



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Moscow, 28-29 November 2011

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology (WGCST) was held in Moscow, on 28-29 November 2011.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Victor SMIRNOV, Deputy Director of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation (Chairmanship-in-Office).
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

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

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

4. The welcoming address to the participants of the Working Group was delivered by Mr. Victor SMIRNOV, Deputy Director of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.
5. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

6. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15th BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006) with reference to the activities of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology relative to the implementation of the BSEC Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations, since the last Meeting of the Working Group (4-5 November 2010).

7. The participants acknowledged the information on the issue provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed the willingness to proceed more actively in order to secure the necessary dynamics of the implementation of the Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations.

REPORTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR 2010-2012. FUTURE INITIATIVES

8. The representative of the Hellenic Republic in her capacity of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group presented the “Mid-Term Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology 2010-2012”, attached as **Annex III**. The Report covered the main areas envisaged by the Plan of Action: human resources, capacity building, research infrastructure, innovation, historical relations and cultural ties, synergies and support for multilateral horizontal projects, including the time schedule for specific actions. It concluded that, although the financial crisis leading to major budget constraints is seriously affecting the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Working Group, there are still opportunities and ways to overcome the difficulties and achieve tangible results. Emphasis should be put on synergies with EU projects/initiatives and means for a more structured and systematic cooperation among the BSEC Member States and with EU should be intensively explored.

9. The Working Group took note of the Report presented by the Country Coordinator and expressed the hope that all the activities and projects envisaged in the Plan of Action should be continued under the next Country Coordinator.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)

a) Priority areas for PDF Projects

10. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS representative on the new “Manual and Standard Applications for Funding a BSEC Project” and invited the Member States and their relevant institutions to submit new project proposals in accordance with the already agreed priority project areas in the WGCST.

11. The participants recalled that priority areas for PDF Projects should be of a broader scope with great visibility and multiplied effects within the main axes of cooperation in science and technology, in the fields of capacity building, human resources, innovation and research infrastructure, as stipulated in the Second BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology 2010-2014.

b) Projects for PDF Funding

12. The Working Group took note of the information of the BSEC PERMIS representative regarding the accomplishment of the project “New cardiovascular planning and diagnostic tool for coronary arteries in BSEC countries using computational simulation” and on the two PDF project proposals: ‘Experimental Deployment of an Integrated Grid and Cloud Enabled Environment in the BSEC Countries on the Base of g-Eclipse’ and ‘Develop and Prepare an Experimental Sample of Data Logger Radon Measuring Device Set with Data Collection Central Controller’.

13. The Working Group considered the deliverables of the accomplished project “New cardiovascular planning and diagnostic tool for coronary arteries in BSEC countries using computational simulation” and suggested that the outcome of the project can be used for further developing cooperation in the field of medicine among the Member States.

14. In conformity with the PDF Manual of Operations, the Working Group considered and assessed the PDF Project proposal ‘Experimental Deployment of an Integrated Grid and Cloud Enabled Environment in the BSEC Countries on the Base of g-Eclipse’, submitted by institutions of the Republic of Armenia (Lead Partner), Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Romania.

15. The Working Group approved the said PDF Project and forwarded it for consideration to the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.

16. The Working Group also considered the PDF Project proposal ‘Develop and Prepare an Experimental Sample of Data Logger Radon Measuring Device Set with Data Collection Central Controller’, submitted by institutions of the Republic of Armenia (Lead Partner), Georgia and the Russian Federation.

17. The representatives of the Republic of Turkey and Romania requested a clarification and additional explanation regarding the results, implications and added value of the project for the wider Black Sea region and its sustainability in the future (sections 5 and 7 of the project application form).

18. Since following the explanation by the Republic of Armenia, no consensus could be attained, the Working Group requested the Republic of Armenia that the said PDF Project should be revised and resubmitted in order to take into account the comments and observations made during the meeting of the Working Group. The BSEC PERMIS was requested to circulate the revised project proposal to the Member States for their consideration in accordance with the “silence procedure”, and if no objection is received within 30 working days, the proposal will be approved.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PARKS OF BSEC

19. Upon the request of the representatives of the Hellenic Republic and Romania, the Working Group decided to consider this issue at its next meeting.

MEMORANDUM OF INTENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BSEC-USA

20. The participants took note of the information on the latest development following the signing of the MoI, presented by the BSEC PERMIS representative, and discussed the ways and means to start the implementation of the MoI.

21. The representatives of the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Turkey suggested that the BSEC Member States should identify the possible thematic fields for the implementation of the MoI by examining their respective bilateral cooperation with the USA in the field of Science and Technology.

22. The representative of the Russian Federation stressed the need to choose the areas of cooperation that should be applicable to the BSEC Member States.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (OVERALL EVALUATION, CONCRETE PROJECT PROPOSALS)

23. The participants took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS representative and reiterated the importance of the previous decision of the Working Group to have the issue of the “Cooperation between BSEC-EU” as a permanent agenda item.

24. The representative of Romania delivered a presentation on the “BS-ERA.NET” project aimed at the launching of the Black Sea Research Programme (BSRP), attached as **Annex IV**. It was emphasised that it was important that the European Commission extended the project for one more year in order to establish the BSRP and set up the database of the main research infrastructures in the region.

25. The representatives of the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Turkey underlined the importance of the active involvement of the BSEC Member States in the BSRP in view of its benefits and the need of support for its sustainability.

26. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed on the current developments with regard to the “ERA.NET – RUS” project and its importance for the BSEC Member States.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

27. The participants suggested that the next meeting of the Working Group should be held during the first half of 2012.

28. The BSEC PERMIS representative recalled that the Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting should be convened during 2012 to review the progress in the implementation of the Second BSEC Action Plan for Cooperation in Science and Technology 2010-2014. In this respect, the meeting of the Working Group should be held in order to prepare the Ministerial Meeting.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

29. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation for the excellent organization of the Meeting of the Working Group and the hospitality extended to them in Moscow.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

30. The Working Group adopted the present Report for the submission to the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States (Moscow, 14-15 December 2011).
