



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND
ECONOMIC NEEDS OF THE BLACK SEA REGION”**

(Chisinau, 24 April 2015)

The 1st International Conference on “Professional Education and Economic Needs of the Black Sea Region” was held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on 24 April 2015. The Conference was jointly organized by the BSEC PERMIS and the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova under the auspices of the Moldovan Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC which covers the January-June 2015 period.

More than 100 participants from relevant government authorities, academia, business circles, BSEC Related Bodies, international organizations, including UNESCO, International Road Transport Union, International Union of Railways and the Danube Commission, as well as the Chamber of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Moldova and other civil society organizations took part in the event. The Conference was inaugurated by the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Victor TVIRCUN and the Rector of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova Dr. Grigore BELOSTECINIC. A message from the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was also delivered at the opening session. Dr. Gheorghe DUCA, President of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Octavian CALMIC, Vice-Minister of Economy of the Republic of Moldova as well as Mr. Umberto de PRETTO, Secretary General of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) also addressed the Conference during the opening session.

The main themes of the Conference were discussed in detail within four panels, addressing quality issues in formal education; education and the role of information and communication technologies; linking science and education with market demands; and key values and priorities of education in the 21st Century.

With the presentations and discussions which took place during the panel sessions, the Conference enabled the participants to identify the interrelated issues of education, economy and information and communication technologies through underlining the

educational, technical and scientific aspects of the issue and enriching the public-private synergy with a solid academic component.

The Conference also provided a valuable forum for the exchange of experiences and success stories, thus leading to a better understanding of the significance of formal education and the identification of the key areas of research related to the connection between education and the labour market.