



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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

BSEC Headquarters, 12 May 2014

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 12 May 2014.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Branimir RADEV, Minister Plenipotentiary, Coordinator of the Bulgarian Chairmanship of the Organization of BSEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria.
3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
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 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 follow up of the Declarations and the Statements of the Ministers in charge of Education since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Education (BSEC Headquarters, 6 November 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 participants welcomed the reappointment of the Hellenic Republic as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Education for another period of 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 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT PROGRAMMES

9. The BSEC PERMIS representative presented the summary on previous discussions in the Working Group on the measures to implement the Action Plan on the implementation of the Economic Agenda in the field of Education.

10. The Working Group took note of the presentation on the Questionnaire on the mobility of academic staff and students among the BSEC Member States, delivered by the Country-Coordinator (The Hellenic Republic). The presentation is attached as **Annex III**.

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 Working Group took note of the updated information on the Portal of Education, presented by the delegation of the Hellenic Republic, and reiterated its call to the Member States to appoint national focal points to the Portal.

13. The Working Group took note of the following presentations delivered by the delegation of the Russian Federation:

- a) Graduates’ competitiveness: main challenges.
- b) Saint-Petersburg University of State Fire Service of the Ministry of Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters.

14. The presentations are attached as **Annex IV and V**.

15. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia informed that a Concept Paper on the use of information and communication technologies in education will be elaborated and presented to the Working Group in due course.

16. The representative of Bulgaria informed about the European Portal of Adult Learning Education (EPALE) and invited the relevant institutions of the Member States to make use of it.

17. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed that a conference on “Emergency Legislation and Education in the Age of Globalization” will be held at Saint-Petersburg University of State Fire Service of EMERCOM of Russia, on 28-29 May 2014, and invited interested institutions of the Member States to participate in it.

18. The Working Group took note of the proposal of BSEC PERMIS to organize an International Conference on ‘Professional Education and Needs of the Market Economy of the BSEC Member States’, to be held in Istanbul, in October 2014, under the incoming Hellenic Chairmanship of BSEC. The BSEC PERMIS invited the Member States to communicate their comments/observations on the draft Concept Paper regarding the Conference and elaborated by the BSEC PERMIS by 15 June 2014. The draft is attached as **Annex VI**.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

19. Following the previous conclusions of the Working Group, the representative of BSEC PERMIS informed on the contacts between the BSEC PERMIS and the UNESCO Secretariat regarding the cooperation in the field of Education.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)

20. 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.

HOW TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP? - OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS. THE FUTURE OF OUR WORKING GROUP

21. The Working Group took note of the information on the issue delivered by the BSEC PERMIS representative and exchanged views on the ways and means of increasing the efficiency of the Working Group.

22. In this context, the participants requested the BSEC PERMIS to continue taking practical steps towards upgrading the content of the draft agendas of the Working Group meetings in such a way that they include more substantial, project-oriented issues which are of interest to the Member States. Within this framework, the PERMIS reiterated that it will welcome all proposals from the Member States for the draft agendas of the meetings of the Working Group.

23. The Member States were invited to communicate to the BSEC PERMIS updated information on the List of Representatives/Focal Points of the Working Group, attached as **Annex VII**.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. The participants reiterated the importance of considering the opportunity of convening a meeting of Ministers in charge of Education of the BSEC Member States, probably in the course of 2015.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

25. 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 Varna on 17-18 June 2014.