

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC STRATEGY ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

2018 - 2026



September 2026

The present Report on the Implementation of the BSEC Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation was prepared by the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) and was submitted to the Working Group on Environmental Protection of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).



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Report on the Implementation of the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Executive Summary

The BSEC Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation (2017) was adopted to strengthen resilience and support climate change adaptation in the wider Black Sea region, through four strategic elements: regional cooperation, funding and project development, partnerships and awareness, and institutional and capacity development. This report reviews progress achieved during the period 2018–2026, based on responses from the BSEC Member States to a Questionnaire prepared by the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection, and complementary desk research.

The review demonstrates that significant progress has been made across the BSEC region in advancing climate adaptation policies, mobilizing climate finance, expanding regional cooperation, and strengthening institutional capacities. All BSEC Member States have submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), while the majority have adopted National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) or equivalent strategic frameworks. Climate adaptation has increasingly been integrated into national legislation and sectoral policies covering water management, agriculture, energy, health, transport, biodiversity, tourism, and disaster risk reduction.

Under the **Strategic Element 1 (Regional Cooperation)**, substantial progress has been achieved in developing national adaptation frameworks and fostering participation in regional and international initiatives. Numerous collaborative projects and networks have strengthened data sharing, scientific cooperation, and policy dialogue across the region. While several BSEC Member States have participated in projects and scientific activities to facilitate preparations for a regional clearinghouse mechanism on climate change adaptation, this mechanism has not yet been established, representing one of the principal outstanding objectives of the Strategy.

Under the **Strategic Element 2 (Funding and Project Development)**, Member States have successfully accessed a wide range of climate-finance mechanisms, including the Adaptation Fund, the Climate Investment Funds, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, EU programmes, and bilateral donor initiatives. More than one hundred adaptation-related projects involving BSEC countries were approved during the reporting period, while dozens of projects remain under active implementation. This demonstrates growing institutional maturity and increasing capacity to

mobilize resources for climate adaptation. Focus areas extend to include also disaster risk management across many climate-sensitive economic sectors, covering activities from policy development and innovation to capacity building and awareness raising.

Under the **Strategic Element 3 (Partnerships and Awareness)**, Member States increased their participation in international networks, multi-stakeholder initiatives, and academic partnerships to enable awareness and knowledge-sharing. Awareness-raising campaigns, training programmes, stakeholder consultations, and pilot projects have improved public understanding of climate risks and enhanced cooperation among government institutions, academia, civil society, municipalities, and the private sector. Nevertheless, additional efforts are needed to translate dialogue into jointly agreed regional priorities and coordinated action.

Under the **Strategic Element 4 (Institutional and Capacity Development)**, the BSEC countries have significantly strengthened climate governance frameworks and mainstreamed adaptation into national development strategies. Capacity building initiatives have supported public administrations, local authorities, researchers, and other stakeholders. While climate adaptation has become increasingly embedded within national institutions, progress in mainstreaming climate change, adaptation, and green economy across the BSEC subsidiary organs remains uneven and requires further attention.

Throughout the reporting period, BSEC has served as a valuable regional platform for cooperation, awareness-raising, networking, and policy exchange, helping Member States advance climate adaptation efforts and supporting the implementation of the Strategy's objectives. While further work is needed, particularly in strengthening regional coordination mechanisms and knowledge-sharing tools, BSEC has contributed significantly to fostering a more coordinated and resilient regional response to climate change.

Overall, according to the progress review most targets and indicators outlined in the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy have been achieved or are progressing satisfactorily, reflecting significant improvement in regional cooperation, institutional preparedness, and awareness since 2018 (See Table 1.).

Table 1.

Level of Achievement of Indicators per Target
Target 1. Promotion of regional cooperation in all aspects of climate changes across the BSEC Member States

Indicator 1.1. BSEC WG collates information on climate change adaptation initiatives from Member States to provide a knowledge base for the region by end of year 1 of implementation.	Achieved
Indicator 1.2. BSEC WG provides a regional perspective on climate change through an analysis and interpretation of initiatives in Members States and identifies key information gaps by end of year 3 of implementation.	Partially Achieved
Indicator 1.3. Interested Member States are brought together and plan to establish a regional clearinghouse mechanism on Climate Change Adaptation by end of year 5 of implementation.	Partially Achieved
Target 2. Catalyzing additional funding though working towards effective fiduciary standards and mobilizing partners to formulate climate response projects	
Indicator 2.1. Member States access possible routes to gain access to climate finance at a country-level and BSEC assesses possibilities for regional-level project financing opportunities by end of year 1 of implementation.	Achieved
Indicator 2.2. At least 5 regional / national climate change project fiches are formulated by interested Member States which include identified regional collaboration elements and they move towards full submission by end of year 3 of implementation.	Achieved
Indicator 2.3. At least two funded climate change projects have commenced and at least two further climate change projects are in the funding pipeline by end of year 5 of implementation.	Achieved
Target 3. Promoting regional partnerships and multi-stakeholder networks which can work to help build climate resilience in society and further strengthen the green economy	
Indicator 3.1. At least 3 networks involved in climate change adaptation have interacted with BSEC and opened dialogues on the role and value of regional adaptation approaches to building climate change resilience within the region.	Achieved

Indicator 3.2. The actions and modes required for building climate change resilience and the green economy have been identified through stakeholder dialogue by BSEC and key messages are agreed in BSEC organs by end of year 3 of implementation.	Partially Achieved
Indicator 3.3. BSEC have through presentations, documentation or documented discussions promoted cases of best practice and modes of implementation of adaptation / building resilience / green economy on at least 8 occasions by end of year 5 of implementation.	Achieved
Target 4. Championing the development of institutional and individual capabilities in climate change across the region	
Indicator 4.1. BSEC WG on Environmental Protection mainstreams climate change adaptation and the green economy through BSEC PERMIS and at least 8 other BSEC subsidiary organs by end of year 1 of implementation.	Partially Achieved
Indicator 4.2. BSEC PERMIS and at least 5 BSEC Subsidiary Organs (including at least 3 from Science & Technology, Energy, Trade and Economic Development, Education and Tourism) have climate change identified in plans and Declarations by end of year 3 of implementation.	Partially Achieved
Indicator 4.3. BSEC organs have sought and mediated partnerships which lead to demonstrable increased awareness and up-skilling of climate change capacity in at least 6 Member States by end of year 5 of implementation.	Achieved

At the same time, challenges and bottlenecks persist, including disparities in institutional capacity across countries, fragmented climate-finance mechanisms, limited technical expertise, especially at local levels, and insufficient regional coordination mechanisms. The report identifies **a number of recurring challenges** that hinder climate adaptation across the BSEC region:

1. Absence of a regional climate adaptation clearinghouse mechanism

The envisaged regional climate adaptation clearinghouse has not yet been established. While Member States participate in a variety of regional initiatives and knowledge-sharing activities, the lack of a dedicated platform continues to

limit the systematic exchange of climate data, best practices, project outcomes, technical knowledge, and funding opportunities across the region.

2. Uneven institutional capacities across Member States

Significant differences remain among Member States in terms of technical expertise, institutional frameworks, administrative resources, and implementation capacity. These disparities have affected the pace of progress and presented challenges in developing coordinated regional approaches to climate adaptation.

3. Challenges in accessing climate finance

Although climate-finance opportunities have expanded considerably, accessing available funding remains complex. Differing eligibility criteria, application procedures, reporting obligations, and administrative requirements can create barriers, particularly for smaller administrations and local authorities with limited resources and experience.

4. Weak cross-sectoral and institutional coordination

Effective climate adaptation requires close cooperation among ministries, government agencies, local authorities, research institutions, and other stakeholders. In some cases, fragmented responsibilities and insufficient coordination mechanisms have reduced policy coherence and slowed implementation processes.

5. Limited technical capacity and climate information systems

Several Member States continue to face challenges related to climate-risk assessment, modelling capacities, monitoring and early-warning systems, access to reliable climate data, scientific research, technological innovation, and the preparation of investment-ready adaptation projects. These gaps can constrain evidence-based decision-making and limit the effectiveness of adaptation planning.

6. Slow translation of policies into action

While all Member States have adopted climate strategies, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), or climate-related legislation, the translation of policy commitments into investments and on-the-ground adaptation measures remains challenging due to financial, technical, and institutional constraints.

7. Insufficient mainstreaming of climate adaptation within BSEC

Climate adaptation has increasingly been reflected in BSEC activities and discussions, however, it has not yet been systematically integrated into the programmes, action plans, and declarations of all BSEC subsidiary organs. As a result, progress under this objective remains only partially achieved.

8. Capacity challenges at the local level

Local and municipal authorities often face limited technical expertise and financial resources for adaptation planning, project preparation, climate-finance management, monitoring, and reporting. Strengthening local capacities remains essential, given that climate change impact is significantly experienced and primarily addressed at the local level.

9. Limited regional data sharing and knowledge transfer

Despite ongoing cooperation efforts, opportunities for structured regional exchange of climate information, lessons learned, methodologies, and adaptation experiences remain limited. Strengthening regional knowledge-sharing mechanisms would support more effective and coordinated adaptation action across the Black Sea region.

10. Persistent need for capacity building and technical support

Continued investment in institutional strengthening, technical training, peer-learning activities, and knowledge transfer is needed to support the effective implementation of adaptation measures and to enhance climate resilience throughout the region.

Moving forward, **priority actions** should focus on establishing a regional climate adaptation clearinghouse, strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation within BSEC structures, enhancing climate-data sharing, improving access to climate finance, and promoting the transfer of knowledge and good practices throughout the region. Continued collaboration among BSEC Member States, BSEC PERMIS and subsidiary organs, and international partners will be essential to accelerate adaptation efforts and build a more resilient, sustainable, and climate-ready wider Black Sea region.

The following **six recommendations** are proposed as short- and medium-term next steps with a view to advancing the implementation of the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy:

1. Establish a BSEC Regional Climate Change Adaptation Clearinghouse

A dedicated regional clearinghouse should be established to facilitate the systematic collection, management, and dissemination of climate adaptation

information across the BSEC region. The platform could serve as a central repository for adaptation policies, project results, climate data, funding opportunities, case studies, best practices, and lessons learned, strengthening regional cooperation and knowledge exchange.

2. Strengthen climate mainstreaming across all BSEC subsidiary organs

Climate adaptation considerations should be systematically integrated into the activities of all relevant BSEC bodies and working groups. Particular attention should be given to incorporating climate resilience and green economy priorities into sectoral policies, action plans, programmes, and declarations related to trade and economic development, education, tourism, energy, transport, agriculture.

3. Expand regional project development and financing support

Greater efforts should be made to support the preparation and implementation of adaptation projects at regional level. Existing BSEC mechanisms, including the Working Group on Environmental Protection and the BSEC Project Development Fund, could play a more active role in facilitating project development, fostering partnerships, identifying funding opportunities, and enhancing access to international climate-finance instruments.

4. Increase knowledge transfer and peer-learning activities

Regular workshops, training activities, expert exchanges, and peer-learning initiatives should be organized to promote the sharing of experiences and good practices among Member States. Such activities would support the dissemination of successful adaptation approaches, innovative financing solutions, and lessons learned from implementation efforts across the region.

5. Improve regional coordination on climate data and monitoring

Strengthening cooperation on climate data collection, monitoring, and information exchange should be a priority. Enhanced sharing of climate, and environmental data, combined with the development of common methodologies and indicators, would improve risk assessments, support evidence-based policy making, and strengthen regional early-warning and disaster risk management systems.

6. Invest in local capacity building and climate-finance readiness

Additional support should be given towards strengthening the capacities of municipalities and local authorities, which are often at the forefront of climate adaptation efforts. Capacity building initiatives should focus on adaptation planning, project preparation, monitoring and evaluation, climate-risk assessment, and access to climate finance, enabling local stakeholders to develop and implement effective adaptation measures.

The recommended actions provide a useful roadmap to help address the key implementation challenges identified during the current reporting period and support the transition from policy development to more effective and measurable adaptation outcomes across the wider Black Sea region. The BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection should maintain its pivotal coordinating role, overseeing future actions in line with an updated set of targets and indicators.

Introduction

The climate projections for the BSEC region¹ suggest that significant changes in the climate pose a growing challenge to the region, with increasing impact on natural ecosystems, economic activities, infrastructure, and multifaceted socioeconomic implications. In response to a pressuring need, the BSEC Member States have adopted the **BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy**² (Kyiv, 2017), that provides a regional framework to strengthen resilience and support climate change adaptation in the wider Black Sea region.

The Strategy identifies **four strategic elements** for building climate adaptation and resilience in the Black Sea region, as follows:

- I. **Promoting regional cooperation** in combating climate change across the BSEC area.
- II. **Catalyzing additional funding** though working towards effective fiduciary standards and mobilizing partners to formulate climate response projects.
- III. **Galvanising regional partnerships** which can work to help build climate resilience in society and further strengthen the green economy.
- IV. **Championing the development** of institutional capabilities in climate change across the region.

According to the BSEC Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation, a comprehensive progress review is required to assess the level of implementation and identify gaps, bottlenecks, and priorities for future action.

The present report provides the first regional assessment of the implementation of the BSEC Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation during the period 2018–2026. It evaluates the progress achieved under the four strategic elements, reviews the degree of achievement of the Strategy's targets and indicators, examines the contribution of BSEC to regional adaptation efforts, and proposes future priorities for strengthening climate adaptation in the wider Black Sea region.

¹ The BSEC region includes the 13 Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC): Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine.

² https://www.bsec-organization.org/UploadedDocuments/AreasOfCooperation/EnvironmentalProtection/StatDecl/09_Annex%20VIII_Attach_2%20Climate%20Change.pdf

The present report is developed across four main sections, structured in accordance with the progress objectives outlined in the BSEC Strategy, as follows:

1. Progress which has been made in the region on each of the four strategic elements of the BSEC Climate Adaptation Strategy.
2. Progress which has been facilitated by BSEC in each of the four strategic elements of the BSEC Climate Adaptation Strategy.
3. Degree of completeness of delivery or achievement of each of the items of the priority action plan.
4. Proposals for modifying the strategic elements or the priority Action Plan items to match progress in climate response in the region.

Overall, the review demonstrates that BSEC and the Member States have made substantial progress in strengthening climate resilience since the Strategy's adoption in 2017. Across all four strategic elements, Member States have advanced significantly their adaptation agendas and have increasingly recognized climate adaptation as a core component of sustainable development.

While substantial advancements in climate adaptation have been noted, several challenges and delays have affected the achievement of certain objectives and have limited the pace of implementation. These can be summarized as limited institutional and technical capacity, difficulties in accessing climate finance, insufficient data-sharing and coordination mechanisms, uneven climate mainstreaming across BSEC structures, and delays in establishing regional cooperation tools, such as the climate adaptation clearinghouse. Addressing these challenges will be essential for accelerating adaptation efforts and achieving the long-term objectives of the Strategy.

Within this framework, the next reporting cycle should focus on consolidating achievements and addressing the remaining gaps. The next phase of implementation should focus on strengthening regional coordination, enhancing practical implementation and exploitation of results, improving access to finance and technical capacity, and delivering measurable adaptation outcomes that increase the resilience of the Black Sea region to the impact of climate change.

Methodology

The report was based primarily on the responses to the **Questionnaire on the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy**, prepared by the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection (3 November 2025). The

Questionnaire was circulated to the BSEC Member States by BSEC PERMIS with Note BS/INFO.2025.0365, dated 17 December 2025. The template of the questionnaire is attached as ANNEX 1.

The initial deadline for the submission of the replies to the Questionnaire by the BSEC Member States was 27 February 2026. An extension was given to the initial deadline, until 10 March 2026. In total, six BSEC Member States submitted responses to the Questionnaire: Armenia, Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye.

To ensure broader regional coverage, extensive **desk research** was conducted during the period February - June 2026, to complement the input received from the BSEC Member States through the Questionnaires. The desk research focused on identifying regional cooperation and partnerships, funded projects, and institutional capacity, i.e. national laws and policies, across the 13 BSEC Member States, which:

- a) have climate change adaptation as a response area (either with or without combining other response areas, such as mitigation),
- b) have been adopted, updated, approved, or launched from 2018 onwards.

The report evaluates the level of achievement and the measurable progress in each of the four strategic elements in accordance with the **targets and indicators** outlined in the Strategy. Evaluation is categorized as either achieved, or partially achieved, or not achieved.

Last, to provide a broader picture of the current status and progress of the 13 BSEC Member States, **Annex 2** includes additional information about the countries' performance in relation to climate action, climate vulnerability, and climate readiness. Data were drawn from the 2026 Sustainable Development Report that reviews the annual progress of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. For the purposes of the present report, focus was placed on the UN SDG13: Climate Action - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Additionally, two indices closely interrelated with climate adaptation were included from the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Country Index that summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience.

The final draft of the report was circulated to the 13 BSEC Member States for consultation during the period July – August 2026. The present report constitutes the final version, including all contributions received from the BSEC Member States as of 8 September 2026.

1. Progress which has been made in the region on each of the four strategic elements of the BSEC Climate Adaptation Strategy.

1.1. Strategic Element 1: Promoting regional cooperation in combating climate change across the BSEC area.

The target to be achieved under the strategic element 1, is the following: **Target 1. Promotion of regional cooperation in all aspects of climate changes across the BSEC Member States**, including three indicators for the evaluation and measurement of the target's implementation.

Based on the identified target, this section a) covers national climate change adaptation initiatives that have been implemented during the reporting period, b) identifies any steps taken to support the establishment of a regional clearinghouse mechanism on climate change adaptation, and c) identifies any gaps or challenges in regional cooperation that require support from the BSEC Organization.

a) National climate change adaptation initiatives that have been implemented during the reporting period.

INDICATOR 1.1.: BSEC WG collates information on climate change adaptation initiatives from Member States to provide a knowledge base for the region by end of year 1 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Achieved.**

As per the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the BSEC Member States (MS) proceeded with the submission of the **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**. During the reporting period (2018-2026), five BSEC MS submitted their 3rd NDC, i.e. Armenia (2025), Azerbaijan (2025), Georgia (2026), Republic of Moldova (2025), Serbia (2025). Three BSEC MS submitted their 2nd NDC, i.e. the Russian Federation (2025), Türkiye (2025) and Ukraine (2025). Five BSEC MS have updated their first NDC, i.e. Albania (2021), Bulgaria (2023), Greece (2023), Republic of North Macedonia (2021), Romania (2023)³.

³ <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/compare-all-targets?targets=>

At national level, the BSEC Member States proceeded additionally with the elaboration and adoption of the **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)**, namely strategic documents identifying and addressing medium- and long-term adaptation needs. Unlike the NDCs, the NAPs serve as domestic planning tools to guide internal government action and attract targeted climate financing.

Ten BSEC Member States have adopted a National Adaptation Plan, namely Albania (2021), Armenia (2021), Azerbaijan (2024), Bulgaria (2019), Greece (National Adaptation Strategy 2016), Republic of Moldova (2024), Romania (2024), Serbia (2024), Türkiye (2024), Ukraine (National Adaptation Strategy 2021). For two BSEC Member States, i.e. Georgia and the Republic of North Macedonia, the National Adaptation Plans are in progress. For the Russian Federation there is no data available⁴.

In **Armenia**, the “Climate Change National Adaptation Plan and Action list for 2021-2025 for Armenia” was adopted on 13 May 2021, by the Government decision N 749-L. The 9th chapter of Decision N 749-L – Action list – includes 26 measures, that almost all have been implemented to date. These measures aim to enhance the NAP process in Armenia at the national level, as well as to enhance institutional and technical capacities for the NAP process⁵. Additionally, climate change adaptation plans for the seven most vulnerable sectors were approved or integrated into sectoral strategies, including water resources, energy, healthcare, tourism, agriculture, forest management, and transport infrastructure. Adaptation plans were developed for four regions out of ten, i.e. the Shirak, Tavush, Syunik and Gegharkunik regions.

