BSEC and UNOPS sign Partnership Agreement to enhance cooperation

Vienna, 9 May 2024 — The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) have signed a Partnership Agreement that provides a framework for cooperation in areas of common interest to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the region.

The agreement signed by H.E. Ambassador Lazăr COMĂNESCU, BSEC Secretary General, and Freya von GROOTE, UNOPS Austria Multi-Country Office Director, outlines a number of concrete areas for future collaboration, including a potential project that aims to address environmental pollution through analytical work, regional project innovations and technical assistance support to local partners with a focus on Türkiye, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. Future engagements will result in increased awareness and support to innovative solutions that improve the environmental health of the Black Sea and that deliver socio-economic benefits for the region’s population.

This strengthened partnership complements the mandates and strength of BSEC and UNOPS in support of more effective SDG delivery.

Speaking about the subject, H.E. Ambassador Lazăr COMĂNESCU, BSEC Secretary General said:

“We consider the cooperation with the UNOPS Office in Vienna very important. The fields that this Office is focused on primarily: water, climate, environment and infrastructure, are among the most priority areas in our BSEC’s newly updated Economic Agenda. We hope this cooperation will be very fruitful and benefit both BSEC and UNOPS and will develop further than the current cooperation.”
Also, Freya von GROOTE, Director UNOPS Austria Multi-Country Office stated:
"This strengthened partnership between UNOPS and BSEC is an important step forward to help improve and protect the unique Black Sea environment. UNOPS brings its global expertise to support partner countries and to strengthen international cooperation in the environmental protection of the Black Sea, as well as achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals across countries in the region."

The signature of the agreement took place today at UNOPS’ headquarters in Vienna.

[ENDS]

Notes to the editors:

Press contact details:
- Ramona LUPU, Communications Specialist at UNOPS Austria Multi-Country Office: ramonal@unops.org
- Nurdan YAVUZALP, Public Communication Officer at BSEC nurdan.yavuzalp@bsec-organisation.org

About UNOPS
UNOPS mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement in an efficient way. Read more: www.unops.org

About UNOPS Austria Multi-Country Office
Established in 2019, the UNOPS Austria Multi-Country Office (AUMCO) represents the regional hub for UNOPS' programs and operations in 12 countries across Austria, Central Asia, Western Balkans, South Caucasus, and Türkiye. UNOPS presence in Vienna also includes the Water Environment and Climate Portfolio that manages global initiatives on climate, transboundary water management, biodiversity and the environment. Read more: www.unops.org/austria

About Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)
The Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) came into existence as a unique and promising model of multilateral political and economic initiative.
Aiming at fostering interaction and harmony among its members, as well as to ensure peace, stability and prosperity, encouraging friendly and good-neighborly relations in the Black Sea region, today BSEC serves as a forum for cooperation in a wide range of areas for its 13 Member States. Agriculture and agro-industry, banking and finance, combating organized crime, culture, customs matters, education, emergency assistance, energy, environmental protection, exchange of statistical data and economic information, healthcare and pharmaceutics, information and communication technologies, institutional renewal and good governance, science and technology, SMEs, tourism, trade and economic development and transport are among the main fields of cooperation within the framework of the Organization.

FACTS ABOUT THE BSEC REGION:

- BSEC covers a geography encompassing the territories of the Black Sea littoral States, the Balkans and the Caucasus with an area of nearly 20 million square kilometers. The BSEC region is located on two continents;
- It represents a region of more than 350 million people. The overall trade turnover of the BSEC region is in the range of 1.5 trillion USD and the nominal combined GDP around 2.95 trillion USD;
- After the Persian Gulf region, it is the second-largest source of oil and natural gas along with its rich proven reserves of minerals, metals and other natural resources;
- It is becoming Europe's major transport and energy transfer corridor.

Read more: https://www.bsec-organization.org/