Methodology on monitoring and reporting on the Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans (MAP)

1. Purpose

This draft Methodology on monitoring and reporting is intended to serve as the basis for preparing regular (Annual and Semi-Annual) reports on the progress achieved in implementing the actions and meeting the objectives of the Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans (MAP). This Methodology is prepared by the RCC and CEFTA Secretariats in close cooperation with the MAP Coordinators. The methodology is consulted with National Administrations, the Regional platforms and working groups, the Western Balkan Chamber Investment Forum (WB CIF) and other partners working on regional initiatives relevant to the Regional Economic Area.

2. Introduction

The Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans Six (WB6) was endorsed on 12th July 2017 at the occasion of the Trieste Western Balkan Summit. It puts forward a structured agenda for regional economic integration in four main areas, aiming to (i) promote further trade integration, (ii) introduce a dynamic regional investment space, (iii) facilitate mobility, and (iv) create a digital integration agenda. The MAP stems from the commitments undertaken within the framework of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) and the SEE 2020 Strategy. Actions introduced in MAP offer synergies to the reform agendas undertaken in all WB6 driven by the EU integration process, based on EU rules and principles and following the commitments deriving from Stabilization and Association Agreements.

The implementation of MAP actions is intended to result in a rules-based and EU-compliant Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans enabling unobstructed flow of goods, services, capital and highly skilled labour, making the region more attractive for investment and commerce, accelerating convergence with the EU and bringing prosperity to all its citizens. Adequate monitoring of progress made in attaining these results is crucial to understand where and when the progress is being made as well as to inform any possible adjustments in approach to implementation.

3. Monitoring principles

This Methodology has been prepared with several guiding principles in mind, including:

- All-inclusiveness - The principle of 'all-inclusiveness' will be promoted in all structures involved in the monitoring of the activities within the MAP. The successful implementation and monitoring of MAP process requires strong partnership between the WB6 governments, the private sector, the regional and international organizations, donors active in providing support in the policy areas of the MAP, and the European Commission.

- Pragmatism and expediency – Monitoring of MAP implementation will rely, wherever possible, on existing structures, institutions and mechanisms. Qualitative and quantitative assessments and indicators used will be guided by availability and comparability of data with the understanding that the introduction of new indicators beyond those already available in the Western Balkans statistical systems will require clear assessments in terms of costs and feasibility of data acquisition. The MAP monitoring will be reinforced by already existing monitoring processes, such as the one for SEE 2020.

- Simplicity and accuracy – The need to communicate the results of MAP implementation to wide audiences within and outside the region requires the monitoring reports to remain clear, simple and accurate. Progress should be measured in terms that are understandable to broad and heterogeneous group of stakeholders.

4. The Approach to Monitoring MAP implementation

The following section identifies the institutions participating in the monitoring process along with their roles and responsibilities, the types of qualitative and quantitative data used, the frequency and scope of the reporting and the governance architecture to support the ongoing monitoring process.

The MAP monitoring will use both qualitative and quantitative assessment. The quantitative monitoring will be based on the list of indicators listed in Annex 1, whilst the qualitative assessment will be sourced from MAP Coordinators and MAP Component Contact Points who will provide narrative assessment of progress. Additionally, the quantitative and qualitative assessment will be complemented with perception-based assessment – Balkan Barometer being the most relevant source with most indicators collected by the RCC will be included in the assessment.

The monitoring of MAP implementation will enable the WB6 leaders to review the progress and understand back lagging in each component. The insights from the monitoring will offer proposals for better formulation and fine-tuning of the actions, new timelines, realistic and achievable[1].

4.1   *Participants in the monitoring process*

As noted above, implementation of the MAP process is a comprehensive endeavour and the monitoring of progress should follow closely the implementation structures at both national and regional levels. The institutions participating in the monitoring process include:

(i)   Western Balkans Six administrations:

- MAP Coordinators and MAP Component Contact Points;

- Ministries in charge of trade, investment, education, research/science and innovation, and digital economy;

- Central banks;

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[1] The proposals for reviewing the MAP REA actions can be part of the first comprehensive report to be launched before the High level Western Balkan Summit, to be held in London.

- Border and customs authorities, including Veterinary, Phytosanitary Authorities;

- Competition authorities;

- Securities Commissions, Stock Exchanges;

- EURAXESS, ENIC/NARIC offices;

- Electronic Communications Regulators;

- Other relevant ministries, agencies and institutions at the national level;

- National Statistical Offices.

(ii) Regional stakeholders:

- Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat, CEFTA Secretariat and other regional organizations and structures engaged in coordination and implementation of MAP.

4.2 *Data to be used*

The quantitative data will be sourced from the national statistical systems and the international sources, based on availability, relevance and comparability. The data collected through the SEE 2020 monitoring cycle will also be used where appropriate. To ensure the indicators presented have an inner coherence and to provide a comprehensive overview of the relevant aspects or MAP implementation, each indicator will have to serve a clear role within the broader monitoring system.

4.3 *Scoring*

MAP monitoring system will introduce scoring per each of the activities and objectives to indicate the level of completeness of each individual action and progress made towards the desired objective. The purpose of scoring will be to convey the progress in simple and clear terms converting qualitative information into quantitative indicators. For the actions having a "continuous" principle for implementation the monitoring process will flag the state of play and factor, to the maximum extent possible, the implementation status at a given period

The progress in the implementation of any action will be assessed based on the following scoring:

Stage of preparedness	Description of the stage of preparedness	Scores
Early stage	No activities started and no actions taken.	1
Some level of preparation	Preliminary steps have been undertaken such as: establishment of any structure needed for the implementation, course of action defined, legislative process initiated (if appropriate), and timeline for completing implementation settled.	2
Moderately prepared	Some implementation started, structures for implementation/coordination/monitoring functional and equipped with necessary resources, legislative process is at a moderate	3

	level (if appropriate).	
Good level of preparation	The implementation has advanced and the preliminary result can be evidenced (i.e. legislation process finalized, administrative capacities strengthened, etc.).	4
Well advanced	The measure is either fully implemented or no major steps are required to allow smooth implementation.	5