In **Azerbaijan**, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) was submitted in 2024, providing a framework for integrating climate resilience into key vulnerable sectors, including coastal zones, water resources and agriculture. Adaptation priorities are also reflected in broader national development and sectoral policy frameworks, including the Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development, the Socio-Economic Development Strategy for 2022–2026, and the National Strategy on Efficient Use of Water Resources.

Azerbaijan has also made significant national investments in climate information, hydrometeorological monitoring and multi-hazard early warning systems, including the modernization and expansion of automatic meteorological, hydrological and marine observation networks, Doppler radar and other monitoring infrastructure. These investments, including activities

⁴ Sources: <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/countries-regions/countries>, <https://napcentral.org/submitted-naps>, <https://napcentral.org/nap-tracking-tool>

⁵ The NAP document is available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/NAP_Armenia.pdf

under the State Programmes on the Great Return to the Liberated Territories, strengthen climate risk monitoring, early warning, disaster preparedness and climate-resilient development, particularly in vulnerable and recovering areas. Azerbaijan's Socio-Economic Development Strategy for 2027–2030, currently under development, incorporates a range of climate-related measures to address the impacts of climate change, strengthen resilience, and ensure the continuity and sustainability of climate-related investments. Furthermore, Azerbaijan is developing a “Climate Law” that will provide a comprehensive framework for climate adaptation, resilience and mitigation and other related measures and activities⁶.

During the reporting period, **Bulgaria** has continued the implementation of its National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and the corresponding Action Plan (2019), which constitutes the main policy framework guiding national climate adaptation efforts at national level and provides a general basis relevant to all regions of the country, including territories in the Black Sea. In Bulgaria, the National Strategy and Action Plan assess the impacts of climate change on water resources, with particular attention to floods, droughts and other extreme hydrometeorological events. Although the Strategy does not contain region-specific measures for the Black Sea, its sectoral analyses and horizontal measures are applicable to climate-sensitive coastal territories.

Climate change adaptation is addressed as a preventive risk management instrument, aimed at reducing the vulnerability of key sectors and territories to floods, droughts, wildfires, and other extreme climate events. Measures under the National Strategy and Action Plan focus on:

- improving climate risk assessment and management;
- strengthening institutional coordination;
- enhancing administrative and technical capacity at national and local levels;
- integrating adaptation considerations into disaster risk management and sectoral policies.

In line with the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2025–2029, preparations have also begun for an update of the national Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, originally conducted in 2014. The updated assessment will make use of new climate data and modelling tools and will be carried out through an external contractor in accordance with public procurement procedures, with completion planned for 2027. It is also

⁶ The text (verbatim) was provided by the Republic of Azerbaijan during the consultation process in the period July – August 2026.

expected to further strengthen evidence-based adaptation planning, including for climate-sensitive coastal and marine sectors.

In parallel, the national adaptation policy recognizes the importance of promoting climate-resilient economic activities and ecosystem-based approaches in climate-sensitive sectors such as tourism and biodiversity. These policy orientations are relevant for coastal territories, including those along the Black Sea, and may support future efforts to enhance resilience through improved monitoring, early warning systems and multi-stakeholder cooperation.

During 2025, the **Republic of Moldova** continued to advance national climate change adaptation efforts through the implementation of strategic frameworks, strengthening of institutional capacities, and delivery of concrete adaptation measures at national and local levels. These included the completion of the national adaptation planning processes, support to local authorities in developing and implementing climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans, deployment of pilot adaptation solutions at the municipal level, strengthening of climate services and early warning systems, approval of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for the period 2024–2030, launch of the Climate Change Information and Information Management Portal, and promotion of ecosystem-based and gender-responsive adaptation approaches.

The **Republic of North Macedonia**, under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), improved the implementation of the EU Floods Directive through harmonization of national legislation and preparation of flood risk management plans.

In **Serbia**, the second phase of the “Advancing Medium- and Long-Term Adaptation Planning in the Republic of Serbia” project was launched in 2025, focusing on the development of a new Action Plan for the period 2027–2030, as well as the update of the Digital Climate Atlas of Serbia and the Climate Change Adaptation Programme. In the first phase of the project, the Climate Change Adaptation Programme for the period 2023-2030 (CCAP) was developed. Additionally, under the project, a Master's academic programme “Climate Change and Adaptation” was established at the University of Belgrade, in 2025, which is interdisciplinary and unique in Serbia.

In parallel, in Serbia, the year 2025 marked the first reporting year under Article 15 of the Law on Climate Change concerning authorities and organizations responsible for implementing adaptation measures contained in the CCAP, as well as for the development and implementation of public policy documents in sectors most affected by climate change and planning documents of the autonomous province and local self-government units. This also includes

responses to phenomena such as floods, extreme temperatures, droughts, and other events, as well as their consequences.

In addition to the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2024-2030), **Türkiye** submitted its Eighth National Communication in 2023, and its First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) which includes adaptation part voluntarily to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in 2024. In 2025, Türkiye published its Climate Law, which includes provisions regarding climate adaptation.

Last, to support the advancement of the National Adaptation Plans, the **UN Development Programme (UNDP)** has been engaged in multi-year projects since 2017, with funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Programme. Each project is about 2-4 years in duration and the desired outcomes of each project are tailored to address the specific adaptation needs in their NAP⁷. Five BSEC Member States have received funding under this UNDP initiative. Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova have already completed their projects, while for the Republic of North Macedonia is set to conclude in 2027.

b) Regional clearinghouse mechanism on climate change adaptation.

INDICATOR 1.3.: Interested Member States are brought together and plan to establish a regional clearinghouse mechanism on Climate Change Adaptation by end of year 5 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Partially achieved.**

While a formal **regional clearinghouse mechanism** has not yet been established at BSEC level, several BSEC Member States have taken a number of enabling steps towards a regional clearinghouse mechanism on climate change adaptation, in line with the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. To this end, the BSEC MS have participated in several projects and scientific activities with a view to facilitating the development of shared knowledge, data exchange, methodological alignment, and institutional networking, which constitute essential steps for the preparations of a regional clearinghouse mechanism.

Indicative projects with the participation of BSEC Member States, that set the basis for the preparations of a regional clearinghouse mechanism:

⁷ <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/naps-gcf/partner-countries>

- Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine participate at the **“Decarbonization and Climate Resilience in the Eastern Partnership (EU4ClimateResilience)”** (2024-2027) initiative, aiming to support the green transition, enhance decarbonisation and increase climate resilience in the target countries. The project is co-financed by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), and implemented by GIZ and OECD⁸ 9.
- Bulgaria, Greece, and Türkiye participate at the **“Cooperation on Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Planning and Monitoring in the Black Sea Basin – STEP2CleanPlan”** project (2024-2026), under the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme 2021-2027. The general objective of the project is to implement joint pilot actions that enhance the knowledge and capacity of local policymakers to take specific measures to mitigate the effects of climate change in the Black Sea Basin and to sustainably integrate climate change adaptation into local policies, based on cross-border cooperation established among various stakeholders¹⁰.
- Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia, and Serbia participated at the **EU4Green: Support the implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans project** (2022-2025), co-funded by the EU and the Austrian Development Agency. The project supports the implementation of the ‘Green Agenda for the Western Balkans’, aimed at greening their economies, in consultation with all relevant partners, monitoring and reporting activities¹¹.
- Bulgaria, the Republic of Moldova, Türkiye, and Georgia participate at the **“BRIGHT – Bringing Regional actors Into (G)lobal community-driven actions Toward climate adaptation and resilient ecosystems in the Black Sea region”** project, under the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin project, co-funded by the European Union. The project brings together local authorities and stakeholders from Bulgaria, to strengthen planning and monitoring of integrated local energy and climate measures, working together toward EU 2050 climate targets¹².

⁸ During the consultation process in the period July – August 2026, the Republic of Azerbaijan removed the country from the participating countries of the project EU4ClimateResilience. As of 8 September 2026, the official website of the project EU4ClimateResilience includes Azerbaijan in the participating countries.

⁹ <https://eu4climate.eu/>

¹⁰ <https://step2cleanplan.com/>

¹¹ <https://eu4green.eu/>

¹² <https://www.projectbright.eu/en/>

- The Republic of North Macedonia implements through two Ministries and one Municipality, the **EU for Prespa - Restoration of natural resources and enhancing sustainable agriculture and tourism** project (2023 -2027), funded by the EU. The project aims to instigate a significant change in practices and behavior among policy makers at local level, farmers, private sector, CSO and citizens regarding the management of and the sustainable use of natural resources in the Prespa region¹³.

Indicative scientific activities with the participation of BSEC Member States, that set the basis for the preparations of a regional clearinghouse mechanism:

- **Bulgaria** has participated in a number of regional conferences, expert meetings and research initiatives involving national institutions, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and international partners.
- The **Republic of Moldova** has participated in a number of regional and international processes under the UNFCCC, including COP 30 and related subsidiary body meetings. The country has also participated in technical sessions, side events and thematic dialogues focused on adaptation, transparency, climate services and knowledge-sharing, contributing its national experiences, lessons learned and good practices. The Republic of Moldova has also supported the alignment of national adaptation information systems with international and regional knowledge-sharing frameworks, including the Global Adaptation Knowledge Portal and UNFCCC transparency mechanisms.

Furthermore, at EU level, **Bulgaria** contributes with national adaptation information, strategies and assessments to the **European Climate Adaptation Platform Climate-ADAPT**¹⁴, the European climate adaptation platform, including content related to the Black Sea Basin. This platform serves as a functional knowledge repository and provides a model that can support or be linked to future BSEC-level clearinghouse arrangements. Climate-ADAPT aims to support Europe in adapting to climate change helping users to access and share data and information on:

- Expected climate change in Europe
- Current and future vulnerability of regions and sectors
- EU, national and transnational adaptation strategies and actions
- Adaptation case studies and potential adaptation options

¹³ <https://euneighbourseast.eu/projects/eu-project-page/?id=2843&title=eu-for-prespa-restoration-of-natural-resources-and-enhancing-sustainable-agriculture-and-tourism>

¹⁴ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en>

- Tools that support adaptation planning

From international practice, the **UNESCO Digital Innovation Hub**¹⁵ is another platform that could serve as a good example for the establishment of a regional clearinghouse mechanism on climate adaptation in the BSEC region. This platform facilitates the exchange of knowledge on a wide variety of solutions that cover all phases of disaster management, i.e. prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery and reconstruction. The UNESCO Digital Innovation Hub gathers innovative tools and services that focus on achieving Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and are being implemented in different regions worldwide.

From BSEC, the **Black Sea Virtual Knowledge Centre (BSVKC)**¹⁶ is a good example of a centralized platform designed to facilitate knowledge transfer and promote synergies among various stakeholders at BSEC level. The BSVKC was established in 2020 and it is managed and operated by the BSEC PERMIS.

The platform's primary objective is to support the advancement of a sustainable Blue Economy across the wider Black Sea region, with a particular emphasis on the active involvement of relevant stakeholders. While the main theme of the Virtual Knowledge Centre is not climate adaptation, the model and operational framework it provides could support the establishment of a regional clearinghouse mechanism on climate adaptation in the BSEC region.

c) Gaps or challenges in regional cooperation that require support from the BSEC Organization.

INDICATOR 1.2.: BSEC WG provides a regional perspective on climate change through an analysis and interpretation of initiatives in Members States and identifies key information gaps by end of year 3 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Partially achieved.**

Armenia has already enjoyed active regional adaptation dialogue, notably through cooperation with Georgia. Armenia stands ready to expand its cooperation with all BSEC Member States. BSEC can serve as a useful platform for dialogue and exchange of good practices on climate change adaptation.

¹⁵ https://www.unesco.org/en/unesco-digital-innovation-hub?hub=70951&utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=DRR-hub-launch

¹⁶ <https://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/Forms/Default>

Bulgaria notes with appreciation that regional cooperation under the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy has continued to develop in a constructive and collaborative manner. BSEC provides a valuable platform for dialogue, exchange of experience, and the promotion of coordinated approaches to climate adaptation across the Black Sea. Bulgaria looks forward to continuing to engage through BSEC, building on these cooperative efforts to advance inclusive, evidence-based, and mutually beneficial regional initiatives.

1.2. Strategic Element 2: Catalyzing additional funding though working towards effective fiduciary standards and mobilizing partners to formulate climate response projects.

The target to be achieved under the strategic element 2, is the following: **Target 2. Catalyzing additional funding though working towards effective fiduciary standards and mobilizing partners to formulate climate response projects**, including three indicators for the evaluation and measurement of the target's implementation.

Based on the target, this section focuses on identifying a) climate finance opportunities at national or international levels, that have been accessed by the BSEC Member States during the reporting period, b) the development of regional or joint project proposals with the collaboration of more than one BSEC Member States, c) the identification of active or under development funded climate change projects, and d) the identification of barriers in accessing or mobilizing climate finance at the regional level.

a) Access to climate finance opportunities at national or international levels.

INDICATOR 2.1.: Member States access possible routes to gain access to climate finance at a country-level and BSEC assesses possibilities for regional-level project financing opportunities by end of year 1 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Achieved.**

At international level, **four of the key Multilateral Climate Funds (MCFs)**, namely, the Adaptation Fund (AF), the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) have developed the **Climate Project Explorer platform** to serve “as

a single point of entry and knowledge tool [...] to enhance access to the funds and promote transparency”¹⁷.

Given that the four MCFs provide support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, **ten out of the thirteen BSEC Member States are eligible recipient countries** to climate finance projects. Bulgaria, Greece and Romania are not an eligible in any of the four MCFs, while the Russian Federation is eligible only at the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

According to the MCFs’ platform, since 2018, **nine BSEC Member States** have received funding from the MCFs, i.e. Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine. A **total of 93 projects** relevant to climate change adaptation have been approved by the four Multilateral Climate Funds, involving at least one BSEC Member State. Of these 93 projects, **13** have been approved by the Adaptation Fund, **9** by the Climate Investment Funds, **53** by the Global Environment Facility, and **18** by the Green Climate Fund. MCFs’ projects focus on key sectors such as environmental management, agriculture, transportation, energy supply, water security, and forestry.

In addition to the four Multilateral Climate Funds, **other international donors**, such as the World Bank, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), have also developed programmes to support research and development for climate change adaptation.

In the case of **Bulgaria**, the World Bank Group – International Finance Corporation (IFC) mobilized funds improve access to climate-friendly capital for Bulgarian enterprises and infrastructure projects.

The **Republic of Moldova** has accessed and mobilized climate finance from multiple international sources to support climate change adaptation and resilience-building efforts. Apart from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the GEF Trust Fund, key financing streams include bilateral partnerships, such as those with Germany, Austria, Japan and Canada. Financial and technical assistance has also been mobilized from multilateral agencies like the UNDP, FAO and UN Women.

Türkiye has received funding also from the UNDP for the project “Enhancing Adaptation Action in Türkiye” (2020 – 2025), conducted by the Directorate of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. In scope of this project national vulnerability and risk assessment were conducted across eleven sectors, including water resources management,

¹⁷ <https://climateprojectexplorer.org/about>

agriculture and food security, biodiversity and ecosystem services, urban, public health, energy, industry, transportation and communication, tourism and cultural heritage, social development and disaster risk management, National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2024-2030) was prepared and finalized in 2023, adaptation guidelines were prepared, trainings were organized, pilot studies were conducted and 29 grant projects were supported.

At interregional level, the **EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change** focuses on supporting EU regions, cities, and local authorities in their efforts to build resilience against the impacts of climate change, through a diverse portfolio of projects funded by Horizon Europe, the EU's research and innovation programme¹⁸. According to the Portal of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change¹⁹, since its establishment in 2021, **eleven projects** on climate adaptation have received funding, involving partners from **five BSEC Member States**, i.e. Albania, Greece, the Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, and Serbia.

Bulgaria has also accessed the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area, financial mechanisms funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway (**EEA and Norway Grants**), and the **European Investment Bank** (EIB) Group Support for climate-related support in sustainable agriculture, energy-efficient technologies, and low-emission transport infrastructure — directly addressing climate mitigation and adaptation needs. In 2022, Bulgaria submitted a national plan at the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) under the **EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility**, for substantial climate-related reforms and investments (energy transition, adaptation, sustainable mobility, green innovation). The **Operational Programme Environment** (2014-2020) supported the preservation and the protection of environment, climate change adaptation, and risk prevention and management in Bulgaria, co-financed by the Cohesion Fund (CF) and the Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The **EU LIFE Programme** (Environment & Climate Action) supports Bulgarian beneficiaries in areas such as climate-friendly urban planning, biodiversity protection linked to climate resilience, and innovative mitigation approaches.

Since 2023, **Türkiye** implements the EU-funded project “EU Partnership for Local Climate Action in Türkiye”, conducted by the Directorate of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. In scope of this project climate projections of Türkiye is being updated, vulnerability and risk assessment is being conducted for NUTS1 level regions of Türkiye

¹⁸ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

¹⁹ https://mission-adaptation-portal.ec.europa.eu/projects-1_en

according to the new climate projections, a by-law on local climate change action plans and its technical infrastructure as technical guidelines and decision making tools are being prepared, trainings are being organized for local authorities and 25 grant projects which are started to implementation at the beginning of 2026 are being supported.

At regional level, the **Black Sea Basin Programme**²⁰ focuses exclusively on **eight BSEC Member States**, namely Armenia (whole country), Bulgaria (eight coastal regions, Georgia (whole country), Greece (twelve coastal regions in North Greece), the Republic of Moldova (37 regions), Romania (six regions), Türkiye (25 regions), Ukraine (whole country).

During the **2014-2020 Black Sea Basin Programme**²¹, in total **119 projects** were awarded. The Programme received funding from the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) as well as from the European Regional Development Fund and the Instrument for Pre-Accession which was pooled together. The subsequent **Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin**²² (2021-2027) programme facilitates cooperation between EU Member States and non-EU partner countries, contributing to the sustainable management of resources and further deepening the cross-border cooperation in the Black Sea Basin, in a transnational configuration. The programme focuses on addressing environmental challenges, particularly climate change and biodiversity protection, while also promoting good governance, research, and innovative solutions.

At BSEC level, the **BSEC Project Development Fund (PDF)**²³ was established in 2002, as a concrete mechanism to facilitate the elaboration and promotion of projects. The Fund operates on the principle of voluntary contributions from the BSEC Member States, BSEC Related Bodies, BSEC Observers and Third-Party donors including States, International Institutions and Organizations, as well as the private sector. The targeted sectors for PDF financing are those outlined in the BSEC Economic Agenda and specified in accordance with the action plans and decisions of the BSEC Working Groups. Eligibility for funding applies only to legal entities from the BSEC Member States.

Since its establishment, the BSEC PDF has awarded 25 projects across various thematic fields, such as science and technology (8), environmental protection (4), energy (3), etc. Since 2018, one project is under implementation, the “Blue Port Index for BSEC Countries”, and one project proposal is currently under

²⁰ <https://blacksea-cbc.net/>

²¹ <https://blacksea-cbc.net/eni-cbc-bsb-2014-2020>

²² <https://interreg.eu/programmes/next-black-sea-basin/>

²³ <https://www.bsec-organization.org/development-fund>

consideration (“Agrifood Innovative Living Lab Ecosystem”). While the thematic priorities of the two recent projects are broader than climate adaptation, the replenishment of the BSEC PDF indicates the Member States’ interest in supporting project-oriented cooperation.

At country level, in **Armenia**, the climate finance landscape consists of public (state) funds, the four Multilateral Climate Funds (MCFs), partners such as international financial institutions and developed countries, as well as private and alternative national and international sources. The Climate Law adopted by the National Assembly on 19 January 2026 defines climate finance instruments and mechanisms (Article 20). Specifically, climate finance is sourced from state budget funds, international organizations, private and alternative national or international sources, as well as other funds not prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia. Financial mechanisms for the implementation of climate policy include a range of instruments such as budget programmes, loans, guarantees, public investment programmes, subsidies, climate programmes implemented within the framework of public-private partnerships, grants provided by international partners, grants provided by international target investment funds, private investments, and donations.

