



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE ON THE JOINT WORKSHOP ON PROJECT PROMOTION

(Istanbul, 28 February 2018)

The *Permanent International Secretariat* of the Organization of the *Black Sea Economic Cooperation* (BSEC PERMIS), the *Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions* (CPMR) and its *Balkan & Black Sea Commission* (BBSC) organized a joint “*Workshop on Project Promotion*” on 28 March 2018 at the BSEC Headquarters. The Workshop was addressed to Regional and Local Authorities as well as other stakeholders from the wider Black Sea region.

The aim of the Workshop was to present the significant role of Regional Authorities in policy-making, the available funding instruments and sustainability of actions, as well as a number of successful regional cooperation examples in various parts of Europe and the Black Sea area. The newly launched AI-NURECC Initiative (*Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities*) – linked to the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) was also presented as a useful model for closer cooperation among public and private entities in the Black Sea area.

BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. Christides, made a welcoming speech and touched upon the project-oriented approach of the Organization and the willingness of BSEC PERMIS to continue working together with the countries in the region, the European Commission and with other important stakeholders in order to develop joint initiatives in all areas of shared interest. He informed about several programmes and policies in the wider Black Sea region which are currently under way or in the process of being developed and underlined the crucial importance of fruitful cooperation on the **regional level**. He expressed the hope that more regions from the wider Black Sea area will decide to join the CPMR, a partner of the BSEC Organization, as it has gained huge experience and expertise in the promotion of significant regional projects.

Mrs. Christiana Kalogirou, President of the CPMR BBSC, Regional Governor of North Aegean, described the multifaceted activity of the Organization and some of its most important projects of regional maritime cooperation, extending from the tip of the European continent to its southern part and to the Black Sea region.

Approximately 70 distinguished stakeholders from different countries and professions actively participated in the Workshop, contributed to the lively discussions and had an excellent opportunity for networking.