

**ORGANIZATION
OF THE BLACK SEA
ECONOMIC
COOPERATION (BSEC)**

**KONRAD
ADENAUER
STIFTUNG
(KAS)**

**WORKSHOP ON
“ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SME POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN THE BSEC
REGION
IN THE TIME OF EMERGING FROM THE ECONOMIC CRISES”**

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 21-22 July 2011

Summary Proceedings

- 1.** The Workshop on “Entrepreneurship and SME Policy Development in the BSEC Region in the time of Emerging from the Economic Crises” was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 21-22 July 2011. It was jointly organized by the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC PERMIS) and the Representation of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (Foundation) (KAS) for Turkey.
- 2.** Welcoming statements were delivered by Ambassador Leonidas CHRYSANTHOPOULOS, Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS; Mr. Jan SENKYR, Resident Representative of KAS for Turkey; and Dr. Antal SZABO, UNECE ret. Regional Adviser on Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Scientific Director of ERENET.

2.1. Ambassador L. CHRYSANTHOPOULOS welcomed the participants to the Workshop and mentioned that the economic and financial crisis the world economy has experienced and continues to experience nowadays is a result of human greed that creates a lack of confidence. Therefore the right response to it would be to restore the confidence by limiting human greed. He proposed several measures to be implemented by the BSEC Member States in order to overcome the negative effects of the economic and financial crisis. Ambassador L. CHRYSANTHOPOULOS informed the participants of the Workshop on the main projects carried out within the BSEC and outlined the priorities of the Russian Chairmanship in the BSEC for the period 1 July-31 December 2011.

The text of opening statement of Ambassador L. CHRYSANTHOPOULOS is attached as Annex I.

2.2. Mr. J. SENKYR welcomed the Participants of the Workshop on behalf of KAS and explained the importance of this extraordinary meeting organized in cooperation with the BSEC. The aim of this Workshop is to review the current situation of the SME sector in the BSEC countries, the impact of the economic crises, the steps made by the Governments to weaken the impact of the crises and elaborate recommendations what the Governments should do to develop the SME sector in individual countries. He expressed his satisfaction that this time all BSEC countries are present at this Workshop. Finally he expressed his appreciation and thanks to ERENET in assisting to hiring experts and preparing the national country studies.

2.3. Dr. A. SZABO in his welcoming address highlighted that in spite of the economic crises the awareness and importance of the entrepreneurship during the last four years significantly increased. At the time being 12 million SMEs in the BSEC countries employ 46.5 million people, while the number of unemployment increased to 15.4 million. Remarkable achievement was made by Albania, Armenia, Georgia and Moldova. The low share of the SME sector in GDP is working in Azerbaijan and Ukraine. The benchmarking of the SME sectors in the BSEC countries based on the World Bank Doing Business methodology as well as on the Index of SME Development developed by the UNECE and maintained by ERENET provide useful tools to evaluate the trend in this field. He expressed his thanks to the ERENET experts for preparing the national studies, to KAS and BSEC PERMIS for organizing this project and event.

3. The Workshop was co-chaired in rotation by Mr. J. SENKYR; Ambassador L. CHRYSANTHOPOULOS; and Dr. A. SZABO.

4. The Workshop was attended by the Experts from the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

The list of participants is attached as Annex II and the Program of the Workshop is attached as Annex III.

5. An exchange of views concerning Entrepreneurship and SME Policy Development in the BSEC Region in the time of Emerging from the Economic Crises SMEs in the BSEC Member States took place. In their presentations, the representatives of the BSEC Member States presented updated information and figures on the state of SMEs in their countries and concrete proposals for further development of SMEs. Their presentations, suggestions and conclusions will be included in a detailed comprehensive study work to be published and distributed to the Member States at a later stage.

6. The Participants to the Workshop expressed their deep gratitude to KAS for its financial contribution to the Workshop, and to BSEC PERMIS for the hospitality extended to them during the meeting in Istanbul.

