



# ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

## Permanent International Secretariat

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**BS/WG/ED/R(2026)1**

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

*BSEC Headquarters, 12 May 2026*

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education (WGED) was held on 12 May 2026, at the BSEC Headquarters, Istanbul.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Gökhan GÜNYAR, Head of Administrative and Financial Affairs, General Directorate of European Union and Foreign Relations, Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye.
3. Opening Remarks were delivered by:  
  
Mr. Gökhan GÜNYAR, on behalf of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group;  
  
Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS, Deputy Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS on behalf of the Secretariat.
4. In his intervention, Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS underlined the importance of aligning the activities of the Working Group with the recommendations contained in the first Progress Report of the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General on the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda. He also expressed condolences and solidarity with the Republic of Türkiye and those affected by the recent school attacks in Şanlıurfa and Kahramanmaraş. He noted that such incidents are not unprecedented in the region and suggested that the Working Group consider addressing issues related to school violence and bullying at a future meeting.
5. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Georgia  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Türkiye

6. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC) attended the meeting as the BSEC Related Body.

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 BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA “TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF THE WIDER BLACK SEA AREA” - REPORT OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA (December 2025)**

9. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the state of affairs in the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda, in particular the relevant provisions under *Goal 14: Higher Standard in Education and Training*.

10. The BSEC PERMIS welcomed with appreciation the written contributions submitted by the Member States outlining national objectives and policies in the field of education and training. Member States were encouraged to draw upon these contributions as a valuable tool for enhancing cooperation within the BSEC framework. To this end, it was agreed to attach the List of Proposals based on the Member States’ contributions to the present Report as **Annex III**.

11. It was proposed that a focused set of priorities be identified, in line with the Economic Agenda and taking into account the contributions of the Member States to its implementation, with a view to ensuring greater impact and coherence of activities.

12. The Secretariat briefed on the 8th Workshop for Young Diplomats from the BSEC Member States, titled “*Building Tomorrow: Project Implementation for Sustainable Growth in the BSEC Region*”, held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 10–12 December 2025.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JANUARY 2026 – 31 DECEMBER 2027, DEVELOPED BY THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE, THE CURRENT COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP**

13. The Working Group approved the Plan of Action for the period 1 January 2026 – 31 December 2027, submitted by the representative of the Country-Coordinator, the Republic of Türkiye. The Plan of Action, attached as **Annex IV**, sets out the priorities and main areas of activity under Türkiye’s Coordinatorship of the Working Group and fully corresponds to the priorities of the BSEC Economic Agenda.

14. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic welcomed the Action Plan and noted its alignment with priorities advanced during its 2020–2025 coordination period. It recalled its earlier proposal for a Regional Electronic Cooperation Platform for BSEC Member States to support educational exchanges, peer learning, and structured cooperation across general, vocational, and higher education.

15. The same delegation emphasized that the proposal remains highly relevant and could significantly reinforce the implementation of the Action Plan. It envisages the platform as an AI-assisted hub for policies, projects, research, and learning resources, as well as a tool for VET cooperation, teacher training, and knowledge sharing, thereby ensuring continuity, avoiding duplication, and strengthening regional coordination.

16. The delegation of the Russian Federation expressed appreciation for the Action Plan and confirmed its alignment with the BSEC Economic Agenda, particularly in relation to education quality standards, skills development, and the link between education, employment, and research. It stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between education and science and supported the development of short, technology-oriented educational programmes tailored to specific digital products or technologies.

17. The delegation of Romania expressed support for the Action Plan, noting its consistency with broader European education policy developments in digital transformation, skills development, and regional cooperation. It highlighted the three guiding principles of the Action Plan—digital and pedagogical transformation, strengthening the link between education and the labour market, and promoting lifelong learning—as shared regional priorities, and reaffirmed Romania’s commitment to the implementation of the Action Plan and to enhancing regional cooperation through the exchange of best practices and constructive dialogue among the Member States.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND NATIONAL PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

18. The participants held an extensive exchange on recent national developments in the field of education, presenting good practices, experiences and priority areas. The delegations of Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, Romania, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Türkiye took the floor under this Agenda Item.

19. The delegation of the Republic of Türkiye presented recent national developments and policy priorities in education, highlighting reforms aimed at strengthening the link between education, skills development, employment and sustainable development. Key policy pillars include curriculum renewal, digital transformation, vocational and technical education, lifelong learning and inclusion.