4.4   *The monitoring and reporting cycle*

Following on the Guidelines on Governance, Coordination and Reporting, the MAP reporting will be implemented in the following cycles:
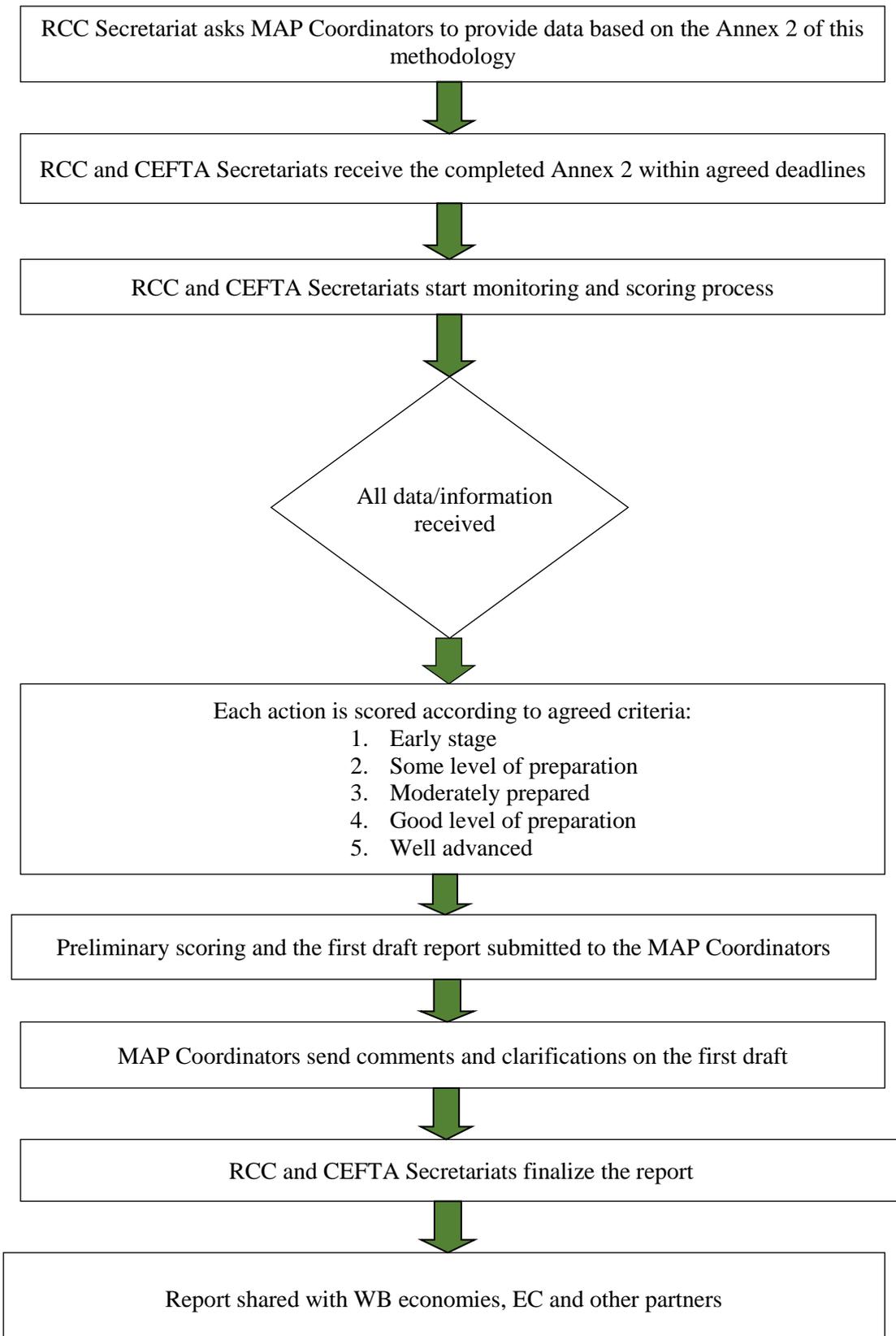
i.   Annual Report - prepared mid-year to inform the WB6 Prime Ministers Summit - to include detailed annual assessment of progress made in each component and each economy. The assessment will cover the period between two Summits of the WB6 Prime Ministers; and

ii. Abridged Report - prepared at the end of each calendar year – to include a summary of key developments in each component. The assessment will cover the period from the Summit until the end of the year.

The Annual Report will provide both qualitative and quantitative assessments whilst the Abridged Semi-Annual Report will contain only qualitative assessments. The reports will be shared with the WB6 economies through their MAP Coordinators for review. Comments and suggestion will be incorporated to the maximum extent possible.

The qualitative assessments for each economy will be based on predefined templates for reporting. The reporting from the economies will be at action level (Annex 2), and cumulative assessment for the whole WB6 (Annex 3) will be prepared by the CEFTA and RCC Secretariats at objective and component level.

The process of report preparation will be as described in the flowchart below:

Flowchart to prepare the MAP report

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┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│  RCC Secretariat asks MAP Coordinators to provide data based on    │
│  the Annex 2 of this methodology                                  │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
                              ↓
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│  RCC and CEFTA Secretariats receive the completed Annex 2 within  │
│  agreed deadlines                                                 │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
                              ↓
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│  RCC and CEFTA Secretariats start monitoring and scoring process  │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
                              ↓
                    All data/information
                         received
                              ↓
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│  Each action is scored according to agreed criteria:              │
│      1.  Early stage                                              │
│      2.  Some level of preparation                               │
│      3.  Moderately prepared                                     │
│      4.  Good level of preparation                              │
│      5.  Well advanced                                           │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
                              ↓
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│  Preliminary scoring and the first draft report submitted to the  │
│  MAP Coordinators                                                 │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
                              ↓
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│  MAP Coordinators send comments and clarifications on the first   │
│  draft                                                            │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
                              ↓
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│  RCC and CEFTA Secretariats finalize the report                   │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
                              ↓
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│  Report shared with WB economies, EC and other partners           │
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5. Limitations of the methodology

As with any monitoring methodology, the methodology proposed herein has some inherent limitations and challenges, such as:

- **Exhaustiveness of progress indicators.** The progress indicators proposed ("some level of preparation", "moderately prepared", "good level of preparation", etc.) lack the necessary detail to describe often complex developments. To adequately capture performance in all actions and each of the economies, the performance indicators should be coupled with other quantitative indicators and a qualitative assessment to provide context.

- **Complexity of governance and coordination**. The multitude of stakeholders participating in the monitoring process at national and regional level require a strong and concerted coordination effort, especially on behalf of the RCC Secretariat, tasked with producing the monitoring reports.

- **Data availability, methodological consistency and comparability**. Both for qualitative and quantitative indicators it will be imperative to provide clear methodological notes to those institutions and stakeholders acquiring the data and/or providing progress assessments. The wording of some of the MAP actions is fairly broad, and the room for differing interpretations should be narrowed as much as possible to avoid inconsistent assessments or incomparable data.

