



# ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

## Permanent International Secretariat

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BS/WG/ED/R(2023)1

### REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION

Videoconference, 27 April 2023

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education was held online on 27 April 2023.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Panagiotis PASSAS, Director General for International and European Affairs, Education for the Hellenic Diaspora and Intercultural Education, Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic.

3. Opening Remarks were made by:

Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS, Deputy Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS on behalf of the Secretariat;

Mr. Panagiotis PASSAS, on behalf of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group.

4. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Hellenic Republic  
Republic of Moldova  
Republic of North Macedonia  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Türkiye  
Ukraine

5. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC attended the meeting as the BSEC Related Body.

6. The following BSEC Observers attended the Meeting:

Arab Republic of Egypt  
Federal Republic of Germany

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 EDUCATION**

9. Within this agenda item, the BSEC PERMIS informed on the developments with regard to the process of updating the “BSEC Economic Agenda”, and welcomed the participation of the Member States in the development of the above document. Further involvement of interested parties in the relevant discussion was encouraged in order to finalize the document.

10. In addition, the Secretariat briefed on the fifth edition of the Workshop for Young Diplomats from the BSEC Member States on “*Developing cultural diplomacy in the Black Sea Region*”, jointly organized by the BSEC PERMIS and the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, Türkiye, held on 21-23 March 2022 in Thessaloniki.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: PRESENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JANUARY 2022 – 31 DECEMBER 2023 BY THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC, THE CURRENT COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION**

11. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic, the current Country-Coordinator, elaborated and presented the draft *Plan of Action of the Working Group on Education* covering the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023, including the general objectives and key priorities of the Working Group.

12. The Working Group considered, amended and approved the presented Plan of Action for its submission to the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) and expressed its appreciation for the work of the delegation of the Hellenic Republic in the preparation of the above-mentioned document. The Action Plan, as approved by the Working Group, is attached as **Annex III**.

13. In this context, the representative of the Hellenic Republic expressed readiness to create a *Leaflet/Brochure with a list of digital platforms used by the BSEC Countries for online learning in primary and secondary education (general and vocational)*, as an easy and effective way to further promote cooperation among young people in the BSEC Region and, to this end, invited interested Member States to send their contribution (maximum 1 page) for the leaflet/brochure via e-mail to the Secretariat.

14. In addition, the representative of the Russian Federation invited the Member States to participate in the international online workshop on “*Technology entrepreneurship and sustainable management*”, which will be organized by the Southern Federal University, the Black Sea Academic and Research Cooperation Facilitation Association (BSAARC) in Autumn 2023.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NATIONAL POLICIES, ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED AND ON BEST PRACTICES IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES, INCLUDING RECENT POLICIES AIMING TO THE PROMOTION OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN EDUCATION**

15. The participants had an extensive exchange of views on their national experiences, lessons learned and best practices applied in the Member States. The delegations of the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Hellenic Republic, Romania, Russian Federation and Republic of Serbia shared comprehensive information on recent development in their respective countries regarding the policies implemented and measures taken to ensure equity and inclusion in Education. The respective presentations provided by the Member States are attached to the Report as **Annex IV, V, VI and VII**.

16. In this context, the Working Group took note of the ideas and proposals presented during the discussion, inter alia, about new challenges and opportunities in education, the relevance of learning and global competencies in the digital world, etc. with the aim to indicate objectives and prospect for future cooperation.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERS**

17. The representative of PABSEC provided the information on the current and forthcoming activities of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee in the field of education.

18. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany informed about the ongoing preparation of the next edition of the Workshop for Young Diplomats from the BSEC Member States, which will be held in Antalya in September, and reaffirmed their willingness to further enrich interaction with the BSEC in areas of common interest.

19. The Working Group took note of the updates on the Black Sea Academic and Research Cooperation Facilitation Association (BSAARC Initiative), presented by the delegation of the Russian Federation. The latter underlined that this initiative is open for any interested party. The presentation is attached to the Report as **Annex VIII**.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

20. The delegation of Ukraine made a statement on the current situation in the country. It was followed by a statement of the representative of the Russian Federation. Both statements are attached to this Report as **Annex IX** and **Annex X** respectively.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

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