



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

BS/WG/CS&T/R(2019)2

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BSEC Headquarters, 15 November 2019

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 15 November 2019.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Dafna KALLIRROI, Civil Servant, Division B' of Bilateral and Multilateral Relations, International Research and Technology Cooperation, Directorate General Secretariat for Research and Technology of the Hellenic Republic.
3. Opening remarks were made by the BSEC Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES.
4. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
5. The representative of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) attended the meeting as the BSEC Related Body.
6. The representatives of Hungary and the United States of America attended the meeting as the BSEC Observers.
7. The representative of the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN) and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) attended the meeting as the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners.

8. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The Draft Agenda of the 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

10. The Working Group took note of information, provided by the BSEC PERMIS, on the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the BSEC 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, 4 April 2019).

11. The Member States were requested to update the list containing the coordinates of their respective focal points in charge of Science and Technology (attached as **Annex III**) in order to facilitate a direct communication between the BSEC PERMIS and the relevant Ministries.

AGENDA ITEM 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THIRD BSEC ACTION PLAN ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (2014 - 2018) - CONSIDERATION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS AND PROJECTS:

12. The Working Group took note of the 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.

13. The delegation of the Russian Federation presented information on the recent developments of the database of national innovation related structures and the Black Sea Academic and Research Consortium (BSAARC). The information is attached as **Annex IV**.

14. The Working Group reiterated its call to the relevant authorities of the Member States which have not yet responded to the Questionnaire on national innovation related structures to submit their written contributions as soon as possible, preferably before the next meeting of the Working Group, to be incorporated into the database.

15. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria informed that, due to the organizational changes in the research and innovation system of the country, the Questionnaire on national innovation related structures will be submitted at a later stage.

16. The representative of the Balkan and Black Sea Commission (BBSC) of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) presented the AI-NURECC Initiative's experience, and shared information on the proposal "Adriatic-Ionian Cultural and Creative Industry Innovation Quest (AI-CCI-IQ), elaborated by the Region of Western Greece and the Chamber of the Achaia (Greece).

17. The Working Group considered the presented information with a view to examine possibilities for a similar initiative in the Black Sea Region.

18. The delegation of the Russian Federation reiterated the importance of conducting a study on the prospects of cooperation between the BSEC Members States and developing a roadmap for a long-term cooperation in the field of Science and Technology by 2035 and exploring ways to implement the project within the BSEC Project Development Fund, the BSEC budget, the BSPPF, International Financial Institutions or other regional and international funding opportunities.

19. The representative of the ICBSS proposed to share its experience on regional questionnaires regarding Science and Technology and offered the assistance in this regard.

AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A FIRST DRAFT OF THE NEW BSEC ACTION PLAN ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (2020–2024)

20. The representative of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) introduced the first draft of the new Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology for the period 2020-2024 (attached as **Annex V**).

21. The representatives of the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia and the Russian Federation expressed their first general remarks on the presented draft.

22. The BSEC PERMIS invited the BSEC Member States to submit their written comments to the first draft of the new Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology for the period 2020-2024 in order to facilitate the work of ICBSS in further elaborating the draft Action Plan.

23. The Working Group acknowledged the work done by the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) and decided to continue considering this issue at the next meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology.

AGENDA ITEM 5: YOUTH AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

24. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS on the consideration of Youth and Science and Technology issues within BSEC and encouraged the Member States to propose projects reflecting the interconnection between Science and Technology and Youth.

25. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the delegation of the Republic of Turkey on “*TÜBA Young Scientists Award Program (GEBİP)*”. The presentation is attached as **Annex VI**.

26. The delegation of the Russian Federation presented information on “*The Black Sea Economic Cooperation Award (Prize) for Young Scientists*”. The presentation is attached as **Annex VII**.

27. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria reiterated its support for the above and similar initiatives.

28. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia delivered a presentation on “*Future Skills and Jobs for Armenia’s Rural Youth*”. The presentation is attached as **Annex VIII**.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CONSIDERATION AND FINALIZATION OF THE DRAFT REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP

29. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the consideration of the draft revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group.

30. The Working Group considered and adopted the text of the draft revised Terms of Reference for its submission to the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials. The revised text of the Terms of Reference is attached as **Annex IX**.

AGENDA ITEM 7: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF INTENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BSEC-USA

31. The Working Group took note of the information, provided by the delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria and the representative of the ICBSS, on the possibility to organize a joint seminar on “*Marine Research and Innovation for Sustainable Blue Growth. Environmental Challenges and Ecosystem Resilience*”, as an initial step in the implementation of the Memorandum of Intent on Science and Technology between the BSEC and the USA, and expressed its positive reaction for organizing such events in the future.

32. The representative of the United States reiterated that the USA looks forward to receiving Working Group’s proposals on possible ways for cooperation between the BSEC and the USA within the scope of Memorandum of Intent.

AGENDA ITEM 8: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

33. The Working Group took note of the information, provided by the BSEC PERMIS, on the latest developments with regard to the discussion with UNESCO on the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Organizations.

34. The representative of the BSUN provided the information on the BSUN Energy Innovation Challenge 2019 “*Competition of Projects, Business Plans and Innovative Start-up Ideas in the Field of Sustainable Energy Solutions*”, to be held in Constanta on 29 November 2019. The information is attached as **Annex X**.

35. The representative of the BSUN informed on the results of the International Conference “*Implementation of the UN 2030 SDGs in the Black Sea Region*”. The information is attached as **Annex XI**.

36. The representative of the ICBSS briefed on the newly launched Blue Lab Center of Entrepreneurial Innovation of Piraeus Municipality (Greece) and suggested to invite their representative to present the project at the next Working Group Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

37. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria informed on the scientific portal developed by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

38. The Working Group adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.