



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**ON THE KICK-OFF MEETING OF THE PARTNERS OF**  
**THE PDF PROJECT “BLUE PORT INDEX FOR BSEC COUNTRIES”**

The Kick-off Meeting of the Partners of the Project Development Fund (PDF) “Project Blue Port Index for BSEC Countries” hosted by the Bursa Technical University (BTU), took place in Bursa on 8 December 2025.

The Project aims to increase the contribution of ports to the blue economy and promote sustainable maritime practices with Blue Port Index (BPI), as well as to establish a scientific basis for the comparative evaluation of the ports of BSEC countries. The partners of the Project are Bursa Technical University (Lead Partner - Türkiye), Burgas Free University (Bulgaria), and Batumi Tourism Institute (Georgia). This project is the ninth project in this area to be financed by the Project Development Fund. The ports selected from each partner country are namely Samsun Port in Türkiye, Batumi in Georgia, and Burgas Port in Bulgaria, and are considered as ports with the strongest representation ability in the Black Sea.

Invited by the Bursa Technical University, First Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Dr. Merve Kavakcı represented BSEC PERMIS at the Meeting and during her intervention she briefed the participants on the importance of the BSEC Project Development Fund as well as its activities since its inception in 2004. She underlined the importance of such projects as the “Project Blue Port Index for BSEC Countries” that serve the conservation of the planet and reiterated BSEC’s readiness to welcome collaborative efforts from prospective partners.