



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Doc.: GA67/EC66/REC208/26

RECOMMENDATION 208/2026*

“Digital Transformation in the BSEC Member States”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) recognises that digital transformation is one of the significant drivers of contemporary development, affecting numerous sectors of the economy and society and stimulating structural changes worldwide. Successfully implemented digital technologies can contribute to the achievement of broad societal benefits beyond the digital sphere.
2. The PABSEC emphasises that the successful embrace of digital technologies has great potential for economic growth and human well-being, enhancement of innovation and global competitiveness of states. Digital transformation is a key driver of productivity, innovation, modernisation of states and socio-economic development. Digitalisation is an important factor in economic resilience, employment and productivity, as well as a means of addressing many complex global challenges and contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. Digital technologies have rapidly transformed the global economy and are projected to continue doing so at an accelerating pace, creating new industries and jobs in the process. They have profound and wide-ranging impacts on various economic sectors, processes, systems and businesses. Digital technologies are expected to contribute to GDP growth, increased productivity, and efficiency, creating positive effects for the economy as a whole. The countries of the Wider Black Sea Region closely follow the latest developments in this field. They have adopted strategies within the overarching economic transformation agendas, leveraging digitalisation as a driver of economic transformation, government effectiveness, private sector resilience, and economic growth.
4. The PABSEC recalls its Recommendations on various aspects of digital transformation: the Recommendation 205/2025 “Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development in the BSEC Region - Economic Aspects”, Recommendation 193/2023 “National Strategies in the field of Artificial Intelligence in the BSEC Member States”, the Recommendation 173/2020 “Development of Financial Technologies in the BSEC Member

*Assembly’s debate in June 2026 (see Doc. GA67/EC66/REP/26, Report of the Committee on Economic and Development Policy, “Digital Transformation in the BSEC Member States”, discussed on 17 March 2026 in Bucharest; Rapporteur: Mr. Marius Humelnicu, Chairman of the Committee, (Romania).
The text is to be adopted at the General Assembly on 30 June 2026, in Georgia.*

States”, the Recommendation 161/2018 “The prospects of Development of Digital Economy in the BSEC Member States”, the Recommendation 146/2015 “E-Government in the BSEC Member States”, the Recommendation 143/2015, “The Role of New Technologies in the Development and Strengthening of the Information Society in the BSEC Member States” and reiterates its commitment to strengthen cooperation in the field of digital transformation in the Wider Black Sea Region.

5. The PABSEC recognises the importance of digital transformation for the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and extends its full support for further use of digital innovation to advance the achievement of the SDGs in the BSEC Member States.

6. The PABSEC commends the BSEC Member States for their active work in developing and improving national digital transformation strategies, legislation, and programmes. The PABSEC welcomes national digital transformation strategies based on coordinated policies aimed at maximising the benefits of digital technologies while mitigating their potential risks to the economy and society, as well as promoting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. The Assembly commends the implementation of comprehensive programmes to advance digitalisation in the public, financial, and private sectors, as well as the concrete steps taken to develop and upgrade digital infrastructure, increase the contribution of the digital economy to GDP, and promote research and innovation in the BSEC Member States.

7. The PABSEC welcomes the efforts of national parliaments in the elaboration of appropriate legislation that provides a foundation for a sustainable, comprehensive, equitable, inclusive, and safe digital transformation. Adequate parliamentary support is crucial for effective decision-making based on a holistic approach to a successful digital future.

8. The PABSEC recognises that digital technologies not only offer humanity enormous opportunities for economic progress, but also pose significant potential risks. Continuous improvement of the legal framework for information security is particularly important given the growing cyber threats and the interconnectedness of digital systems. PABSEC emphasises that the responsible use of digital technologies, with due consideration of economic, social, and ethical risks, remains a priority for policymakers in the Wider BSEC Region, consistent with technological evolution. PABSEC commends the BSEC Member States for their adoption of digital technologies, ensuring cybersecurity and privacy, maintaining the security, reliability, and resilience of digital infrastructure, and preserving the trust of citizens and economies in the digital environment in the face of increasingly complex cyber threats.