In **Bulgaria** climate finance opportunities are channeled through:

- a. National Trust EcoFund - one of the main national instruments for climate and environmental finance in Bulgaria, operating since 1995. It plays a key role in supporting projects that contribute to greenhouse gas reduction, energy efficiency, adaptation and environmental protection at municipal and national levels.
- b. The Enterprise for Management of Environmental Protection Activities – a state legal entity that collects and manages environmental charges and fees (e.g., water abstraction charges, waste fees) and then reinvests them into environmental projects. While it is not exclusively a climate fund, its financing supports climate-relevant environmental infrastructure and resource-efficiency projects.

In the **Republic of Moldova** national public resources were also allocated to co-finance climate-related initiatives, including climate services, disaster risk reduction, and sectoral resilience measures.

b) Development of regional or joint project proposals with the collaboration of more than one BSEC Member States.

INDICATOR 2.2.: At least 5 regional / national climate change project fiches are formulated by interested Member States which include identified regional collaboration elements and they move towards full submission by end of year 3 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Achieved.**

At regional level, the **eight eligible BSEC Member States**²⁴ have applied with joint project proposals under the 2014-2020 Black Sea Basin Programme. It has supported climate adaptation across the wider Black Sea region through **four projects**. In particular:

- **AGREEN (Cross-Border Alliance for Climate-Smart and Green Agriculture in the Black Sea Basin, 2020-2023)**²⁵ has built upon the concept of climate-smart agriculture. Project partners were based in Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Romania and Türkiye.
- **COPREVENT (Cooperation for disaster prevention and environmental monitoring in BSB, 2021-2023)**²⁶ has worked on the floods and forest fires prevention and damage reduction, with project partners based in Bulgaria, Greece, the Republic of Moldova and Türkiye.
- **IASON (Invasive Alien Species Observatory and Network Development for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts in Black Sea Deltaic Protected Areas, 2020-2023)**²⁷ has worked on the assessment of climate-induced risks for biodiversity and ecosystems in river deltas in the region. Project partners were based in Greece, Georgia, Romania, Türkiye and Ukraine.
- **HYDROECONEX (Creating a system of innovative transboundary monitoring of the transformations of the Black Sea River ecosystems under the impact of hydropower development and climate change, 2018-2021)**²⁸ has developed a shared approach to a monitoring system for river ecosystems in the presence of hydropower infrastructures in a changing climate, as well as a strategy for bilateral water cooperation on joint monitoring of

²⁴ <https://blacksea-cbc.net/>

²⁵ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/metadata/projects/cross-border-alliance-for-climate-smart-and-green-agriculture-in-the-black-sea-basin>

²⁶ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/metadata/projects/cooperation-for-disaster-prevention-and-environmental-monitoring-in-bsb>

²⁷ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/metadata/projects/invasive-alien-species-observatory-and-network-development-for-the-assessment-of-climate-change-impacts-in-black-sea-deltaic-protected-areas>

²⁸ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/metadata/projects/hydroeconex>

transboundary rivers in the presence of hydropower. Project partners were based in Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

At country-level, **Armenia** has regional cooperation with **Georgia** in the context of the “Regional Adaptation Dialogue in the South Caucasus. Together for Resilient Mountain Communities in the Region”.

Bulgaria has collaborated with other BSEC Member States and Black Sea basin partners on regional and joint project proposals, especially through EU territorial cooperation programmes and transnational initiatives involving ministries and municipal association. Bulgaria actively participates in transnational cooperation projects under the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme (2021-2027), which include strong knowledge-sharing and capacity-building components. Examples include the BRIGHT project²⁹, led by the Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities, which supports local authorities in Bulgaria, Türkiye, Georgia and Moldova in developing and applying common tools for climate and energy planning, monitoring and reporting. The project facilitates structured exchange of data, methodologies and good practices relevant to climate adaptation planning at local and regional level.

Another example is the STEP2CleanPlan project³⁰, which produced a Joint Guide for Local Policymakers in the Black Sea region. The guide promotes harmonised approaches to climate governance, adaptation planning and stakeholder engagement, contributing to the creation of a shared regional knowledge base that can feed into a future clearinghouse mechanism.

c) Identification of active or under development funded climate change projects.

INDICATOR 2.3.: At least two funded climate change projects have commenced and at least two further climate change projects are in the funding pipeline by end of year 5 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Achieved.**

At international level, under the four Multilateral Climate Funds (MCFs), there are currently **72 active projects** focusing on climate change adaptation, that involve at least one BSEC Member State.

More specifically:

²⁹ <https://www.ubbsla.org/en/project/bright-bsb-project/>

³⁰ <https://step2cleanplan.com/>

- **Adaptation Fund (AF):** Six projects are currently under implementation. **Armenia** is the recipient country for three of the projects, primarily focusing on enhancing land-based adaptation capacity, facilitating digital education on adaptation, and optimizing flood management. **Albania** is the recipient country in two projects: one is in cooperation with the **Republic of Moldova**, focusing on climate resilience in the agricultural value chain; the second, is in cooperation with the **Republic of North Macedonia** and Montenegro, focusing on transboundary flood risk management in the Drin River basin. **Georgia** has received funding from the AF to reduce the vulnerability of the dairy value chain. **Azerbaijan** has also received funding from the Adaptation Fund (AF) for projects aimed at building climate-resilient cities and communities³¹.
- **Climate Investment Funds (CIF):** Six projects are currently under implementation. **Türkiye** is the recipient country for three of the projects, primarily focusing on the transformation of power transmission systems, the improvement of the energy efficiency of public buildings, and the acceleration of the market transition for distributed energy. **Albania** has received funding alongside Congo to support indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable resource management. The **Republic of North Macedonia** receives funding for one project on leveraging eco-industrial parks. **Ukraine** receives funding for one project on supporting its decarbonization process.
- **Global Environment Facility (GEF):** 42 projects are currently under implementation. **Türkiye** participates in eleven projects. The **Republic of Moldova** and **Armenia** follow with eight and seven projects respectively, while **Albania**, **Azerbaijan**, **Georgia** and **Serbia** are working on six projects each. **Ukraine** and the **Republic of North Macedonia** participate in five and four projects, respectively. Under GEF, some projects focus on **specific climate adaptation-related topics**, including sustainable livestock and wastewater management, green social housing, electric mobility, and clean technology innovation for SMEs and start-ups. These projects are typically addressed to only one country, based on its needs and challenges. Other GEF projects focus on supporting recipient countries to meet the **enhanced transparency framework (ETF)** requirements for action and support, as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement (PA). Finally, there are GEF-funded projects which support countries in preparing and submitting the **Biennial Transparency**

³¹ The text (verbatim) was provided by the Republic of Azerbaijan during the consultation process in the period July – August 2026.

Reports (BTRs) and combined Biennial Transparency Report / National Communications (BTR/NCs), in order to fulfill their obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement (PA). All projects relevant to the ETF, BTRs and BTR/NCs are either country-specific or serve as Umbrella Programmes providing support to partnerships of countries.

- **Green Climate Fund (GCF):** 18 projects are currently under implementation. **Armenia** participates in eight projects, followed by **Georgia** and **the Republic of North Macedonia** with six projects, **Albania** with five projects, while **Serbia, Azerbaijan** and the **Republic of Moldova** participate in four, three and two projects respectively. Some projects involve only one country, such as those funded to enhance forest resilience in Armenia, Georgia, and Serbia, or those funded to strengthen monitoring and early warning systems in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. Some other GCF-funded projects involve more than one country. For example, the “**Green Cities Facility**” which includes Albania, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of North Macedonia, and Serbia among the recipient countries. The project focuses on a low-carbon, climate-resilient urban development. Another example is the “**Glaciers to Farms (G2F) Regional Program: Advancing Climate Resilience & Sustainable Development in Central and West Asia**”. The project integrates climate science into the development of adaptation planning for glacier-dependent river basins in Central and West Asia. Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia are among the recipient countries.

Azerbaijan has accessed and mobilized climate finance through grant-based international cooperation and multilateral climate funds to support climate change adaptation, ecosystem resilience, and climate-resilient development. Key initiatives supported through international climate finance mechanisms include:

- The **Technology Needs Assessment for Climate Change (GEF–UNEP, TNA Phase V, 2025–2027)** supports the identification and prioritization of climate mitigation and adaptation technologies. The initiative contributes to evidence-based climate planning and supports a just and inclusive transition through enhanced access to relevant technological solutions.
- Through engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Azerbaijan has mobilized grant-based climate finance to strengthen adaptation

capacity. The GCF–UNEP project **“Strengthening Climate Information and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Increased Resilience in Azerbaijan”** (SAP046, 2025–2031) aims to enhance national and local capacities for generating and disseminating timely climate and disaster risk information, with a focus on communities exposed to floods, heatwaves, and droughts. The project strengthens early warning systems, preparedness, and risk communication, contributing to improved climate resilience and disaster risk management.

Apart from these, Adaptation Fund approved a project titled **“Building Climate Resilient Cities and Communities in the Republic of Azerbaijan”** (2026 -2030). The main objective of the programme is to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience of local communities in Azerbaijan while fostering the necessary capacities and knowledge in the country and throughout the Caspian Sea region³².

The **Republic of Moldova** highlights the following MCF-funded projects:

- “Capacity building for climate action in the Republic of Moldova” funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and implemented by UNDP.
- Preparation of the Sixth National Communication (NC) and the Second Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) funded by GEF Trust Fund and implemented by UNEP.
- “Strengthening the capacity of the Republic of Moldova to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement”, funded by the GEF Trust Fund and implemented by FAO.

In the **Republic of North Macedonia**, six climate change projects, funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), are currently underway. The projects are mainly focused on energy efficiency, low-carbon and climate-resilient urban development, and climate investments for mitigation and adaptation solutions³³. In addition, North Macedonia proceeds with the development of its First Biennial Transparency Report and the combined Second Biennial Transparency Report and Fifth National Communication on climate change under the UNFCCC (BTR1 and BTR2/NC5), and the Revision of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

³² The text (verbatim) was provided by the Republic of Azerbaijan during the consultation process in the period July – August 2026.

³³ <https://www.greenclimate.fund/countries/north-macedonia>

In **Serbia**, the second phase of the project “Advancing Medium- and Long-Term Adaptation Planning in the Republic of Serbia” funded through the Green Climate Fund, is currently underway. In addition, Serbia elaborates the “Development of the First Biennial Transparency Report and the combined Fourth National Communication and Second Biennial Transparency Report of Serbia under the UNFCCC” through GEF funding.

From other international donors, the **Republic of Moldova** participates in four projects funded by bilateral partners and implemented by the UNDP:

- 1) “Advancing Climate Resilience and Women’s Empowerment in Moldova”, funded by Canada, implemented by UNDP.
- 2) “Accelerating a Just Energy Transition in the Republic of Moldova Programme”, funded by Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Poland, implemented by UNDP.
- 3) “Hydro-infrastructure rehabilitation to mitigate vulnerability to climate-driven extreme events in the Republic of Moldova”, funded by Austria, implemented by UNDP.
- 4) “Enhancing human security in Moldova through agri-food resilience to intensifying external and climate shocks”, funded by Government of Japan, implemented by UNDP.

At interregional level, under the **EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change**, partners from **five BSEC countries**, i.e. Albania, Greece, the Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, and Serbia, are involved in **eight active projects**. Four of the projects³⁴ focus on the development of funding and financing for adaptation, having partners from Greece, Romania, and Serbia. Other projects focus on water management and infrastructure, stakeholder and citizen engagement, and land use and food systems. Indicatively, the project **NATURE-DEMO**³⁵, with partners from the Republic of North Macedonia and Romania, identifies nature-based solutions for demonstrating climate-resilient infrastructure. The project **FARCLIMATE**³⁶ with partners from Albania, Greece, and Romania, focuses on the development of climate-resilient measures in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

Furthermore, **Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine** participate at the “Decarbonization and Climate Resilience in the Eastern Partnership (**EU4ClimateResilience**)” (2024-2027) initiative, aiming to support the green transition, enhance decarbonization and increase climate

³⁴ ClimaPannonia <https://climapannonia.eu/>, DRYAD <https://dryad-project.eu/>, OCEANIDS <https://www.oceanids-project.eu/>, SpongeWorks <https://www.spongeworks.eu/>

³⁵ https://mission-adaptation-portal.ec.europa.eu/nature-demo_en

³⁶ https://mission-adaptation-portal.ec.europa.eu/farclimate_en

resilience in the target countries. The project is co-financed by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), and implemented by GIZ and OECD^{37 38}.

Bulgaria participates at three active projects funded by the **EEA Norway Grants**:

- 1) **Innovative Measures for Climate Change Adaptation (EEA Grants / EcoFund)**. Project organised by the National Trust EcoFund (NTEF) and financed from the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism, supporting adaptation measures in eight major Bulgarian cities including Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Stara Zagora, Sliven, Kardzhali and Ruse. Activities include capacity building for local authorities, piloting climate adaptation measures, and interventions to reduce urban heat island effects.
- 2) **RED ALERT**: National Trust EcoFund / EEA Grants — Climate Adaptation Support. Implementation activities ongoing under the EEA Grants environment programme supporting climate adaptation measures in Bulgarian cities. This project (managed by National Trust EcoFund) focuses on strengthening municipal capacities in climate change adaptation (e.g., dealing with heat islands, floods, droughts) in eight major cities such as Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Stara Zagora, Sliven, Kardzhali and Ruse, in partnership with Norwegian expertise.
- 3) The **“Black Sea E-mobility” project**, funded under the EEA Grants Environment Protection and Climate Change Programme, is led by Kavarna Municipality with partners Dolni Chiflik, Byala, Dalgopol, Nessebar, Primorsko, the Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (UBBSLA), and Smart Innovation Norway AS. The project aims to promote low-carbon transport in coastal municipalities by installing electric vehicle charging stations along the “Black Sea Corridor,” providing municipal electric vehicles powered by solar energy, and strengthening local capacity to plan, monitor, and implement climate mitigation and adaptation measures, including staff training on GHG reduction and sustainable transport.

The **Republic of Moldova** participates at the active project **“Strengthening Moldova’s Disaster Risk Management and Resilience - SMORE”**. The

³⁷ During the consultation process in the period July – August 2026, the Republic of Azerbaijan removed the country from the participating countries of the project EU4ClimateResilience. As of 8 September 2026, the official website of the project EU4ClimateResilience includes Azerbaijan in the participating countries.

³⁸ <https://eu4climate.eu/>

SMORE Project is supported through grant funds provided by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the Technical Assistance Financing Facility (TAFF) for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness, which is financed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and administered by GFDRR.

In **Türkiye**, the Directorate of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change is implementing the EU-funded project “**EU Partnership for Local Climate Action in Türkiye**” (2023-2028). In scope of this project climate projections of Türkiye are being updated, vulnerability and risk assessment is being conducted for NUTS1 level regions of Türkiye according to the new climate projections, a by-law on local climate change action plans and its technical infrastructure as technical guidelines and decision making tools are being prepared, trainings are being organized for local authorities and 25 grant projects, which are started to implementation at the beginning of 2026, are being supported.

At regional level, under the **Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin**³⁹ (2021 -2027) programme, active projects on climate adaptation include:

- 1) **IASON+ (Invasive Alien Species Observatory and Network Development for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Contextual Ecosystem Services Evaluation in Black Sea Deltaic Protected Areas, 2024-2026)**⁴⁰ aims to address the impact of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) on Ecosystem Services (ES) by enhancing the management and mitigation of IAS, reducing its spread, improving ecosystem resilience, and ensuring sustainable ES provision in the deltaic regions. Project partners are based in Georgia, Greece, Romania, Türkiye, and Ukraine.
- 2) **Green Urban Resilience (Green Climate Change Adaptation Solutions for Smart and Resilient Cities in BSB, 2024-2026)**⁴¹ aims to develop sustainable green climate solutions for urban areas. The project supports cross-border cooperation and integrates green infrastructure into local authorities' planning work. Project partners are based in Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece and Türkiye.
- 3) **UCare (Urban Climate Adaptation and Recovery Efforts through Green Infrastructure in Black Sea Basin, 2025-2027)**⁴² focuses on restoring urban parks through sustainable practices,

³⁹ <https://interreg.eu/programmes/next-black-sea-basin/>

⁴⁰ <https://blacksea-cbc.net/interreg-next-bsb-2021-2027/projects/bsb00174>

⁴¹ <https://blacksea-cbc.net/interreg-next-bsb-2021-2027/projects/bsb00006>

⁴² <https://blacksea-cbc.net/interreg-next-bsb-2021-2027/projects/bsb00822>

enhancing climate resilience, biodiversity, and the well-being of urban communities. Project partners are based in Greece, the Republic of Moldova and Romania.

- 4) **Green Climate Change Adaptation Solutions for Smart and Resilient Cities in the Black Sea Basin (BSB).** The project started in July 2024, and runs until September 2026, under the Interreg VI B NEXT Black Sea Basin programme. This Regional cross border project is focused on developing climate adaptation solutions for smart and resilient cities, including green infrastructure, heat stress reduction measures, and urban planning tools involving municipalities from Bulgaria and other Black Sea countries (e.g., Sozopol).

d) Identification of barriers in accessing or mobilizing climate finance at the regional level.

Funding is accessible through numerous funding instruments, either at international and regional levels, or at bilateral level where third countries are funding donors to projects implemented in the BSEC Member States. Such plurality of resources signifies different timeframes, eligibility, submission, and reporting criteria for the interested beneficiaries. The perplexity of application procedures may be discouraging to Member States to apply for funding. At the same time, in most cases, funding applications require the coordination of more than one government structure, complicating the procedure further, while requiring increased time and human resources.

At BSEC level, the only funding instrument with resources from the Member States for the Member States, the BSEC Project Development Fund, encounters reduced availability of funds.

Armenia notes three key barriers in accessing or mobilizing climate finance at regional level:

1. Complex and Fragmented Climate Finance Architecture

- There are many international climate funds (like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, GEF, etc.), but they have different criteria, processes, and reporting requirements. This makes it hard for national governments or project developers to identify the right fund and tailor proposals for it.
- The fragmentation and overlap of funds increase transaction costs and slows down access to finance.

2. Institutional and Coordination Challenges

- Effective climate finance mobilization requires strong coordination across ministries (e.g., environment, finance, planning), but such cross-government coordination is often weak or lacking.
- Limited climate finance planning and data gaps make it difficult to prioritize projects effectively and meet the reporting requirements of donors.

3. Low Levels of Grant Funding and High Reliance on Debt

- A debt burden for countries that are already fiscally constrained may impose certain limitations on them in terms of applying for some funding instruments, such as loans.

Bulgaria notes that, at regional level, accessing and mobilizing climate finance in the Black Sea basin faces challenges primarily related to institutional coordination, capacity, and alignment. Differences in national regulations, limited municipal technical expertise, and the need for co-financing can complicate the preparation and implementation of joint proposals. Harmonizing climate priorities across countries, strengthening local capacities for project design and monitoring, and improving regional knowledge-sharing and networking are key opportunities to enhance the effectiveness and scalability of climate finance, ensuring that available resources are efficiently mobilized to support shared adaptation and mitigation goals in the region.

The **Republic of North Macedonia** notes as barrier the different level of process of EU accession.

1.3. Strategic Element 3: Galvanising regional partnerships which can work to help build climate resilience in society and further strengthen the green economy.

The target to be achieved under the strategic element 3, is the following: **Target 3. Promoting regional partnerships and multi-stakeholder networks which can work to help build climate resilience in society and further strengthen the green economy**, including three indicators for the evaluation and measurement of the target's implementation.

Based on this target, this section focuses on identifying a) BSEC Member States' engagement with networks or stakeholders' groups on climate adaptation, and any participation in BSEC dialogues or workshops on resilience and green economy, b) best practices or pilot projects shared with other BSEC Member States, and c) actions that have been taken to raise awareness on climate change and adaptation.

a) BSEC Member States' engagement with networks or stakeholders' groups on climate adaptation, and any participation in BSEC dialogues or workshops on resilience and green economy.

