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## **Press release**

A team of students from the Black Sea Universities Network has qualified for the final stage of the *Contest for Student Projects on Sustainable Development* organized by the United Nations in Seoul. The team of students includes Dan Joachim ("Ovidius" University of Constanta, Romania), Olesea Carabinovici (Technical University of Moldova) and Nikita Shumskykh (Taurida National University of Simferopol, Ukraine), and the title of the project prepared is called "*Eco-Innovative Solutions for revigorating the rural communities in the Black Sea Region*".

The project is a comparative analysis in three rural communities from Romania, Moldova and Ukraine. Therefore, from Romania it was selected the village Tataru, Comana, where there were analyzed the existing conditions in terms of economic, social, demographic and environmental impact perspective. There were conducted interviews with Mr. Ion Adam, Mayor of Comana, and with representatives of the local community and there were proposed solutions that were analyzed using multi-criteria methods. The results of the studies have led to the definition of a strategy for sustainable development of Tataru village, centered on the use of renewable sources and of the agriculture as the main factors of economic growth.

The results were compared with the studies from Moldova and Ukraine and the conclusions have permitted to define for the development of rural areas. The work of the three students was coordinated by Prof. Dr. Eden Mamut.

The final phase of the competition will consist of the oral presentation of the project and is scheduled for August 23, 2013, during the works of the International Conference on Sustainable Development. The winning team will receive the award from H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General.

In terms of activities for students, on the BSUN website ([www.bsun.org](http://www.bsun.org)) there can be found information and opportunities to participate in projects and events for students.

Between August 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, BSUN will organize the Summer School on “*Advanced Concepts and Perspectives on the Management of Renewable Energy Sources*” with the participation of several BSUN member universities that shall present their master degree programs from this area. The event will be addressed to the students that would like to be specialized in the field of renewable energy sources. More details can be found on the BSUN webpage.

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