

COMMON REGIONAL MARKET



A catalyst for deeper regional economic integration in the Western Balkans and stepping stone towards EU single market.

#OneRegionOneMarket
#CommonRegionalMarket
#StrongerTogether
#BerlinProcess

FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE

is one of the key policy areas of the CRM aimed at enabling the Western Balkans to implement one of the four freedoms of the EU single market. It is a significant step forward to removing barriers to mobility of people in the region, enabling approximately 18 million people to move freely within the region, also removing barriers to mobility of professionals, students, researchers and professors.

Agreement on Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications

- Establishes common rules and procedures for recognition of higher education qualifications.
- Enables mobility of students and academic staff in the Western Balkans based on the Lisbon Convention for Recognition, Bologna Process and relevant EU rules
- Applies to public universities and will gradually extend to private universities
- Improves the procedures by shortening the period of recognition from existing several months to a maximum of 14 days
- Establishes joint standards and procedures for recognition of qualifications and removes the existing fees for application of recognition of higher education qualifications for students
- The entire WB benefits from the regulated recognition of Doctors of Philosophy (PhD) degrees

Agreement on Freedom of Movement with Identity Cards

- facilitates travel conditions & good relations by simplifying the administrative procedure for entry, transit and short stay using only ID cards within the Western Balkans
- ensures equal treatment of all citizens in the whole region
- waivers all existing visa regimes within the Western Balkans
- 59% of businesses in the Western Balkans believe that traveling across the region with an ID card only will be beneficial to their business

Agreement on Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Doctors of Medicine, Dentists and Architects

- Facilitates the movement of professionals across the region
- Enables provision of services of doctors of medicine, dentists and architects within the Western Balkans, based on the EU Directive on recognition of professional qualifications;
- Transposes principal EU rules for recognition of professional qualifications
- Establishes uniform application of rules and creates the ground for mobility of professionals throughout the region
- Covers three regulated professions and creates the basis for the negotiations of the remaining four regulated professions (midwives, nurses, pharmacists, and veterinary surgeons) in the upcoming period.



The Western Balkans Summit of the Berlin Process held in Sofia on 19 November 2020 adopted the CRM Action Plan, and tasked the RCC to, among other things, facilitate work of the four working groups for four mobility agreements, i.e. Agreement on Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications; Agreement on Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Doctors of Medicine, Dentists and Architects; Agreement on Freedom of Movement with ID cards in the Western Balkans; and Agreement on Freedom of Movement of Third Party Citizens within the Western Balkans.

European Commission's Economic and Investment Plan makes clear that by increasing regional economic cooperation and trade, Western Balkans will be brought closer to the EU Single Market. The Common Regional Market Action Plan is an integral part of the region's EU accession process.

CRM Action Plan is being implemented by Western Balkan economies. The RCC and CEFTA are leading regional organisations helping Western Balkans in implementing it, together with other regional and international partners in line with their scope of work.