INDICATOR 3.1.: At least 3 networks involved in climate change adaptation have interacted with BSEC and opened dialogues on the role and value of regional adaptation approaches to building climate change resilience within the region.

Level of Achievement: **Achieved.**

INDICATOR 3.2.: The actions and modes required for building climate change resilience and the green economy have been identified through stakeholder dialogue by BSEC and key messages are agreed in BSEC organs by end of year 3 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Partially achieved.**

At international level, according to the **UN Climate Change's Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) portal**⁴³, there has been notable increase in cooperation networks and initiatives, primarily focused on climate change adaptation since 2018. NAZCA registers and showcases climate actions undertaken by countries, regions, cities, companies, investors, and a wide range of other organizations.

There are **three international cooperation networks** that include increased involvement from BSEC Member States, as follows:

- Six BSEC Member States are engaged in the **Climate Action for Jobs Initiative**⁴⁴, which provides a roadmap to boost climate action, ensuring that people's jobs and well-being are at the center of the transition to a carbon-neutral and climate-resilient economy.
- Nine BSEC Member States participate at the **Climate Change Impacts on Cultural and Natural Heritage**⁴⁵ (CCICH). Launched by Greece in 2019, and supported by UNESCO, the UNFCCC, and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), this global initiative aims to protect vulnerable global monuments, archaeological sites, and ecosystems from irreversible climate-related damage.

⁴³ <https://unfccc.int/cci#About>; <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/>

⁴⁴ [https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=Climate Action for Jobs Initiative](https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=Climate_Action_for_Jobs_Initiative)

⁴⁵ [https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=Climate Change Impacts on Cultural and Natural Heritage](https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=Climate_Change_Impacts_on_Cultural_and_Natural_Heritage)

- Five BSEC Member States participated at the **Initiative on Gender and Climate Change**⁴⁶ (2021-2025), a UNWOMEN-led action to recognize the differentiated impact of climate change by gender, ensure women's and girls' agency and leadership in all climate actions and increase ambition in all sectors.

The Climate Action for Jobs Initiative and the Initiative on Gender and Climate Change address **both adaptation and mitigation**, while the Climate Change Impacts on Cultural and Natural Heritage focuses **mainly on adaptation**.

Increased participation from the BSEC Member States is shown also in networks that involve companies, academia, investors, regions, and cities⁴⁷. Indicatively, more than **1,100 cities** across the 13 BSEC Member States are members of the **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy**⁴⁸. Many of the cities joined the initiative after 2018.

Finally, there is **one initiative** in which both state and non-state actors are involved, i.e. the **Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH)**⁴⁹, with the participation of **Georgia** and **Türkiye**, and the involvement of a Georgian research centre, a Turkish company, and a Turkish university. CA4SH is the only cooperative initiative focusing on advocacy, policy engagement and awareness-raising on climate adaptation, that involves BSEC Member States.

At interregional level, the Charter of the **EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change** has been signed by 13 municipalities from Bulgaria, 21 regions and local authorities from Greece, nine regions and local authorities from Romania, one region from Serbia, and eight regions and local authorities from Türkiye⁵⁰.

Furthermore, Bulgaria, Greece, and Romania have established **National Adaptation Hubs** under the AdaptationHubs, an EU-funded initiative that aims to foster collaboration among governments, regions, cities, experts, and communities to turn climate strategies into real action⁵¹.

At country-level, **Armenia** is an alternate member from the UN Eastern European Group at the Adaptation Fund Board. In addition, as the country is

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https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=Initiative_on_Gender_and_Climate_Change

⁴⁷ <https://unfccc.int/cci#About>;

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https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=Global_Covenant_of_Mayors_for_Climate_and_Energy

⁴⁹ https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=Coalition_of_Action_4_Soil_Health

⁵⁰ https://mission-adaptation-portal.ec.europa.eu/document/download/93d4b5d4-5fa8-4372-8ff7-e644e5269f62_en?filename=EU_HE_Missions_Climate_Meet%20the%20Regions_Factsheet_May%202025_v3.pdf

⁵¹ <https://adaptationhubs.eu/>

in the stage of the NAP-2 development, it might interact with UN4NAPs, NAP Global Network and/or the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) Implementation Alliance. This is a new initiative that was launched at the UNFCCC COP30 in Belem, Brazil.

Azerbaijan prioritizes climate resilience and adaptation through its contributions and initiatives. Following the successful convening of the COP29 in 2024, Azerbaijan hosted the 13th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF) from 17 to 22 May 2026, placing climate action and sustainable urbanization at the core of Forum's agenda. Furthermore, Azerbaijan will host the fourth UNFCCC Climate Week in Baku from 7 to 11 September 2026, bringing together representatives of States, international organizations, the private sector, and other stakeholders for a range of events focused on adaptation, mitigation, just transition, transparency, and climate finance. Azerbaijan is also actively participating in different constituency bodies of the UNFCCC, including Adaptation Fund Board on which its representative representing the Eastern European region⁵².

Bulgaria's climate adaptation engagement spans government agencies, municipal associations, regional cooperation bodies, international funding and knowledge networks, civil society, and academia, fostering multi-level collaboration and knowledge exchange to support national and regional adaptation objectives.

During 2025, the **Republic of Moldova** actively engaged with a wide range of **national stakeholder groups** on climate change adaptation, including central and local public authorities, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations, women's and youth organizations, farmers' associations, and private sector actors. Moldova also worked closely with **international partners and networks** such as UNDP, FAO, UN Women, UNDRR, the European Union, and bilateral development agencies, as well as with regional platforms addressing climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development. Engagement was further strengthened through sectoral working groups, inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, and local multi-stakeholder platforms supporting adaptation planning and implementation.

The **Republic of North Macedonia** engages with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC).

⁵² The text (verbatim) was provided by the Republic of Azerbaijan during the consultation process in the period July – August 2026.

Serbia actively collaborates with international and national organisations, relevant funds, and other key stakeholders in the field of climate change. This collaboration is continuously being strengthened and improved to ensure effective coordination, knowledge and experience sharing, and the enhancement of capacities for climate change adaptation at all levels.

In **Türkiye**, the Directorate of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change conducts EU-funded projects, and participates in and contributes to the European Environmental Agency (EEA) Adaptation Group meetings and reports. Moreover, the Directorate engages with stakeholders, including academic institutions and civil society organisations, in its activities.

At the level of BSEC, the BSEC PERMIS has promoted resilience and green economy through multilateral research projects, international or regional events, and other community-based activities focusing on circular economy and innovation to tackle environmental challenges, with the participation of at least one BSEC Member State and/or the involvement of BSEC subsidiary organs. Indicatively:

- **BLACK SEA REACT! Project** (2021 - 2023)⁵³ – The Black Sea React! Project aimed to contribute to the regional dialogue on mitigating and effectively tackling marine pollution and marine litter, while at the same time seeking innovative solutions to salient problems. Its target group involved municipalities from the Black Sea littoral countries, fishing communities from Sariyer Municipality of Istanbul (Türkiye) and young people and primary school students from all littoral countries. The project ran for 24 months, under the coordination of the BSEC PERMIS in cooperation with the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), the GAMA Recycle A.S. and the Municipality of Sariyer (Türkiye).
- **International High-level Conference on “Inter-basin Cooperation on Marine Litter: a focus on the Danube River and the Black Sea”** (4 April 2019), organized by the BSEC PERMIS in cooperation with the ICBSS⁵⁴. The main objective of the event was to stimulate and facilitate enhanced inter- and intra-regional cooperation at policy, business and research levels, in order to improve the framework conditions and to mitigate obstacles for sustainable marine litter management, focusing on the Danube River and the Black Sea basin. The Conference was held within the framework of the Bulgarian

⁵³ <https://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/Forms/Projects/OngoingProjectDetails?targetID=1>

⁵⁴ <https://icbss.org/event/inter-basin-cooperation-on-marine-litter-a-focus-on-the-danube-river-and-the-black-sea/>

BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, with the support of the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria, the European Commission and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC). It was co-funded under the Central European Initiative (CEI) Cooperation Fund.

- **National Consultations “An Initiative to Tackle Climate Change and Marine Pollution to Promote the Common Maritime Agenda under the Blueing the Black Sea Program”** (2021)⁵⁵. The BSEC PERMIS organized six online consultation events for Bulgaria, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Türkiye, and Ukraine, and one regional stakeholder webinar in cooperation with the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, to introduce the planned action, build partnerships with key institutional and private stakeholders at national level, and seek critical inputs with the aim to support the design of the Blueing the Black Sea – BBSEA project⁵⁶. The specific objective of the consultations consisted in consulting the respective stakeholder communities (institutional, business, academia, and civil society) working on marine pollution on the state of play, pressing issues and priorities related to pollution prevention, reduction and the control in the Black Sea, as well as the opportunities that result in the process.

The outcomes of these activities have been discussed and disseminated at the relevant BSEC Working Groups and have been uploaded to the Black Sea Virtual Knowledge Centre (BSVVC)⁵⁷ for wider visibility. **Armenia** has participated in several BSEC events on resilience and green economy, whereas **Bulgaria** and the **Republic of Moldova** have not participated in any relevant BSEC events.

b) Identification of best practices or pilot projects shared with other BSEC Member States.

Many of the BSEC Member States have been involved in, or engaged with, projects and initiatives related to climate change adaptation. These have been recorded in various online databases that track relevant good practices and projects.

At international level, the **UNESCO Digital Innovation Hub**⁵⁸ is a global database of tools and solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

⁵⁵ <https://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/search/consultations>

⁵⁶ <https://www.bbsea.project.unops.org/>

⁵⁷ <https://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/Forms/Default>

⁵⁸ <https://www.unesco.org/en/unesco-digital-innovation-hub>

Adaptation to facilitate governments, communities, and practitioners to find the right tools and solutions when they are needed most.

Four BSEC Member States, i.e. **Bulgaria, Greece, Romania**, and the **Russian Federation** have been involved, either as the sole coordinator or as part of a partnership, in the implementation of **12 registered tools and services for climate adaptation solutions**, since 2018. Greece has implemented most of the solutions, including mobile applications, communication tools, training programmes, modelling and simulation tools, and decision support systems.

One of the multi-partnership tools and services registered in the UNESCO Digital Innovation Hub is the **European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT)**⁵⁹, that involves **ten BSEC Member States**, except for Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Russian Federation. Climate-ADAPT provides access to climate adaptation-related data, case studies, tools, and strategies across 38 countries in Europe and North America.

Another UN-related database is the **SDG Actions Platform**⁶⁰ “a global registry of voluntary policies, commitments, multi-stakeholder partnerships and other initiatives made by governments, the UN system and a broad range of stakeholders to support acceleration of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.

Two BSEC Member States, namely **Azerbaijan** and **Greece**, have registered four initiatives relevant to climate adaptation on the SDG Actions Platform, involving stakeholders, such as national, regional, and local authorities, the private sector, academic institutions, and civil society. **Azerbaijan** has included one initiative, which is still active, the “Accelerated Pathways to SDG Progress: Azerbaijan's National Commitments for Sustainable Development and SDG Advancement”. The initiative is relevant to climate adaptation, while also addressing broader priorities related to advancing to SDGs⁶¹. **Greece** has included three; one of them still being under implementation, the “Smart, Resilient and Climate Neutral Cities” Initiative of the Government of Greece - Promoting sustainable development, resilience, and climate neutrality in Greek Cities by 2030 (and in the longer run by 2050).

Furthermore, related to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in the broader scope of climate adaptation, the

⁵⁹ <https://www.unesco.org/en/unesco-digital-innovation-hub/climate-adapt-europe-and-north-american-climate-adaptation-platform?hub=216269>, <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en>

⁶⁰ <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/browse>

⁶¹ The text (verbatim) was provided by the Republic of Azerbaijan during the consultation process in the period July – August 2026.

Republic of Moldova has developed a national partnership landscape assessment, as part of the **2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator**⁶². The Moldova Partnership Landscape Assessment⁶³ was published in 2024, with the collaboration of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator and the UN Resident Coordination Office (UNRCO) in the Republic of Moldova. The assessment focuses on the status of partnership schemes in the country, as well as on their role in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including climate action.

At interregional level, examples and good practices of regional or local actions for climate adaptation are registered on the **Portal of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change**⁶⁴. More specifically, the Portal's component '**Adaptation Stories**' showcases examples and good practices regarding the planning, funding, implementing, and monitoring of climate adaptation solutions, with the aim to inspire others to take action on climate adaptation.

Of the 104 Adaptation Stories included in the Portal, **14 Adaptation Stories** involve **four BSEC Member States**, i.e. Bulgaria (3 stories), Greece (8 stories), Romania (3 stories), Türkiye (3 stories), registered in the period 2024-2025. Focus sectors include ecosystems and nature-based solutions, health and well-being, infrastructure, land use and food systems, local economic ecosystems, water management, as well as stakeholder and citizen engagement. Countries are involved through government agencies and ministries or academic and research institutes, either as sole coordinators or as part of partnerships.

Two Adaptation Stories are good examples of multi-partnership regional cooperation, also including the participation of BSEC:

- i. **Nature-based Coastal Restoration holistically contributing to climate change adaptation**⁶⁵ (REST-COAST project⁶⁶). Nature-based solutions are at the core of adaptation pathways to achieve coastal protection. Foros Bay on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast is one of the locations where this Adaptation Story is implemented, while stakeholders from Bulgaria and Türkiye participate in the REST-COAST project. BSEC is a partner in this project.

⁶² <https://partnershipaccelerator.org/>

⁶³ <https://partnershipaccelerator.org/library/?module=Moldova>

⁶⁴ https://mission-adaptation-portal.ec.europa.eu/stories-o_en

⁶⁵ https://mission-adaptation-portal.ec.europa.eu/stories-o/nature-based-coastal-restoration-holistically-contributing-climate-change-adaptation_en

⁶⁶ <https://rest-coast.eu/>

- ii. **Monitoring water quantity and quality for climate change adaptation**⁶⁷ (ARSINOE project). Research teams in Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Türkiye work on finding practical climate adaptation-related solutions within a virtual watershed framework in the Black Sea. BSEC is a partner in this project.

At country level, in **Armenia**, there are a number of infrastructure projects and programmes across the climate vulnerable sectors, such as water and agriculture. Armenia is a water-stressed country and subject to water scarcity, adaptation-oriented measures in the sector are pivotal for the country's sustainable and climate resilient development. Given that more than a third of the population is rural, and the economy is heavily reliant on agriculture, several projects and programs are implemented by the Government to adapt to climate change in the agriculture sector. This list of measures, which are largely supported from the state budget, incorporates:

- implementation of intensive horticulture development program, which resulted in the establishment of intensive horticulture for farmers and businesses, including deployment of modern irrigation systems and of water basins;
- compensation of damages of economic agents in case of climate-induced disasters through a state subsidy of 50-60% of the total insurance coverage, etc.

Bulgaria has shared information on all pilot projects and best practices with regional partners, including municipal climate adaptation measures, green urban infrastructure, renewable energy integration, low-carbon transport, and coastal resilience initiatives. The information has often been shared through BSEC workshops, Interreg NEXT forums, and broader Black Sea events, fostering knowledge exchange and supporting replication across the region.

In the **Republic of Moldova**, several best practices and pilot initiatives have taken place in collaboration with regional partners. In particular:

- The development and integration of local climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans into municipal development strategies and budgets.
- The implementation of nature-based solutions at the municipal level, such as rainwater harvesting, urban greening, and climate-resilient infrastructure under the EU4ClimateResilience programme.

⁶⁷ https://mission-adaptation-portal.ec.europa.eu/stories-o/monitoring-water-quantity-and-quality-climate-change-adaptation_en

- The enhancement of climate services and early warning systems through modernization of hydrometeorological networks.
- The promotion of gender-responsive and community-based adaptation approaches, particularly in rural areas, to achieve inclusive participation and resilience-building.

The **Republic of Serbia** has actively shared examples of best practices with other Member States to promote regional cooperation and knowledge exchange in climate change adaptation.

c) Identification of actions that have been taken to raise awareness on climate change and adaptation.

INDICATOR 3.3.: BSEC have through presentations, documentation or documented discussions promoted cases of best practice and modes of implementation of adaptation / building resilience / green economy on at least 8 occasions by end of year 5 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Achieved.**

At international level, the **UNESCO Digital Innovation Hub**⁶⁸, a global database of tools and solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation to facilitate governments, communities, includes three **tools and services** for the support of **community engagement and education**. In particular, the “GROW Observatory App”⁶⁹ and the “Data from GROW Citizen Observatory”⁷⁰ promote the collection of citizen science data and the establishment of a citizen science network. The “Engineering WITH People (Humanitarian Engineering Services and Applications)”⁷¹ game series employs gamification as a means of climate awareness. **Greece** is the only BSEC Member State where all three tools have been implemented.

At interregional level, examples and good practices of regional or local actions for climate adaptation are registered as ‘**Adaptation Stories**’ on the **Portal of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change**⁷². Aside from examples and good practices from planning, funding, implementing, and monitoring of climate adaptation solutions, ‘Adaptation Stories’ include good practices with a focus on stakeholder and citizen engagement in relation to climate risks, including water scarcity, extreme heat, drought, and flooding.

⁶⁸ <https://www.unesco.org/en/unesco-digital-innovation-hub>

⁶⁹ <https://www.unesco.org/en/unesco-digital-innovation-hub/grow-observatory-app>

⁷⁰ <https://www.unesco.org/en/unesco-digital-innovation-hub/data-grow-citizen-observatory>

⁷¹ <https://www.unesco.org/en/unesco-digital-innovation-hub/engineering-people-humanitarian-engineering-services-and-applications>

⁷² https://mission-adaptation-portal.ec.europa.eu/stories-o_en

Stakeholders from **Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Türkiye** participate in these initiatives. Indicative examples are as follows:

- **Improving climate awareness among Greek students**⁷³. The Greek Municipality of Egaleo implements a programme to raise climate awareness among students through collaborative initiatives.
- **Restoring Mountain Meadows and adapting them to climate change**⁷⁴. In the Romanian mountain communities of Râu Sadului and Cristian, participatory dialogues are a component of the work undertaken for the implementation of the mountains' meadow revitalization project.
- **Empowering climate adaptation through inspiring ideas in Bursa, Türkiye**⁷⁵. In the context of the project to enhance climate resilience in Bursa, a diverse range of professionals, including university students, researchers, engineers and volunteers, are engaged in pertinent activities.
- **Climate-smart forestry in Slovakia and Bulgaria**⁷⁶. Key stakeholders, such as local foresters, are involved in adaptation planning to update forest management. In parallel, climate change-related information is disseminated to raise awareness.

At BSEC level, during the reporting period, **BSEC PERMIS** has organized activities, or participated in third party events, to raise awareness and support stakeholder dialogues on climate change and adaptation, resilience, and green economy. Indicatively:

- 1) Participation of BSEC PERMIS at the annual Green Energy Investments Forum since its establishment.
- 2) BSEC PERMIS Participation at Conference “Bridging COP29 and COP30: Diplomacy, Action and the Climate Road Ahead”, held in Istanbul on 30 May 2025.
- 3) In 2022, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia and the BSEC PERMIS co-organized a webinar entitled “Green Energy in the BSEC Region and Beyond”.

⁷³ https://mission-adaptation-portal.ec.europa.eu/stories-o/improving-climate-awareness-among-greek-students_en

⁷⁴ https://mission-adaptation-portal.ec.europa.eu/stories-o/restoring-mountain-meadows-and-adapting-them-climate-change_en

⁷⁵ https://mission-adaptation-portal.ec.europa.eu/stories-o/empowering-climate-adaptation-through-inspiring-ideas-bursa-turkiye_en

⁷⁶ https://mission-adaptation-portal.ec.europa.eu/stories-o/climate-smart-forestry-slovakia-and-bulgaria_en

- 4) In 2021, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, participated as speaker at the “Blue Economy Forum: The Way to Green Recovery”, organized by the Delphi Economic Forum and the Institute for Sustainable Development of the EPLO (European Public Law Organization).
- 5) In 2021, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, participated as speaker at the Webinar on “Climate crisis: natural hazards, climate change impact and countermeasures in the Black Sea region” organized by the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS).
- 6) In 2019, the BSEC PERMIS organized in cooperation with the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) and the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly (PABSEC), the International High-level Conference on “Inter-basin Cooperation on Marine Litter: a focus on the Danube River and the Black Sea” (Sofia, 4 April 2019).
- 7) In 2018, 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, jointly organized the Workshop on “Supporting Green Economy in SMEs in the BSEC Region” (BSEC Hq., 3 May 2018).

