



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

**Permanent International Secretariat**

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**CONCLUSIONS  
OF THE INFORMAL MEETING  
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP  
ON EDUCATION**

**Rostov-on-Don, 18-19 May 2016**

1. An Informal Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education was held in Rostov-on-Don, the Russian Federation, on 18-19 May 2016, in the Southern Federal University.
2. The Informal Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Shivleta TAGIROVA, Adviser, International Department, Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.
3. Prof. Inna SHEVCHENKO, Vice-Rector, the Southern Federal University, delivered a welcome address to the participants.
4. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Informal Meeting:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey
5. The representative of the PABSEC International Secretariat attended as BSEC Related Body.
6. The List of Participants of the Informal Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

**AGENDA ITEM 2: 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 participants took note of the information by BSEC PERMIS on the ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15<sup>th</sup> BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006), since the last Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education (BSEC Headquarters, 13 November 2015).

9. The participants considered and approved the Evaluation Report on the activities of the BSEC Working Group on Education (1 January 2014 - 31 December 2015), elaborated by the Country-Coordinator (the Hellenic Republic), for the submission to the Committee of Senior Officials. The said Report is attached as **Annex III**.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA 2012”: PRIORITIES FOR THE SECOND MEDIUM-TERM (2016-2018)**

10. The participants took note of the information on the developments with regard to the implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012” and the priorities for the second medium-term (2016-2018), provided by the BSEC PERMIS.

11. The representative of the Hellenic Republic recalled that no new responses to the *Questionnaire on the academic and student mobility amongst the BSEC Member States* were received. The final conclusions of the Questionnaire will be submitted to the BSEC PERMIS shortly.

12. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed to consider the possibility to provide the BSEC PERMIS with a *Questionnaire on Cooperation in Education amongst the BSEC Member States* on a regular basis in order to establish a monitoring procedure.

13. The representative of the Hellenic Republic expressed interest of the country to participate in the elaboration of the above-mentioned Questionnaire.

14. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed to elaborate *a Concept Note for the optimization of the existing data-collection procedures in the field of Education in the BSEC Region*.

15. The representative of the Hellenic Republic recalled that the project proposal on an *“Integrated Virtual Environment for Higher Education in BSEC Countries”*, on the basis of the Portal of Education, was presented to the Working Group in 2015 (attached as **Annex IV**), with a view to be elaborated and implemented within the framework of the BSEC Project Management Unit. Interested Member States are invited to join the project.

16. The delegation of Romania expressed interest of the country to join the project.

17. The delegation of Romania delivered a presentation on the activities of the *Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)*, attached as **Annex V**.

18. The representative of the Hellenic Republic delivered a presentation on the *“Creation of a Leaflet/Brochure for Higher Education in Black Sea Region”*, as an easy and cost effective

way to further promote and expand the cooperation in Higher Education and the mobility of academic staff and students in the BSEC Region. The presentation is attached as **Annex VI**.

19. The delegations of Romania and the Russian Federation expressed interest of their countries to join the Hellenic Republic as members of the Coordinating Committee on the elaboration of the above-mentioned Leaflet/Brochure, to be presented at the next Meeting of the BSEC Working Group.

20. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed to prepare *an information on recent developments in the area of quality assurance in Higher Education in the BSEC Member States*.

21. The representatives of the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Turkey expressed readiness to participate in the preparation of the above-mentioned information. The relevant authorities of the BSEC Member States are invited to contribute to this end.

22. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed that data on proposals on the cooperation in the field of Education, made by a number of leading universities of Armenia, would be officially presented to the BSEC Member States for discussion at the next meeting of the Working Group.

23. The delegation of the Russian Federation delivered a presentation on the *“Black Sea Studies: Joint Educational Programs within BSEC”*, attached as **Annex VII**.

24. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed to elaborate a *Concept Note on national key Universities of the BSEC Member States* for the purpose of socio-economic development of the BSEC Region, to be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group.

25. The delegation of Romania delivered a presentation on the *“Cooperation in Central European Exchange Program for University Studies (CEEPUS)” and “Erasmus+” Programs*, as very useful examples for BSEC. The presentation is attached as **Annex VIII**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: YOUTH AND SPORTS ISSUES AND EDUCATION**

26. The participants took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS on the consideration of Youth and Sports issues within BSEC and encouraged the Member States to propose projects reflecting the interconnection between Education and Youth and Sports.

27. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed on the activities of the Russian Federal Agency for Youth Affairs and proposed to consider the possibility of creation of a *Coordination Bureau on Youth Cooperation in Black Sea region and a Black Sea Youth Parliament*, in coordination with the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC.

28. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed to elaborate a *Concept Note on Youth Policy in the BSEC Region*, to be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group.

29. The delegation of Romania will inform the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Romania on the above-mentioned Concept Note.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

30. The participants took note of the information on the collaboration with other international and regional organizations, provided by BSEC PERMIS.

31. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed to elaborate a *Concept Note containing proposals for enhancing the cooperation of BSEC with other international organizations in the field of education*, to be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group.

32. The delegation of Romania presented information regarding the *cooperation in the OECD and ETF* and expressed interest of the country to participate in the elaboration of the above-mentioned Concept Note.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF) AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) PROJECTS**

33. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the state of affairs with regard to the Project Development Fund (PDF) and the Guidelines for the BSEC Project Management Unit (PMU).

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

34. The representative of the PABSEC International Secretariat informed that the topic of the next meeting of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee will be "*Education and Science for sustainable development in the BSEC Member States*".

35. As the last Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Education was held back in 2005, the incoming Chairmanships of BSEC were invited to consider the possibility of organizing a Ministerial Meeting in 2017.

36. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the Southern Federal University for the organization of the Meeting and the hospitality extended to them in Rostov-on-Don.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE INFORMAL MEETING**

37. The participants adopted the present Conclusions for the submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of the Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.