

Joint Communiqué on the Results of the Second Meeting of the Presidents of Academies of Sciences of the BSEC Member States

Istanbul, 27 June 2025

Upon the kind invitation of Istanbul University and Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the Second Meeting of the Presidents of the Academies of Sciences of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Member States was held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 27 June 2025, under the theme “Collaboration and Development of Science and Education in the Black Sea Region.” The meeting was attended by representatives of the Academies of Sciences of the BSEC Member States, including *Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Türkiye, Ukraine*, President of Turkic Academy, rectors of leading universities, representatives of the Black Sea Universities’ Network, officials of the PABSEC and the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat.

In a spirit of constructive dialogue, the participants exchanged views on strengthening collaboration in science and education to foster sustainable development and innovation across the wider Black Sea Region. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment to unlocking the scientific and educational potential of BSEC Member States through multilateral cooperation, guided by principles of mutual benefit, inclusivity, and shared prosperity.

The participants underscored the critical role of scientific collaboration in addressing global and regional challenges, including climate change, digital transformation, and socio-economic disparities. They emphasized the importance of joint initiatives to advance research, promote interdisciplinary studies, and enhance knowledge exchange. Key priorities included:

1. **Advancing Joint Research Programs:** Encouraging the establishment of collaborative research centres and projects to tackle pressing regional and global issues, with a focus on innovation and sustainability.
2. **Promoting Artificial Intelligence in Science and Education:** Fostering collaborative research and development in artificial intelligence to enhance the efficiency of scientific discoveries, improve educational methodologies, and address societal challenges.
3. **Strengthening Educational Cooperation:** Supporting the development of joint academic programs, student and faculty exchanges, and digital education platforms to train highly qualified professionals and foster cross-cultural understanding.
4. **Promoting Innovation and Technology Transfer:** Facilitating partnerships between academia, industry, and governments to translate scientific discoveries into practical solutions for economic and social progress.
5. **Enhancing Capacity Building:** Expanding opportunities for young scientists and researchers through scholarships, mentorship programs, and access to shared resources.

The meeting welcomed progress made since the First Meeting of the Presidents of Academies of Sciences on 14 February 2024, particularly in fostering dialogue and initiating cooperative frameworks. The participants expressed strong support for the objectives outlined in the BSEC “Economic Agenda: Towards a Sustainable Future of the Wider Black Sea Area,” adopted on 15 December 2023, and committed to aligning scientific and educational efforts with its vision.

Special appreciation was extended to Istanbul University for hosting the event and providing a platform for meaningful exchange. The participants recognized the importance of regular meetings to sustain momentum and deepen partnerships, expressing confidence that continued collaboration will elevate the Black Sea Region as a hub of scientific excellence and innovation.

The participants agreed to further explore the establishment of a permanent mechanism for coordination among BSEC Academies of Sciences, including the creation of a working group to oversee the implementation of joint projects and monitor progress.

It was decided to hold the Third Meeting of the Presidents of the Academies of Sciences of the BSEC Member States in Bulgaria with specific details to be finalized through consultations among the Member States.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the Republic of Türkiye for its warm hospitality and reaffirmed their dedication to advancing science and education for the benefit of the Black Sea Region and beyond.