

BLUE FLAG INITIATIVE IN UKRAINE

The Blue Flag is an eco-label given to beaches and marinas which meet strict criteria. This initiative was born in France in 1985 and since that time about 4000 beaches have been awarded the Blue Flag. There are four areas of criteria of the Blue Flag Certificate: environmental education and information, environmental management, water quality, safety and services.

Ukraine is currently in the pilot stage of implementing the eco-label scheme under the national coordination of the NGO “Ecological Initiatives” (Sevastopol, Ukraine).

Four beaches are covered under the project: two beaches in Yevpatoria City - the beach of the Inter-Regional Centre for rehabilitation of disabled people (IRCRD) and the beach of the spa hotel “Severny” (“Northern”) and two beaches in Yalta City. Massandra beach in Yalta and Yalta-Intourist Hotel beach passed the assessment stage were awarded the Blue Flag Certificates in May 2010.

In 2009 the City Council of Ilyichevsk (Ukraine) adopted a system of measures to meet all the formalities and the Blue Flag criteria. The Certificate is expected to be given in 2011.

Odessa has more than 42.54 ha of beaches of different beach material composition. The main problems of Odessa beaches are water pollution by suspended solids, oil products, phenols, nitrates; lack of centralized wastewater of household waste in the beach areas; landslides. Under conditions of solving these problems Odessa has great perspectives for joining the Program.