20. The same delegation presented its “Century of Türkiye Education Model,” a skills-based reform launched in 2024–2025 to support students’ holistic development through cognitive, technical, social-emotional and values-based competencies. It also outlined ongoing vocational education reforms focused on green transition, digitalization, sustainability, and energy efficiency, supported by curriculum updates, teacher training and infrastructure investments. Lifelong learning was emphasized as a national priority.

21. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic presented the “Strategic Plan for Primary and Secondary Education 2025–2027,” aimed at strengthening quality, equality, and innovation in the national education system. Under the quality pillar, reforms focus on improving learning outcomes, further enhancing teacher support, and modernizing governance, including updated curricula, a multiple textbook system, teacher training and evidence-based policy development. The equality pillar emphasizes equal access to education through expanded early childhood education, inclusive learning, early school leaving prevention and

strengthened psychosocial support structures, alongside initiatives such as anti-bullying measures and multiplying integration classes. Under the innovation pillar, Greece highlighted digital transformation and sustainability measures, including infrastructure upgrades, digital learning tools, teacher training platforms, and the expansion of STEM and robotics education.

22. The representative of Romania provided an update on ongoing upper secondary curriculum reform, focused on modernizing curricula to enhance relevance, flexibility and student-centered learning. The standard curriculum framework ensures national coherence and equal learning outcomes, while recent developments introduce greater flexibility through pilot alternative curriculum models. The approach allows schools to adapt curricula to local needs while maintaining national standards, offering increased timetable flexibility and introducing new learning areas such as digital entrepreneurship, robotics, and artificial intelligence.

23. In addition, Romania highlighted its role, together with the Republic of Moldova, in hosting the Secretariat of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) for 2024–2027, contributing to the Bologna Process and cooperation in quality assurance, mobility and recognition of qualifications. Preparations for the 2027 EHEA Ministerial Conference in Iași and Chișinău were also noted.

24. The delegation of Georgia presented ongoing education reforms aimed at developing a modern, inclusive and high-quality education system. The General Education Reform Concept, approved in January 2026, focuses on improving educational quality, strengthening core knowledge, and promoting competency-based and civic education through updated curricula. The delegation highlighted key measures including the free provision of textbooks to ensure equal access, initiatives to reduce inequality, the introduction of school uniforms at primary level with support for vulnerable families, possible regulation of mobile phone use in schools, and structural reforms introducing an 11-year general education pathway from 2028–2029 with an optional 12<sup>th</sup> grade. It also noted ongoing modernization efforts in higher education. In this regard, Georgia is actively pursuing an ambitious reform aimed at upgrading university infrastructure, strengthening the links between teaching and research, fostering closer alignment with labor market demands optimizing resource mobilization with the establishment of fully developed university hubs in Tbilisi and Kutaisi as its central pillar to ensure the delivery of high quality higher education.

25. The delegation of the Russian Federation emphasized the central importance of education within its national agenda, highlighting the need for continuous skills development in response to global challenges. They presented reforms under the national programmes “Education” and “Science and Universities,” aimed at not only modernizing infrastructure, but also developing new approaches to education and training. The delegation highlighted such national projects and initiatives as “Universities for the Generation of Leaders”, “Advanced Engineering Schools” in cooperation with industry partners, “University Technology Entrepreneurship Platform” as well as the Priority 2030 Program.

26. The same delegation further stressed the importance of aligning education with labour market needs through short, technology-oriented programmes linked to innovation and patent systems. It highlighted national efforts in developing patent analytics and intellectual property-based learning, as well as experience in establishing endowment funds in education. The delegation proposed the organization of joint webinars among BSEC Member States to exchange experience in these areas.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF REGIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EDUCATION**

27. The Working Group continued discussions on deepening regional cooperation in the field of Artificial Intelligence, building on the work started in its previous meetings.

28. The delegation of the Republic of Türkiye presented recent developments in the field of artificial intelligence in education following the establishment of a dedicated AI unit within the Ministry in March 2025. Key systems include MEBBYS, an AI-based decision-support platform providing predictive analytics and early warning mechanisms for student risks, while ensuring human oversight in final decision-making. Additional initiatives include an AI-based assessment tool for automated scoring and feedback, the “DILIM” language learning platform, and the “EBA Assistant,” a large language model-based personalized learning tool integrated into national education systems. The delegation also mentioned comprehensive teacher trainings and student trainings as well as public trainings related to AI. Additionally, AI has been introduced as elective courses at the secondary level specifically for grade 7 and 8 in middle school and grade 11 and 12 in high school.

