



**WORKSHOP ON**  
**“THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BSEC QUALITY AWARDS FOR SMEs”**

**BSEC Headquarters, 3 May 2018 (second half the day)**

**Summary Proceedings**

1. The Workshop on “The Establishment of BSEC Quality Awards for the SMEs” was held at the BSEC Headquarters in the second 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 the 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 List of Participants and the Agenda of the Workshop are attached as Annex I and Annex II, respectively.

6. 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.

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

7.1. Mr. Murat Şükrü SOYKAN welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of SME Award Systems since highly important for countries because they create greater awareness of the importance of SME development in the economies, they encourage SME role models to share their best practices and they market the capabilities of the winning SMEs to regional and global investors.

7.2. Ambassador Traian CHEBELEU welcomed the participants of the Workshop on behalf of the BSEC PERMIS. He expressed high appreciation to the KOSGEB for co-organizing of the Workshop back to back with the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on SMEs, respecting the two decisions in this regard, adopted back in 2008 and 2009, and the spirit of the willingness of the Ministers in charge of Economy, expressed in their Joint Declaration on 11 May 2017 to “develop effective policies and concrete measures to support the sustainable development of the SMEs sector in the BSEC Region and to help the SMEs to improve their quality performance”.

Ambassador Traian CHEBELEU stressed that the existence of such an Award will further encourage the receiver towards operational excellence and stimulates the SMEs to continuous improvement undertakings in order to ensure that their products can compete in the national and regional, and even global market.

Ambassador CHEBELEU wished to the Participants to assess whether and how such a regional award system could be created and function professionally, with clear criteria for application and assessment in order to inspire willing and able Small Business owners that have the potential to be world-class enterprises.

8. After the welcoming remarks, the Agenda of the Workshop entitled “The Establishment of BSEC Quality Awards for the SMEs” was followed with interventions of the representatives of the BSEC Member States who presented their views and proposals for Quality Awards for the SMEs applicable in their countries and other regions.

9. The presentation was made by Ms. Suzan ÇİME, SME Expert, Administrative Coordination Directorate, KOSGEB of the Republic of Turkey.

In her presentation, Ms. ÇİME gave detailed and comprehensive information about SME Award System practiced by the KOSGEB. Ms. ÇİME underlined the importance of selecting right criteria for determining successful enterprises in SME and Entrepreneurship Awards. She also pointed out that getting accurate and reliable data from SMEs about their statuses is highly crucial for setting this kind of Award System. Ms. ÇİME emphasized that SME awards were given to motivate successful entrepreneurs and SMEs. She highlighted the evaluation criteria and scores for each category and specified the category requirements for the application. She also gave examples of the awards given.

**10.** The presentation made by the representative of the Republic of Turkey is attached as **Annex III**.

**11.** The above-mentioned presentation was followed by questions and answers, comments and exchanges of views and experience.

**12.** During the part of the “*Conclusions of the Workshop and Closing Session*”, the Participants emphasized the importance of establishing an award system for the SMEs in the BSEC region and the need to elaborate and agree on how to manage such a system.

It was recommended that the BSEC PERMIS should elaborate a project proposal concerning a concept and a pilot version of BSEC Quality Award System for the SMEs in the Member States, the findings of which will be submitted for consideration to a future meeting of the Working Group on SMEs.

**13.** 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.