



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: bsec@tnn.net / bsec1@tnn.net / info@bsec-organization.org

www.bsec-organization.org

BS/WG/ED/R(2013)2

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

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 6 November 2013

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 6 November 2013.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Mikhayil VARDANIAN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to BSEC.
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
Ukraine
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, amended 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 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, 26 March 2013).

7. 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.

8. The Working Group considered and approved the Evaluation Report on the activities of the Working Group (2012-2013), elaborated by the Country-Coordinator (The Hellenic Republic), for its submission to the Committee of Senior Officials. The said Report is attached as **Annex III**.

9. The Working Group expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Hellenic Republic in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Education for the past two years.

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

10. 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”.

11. The Working Group took note of the information on the Questionnaire on the mobility of academic staff and students among the BSEC Member States, provided by the Country-Coordinator.

12. The Member States, who have not done so, are invited to respond to the Questionnaire by 30 January 2014, and continue discussion on the issue at the next Meeting of the Working Group. The said Questionnaire is attached as **Annex IV**.

13. The Working Group took note of the presentation by the Country-Coordinator on the concrete steps for the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Working Group. The presentation is attached as **Annex V**.

14. In this connection, the Member States are invited to take practical steps towards the implementation of joint projects in the field of education in conformity with the Plan of Action.

15. The Working Group considered, amended and adopted the Report on the activities of the Working Group on the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda and decided to forward it to the Council through the Committee of Senior Officials. The Implementation Report is attached as **Annex VI**.

CONSIDERATION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC PUBLIC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

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

17. The Working Group considered, amended and approved the Draft Paper for the BSEC webpage on Education, elaborated by the BSEC PERMIS. The Paper is attached as **Annex VII**.

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 the aim to secure compatibility of the educational systems in the BSEC region

18. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed on the outcome of the 'Regional Meeting of Ministers of Education on the Implementation of the European Higher Education Area' (Yerevan, 17-18 October 2013).

19. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria informed that from February 2012 the Republic of Bulgaria has its national qualifications framework.

20. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed of the Resolution by the Government of the Republic of Armenia on the approval in 2011 of national qualification framework, as well as the guidelines for its introduction and implementation.

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

21. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed on the Portal of Education in the BSEC (www.bsec-edu.tuc.gr), maintained by the Hellenic Republic. The Member States were invited to make greater use of the possibilities offered by the Portal, to update the relevant national information and to appoint their Focal Points to the Portal.

c) Follow-up on the exchange of views on elaborating joint programs of post graduate studies and University research

22. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed on intergovernmental and inter-institutional joint programs in her respective state.

23. The Working Group discussed the issue and invited the Member States to consider possible proposals on the joint programs in the light of the results of the Questionnaire on the Academic Mobility.

d) Use of information and communication technologies in education

24. A Concept Paper on the use of information and communication technologies in education will be elaborated by the Republic of Armenia, as a proponent of the relevant proposal, for the Member States' consideration at the next Meeting of the Group.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

25. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the final stage of elaboration of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between BSEC PERMIS and the Secretariat of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).

26. Taking into consideration that no developments were recorded on the EU initiative to establish a Black Sea University, the Working Group invited a representative of the European Commission to provide additional information on the initiative.

27. The Member States were invited to explore the possible ways and means of cooperation between the BSEC and the UNESCO and make relevant proposals to be discussed at its next Meeting.

28. The Working Group requested the BSEC PERMIS to explore the possibility of cooperation with international organizations for awareness raising-oriented programs in various social and economic fields to be introduced in schools and universities of the BSEC Member States.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BSEC PERMIS AND MEMBER STATES

29. The Working Group discussed the PERMIS proposals regarding the improvement of the communications between the BSEC PERMIS and BSEC Member States, and agreed, in parallel with the official correspondence, to use the existing e-mail network to facilitate communication between the BSEC Secretariat and the focal points assigned by the Member States to the Working Group on Education.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)

30. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative about the state of affairs with the issue of replenishment of the Project Development Fund and the decision by the PDF Steering Committee to temporarily postpone submission of the project applications.

31. The Working Group took note of the PDF project application titled “Implementing the Revised Core Curriculum Based on the Modern Languages Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) in the Republic of Armenia”, submitted by the Republic of Armenia, and decided to consider it when the Fund is replenished.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

32. 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 in 2014 a Ministerial Meeting or a high-level conference on cooperation in the field of education among the BSEC Member States.

33. 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.

34. Since the term-of-office of Greece as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group will expire on 31 December 2013, the PERMIS invited the Member States to consider their nominations for this office.

35. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC-HDF Manager regarding three projects for production of solar energy that were implemented in the respective schools of the BSEC Member States with educational component, aiming at making pupils more responsible on environmental matters and more conscious of energy uses.

36. The participants requested to consider the possibility of implementing the similar projects in the educational institutions in other BSEC Member States.

37. Furthermore, the Working Group was informed about the project implemented by International Center for Black Sea Studies, that successfully established a “Green Cluster of Knowledge Institutions” with at least thirty members from the BSEC academic and research communities that have agreed to implement in their institutions a Roadmap for awareness and implementation of energy saving policies.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

38. 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 to be held in Yerevan on 10-11 December 2013.