



**BS/WG/ED/R(2010)1**

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

**Istanbul, 11-12 November 2010**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 11-12 November 2010.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mrs. Kalliroi CHOURDAKI, Head of International Relations in Education Directorate, Ministry of Education, Life-Long Learning and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, and Mr. Mehmet DURMAN, Rector of Sakarya University.
3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:
  - Republic of Albania
  - Republic of Armenia
  - Hellenic Republic
  - Republic of Moldova
  - Romania
  - Russian Federation
  - Republic of Turkey
4. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) participated in the Meeting as BSEC Related Body.
5. The representative of the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN) attended the Meeting as BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner.
6. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

### **DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2011-2012**

8. In line with the Resolution of the 22<sup>nd</sup> CMFA (Sofia, 28 May 2010), the Working Group will implement the Action Plan 2008-2010 until the end of 2010.

9. The Country-Coordinator presented the Draft Action Plan 2011 – 2012.

10. The Working Group discussed and amended the draft Action Plan 2011-2012. The Action Plan, as amended, is attached as Annex III. The Working Group decided to give more time to the Member States to assess it, and communicate eventual amendments to PERMIS until 20 December 2010. If no amendments are received until the deadline, the Action Plan will be considered adopted.

11. The Working Group entrusted the Country-Coordinator and BSEC PERMIS with the task to revise the Draft upon receiving eventual amendments and communicate back to the Member States with one month time-span after which the Action Plan would be considered approved.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION (JOINT ATHENS DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES, ATHENS 2005)**

12. Upon clarifications by the BSEC PERMIS Executive Manager relative to the “Implementation of the Resolution of the Council and the follow-up of the Declaration of Ministers Responsible for Education (2005)”, the participants decided to secure a checking mechanism on taking commitments deriving from BSEC Council Resolutions, Decisions, Recommendations and Action Plan provisions.

### **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 aim to secure compatibility of the educational systems in the BSEC region;**

13. The representative of the Republic of Turkey, following the commitment taken at previous Meeting of the Working Group, informed that due to the lack of interest of the Member States, the Conference “Cooperation in the development of national frameworks of qualification” scheduled to take place in Turkey in September 2009 was cancelled, and that Turkey will renew the initiative of holding the Conference in June 2011.

14. The Working Group decided to summon-up national support for the participation at the said Conference.

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

15. The representative of the Hellenic Republic made a presentation on the Portal for Education in the BSEC. The presentation is attached as Annex IV.

16. The participants exchanged views on the creation of a network, website and on the Portal and decided to proceed with its implementation by stages; first, to appoint Focal Points for the Portal, second, to take assessment of the Portal and eventually introduce improvements, third, to start filling the Portal with relevant data, as requested. Each Member State is requested to nominate its Focal Point on the Portal not later than 1 month after the adoption of the Action Plan.

**c) Follow-up on investigation of the possibility of elaborating joint programs of postgraduate studies and Universities research**

17. The representative of Turkey stressed the importance of this Agenda sub-item and pinpointed that this issue should be considered as priority in future Working Group activities.

18. The representative of BSUN informed on the submission to the Black Sea Cross-Border Cooperation Call of a proposal for a master degree program on the management of renewable energy sources with the participation of the following consortium of universities: Istanbul Technical University, Varna Technical University, Technical University of Moldova, and Taurida National University.

19. BSUN informed on its intention to send a letter to BSEC PERMIS on its proposal with regard to the problems experienced in establishing the Joint Master Degree Program.

**d) Investigation on possibility of elaborating joint programs related to Lifelong Learning between relevant institutions in BSEC Member States**

20. The Working Group decided to continue discussion on this issue at its next Meeting.

21. The representative of the Hellenic Republic took a commitment to prepare an introductory information on the issue which can serve as a basis for future Working Group activities.

**e) Quality Assurance in Higher Education**

22. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed that this Agenda sub-item will be included into the Agenda of the mentioned Conference to be held in June 2011.

**f) Use of information and Communication Technology in Education**

23. There was no discussion under this Agenda sub-item.

## **COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

24. The BSEC PERMIS Representative briefed the participants on the issue of the project proposal submitted by the UNDP to BSEC on “Every Drop Matters” and on the letter that was communicated to the BSEC Ministers of Education (BSEC PERMIS Co. No.BS/C.2010.077 as of 6 September 2010) with an appeal to consider the proposal for introducing at their national curricula the educational kit entitled “Black Sea Box”.

25. The participants decided to make an appeal to their ministries to consider the issue and duly inform back BSEC PERMIS on their decisions.

26. The Working Group requested BSEC PERMIS to provide more information on the issue (copyrights, funding etc.), and to inform back the Member States.

27. The participants took note on the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS Representative on latest developments on the activities of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

28. The Working Group acknowledged the willingness of the Alliance of Civilizations to initiate cooperation with BSEC suggesting BSEC to propose a project and asked the PERMIS to further investigate the issue.

29. The Working Group concluded that information on best practices in the individual BSEC Member States could be shared at the next meeting of the Working Group with the possible input of the international organizations which have extensive experience in this domain, adding that not much more could be done within the Working Group on Education.

30. The Working Group decided to continue discussion on BSEC-Council of Europe cooperation at its next Meeting.

31. BSUN representative informed on the launching of the United Nations Academic Impact Initiative. BSUN is a founding member of the Initiative acting as an International Partner Organization.

## **PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF PDF AND REGIONAL PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AMONG BSEC MEMBER STATES**

### **a) PDF Manual of Operations**

32. The Working Group took note of the information by the BSEC PERMIS Executive Manager on the new regulation of the BSEC Project Development Fund (PDF) according which the priorities project areas need to be defined. He provided information on the establishment of the Hellenic Development Fund (HDF) and in this respect deliberated on opportunities it provides for funding BSEC projects.

33. The participants proposed that concrete assignments for those projects which could be submitted to PDF, HDF and international organizations and institutions (UNESCO, Council of

Europe, European Commission) for consideration and eventual financial support should be determined at subsequent stages of co-operation, upon evaluating the priorities.

**b) Setting-up Working Group priorities for PDF Funding**

34. The Working Group decided to discuss the issue at its next meeting upon receiving suggestions from the Member States through BSEC PERMIS, and defined the deadline as the end of this year.

**c) Information on accomplished PDF Projects (WISE, NICDTC)**

35. The participants took note on the presentation made by the BSEC PERMIS representative on the accomplished PDF Projects and decided to investigate the possibilities of further assistance to it.

**d) Regional Programs**

36. There was no discussion on the issue.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

37. No issues were raised under this Agenda Item.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

38. 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 to be held in Thessaloniki on 24-25 November 2010.