



WORKSHOP ON

“SUPPORTING GREEN ECONOMY IN SMEs IN THE BSEC REGION”

BSEC Headquarters, 03 May 2018 (first half of the day)

Summary Proceedings

1. The Workshop on “Supporting Green Economy in SMEs in the BSEC Region” was held at the BSEC Headquarters in the first half of 3 May 2018, and was jointly organized by the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Permanent International Secretariat (BSEC PERMIS) and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB) of the Republic of Turkey, as Country-Coordinator of the BSEC Working Group on SMEs.
2. The Workshop was attended by the participants from the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
3. The following BSEC Related Body participated in the Workshop:

Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC)
4. The following BSEC Observer participated in the Workshop:

Arab Republic of Egypt

5. The following Guest attended the Workshop:

The Association of the Turkish Investors in Romania

6. The List of Participants and the Agenda/Program of the Workshop are attached as **Annex I** and **Annex II**, respectively.

7. The Workshop was co-chaired by Mr. Murat Şükrü SOYKAN, Director, International Relations Directorate, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB) of the Republic of Turkey, and Ambassador Traian CHEBELEU, Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS.

8. Welcoming remarks were made by Mr. Murat Şükrü SOYKAN and Ambassador Traian CHEBELEU.

8.1. Mr. Murat Şükrü SOYKAN welcomed the participants of the Workshop and stressed that the Republic of Turkey has been assigned as the Country-Coordinator of the BSEC Working Group on SMEs for the period between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2018 and the KOSGEB has undertaken this duty.

The activities of the Working Group on SMEs are coordinated by the KOSGEB on behalf of Turkey between the years 2001-2003, 2006-2007, 2012-2013 and 2014-2015.

In the period of 2012-2013, the main focus of the activities was towards energy efficiency. And in the period of 2014-2015, the workshops were organized on innovation, energy efficiency and entrepreneurship.

Afterwards, Mr. SOYKAN emphasized the importance of the Green Economy in SMEs, mentioning the Turkish experience on supporting the SMEs and the KOSGEB activities, as the legal entity of the Republic of Turkey in dealing with the SMEs, with the main goal to support the sustainable economic development of the country.

Mr. SOYKAN invited the representatives of the BSEC Member States to share their experience on green economy products in respecting the environment impact.

8.2. Ambassador Traian CHEBELEU welcomed the participants of the Workshop on behalf of the BSEC PERMIS. He expressed high appreciation to the KOSGEB for the long-standing cooperation with BSEC in supporting the development of SMEs in the BSEC Region. The workshops organized with the KOSGEB in the previous years have allowed fruitful exchanges of views and resulted in recommendations to the governments of the Member States for the sustainable development of the SME sector, which is essential for their economies in the prevailing global economic context.

Emphasizing the endeavours undertaken, in the spirit of the BSEC Economic Agenda 2012 to develop effective policies and concrete measures to support the sustainable development of the SME sector in the BSEC Region, Ambassador CHEBELEU stressed that the discussions

during this Workshop are expected to serve indeed this goal, as they are focusing on a timely and well-selected topic – Supporting Green Economy and SMEs – with the purpose of highlighting some guidelines and recommendations on providing SMEs in the BSEC Member States with the required skills and knowledge to embark on new business ventures.

Furthermore, Ambassador CHEBELEU mentioned the significance of the theme of the Workshop, related to the meeting of the Working Group on SMEs, as a very useful complement of the activities of the Working Group on Energy which is devoting a large part of its activities to the development of the Green Energy in the BSEC Region. He pointed out that the SMEs in the BSEC Member States should take advantage of the possibilities of communication and of professional expertise made available by the BSEC Green Energy Network.

9. After the welcoming remarks, the Agenda of the Workshop on “Supporting Green Economy in SMEs in the BSEC Region” was followed with interventions of the representatives of the Member States delivering “Country Presentations on Policies and Best Practices on Supporting Green Economy in SMEs in the BSEC Region”.

10. The presentations were made by:

10.1. Mr. Mehmet Görkem GÜRBÜZ, Director of Ankara Siteler Directorate, KOSGEB of the Republic of Turkey, gave detailed information about the two Green Growth Projects (Energy Efficiency and Environmental projects) projects targeting SMEs prepared and executed by the KOSGEB.

Mr. GÜRBÜZ stated that reducing energy costs in SMEs by practicing green growth methods does not always mean spending a lot. The SMEs can cut their expenses by establishing small measures such as replacing light bulbs, upgrading heating systems or encouraging employees to change their certain behaviours. He stated that the KOSGEB is aware of the importance to promote a low-carbon, green growth policy that minimizes use of resources and environmental pollution while utilizing it as an engine for economic growth.

10.2. Ms. Olga NIKOLOPOULOU, Directorate for Industrial Policy, General Secretariat of Industry, Ministry of Economy and Development of Hellenic Republic, presented the following topics: Green Economy, improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

The economic model needs to change, to be based on sustainable development and resource efficiency. The EU has set priorities, launched the 7th European Environment Action Programme and implemented the “Europe 2020 Strategy” towards a resource efficient Europe. Greece supports SMEs and energy efficiency/environmental protection through specific support programmes.

Ms. NIKOLOPOULOU also mentioned that Greece is currently running special Energy Efficiency and Energy Savings support programmes for Public Buildings, as well as Private Houses.

10.3. Ms. Maria Vukosavljevic BRANKOVIC, Planning and Development Sector, Development Agency of the Republic of Serbia, made a presentation of the Agency and its activities focused on the RAS support to SMEs, results of the programs conducted in 2017, as well as introduction of the programs that are opened in 2018.

Ms. BRANKOVIC also presented the support to the SMEs regarding green economy, as well as the activities related to this topic on Serbian national level.

11. The above-mentioned presentations are attached as **Annex III** to the current Summary Proceedings.

12. Each presentation was followed by questions and answers, comments and exchanges of views and experience.

13. During the part of the “*Conclusions of the Workshop and Closing Session*”, the Participants elaborated following Recommendations and Proposals for future activities and steps of the BSEC Organization and its Member States regarding the theme of the Workshop on “Supporting Green Economy in SMEs in the BSEC Region”:

Recommendations:

14. The following recommendations were made on:

14.1. Developing support programme for the start-up companies.

14.2. Encouraging projects on development and technology issues for SMEs.

14.3. Disseminating information about the possibilities of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) in supporting the development of SMEs in the BSEC Member States.

15. The participants expressed their gratitude to the BSEC PERMIS and the KOSGEB for the realization of this Workshop and for the warm hospitality extended to them during their stay in Istanbul.