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## EUROPEAN CENTER

### FOR BYZANTINE AND POST-BYZANTINE MONUMENTS

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## PRESS RELEASE

Completing almost 2 years of successful implementation of the project "Olkas. From the Aegean to the Black Sea. Medieval Ports in the Maritime Routes of the East", the European Centre of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments organizes in Thessaloniki on 4-6 December the final action of the project, the International Symposium "Medieval ports in North Aegean and Black Sea. Links on the Maritime Routes of the East." The Symposium will take place at auditorium "Stefanos Dragoumis" of the Museum of Byzantine Culture of Thessaloniki.

The project "Olkas" funded by the European program: "Joint Operational Programme BLACK SEA 2007-2013" and national resources and coordinated by EKBMM. Partners of the projects are bodies from 6 countries: the Cultural Center of Thessaloniki (Greece), the Istanbul University and the Cultural Awareness Foundation (Turkey), the Varna Regional Museum (Bulgaria), the National Museum of History and Archaeology from Constanta (Romania), the Branch for the Hellenic Foundation for Culture in Odessa (Ukraine) and the National Research Centre for Georgian Art and Heritage "G. Chubinashvili" (Georgia).

The aim of the project "Olkas" is the documentation and the promotion of the medieval ports of North Aegean and Black Sea as a modern tool of development of cultural tourism in the regions of Aegean, Black Sea and Caspian Sea. The project has carried out the systematic recording of the history and the culture of 45 ports, the presentation of a photographic exhibition in Thessaloniki, Istanbul and Odessa, the construction of an official site ([www.olkas.net](http://www.olkas.net)), and the production of a relevant documentary. The next actions of the project are the publication of a version of the medieval ports of North Aegean and Black Sea, a study of the viability of the network and the implementation of the new project "LIMIN" which aims are the contribution to the development of the cultural tourism in the wider area of Black Sea.

Taking advantage of the valuable experience of the institution "Cultural Capital of Europe", the specific objective of the project "Limen" is the establishment of a new institution, the "Cultural ports of the Black Sea". The establishment of the new promising institution is the main subject of the project which is proposed as an innovative tool for the promotion of the city-ports of Black Sea and their cultural treasures and as a natural continuation of the "Olkas" project for the next two years.

On the first day of the Symposium, December 4, 2013, the documentary entitled "Journey to the ports of North Aegean and Black Sea" will be presented at the first screening. It is produced within the frame of the project "Olkas", with the participation of all partners.



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The next two days scholars from Greece, Black Sea countries (Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Georgia), Armenia and Austria will present their research on issues of history and archeology of medieval ports.

Attached is the program of the Symposium

**For more information:**

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