



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
Permanent International Secretariat

BS/WG/C/R(2018)2

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

Belgrade, 22 November 2018

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, on 22 November 2018.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Jagoda STAMENKOVIC, Head of the Department for International Relations and European Integration in the field of Culture, Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey

The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL, AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF CULTURE

5. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council and the follow-up of Declarations adopted by the Ministers in charge of Culture, since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Culture (BSEC Headquarters, 21 May 2018).

6. The Working Group welcomed the readiness of the Republic of Turkey to assume the function of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Culture for the period of two years starting from 1 January 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT DOCUMENTS (AGENDA AND JOINT DECLARATION) FOR THE MEETING OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF CULTURE OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (BELGRADE, 23 NOVEMBER 2018)

7. The delegation of the Republic of Serbia informed on the arrangements for the Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Culture of the BSEC Member States (Belgrade, 23 November 2018) and introduced the Draft Agenda and the Draft Declaration for the said Ministerial Meeting.

8. The Working Group agreed on the *Draft Agenda* of the Ministerial Meeting and finalized the text of the Draft “*Belgrade Declaration of the Ministers in charge of Culture of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation*”. The Draft Agenda and the Draft Belgrade Declaration are attached as **Annex III** and **Annex IV**, respectively.

9. The Working Group took note of the draft Report of the Ministerial Meeting, prepared by the BSEC PERMIS (attached as **Annex V**).

AGENDA ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF THE EVALUATION REPORT OF THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY 2017 TO 31 DECEMBER 2018

10. The Working Group considered and approved the Evaluation Report of the Country-Coordinator (Republic of Serbia) for the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018, which will be submitted to the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials. The Evaluation Report is attached as **Annex VI**.

11. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia, as the Country-Coordinator, for the results achieved during the past two years.

AGENDA ITEM 5: DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS (FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION) BY COUNTRIES:

12. The Working Group took note of the useful recommendations on the following sub-items proposed for future consideration by the Country-Coordinator in the Evaluation Report:

- Creation of a BSEC Cultural Platform;
- Participation in film festival(s);

- Production of the TV specials (60 min.) with the collaboration among the national TV stations;
- Mobility of artists and artworks in different areas (events, festivals, etc.).

13. The BSEC PERMIS informed the Working Group that five BSEC Member States (Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Serbia and Republic of Turkey) have sent their respective materials on the project proposal on the mapping of Byzantine routes in the BSEC Member States. The remaining Member States are invited to respond as soon as possible in order for the project to be completed.

14. The BSEC PERMIS informed the Working Group that seven BSEC Member States (Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine) have submitted their respective contributions for publishing a collection of works of the classic literature writers of the BSEC Member States. The remaining Member States are invited to respond as soon as possible in order for the project to be completed.

15. The delegation of Georgia presented the updated *Project proposal on the establishment of a “Black Sea Youth Symphony Orchestra”* with the reduced budget, in line with the decision of the last Meeting of the BSEC Working Group, and invited the BSEC Member States to support the Project. The updated Project proposal is attached as **Annex VII**.

16. The Working Group decided to continue the consideration of the above mentioned Project proposal at its next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17. The Working Group agreed to organize a Joint Meeting with the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism in the first semester of 2019, in order to consider issues of shared interest and requested the BSEC PERMIS to undertake the appropriate arrangements in this regard.

18. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia for the warm hospitality and the excellent organization of the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

19. The Working Group on Culture adopted the present Report for its submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.