



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

BS/WG/CS&T/R(2021)2

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

Videoconference, 9 December 2021

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held online, on 9 December 2021.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Melike ERGÜN, Programme Coordinator, International Cooperation Department, TÜBİTAK, Republic of Turkey.
3. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The following BSEC Related Bodies attended the Meeting:
 - Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC)
 - International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)
5. The representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt attended the meeting as the BSEC Observer.
6. The following BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners attended the Meeting:
 - Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN)
 - Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR).
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 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

9. The Working Group took note of the 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 (online, 21 April 2021).

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

AGENDA ITEM 3: REVIEW OF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

11. The representative of the Country-Coordinator (Republic of Turkey) informed the participants on their national activities in the respective field of cooperation.

12. The BSEC PERMIS encouraged the participants to identify and propose concrete ideas and projects to be further pursued by the Working Group to support a practical, result-oriented regional cooperation.

AGENDA ITEM 4: FINALIZATION AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE NEW BSEC ACTION PLAN ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (2022–2026)

13. The Working Group discussed, amended and adopted the Fourth Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology for the period 2022-2026 to be submitted to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials for its endorsement. The Document, as agreed, is attached as **Annex IV**.

14. The Working Group thanked the *International Centre for Black Sea Studies* (ICBSS) for preparing the draft of the above Plan.

AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THIRD BSEC ACTION PLAN ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CURRENTLY IN PLACE) - CONSIDERATION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS AND PROJECTS:

Within this Agenda Item, the following sub-items were considered:

a) Development of an open and interactive web-based Registry (database) of national innovation-related structures in BSEC Member States

15. The delegation of the Russian Federation presented updates on the interactive web-based registry (database) of national innovation-related structures, taking into account the

previous feedback of the Working Group, and invited the Member States to update or provide the list of national organizations that should be included into the database. The relevant presentation is attached as **Annex V**.

16. The representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as a BSEC Observer, expressed the interest in joining the project.

17. The Working Group welcomed further development of the web-based registry (database) of national innovation-related structures in a view to make it available to the broad public in 2022.

b) Black Sea Academic and Research Cooperation Facilitation Association

18. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed the Working Group on the development of the BSAARC FA initiative, the current stage of its registration process and possibilities of the involvement of the interested parties from the Black Sea Region that will become available in the beginning of 2022.

c) Other project proposals

19. The Working Group took note of the presentation delivered by the representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan entitled “*Actual Directions of Scientific and Technical Cooperation within the BSEC*”; the presentation is attached as **Annex VI**.

AGENDA ITEM 6: YOUTH AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

20. The delegation of the Russian Federation reiterated the importance of establishing the BSEC Award for Young Scientists and holding a relevant Workshop. It was proposed to consider launching these initiatives in 2022 within the framework of International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development and the celebration of the 30th BSEC Anniversary.

AGENDA ITEM 7: COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERS

21. Under this agenda item, the representative of the *International Centre for Black Sea Studies* (ICBSS) informed about the newly launched project BRIDGE – *BS Advancing Black Sea Research and Innovation to Co-Develop Blue Growth within Resilient Ecosystems*, coordinated by the METU Institute for Marine Sciences, with the participation of 33 regional and international partners. The relevant presentation is attached as **Annex VII**.

22. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the representative of the *Balkan and Black Sea Commission* (BBSC) of the *Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe* (CPMR) concerning the *SEArca Conference on the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR): Focus on Blue Growth*, to be held online on 4 February 2022, organised with the support of the CPMR.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23. The delegation of the Russian Federation shared information on the ongoing events related to Science and Technology in its country and preliminary results of the Year of Science and Technology (2021) in the Russian Federation.

24. The representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt informed on the *UN Climate Change Conference 2022 (COP 27)*, which will be organized in Sharm El-Sheikh in November 2022.

25. In order to enrich the discussions, the BSEC PERMIS invited interested Member States to send their suggestions to the agenda of the next meeting of the Working Group and to consider the designation of speakers for the agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

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