



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE EXCHANGE OF
STATISTICAL DATA AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION**

(26 March 2021, Online)

The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on the Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information was held online on 26 March 2021, with the participation of experts from the respective Authorities responsible for Statistics from Republic of Albania, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine. A representative from PABSEC, as well as experts from some Observer States also attended the Meeting.

The meeting was chaired by the President of the National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr.Sergey Tsvetarsky.

The participants discussed possible ways and means of potentially revitalizing the exchange of comparable and reliable data between the BSEC Member States and reactivating the BSEC Coordination Centre for the Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information and its potential role in the Organization's future.

The discussions highlighted that with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting all BSEC Member States, the role of statistics has become even more crucial as it could help building a swift resilience and achieving sustainable development. In this extraordinary situation, the sector of statistics continues to face a lot of challenges related, for example, to data collection. The provision of reliable and timely statistical data could facilitate an evidence-based decision-making and, thus, support the implementation of result-oriented policies according to any specific needs and priorities. The participants agreed to establish a set of indicators to monitor the social and economic developments of the region and to be sent to the BSEC Coordination Centre for the Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information.