



# **ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

## **Permanent International Secretariat**

---

**BS/WG/ED/R(2025)1**

### **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION**

**Online, 20 May 2025**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education was held online on 20 May 2025.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Panagiotis PASSAS, Director General for International and European Affairs, Education for the Hellenic Diaspora and Intercultural Education, Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports of the Hellenic Republic.

3. Opening Remarks were made by:

Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS, Deputy Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS on behalf of the Secretariat;

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

4. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Hellenic Republic  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
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 following BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners attended the Meeting:  
Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN)  
Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR).

7. The representative of the Global Education Network Europe (GENE) attended the meeting as guest.

8. The representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) participated in the meeting as guest via a pre-recorded video message.

9. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

### **AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

10. 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 UPDATED BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA “TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF THE WIDER BLACK SEA AREA”**

11. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda, more precisely the relevant provisions set out in ***Goal 14: Higher Standard in Education and Training***, as a platform for a more productive, effective and constructive cooperation for achieving tangible results.

12. To this end, the BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS and the BSEC PERMIS recalled its invitation to the Member States to provide PERMIS with information on their national policies and measures aimed at achieving the objectives of the BSEC Economic Agenda in the field of education **by 30 June 2025**. Based on the contributions received, an Implementation Report will be prepared. BSEC PERMIS thanked the delegations of the Hellenic Republic and Romania for their inputs in this context.

13. In addition, BSEC PERMIS reiterated its call on Member States to consider possible joint projects of regional impact in this area, in line with the goals set forth in the BSEC Economic Agenda.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP IN THE DIGITAL ERA**

14. The Working Group had an extensive exchange of views on the concept of digital citizenship, the opportunities and challenges it brings in education, responsible and safe use of the digital environment, and ways of active, ethical and respectful engagement in these spaces.

15. The representatives of the Hellenic Republic, Romania and the Republic of Türkiye addressed this issue and shared their views in this regard.

16. In this context, the delegation of the Russian Federation proposed to consider launching an exchange of best practices for developing digital skills and digital citizenship in the BSEC Member States, with a view to formulating a set of recommendations for educators and trainers in the BSEC Region.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

17. Under this Agenda Item, the representatives of the Republic of Armenia, the Hellenic Republic, Romania and the Republic of Türkiye provided comprehensive information on their relevant national measures and activities in the respective area of cooperation.

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

18. The representative of PABSEC provided information on the current and upcoming activities of the PABSEC and its relevant Committee. In this context, the PABSEC Report and Recommendation on “*Current Strategies and Practices for Advancing Education and Employment for People with Disabilities in the BSEC Region*” was highlighted.

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).

20. The representative of the *Global Education Network Europe* (GENE) presented their work, flagship projects and activities to the Working Group, and expressed their willingness to explore opportunities for interaction with BSEC in areas of mutual interest.

21. The representative of the *United Nations Alliance of Civilizations* (UNAOC) addressed the meeting via a pre-recorded video message.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

22. Following the overall discussions and presentations, the delegation of the Republic of Türkiye proposed the establishment of a Task Force on Artificial Intelligence in Education, the development of cross-border AI-powered learning tools, and the coordination of innovation-focused mobility and exchange projects for practitioners working in the field of educational technology, AI, and data science for the BSEC region.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

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