Annex 1: List of indicators to be used in the MAP monitoring process[2]

No.	Indicator	Source:
**SELECT INDICATORS SUPPORTING MAP IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING**		
GENERAL		
1	GDP per capita relative to the EU average (in PPS), % of EU-27 average	NSS-National Statistical System
2	Employment rate - age group 20-64, % of population aged 20-64	NSS
3	Doing Business ranking	World Bank Doing Business Report (DB)
4	Global Competitiveness Index (GCI)	WEF-World Economic Forum
TRADE		
5	Total trade in goods and services (EUR million)	NSS
6	Trade balance, trade in goods (% of GDP)	NSS
7	Intra-regional trade in goods, % of GDP	NSS
8	Total exports of goods and services (in EUR million)	NSS
9	Total imports of goods and services (in EUR million)	NSS
10	Exports of goods (in EUR million)	NSS
11	Imports of goods (in EUR million)	NSS
12	Domestic market access (World Economic Forum)	WEF
13	Foreign market access (World Economic Forum)	WEF
14	Services Trade Restrictiveness Index	OECD
15	Time to export (Doing Business)	DB
16	Time to import (Doing Business)	DB
17	Cost to export (Doing Business)	DB
18	Cost to import (Doing Business)	DB
19	Documents to export (Doing Business)	DB
20	Documents to import (Doing Business)	DB
21	Efficiency of the clearance process	DB
INVESTMENT		
22	Overall FDI inflows (EUR million)	NSS
23	FDI into manufacturing sector as share of total FDI (in %)	NSS
24	Intra-regional FDI flows	OECD
25	Number of procedures to start a foreign business (Doing Business)	World Bank
26	Days needed to start a foreign business (Doing Business)	World Bank
27	Number of WIPO conventions signed on IPR	WIPO-World Intellectual Property Organization
28	Total number of International Investment Agreements in force	UNCTAD's Investment Policy Hub
29	Treaty based investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) cases	UNCTAD's Investment Policy Hub
30	No of patents in the context of smart growth	WIPO
31	Total market capitalization (EUR)	NSS

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[2] Other indicators may be added as appropriate if relevant data becomes available while respecting the above monitoring principles. Data on all indicators listed might not be available in all of the Western Balkans economies.

32	Market capitalization as a share of GDP	NSS
33	% of GDP to R&D (public) – cross ref with mobility of researchers	NSS
34	% of GDP to R&D (private) – cross ref to mobility of researchers	NSS

MOBILITY

35	Number of requests received by ENIC/NARIC offices for recognition of degrees obtained from SEE region (Total, Albania, BiH, Montenegro, Kosovo*, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia)	ENIC/NARIC
36	% of GDP to R&D (public)	NSS
37	% of GDP to R&D (private)	NSS
38		
39	Total number of PROs granted status of Centre of Excellence;	Ministries responsible for Science
40	Total no of foreign researchers in HEIs	Ministries responsible for Science
41	Number of Marie Curie scholarships awarded to national researchers	Ministries responsible for Science
42	Total number of applications for recognition per profession for temporary stay + Breakdown of applications by economy from where the applicant is coming from	Ministries/Chamber responsible of for the 4 identified professions
43	Total number of applications for recognition per profession for permanent stay + Breakdown of applications by economy from where the applicant is coming from	Ministries/Chamber responsible of for the 4 identified professions
44	Total number of positive decisions (granting recognition) per profession for temporary stay + Breakdown by economy from where the applicant is coming from	Ministries/Chamber responsible of for the 4 identified professions
45	Total number of positive decisions (granting recognition) per profession for permanent stay + Breakdown by economy from where the applicant is coming from.	Ministries/Chamber responsible of for the 4 identified professions

DIGITAL INTEGRATION[3]

46	GERD (% of GDP) by government	NSS
47	GERD by enterprise sector and industry (% of GDP)	NSS
48	Share of enterprises with 10 or more employees that have e-commerce (e-sales/e-purchases) (in %)	NSS
49	Share of enterprises with 10 or more employees with computer (in %)	NSS
50	Share of enterprises with 10 or more employees with Internet access (in %)	NSS
51	Share of enterprises with 10 or more employees with a web presence (web site/home page) (in %)	NSS
52	Firm-level technology absorption	WEF
53	Internet users as % of population	WEF
54	Internet bandwidth kb/s/users	WEF
55	Active fixed broadband subscribers (million)	Regulators in WB6
56	Active mobile broadband subscribers (million)	Regulators in WB6
57	Mobile internet traffic (million GB)	Regulators in WB6
58	Market share in terms of fixed broadband subscribers	Regulators in WB6
59	Number of bundled service users (thousands)	Regulators in WB6
60	Number of bundled service users, by type of service (thousands)	Regulators in WB6
61	Share of enterprises with 10 or more employees that received orders over the internet (in %)	Regulators in WB6
62	Share of enterprises with 10 or more employees that payed one or more cloud services (in %)	Regulators in WB6

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[3] Not all policy dimensions within the Digital Integration Component (example, open data, interoperability, etc.) have indicators as they are either not produced by national or international sources. However, the qualitative assessment will cover all components and measures to complement the quantitative assessment.

63	Share of enterprises with 10 or more employees with mobile Internet access (3G or 4G) on portable devices (in %)	Regulators in WB6
64	3G coverage (% of population)	ITU
65	LTE/WiMAX coverage (% of population)	ITU
66	Mobile-cellular prices (% GNI pc)	ITU
67	Fixed broadband prices (% GNI pc)	ITU
68	Mobile-broadband prices 500MB (% GNI pc)	ITU
69	Mobile-broadband prices 1 GB (% GNI pc)	ITU

Annex 2: The consolidated reporting template for the economies

Note:
o The reporting in a given period will refer to actions falling within the reporting period, including all actions with a "continuous" timing for implementation.
o The scoring for any action according to the table 1 of this methodology will be filled by the CEFTA and RCC Secretariats

