



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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BS/WG/C/R(2015)1

**REPORT
OF THE MEETING
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON CULTURE**

BSEC Headquarters, 21 April 2015

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 21 April 2015.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Vitalie BABALAU, Adviser of the Minister, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed, amended and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL, AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE
DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN
CHARGE OF CULTURE**

6. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and the follow-up of Declarations adopted by the Ministers in charge of Culture, since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Culture (Chisinau, 11 November 2014).

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE (1 JANUARY 2015 - 31 DECEMBER 2016)

7. The Working Group considered, amended and adopted the Draft Plan of Action of the Working Group for the period 1 January 2015 - 31 December 2016, elaborated by the Republic of Moldova in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator. The Plan of Action, which is open for further proposals, is attached as **Annex III**.

CULTURAL HERITAGE - CONSIDERATION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS

a) Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the protection of cultural heritage of the BSEC Member States

8. The Working Group discussed and further amended the Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Protection of Cultural Heritage among the BSEC Member States, taking into the consideration the relevant proposals by Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, Romania and the Russian Federation (the Draft as amended is attached as **Annex IV**).

9. The Working Group invited the BSEC Member States to submit their final comments on the Draft in advance of the next meeting.

b) Draft Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in combating illicit trafficking of cultural property belonging to the archaeological, historical, ethnographical heritage and arts among the BSEC Member States

10. The Working Group decided to defer the consideration of the revised Draft Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in combating illicit trafficking of cultural property belonging to the archaeological, historical, ethnographical heritage and arts among the BSEC Member States to its next meeting. The draft Memorandum is attached as **Annex V**.

c) Hospitality traditions in the BSEC Member States

11. The Working Group decided to rephrase the title of the sub item, as follows: "National Traditions of Hospitality in the BSEC Region"

12. The representative of the Republic of Moldova, as a proponent of the project on "*Traditions of hospitality at the Black Sea Region (Hospitality as a strategy of a good neighbourhood)*", presented brief information on the recent developments within the framework of the project, noting that the following Member States joined the project: Republic of Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine.

13. In this regard, the BSEC Member States are kindly invited to join the project.

14. In the meanwhile, the BSEC Member States are invited to communicate their comments/proposals on the issue in advance of the next meeting of the Working Group.

15. The representative of Romania expressed the willingness to collaborate with the Republic of Bulgaria on the preparation of the Questionnaire on hospitality traditions, to be presented in advance of the next meeting of the Working Group.

d) Publishing a collection of the XX century works of the classic literature writers

16. The representative of the Republic of Moldova presented brief information on the project on “*Collection of the XX century works of the classic literature writers*” and kindly invited the Member States to join the project. The information is attached as **Annex VI**.

17. The BSEC Member States are invited to communicate their comments/proposals on the issue in advance of the next Meeting of the Working Group making particular focus on the following issues raised by the proponent of the project, Republic of Moldova:

- types of pieces, quantity of authors, areas (poetry, dramatics, memories, fiction etc.);
- a common thread linking literature and art around the Black Sea that could serve as a guideline.

THE “WAY FORWARD FOR AN ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP”

18. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the following timeframe of implementation of the “Way Forward for an Action Plan on the implementation of the Economic Agenda 2012” in 2015:

- June 2015: Launching surveys for the next medium-term (2016-2018);
- December 2015: Medium-Term (2013-2015) Achievements Report by WGs and BSEC PERMIS/Related Bodies and approval of the Action Plan for the period 2016-2018.

CULTURAL ROUTES: DISCUSSION ON THE WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECTS

19. The Working Group supported the proposal by the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism to hold a joint Meeting of the two Working Groups in autumn 2015 with the aim to further examine the cultural routes projects.

20. In this regard, the Member States are invited to communicate updated information on their respective projects in advance of the Joint Meeting.

YOUTH AND SPORTS ISSUES AND CULTURE

21. The Participants exchanged views on possible ways and means of practical involvement of youth and sports issues in enhancing cooperation in the field of culture and invited the Member States to present their relevant comments and proposals in advance of the next meeting of the Working Group.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

22. No discussion was held under this item.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF) AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) PROJECTS

23. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS about the state of affairs with regard to the replenishment of the Project Development Fund (PDF).
24. The Working Group also took note of the explanatory remarks by the BSEC PERMIS on the Guidelines for the BSEC Project Management Unit.
25. The Working Group invited Member States to submit project proposals within PDF and in compliance with the Guidelines for the PMU.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

26. The Working Group recalled the importance of holding a Meeting of Ministers in charge of Culture, in autumn of 2015 or in 2016.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

27. The Working Group on Culture adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.