



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
Permanent International Secretariat

12 December 2024

BS/WG/ESDEI/R(2024)3

**REPORT OF THE
MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON EXCHANGE OF STATISTICAL DATA AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION**

Online, 12 December 2024

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information was held online, on 12 December 2024.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Betül TAŞDEMİR, Head of Foreign Relations Department, Turkish Statistical Institute, on behalf of the Country-Coordinator, the Republic of Türkiye.
3. Opening remarks were made by the BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS.
4. 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
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Türkiye
Ukraine
5. The following BSEC Related Body also participated in the Meeting:

Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB)

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6. The following Observer participated in the meeting:
- Arab Republic of Egypt
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 considered and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: PRESENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR, THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE, FOR THE TERM 01 JULY 2024 - 30 JUNE 2026

9. The representatives of the BSEC Coordination Center on Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information, on behalf of the Country-Coordinator, the Republic of Türkiye, presented the Action Plan for their term 01 July 2024 – 30 June 2026.
10. The Action Plan was considered and adopted. The Action Plan, as adopted, is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: PRESENTATION OF PUBLICATIONS SIMILAR TO THE COMPILATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS FOR THE BSEC COUNTRIES, RESUMED BY THE WORKING GROUP IN JUNE 2024, FROM THE MEMBER STATES THAT CAN BE REFERRED AS GOOD PRACTICE AND EXCHANGE OF GENERAL INFORMATION ON NATIONAL POLICIES, ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED AND ON BEST PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF STATISTICS

11. The representatives from the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Türkiye presented their national experiences in the field of statistics, from the organization of different censuses and different publication of data and indicators.
12. The Republic of Azerbaijan has completed a survey of 137 indicators, including the 18 SDGs, is preparing for 2025 to conduct the agricultural census, has declared the 2024 “The year of solidarity of the green world” and drafted the system of green indicators, has adopted Memoranda of Understanding with many countries, including Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, etc, and is preparing to introduce the use of AI in their work.
13. The Republic of Albania informed the participants of the cyber attack against their website in January 2024 and the hard work to overcome it and resume and complete their objectives for 2024, the completion of the census on population and housing, a three-year project whose final results were presented in June, the major revision of national accounts and

publication of new and updated set of data for 2018-2023, and their preparation for the agricultural census to be conducted in 2026.

14. The Republic of Türkiye presented their publication of the indicators for the 100 years of the Republic, as a major publication celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Republic on 2023. In addition, they informed and presented their dedicated children webpage, realised in Turkish and English with the cooperation of UNICEF Türkiye.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PRESENTATION OF AND DISCUSSION ON THE REVISED QUESTIONNAIRE FOR 2024 AND ON THE DETERMINATION OF THE COUNTRY THAT WILL MAKE THE COORDINATION OF THE PUBLICATION (WITH THE REFERENCE YEAR OF 2023).

PROPOSALS OF THE MEMBER STATES THAT COULD BE EVALUATED FOR THE NEXT CYCLE OF DATA COLLECTION FOR THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE COMPILATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS FOR THE BSEC COUNTRIES

15. The representative of the BSEC Coordination Center presented the revised Questionnaire for 2024, and explained the methodology they use to produce the data. He invited the participants that, while completing the Questionnaire, to indicate their calculation method and classifications they use on each sheet respectively.

16. In addition, the participants considered and decided that the BSEC Coordination Center on Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information will continue to prepare the Compilation on Economic and Social Indicators for the BSEC Countries.

17. Finally, the participants decided to return the completed Questionnaire to BSEC PERMIS no later than 30 January 2025.

18. The Questionnaire is attached as **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: UPDATE ON THE NOMINATION OF NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS FOR THE CONTINUOUS UPDATE OF THE DATA ON THE BSEC COORDINATION CENTER ON ESDEI WEBSITE

19. The Secretariat presented the table of the National Contact Points received so far. The participants decided to invite the Member States that have not sent their nominations to do so until 30 March 2025. The table of the National Contact Points is attached as **Annex V**.

AGENDA ITEM 6: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

20. The participants expressed their opinion that now time has come to resume the in-person meetings.

21. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the Working Group will be communicated through diplomatic channels in due course.

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AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22. No issue was raised under this Agenda Item.

AGENDA ITEM 8: 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.