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
I. Trade				
I.1 Facilitation of free trade in goods				
I.1.1. Strengthening the monitoring and enforcement capacity of CEFTA	a. Launching the negotiations on Additional Protocol on CEFTA Dispute Settlement	2017		
	b. Adopting Additional Protocol on CEFTA Dispute Settlement	2019		
	c. Ensuring timely entry into force of Additional Protocol on CEFTA Dispute Settlement	2019-2020		
	d. Engaging Public-Private Sector Dialogue for better monitoring of the implementation of CEFTA (continuous action)	2017		
I.1.2. Adoption of Additional Protocol 5 and Start of its implementation	a. Adoption of Validation Rules for mutual recognitions in AP 5	2018		
	b. Ensuring timely entry into force of the AP 5	2018		
	c. Start of Implementation of Mutual Recognition Programmes (Border Documents, where applicable (as specified in AP5), and Authorised Economic Operators Programme)	2020		
I.1.3. Concluding Party level IT interconnections for	a. Developing the feasibility plans for investments at Party level by SEED Maintenance and Development Project	2017-2018		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
data exchange between Agencies at all levels	b. Ensuring the allocation of adequate financial resources from the budgets to secure internal level connections for the implementation of SEED+	2018-2020		
I.1.4. Improving joint risk management, border controls and one-stop shop border controls	a. Developing a time-frame for joint risk management, and where appropriate (as specified in AP5): joint border controls, one-stop shop controls, sharing border control equipment	2018-2019		
	b. Adoption and implementation of Regional Strategy for joint risk management, and joint border controls, where appropriate (as specified in AP5), one-stop shop controls, and sharing border control equipment	2019-2020		
I.1.5. Developing mutual cooperation between market surveillance control authorities of CEFTA Parties	a. Developing a time-frame for mutual cooperation between market surveillance authorities	2018-2019		
	b. Mapping the regulatory requirements for Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) in one supply chain, as selected by the project "Support to Facilitation of Trade between CEFTA Parties"	2017-2018		
	c. Develop the time-frame to conclude MRA, based on EU compliance, on the selected supply chain	2018-2019		
	d. Assess potentials to extend MRA in other supply chains with regional interest	2019-2020		
I.2. Harmonisation of CEFTA Markets with the EU				
I.2.1. Ensuring the application of SAP+ and Full Cumulation	a. Sustaining uninterrupted application of SAP +	2017-2018		
	b. Start of Application of Full cumulation and duty drawback in CEFTA	2019		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
I.2.2. Potential approximation of CEFTA MFN to EU CET	a. Impact assessment of approximation of CEFTA MFN rates with the EU Common External Tariff	2018		
I.3. Creating NTMs and TDM free Region				
I.3.1. Administrative Cooperation between Competition and State Aid Monitoring Authorities	a. Developing the instruments for information exchange between Competition and State Aid Authorities	2019-2020		
	b. Full and sustainable reporting of state aid including state aid schemes and measures	2018-2019		
	c. Enhance cooperation among competition authorities by supporting the establishment of a structured network to foster peer learning	2018-2023		
I.3.2. Eliminating and remaining discriminatory practices in public procurement markets	a. Monitoring the elimination of remaining discriminatory practices in public procurement markets	2017-2018		
I.3.3. Systemic Monitoring of NTMs in trade in goods and services	a. Employing deterring monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to eliminate any remaining NTBs	2018-2020		
I.4. Facilitation of free trade in services				
I.4.1. Implementation of CEFTA Additional Protocol 6 on Trade in Services	a. Adoption of the Additional Protocol 6 by negotiating Parties	2017-2018		
	b. Ensuring timely entry into force of Additional Protocol 6	2018 -2019		
	c. Development of the sustainable mechanism for monitoring trade in services policies, including screening of legislation and mapping of projects and establishment of the efficient dispute settlement mechanism	2017-2019		
	d. Establishment of the contact point	2018-2019		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
	for services			
	e. Establishment and maintenance of the regional transparency platform on services policies featuring channels of communication to private sector and wider circle of beneficiaries	2018-2023		
	f. Review of commitments undertaken by the AP6 in non-liberalized sectors with a view to deepen the market opening in these sectors	2022-2023		
	g. Evaluation of impact of the Agreement on further trade and investment growth, GVC, labour market	2020 2023		
	h. Establishment and maintenance of the platform for statistical data on trade in services, FATS and FDI	2017-2023		
I.4.2. Conclusion of agreements on interregional regulatory cooperation	a. Identification of regulatory barriers that impede trade and proposal for closer cooperation amongst regulatory bodies in sectors and policies of mutual interest	2017-2018		
	b. Establishment and maintenance of database with regulatory heterogeneity indices to perform assessment of implications of arrangements on the region	2018-2023		
	c. Identification of suitable forms for cooperation based on soft laws, recognition of international and EU standards, MRAs	2017-2018		
	d. Negotiation and administering the conclusion of selected arrangements	2018-2023		
I.4.3. Development of disciplines on	a. Regular review of any issues of domestic regulation in trade in services	2018-2019 2022-2023		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
domestic regulation	b. Development of any necessary disciplines in specific sectors to ensure that qualification requirements and procedures, technical standards and licensing requirements do not unnecessarily impede the supply of services across the region	2020-2023		
I.4.4. Launching dialogue on regulatory issues in electronic commerce	a. Identify barriers to e-Commerce in CEFTA and assess e-Commerce impact and launch regional dialogue on regulatory issues in electronic commerce	2018-2023		
	b. Assess existing geo-blocking measures (focus on digital content and copy right goods) and examine whether fit for purpose with the aim to prevent unjustified geo-blocking while ensuring investment and innovation incentives at the same time	2019-2020		
	c. Launch regional actions aimed at increasing citizen's trust in online services (payment etc.) and coordination on e-Commerce trust marks	2018-2020		
	d. Identify and apply the best practice to digital market places to grow SME businesses and drive consumer welfare	2018-2023		
	e. Assess necessity of regional action to ensure high quality delivery of goods (e.g., digital content traded cross-border or physical goods purchased and via electronic means) and services at reasonable costs	2018-2023		
	f. Establish recognition of certificates of electronic signature and facilitation of cross-border certification services	2018-2023		
	g. Ensure liability of intermediary	2019-2021		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
	services providers with respect to the transmission, or storage of information based on EU compliance			
	h. Address treatment of unsolicited electronic commercial communications	2018-2023		
II. Investment				
II.1. Investment policy				
II.1.1. Develop and establish a regional investment reform agenda	a. Execute detailed mapping of foreign investments in the WB6 region, whereby economies provide access to FDI-relevant data (sectors, reinvestments, employment, etc.)	2017- 2018		
	b. Identify and compile a comprehensive inventory/database of key investment policy barriers and inhibitors, as well as best practices, through in-depth consultations with the private sector and review of existing analysis, with economies to provide relevant data on existing policies, laws, and regulations pertaining to investment, relevant system of incentives as well as legal and other comprehensive protection of the acquired rights of investors	2018		
	c. Formulate a regional investment reform agenda by prioritizing and sequencing issues in investment-pertinent policies to be addressed through a regional dialogue in short-term, medium-term and long-term timeframe	2018		
	d. Formulate individual-economy action plans reflecting the regional investment reform agenda and streamlining the individual-economy	2018		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
	reform efforts			
	e. Adopt individual economy action plans, reflecting the regional investment reform agenda and streamlining the individual-economy reform efforts	2018		
II.1.2. Formalize the regional investment reform agenda through appropriate instruments	a. Conduct analysis and propose options for appropriate instrument(s) acceptable to WB6 economies based on the content of the agreed regional investment reform agenda	2018		
	b. Decide on the necessity, format, and scope of appropriate instrument(s) for implementation of the regional investment reform agenda	2018		
	c. Initiate and conclude negotiations on regional appropriate instrument(s), depending on the decision reached under b)	2018-2020		
II.1.3. Implement and monitor investment reforms in WB6 as per established regional investment reform agenda	a. Strengthen the regional dialogue on the agreed investment reform agenda under the RCC's (SEE Investment Committee) by revising accordingly the Terms of Reference of Working Group on Investment	2017		
	b. Mandate representation of the relevant public institutions with appropriate decision making power in implementation of the agreed regional investment reform agenda	2017		
	c. Establish individual-economy focus groups in charge of implementation of agreed investment reforms on individual-economy level	2018		
	d. Review the progress of implementation of the regional investment reform agenda and conduct	2018-2020		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
	impact assessment through a regular regional dialogue under the RCC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investment Policy and Promotion meetings and reports			
	e. Report on the implementation and impact of the regional investment reform agenda through the RCC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investment Policy and Promotion and SEE Investment Committee Ministerial Platform and the WB6 summit	2018-2020		
II.1.4. Promote WB6 region as a unique investment destination	a. Develop joint investment promotion initiative for WB6 priority sectors and establish an operational platform of investment promotion tools and techniques	2018		
	b. Implement a small set of focused investment outreach activities in core sectors targeted by the SEE 2020 strategy	2018-2020		
	c. Dedicate part of the individual activities of investment promotion agencies to promoting the region as a sound investment destination	2018-2020		
II.1.5. Diversification of financial systems to boost investment	a. As a first step in this area, create a regional "Capital Market Development Task Force" comprising policymakers and regulators to spearhead capital market development matters and enhance coordination on regulatory and supervisory regimes in the region and beyond (including coordination with the Vienna Initiative Working Group on Capital Markets Union)	2017		
	b. Based on analysis on capital markets development, aimed at identifying gaps	2018-2020		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
	and opportunities for broader capital markets integration, assess the need for development of a regional strategy for capital markets development			
II.1.6. Smart Growth	a. Establish regional dialogue and knowledge exchange on developing Smart growth strategies based on EU experience and support the development of smart specialization research and innovation strategies in the WB6 to ensure strategic structural investments and to build competitive advantage i) with the active participation of the business and research & innovation communities, engage with EU-wide smart growth approaches, notably the smart specialisation platforms, to develop and implement smart growth development strategies ii) with the active participation of the business and research & innovation communities, engage with EU-wide work on digitalisation, to develop and implement digital growth strategies iii) develop easier access to finance for business, especially SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups	2018		
III. Mobility				
III. 1. Mobility of Researchers				
III.1.1. Removal of obstacles to mobility of researchers	a. Identify legal barriers for open merit-based, competitive, international recruitment system and remove the identified legal barriers	2020		
	b. Identify institutional barriers to mobility of researchers, including	2020		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
	working conditions, recruitment systems and promotion criteria, and remove identified barriers			
	c. Develop mechanisms and measures to support increased mobility of researchers from WB6 to EU within the existing mobility schemes (for instance Western Balkan Window within the MSC Actions)	2019		
	d. Develop and implement a pilot scheme to support incoming mobility of post-doctoral researchers to the Western Balkans with an aim to build research excellence networks in the region	2019		
	e. Map existing research infrastructure in the region to ensure transparent and available information to researchers interested to cooperate with and in the Western Balkans and to identify gaps	2019		
	f. Develop a new regional Centre of Excellence to promote collaboration between science, technology and industry and to provide a platform for education of young scientists and engineers, based on the mapping and the identified gaps	2020		
	g. Strengthening the capacity of EURAXESS offices in the region and the implementation of Charter and Code principles and Seal of Excellence	Continuous		
III.2. Mobility of Professionals				
III.2.1. Removal of obstacles to recognition of professional	a. Open negotiation on mutual recognition agreements of professional qualifications for Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Architects and Civil	2017		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
qualifications	Engineers in a multilateral framework			
	b. Conclude negotiations on mutual recognition agreements of professional qualifications for Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers in a multilateral framework	2019		
	c. Establish the Database on Professional Qualifications and Mobility of Professionals in 2018 to be fully operation by December 2019	2018		
	d. Database on Professional Qualifications and Mobility of Professionals fully operational	2019		
	e. Build capacity to facilitate the data and information collection for the Database on Professional Qualifications and Mobility of Professionals	Continuous		
	f. Explore possibilities to open negotiations and conclude mutual recognition agreements in other sectors and professions of mutual interest	2018-2020		
III.3. Mobility of Students and Highly Skilled				
III.3.1. Removal of obstacles to recognition of academic qualifications	a. Draft a proposal on procedure for fast track recognition of higher education qualifications specifying criteria for fast track recognition in the region, on the basis of "National Qualification Frameworks" (NQFs) being developed in accordance with the Bologna Process and other EU norms, as a basis for established learning outcomes and thus recognition	2018		
	b. Adopt and implement proposal on procedure for fast track recognition of higher education qualifications	2020		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
	specifying criteria for fast track recognition in the region			
	c. Establish an operational sub-regional network of ENIC/NARIC centres	2019		
	d. Develop a joint online system to share information, including on higher education institutions, qualifications and decisions taken, available to ENIC/NARIC centres and Ministries in the region	2020		
	e. Strengthen cooperation and exchange of information between Quality Assurance Agencies in the region	Continuous		
IV. Digital integration				
IV. 1. Digital environment networks and services, connectivity and access				
	a. Advance right/introduce policy and regulatory measures that would incentivise for investments in high speed broadband networks, including transposition of EU directive 2014/61/EU	Continuous		
IV.1.1. Boost digital infrastructure development and regional connectivity, while creating a level playing field for digital networks and services to flourish	b. Complete outstanding broadband infrastructure mapping and perform analysis of broadband markets and identify network coverage gaps and investments, as well as policy measures required to bridge those gaps	2020		
	c. Establish regular exchange on business incentive models for rural and underserved areas and on the use of PPPs to address low connectivity	2018-onwards		
	d. Establish regional dialogue on commercialization of spare fibre optic assets; identify and address legal and regulatory constraints and implement	2017-2020		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
	the agreed commercialization model			
	e. Strengthen regulatory dialogue among all WB6 regulators, as part of BEREC	Continuous		
	f. Complete regional interconnection and integration into the pan-European GÉANT	2023		
IV.1.2. Harmonize spectrum policy to ensure timely and efficient availability and boost deployment of standardized 5G networks	a. Establish predictable, consistent, and harmonized spectrum policy on regional level and strengthen regional cooperation on spectrum policy harmonisation for 5G, as well as for disaster and emergency services	Continuous		
	b. Coordinate regional positions for the World Radio Conference (WRC), CEPT/ECO	Continuous		
IV. 1.3. Coordinate roaming policies towards a roaming free economic area	a. Continue regional coordination on roaming policies towards a roaming free economic area and prepare mid-term Action Plan for aligning roaming policies with EU RLAH model	2018		
	b. Follow a multi-stakeholder approach to guarantee transparency and predictability so that all relevant views and expertise on roaming policies are sufficiently accounted for	Continuous		
	c. Assess impact of abolishment of roaming charges in the EU on WB6 in a regional position paper	2018		
IV.2.Trust and security in digital services				
IV.2.1. Enhance Cyber Security, trust services and data protection	a. Establish and harmonize cyber-security, data protection, and privacy regulations on the basis of a level playing field as key for establishing a functioning and efficient DSM approach	Continuous		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
	b. Identify and ensure protection of critical IT infrastructures	Continuous		
	c. Set up regional dialogue and information exchange platform among WB6 CSIRTs (Computer Security Incident Response Teams), advance CSIRTs' capacities and strengthen institutional links with EU CSIRTs	Continuous		
	d. Establish regional dialogue and information exchange platform among authorities in charge of Network and Information Security (NIS)	Continuous		
IV.3. Digital economy and society, Inclusive digital society				
IV.3.1. Develop and strengthen supply of digital skills	a. Initiate regional cooperation on certified re/qualification digital skills programmes	2018		
	b. Pilot a regional intervention aimed at enhancing basic digital skills for citizens to engage online	Continuous		
	c. Pilot a regional intervention aimed at enhancing skills for IT specialists, that would be closely linked to the demand from and coordinated with digital businesses in WB6 and EU;	2018		
	d. Set up and implement regional training and employability enhancement programme aiming to mobilize and upskill un/underemployed population (women) to seek revenue generation opportunities through online work platforms; with particular emphasis on youth, women, and people with disabilities	2018		
IV.4. Digitization, Data economy, Standards and Interoperability, Innovation				

