

BSEC REGIONAL COOPERATION IN GREEN ENERGY

In accordance with the Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting in Nafplion (Greece) on 12 October 2010, a *Task Force on Green Energy Development* was set-up within the *BSEC Working Group on Energy*, with the aim to identify relevant issues within which regional cooperation can be most effective; also, to explore ways for promoting green energy investments and innovative green energy projects.

The Task Force started to work in April 2012 and decided to formulate a **BSEC Green Energy Strategy Paper**. In fact, the *BSEC Economic Agenda 2012* provides for taking gradual steps to materialize the vision of transforming the BSEC Region into a model for clean energy by the year 2050.

At its meeting in Thessaloniki in December 2014, the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs decided to transfer the activities and functions of the *Green Energy Development Task Force* to the *BSEC Working Group on Energy*.

The *Working Group on Energy* decided to continue its work on the development of a *Green Energy Strategy Paper* and the Member States were invited to continue to contribute to the development of the document and to assure the presence of their experts at the next meeting of the Working Group. After several rounds of discussions, at its last meeting on 15 June 2017, the *Working Group on Energy* decided to further consider and finalize the document at its meeting to be held in the second semester of 2017.

A **BSEC Green Energy Network** was established by decision of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, taken on 12 December 2014. The mandate of the Network is to facilitate the exchange of information and sharing of experience and know-how between national administrative bodies and/or centres and organizations mandated to promote renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures and policies in the BSEC Region.

In accordance with the agreements reached in the *Task Force on Green Energy Development* and in the *Working Group on Energy*, the BSEC PERMIS invited the *Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA)* of the *National and Kapodistrian University* of Athens to develop the Network, under the supervision of the *BSEC Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS)*, in terms of both selection of partners and activities to be undertaken.

The Network started to function in 2015 and is endeavouring to undertake and facilitate actions at international, regional and national levels with a view to develop, transfer and exchange updated knowledge, including

consultations for the development and assessment of identified green policy mixtures and actions.

Members of the Network are expected to organize and participate in regional/international activities, such as workshops, seminars and conferences. They can take advantage of the existing communication infrastructure of KEPA – scientific journals, periodical editions, newsletters – in order to increase the level of cooperation among them and their national stakeholders.

They are welcome to contribute to enhancing the knowledge transfer and capacity building of their governments, updating them on the state of the emerging international “green policy” instruments.

It is expected that the Network will contribute, through knowledge dissemination, to the encouragement of market stakeholders to take advantage of existing international financing opportunities and convince regional and national banking institutions to enhance their “green” programs.

Finally, members of the Network will be facilitated through brokerage events to participate in internationally financed programs, like the H2020 of the European Union, or to develop ad hoc “tailor made” consortia upon requests from the BSEC Member States.

The list of those institutes and universities which expressed interest for participating in the Network can be found at [www.....](#), while the participation of national banks, of SMEs and of other market stakeholders which are interested to take advantage of the Network’s potential and activities is welcomed on the basis of the “win-win” principle.

The BSEC Green Energy Network, under the coordination of KEPA, in consultation with the BSEC PERMIS, prepared **four project proposals** and demarches are under way by PERMIS and KEPA to promote them for funding by international financial institutions and other donors.