29. The same delegation also highlighted AI-based early warning systems for identifying vulnerable students, as well as the growing use of AI in content development, learning analytics, and accessibility tools, and presented its 2025–2029 Artificial Intelligence Education Policy Document and Action Plan, outlining strategic priorities and action steps for the integration of AI into the education system, with copies distributed to participating delegations.

30. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic presented the outcomes of the 2025 OECD Education Policy Review, which also focused on the digital transformation of education. The review emphasized the advancing of digital education through a coherent national strategy. In addition, the development of digital infrastructure and curriculum-aligned platforms were highlighted to ensure equitable access to educational resources, alongside strong investment in teacher professional development and the role of experimental schools as innovation hubs. A broad range of digital initiatives was presented, including smart schools, e-learning platforms, digital textbooks, special education tools, administrative systems such as “MySchool” platform and the “e-Parents” application. Additional initiatives address social issues such as bullying prevention, as well as emerging technologies including artificial intelligence and pilot projects with generative AI tools in cooperation with international partners.

31. The same delegation recalled its basic previous proposal for a Regional Electronic Cooperation Platform and proposed its continuation through the Turkish coordinatorship as an AI-supported hub for education cooperation. Key elements included an AI-assisted knowledge repository, peer-learning and matchmaking tools, and shared resources for AI literacy and monitoring. Greece also proposed the development of a BSEC guiding note on ethical AI in education, aligned with international frameworks, alongside strengthened capacity-building and cooperation with relevant international organizations. Finally, the delegation stressed the importance of avoiding duplication of work and ensuring complementarity with existing international initiatives. It suggested the mapping of ongoing efforts in other fora to ensure that BSEC activities become even more efficient and focused on added value.

32. The representative of Romania presented national developments on the integration of artificial intelligence in education, noting its growing role in improving quality, critical thinking, digital skills and media literacy in order to enabling citizens to access information critically and navigate the digital environment responsibly. The same representative informed participants about the implementation of the National Strategy for AI 2024–2027, which provides a comprehensive framework for AI development across sectors, including education, with emphasis on innovation, governance and research. The delegation also referred to pilot projects with the private sector and international organizations, including AI-based tools in schools and cooperation with the World Bank on a national framework for AI in education. It stressed the importance of ethical, inclusive and human-centered approaches, with teachers remaining central, and highlighted the need for strengthened regional and international cooperation within the BSEC framework.

33. The delegation of the Russian Federation highlighted artificial intelligence as a key driver of innovation and modernization in education systems across the BSEC region, aligning with the objectives of the BSEC Economic Agenda on digital transformation. They reported that Russian universities are implementing specialized AI-related programmes for teachers, researchers and methodologists, covering areas such as AI ethics, generative models, data analysis and automation of pedagogical processes. The delegation also referred to the “AI Alliance Network,” a voluntary international platform involving 28 organizations from 21 countries, which conducts research projects and shares AI case studies. The same delegation expressed readiness to support regional cooperation through thematic webinars and expert discussions on AI in education.

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

34. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC) welcomed the opportunity for in-person meetings after a period of virtual exchanges, underlining the importance of direct dialogue for strengthening regional cooperation. The representative recalled the Assembly’s active role in promoting education as a key pillar of sustainable development and regional stability and highlighted ongoing cooperation with academies of sciences in the BSEC region. The representative also referred to recent work on artificial intelligence and cultural diplomacy and informed participants about the upcoming Meeting of the Committee on Social and Humanitarian Policy, scheduled for September 2026 in Yerevan (Armenia), which will address the topic “Human Capital Retention: Education, Health Workforce, and Digital Skills.”

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

35. The delegation of the Russian Federation congratulated the Turkish delegation for its coordination role and noted the constructive momentum of the Working Group, emphasizing the readiness of delegations to engage in meaningful dialogue and share best practices. They highlighted the value of in-person meetings in facilitating more productive discussions and concrete outcomes. The delegation further recalled the historical significance of the recent commemoration of the Victory Day, informed the participants that 19th of April is declared in the Russian Federation as the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Genocide of the Soviet People perpetrated by the Nazis and their Collaborationists during the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War, and emphasized the importance of preserving historical memory and ensuring accurate education of younger generations. They highlighted the role of education in

preventing the distortion of historical facts and in promoting mutual understanding among nations and concluded by expressing appreciation for the productive nature of the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

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