



## Press Release

### **NIRD GeoEcoMar will attend the Coast Expo 2013 – Ferrara, Italy**

**Bucharest, 4<sup>th</sup> of September, 2013** - During 18 – 20 September 2013, NIRD GeoEcoMar will attend the COAST EXPO 2013, along with Levante Port Authority (Port of Bari, Barletta and Monopoli) and Polytechnic University of Tirana. The COAST EXPO, now in its fourth edition and held by the Ferrara Exhibition Centre, is the most specialized event in Italy dedicated to coastal zone management and protection.

Within this event, into a dedicated EU funded projects session, TEN ECOPORT project (Transnational Enhancement of ECOPORT8 Network) will be also presented, being a continuation of the ECOPORT 8 project - who tackled the problem of environmental impact affecting ports and their surrounding areas taking into account that all the port areas examined have a high population density.

TEN ECOPORT runs from October 2012 until September 2014 and is financed by the European Structural Funds Programme for South-East Europe, with a total budget of 2,284,282.00 Euro.

The project is coordinated by the Polytechnic of Bari - Italy, having 16 partners from 7 countries from South-East Europe of which 12 partners from EU member states (Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania) and 4 partners from non-member states of the Union European countries (Montenegro and Albania).

Project partners are: Levante Port Authority (Port of Bari, Barletta and Monopoli) - Italy, Port Authority of Brindisi - Italy, Universus CSEI - Training and Innovation University Consortium - Italy, Technological Educational Institute of Epirus - Greece, Igoumenitsa Port Authority S.A - Greece, Patras Port Authority S.A - Greece, National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company, National Institute of Marine Geology and Geoecology - GeoEcoMar Romania, Romanian Naval Authority, Institute of Marine Biology - University of Montenegro, Port of Bar Holding Company - Montenegro, Dubrovnik Port Authority - Croatia, Polytechnic University of Tirana - Albania, Durres Port Authority - Albania.

The long-term objectives of TEN ECOPORT aim to enhance the cross-border and trans-European partnership between SEE port areas developing collaboration and effective relation among all stakeholders in order to stimulate an integrated policy on environmental protection and growth of Trans-European Network (TEN) corridors and to develop and implement intelligent environmental port management and information systems using integrated technologies for environmental risk protection in order to reduce impacts on human health, biodiversity and other environmental aspects.

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jointly on eco-routes