B.S.A.F.E.

BLACK SEA AWARENESS FOR EVERYONE

SUMMARY

The **B.S.A.F.E. (Black Sea Awareness For Everyone)** project is an international eTwinning initiative aiming to raise public awareness regarding marine pollution and ecosystem threats. Conducted in partnership with **Türkiye, Romania, Bulgaria, and Italy**, the project brought together **14 teachers and 85 students** as "**Ocean Ambassadors**" to protect the future of the Black Sea.

Action-oriented activities carried out within the scope of the project, such as scientific observations, microplastic research, and coastal cleanups, enabled students to put theoretical knowledge into practice in the field. This study, managed through the digital collaboration of 99 participants from different countries, has elevated the awareness of water conservation and sustainability from a local to a global level. By creating a lasting change in the environmental attitudes of younger generations, B.S.A.F.E. has established a strong "**Blue Education Bridge**" extending from the Black Sea to Europe.

eTwinning, Ocean Literacy, Black Sea, Sustainability, International Collaboration

INTRODUCTION

The Black Sea ecosystem is at a critical threshold under anthropogenic pressures such as intense plastic pollution, microplastic accumulation, and the loss of biodiversity. Combating this environmental crisis is possible not only through technical solutions but also by establishing a sense of belonging to the seas and cultivating an awareness of "**ocean literacy**" across all segments of society.

The B.S.A.F.E. (**Black Sea Awareness For Everyone**) project was launched to contribute to the goals of the European Commission's "**Mission Ocean**," within the scope of the **SHORE** call supported by **Horizon Europe**, the European Union's largest research and innovation program. Coordinated by **Toki Şehit Fatih Erer Secondary School**, this initiative is conducted by a large team of 99 individuals, consisting of **14 teachers and 85 students** from **Türkiye, Romania, Bulgaria, and Italy**. It is also a prestigious part of the European "**Network of Blue Schools**".

Instead of merely equipping students with theoretical knowledge, the project transforms them into active "Ocean Ambassadors." This is achieved through academic collaborations with the Sinop University Faculty of Fisheries, coastal cleanup activities, artistic waste upcycling, and international digital laboratory studies conducted via **eTwinning**. By connecting local actions with international networks, B.S.A.F.E. is building a sustainable "**Blue Education Bridge**" extending from the Black Sea to Europe.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study is conducted with an interdisciplinary methodology encompassing qualitative observation, field research, and international collaboration networks. During the project process, the **eTwinning** platform was used as the main digital workspace and data-sharing center.

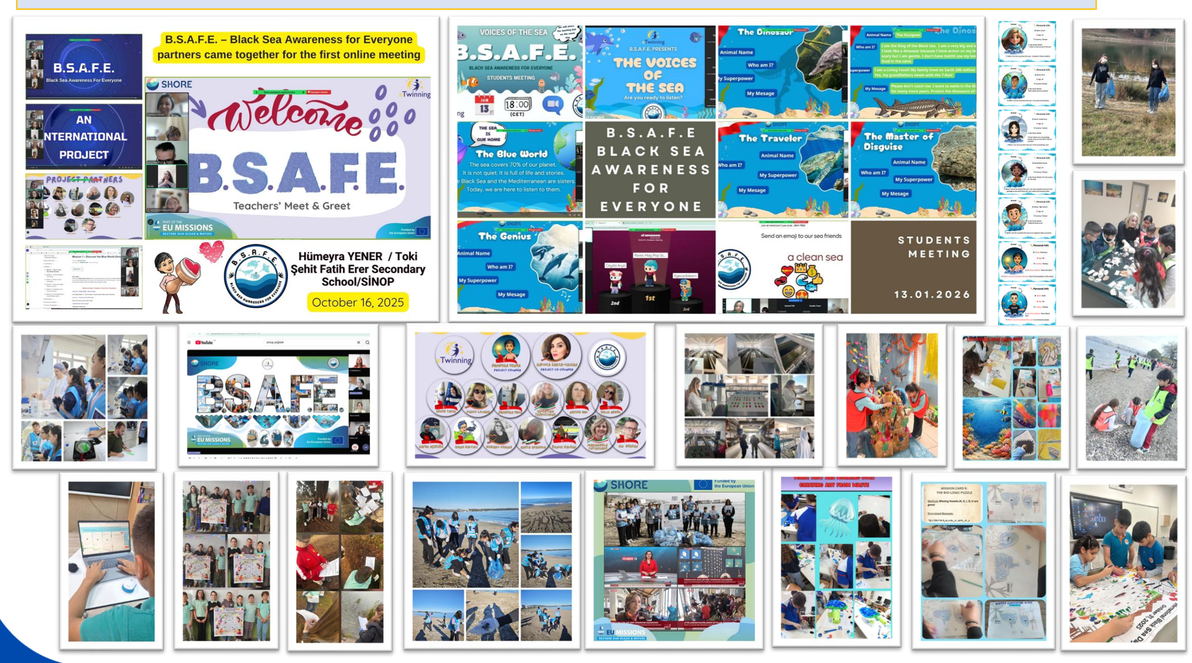
In field activities, waste classification forms and ocean literacy educational materials were utilized. An inquiry-based learning model was adopted during the implementation process; action-oriented activities such as "Plastic Hunters" and "Ocean Detectives" were carried out.

To ensure scientific validity, a **pre-test** was administered to the participants at the beginning of the process. To measure the final progress, the **post-test** was administered at the final stage of the project.

FINDINGS

The comparative impact analysis of the B.S.A.F.E. project shows that our activities significantly improved students' environmental awareness and daily habits. Based on the pre- and post-survey results, students' understanding of microplastics jumped from 62.5% to 96%. Additionally, nearly 95% of the participants learned how inland pollution from rivers directly affects the seas, and they developed a broader understanding of pollution sources. Most importantly, these educational gains led to real behavioral changes; over 97% of students now actively recycle, and 68% are much more careful about protecting nature and saving water. Overall, the project successfully turned the students' initial excitement into a strong, long-lasting commitment to environmental responsibility.

The comparative analysis of 14 teachers confirms that the B.S.A.F.E. project was highly successful. By the end of the process, 100% of the teachers reported significant growth in their own professional development and their students' digital skills. The primary goal of building environmental awareness and ocean literacy was fully achieved. Additionally, working in international teams greatly improved students' communication and teamwork abilities. While scheduling online meetings across different time zones presented a time management challenge, overall teacher collaboration remained excellent throughout the project.



Intro

Partner Schools Map

SID Common Video

Virtual Exhibition

Recycling Exhibition

Manifesto ebook

eTwinning Day Song

eTwinning Day Song Video

eTwinning Day Collaborative Poster

Escape Room Game

The Black Sea's S.O.S. Newsroom!

One Sea Many Rivers Book

Team Aqua Stars Common Work

Team Green Fins Common Work

Team Blue Waves Common Work

Team Ocean Eyes Common Work

New Year Wishes

H2O Secrets ebook