

**PLAN OF ACTION
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
1 July 2023 – 30 June 2025
Country-Coordinator: Romania**

I. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The present Action Plan in the field of Cooperation on Emergency Assistance sets the main guidelines for enhancing mutually beneficial co-operation in the respective field between the BSEC Member States for the period 2023-2025.

In its work the Working Group will be guided by the provisions of the *BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards a sustainable future of the wider Black Sea area*, Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, decisions of the Ministers in charge for Emergency Assistance of the BSEC Member States, the BSEC Public Communication Strategy and the Terms of Reference of the Working Group.

Proper attention will be given to the improvement of the modalities of work of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers and other instruments of cooperation provided in the provisions of the *Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Participating States on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters* and the *Additional Protocol* to it.

During the period 2023 - 2025, the Working Group will be focused on the following main priorities:

1. *Strengthening cooperation in implementing the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Member States on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters and its Additional Protocol;*
2. *Enhancing coordination among the BSEC Member States in preventing and eliminating the consequences of natural and man-made disasters, through exchange of expertise, best practices and lessons learned in the area of providing international assistance, with a focus on catastrophic earthquakes and extended forest fires, in light of the climate change;*
3. *Promoting organization of regional trainings, seminars and scientific conferences aimed at the achievement of better application of joint efforts, in case of emergency and increase of awareness about the best practices used in emergency situations with a special attention to the Liaison Officers of the relevant BSEC Network.*

A special attention will be paid to the integration of the topics discussed in the three Ad Hoc Working Groups on seismic risks, floods and torrents and massive forest fires into the agenda of the Working Group on cooperation in emergency situation.

II. LIST OF ACTIVITIES AND JOINT PROJECTS

1. MINISTERIAL MEETINGS:

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2. MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- 1st Meeting: 22 February 2024, Istanbul (presentation of draft action plan)
- 2nd Meeting: 2024, TBC
- 3rd Meeting: 2025, TBC (on the occasion of the evaluation of the activities of the Country-Coordinatorship of Romania)

3. MEETINGS OF THE SUBORDINATED BODIES, I.E. BSEC NETWORK OF LIAISON OFFICERS ON EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:

- Once a year, before or back to back to the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Situation.

4. RELEVANT EVENTS:

Meetings at the experts level on specific items, according to the provisions of the BSEC Agreement on cooperation in Emergency Situation and its Additional Protocol.

The BSEC Member States are invited to make additional proposals on the events in their respective countries.

5. JOINT PROJECTS:

Enhancing and strengthening the effectiveness of **BSEC Liaison Officers Network** as an instrument for information exchange and emergency response on a multiple basis.

Strengthening the **database** on the means and forces available in the event of an emergency in the Black Sea region and ensure a technical solution for its consultation by Member States.

The BSEC Member States are invited to make additional proposals.

6. COOPERATION WITH OTHER BSEC BODIES:

The Working Group of Cooperation on Emergency Assistance will cooperate with the other BSEC Working Groups on relevant issues.

7. COOPERATION WITH BSEC OBSERVERS AND PARTNERS

The Working Group will cooperate with the BSEC Observer countries and Sectorial Dialogue Partners for the organization of joint events.

8. COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

The Working Group on Cooperation on Emergency will collaborate with international organizations, such as specialized UN agencies, European Commission, Black Sea Commission and other international organizations and institutions.