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
IV.4.1. Promote uptake of Smart Technologies and Accelerate Digitization	a. Set up regional cooperative dialogue on digital transformation challenges and prospects in WB i. Assess the state of play of the business environment and the multi-faceted benefits an accelerated and regional Digital Transformation would create in the Western Balkans	2017		
	ii. Organize annual regional WB6 Digital Summits so as to contribute to a continuous dialogue among WB6 authorities, nongovernmental organizations, companies, chambers, and academia	2018-onwards		
	b. Foster Data economy (Big Data, Open Data and Open Government): i. Support an open data region and improve quality of open data portals through regional cooperation and best practice exchange	Continuous		
	ii. Strengthen regional coordination on use, exchange and safe and reliable flow, access and transfer of data and integration within the European data ecosystem and economy	Continuous		
	c. Align standards, complement interoperability frameworks and introduce a pan-European dimension, in line with EIF: i. Coordinate regional activities on interoperability standards and facilitate development of	Continuous		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	Steps taken by each economy to implement the actions	Scoring
	standards and interoperability initiatives			
	d. Foster cooperation among digital hubs: i. Facilitate Business Investments in research and Innovation and in the Creation of Start-Ups	Continuous		
	ii. Pilot regional cooperation ("twinning") initiatives among technology/innovation Parks and assess demand and prospects for establishment of regional digital Innovation hubs	2018-onwards		

