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[Abstract]

Balkan, Black Sea, and Caspian Sea Regional Network for Space Weather Studies

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Abstract: 50 years after the International Geophysical Year (IGY) in 1957-1958, one of the most successful international science programs of all time, the "International Heliophysical Year" (IHY) was organized in 2007-2008. The term "Heliophysical" emphasized studying the interconnectedness of the entire solar-heliospheric-planetary system, thus broadening of the concept of "geophysical," extending the connections from the Earth to the Sun and interplanetary space.

The IHY had the following science goals for 2007-2008:

- Develop the basic science of heliophysics through cross-disciplinary studies of universal processes.
- Determine the response of terrestrial and planetary magnetospheres and atmospheres to external drivers.
- Promote research on the Sun-heliosphere system outward to the local interstellar medium – the new frontier.
- Foster international scientific cooperation in the study of heliophysical phenomena now and in the future
- Communicate unique IHY results to the scientific community and the general public.

To coordinate the IHY-related activities, several regional networks were organized. Only one of them is still active: the Balkan, Black Sea, and Caspian Sea Regional Network (known as the "BBC Network") for Space Weather Studies which was created in 2005 and earlier this year it celebrated its 20th

anniversary. In this presentation I will highlight the history, activity, and opportunities for joint research.