



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

BS/WG/ED/R(2024)1

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION

Online, 25 April 2024

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education was held online on 25 April 2024.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Panagiotis PASSAS, Director General for International and European Affairs, Education of the Hellenic Diaspora and Intercultural Education, Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports of the Hellenic Republic.
3. Opening Remarks were made by:

Mr. Panagiotis PASSAS, on behalf of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group;

Ms. Sandra VUJINOVIC, Executive Manager of the BSEC PERMIS, on behalf of the Secretariat.
4. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Türkiye
Ukraine
5. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC) attended the meeting as the BSEC Related Body.
6. The representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt attended the meeting as the BSEC Observer.

7. The following BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners attended the Meeting:
Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR)
Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN).
8. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF THE WIDER BLACK SEA AREA

10. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the “*BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards a sustainable future of the wider Black Sea area*”, adopted by the 47th BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs at an online meeting on 15 December 2023, as a framework strategy document for guiding the cooperation in the BSEC framework in the years to come.
11. In this context, **Goal 14** of the Economic Agenda on ***Higher Standard in Education and Training***, which outlines short- and medium-term priorities and actions in the aforementioned domain, was highlighted.
12. That being the case, and in order to ensure tangible results, the Secretariat invited Member States to submit to PERMIS by the end of the calendar year information on their relevant measures and national policies aimed at achieving the set goals and objectives in the above context. Based on the received inputs, an Implementation Report will be prepared.
13. Further on, BSEC PERMIS encouraged the participants to elaborate on possible projects/initiatives for collaboration and joint actions in line with the updated BSEC Economic Agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 3: PRESENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2025 BY THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC, THE CURRENT COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION

14. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic, the current Country-Coordinator, briefly presented the draft Plan of Action of the Working Group on Education covering the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025, including the general objectives and key priorities of the Working Group, as well as the challenges and opportunities for further development of initiatives within the Working Group.
15. The Working Group adopted the presented Plan of Action for its submission to the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO). The Action Plan, as approved by the Working Group, is attached as **Annex III**.
16. The representatives of the Republic of Serbia and the Russian Federation while expressing their appreciation for the work of the delegation of the Hellenic Republic in the preparation of the above-mentioned document, expressed the need for its best use and in this regard emphasized the importance of networking and synergy within the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGING INFORMATION ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MEMBER STATES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL FOR REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP

17. In this framework, the following delegations took the floor: the Hellenic Republic, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Türkiye and Ukraine, thus sharing relevant policies, measures and insights of their Countries on a wide range of issues in the field of education.

18. The Working Group took note of the above, and recognizing the importance of collaboration in this area, proposed to consider the possibility of organizing more frequent meetings of the Working Group on Education on concrete, specific topics of interest to the stakeholders of the BSEC Member States as additional means of informal exchange of experiences in this regard.

AGENDA ITEM 5: COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERS

19. The Working Group took note of the information delivered by the representative of the *Balkan and Black Sea Commission* (BBSC) of the *Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe* (CPMR).

AGENDA ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20. The representative of the Republic of Türkiye kindly reminded of the change in the name of this country from “Republic of Turkey” to “Republic of Türkiye” in 2021.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

21. The Working Group adopted the Report of the Meeting to be submitted to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.