At country-level, in **Armenia**, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, in collaboration with UNDP, trained 300 schoolteachers on climate change issues within the framework of the National Adaptation Programme. Moreover, the Unified Website for Publication of Legal Acts Drafts⁷⁷ was launched. The website includes all draft legal normative acts which are posted well in advance for public review, as well as to ensure a transparent process of decision-making.

Azerbaijan has implemented a range of public awareness, climate education and stakeholder engagement activities on climate change and adaptation at national, regional and local levels. These include environmental awareness campaigns, tree-planting and clean-air initiatives, climate education programmes in schools and universities, and youth engagement activities such as the Climate Weeks initiative and Young Climate Ambassadors programme. The GCF-funded National Adaptation Plan (NAP) support project delivered extensive trainings in vulnerable regions on climate adaptation in agriculture, water management and coastal areas. Trainings promoted drought and salinity-resistant crops, modern irrigation techniques and preparedness for extreme weather. Public campaigns tied to large scale national initiatives — such as Azerbaijan’s tree planting campaign under the “The Green World Solidarity Year” have engaged citizens in environmental protection and climate

⁷⁷ www.e-draft.am

action. Climate-related awareness was further promoted through COP29-related educational events, NGO projects and public campaigns. At COP29, the Baku Initiative on Human Development for Climate Resilience placed climate literacy at the heart of global education policy. Since then, Azerbaijan and the OECD have translated this mandate into concrete action: the development of a climate literacy framework for PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) 2029, the creation and piloting of new PISA items on climate, and the establishment of a digital platform hosting open learning and assessment resources for teachers⁷⁸.

Bulgaria has implemented a comprehensive approach to raising public awareness on climate change and adaptation, combining national campaigns, municipal initiatives, and civil society engagement. The Ministry of Environment and Water and the National Trust EcoFund lead educational and outreach programs that promote energy efficiency, sustainable behavior, and climate literacy, including school workshops, competitions, and eco-clubs. Public awareness is a key component of all major climate adaptation and green economy projects. Initiatives such as Black Sea E-mobility, urban climate adaptation pilots, EEA Grants municipal projects, coastal resilience programs, and Recovery & Resilience Plan investments integrate practical engagement measures, including community workshops, school programs, demonstrations of green and low-carbon technologies, and participatory activities. These efforts ensure that citizens, local authorities, and stakeholders not only understand the impacts of climate change but also actively participate in adaptation and mitigation measures, fostering ownership, behavioral change, and broader societal support for resilient and sustainable development.

In the **Republic of Moldova**, a variety of awareness-raising activities on climate change and adaptation were implemented at the national and local level, including public information campaigns, thematic forums, educational outreach, and community consultations. Public awareness initiatives have been conducted in partnership with development agencies, civil society, and local authorities, focusing on climate risks, adaptation measures, sustainable resource management, and disaster preparedness. Special attention has been given to engaging youth, women, farmers, and vulnerable groups through targeted training sessions, community workshops, media outreach, and school-based activities. Events such as “Sun Dă-i Fest 2024” and other awareness-building campaigns organized by the UNDP Moldova promote an ecological lifestyle and educate the public about the importance of energy efficiency and adaptation to climate change.

⁷⁸ The text (verbatim) was provided by the Republic of Azerbaijan during the consultation process in the period July – August 2026.

In the **Republic of North Macedonia**, in terms of the measures taken to raise public awareness, adaptation is an equal part of the Law on Climate Action, alongside mitigation.

Serbia continuously undertakes activities to raise public awareness and enhance knowledge on climate change and adaptation. Notable examples include organizing webinars for local self-government units in collaboration with the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities where the Climate Change Adaptation Program and the relevant regulation governing reporting on planning documents in line with the Program's objectives were presented. These initiatives contribute to raising awareness and strengthening the capacity of local stakeholders in adaptation. In addition, numerous workshops and national and regional conferences have facilitated the presentation of the Digital Climate Atlas of Serbia and the Climate Change Adaptation Programme, further promoting understanding and practical implementation of measures.

In **Türkiye**, the Directorate of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, has organized training, capacity-building and awareness raising activities for central and provincial public institutions, local authorities, private sector, media organizations and non-governmental organizations with the support of the "Enhancing Adaptation Action in Türkiye" and "EU Partnership for Local Climate Action in Türkiye" projects. These can be summarized as follows:

- Sectoral (water resources management, agriculture and food security, biodiversity and ecosystem services, urban, public health, energy, industry, transportation and communication, tourism and cultural heritage, social development, and disaster risk management) climate change adaptation trainings at 20 cities.
- Climate change adaptation awareness raising activities at 7 cities.
- Pilot local climate change adaptation action plan monitoring system and finance trainings at 4 pilot cities.
- Awareness raising activities on global climate models and climate projections.
- COP30 (Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC) and climate change adaptation.
- Media Day events for raising awareness of media professionals on the subject of climate change.
- Events for sharing best practices on climate change adaptation with local authorities.

- NUTS1 level regional workshops about regional climate change vulnerabilities and risks.

In addition, the Directorate of Climate Change has organized training camps for university students called “İklim Elçileri” in scope of LCOY (Local Conference of Youth) Türkiye activities.

1.4. Strategic Element 4: Championing the development of institutional capabilities in climate change across the region.

The target to be achieved under the strategic element 4, is the following: **Target 4. Championing the development of institutional and individual capabilities in climate change across the region**, including three indicators for the evaluation and measurement of the target’s implementation.

Based on the identified target, this section covers the climate change adaptation mainstreaming into national policies or sectoral strategies. It also includes any engagement of the BSEC Member States with BSEC subsidiary organs to integrate climate change into their action plans; identification of trainings, capacity building, or knowledge-sharing activities that have been conducted; identification of areas where further institutional support or capacity building is needed.

a) Climate change adaptation mainstreaming into national policies or sectoral strategies.

Overall, since 2018, the 13 BSEC Member States have adopted, or updated, **24 laws and 67 policies** on climate. Of these, **13 laws and 48 policies** were adopted for the first time. Noteworthy, most laws and policies specifically focusing on **climate adaptation** across the BSEC Member States have been adopted from 2018 onwards⁷⁹.

Albania, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine have adopted, additionally, “**framework laws**”, i.e. “*laws creating overarching governance structures for countries’ climate policy responses*”⁸⁰.

In addition, during the reporting period, the 13 BSEC Member States adopted and updated a range of legislation and policies to address **climate adaptation across sectors**, such as agriculture, tourism, transport, energy, health, the public administration, etc. A common point across all national laws and policies is the reference to “**economy-wide**” sector or “**cross-cutting area**”,

⁷⁹ <https://climate-laws.org/>

⁸⁰ Climate Change Framework Laws: a term that is applied with increasing frequency by the academic and policy community, <https://climate-laws.org/framework-laws>

indicating the variety of sectors in which these laws and policies apply, or their cross-cutting intention⁸¹.

In **Armenia**, in line with the “Climate Change National Adaptation Plan and Action list for 2021-2025 for Armenia”, six sectoral adaptation plans have been developed, namely water resources, agriculture, energy, tourism, human health, forest adaptation plans and one adaptation plan is being developed - infrastructure (transport infrastructure). All plans have been integrated into the sectoral development strategies, except of the energy one, as the energy strategy update succeeds the development of the respective sectoral adaptation plan; while the one for water was approved as a stand-alone legal act – Water Sector Adaptation Plan and its Program of Measures for 2022-2026 (Government Decision N 1962-L of November 3, 2022).

Moreover, following the adoption of the Climate Law by the Armenian Parliament on 19 January 2026, it is mandatory to mainstream adaptation into relevant development policies and strategies. Specifically, Article 10.1 of the Law states that the Climate Change Adaptation Program defines the principles, needs and actions for climate change adaptation that should be incorporated into the development strategies of sectors and territories vulnerable to climate change, and contributes to strengthening the resilience of the population, environment, economy, settlements and infrastructure.

Bulgaria has actively integrated climate adaptation considerations into national policies and key sectoral strategies, ensuring that adaptation is addressed across energy, tourism, education, agriculture, water management, and urban planning, in line with EU and international climate commitments.

In the **Republic of Moldova**, climate change adaptation has been fully mainstreamed into Moldova’s national development planning and sectoral strategies through the National Climate Change Adaptation Program (NCCAP) until 2030. The NCCAP 2030 explicitly aims to integrate climate change adaptation measures into development planning at all priority levels and sectors, ensuring long-term environmental, economic, and social resilience. Adaptation is embedded across six vulnerable priority sectors: agriculture, water resources, health, forestry, energy, and transport, and aligned with the National Development Strategy “European Moldova 2030”, the Sustainable Development Goals, and Moldova’s updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. The national adaptation approach is systemic, cross-sectoral, and mainstreamed into relevant sectoral policies, supported by up-to-date risk assessments and strengthened vertical and horizontal coordination mechanisms. The NCCAP 2030 also introduces a robust monitoring and evaluation framework, including gender-sensitive

⁸¹ <https://climate-laws.org/methodology>

indicators and climate budget tagging, to ensure that adaptation priorities are reflected in planning, budgeting, and implementation processes. Overall, adaptation is treated as a core component of national and sectoral policy frameworks, rather than as a standalone environmental issue.

In the **Republic of North Macedonia**, the legal basis for mainstreaming climate change adaptation will be established with the adoption of the Law on Climate Action, which is expected in the third quarter of 2026.

In **Serbia**, pursuant to the Law on Climate Change, adopted in 2021, the Ministry of Environmental Protection is responsible for preparing the Climate Change Adaptation Programme, including the Action Plan, to identify the climate change impacts on specific sectors and systems, and to identify climate change adaptation measures where there is a need to reduce the adverse impacts. In December 2023, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the first Climate Change Adaptation Programme for the period 2023-2030 which contains, as its integral part, the Action plan for the period 2024-2026, with 25 prioritised adaptation measures in relevant sectors (agriculture, forestry, energy, transport, urban development, biodiversity, and human health), that are based on a scientific analysis of the climate change impact of on sectors and systems, and in accordance with the requirements of the international community.

In **Türkiye**, the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2024-2030) defines 133 actions under 40 strategic objectives across 11 sectors. These are urban development, water resources management, agriculture and food security, biodiversity and ecosystem services, public health, disaster risk reduction, social development, tourism and cultural heritage, transportation and communication, and energy and industry.

b) Engagement with BSEC subsidiary organs to integrate climate change into their action plans.

INDICATOR 4.1.: BSEC WG on Environmental Protection mainstreams climate change adaptation and the green economy through BSEC PERMIS and at least 8 other BSEC subsidiary organs by end of year 1 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Partially achieved.**

INDICATOR 4.2.: BSEC PERMIS and at least 5 BSEC Subsidiary Organs (including at least 3 from Science & Technology, Energy, Trade and Economic Development, Education and Tourism) have climate change identified in plans and Declarations by end of year 3 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: Partially achieved.

The main guiding document of the BSEC Organization, the **BSEC Economic Agenda “Towards a sustainable future of the wider Black Sea area”**, adopted in 2023, includes Goal 5. Environment and Climate Action, providing a framework of action of 14 points relevant to climate change response.

In the 2023 BSEC Economic Agenda, **adaptation** is specifically noted in Para 13. *“Developing adaptation measures to cope with negative impacts of climate change in the BSEC Region”*. **Green economy** is specifically noted in Goal 9: Support for the Sustainable Development of the SME Sector notes in para 11: *Fostering the contributions of SMEs and entrepreneurs to green economy by accelerating their green transitions*.

Additionally, climate change, adaptation, and green economy have been mainstreamed through BSEC PERMIS into various events, projects, and other bilateral and multilateral activities at regional and international levels.

BSEC Member States have also engaged with BSEC PERMIS and subsidiary organs to mainstream climate change, adaptation, and green economy. **Armenia** has engaged with BSEC subsidiary bodies and discussed in this framework integration of climate change into their action plans. **Bulgaria** has also engaged with BSEC subsidiary organs to promote the integration of climate change considerations into their action plans, particularly through the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection and related sectoral cooperation formats. Through expert participation, policy dialogue, and hosting of regional events, Bulgaria has supported the inclusion of climate adaptation, environmental resilience, and green economy principles in BSEC thematic discussions and project-oriented activities. This engagement has contributed to aligning environmental and climate priorities across sectors, encouraging cross-cutting approaches, and strengthening the role of climate considerations in regional cooperation frameworks within the Black Sea region.

Overall, there is still space for improvement for climate change adaptation, green economy, or climate change in general, to be mainstreamed into plans and Declarations of the **BSEC subsidiary organs**. During the reporting period, the following have been adopted:

- **Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology:** The Plan of Action 2024 – 2026 submitted by the Republic of Moldova to the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology, includes climate change in the General Objectives.
- **Working Group on Energy:** The Action Plan 2025 -2027 submitted by Romania to the Working Group on Energy, refers only to green energy

as a priority of the said WG, i.e. *Reinforce BSEC Green Energy Network - Supporting regional actors in green energy policy development, training, data exchange and project preparation.*

- **Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism:** The Plan of Action 2025 -2026 submitted by the Republic of Armenia to the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism, notes in the Specific Objectives: *Foster intersectoral linkages connecting tourism with culture, education, and environment.*
- Action plans or Ministerial Declarations for the Working Groups on **Trade and Economic Development**, and on **Education** do not make any reference to climate adaptation or green economy.
- **Working Group on Culture:** The Plovdiv Declaration of the Ministers in charge of Culture of the BSEC Member States (2019), acknowledges culture as a means to mitigate environmental challenges.

c) Identification of capacity building and knowledge transfer activities.

INDICATOR 4.3.: BSEC organs have sought and mediated partnerships which lead to demonstrable increased awareness and up-skilling of climate change capacity in at least 6 Members States by end of year 5 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Achieved.**

The **UNESCO Digital Innovation Hub** has registered six adaptation-related tools and services to support **capacity-building**, as well as five tools and services for policy, governance, and institutional support. These primarily consist of databases, decision support systems, software, mobile applications, as well as modelling and simulation tools that are intended for application in the event of disasters, such as earthquakes, droughts, extreme temperatures, floods, and wildfires.

For example, the **Adaptation Support Tool for Islands**⁸² is a software that focuses on capacity building, as well as on policy, governance, and institutional support. By equipping policymakers and experts with the knowledge to assess the impacts of climate change on specific islands, the tool facilitates the creation of tailored adaptation strategies.

⁸² <https://www.unesco.org/en/unesco-digital-innovation-hub/adaptation-support-tool-islands?hub=216269>

Greece is the only BSEC Member State where most of these tools and services have been implemented, with the exception of the **Demographic Scenarios for EU**⁸³ tool. The latter is an EU-wide dataset with demographic projections that support the planning of adaptation policies. **Bulgaria, Greece, and Romania** support the tool with data provision.

At BSEC level, **BSEC PERMIS** has implemented several capacity building or knowledge transfer activities, as follows:

- 1) In 2026, BSEC PERMIS participated at the Final Meeting and Project Steering Committee of the “European Union for Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea” (EU4EMBLAS Project), organized by the UNDP Regional Hub in Istanbul.
- 2) BSEC PERMIS Participation at Conference “Bridging COP29 and COP30: Diplomacy, Action and the Climate Road Ahead”, held in Istanbul on 30 May 2025.
- 3) In 2022, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia and the BSEC PERMIS co-organized a webinar entitled “Green Energy in the BSEC Region and Beyond”.
- 4) In 2021, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, participated as speaker at the Webinar on “Climate crisis: natural hazards, climate change impact and countermeasures in the Black Sea region” organized by the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS).
- 5) In 2019, the BSEC PERMIS organized in cooperation with the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) and the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly (PABSEC), the International High-level Conference on “Inter-basin Cooperation on Marine Litter: a focus on the Danube River and the Black Sea” (Sofia, 4 April 2019).
- 6) In 2018, 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, jointly organized the Workshop on “Supporting Green Economy in SMEs in the BSEC Region” (BSEC Hq., 3 May 2018).

Additionally, in 2021, BSEC PERMIS organized a series of **national consultations in the Black Sea riparian countries, incl. the Republic of Moldova**, to introduce the planned action, build partnerships with key institutional and private stakeholders at national level, and seek critical inputs with the aim to support the design of the **Blueing the Black Sea – BBSEA**

⁸³ <https://www.unesco.org/en/unesco-digital-innovation-hub/demographic-scenarios-eu?hub=216269>

project. The specific objective of the consultations consisted in consulting the respective stakeholder communities (institutional, business, academia, and civil society) working on marine pollution on the state of play, pressing issues and priorities related to pollution prevention, reduction and the control in the Black Sea, as well as the opportunities that result in the process. Under the theme “**An Initiative to Tackle Climate Change and Marine Pollution to Promote the Common Maritime Agenda under the Blueing the Black Sea Program**”, BSEC facilitated the organization of six online consultation events for Bulgaria, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Türkiye, and Ukraine, and one regional stakeholder webinar in cooperation with the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution⁸⁴.

The “**Blueing the Black Sea**” project (2025-2028)⁸⁵ is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the World Bank, and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). It is a multi-stakeholder partnership that brings together Black Sea countries, international organizations, and regional experts to address the Black Sea's most pressing environmental challenges. BSEC is a member of the BBSEA Advisory Committee (AC).

At country level, in **Armenia**, in terms of training, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities, the following have been implemented:

- The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport in collaboration with the UNDP trained 300 teachers on climate change issues within the framework of National Adaptation Programme.
- Capacity Building and Trainings for Decision Makers, “Hydrometeorological Monitoring Center” of the Ministry of Environment: Integration of the climate change risks and vulnerability issues as well as adaptation approaches in educational curricula at various levels (schools, universities etc.).
- Awareness raising campaigns and capacity building on advanced water saving agricultural technologies and water related disaster risk management.
- Trainings for the heads of communities with limited access to drinking water supply on prioritizing water sector adaptation measures with consideration of gender approaches.
- Under the NDC Partnership CAEP project and the “Capacity building of key stakeholders in Armenia to enhance the capacity of the Government

⁸⁴ <https://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/search/consultations>

⁸⁵ <https://www.bbsea.project.unops.org/>

to identify, develop and implement climate change related interventions” FAO project (implemented in 2021-2023): over 70 representatives from the government ministries, the private sector, civil society and academia trained toward enhancing their capacities to deliver tasks in the domain of climate change and related to adaptation.

Bulgaria has also implemented a range of training, capacity-building, and knowledge-sharing activities to support climate adaptation and green transition at national, regional, and local levels. These include training programmes for municipal officials under EEA and EU-funded projects on climate risk assessment, adaptation planning, and greenhouse gas monitoring; workshops and technical seminars organized by the Ministry of Environment and Water in cooperation with regional and international partners; and knowledge-exchange events and study visits with Black Sea and Nordic partners focusing on sustainable urban development, coastal resilience, and low-carbon transport. In addition, regional conferences, thematic forums, and project-based learning activities have facilitated the sharing of best practices among municipalities, experts, academia, and civil society, strengthening institutional capacity and fostering practical, transferable solutions for climate adaptation and resilience.

In the **Republic of Moldova**, the organization of workshops, seminars and training programs is a central element of cooperation, facilitating dissemination of knowledge, experience, and good practices in the field of adaptation to climate change. At the “Ion Creangă” State Pedagogical University in Chisinau within the sub-project “Ensuring quality and relevance of professional training of future teachers through innovative education programs and programs related to the labor market” (2023), three thematic modules were developed: Education for health; Ecological education; and Climate change and adaptation measures; to be included in the curriculum in the field of “Educational Sciences” starting with the 2024-2025 academic year.

