



BS/IM/S&T/C(2017)2

**CONCLUSIONS
OF THE INFORMAL MEETING
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

BSEC Headquarters, 23 October 2017

1. The Informal Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 23 October 2017.
2. The Informal Meeting was chaired by Mr. Sergii KRAVCHENKO, Consul in charge of BSEC, Consulate General of Ukraine in Istanbul.
3. The Informal Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The list of participants of the Informal Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The draft agenda of the Informal Meeting was discussed, amended and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL, AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

6. The participants took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and the follow up of the Declarations and the Statements of the Ministers in charge of Science and Technology since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology (BSEC Headquarters, 7 April 2017).

AGENDA ITEM 3: ACTIONS TAKEN OR TO BE TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THIRD BSEC ACTION PLAN ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (2014-2018)

7. The participants took note of information on the steps taken to implement the Third BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology (2014–2018), provided by the BSEC PERMIS.

8. The BSEC PERMIS also delivered to the participants the updated Report, prepared by the ICBSS, on its involvement the “Black Sea Horizon” project and other activities in the field of Science and Technology, attached as **Annex III**.

9. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey informed that data on national innovation related structures submitted by a number of BSEC Member States can be accessed at national Horizon 2020's web page:

Turkey: https://h2020.org.tr/sites/default/files/u434/turkey_0.pdf

Serbia: https://h2020.org.tr/sites/default/files/u434/serbia_research_infrastructure_0.pdf (in <https://h2020.org.tr/en/bilateral-collaborations/rs>)

Greece: https://h2020.org.tr/sites/default/files/u434/greece_0.pdf

Romania: https://h2020.org.tr/sites/default/files/u434/romania_0.pdf

Russian Federation: https://h2020.org.tr/sites/default/files/u434/russian_federation.pdf

10. The participants reiterated their call to the relevant authorities of the Member States that have not yet responded to the Questionnaire on national innovation related structures, to do so as soon as possible, so as a data base of the national innovation related structures of the BSEC Member States could be created.

11. The Country-Coordinator (Russian Federation) delivered a presentation on the following proposals (attached as **Annex IV**) to be considered by the Working Group:

- the proposal of a digital toolkit for collaboration of the Working Group and remote informal discussions on the agenda items, and the software for a digital version of the Questionnaire on national and regional research infrastructures (to collect and store relevant data);
- the concept of the BSEC digital registry of STI financial resources (related to calls for proposals opened for scientists and innovators in the BSEC Member States);
- the concept of a digital service for STI lecturing framework to foster knowledge exchange in the field of science, technology and innovation in the Black Sea region, and a website for scientific mobility;
- the specifics and perspectives of the creation of a BSEC peer-reviewed journal and Online BSEC Quarterly Newsletter / the BSEC Bulletin, as a tool for ensuring additional opportunities for researchers from BSEC Member States and promoting BSEC brand.

12. The delegation of the Russian Federation noted that only joint efforts will allow to address global challenges related to the dawn of the Fourth industrial revolution in general, and in particular to stability and sustainable development of the Black Sea Region, especially in the context of the implementation of the 14th Sustainable Development Goal: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources. It also highlighted that international cooperation and promising technologies serve as a cornerstone in achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, ensuring prosperity for both present and future generations.

13. The representative of Romania presented a list of the national state R&D institutions and suggested to simplify the way of collection of information by using links to relevant web pages of national related institutions.

14. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed on the recent developments under the Black Sea Horizon Project since the last Working Group Meeting: The Black Sea Horizon International Conference, General Assembly Meetings were organized in Athens in May 2017. In the International Conference, participants from both the EU and Black Sea Countries discussed best practices of scientific and technological cooperation and also Black Sea Cooperation Programme. In July 2017, a Summer School was organized in Armenia within the framework of the Black Sea Horizon Project. In September 2017, Black Sea Horizon-Bi Regional Cluster Networking and Business Exchange Meeting was organized in Budapest. The main aim of the event was to provide a forum for selected stakeholders to promote the dialogue between research based clusters of the targeted regions. In beginning of October 2017, a Workshop on the Implementation of the EU–Black Sea Joint Call was organized in Chisinau. In this meeting, the potential funding parties of the EU–Black Sea Joint Call, which is planned to be opened in 2018, discussed the Implementation Agreement, Business Plan and Terms of Reference documents of the Joint Call.

AGENDA ITEM 4: YOUTH AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

15. The participants took note of information presented by the BSEC PERMIS on the consideration of Youth and Sports issues within BSEC and reiterated their call to the Member States to propose projects reflecting the interconnection between Science and Technology and Youth.

16. The representative of Romania reiterated his proposal to support the involvement of young researchers in Science and Technology by including at least one young researcher in every national team involved in BSEC projects.

17. The Country-Coordinator emphasized the importance of involvement of youth into scientific, technological and innovative projects and initiatives. In this regard, the Russian Federation suggested to consider the possibility of organizing a series of international events related to the field of science and technological entrepreneurship for young scientists, inter alia a contest related to the goals of the Black Sea Economic Agenda and the items, addressed in the Black Sea Project Promotion Facility. It was also suggested to consider the issue of an award “Annual BSEC Prize” in the perspective areas of research (e.g. sustainable technologies, digital economy, blockchain, quantum technologies etc.) related to the Black Sea Region sustainable development. Expanding the involvement of youth in international conferences, hackathons or contests in the field of science and technology is going to contribute to the formation of a unified scientific platform of the BSEC member-states through an alliance of young talents. The crucial role of extension of cooperation among BSEC Working Groups (inter alia with the Working Group on Education) was also emphasized.

AGENDA ITEM 5: THE FINAL REPORT OF THE PDF PROJECT “DEVELOP AND PREPARE AN EXPERIMENTAL SAMPLE OF DATA LOGGER RADON MEASURING DEVICE SET WITH DATA COLLECTION CENTRAL CONTROLLER”

18. The participants took note of the follow up information on the Final report of the PDF project proposal “Develop and Prepare an Experimental Sample of Data Logger Radon Measuring Device Set with Data Collection Central Controller”, provided by the BSEC PERMIS and the representative of the Republic of Armenia.

19. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia, as the lead partner, informed that the Project Team started the process of certification of the above mentioned device.

20. The representative of Romania informed that the presentation of the prototype of seismic sensor has been submitted to the Romanian specialized R&D institute for Earth Physics and its representative in the Ad Hoc Working Group in Seismic Risk was requested to address proposals on how this device can be promoted in future.

AGENDA ITEM 6: MEMORANDUM OF INTENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BSEC–USA

21. The BSEC PERMIS recalled that the Working Group proposed to the United States of America in 2015 to consider the possibility of organizing a joint workshop / training on Science and Technology, as an initial step in the implementation of the Memorandum of Intent. The Consulate General of the United States informed the BSEC PERMIS that the United States continues to welcome proposals from the Working Group that fall within the scope of the Memorandum of Intent and will continue to consider the possibility of organizing a joint workshop / training on Science and Technology.

22. In this connection, the relevant authorities of the Member States were invited to submit to the BSEC PERMIS concrete proposals as to the possible topic for the joint workshop / training by 31 December 2017.

AGENDA ITEM 7: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

23. The participants took note of information provided by BSEC PERMIS on the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNESCO and BSEC, prepared by UNESCO, and supported the conclusion of the MoU as an important step in developing the collaboration between the two organizations.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. No issue was raised under this Agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE INFORMAL MEETING

25. The participants agreed on the present Conclusions for the submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.