Annex 3: The consolidated reporting template – coordinated by the CEFTA and RCC Secretariats[4]

Note: The assessment will be based on the inputs provided by the WB economies through Annex 2

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
I. Trade				
I.1 Facilitation of free trade in goods				
Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation status for this policy – at the regional level				
I.1.1. Strengthening the monitoring and enforcement capacity of CEFTA	a. Launching the negotiations on Additional Protocol on CEFTA Dispute Settlement	2017	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Adopting Additional Protocol on CEFTA Dispute Settlement	2019		
	c. Ensuring timely entry into force of Additional Protocol on CEFTA Dispute Settlement	2019-2020		
	d. Engaging Public-Private Sector Dialogue for better monitoring of the implementation of CEFTA (continuous action)	2017		
I.1.2. Adoption of Additional Protocol 5 and Start of its	a. Adoption of Validation Rules for mutual recognitions in AP 5	2018	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Ensuring timely entry into force of the AP 5	2018		

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[4] CEFTA Secretariat is the reporting institution for Trade Component and RCC Secretariat is the reporting institution for Investment, Mobility and Digital Integration Components

[5] Scoring will represent the average among all WB economies

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
implementation	c. Start of Implementation of Mutual Recognition Programmes (Border Documents, where applicable (as specified in AP5), and Authorised Economic Operators Programme)	2020		
I.1.3. **Concluding Party level IT interconnections for data exchange between Agencies at all levels**	a. Developing the feasibility plans for investments at Party level by SEED Maintenance and Development Project	2017-2018	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Ensuring the allocation of adequate financial resources from the budgets to secure internal level connections for the implementation of SEED+	2018-2020		
I.1.4. **Improving joint risk management, border controls and one-stop shop border controls**	a. Developing a time-frame for joint risk management, and where appropriate (as specified in AP5): joint border controls, one-stop shop controls, sharing border control equipment	2018-2019	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Adoption and implementation of Regional Strategy for joint risk management, and joint border controls, where appropriate (as specified in AP5), one-stop shop controls, and sharing border control equipment	2019-2020		
I.1.5. **Developing mutual cooperation between market surveillance control authorities of CEFTA Parties**	a. Developing a time-frame for mutual cooperation between market surveillance authorities	2018-2019	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Mapping the regulatory requirements for Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) in one supply chain, as selected by the project "Support to Facilitation of Trade between CEFTA Parties"	2017-2018		
	c. Develop the time-frame to	2018-2019		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
	conclude MRA, based on EU compliance, on the selected supply chain			
	d. Assess potentials to extend MRA in other supply chains with regional interest	2019-2020		
I.2. Harmonisation of CEFTA Markets with the EU				
Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation status for this policy – at the regional level				
I.2.1. Ensuring the application of SAP+ and Full Cumulation	a. Sustaining uninterrupted application of SAP +	2017-2018	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Start of Application of Full cumulation and duty drawback in CEFTA	2019		
I.2.2. Potential approximation of CEFTA MFN to EU CET	a. Impact assessment of approximation of CEFTA MFN rates with the EU Common External Tariff	2018	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
I.3. Creating NTMs and TDM free Region				
Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation status for this policy – at the regional level				
I.3.1.	a. Developing the instruments for	2019-2020	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the	

