

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

NEXT Black Sea Basin



BSB00450 Small scale project

SEEDGUARD

**Seed Guardians for Biodiversity, Agrobiodiversity,
Ecosystem Services and Climate Adaptation**





Overview

The global decrease in plant genetic resources, particularly in the Black Sea region, is causing a significant loss of traditional local, authentic, and old vegetable varieties. These vegetables are losing their battle to industrially produced ones, despite their daily demand and preference for market products. To address this issue, some countries are creating local community seed collections (CSCs) and community seed banks (CSBs) to store seeds of old local traditional vegetables for reproduction and expansion. The project aims to establish CSCs on pilot territories with the potential to become CSBs.



A decorative image on the left side of the slide showing several plastic bags filled with different types of seeds and vegetables. The bags are arranged in a way that shows a variety of colors and textures, including green, yellow, orange, and brown. The background of the slide is a solid dark blue-grey color.

Road Ahead

- Guardians of the Seeds info days and training on preserving biodiversity of old vegetable seeds for small farmers, gardeners, hobby growers, and others involved in seed production
- Study visits for acknowledgement with the opportunities for traditional vegetables' seeds collection
- Transnational network “Guardians of the Seeds” to safeguard seeds of old local vegetable varieties and landraces to foster cooperation and exchange between farmers and ecosystem service providers
- Guardians of the Seeds camps to engage communities in impactful activities that contribute to their prosperity



Partnership

**Lead partner: Union of Bulgarian Black Sea
Local Authorities**

**Partner 2: Eastern Black Sea Development
Agency**

Partner 3: Association Global Project

**Partner 4: National Association of Local
Authorities of Georgia**

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Countries



Figures



Total budget: 489.048,00 €
Interreg funds: 440.143,20 €



Start date: 11/07/2024
End date: 10/01/2026



**4 organisations cooperating
across borders**



1 jointly developed solution
2 public events jointly organised
1 pilot action

