



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

Sakıp Sabancı Cad., Müşir Fuad Paşa Yalısı, Eski Tersane, 34467 Emirgan – Istanbul/Turkey

Tel: ++90 212 2296330-35 Fax: ++90 212 2296336

E-mail: info@bsec-organization.org

www.bsec-organization.org

BS/WG/ED/R(2015)1

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

BSEC Headquarters, 9-10 March 2015

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 9-10 March 2015.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Carolina PRISACARU, Senior Consultant, Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova.
3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
4. The representative of the PABSEC International Secretariat attended as BSEC Related Body.
5. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. 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

7. 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, 9 October 2014).

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

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

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

9. The Country-Coordinator informed on the state of affairs regarding the Questionnaire on the academic and student mobility among the BSEC Member States and that the results of the Questionnaire will be communicated to the Member States in advance of the next meeting of the Working Group.

10. In this regard, the representative of the Republic of Moldova informed that the filled-up Questionnaire will be provided officially in due course.

11. 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.

12. The Country-Coordinator suggested that a circular letter could be sent by each Member State to its relevant Higher Education Institutions to further promote joint academic projects and encouraging mobility of academic staff and students among BSEC Member States.

13. The Working Group took note of the presentation on the Portal of Education in BSEC (www.bsec-edu.tuc.gr), delivered by the representative of the Hellenic Republic. The presentation is attached as **Annex IV**.

14. The representative of the Hellenic Republic presented a project proposal on “integrated virtual environment for higher education in BSEC Countries”, on the basis of the Portal of Education, to be elaborated and implemented within the framework of the BSEC Project Management Unit. The proposal is attached as **Annex V**.

15. In this respect, the Member States are invited to join the Project as partners.

16. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed on the intention to deliver a presentation on “Quality Assurance in Higher Education: the Case of Greece” at the next meeting of the Working Group. The presentation is attached as **Annex VI**.

17. The Working Group took note of the willingness by the Republic of Bulgaria to deliver a presentation at the next meeting of the Working Group with the aim to share expertise on the process of drafting of the National Qualifications Frameworks as instruments for enhancing transparency in qualifications.

18. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed that a presentation on the role of ICT in Turkish Education System would be delivered at the next meeting of the Working Group.
19. Upon consent of the Working Group, the representative of Romania will deliver, at the next meeting, a presentation on “The Quality Assurance of the Romanian Higher Education System”.
20. 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 of the 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.
21. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the preparations underway for the International Conference on “Professional Education and Economic Needs of the Black Sea Region”, to be held in Chişinău, on 24 April 2015, within the framework of Calendar of the Moldovan Chairmanship.
22. The Member States, Related Bodies, Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners were invited to participate in the Conference.
23. The BSEC PERMIS also informed on the Mathematics Olympiad of the BSEC Member States, to be held in Chişinău, on 1-5 April 2015, and invited the BSEC Member States, Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners to send their representatives to the event.

YOUTH AND SPORTS ISSUES AND EDUCATION

24. The Working Group took note of the information presented by BSEC PERMIS on the consideration of Youth and Sports issues within BSEC.
25. The representative of the Russian Federation informed about the national legislation and the measures undertaken by the Government of the Russian Federation aimed at the implementation and promotion of the State Youth Policy. The particular emphasis was made on the creation of the special Council consisting of the representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the relevant Russian regional and intra-regional public agencies and NGOs dealing with the issues of education of youth. The decisions taken by the Council contribute significantly to the increase of the quality of education as well as involvement of young people in social life.
26. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the representative of the PABSEC International Secretariat regarding the activities of the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, which will discuss the issue of the Role of Sports in promoting Growth, Employment and Social Cohesion in the BSEC Region, at its next meeting to be held in Ordu, on 1-2 April 2015.
27. The Working Group reiterated its invitation to the Member States to present their proposals on possibility of involvement of Youth and Sports issues in the field of education to be considered at its next meeting.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

28. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS on the cooperation with other international organizations in the sphere of education.

29. The Working Group agreed to examine, in compliance with the Plan of Action, practical ways and means for developing and further extending cooperation of BSEC with international organizations and specialized agencies in the field of education.

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

30. 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.

31. The Working Group took note of the explanatory remarks by the BSEC PERMIS on the Guidelines for the BSEC Project Management Unit.

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

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

33. 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 autumn 2015 or in 2016.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

34. 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.