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
Administrative Cooperation between Competition and State Aid Monitoring Authorities	information exchange between Competition and State Aid Authorities		regional level	
	b. Full and sustainable reporting of state aid including state aid schemes and measures	2018-2019		
	c. Enhance cooperation among competition authorities by supporting the establishment of a structured network to foster peer learning	2018-2023		
I.3.2. Eliminating and remaining discriminatory practices in public procurement markets	a. Monitoring the elimination of remaining discriminatory practices in public procurement markets	2017-2018	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
I.3.3. Systemic Monitoring of NTMs in trade in goods and services	a. Employing deterring monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to eliminate any remaining NTBs	2018-2020	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
I.4. Facilitation of free trade in services				
Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation status for this policy – at the regional level				
I.4.1. Implementation of CEFTA Additional Protocol 6 on Trade in Services	a. Adoption of the Additional Protocol 6 by negotiating Parties	2017-2018	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Ensuring timely entry into force of Additional Protocol 6	2018 -2019		
	c. Development of the sustainable mechanism for monitoring trade in services policies, including screening	2017-2019		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
	of legislation and mapping of projects and establishment of the efficient dispute settlement mechanism			
	d. Establishment of the contact point for services	2018-2019		
	e. Establishment and maintenance of the regional transparency platform on services policies featuring channels of communication to private sector and wider circle of beneficiaries	2018-2023		
	f. Review of commitments undertaken by the AP6 in non-liberalized sectors with a view to deepen the market opening in these sectors	2022-2023		
	g. Evaluation of impact of the Agreement on further trade and investment growth, GVC, labour market	2020 2023		
	h. Establishment and maintenance of the platform for statistical data on trade in services, FATS and FDI	2017-2023		
I.4.2. Conclusion of agreements on interregional regulatory cooperation	a. Identification of regulatory barriers that impede trade and proposal for closer cooperation amongst regulatory bodies in sectors and policies of mutual interest	2017-2018	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Establishment and maintenance of database with regulatory heterogeneity indices to perform assessment of implications of arrangements on the region	2018-2023		
	c. Identification of suitable forms for cooperation based on soft laws, recognition of international and EU	2017-2018		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
	standards, MRAs			
	d. Negotiation and administering the conclusion of selected arrangements	2018-2023		
I.4.3. Development of disciplines on domestic regulation	a. Regular review of any issues of domestic regulation in trade in services	2018-2019 2022-2023	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Development of any necessary disciplines in specific sectors to ensure that qualification requirements and procedures, technical standards and licensing requirements do not unnecessarily impede the supply of services across the region	2020-2023		
I.4.4. Launching dialogue on regulatory issues in electronic commerce	a. Identify barriers to e-Commerce in CEFTA and assess e-Commerce impact and launch regional dialogue on regulatory issues in electronic commerce	2018-2023	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Assess existing geo-blocking measures (focus on digital content and copy right goods) and examine whether fit for purpose with the aim to prevent unjustified geo-blocking while ensuring investment and innovation incentives at the same time	2019-2020		
	c. Launch regional actions aimed at increasing citizen's trust in online services (payment etc.) and coordination on e-Commerce trust marks	2018-2020		
	d. Identify and apply the best practice to digital market places to grow SME businesses and drive consumer welfare	2018-2023		
	e. Assess necessity of regional action	2018-2023		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
	to ensure high quality delivery of goods (e.g., digital content traded cross-border or physical goods purchased and via electronic means) and services at reasonable costs			
	f. Establish recognition of certificates of electronic signature and facilitation of cross-border certification services	2018-2023		
	g. Ensure liability of intermediary services providers with respect to the transmission, or storage of information based on EU compliance	2019-2021		
	h. Address treatment of unsolicited electronic commercial communications	2018-2023		
II. Investment				
II.1. Investment policy				
Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation status for this policy – at the regional level				
II.1.1. Develop and establish a regional investment reform agenda	a. Execute detailed mapping of foreign investments in the WB6 region, whereby economies provide access to FDI-relevant data (sectors, reinvestments, employment, etc.)	2017- 2018	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Identify and compile a comprehensive inventory/database of	2018		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
	key investment policy barriers and inhibitors, as well as best practices, through in-depth consultations with the private sector and review of existing analysis, with economies to provide relevant data on existing policies, laws, and regulations pertaining to investment, relevant system of incentives as well as legal and other comprehensive protection of the acquired rights of investors			
	c. Formulate a regional investment reform agenda by prioritizing and sequencing issues in investment-pertinent policies to be addressed through a regional dialogue in short-term, medium-term and long-term timeframe	2018		
	d. Formulate individual-economy action plans reflecting the regional investment reform agenda and streamlining the individual-economy reform efforts	2018		
	e. Adopt individual economy action plans, reflecting the regional investment reform agenda and streamlining the individual-economy reform efforts	2018		
II.1.2. Formalize the regional investment reform agenda through appropriate instruments	a. Conduct analysis and propose options for appropriate instrument(s) acceptable to WB6 economies based on the content of the agreed regional investment reform agenda	2018	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Decide on the necessity, format, and scope of appropriate instrument(s) for implementation of the regional investment reform	2018		

Objectives	*Actions*	*Timeline*	*State of play at regional level*	*Scoring[5]*
	agenda			
	c. Initiate and conclude negotiations on regional appropriate instrument(s), depending on the decision reached under b)	2018-2020		
II.1.3. Implement and monitor investment reforms in WB6 as per established regional investment reform agenda	a. Strengthen the regional dialogue on the agreed investment reform agenda under the RCC's (SEE Investment Committee) by revising accordingly the Terms of Reference of Working Group on Investment	2017	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Mandate representation of the relevant public institutions with appropriate decision making power in implementation of the agreed regional investment reform agenda	2017		
	c. Establish individual-economy focus groups in charge of implementation of agreed investment reforms on individual-economy level	2018		
	d. Review the progress of implementation of the regional investment reform agenda and conduct impact assessment through a regular regional dialogue under the RCC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investment Policy and Promotion meetings and reports	2018-2020		
	e. Report on the implementation and impact of the regional investment reform agenda through the RCC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investment Policy and Promotion and SEE Investment Committee Ministerial Platform and the WB6 summit	2018-2020		
II.1.4.	a. Develop joint investment	2018	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the	

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
Promote WB6 region as a unique investment destination	promotion initiative for WB6 priority sectors and establish an operational platform of investment promotion tools and techniques		regional level	
	b. Implement a small set of focused investment outreach activities in core sectors targeted by the SEE 2020 strategy	2018-2020		
	c. Dedicate part of the individual activities of investment promotion agencies to promoting the region as a sound investment destination	2018-2020		
II.1.5. Diversification of financial systems to boost investment	a. As a first step in this area, create a regional "Capital Market Development Task Force" comprising policymakers and regulators to spearhead capital market development matters and enhance coordination on regulatory and supervisory regimes in the region and beyond (including coordination with the Vienna Initiative Working Group on Capital Markets Union)	2017	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Based on analysis on capital markets development, aimed at identifying gaps and opportunities for broader capital markets integration, assess the need for development of a regional strategy for capital markets development	2018-2020		

Objectives	*Actions*	*Timeline*	*State of play at regional level*	*Scoring[5]*
II.1.6. Smart Growth	a. Establish regional dialogue and knowledge exchange on developing Smart growth strategies based on EU experience and support the development of smart specialization research and innovation strategies in the WB6 to ensure strategic structural investments and to build competitive advantage i) with the active participation of the business and research & innovation communities, engage with EU-wide smart growth approaches, notably the smart specialisation platforms, to develop and implement smart growth development strategies ii) with the active participation of the business and research & innovation communities, engage with EU-wide work on digitalisation, to develop and implement digital growth strategies iii) develop easier access to finance for business, especially SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups	2018	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	

III. Mobility

III. 1. Mobility of Researchers

Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation status for this policy – at the regional level

