water, internet, cable TV and mobile phone, to buy clothes, to pay for a gym card and to go to cinema regularly.

With this money in Bulgaria you will be even able to save some money every month without efforts.

**Table 1. Indicative prices of some basic costs**

<b>Food</b>	<b>BGN</b>	<b>EUR</b>
Basic lunchtime menu (including a drink) in the business district	11 lv	€5.68
Combo meal in fast food restaurant (Big Mac Meal or similar)	8 lv	€4.28
<b>Housing</b>		
Monthly rent for 85 m2 (900 Sqft) furnished accommodation in EXPENSIVE area	618 lv	€ 316
Monthly rent for 85 m2 (900 Sqft) furnished accommodation in NORMAL area	439 lv	€ 224
Utilities 1 month (heating, electricity, gas ...) for 2 people in 85m2 flat	151 lv	€ 77
Monthly rent for a 45 m2 (480 Sqft) furnished studio in EXPENSIVE area	422 lv	€ 216
Monthly rent for a 45 m2 (480 Sqft) furnished studio in NORMAL area	260 lv	€ 133
Utilities 1 month (heating, electricity, gas ...) for 1 person in 45 m2 (480 Sqft) studio	93 lv	€ 47
Internet 8 Mbps (1 month)	20 lv	€ 10
<b>Clothes</b>		
1 pair of jeans (Levis 501 or similar)	114 lv	€ 58
1 summer dress in a High Street Store (Zara, H&M or similar retailers)	59 lv	€ 30
1 pair of sport shoes (Nike, Adidas, or equivalent brands)	146 lv	€ 74
1 pair of men's leather business shoes	108 lv	€ 55
<b>Transportation</b>		
Volkswagen Golf 1.4 TSI 150 CV (or equivalent), with no extras, new	30,938 lv	€ 15,82
1 liter (1/4 gallon) of gas	2.31 lv	€1.18
Monthly ticket public transport	39 lv	€ 20
Taxi trip on a business day, basic tariff, 8 km. (5 miles)	9 lv	€4.50
<b>Personal Care</b>		
Cold medicine for 6 days (Tylenol, Frenadol, Coldrex, or equivalent brands)	11 lv	€5.52
1 box of antibiotics (12 doses)	25 lv	€ 13
<b>Entertainment</b>		
Basic dinner out for two in neighborhood pub	30 lv	€ 15
2 tickets to the movies	16 lv	€ 8
2 tickets to the theater (best available seats)	33 lv	€ 17
Dinner for two at an Italian restaurant in the expat area including appetisers, main course, wine and dessert	47 lv	€ 24

**Housing**

Rents in Bulgaria are the lowest in the entire European Union. For prices between 200 and 300 euros you can easily find a large number of attractive offers.

But don't worry – you won't regret. For this price you can rent a good looking furnished apartment in a good neighborhood.

Of course, bills such as water, electricity, telephone and internet are not usually included in the price.

Typically, most people prefer to pay their rent month-to-month, but it is possible and probably it won't be a problem to negotiate another deal with the property agent, if you or your landlord want that.

Here below you may find some websites for finding an apartment/house to rent in Burgas:

<http://en.realestates.bg/>

[https://www.alo.bg/obiavi/imoti-naemi/apartamenti/?region\\_id=2](https://www.alo.bg/obiavi/imoti-naemi/apartamenti/?region_id=2)

[https://www.mirela.bg/en/index.php?p=offer\\_list&order\\_by=1&type=2&cities=18&ac\\_s=&ac\\_v=&price\\_from=&price\\_to=&area\\_from=&area\\_to=&floor\\_from=&floor\\_to=&bedrooms\\_from=&bedrooms\\_to=&bathrooms\\_from=&bathrooms\\_to=](https://www.mirela.bg/en/index.php?p=offer_list&order_by=1&type=2&cities=18&ac_s=&ac_v=&price_from=&price_to=&area_from=&area_to=&floor_from=&floor_to=&bedrooms_from=&bedrooms_to=&bathrooms_from=&bathrooms_to=)

## **Food**

Like rents, food prices in Bulgaria are among the lowest in Europe too. For example, in large supermarkets you can find a whole grilled chicken for the prices of around 3 to 3.50 €, freshly baked bread for about 0.50 to 0.60 €, bananas and oranges for about 1 – 1.50 € / kg, high quality potatoes for 0.50 to 0.60 € / kg.

Local Bulgarian tomatoes, which are considered to be the most tasteful and fragrant in the world, are around 0.60 to 0.80 € / kg during the summer season.

Fresh eggs are available for prices from about 0.13 to 0.15 € each. A bottle of mineral water (0,500 ml) is under 0.30 €, and about 1.25 € is a bottle of beer of 2.5 liters.

If you love white cheese, then prices range between 2.50 and 5.50 € per kilo, depending on whether you buy a cheaper or the most expensive brand.