Serbia continuously implements activities aimed at capacity-building and knowledge-sharing in the field of climate change adaptation, covering the regional, national, and local self-government levels.

In **Türkiye**, the Directorate of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, has organized training, capacity-building and awareness raising activities for central and provincial public institutions, local authorities, private sector, media organizations and non-governmental organizations with the support of the “Enhancing Adaptation Action in Türkiye” and “EU Partnership for Local Climate Action in Türkiye” projects. These can be summarized as follows:

- Sectoral (water resources management, agriculture and food security, biodiversity and ecosystem services, urban, public health, energy, industry, transportation and communication, tourism and cultural heritage, social development, and disaster risk management) climate change adaptation trainings at 20 cities.
- Climate change adaptation awareness raising activities at 7 cities.
- Pilot local climate change adaptation action plan monitoring system and finance trainings at 4 pilot cities.
- Awareness raising activities on global climate models and climate projections.
- COP30 (Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC) and climate change adaptation.
- Media Day events for raising awareness of media professionals on the subject of climate change.
- Events for sharing best practices on climate change adaptation with local authorities.
- NUTS1 level regional workshops about regional climate change vulnerabilities and risks.

In addition, the Directorate of Climate Change has organized training camps for university students called “İklim Elçileri” in scope of LCOY (Local Conference of Youth) Türkiye activities.

Furthermore, Türkiye participates at the Cement & Concrete Breakthrough Initiative⁸⁶, which works on **knowledge production, sharing and capacity building** on climate adaptation, among other response areas, such as mitigation and resilience. The Initiative’s primary focus is on the establishment of near-zero emission cement in the global market.

d) Identification of areas where further institutional support or capacity building is needed.

Armenia:

There are some pressing gaps in assessing needs over time and in establishing a national technical capacity and implementing specific actions to build resilience and adapt to climate change. There is a need for a more enabling

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[https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=Cement and Concrete Breakthrough Initiative](https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=Cement%20and%20Concrete%20Breakthrough%20Initiative)

environment to face some critical gaps in terms of finance, science, and technology.

Bulgaria:

Further institutional support and capacity-building are needed to strengthen local and regional capacities for climate planning, project development, and implementation, particularly in a diverse BSEC context that includes both EU and non-EU members. Priority areas include:

- Improving coordination among institutions,
- Enhancing skills in accessing and managing climate finance, and
- Supporting the use of comparable data and methodologies across countries.

Targeted training, practical knowledge exchange, and flexible cooperation mechanisms would help ensure that BSEC members can participate effectively and contribute to coherent and results-oriented regional climate action.

Republic of Moldova:

Being a complex process, adaptation to climate change requires cross-sectoral perspectives and the involvement of a multi-level governance system with strong capacities for both planning and implementing adaptation. In the undertaken sectoral and institutional level capacity assessments of Moldova, it was concluded that the need exists to strengthen country's capacities to plan and implement cross-sectoral adaptation. Further institutional support and capacity-building are needed across key sectors to ensure effective and coordinated climate change adaptation.

- In **agriculture**, strengthened capacity is required for climate impact assessments, agro-climatic modelling, early warning systems, and integration of gender perspectives. Institutional support is needed to develop a clear regulatory framework for climate-resilient technologies, improve irrigation and soil management systems, enhance extension services, promote crop diversification and resilient livestock, and strengthen agricultural research, insurance schemes, and rural social protection mechanisms.
- In the **forestry sector**, capacity-building is necessary to implement ecosystem-based adaptation, climate-resilient afforestation and regeneration practices, invasive species monitoring, and protection of existing forests. Improved cross-sectoral coordination and incentives for private sector engagement are also required.

- The **water sector** requires stronger implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management, improved flood and drought risk assessment, enhanced monitoring systems, and investment in climate-resilient water infrastructure, including storage, wastewater treatment, and rural supply systems. Institutional reforms are needed to improve water allocation, demand management, and transboundary coordination.
- In the **health sector**, institutions need greater capacity to integrate climate risks into health policies, strengthen disease surveillance systems, develop heatwave early warning mechanisms, and climate-proof healthcare infrastructure, while ensuring equitable access for vulnerable groups.
- In the **energy sector**, support is required to enhance the resilience of transmission and distribution systems, promote renewable energy and storage solutions, revise building standards for energy efficiency and climate resilience, and address energy poverty through targeted measures.
- The **transport sector** needs improved climate risk assessments, updated technical standards for resilient infrastructure, enhanced drainage and maintenance systems, and better integration of climate risks into planning and financing mechanisms.

Across all sectors, **cross-cutting needs** include stronger coordination mechanisms, improved climate data and modelling systems, enhanced private sector engagement, integration of gender and social inclusion principles, and increased capacity to mobilize climate finance and develop bankable adaptation projects.

Republic of North Macedonia:

Further institutional support or capacity-building is required in relation to the implementation of the Regional Adaptation Roadmap and further Action Plan (developed by RCC).

Serbia:

Further capacity-building and knowledge enhancement are particularly needed at local level, as the first reporting year under the Law on Climate Change has revealed challenges in distinguishing between climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. Focusing on the local level would enable a better understanding and practical implementation of adaptation measures, as well as more effective coordination with national and regional strategies.

2. Progress which has been facilitated by BSEC in each of the four strategic elements of the BSEC Climate Adaptation Strategy.

This section includes information on the progress facilitated by BSEC in each of the four strategic elements of the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2017).

Since the adoption of the Strategy, BSEC has played an important role in promoting regional cooperation, supporting policy dialogue, facilitating access to climate-related initiatives, and encouraging the exchange of knowledge and good practices among Member States. Progress facilitated by BSEC can be observed across all four strategic elements.

1) Promoting regional cooperation in combating climate change across the BSEC area.

During the reporting period, a series of thematic discussions and expert meetings were implemented at the level of BSEC. With these activities, BSEC provided a regional platform for the BSEC Member States to disseminate knowledge and exchange experience on climate adaptation. Furthermore, the present report provides a knowledge base of the current status and progress of the BSEC Member States' efforts in achieving climate adaptation.

While these activities promote regional cooperation in fostering climate action, and the present report provides a perspective on climate adaptation at BSEC level, the establishment of a formal regional clearinghouse mechanism will accelerate climate adaptation. Several BSEC Member States have participated in projects and scientific activities with a view to facilitating the preparations of the mechanism, which was initially planned to be launched by the end of year 5 of implementation. A clearinghouse mechanism would serve as a regional hub, fostering collaboration among the Member States and facilitating replication of good practices to develop joint solutions for climate change issues.

2) Catalyzing additional funding through working towards effective fiduciary standards and mobilizing partners to formulate climate response projects.

BSEC Member States have accessed a wide range of funding mechanisms for climate adaptation at international, interregional, regional, and national levels. At BSEC level, discussions, for example through different Working Groups, have facilitated knowledge transfer on the results of the funding projects to a limited extent. BSEC could strengthen its role by organizing dedicated knowledge transfer meetings and workshops. Given that effective cross-border

climate finance mobilization requires strong collaboration among different countries, BSEC could further support the thirteen BSEC Member States' participation in climate response projects by enabling international, interregional and regional partnerships. In this context, the BSEC Project Development Fund could play an important role fostering a project-oriented cooperation on common issues across the region.

3) Galvanising regional partnerships which can work to help build climate resilience in society and further strengthen the green economy.

BSEC has promoted climate adaptation, resilience, and green economy by joining multilateral research projects. The outcomes of these activities have been discussed and disseminated at the relevant Working Groups and have been uploaded to the Black Sea Virtual Knowledge Centre (BSVVC) for wider visibility. In addition, BSEC has organized and participated in international and regional thematic events, as well as in community-based activities aiming to raise awareness on climate change.

The capitalization of the results from the involvement of BSEC and BSEC Member States in these initiatives should be assessed and further exploited by BSEC. The capitalization process will contribute to the effective identification of the actions required for achieving climate adaptation. Furthermore, with regards to awareness campaigns and dissemination activities, it would be beneficial to increase actions that promote climate adaptation, given that, so far, the primary focus has been on climate change impact.

4) Championing institutional capabilities and mainstreaming climate change.

Despite acknowledging the need for climate adaptation action at BSEC level, the BSEC WG on Environmental Protection has not yet mainstreamed climate change, adaptation, or the green economy across the BSEC Subsidiary organs, with the exception of the WG on Cooperation in Science and Technology.

While climate mainstreaming remains low at institutional level within the BSEC subsidiary organs, the increased number of activities and projects involving BSEC PERMIS and/or Member States indicates their willingness and dedication to fostering climate adaptation. BSEC has implemented, or actively participated in, numerous activities to promote awareness, knowledge transfer and upskilling of stakeholders on climate adaptation. Additionally, BSEC PERMIS has mainstreamed climate change in the 2023 BSEC Economic Agenda "Towards a sustainable future of the wider Black Sea area".

3. Degree of completeness of delivery or achievement of each of the items of the priority action plan.

This section monitors the measurable progress that has been achieved in each of the four strategic elements and evaluates which targets from the 5-year action plan have been met or are on track, what challenges or delays have been encountered in implementation and what modifications or new priorities should be considered for the next reporting cycle.

3.1. Measurable progress achieved in each of the four strategic elements.

Strategic element 1. Promoting regional cooperation in combating climate change across the BSEC area.

Table 2.

TARGET 1.
Promotion of regional cooperation in all aspects of climate changes across the BSEC Member States.
INDICATORS
1.1. BSEC WG collates information on climate change adaptation initiatives from Member States to provide a knowledge base for the region by end of year 1 of implementation.
Level of Achievement: Achieved. Measurable Progress: All BSEC Member States have submitted their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Five BSEC MS have submitted their 3rd NDC, three BSEC MS have submitted their 2nd NDC, and five BSEC MS have updated their first NDC. Furthermore, ten BSEC MS have adopted their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), while for two BSEC Member States, the NAPs are in progress.
1.2. BSEC WG provides a regional perspective on climate change through an analysis and interpretation of initiatives in Members States and identifies key information gaps by end of year 3 of implementation.
Level of Achievement: Partially achieved. Measurable Progress: The present progress report provides an analysis of cooperation on climate change from a regional perspective, based on the

initiatives developed by the Member States. One key information gap has been identified, i.e. the development process of the regional clearinghouse. The indicator is partially achieved as only six BSEC Member States have provided input to the development of the report.

1.3. Interested Member States are brought together and plan to establish a regional clearing house mechanism on Climate Change Adaptation by end of year 5 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: Partially achieved.

Measurable Progress: A formal regional clearing house mechanism has not been achieved at BSEC level. At least nine BSEC Member States, however, have participated in more than three projects and more than three scientific activities, setting the basis for the preparations of the regional clearing house mechanism.

Under the first strategic element, **Armenia** notes the following progress:

- Adoption and near-complete implementation of the **Climate Change National Adaptation Plan and Action List for 2021–2025** (Government Decision No. 749-L, 13 May 2021), comprising 26 measures, with the **majority already implemented**.
- Development and approval or integration of **sectoral adaptation plans in 7 climate-vulnerable sectors**, such as water resources, agriculture, energy, tourism, human health, forest management, transport infrastructure.
- Preparation of **regional adaptation plans for 4 out of 10 regions** (Shirak, Tavush, Syunik, Gegharkunik), contributing to sub-national climate risk assessment and planning.
- Active participation in **regional adaptation dialogue**, notably through cooperation with **Georgia** under the **Regional Adaptation Dialogue in the South Caucasus (RADISC)**.
- Engagement in **EU4ClimateResilience (EaP) initiative**, contributing to regional knowledge collation, climate risk assessment and adaptation planning relevant to the wider Black Sea and Eastern Partnership region.

Bulgaria has made steady and measurable progress in implementing the objectives of the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, in line with national priorities, EU commitments and the specificities of the Black Sea region. Through a coordinated and inclusive approach, Bulgaria has translated

strategic guidance into practical actions that support resilience, sustainability, and regional cooperation.

Promoting regional cooperation has remained a central pillar of Bulgaria's efforts. The country has actively engaged with Black Sea partners through BSEC-related mechanisms and broader regional formats, hosting and participating in high-level dialogues, expert meetings, and thematic events that bring together EU and non-EU member states. These platforms have facilitated the exchange of experience, alignment of priorities, and identification of opportunities for joint initiatives in climate adaptation, coastal resilience, and the green economy.

In 2024, Bulgaria hosted the **61st Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** in Sofia, the longest in the panel's history, bringing together scientists, policymakers, and officials from around the world. This event reinforced Bulgaria's role as a neutral platform for multilateral dialogue on climate challenges and provided an opportunity for Black Sea countries to share knowledge and strategies on coastal resilience, marine ecosystems, and climate risk management. Prior to the session, Bulgaria convened the **international conference "Climate Risks in the Black Sea Region"**, organized by the Ministry of Environment and Water in partnership with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The two-day conference provided an in-depth scientific overview of climate characteristics, observed changes, and projected trends in the Black Sea region, with a particular focus on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. Presentations and discussions addressed atmospheric and marine processes, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal dynamics, and hydrological interactions between the Black Sea and major river systems. The conference also examined the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems, including implications for fisheries, aquaculture, biodiversity, and tourism, highlighting the Black Sea as a sensitive and illustrative case for understanding future climate risks in regional seas and the global ocean. Modern data collection and analysis methods were a key component of the discussions, including the use of satellite observations (e.g. SAR data), regional climate and ocean modelling, digital twins, and geospatial technologies to support risk mapping, monitoring, and assessment of climate-related hazards. These discussions were underpinned by recent scientific studies and applied research conducted by Bulgarian scientific institutions, covering climate resources of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, marine circulation and wave dynamics, atmospheric composition and precipitation chemistry, and the application of satellite and reanalysis data for coastal risk assessment. The two-day conference highlighted the importance of connecting science with policy, fostering cross-border collaboration, and developing practical solutions for communities facing climate-related threats. A dedicated policy-oriented

discussion explored nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration as tools for climate adaptation, reinforcing the relevance of scientific evidence for the design of effective adaptation strategies at national and regional level.

Bulgaria has also contributed to the elaboration of the EU Strategic Approach to the Black Sea Region (2025), participating as co-author in the preparatory work for the strategic document. Bulgarian input reflected national experience in regional cooperation, environmental protection, and climate adaptation, supporting the alignment of regional priorities, including environmental sustainability and resilience, with broader EU objectives.

Strategic element 2. Catalyzing additional funding though working towards effective fiduciary standards and mobilizing partners to formulate climate response projects.

Table 3.

TARGET 2.
Catalyzing additional funding though working towards effective fiduciary standards and mobilizing partners to formulate climate response projects.
INDICATORS
2.1. Member States access possible routes to gain access to climate finance at a country-level and BSEC assesses possibilities for regional-level project financing opportunities by end of year 1 of implementation.
Level of Achievement: Achieved. Measurable Progress: BSEC Member States have gained access to at least four climate funding mechanisms at international level; to at least three funding mechanisms at interregional level; to at least one at regional level; and to several funding mechanisms at national level.
2.2. At least 5 regional / national climate change project fiches are formulated by interested Member States which include identified regional collaboration elements and they move towards full submission by end of year 3 of implementation.
Level of Achievement: Achieved. Measurable Progress: More than five climate change project fiches have been finalized during the reporting period. Four projects were developed at

regional level with the participation of at least six Member States. At least two projects have been formulated with the participation of at least two Member States, funded by national funding mechanisms. All projects are underpinned by a commitment to regional collaboration.

2.3. At least two funded climate change projects have commenced and at least two further climate change projects are in the funding pipeline by end of year 5 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Achieved.**

Measurable Progress: At least 75 climate change adaptation projects have commenced during the reporting period, funded by international funding mechanisms. At least 10 projects for climate adaptation have commenced at interregional level, while at least four were launched at regional level.

Under the second strategic element, **Armenia** notes the following progress:

- Establishment of a comprehensive **climate finance framework** through the adoption of the **Climate Law** (19 January 2026), which formally defines climate finance instruments, sources and mechanisms.
- Operationalization of **multiple climate finance channels**, including state budget allocations, international climate funds (GCF, GEF, AF, CIF), bilateral and multilateral partners, public-private partnerships, and private investment mechanisms.
- Mobilisation of **international financial institutions and development partners** (KfW, AFD, ADB, FAO, UNDP) to support adaptation-related **investments**, particularly in **water and agriculture** sectors.
- Armenia's positioning as an active regional partner in developing climate-resilient project concepts within **South Caucasus regional initiatives**, enhancing **readiness** for future joint submissions to international funding instruments.

Bulgaria has effectively mobilized European Union instruments, EEA and Norway Grants, and national financing to support climate-relevant actions. These resources have enabled the implementation of concrete projects at national and municipal levels, including along the Black Sea coast, covering areas such as climate-resilient infrastructure, low-carbon transport, energy efficiency, and ecosystem-based adaptation. Importantly, national funding mechanisms have been used strategically to complement regional and international resources, enhancing the overall impact and sustainability of investments.

Strategic element 3. Galvanising regional partnerships which can work to help build climate resilience in society and further strengthen the green economy.

Table 4.

TARGET 3.
Promoting regional partnerships and multi-stakeholder networks which can work to help build climate resilience in society and further strengthen the green economy.
INDICATORS
3.2. At least 3 networks involved in climate change adaptation have interacted with BSEC and opened dialogues on the role and value of regional adaptation approaches to building climate change resilience within the region.
Level of Achievement: Achieved. Measurable Progress: At least ten Member States have engaged with at least three cooperation networks at international level. At least five Member States have engaged with at least two networks at interregional level.
3.3. The actions and modes required for building climate change resilience and the green economy have been identified through stakeholder dialogue by BSEC and key messages are agreed in BSEC organs by end of year 3 of implementation.
Level of Achievement: Partially achieved. Measurable Progress: A series of BSEC thematic discussions and workshops have been implemented as a starting point to identify the actions required for building climate change resilience and the green economy.
3.4. BSEC have through presentations, documentation or documented discussions promoted cases of best practice and modes of implementation of adaptation / building resilience / green economy on at least 8 occasions by end of year 5 of implementation.
Level of Achievement: Achieved. Measurable Progress: At regional level, at least four Member States have been involved with or promoted at least four best practices and implemented at least three tools and services on adaptation, resilience, green economy. At

least six Member States have implemented at least one activity for adaptation, resilience, green economy at national level. BSEC has promoted adaptation, resilience, green economy through at least seven relevant activities.

Under the third strategic element, **Armenia** notes the following progress:

- Deployment of adaptation measures in **agriculture**, including intensive horticulture development programs, modern irrigation systems and water basins, and state-subsidised agricultural insurance covering 50–60% of insurance costs for climate-induced damages.
- **Capacity-building and awareness-raising initiatives:** training of over 300 **teachers** on climate change and adaptation issues, and **awareness campaigns and technical trainings** on water-saving technologies and disaster risk management.
- Participation in **international and regional adaptation platforms**, including **Adaptation Fund Board** (from the UN Eastern European Group), contributing to regional and global dialogue on climate resilience.

Bulgaria has also placed strong emphasis on galvanizing and raising awareness among stakeholders. Public awareness and stakeholder engagement are central to Bulgaria’s climate action approach. Awareness-raising activities are systematically integrated into projects, involving municipalities, local communities, academia, civil society, and the private sector. High-profile events such as the IPCC session and Black Sea scientific conferences have significantly increased visibility of climate risks and adaptation opportunities, particularly in coastal and urban contexts. These events also showcased the role of innovative tools, such as Digital Twin Ocean, in improving access to data and supporting evidence-based policy decisions. Overall, Bulgaria has strengthened the capacity of stakeholders to understand climate challenges, adopt adaptation measures, and actively participate in regional initiatives. Awareness-raising activities, public consultations, training events, and regional forums have contributed to improved understanding of climate risks and adaptation solutions, while fostering local ownership and support for resilience measures.

