



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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

BSEC Headquarters, 9 October 2014

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 9 October 2014.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Athina PLESSA PAPADAKI, Acting Director General, General Directorate of European and International Educational Affairs, Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.
3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
4. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

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

6. The Working Group took note of the information by BSEC PERMIS on the ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15th BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006), since the last Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education (BSEC Headquarters, 12 May 2014).

7. A concern was expressed by the Country-Coordinator over the fact that only a few experts from relevant ministries of Member States participated in the Working Group.

8. The BSEC PERMIS informed that the International Conference on Education, scheduled to be held in Istanbul in October 2014, was postponed. The Working Group took note of the idea to possibly hold a Meeting of Ministers in charge of Education, in the course of 2015.

9. The BSEC PERMIS informed on possible ways and means of future institutional cooperation on youth and sports issues within BSEC. The Working Group agreed to include the issues related to youth and sports on the agenda of its next meeting, and invited the Member States to present their comments and proposals in advance of that meeting.

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

A) DISCUSSION OF CONCRETE PROPSALS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT PROGRAMMES

10. The Working Group took note of the presentation entitled “Preliminary Comments to the Questionnaire on the academic and student mobility among the BSEC Member States”, delivered by the Country-Coordinator (The Hellenic Republic). The presentation is attached as **Annex III**.

11. The Country-Coordinator invited the Member States to send to BSEC PERMIS the clarifications requested with the above mentioned Comments, and present proposals in view of next steps on the project, by 15 December 2014.

12. During the discussion, the relevant clarifications were given by the representatives of Romania and the Republic of Turkey.

13. The Working Group reiterated its call on the relevant authorities of the Member States that have not yet done so, to respond to the Questionnaire as soon as possible.

14. The Working Group took note of the updated presentation on the Portal of Education in BSEC (www.bsec-edu.tuc.gr), delivered by the delegation of the Hellenic Republic, and reiterated its call to the Member States to get more actively involved by sending relevant inputs on education and appoint national focal points to the Portal. The presentation is attached as **Annex IV**.

15. The Working Group expressed its gratitude to the Hellenic Republic for the creation of the Portal of Education.

16. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic suggested that all presentations delivered by the Member States in the Working Group should be uploaded to the Portal of Education.

17. The Working Group took note of the presentation on the system of Higher Education in Turkey, delivered by the representative of the Republic of Turkey. The presentation is attached as **Annex V**.

18. The Working Group took note of the information contained in the Draft Report on the activities of the Working Group on the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda 2012, prepared by BSEC PERMIS in consultation with the Country-Coordinator, and suggested that it be incorporated in the overall BSEC PERMIS report on the issue, to be submitted to the Committee of the Senior Officials. The draft report is attached as **Annex VI**.

B) FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

19. The Country-Coordinator invited the Member States and, in particular, incoming Chairmanships of BSEC, to send their proposals and comments in order to assist in the elaboration of a next Plan of Action of the Working Group, by 31 December 2014.

THE GUIDELINES FOR THE BSEC PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT

20. The Working Group took note of the presentation on the Guidelines for the BSEC Project Management Unit, delivered by BSEC PERMIS.

21. The Working Group invited the Member States to submit project proposals in compliance with the Guidelines.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

22. Following previous conclusions of the Working Group, BSEC PERMIS informed on consultations between the BSEC PERMIS and the UNESCO Secretariat regarding the cooperation in the field of Education, held in Paris on 26 May 2014.

23. The Working Group took note of the presentation on the Hellenic Presidency of the EU Council in the field of Education and Training, delivered by the representative of the Hellenic Republic. The presentation is attached as **Annex VII**.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)

24. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS about the state of affairs with the issue of replenishment of the Project Development Fund.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

25. The Country-Coordinator informed on the intention to prepare a working document on Quality Assurance in Higher Education, to be submitted for consideration by the next meeting of the Working Group.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

26. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of the Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.