



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
Permanent International Secretariat

12 November 2020

BS/WG/SME/R(2020)2

**REPORT
OF THE MEETING
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON SMEs**

Online, 12 November 2020

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on SMEs was held online on 12 November 2020.

2. The online Meeting was attended by the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

3. The following BSEC Observer attended the Meeting:

Czech Republic
State of Israel

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

5. The online Meeting was chaired by Mr. Kirill SERGASHOV, Deputy Director of the Department of Investment Policy and Entrepreneurship Development of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, the Representative of the Country Coordinator.

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AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: UPDATING THE LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BSEC NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS TO THE WORKING GROUP ON SMEs

7. The Working Group took note of the updated list of Representatives of the BSEC National Contact Points of the BSEC Member States to the Working Group on SMEs. The above-mentioned List, updated as of the date of present Report, is attached as **Annex III**.

8. The BSEC PERMIS invited the BSEC Member States to ensure regular participation of their experts to the Working Group meetings on a long-term basis, in order to contribute to the effectiveness, efficiency and consistency of its work.

AGENDA ITEM 3: SHARING EXPERIENCES AND EXCHANGING VIEWS ON THE SITUATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SMEs SECTOR DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

9. The participants of the Meeting delivered presentations and exchanged views on the difficult situation of SMEs, due to the enduring negative impact of the pandemic in the SMEs sector.

10. The presentations of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine are attached as **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: FINAL ADOPTION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SMEs FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2020-31 DECEMBER 2021

11. The Working Group finalized the adoption of the Plan of Action of the Working Group on SMEs for the period 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2021; the Plan is attached as **Annex V**.

12. The Working Group endorsed the proposal of the representative of the Republic of Turkey to invite during the Meetings of the Working Group representatives from the BSEC Related Bodies in order to share their experiences and help SMEs in the BSEC Region.

AGENDA ITEM 5: DECIDE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A “BSEC QUALITY AWARD SYSTEM FOR THE SMEs IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES”

13. The Working Group decided to defer the consideration of this issue to the next meeting of the Working Group to be held in 2021.

AGENDA ITEM 6: OUTCOME OF THE ON LINE SEMINAR: “E-COMMERCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SMEs: BOOSTING EXPORTS AND OPENING NEW MARKETS” (21 SEPTEMBER 2020)

14. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the representative of the BSEC PERMIS.

15. The Working Group took also note of the presentation delivered by the representative of the Global Rus Trade LLC (GRT) on the outcome of the “E-commerce Online Seminar for SMEs from the Black Sea Region”, held on 21 September 2020 through videoconference. The seminar was organized as the concluding event of the project on “E-commerce Opportunities for SMEs: Boosting Exports and Opening New Markets”, which was funded through the Black Sea Project Promotion Facility (BSPPF) and implemented by GRT. The presentation is attached as **Annex VI**.

16. The majority of the participants of the Working Group highly appreciated the outcomes of the implementation of the project on “E-commerce Opportunities for SMEs: Boosting Exports and Opening New Markets”.

AGENDA ITEM 7: OUTCOME OF THE “DATA-DRIVEN IT SOLUTIONS FOR THE SMEs” PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE “INNOVATION CENTER FOUNDATION” WITH THE GRANT ALLOCATED FROM “THE BLACK SEA PROJECT PROMOTION FACILITY” (BSPPF)

17. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the representative of the BSEC PERMIS.

18. The Working Group took also note of the presentation delivered by the representative of the “Innovation Center Foundation” (ICF) on the outcome of the project entitled “Data-driven IT Solutions for the SMEs”, funded through the Black Sea Project Promotion Facility (BSPPF) and implemented by ICF. The Presentation is attached as **Annex VII**.

AGENDA ITEM 8: DRAFT PROJECT PROPOSAL OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION: “BLACK SEA BREAD CUP BAKING WITHOUT BORDERS”

19. The President of the Russian Guild of Bakers and Confectioners presented the project proposal: “Black Sea Bread Cup - Baking without Borders”, attached as **Annex VIII**.

20. The Working Group endorsed the above mentioned project proposal presented by the Russian Guild of Bakers and Confectioners.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 10: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

22. The next meeting of the Working Group will be organized in April or May 2021, in accordance with the proposal of the Country-Coordinator.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

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