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
III.1.1. Removal of obstacles to mobility of researchers	a. Identify legal barriers for open merit-based, competitive, international recruitment system and remove the identified legal barriers	2020	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Identify institutional barriers to mobility of researchers, including working conditions, recruitment systems and promotion criteria, and remove identified barriers	2020		
	c. Develop mechanisms and measures to support increased mobility of researchers from WB6 to EU within the existing mobility schemes (for instance Western Balkan Window within the MSC Actions)	2019		
	d. Develop and implement a pilot scheme to support incoming mobility of post-doctoral researchers to the Western Balkans with an aim to build research excellence networks in the region	2019		
	e. Map existing research infrastructure in the region to ensure transparent and available information to researchers interested to cooperate with and in the Western Balkans and to identify gaps	2019		
	f. Develop a new regional Centre of Excellence to promote collaboration between science, technology and industry and to provide a platform for education of young scientists and engineers, based on the mapping and the identified gaps	2020		
	g. Strengthening the capacity of EURAXESS offices in the region	Continuous		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
	and the implementation of Charter and Code principles and Seal of Excellence			
III.2. Mobility of Professionals				
Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation status for this policy – at the regional level				
III.2.1. Removal of obstacles to recognition of professional qualifications	a. Open negotiation on mutual recognition agreements of professional qualifications for Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers in a multilateral framework	2017	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Conclude negotiations on mutual recognition agreements of professional qualifications for Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers in a multilateral framework	2019		
	c. Establish the Database on Professional Qualifications and Mobility of Professionals in 2018 to be fully operation by December 2019	2018		
	d. Database on Professional Qualifications and Mobility of Professionals fully operational	2019		
	e. Build capacity to facilitate the data and information collection for the Database on Professional Qualifications and Mobility of Professionals	Continuous		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
	f. Explore possibilities to open negotiations and conclude mutual recognition agreements in other sectors and professions of mutual interest	2018-2020		
III.3. Mobility of Students and Highly Skilled				
Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation status for this policy – at the regional level				
III.3.1. Removal of obstacles to recognition of academic qualifications	a. Draft a proposal on procedure for fast track recognition of higher education qualifications specifying criteria for fast track recognition in the region, on the basis of "National Qualification Frameworks" (NQFs) being developed in accordance with the Bologna Process and other EU norms, as a basis for established learning outcomes and thus recognition	2018	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Adopt and implement proposal on procedure for fast track recognition of higher education qualifications specifying criteria for fast track recognition in the region	2020		
	c. Establish an operational sub-regional network of ENIC/NARIC centres	2019		
	d. Develop a joint online system to share information, including on higher education institutions,	2020		

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Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
	qualifications and decisions taken, available to ENIC/NARIC centres and Ministries in the region			
	e. Strengthen cooperation and exchange of information between Quality Assurance Agencies in the region	Continuous		

IV. Digital integration

IV. 1. Digital environment networks and services, connectivity and access

Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation status for this policy – at the regional level

IV.1.1 Boost digital infrastructure development and regional connectivity, while creating a level playing field for digital networks and services to flourish	a. Advance right/introduce policy and regulatory measures that would incentivise for investments in high speed broadband networks, including transposition of EU directive 2014/61/EU	Continuous	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Complete outstanding broadband infrastructure mapping and perform analysis of broadband markets and identify network coverage gaps and investments, as well as policy measures required to bridge those gaps	2020		
	c. Establish regular exchange on business incentive models for rural and underserved areas and on the use of PPPs to address low connectivity	2018-onwards		
	d. Establish regional dialogue on	2017-2020		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
	commercialization of spare fibre optic assets; identify and address legal and regulatory constraints and implement the agreed commercialization model			
	e. Strengthen regulatory dialogue among all WB6 regulators, as part of BEREC	Continuous		
	f. Complete regional interconnection and integration into the pan-European GÉANT	2023		
IV.1.2 Harmonize spectrum policy to ensure timely and efficient availability and boost deployment of standardized 5G networks	a. Establish predictable, consistent, and harmonized spectrum policy on regional level and strengthen regional cooperation on spectrum policy harmonisation for 5G, as well as for disaster and emergency services	Continuous	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Coordinate regional positions for the World Radio Conference (WRC), CEPT/ECO	Continuous		
IV. 1.3 Coordinate roaming policies towards a roaming free economic area	a. Continue regional coordination on roaming policies towards a roaming free economic area and prepare mid-term Action Plan for aligning roaming policies with EU RLAH model	2018	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Follow a multi-stakeholder approach to guarantee transparency and predictability so that all relevant views and expertise on roaming policies are sufficiently accounted for	Continuous		
	c. Assess impact of abolishment of roaming charges in the EU on WB6 in a regional position paper	2018		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
IV.2.Trust and security in digital services				
Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation status for this policy – at the regional level				
IV.2.1. Enhance Cyber Security, trust services and data protection	a. Establish and harmonize cyber-security, data protection, and privacy regulations on the basis of a level playing field as key for establishing a functioning and efficient DSM approach	Continuous	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Identify and ensure protection of critical IT infrastructures	Continuous		
	c. Set up regional dialogue and information exchange platform among WB6 CSIRTs (Computer Security Incident Response Teams), advance CSIRTs' capacities and strengthen institutional links with EU CSIRTs	Continuous		
	d. Establish regional dialogue and information exchange platform among authorities in charge of Network and Information Security (NIS)	Continuous		
IV.3. Digital economy and society, Inclusive digital society				
Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation status for this policy – at the regional level				

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
IV.3.1. Develop and strengthen supply of digital skills	a. Initiate regional cooperation on certified re/qualification digital skills programmes	2018	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	b. Pilot a regional intervention aimed at enhancing basic digital skills for citizens to engage online	Continuous		
	c. Pilot a regional intervention aimed at enhancing skills for IT specialists, that would be closely linked to the demand from and coordinated with digital businesses in WB6 and EU;	2018		
	d. Set up and implement regional training and employability enhancement programme aiming to mobilize and upskill un/underemployed population (women) to seek revenue generation opportunities through online work platforms; with particular emphasis on youth, women, and people with disabilities	2018		

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IV.4. Digitization, Data economy, Standards and Interoperability, Innovation

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Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation status for this policy – at the regional level

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
IV.4.1. Promote uptake of Smart Technologies and Accelerate Digitization	a. Set up regional cooperative dialogue on digital transformation challenges and prospects in WB i. Assess the state of play of the business environment and the multi-faceted benefits an accelerated and regional Digital Transformation would create in the Western Balkans	2017	Please provide a brief summary on the overall implementation of the objective – at the regional level	
	ii. Organize annual regional WB6 Digital Summits so as to contribute to a continuous dialogue among WB6 authorities, nongovernmental organizations, companies, chambers, and academia	2018-onwards		
	b. Foster Data economy (Big Data, Open Data and Open Government): i. Support an open data region and improve quality of open data portals through regional cooperation and best practice exchange	Continuous		
	ii. Strengthen regional coordination on use, exchange and safe and reliable flow, access and transfer of data and integration within the European data ecosystem and economy	Continuous		
	c. Align standards, complement interoperability frameworks and introduce a pan-European dimension, in line with EIF: i. Coordinate regional activities on interoperability standards and facilitate development of	Continuous		

Objectives	Actions	Timeline	State of play at regional level	Scoring[5]
	standards and interoperability initiatives			
	d. Foster cooperation among digital hubs: i. Facilitate Business Investments in research and Innovation and in the Creation of Start-Ups	Continuous		
	ii. Pilot regional cooperation ("twinning") initiatives among technology/innovation Parks and assess demand and prospects for establishment of regional digital Innovation hubs.	2018-onwards		