

## **WHY THE CIRCUM-BLACK SEA IS AMAZINGLY SIMILAR TO THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN:TECTONIC BACKGROUNDS**

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The results of this study can testify that two remote regions of the Alpides belt - Black Sea and Western Mediterranean - have, despite of a number of essential differences, many profound analogies in their geological structure and development so the found similarities can elaborate new prospecting trends for oil and gas exploration in the circum-Black Sea basin using geological knowledge on the Western Mediterranean and vice versa. Such numerous analogies cannot be as an accidental coincidence. Though the basins under comparison have many distinctions and differ each from other due to their linear dimensions (nearly twofold), lithological spectra for some epochs, present state of volcanic activity etc., they, nevertheless, reveal a striking morphological coincidence and notable genetic analogy in their spatial/temporal, kinematic, undercrustal, palaeogeographic, and other features. The above comparison allow to consider the Black Sea basin as a contemporaneous with the Western Mediterranean area, a minor and simplified tectonic copy being evolved in similar way and caused by similar tailoring of its structural units that stipulated by uniform stress/fault pattern inherited from the Paleo-Tethys tectonic realm of late Paleozoic. For example, minor counterclockwise rotation and eastward drift of the Mid-Black Sea ridge could represent equal to the Adriatic microplate relative motion and well-known manifestations of strike-slip tectonics in the Pyrenees can be observed in the Dobrogea and the NW Black Sea shelf and Crimea too.