

July 2025

Newsletter

SturNet

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

NEXT Black Sea Basin



Network for the Preservation of Sturgeon
and the Sustainability of the Black Sea Basin Ecosystem

co-funded by the European Union under the Programme Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin 2021-2027

Foreword

Dear readers,

Welcome to the second edition of the SturNet Network Newsletter!

We are delighted to share with you the latest developments in our project.

In this issue, you will find insights into the results of our eDNA analysis based on samples collected from the Black Sea region. You will also learn more about the arrival of new members within the SturNet network, as well as about the upcoming events from the partners involved in the project.

Finally, discover how the various project partners took part in the European Maritime Day and the activities they organised as part of this initiative!

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and encourage you to stay tuned for our upcoming updates!

Warm regards,
SturNet Team



We drive change by protecting
nature and ensuring a future where
all species coexist in harmony.

Advancing eDNA Monitoring



Exciting progress has been made by our Greek partners with the first round of eDNA analyses from samples from Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey. Two *A. stellatus* individuals were confirmed from Romanian fish tissue samples, while early eDNA tests successfully amplified fish DNA from several sites, guiding the optimization of new, highly specific sturgeon primers now being developed by AUTH.

In parallel, trials to detect *Trichodina spp.*—important stress bioindicators linked to sturgeon health—demonstrated broad detection of ciliate DNA across multiple sites, reinforcing the value of refining molecular tools for even greater precision. As the project evolves, partners are also exploring the future potential of incorporating non-lethal skin mucus sampling, to deepen population genetics studies.

These promising preliminary findings will be shared at the ETAGRO International Conference in Florina, Greece this October, highlighting SturNet's commitment to advancing innovative, non-invasive methods for sturgeon conservation across the Black Sea basin.

New members in the network !

NEW STURNET MEMBERS !



Meet the latest contributors bringing fresh perspectives and energy to the SturNet network.

[Click here](#)

EMDInMyCountry : Sturnet Partners involvement in the European Maritime Day



See how SturNet partners made waves at the European Maritime Day with impactful local initiatives.

[Click here](#)

Environmental education for the national Green Week in Romania



[Watch the video here](#)

SturNet project presented to an international audience in Cahul



[Click here](#)

Upcoming Events: Sharing SturNet Results & Engaging Experts

ETAGRO 2025 — Florina, Greece, 10-11 October 2025

SturNet partners will present a joint study on **eDNA detection of the aquatic parasite *Trichodina spp.* in the Black Sea** and insights into sturgeon population monitoring at the **18th International Conference of the Hellenic Association of Agricultural Economists (ETAGRO 2025)**.

This is a great venue to discuss how molecular tools can support fish health and biodiversity conservation.

<https://etagro.gr/2025>



XIV International Scientific and Practical Conference "Revival of the Maritime Economy as a Dominant of the Project of National Unification of Ukraine"-Odesa, Ukraine, September 18–19, 2025

Organized by the Institute of Market and Economic-Ecological Research of the NAS of Ukraine together with several national and international partners, this conference

will explore development of research infrastructure and “blue growth” strategies, post-war recovery and investment support for Ukraine’s maritime sectors and strengthening the agro-industrial potential tied to coastal regions.



Stay tuned — we’ll provide finalized details on registration, abstracts, and participation opportunities in our next update.



Biotech4SUS 2025 — Kocaeli, Türkiye, 21-24 October 2025

At the **2nd International Congress on Biotechnology Solutions for Sustainability**, we are planning a **satellite event on Sturgeon protection strategies**, hosted by our partners at Gebze Technical University. This will also serve as a platform to share SturNet’s preliminary analyses and good practices across Black sea basin countries.



We warmly invite researchers, practitioners, and policymakers interested in sturgeon conservation, aquatic biotechnology, and blue economy topics to join us. If you would like to participate or contribute as a speaker, please get in touch!



2nd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON BIOTECH SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

biotech4sus



Congress Chair
Prof. Dr. Işıl AKSAN KURNAZ

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Registration: October 10th
Abstract Submission: August 15th

October 21st-24th, 2025
Congress Hall, Gebze Technical University