A liter of milk in the big supermarkets is mostly between 0.80 and 1.20 €, and a pot of yogurt is about 0.40 to 0.50 €. Prices of the most popular brands of chocolate are usually below 1 € .

## **Entertainment**

Once you're in Burgas, you will definitely want to see as much as possible in the city – its sights, attractions, relaxation places, shops, restaurants, events. Well, we have good news for you – this will not be hard at all, because getting around in Burgas is not only easy but also pleasant. It is up to you how you do it – the public transport is one of the most modern ones in Bulgaria, taxis are affordable and if you like cycling – the city has a council rent-a-bike system.

Burgas is Bulgaria's second largest seaside city and fourth largest city in general- in a place this big, there always is something interesting to do.

The Seaside Park is not just a park by the seaside, it's the heart of the city, the muse and inspiration of generations of artists, poets, and musicians; it's been the stage of a thousand love stories. Here you will find the Summer Theatre which gathers thousands of visitors and locals throughout the summer season. Further on along the alleys, you can walk among the greeneries, past the sweet corn and ice cream stalls. If you start your walk from Bogoridi Street, the first thing you will be mesmerised by is the incredible view of the sea, the pier and the port, spreading out before you, standing on the terrace which all Burgas citizens call the "parapet". If the terrace could talk, it would tell you the stories of thousands of lovers' kisses, of dreamy looks staring into the sea, of children's laughter and even wedding events.

The Central Beach - with its golden sands of almost 2 km, the Central Beach in Burgas is a favourite place for citizens and visitors alike. Whether you want to rest or just spend your free time there, the beach is pleasant for swimming or tanning under the bright sun rays.

Burgas's ethnographic museum is among the town's most alluring destinations. The museum is located in the home of the merchant Dimitar Barkalov, which was built in the style of Bulgarian Renaissance

architecture. The city's historical museum is also an interesting place to visit, as it reveals the new and newest history of the town, ancient coins, and iconography from South Bulgarian and North Turkey.

Burgas's art gallery is located in the city's former synagogue. Back in the year 1947 the building was nationalized and turned into a gallery. Other interesting locations include the town's youth centre, where the folklore ensemble "Strandzha" has its practices. Burgas's opera house is one of Bulgaria's few theatres, which are equipped for theatre, ballet, and opera.

St. Anastasia Island is located in the Burgas Bay in the Black Sea. It is a volcanic rock island, 12 meters high, at some places up to 17 meters high, and its area is almost 9 decares. Between 1959 and 1990 it was known as Bolshevik Island. It is surrounded by mystery and there are hundreds of legends and stories about it. A healing place, offering wonder-working herbs and potions from old recipes, medieval monastery cell, where you can stay overnight, restaurant with authentic Burgas meals from old recipes - all this make it the most romantic place in the Burgas Bay. You can get there on a boat, leaving from the Sea station Burgas.

The city offers series of cultural events, gathers performers of different genres on several separate stages, in order to provide three days of various quality entertainments for its visitors. For the lovers of old-timey music, Burgas also hosts an annual Jazz and Blues festival. Burgas also hosts several film festivals, days of literature and biker gatherings.

### **Transport (international and national)**

Burgas is an important business, commercial, transport and tourist city, as well as a starting point for visiting the Southern Black Sea resorts and the nearby holiday villages. Its favorable geographical location, the combination of air, sea, railway junction and road transportation, provides opportunities for intermodal traffic and allows for a significant number of tourism flights during the summer season, as well as regular airline routes throughout the year. The airport is situated on the Southern Black Sea coast. Buses are available from Burgas Airport. Bus-stop is located at the entrance of the airport area and you can use Line № 15. Initial and final bus stops in Burgas – Burgas bus station "South".

The BSU is situated near Burgas bus station "South" and railway station Burgas. Public transport in Burgas is a well-developed and convenient way to get around, which will bring you to any point of the city, quickly and easily. Electronic ticket system is implemented since November 2016. There are various travel packages and also tickets that can be purchased directly in the bus. More information about public transport in Buras can be found on the web site of "Burgasbus" Ltd. <http://burgasbus.info>. Platform for real time for urban transport in Burgas - <https://a2b.burgasbus.com/>.

There are regulated taxi ranks at all key places in Burgas – airport, stations, city centre and around the neighbourhoods. You can order a taxi at any time of day or night from any place in the city, by phone, while most of the time the call cost will be paid by the taxi company. The wait for a taxi to the place you need it at is usually not more than 5 minutes. If you decide to hail a taxi on the street, watch out for "fake taxis" – always make sure the car is marked with the mandatory sticker of Municipality Burgas.

The prices are usually between 0.59 and 0.79 leva/km and the regulation is up to 1.10 leva/km, whereas the price is different depending on the taxi company and whether it is a day or night tariff. The initial charge is no more than 1.00 leva and the waiting tariff is around 0.20 leva/min.

There are 10 taxi companies in Burgas, among which:

Orion Taxi  
Eco Taxi  
Burgas Taxi  
Capital Taxi  
Stil Taxi

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### GFCM - BSU

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