Strategic element 4. Championing the development of institutional capabilities in climate change across the region.

Table 5.

TARGET 4.
Championing the development of institutional and individual capabilities in climate change across the region.
INDICATORS
4.1. BSEC WG on Environmental Protection mainstreams climate change adaptation and the green economy through BSEC PERMIS and at least 8 other BSEC subsidiary organs by end of year 1 of implementation.
Level of Achievement: Partially achieved. Measurable Progress: Only BSEC PERMIS has mainstreamed climate change adaptation and the green economy through one key document, the 2023 BSEC Economic Agenda, and through at least ten awareness and knowledge activities.
4.2. BSEC PERMIS and at least 5 BSEC Subsidiary Organs (including at least 3 from Science & Technology, Energy, Trade and Economic Development, Education and Tourism) have climate change identified in plans and Declarations by end of year 3 of implementation.
Level of Achievement: Partially achieved. Measurable Progress: Climate change has been included in the 2023 BSEC Economic Agenda. It is included in the plan of one Working Group (Plan of Action 2024-2026, WG on Cooperation in Science and Technology).
4.3. BSEC organs have sought and mediated partnerships which lead to demonstrable increased awareness and up-skilling of climate change capacity in at least 6 Members States by end of year 5 of implementation.
Level of Achievement: Achieved. Measurable Progress: At international level, at least three Member States have interacted with at least six tools and services to support awareness, upskilling, knowledge transfer for climate change. BSEC has implemented, or been involved in, at least 12 activities for awareness, upskilling, knowledge transfer for climate change. At least five Member States have been involved in, or implemented, at least one relevant activity at national level.

Under the fourth strategic element, **Armenia** notes the following progress:

- Full mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into **national policy frameworks** through integration of **sectoral adaptation plans** into national development and **sectoral strategies**, and adoption of the

Climate Law (2026), mandating the integration of adaptation considerations into **sectoral and territorial** development planning (Article 10.1).

- Strengthening of **institutional and technical capacities** via capacity-building programmes for over 70 **representatives from government, private sector, civil society and academia** under NDC Partnership CAEP and FAO projects, training of decision-makers and specialists within the **Hydrometeorological Monitoring Center**, and integration of climate risk and adaptation topics into **educational curricula at school and university levels**.

Bulgaria has undertaken targeted capacity-building efforts to enhance the skills and readiness of ministries, regional authorities, and municipalities. Training programmes, peer-learning sessions, and knowledge-exchange initiatives with regional and international partners have reinforced competencies in climate planning, project development, implementation, monitoring, and reporting. By facilitating direct interaction among national administrations, research institutions, and local authorities across the Black Sea region, Bulgaria has contributed to the strengthening of institutional networks and the development of replicable best practices in climate adaptation and resilience.

Finally, progress has been achieved in targeting research and knowledge generation to key priorities, particularly in areas relevant to the Black Sea region, such as coastal resilience, water management, biodiversity protection, and climate risks. Applied research, data collection, and analytical work have increasingly informed policy development and project design, while regional exchanges have supported the sharing of data, methodologies, and best practices.

Across all four strategic elements, the **Republic of Moldova** has made progress in strengthening governance, enhancing climate data systems, mobilizing finance, fostering partnerships, and mainstreaming climate change across sectors. Continued efforts focus on scaling up regional cooperation, improving data integration, expanding access to climate finance, and further strengthening institutional capacity to ensure long-term climate resilience in line with the BSEC Strategy objectives.

3.2. Targets from the 5-year action plan that have been met or are on track.

Strategic element 1. Promoting regional cooperation in combating climate change across the BSEC area.

Table 6.

TARGET 1.
Promotion of regional cooperation in all aspects of climate changes across the BSEC Member States.
INDICATORS
1.1. BSEC WG collates information on climate change adaptation initiatives from Member States to provide a knowledge base for the region by end of year 1 of implementation.
Level of Achievement: Achieved. Evaluation: The present report constitutes a comprehensive knowledge base of climate change adaptation initiatives from the BSEC Member States. The reporting period was extended further than year 1, to allow for maximum engagement from the BSEC MS and better results.
Recommendation: An annual or biannual update of the climate change initiatives from the Member States by the WG on Environmental Protection is recommended to support the regional coordination.
1.2. BSEC WG provides a regional perspective on climate change through an analysis and interpretation of initiatives in Members States and identifies key information gaps by end of year 3 of implementation.
Level of Achievement: Partially achieved. Evaluation: Under the present report a target-based comprehensive analysis of climate change adaptation initiatives at the level of BSEC Member States has been conducted, offering insights into the status of these countries' efforts in tackling climate action. Key gaps and challenges have been identified to a limited extent. The reporting period was extended further than year 3, to allow for maximum engagement from the BSEC MS and better results.
Recommendation: A follow up evaluation of the climate change initiatives from the Member States should be conducted in the next 3 to 5 years. Information should focus on the level of implementation of National Adaptation Plans and/or Strategies at country-level, to inspire knowledge transfer and replication at regional level.

1.3. Interested Member States are brought together and plan to establish a regional clearinghouse mechanism on Climate Change Adaptation by end of year 5 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Partially achieved.**

Evaluation: While several BSEC Member States have participated in projects and scientific activities with a view to facilitating the preparations of a regional clearing house mechanism on climate change adaptation, this mechanism has not yet been established.

Recommendation: The establishment of a clearing house mechanism would be beneficial for the BSEC region to follow track on the climate adaptation policies, strategies, initiatives, projects, and other relevant actions. It will support knowledge exchange and facilitate replication of good practices to develop joint solutions for common challenges. The maintenance of such online mechanism requires financial support on the one hand, and data collection on a regular basis, on the other hand. The WG on Environmental Protection could play an instrumental role, benefiting from already existing similar platforms. As a next step, the elaboration of a concept note is recommended in the next one to two years for the regional clearinghouse mechanism, including structure, operational aspects, data collection, possible funding opportunities to support its establishment, and next steps.

Strategic element 2. Catalyzing additional funding though working towards effective fiduciary standards and mobilizing partners to formulate climate response projects.

Table 7.

TARGET 2
Catalyzing additional funding though working towards effective fiduciary standards and mobilizing partners to formulate climate response projects.
INDICATORS
2.1. Member States access possible routes to gain access to climate finance at a country-level and BSEC assesses possibilities for regional-level project financing opportunities by end of year 1 of implementation.
Level of Achievement: Achieved

Evaluation: BSEC Member States have made extensive use of available climate finance opportunities at international, interregional, regional, and country level. Member States have joined multi-partnership schemes, enabling knowledge exchange and cooperation. The availability of funding mechanisms for climate adaptation, particularly at international level, indicates the efforts of the international community to support partnerships to address a common challenge. Funding from the EU mechanisms is also advanced and accessed by the majority of the BSEC Member States. The replenishment of the BSEC Project Development Fund is an additional indicator of the Member States' interest to promote a project-oriented cooperation on common issues across the region.

The reporting period was extended further than year 1, to allow for maximum engagement from the BSEC MS and better results.

Recommendation: Member States should continue applying for funding under the existing funding mechanisms, as well as to seek partnerships both with other BSEC Member States and third countries, to enable knowledge transfer and innovation. The WG on Environmental Protection could function as intermediate to inform about open calls or project ideas. Member States should continue supporting the BSEC PDF with funds, adding a thematic priority related to climate adaptation or issuing a call for projects dedicated specifically to climate adaptation. Additionally, as per the PDF Manual of Operations, the BSEC Working Groups could periodically establish priority project areas, such as climate adaptation, or green economy across sectors, alongside the corresponding timeframes, to enable the launch of the respective calls for proposals.

2.2. At least 5 regional / national climate change project fiches are formulated by interested Member States which include identified regional collaboration elements and they move towards full submission by end of year 3 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Achieved**

Evaluation: More than five climate change project fiches have been finalized during the reporting period at regional level, and at least two under national funding, indicating the interest of Member States to address climate adaptation through cooperation.

The reporting period was extended further than year 3, to allow for maximum engagement from the BSEC MS and better results.

Recommendation: The WG on Environmental Protection could initiate knowledge transfer meetings or workshops to enable the exchange of good

practices and lessons learnt from regional and national projects, to inspire further action.

2.3. At least two funded climate change projects have commenced and at least two further climate change projects are in the funding pipeline by end of year 5 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: Achieved

Evaluation: The number of new projects on climate adaptation that were launched during the reporting period (>80 projects), as opposed to the initially planned 2+2, indicates the increasing interest of the Member States to address climate adaptation through research and cooperation. The multilevel participation of the Member States to projects, namely through governmental structures, universities, regional or local authorities, or the private sector, indicates the level of commitment to advance cooperation substantially and inclusively.

The reporting period was extended further than year 5, to allow for maximum engagement from the BSEC MS and better results.

Recommendation: International, regional, or cross-border partnerships for project development and implementation should continue to remain a priority for the Member States and BSEC PERMIS. Cross-sectoral cooperation with other Working Groups should be pursued, at the initiative of the Working Group on Environmental Protection. Additionally, the exploitation of projects' outcomes and findings at regional level should be discussed across all relevant Working Groups.

Strategic element 3. Galvanising regional partnerships which can work to help build climate resilience in society and further strengthen the green economy.

Table 8.

TARGET 3.
Promoting regional partnerships and multi-stakeholder networks which can work to help build climate resilience in society and further strengthen the green economy.
INDICATORS
3.1. At least 3 networks involved in climate change adaptation have interacted with BSEC and opened dialogues on the role and value of regional

adaptation approaches to building climate change resilience within the region.

Level of Achievement: Achieved

Evaluation: BSEC Member States have engaged with more than five networks at international, interregional, and national levels on climate change adaptation, paving the way to building climate change resilience in the BSEC region. As in the case of increased participation in projects by the Member States, engagement with climate adaptation networks exceeds the initially planned goal, indicating Member States' interest in cooperation and knowledge exchange.

Recommendation: The capitalization of the results from the Member States' involvement in these cooperation initiatives should be assessed and further exploited by BSEC. The WG on Environmental Protection can play an instrumental role in coordinating such efforts, for example with the organization of workshops or with the inclusion of dedicated agenda items in the respective WG meetings.

3.2. The actions and modes required for building climate change resilience and the green economy have been identified through stakeholder dialogue by BSEC and key messages are agreed in BSEC organs by end of year 3 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: Partially achieved.

Evaluation: Although stakeholder dialogue has been promoted, the actions needed to build climate change resilience and the green economy have yet to be identified, and relevant key messages have not yet been agreed in BSEC organs. A series of thematic discussions and workshops have been organized as a starting point to identify the actions required for building climate change resilience and the green economy.

Recommendation: Additional activities with the involvement of other BSEC subsidiary organs are proposed to identify actions and ideas to build resilience and the green economy. These activities could be implemented in a two-level approach, i.e. first, with the participation of external stakeholders; and second at BSEC level only, to assess the input from external stakeholders and plan next steps/actions accordingly. The capitalization process of Member States' involvement in cooperation networks could serve as a basis for launching of such activities.

3.3. BSEC have through presentations, documentation or documented discussions promoted cases of best practice and modes of implementation of

adaptation / building resilience / green economy on at least 8 occasions by end of year 5 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: Achieved

Evaluation: More than ten best practices and pilot projects on adaptation, resilience, and the green economy have been promoted through discussions and scientific activities at national and regional level. Both BSEC PERMIS and the Member States cooperate with other relevant stakeholders to maximize visibility, dissemination levels, and impact. Efforts tend to concentrate on portraying environmental challenges, rather than enabling actions to support climate adaptation.

Recommendation: BSEC PERMIS and Member States should continue actively promoting climate change adaptation, resilience, and green economy. Apart from the traditional channels, such as participation to third party events or organization of BSEC events, new media and alternative tools should be explored to maximize visibility, awareness, and engagement. Indicatively, social media campaigns; organization of events in the sidelines of international events, like the COP; booths in international fairs; community-based activities, such as recycling workshops, reforestation activities, etc. Partnerships with other stakeholders with advanced expertise on the subject, such as UNOPS, UNDP, OECD, World Bank, and launch of joint initiatives to strengthen awareness and engagement should be supported.

Strategic element 4. Championing the development of institutional capabilities in climate change across the region.

Table 9.

TARGET 4.
Championing the development of institutional and individual capabilities in climate change across the region.
INDICATORS
4.1. BSEC WG on Environmental Protection mainstreams climate change adaptation and the green economy through BSEC PERMIS and at least 8 other BSEC subsidiary organs by end of year 1 of implementation.
Level of Achievement: Partially achieved.

Evaluation: Although dialogue within BSEC has identified a pressing need for climate adaptation, the BSEC WG on Environmental Protection has not yet mainstreamed climate change adaptation and the green economy in any other BSEC subsidiary organs. BSEC PERMIS has mainstreamed climate change adaptation through the organization of, or participation in, awareness and knowledge-sharing activities.

Recommendation: Several BSEC Working Groups are currently in the process of developing their Action Plans under new country-coordinators, providing an opportunity for the Working Group on Environmental Protection to mainstream climate adaptation and green economy in their documents and activities, in accordance with the BSEC Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation. Joint meetings or workshops with the WG on Environmental Protection and other WGs of climate vulnerable sectors would also benefit climate change mainstreaming and action.

4.2. BSEC PERMIS and at least 5 BSEC Subsidiary Organs (including at least 3 from Science & Technology, Energy, Trade and Economic Development, Education and Tourism) have climate change identified in plans and Declarations by end of year 3 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Partially achieved.**

Evaluation: BSEC Subsidiary Organs have not yet identified climate change in plans or declarations, with the exception of the WG on Cooperation in Science and Technology. BSEC PERMIS has demonstrated better progress, as climate change has been included in the 2023 BSEC Economic Agenda, while it has participated in, or organized activities to promote action and awareness on climate adaptation.

Recommendation: Several BSEC Working Groups are currently in the process of developing their Action Plans under new country-coordinators, providing an opportunity for the Working Group on Environmental Protection to mainstream climate adaptation and green economy in their documents and activities, in accordance with the BSEC Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation. BSEC PERMIS should continue actively promoting climate adaptation through events and partnerships, such as the COP annual meetings.

4.3. BSEC organs have sought and mediated partnerships which lead to demonstrable increased awareness and up-skilling of climate change capacity in at least 6 Members States by end of year 5 of implementation.

Level of Achievement: **Achieved**

Evaluation: BSEC PERMIS and the Member States have actively participated in or organized relevant activities to promote awareness on climate adaptation. Although at institutional level, climate mainstreaming remains low within the BSEC subsidiary organs, the increased number of activities and projects with the involvement of BSEC PERMIS and/or the Member States indicates their willingness and dedication to foster climate adaptation. At the same time, despite the implementation of several climate change capacity-building initiatives across many BSEC Member States, capacity levels remain limited, and countries call for increased action in this area.

The reporting period was extended further than year 5, to allow for maximum engagement from the BSEC MS and better results.

Recommendation: BSEC PERMIS and Member States should continue actively promoting climate change adaptation through awareness-raising activities. Apart from the traditional channels, such as participation to third party events or organization of BSEC events, new media and alternative tools should be explored to maximize visibility, awareness, and engagement. Emphasis should be placed on up-skilling efforts through tailored trainings and capacity building activities, for both technical and non-technical officials. Partnerships and collaboration with stakeholders with advanced expertise on the subject, such as UNOPS, UNDP, OECD, etc, should be pursued.

Armenia notes the following targets per strategic element that have been met or are on track.

Strategic element 1. Promotion of regional cooperation in climate change adaptation.

- Contribution to the establishment of a **regional knowledge base** on climate change adaptation through the implementation of **the Climate Change National Adaptation Plan (2021–2025)** and the development of **sectoral and sub-national adaptation plans**, enabling information sharing with the BSEC Working Group.
- Provision of **national-level inputs relevant to regional analysis of climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation responses**, supporting the development of a **regional perspective and identification of information gaps**.
- Participation in **regional cooperation and dialogue initiatives** on climate change adaptation, contributing to **preparatory work** relevant to the future establishment of a regional **clearing house** mechanism.

Strategic element 2. Catalysing additional funding and mobilising partners for climate response projects.

- Establishment of **national frameworks enabling access to climate finance**, including the adoption of the **Climate Law** (2026) defining climate finance instruments, sources and mechanisms.
- Engagement with **international financial institutions and development partners** in the formulation and implementation of **climate-relevant projects**, particularly in adaptation-related sectors.
- Incorporation of regional cooperation elements in climate-related initiatives through **participation in regional adaptation dialogues and partnerships**.

Strategic element 3. Promoting regional partnerships and multi-stakeholder networks.

- Engagement with international and regional climate change adaptation **networks and platforms**, contributing to **dialogue** on regional approaches to climate resilience.
- Identification and documentation of **best practices** in climate change adaptation, particularly in the **water and agriculture** sectors, suitable for dissemination within the BSEC framework.
- Implementation of **awareness-raising and stakeholder engagement activities** contributing to the promotion of climate resilience and green economy objectives.

Strategic element 4. Championing institutional and individual capabilities in climate change.

- Mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into **national and sectoral policy frameworks**, supported by sectoral adaptation plans and legal obligations established under the **Climate Law** (2026).
- Implementation of **capacity-building activities for public institutions and key stakeholders**, strengthening institutional and technical capabilities in climate change adaptation.
- Progress toward increased **awareness and up-skilling through participation in regional and international cooperation mechanisms** relevant to BSEC objectives.

Bulgaria has made consistent progress across the strategic targets of the 5-year action plan, combining policy integration, financing, capacity-building, stakeholder engagement, and research. While some initiatives are still

maturing, the country remains on track to meet the majority of its objectives, reinforcing its role as a proactive and constructive partner in regional climate adaptation. Progress is particularly evident in regional cooperation, funding mobilisation, and stakeholder engagement, which have translated policy frameworks into concrete partnership activities. Institutional capacity-building specific to climate adaptation continues to develop, supporting the gradual strengthening of adaptation governance at both national and regional levels.

3.3. Challenges or delays encountered in implementation.

The implementation of the BSEC Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation has produced significant progress across the region; however, several challenges and delays have affected the achievement of certain objectives and have limited the pace of implementation.

A major challenge has been the **uneven institutional capacity** among Member States, that are at different stages of climate adaptation planning and implementation, with varying levels of technical expertise, human resources, financial capacity, and institutional development. These differences have made it difficult to achieve a unified level of progress across the region and have affected the implementation of some common regional initiatives.

Member States have reported that **capacity constraints** continue to hinder the development and implementation of evidence-based adaptation policies and projects. These challenges are particularly evident at the local and municipal levels, where resources, technical expertise, and institutional capacity are often more limited, affecting adaptation planning, project implementation, and the ability to access climate finance opportunities.

Constraints are further exacerbated by the **insufficient coordination among institutions**. Given that effective adaptation requires cooperation across multiple ministries, agencies, local authorities, research institutions, and other stakeholders, weak coordination can reduce policy coherence, limit knowledge sharing, and hinder the effective implementation of adaptation actions.

As a result, Member States often face challenges in **accessing and mobilizing climate finance**. Although numerous international and regional funding mechanisms are available, Member States continue to face difficulties in preparing competitive project proposals, following complex applications and meeting reporting requirements, as a result of limited financial and technical resources.

At regional level, Member States have noted **weakness in climate-related data availability and exchange**. Gaps in monitoring systems, climate

services, and data-sharing mechanisms impede policy and decision-makers to assess risks, monitor progress, and decide where to focus efforts and resources. This relates significantly with the lack of a dedicated regional clearinghouse mechanism, that further restricts opportunities for systematic knowledge exchange and dissemination of good practices.

At BSEC level, while climate adaptation has been increasingly acknowledged in BSEC activities, **climate mainstreaming** across the Organization's subsidiary organs has progressed slower than anticipated. Climate-related issues have not yet been fully incorporated into the plans and activities of all BSEC organs.