9. The PABSEC welcomes the activities of the BSEC Organisation and its bodies to strengthen the cooperation among the BSEC Member States in the field of digital transformation. The PABSEC expresses full support for the activities of the BSEC Working Groups on Information and Communication and Science and Technology, and emphasises the need to intensify cooperation and implement joint projects and initiatives.

10. The PABSEC recognises the need to promote cooperation in digital transformation in the Wider BSEC Region, as this contributes to dynamic and sustainable economic growth and prosperity for the peoples of the region. The PABSEC considers it important to encourage regional policymaking and the exchange of experiences to harness the potential of new technologies, as well as to promote knowledge transfer and technological capacity building in the region.

11. The PABSEC notes the relevant efforts of international organisations to promote international understanding and cooperation in the field of digital transformation, as well as bilateral and regional forms of cooperation in this area. The Assembly underlines the role of the BSEC and the PABSEC in stimulating the potential for multilateral cooperation in digital transformation within their respective competencies.

12. **Therefore, the Assembly** recommends that the Parliaments and Governments of the BSEC Member States:

- i. *create* a comprehensive legislative framework for regulating national digital transformation;
- ii. *promote* a human-centred, inclusive, and open digital environment with secure and interoperable digital technologies and services, and ensure appropriate ethical and legal frameworks;
- iii. *create* sustainable mechanisms for inter-institutional coordination of digital transformation;
- iv. *take steps* to maintain secure, resilient, performant and sustainable digital infrastructure;
- v. *take actions* to update and improve national policies and programmes on digital technologies;
- vi. *ensure* the adoption and integration of digital technologies across the economy and take steps to remove existing barriers to its deployment in various economic fields;
- vii. *consider* long-term public investment, and encourage private investment to support an environment for digital research and development;
- viii. *integrate* into national digital strategies specific measures to address socio-economic inequalities, reduce the environmental footprint and ensure equitable access to digital technologies for all;
- ix. *ensure* that national digital strategies are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- x. *encourage* the digital transformation of businesses;
- xi. *strengthen* the e-government concept at the national, regional, and local levels;
- xii. *step up* the digitalisation of public services;
- xiii. *ensure* effective cooperation between the state and private sectors of the digital industry and expand public-private partnerships for digital transformation;
- xiv. *promote* digital inclusion and stimulate digital and AI literacy of citizens to prevent a digital divide;
- xv. *take steps* to ensure effective cooperation in the field of digital transformation in accordance with the provisions of national and international law;
- xvi. *promote* further cooperation among the BSEC Member States in the field of digital technology by concluding bilateral and multilateral agreements, as well as cooperation protocols and memoranda of understanding among the competent authorities;
- xvii. *take steps* to harmonise legal frameworks – for example, mutual recognition of electronic signatures and digital identities to facilitate cross-border digital services and stimulate trade in the region;
- xviii. *step up* efforts to support research and development;
- xix. *encourage* scientific and technical progress and innovation capacity, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups;
- xx. *promote* collaboration among leading AI educational institutions and research centres in the region;
- xxi. *deploy* the potential of financial institutions, including the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB), to launch new digital projects in the BSEC Region;
- xxii. *promote* cooperation among the BSEC Member States in the adoption of advanced technological solutions at various levels through technology transfer programmes, and facilitate exchange of technologies and best practices in the region;
- xxiii. *consider* establishing a joint regional platform for sharing policies in the field of digital transformation and information on new legislative initiatives;

- xxiv. *take the necessary steps* to enhance digital ethics and awareness of the benefits and potential risks of digital technologies, especially artificial intelligence technologies;
- xxv. take steps to timely address risks related to digital technologies and ensure cybersecurity and privacy;
- xxvi. *advance* cooperation with the specialised regional and international organisations to exchange knowledge, standards and good practice;
- xxvii. *strengthen* regional cyber capabilities in the Black Sea Region and regional partnerships through the sharing of best practices and joint incident response exercises;
- xxviii. *provide* necessary support to the activities of the BSEC Working Groups on Information and Communication Technologies and on Science and Technology, and the implementation of their Action Plans.

13. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.