



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

BS/WG/CS&T/R(2024)1

**REPORT
OF THE MEETING
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Online, 30 May 2024

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held online on 30 May 2024.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Kezban AKKURT, Head of International Organizations Department, Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye.
3. Opening remarks were made by the BSEC PERMIS First Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Merve Safa KAVAKCI and Ms. Kezban AKKURT on behalf of Country-Coordinator.
4. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Türkiye
Ukraine
5. The following BSEC Related Bodies attended the Meeting:
Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC)
International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)
6. The representative of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) attended the meeting as the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner.
7. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. 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

9. The Secretariat elaborated on the adoption of the updated *BSEC Economic Agenda Towards a sustainable future of the wider Black Sea area*, by the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on 15 December 2023, and the content of **GOAL 11: Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Scientific Research and Technology**.

10. Within this framework, the Working Group discussed the modalities of cooperation in the field of Science and Technology in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned Goal, which specify priorities and goals in this area.

11. Further on, BSEC PERMIS encouraged the participants to identify and propose concrete ideas /projects to be further pursued by the Working Group in line with the updated BSEC Economic Agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 3: EVALUATION OF THE PROGRESS ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2023 - 30 JUNE 2024 DURING THE COUNTRY-COORDINATORSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

12. Under this Agenda Item, the representative of the Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye in the capacity of the Country-Coordinator evaluated the activities of the Working Group in the previous period, identifying concrete opportunities and challenges for a stronger cooperation within the Working Group.

13. Within the same framework, the results of the Workshop on Technoparks and Organized Industrial Zones (held online, 29 November 2023) and the Workshop on Tech Entrepreneurship (held online, 22 February 2024) were presented.

14. In this respect, the Working Group expressed its appreciation for the overall work of the delegation of the Republic of Türkiye during the coordination period, and warmly welcomed the next Country-Coordinator of the Working Group – the Republic of Moldova.

AGENDA ITEM 4: BLUE ECONOMY STRATEGIES FOR THE BSEC COUNTRIES – PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BURSA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (BTU)

15. The Working Group took note of the presentation made by the representative of the Bursa Technical University (BTU), concerning the project proposal “*Blue Port Index for BSEC Countries*”, for possible financing from the BSEC Project Development Fund (PDF).

16. The Working Group welcomed the intention of the BTU to prepare, in compliance with the PDF Manual of Operations and in cooperation with other partners from the Member States, a standard application for funding the above project, with a view to consider it at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

17. Given the interconnected nature of the project, the Working Group suggested that the above project be communicated to other interested BSEC Working Groups with a view to broaden the discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES: EXPLORING AVENUES FOR COLLABORATION AND FOSTER DISCUSSIONS ON EXAMINING INNOVATION TRENDS

18. In this framework, the following delegations took the floor: the Russian Federation, the Republic of Türkiye and Ukraine, providing a comprehensive overview of the latest developments in their Countries on a wide range of issues in the field of Science and Technology.

AGENDA ITEM 6: COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERS

19. The representative of the *Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC* (PABSEC) informed regarding their relevant activities and priorities in the area of Science and Technology.

20. The representative of the *International Centre for Black Sea Studies* (ICBSS) provided detailed information about their flagship activities carried out in the recent period, as well as their plans for the imminent future.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21. No discussion was held under this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

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