Armenia identifies the following challenges:

- **Gaps in long-term assessment of adaptation needs**, limiting the ability to prioritize and sequence adaptation actions over time.
- **Insufficient national technical capacity** to design, implement and scale physically tangible climate resilience projects, particularly at sectoral and sub-national levels.
- **Constraints in the enabling environment for implementation**, including limitations in access to adequate and predictable climate finance, as well as **gaps in scientific data, research capacity and technological solutions** required to support evidence-based adaptation planning and execution.
- **Delayed translation of policy and planning frameworks into on-the-ground investments**, due to the above-mentioned financial, technical and institutional constraints.

According to **Bulgaria**, the implementation of the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy has generally proceeded without major operational delays within the cooperation mechanisms themselves. Correspondingly, from the perspective of the EU Strategic Approach to the Black Sea Region (2025), the implementation of regional climate adaptation initiatives has advanced effectively within existing cooperation frameworks. The Strategy underscores, however, a number of contextual factors that warrant ongoing attention to ensure the coherence and efficiency of joint efforts. These include variations in institutional capacities and policy frameworks among Black Sea countries, the need for enhanced harmonization of climate monitoring and data-sharing systems, and the integration of adaptation priorities within broader regional resilience and environmental protection objectives. While these considerations do not represent operational impediments, they underline the importance of continued coordination, policy alignment, and collaborative planning to

support evidence-based, well-coordinated, and regionally responsive climate adaptation actions.

3.4. Modifications or new priorities to be considered for the next reporting cycle.

While the progress review demonstrates significant progress in advancing climate adaptation across the BSEC region, the next reporting cycle should focus on consolidating these achievements and addressing the remaining gaps. Special emphasis should be placed on translating existing policies and strategies into concrete actions that deliver measurable resilience benefits for communities, ecosystems, and economies.

The next cycle should strengthen regional cooperation on climate data, monitoring systems, and early warning mechanisms through enhanced data sharing, common methodologies, and improved climate services. To this end, a key priority should be the establishment of a BSEC regional climate adaptation clearinghouse mechanism to facilitate the systematic exchange of information, climate data, best practices, project outcomes, methodologies, and funding opportunities among Member States. Such a platform would enhance regional cooperation and improve access to knowledge and expertise.

The next reporting period should also prioritize the implementation and monitoring of adaptation measures, moving beyond policy development towards assessing tangible results and impact. Future reports could focus on outcome-based indicators that measure resilience improvements, vulnerability reduction, adaptation investments, and benefits to communities across the region.

Emphasis should be placed on nature-based and ecosystem-based adaptation measures, such as sustainable water management, forest restoration, coastal protection, and biodiversity conservation, which can enhance resilience to climate change while delivering multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits. In addition to adaptation, disaster risk management should be considered as a key priority in future actions. The reporting framework should also address emerging climate risks, including heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, water scarcity, coastal erosion, impact on public health, and threats to food security. Given the increasing frequency and intensity of such risks, targeted adaptation measures and regional collaboration will become increasingly important.

In parallel, priority should be given to adaptation capacity-building, especially at local and municipal levels, acknowledging that climate change impact is experienced significantly and primarily addressed at the local level. Supporting

municipalities in adaptation planning, risk assessment, project preparation, and climate-finance management would help improve implementation and resilience outcomes.

Furthermore, the next reporting period should encourage the development of joint regional projects addressing common climate challenges, particularly in areas such as transboundary water management, disaster risk reduction, marine and coastal ecosystems, climate-resilient infrastructure, and environmental protection. At the same time, while strengthening access to climate finance remains an objective, improving project development capacity should become a key priority. Member States would benefit from additional support in preparing high-quality adaptation projects, mobilizing financial resources, and enhancing institutional readiness to access international climate-finance mechanisms.

Finally, climate adaptation should be mainstreamed more systematically across all BSEC structures and sectoral activities, ensuring that climate considerations are embedded in the work of relevant subsidiary organs, particularly those dealing with transport, energy, tourism, agriculture, health, trade and economic development, and education.

Armenia notes that, as indicated in the Climate Response Status Reporting of (Section 5) of the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, the following should be considered in the next reporting cycle:

- **Communicate progress** which has been made,
- **Highlight demonstrative or pilot projects** which have regional value, and
- **Identify key gaps** in the regional response.

Bulgaria notes that for the next reporting cycle, the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy could consider practical ways to strengthen regional resilience and preparedness across the Black Sea. This might include:

- Supporting better coordination and sharing of climate and marine data, which allows countries to make evidence-based decisions and enhances early warning and risk management for shared environmental challenges.
- Encouraging the integration of adaptation measures into coastal management and sustainable economic activities, ensuring that resilience actions also contribute to protecting ecosystems, livelihoods, and local economies.

- Fostering closer cooperation and exchange of experiences across borders, which helps build mutual understanding, share best practices, and create a more coordinated response to climate-related risks affecting the region.

These steps are feasible, inclusive, and support practical, collaborative approaches to climate adaptation that are relevant to all Black Sea countries.

4. Proposals for modifying the strategic elements or the priority Action Plan items to match progress in climate response in the region.

This section includes suggestions provided by the BSEC Member States for improving regional cooperation under BSEC, recommendations for future projects or funding priorities, and any other relevant information to advance the implementation of the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2017).

a) Suggestions for improving regional cooperation under BSEC.

Armenia suggests that regional dialogue and cooperation between BSEC Member States, and BSEC regional and subregional approaches, responses and initiatives should be encouraged.

The **Republic of Moldova** considers that regional cooperation under BSEC could be strengthened through more structured and continuous engagement of relevant national authorities in thematic working bodies. In this regard, Moldova proposes the formal inclusion of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova in the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection. Given its mandate on climate change policy, adaptation planning, environmental protection, and implementation of international environmental commitments, the Ministry of Environment is well positioned to actively contribute to regional dialogue, knowledge exchange, and coordination of joint climate initiatives.

The **Republic of North Macedonia** suggests that through the UNFCCC Focal point for the country, there are networking opportunities with other stakeholders and involved parties at national level.

b) Recommendations for future projects or funding priorities.

Bulgaria suggests that future projects and funding under the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy could focus on initiatives that enhance regional resilience and preparedness in the Black Sea. This may include efforts to strengthen information-sharing and coordination, integrate adaptation considerations into planning and development, and promote cooperation and

exchange of experience among countries. Such priorities provide a flexible and inclusive framework for supporting climate adaptation, fostering collaboration, and addressing shared challenges across the region.

Conclusions

The progress review of the implementation of the BSEC Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation (2017) demonstrates that the BSEC Organization and its Member States have made substantial progress in strengthening climate resilience since the Strategy's adoption in 2017. Across the four strategic elements, i.e. regional cooperation, funding and project development, partnerships and awareness, and institutional and capacity development, Member States have significantly advanced their adaptation agendas and have increasingly recognized climate adaptation as a core component of sustainable development.

One of the most notable achievements is the widespread development of national climate policy frameworks. BSEC Member States have strengthened their commitments under the Paris Agreement, advanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and, in most cases, adopted National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) or equivalent strategies. Climate adaptation considerations are increasingly integrated into sectoral policies and planning processes, particularly in water management, agriculture, energy, transport, health, biodiversity conservation, tourism, and disaster risk reduction. These developments reflect a growing understanding that climate resilience must be embedded across all levels of governance and economic activity.

The assessment also shows significant progress in mobilizing climate finance and implementing adaptation projects. Member States have successfully accessed funding from a broad range of international, regional and national mechanisms, resulting in the implementation of numerous adaptation initiatives and projects across the region. These projects have contributed to strengthening institutional capacities, improving climate information systems, supporting vulnerable communities, and promoting innovative approaches to climate resilience.

Regional cooperation has also expanded considerably. Countries have actively participated in international networks, scientific partnerships, cross-border initiatives, and knowledge-sharing platforms that support adaptation planning and implementation. Such cooperation has enhanced access to expertise, technology, and financial resources while contributing to a more coordinated regional response to shared climate risks.

Despite these achievements, important challenges remain. The assessment highlights persistent disparities in institutional capacity among Member States, difficulties in accessing and managing climate finance, gaps in technical expertise, and limited availability of climate data and monitoring systems. Furthermore, while climate adaptation has become more visible within BSEC activities, its integration across all BSEC subsidiary organs remains incomplete. The absence of the envisaged regional climate adaptation clearinghouse mechanism represents a particularly significant gap, limiting opportunities for systematic information exchange and regional learning.

Moving forward, continued progress will depend on strengthening regional coordination and transforming existing policy commitments into tangible implementation outcomes. Greater emphasis should be placed on knowledge-sharing, capacity building, climate-finance readiness, data exchange, and the development of joint regional initiatives. Establishing effective mechanisms for disseminating best practices and fostering cooperation among governments, international organizations, research institutions, civil society, and local authorities will be essential.

Overall, the review concludes that the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy has provided an effective framework for advancing climate adaptation across the wider Black Sea region. Most strategic objectives have been achieved or are progressing positively, demonstrating a significant increase in regional awareness, preparedness, and action. Building on this momentum, BSEC and its Member States have a strong opportunity to deepen cooperation, address remaining gaps, and accelerate efforts towards a more resilient, sustainable, and climate-ready Black Sea region in the coming years.

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ANNEX 1. Template of the Questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE ON BSEC CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Section 1: General Information

• Country / Institution:	
• Reporting Officer (Name, Position, Contact):	
• Reporting Period (Year):	

Section 2: Regional Cooperation

1. What national climate adaptation initiatives have been implemented during this reporting period?	
2. What steps have been taken to support the establishment of a regional clearinghouse mechanism on climate change adaptation?	
3. Identify any gaps or challenges in regional cooperation that require BSEC support.	

Section 3: Funding & Project Development

1. Has your country accessed climate finance opportunities (national or international) during this period? Please list.	
2. Has your country collaborated with other BSEC members to develop regional or joint project proposals ? If yes, provide details.	
3. Are there any funded climate change projects currently underway? Please describe.	

4. What barriers exist in accessing or mobilizing climate finance at the regional level?	
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Section 4: Partnerships & Awareness

1. Which networks or stakeholder groups has your country engaged with on climate adaptation?	
2. Has your country participated in BSEC dialogues or workshops on resilience and green economy?	
3. Provide examples of best practices or pilot projects shared with other member states.	
4. What actions have been taken to raise public awareness on climate change and adaptation?	

Section 5: Institutional & Capacity Development

1. Has climate change adaptation been mainstreamed into your national policies or sectoral strategies (e.g., energy, trade, education, tourism)?	
2. Has your country engaged with BSEC subsidiary organs to integrate climate change into their action plans?	
3. What training, capacity-building, or knowledge-sharing activities have been conducted?	
4. Identify areas where further institutional support or capacity-building is needed.	

Section 6: Monitoring & Evaluation

1. What measurable progress has been achieved in each of the four strategic elements ?	
2. Which targets from the 5-year action plan have been met or are on track?	
3. What challenges or delays have been encountered in implementation?	
4. What modifications or new priorities should be considered for the next reporting cycle?	

Section 7: Additional Comments

• Suggestions for improving regional cooperation under BSEC.	
• Recommendations for future projects or funding priorities.	
• Any other relevant information.	

ANNEX 2. Climate Change Adaptation in the BSEC Region: Quick Facts Per Country

Annex 2 provides further information on the **status and progress** of the 13 BSEC Member States in relation to climate action, climate vulnerability, and climate readiness. Data were drawn from the 2026 Sustainable Development Report that reviews the annual progress of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Country Index that summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Climate Action

The **Sustainable Development Report** (SDR) reviews the annual progress of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, since their adoption in 2015⁸⁷. The **SDG13: Climate Action - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts** is the most pertinent one to climate change adaptation.

According to the 2026 Sustainable Development Report⁸⁸, the SDG13 **has not yet been achieved** by any of the 13 BSEC Member States. In particular:

- **Challenges** remain in: Albania, Armenia, and the Republic of Moldova.
- **Significant challenges** remain in: Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, the Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Ukraine.
- **Major challenges** remain in: Greece, Türkiye and the Russian Federation.

Climate Vulnerability

Climate vulnerability measures a country's exposure, sensitivity, and capacity to adapt to the negative effects of climate change. The Index measures overall vulnerability by considering vulnerability in six life-supporting sectors, i.e. food, water, health, ecosystem service, human habitat, and infrastructure.

The following table includes the climate vulnerability rankings of the thirteen BSEC Member States for the years 2018 (the first year of the reporting period)⁸⁹ and 2024 (the year with the most recent data)⁹⁰. **A lower ranking indicates**

⁸⁷ <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/>

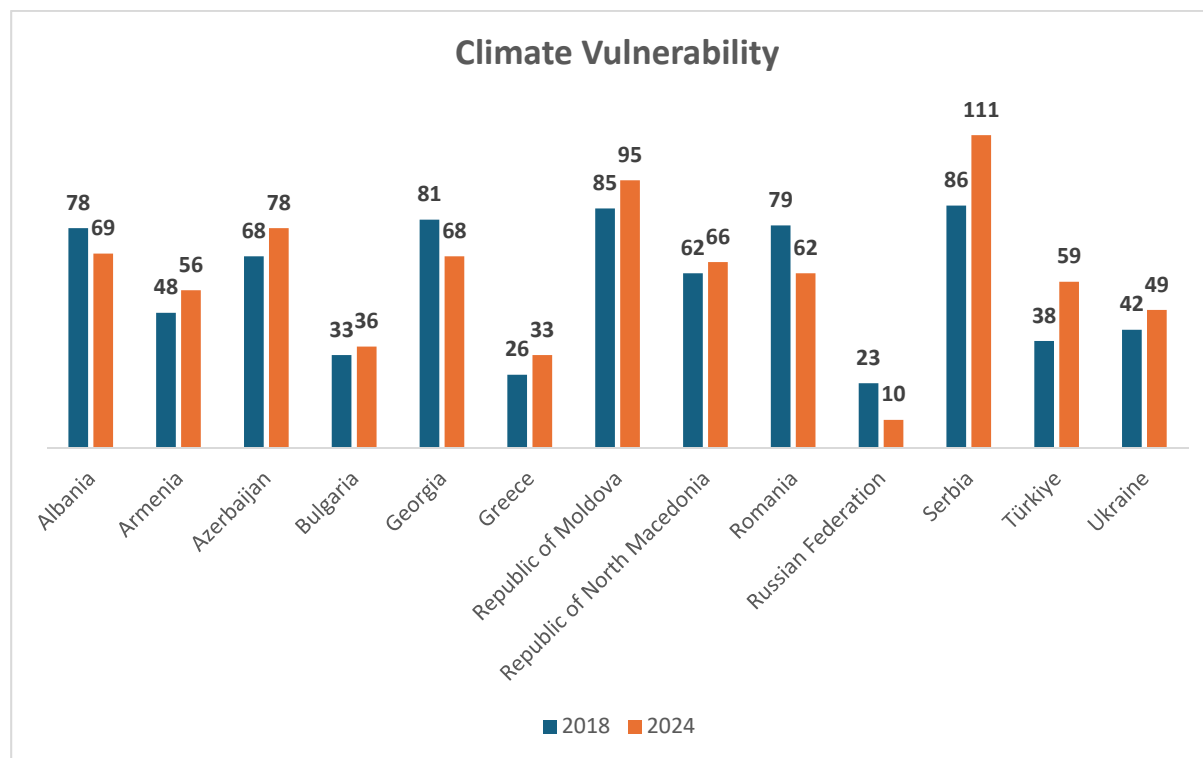
⁸⁸ <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/chapters/>

⁸⁹ <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

⁹⁰ <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/>

a lower level of vulnerability, with No. 1 being the least vulnerable (2024, Norway).

Table 10.



In 2024, the Russian Federation, Greece and Bulgaria are the least vulnerable BSEC Member States to the negative effects of climate change, while Serbia, the Republic of Moldova and Azerbaijan are the most vulnerable. Between 2018 and 2024, the biggest differences in the rankings are observed in Serbia, Türkiye and Romania. Serbia and Türkiye have become more vulnerable to climate change, while Romania has become less vulnerable. Overall, **nine out of thirteen BSEC Member States are more climate vulnerable in 2024 than in 2018**.

Climate Readiness

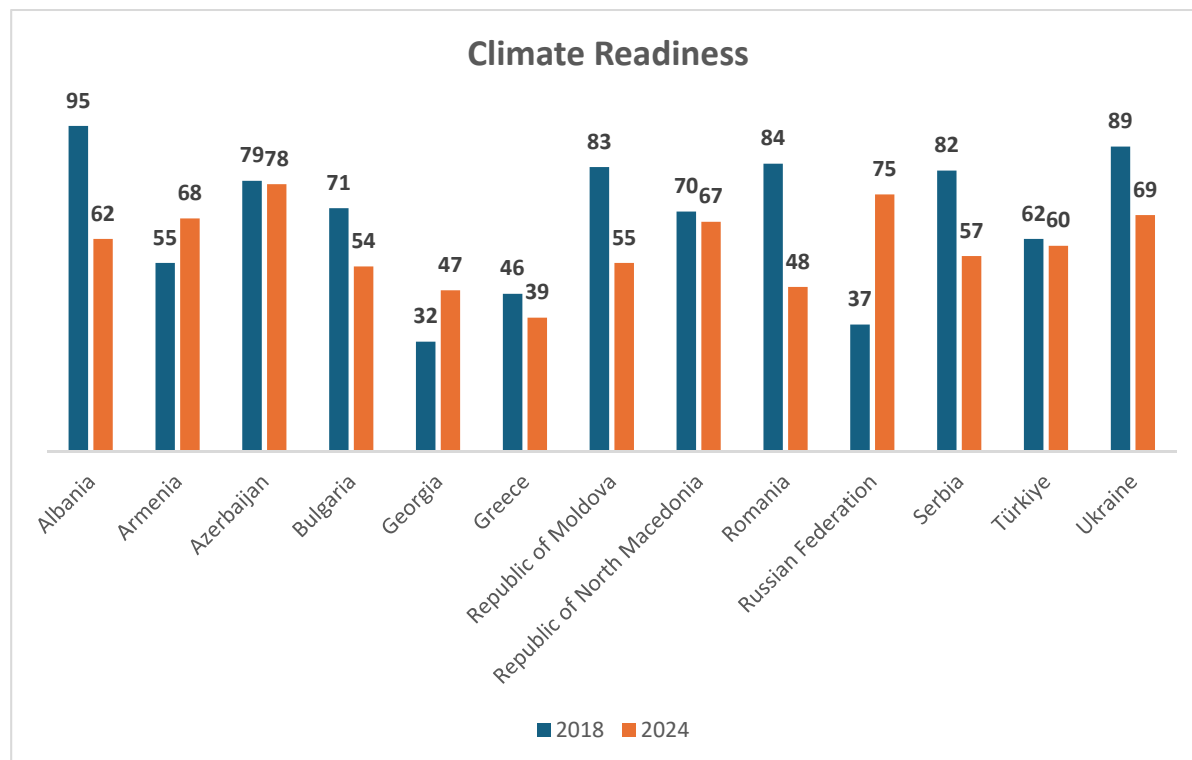
Climate readiness measures a country's ability to leverage investments and convert them to adaptation actions. The Index measures overall readiness by considering three components, i.e. economic readiness, governance readiness and social readiness.

The following table includes the climate readiness rankings of the thirteen BSEC Member States for the years 2018 (the first year of the reporting period)⁹¹

⁹¹ <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

and 2024 (the year with the most recent data)⁹². **A higher ranking indicates a higher level of readiness**, with No. 1 being the highest level of readiness (2024, Singapore).

Table 11.



In 2024, Greece, Georgia and Romania are the readiest to improve their resilience. Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine are the least ready. Between 2018 and 2024, the biggest differences in the rankings are observed in the Russian Federation, Romania and Albania. The Russian Federation has shown a decline in its readiness to take climate adaptation actions, while Romania and Albania have shown an increase. Overall, **ten out of thirteen BSEC Member States are more climate ready in 2024 than in 2018**.

⁹² <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/>



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