

Towards a Black Sea Coastline Classification Based on GIS for Assessment of Coastal Zone  
Risks and Planning Solutions  
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**ABSTRACT**

Numerous types of classifications have been applied to coastlines in an attempt to characterise their dominant features in terms of morphology and human modifications. Research and policy communities in Black Sea collect, manage and analyse information on the coastal zone with little or no coordination, using different standards and definitions. This results in a duplication of effort and resources, as most of the coastal classifications are locally focussed, providing uneven coverage of taxonomic units for the entire Black Sea coastline. Integration of multidisciplinary knowledge and experience under the Project will promote the development of a universal Black Sea Basin coastline classification scheme, based on GIS utilities, for a global scale appreciation of coastal zone risks. Adoption of unified criteria and standards will simplify the process of coastal typology and harmonisation of coastal data sets in an open-end GIS framework, as a primary base for relevant ICZM and MSP strategies.