



Annex VI to BS/EDM/R(2018)1

**JOINT MOSCOW DECLARATION
OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF EDUCATION
OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

We, the Ministers in charge of Education and the Heads of Delegations of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), met in Moscow, on 20 April 2018,

Recalling the Joint Baku Declaration of the BSEC Ministers of Education (Baku, 2004), the Joint Athens Declaration of the Ministers Responsible for Education of the BSEC Member States on Cooperation in Higher Education and University Research (Athens, 2005), as well as the Statement of the Participants of the Meeting of the Undersecretaries and the Heads of Delegations of the Ministries of Education of the BSEC Member States (Istanbul, 2007), and taking note of the activities of the BSEC Working Group on Education,

Guided by the “BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”, in particular by its Goal 14 “Higher Standards in Education and Training”, adopted in 2012,

Reaffirming the commitment of the BSEC Member States to strengthening their ties in the field of Education, as a significant area of cooperation among the BSEC Member States since the very inception of the BSEC,

Reaffirming also the commitment of the BSEC Member States to the implementation of the goals of the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development in the field of Education,

Convinced of the need to strengthen the role of the BSEC through making full use of its potential for developing dialogue, mutual understanding, cooperation and exchange through Education,

Have agreed to:

1. *Declare* our determination to work together in the framework of the *Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation* to strengthen and bolster, where appropriate, cooperation among the BSEC Member States in the field of Education, aimed at increasing sustainable growth and the development of knowledge based societies.

2. *Focus* on the implementation of the following framework of action aimed, *inter alia*, at:

- a) supporting exchange of information and experiences with regard to the modernization of the educational systems in the BSEC Member States;
- b) promoting application of emerging technologies in teaching, learning and creativity;
- c) promoting academic research for Sustainable Development of the BSEC Region;
- d) enhancing regional synergy between the relevant authorities of the BSEC Member States and their academic and research communities;
- e) encouraging the development of education innovation clusters, university research cooperation and public-private partnerships;
- f) harnessing potential of higher education and research institutions of the BSEC Member States (*inter alia* facilities and infrastructure) to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the BSEC Region in the field of education and research;
- g) considering the development of university collaborations for multilateral cooperation in the field of education and research in the BSEC Region (platform solution for training to respond to current and future challenges in the Black Sea region in the context of the digital economy and the fourth industrial revolution) and joint e-learning projects and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) and their integration into current academic programmes of the higher education institutions in the BSEC Region;
- h) enhancing exchange of information in the field of Higher Education, *inter alia*, through an educational portal of BSEC and by publishing a brochure on Higher Education in the BSEC Member States;
- i) sharing experiences in quality assurance and developing qualifications frameworks in Higher Education;

- j) sharing best practices in the development of policies for recognizing the results of previous formal education, informal or non-formal learning;
- k) enhancing cooperation in the field of vocational education and training among the BSEC Member States;
- l) encouraging the development of bilateral and multilateral international projects related to Education;
- m) promoting lifelong learning opportunities through joint programmes among the relevant institutions in the BSEC Member States;
- n) supporting joint university research projects and post-graduate programmes;
- o) supporting joint academic programmes aimed at developing entrepreneurial skills, analytical and critical thinking (via implementation of modern educational approaches to learning, inter alia STEAM approach — Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics);
- p) encouraging mobility of academic staff and students among the BSEC Member States, including through bilateral and multilateral agreements and scholarships among higher education institutions;
- q) supporting participation of young people from the BSEC Region in international conferences and competitions in the field of perspective areas of research and innovation to form a network of young talents of the BSEC Region;
- r) encouraging the development of joint educational start-ups;
- s) supporting initiatives and programmes for research popularization in the BSEC Region;
- t) considering the possibility of issuing joint diplomas on Black Sea studies;
- u) strengthening the cooperation and developing synergies with the United Nations Organization, UNESCO, the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN), relevant international and regional organizations as well as with non-governmental organizations devoted to education issues;

v) enhancing the BSEC Member States' cooperation with technologically advanced countries, *inter alia*, through organizing exchange programmes among the relevant national institutions.

Instruct the *BSEC Working Group on Education* to follow up on the progress and implementation of the provisions of the present Joint Declaration.

We agree to meet, whenever appropriate, to follow up on the decisions taken and to consider the matters related to cooperation in the field of Education among the BSEC Member States.

We express our gratitude to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation for the excellent organization of the Meeting and for the warm hospitality extended.

Adopted in Moscow, on 20 April 2018.