BSEC as a Point of Reference for Regional Cooperation

Rositsa Stoeva, Executive Manager
rstoeva@bsec-organization.org
The BSEC Organization

Launched as an initiative in 1992
Charter entered into force in 1999, transforming the initiative into a full-fledged regional economic cooperation organization.
OUR PRINCIPLES & OBJECTIVES

- Friendship & good neighborliness
- Mutual respect, confidence, dialogue & cooperation
- Transparency, inclusiveness & openness to cooperate with third parties
- Develop & diversify bilateral/multilateral cooperation on the basis of principles & rules of International Law
- Improve business environment
- Find common denominators, identifying joint interests
In a nutshell: we try to identify common areas of interest and establish cooperation and synergies among our Member States
OUR 12 MEMBER STATES

- Albania
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bulgaria
- Georgia
- Greece
- Moldova
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- Area of 20 million km²
- Market of 337 million people
- GDP: 2.8 trillion USD (14% of European GDP)
- Intra-regional trade volume of 264 billion USD annually
OUR AREAS OF COOPERATION

From “A” to “Z”

BSEC has Working Groups covering almost every sector of public life
LESS WORDS, MORE ACTION, MORE PROJECTS

“I know we didn’t accomplish anything, but that’s what meetings are for.”
SOME OF OUR MORE IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS CONCERN

- TRANSPORTS
- ENERGY
- EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
- TOURISM
Project Development Fund

- Grants for pre-feasibility studies of regional projects
- Replenished mainly by Member States
- Projects with partners from three Member States or more
Established in 2016 through a voluntary contribution of 1 million US Dollars by the Russian Federation

Key objectives: fostering regional cooperation, achieving sustainable development, strengthening real economy

Projects in areas such as: energy efficiency, environmentally friendly technologies, infrastructure, transport, promotion of export potential, development of small- and medium-size enterprises (has already funded two projects)
OUR ADDED VALUE

➤ Economic benefits

➤ Confidence building mechanism

➤ Fostering a culture of dialogue and understanding

➤ Forum for continuous interaction in promoting economic cooperation

➤ Contributes to strengthening security & stability in the region
- Parliamentary Assembly
- BSEC Business Council
- Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB)
- International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)
In 2017:

- 25th ANNIVERSARY
- ISTANBUL SUMMIT
  (22 May 2017)
BSEC TODAY

- The oldest
- Most representative
- Most inclusive
- Institutionally mature

Intergovernmental Organization in the wider Black Sea region, which contributes to the promotion of regional cooperation and economic development
Cooperation with other organizations

- Attach importance to enhancing BSEC-EU interaction and reaffirm their (MS) commitment to foster a pragmatic, project-oriented and mutually beneficial cooperation:
  - Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea
  - Developing a Blue Growth Initiative for Research and Innovation in the Black Sea
  - European Maritime Day, 31 May- 1 June 2018 (Burgas)
  - High-Level EU Black Sea Stakeholder Conference on Fisheries and Aquaculture (6-7 June, Sofia)
Thank you for your attention!

Rositsa Stoeva,
Executive Manager
rstoeva@bsec-organization.org
www.bsec-organization.org