



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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**BS/WG/ED/R(2013)1**

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

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 26 March 2013**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 26 March 2013.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Petro PERETYATKO, Deputy Head of Department, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.
3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt attended the Meeting as the BSEC Observers.
5. The representatives of the Beyaz Gemi Social Project Agency participated in the Meeting as Guests.
6. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

7. 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**

8. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative on the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and the Declarations and the Statements of the Ministers in charge of Education since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Education (Istanbul, 4-5 October 2012).

9. The participants acknowledged the information on the issue provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed the willingness to proceed with necessary steps needed to secure the dynamics of the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and the Declarations and the Statements of the Ministers in charge of Education.

10. The Working Group reiterated its call on the Member States, who have not done so yet, to nominate their Focal Points to the Working Group as soon as possible.

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

11. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed about ongoing discussions on the measures to implement Goal 14 of the Priority Areas of the “BSEC Economic Agenda” entitled “Higher Standards in Education and Training”.

12. The Working Group considered the following priorities within the Action Plan on the Implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda (2013-2015):

- 1) encouraging the mobility of academic staff and students among the BSEC Member States, including through bilateral and multilateral agreements and scholarships among higher education institutions;
- 2) supporting the exchange of information and experiences with regard to the modernization of the educational systems in the BSEC Member States aimed at increasing sustainable growth and the establishment of knowledge based societies; and
- 3) promoting the scientific research for Sustainable Development of the BSEC Region.

13. The Working Group expressed its readiness to work on the basis of the agreed priorities in conformity with the Action Plan on “The way forward on the implementation of the Economic Agenda”. It was agreed that a concrete road map containing the steps to be undertaken should be elaborated following the approval of the Plan of Action of the Working Group.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC PUBLIC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

14. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the ongoing discussions on the ways and means to implement the BSEC Public Communication Strategy.

15. The Member States are invited to elaborate concrete proposals for implementation of the Public Communication Strategy in compliance with the relevant decision of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, taking into account the proposals put forward at the Coordination Meetings of the Communication Officers of the BSEC Member States for the Implementation of the BSEC Public Communication Strategy (BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul, 15 October 2012 and 5 March 2013).

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP (2013-2014)**

16. The representative of the Hellenic Republic in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator delivered a presentation on the Draft Plan of Action of the Working Group on Education (2013-2014), attached as Annex III to the Report.

17. The Working Group discussed, amended and adopted the Draft Plan of Action of the Working Group for the period 1 January 2013 – 31 December 2014. The Plan of Action is attached as Annex IV to the Report.

18. The Country-Coordinator informed that it would communicate concrete proposals for the Member States' consideration with the aim to implement the Plan of Action.

### **RE-ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS RELATIVE TO PRIORITIES AND LONG STANDING ISSUES**

#### **a) Follow-up of the exchange of views on cooperation in development of national frameworks of qualifications with aim to secure compatibility of the educational systems in the BSEC region**

19. The representative of the Russian Federation informed the participants on the Reference Manual titled 'The Higher Education in Russia', which was distributed among the participants. He also informed on the preparations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Scientific Congress 'Globalistics-2013', to be held in Moscow, on 23-25 October 2013.

20. The representative of Ukraine proposed that the above mentioned Congress be included in the Calendar of BSEC Events of the incoming Armenian Chairmanship-in-Office.

#### **b) Follow-up on creation of a network and a web-site (portal)**

21. The representative of the Hellenic Republic delivered a presentation on the Portal for Education in the BSEC ([www.bsec-edu.tuc.gr](http://www.bsec-edu.tuc.gr)). The Member States were invited to make greater use of the possibilities offered by the Portal and to update the relevant National information.

#### **c) Follow-up on investigation of the possibility of elaborating joint programs of postgraduate studies and Universities research**

#### **d) Investigation on possibility of elaborating joint programs related to Lifelong Learning between relevant institutions in BSEC Member States**

#### **e) Quality Assurance in Higher Education**

22. No discussion was held under the Agenda sub-items c), d) and e).

## **f) Use of Information and Communication Technology in Education**

23. The representative of the Republic of Armenia proposed consideration of this sub-item in cooperation with the Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies.

### **COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

24. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS Executive Manager on the latest developments in cooperation between BSEC and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and on the intention of BSEC PERMIS to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation with UNAOC.

25. The Working Group took note of the information provided by BSEC PERMIS on the developments regarding the UNDP regional project “Every Drop Matters” and the educational kit entitled “Black Sea Box”.

26. The Member States were invited to provide information on their respective activities on the implementation of the project.

27. The Working Group took note of the information provided by BSEC PERMIS on the EU initiative to establish a Black Sea University and requested BSEC PERMIS to follow up the issue with relevant structures of the EU in practical way and to inform the Working Group accordingly.

### **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)**

28. The Working Group adopted the following priorities for the PDF financing in the field of education:

- Academic mobility between the BSEC Member States;
- Development of joint university programs;
- Promoting the scientific research for sustainable development of the BSEC Region.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

29. The participants reiterated the importance of holding a Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Education. The Member States are invited to consider the possibility of organizing the Meeting in the second half of 2013 or in 2014.

30. The Working Group took note of the BSEC PERMIS proposal to publish a collection of XX century works of the classic literature writers of the BSEC Member States and decided to continue the consideration of the issue at its next Meeting.

31. The representative of the Republic of Turkey suggested for the Member States’ consideration the release of the works of classic literature in electronic form.

32. The BSEC-HDF Manager and a representative of Beyaz Gemi Social Project Agency made a presentation on the project titled ‘Energy Efficiency for a Smart School’, carried out in a primary school in Istanbul. The project was financed by the BSEC HDF. The presentation is attached as Annex V.

33. The Working Group took note of the presentation and the proposal to consider implementation of similar projects in other BSEC Member States.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

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