

REPORT

**ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL SECRETARIAT**

For the period 1 April – 31 August 2017

**BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE REGIONAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL**

**SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL IN LINE WITH ARTICLE 15
OF THE STATUTE OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL**

Sarajevo, 9 October 2017

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The Report on the activities of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat is submitted by the RCC Secretary General to the RCC Board in line with Article 15 of the Statute of the RCC. It covers the period between 1 April and 31 August 2017.

1. Summary of activities

During the reporting period, the activities and efforts of the RCC Secretariat were channelled towards the goal of greater economic integration through easier flow of capital, people, goods and services within SEE and between SEE and EU. At the centre of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme (SWP) for 2017 - 2019, these objectives benefited from a regional cooperation framework conducive to the implementation of the strategy, RCC Secretariat's active engagement in regional political and sectorial activities and from durable partnerships with regional and international stakeholders involved in supporting the scope of regional cooperation in SEE.

The RCC statutory meetings and regional political events have ensured continuous support for the mission of the RCC and its Secretariat.

The 32nd meeting of the RCC Board, which exercises operational guidance and supervision of the organization, accepted the Report of the RCC Secretary General on the activities of the RCC Secretariat for the period January - March 2017; accepted the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General for 2016 - 2017 and adopted the Decision on the approval of the Financial Report of the RCC Secretariat for the year 2016. The RCC Board also took note of the Progress Report on the RCC activities in the area of Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism in SEE, and witnessed a presentation by the Regional Environmental Center.

The 24th Coordination meeting between the SEECF Troika, the RCC Secretariat and the EU, which took place back-to-back with the RCC Board meeting, discussed matters pertaining to the cooperation between the Croatian SEECF Chairmanship-in-Office (C-i-O) and RCC Secretariat, as well as exchanged views on preparations for the Dubrovnik SEECF high-level events.

The Dubrovnik SEECF high-level events, marking the completion of the Croatian SEECF C-i-O for 2016 – 2017, reconfirmed the importance of regional cooperation for the stability and prosperity of the SEE region and for progress on the European and Euro-Atlantic integration path. The SEECF participants welcomed in particular the focus placed on economic cooperation, growth and development within the region. The SEECF participants endorsed the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General for 2016-2017; welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the SEE Regional Platform for CVE-FTF; welcomed the endorsement of the Annual Report of Implementation for 2017 by SEE 2020 Governing Board and the progress made by the economies in the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy targets.

Overall, the Croatian SEECF C-i-O further increased the effectiveness and dynamism of the regional cooperation process in SEE, while upholding a regional context conducive to a greater focus on economic development. Slovenia took over the C-i-O of the SEECF for 2017 - 2018. The dialogue established between the Slovenian SEECF C-i-O and the RCC Secretariat gave way to avenues for exploring areas of interventions where efforts can converge to the benefit of the SEE region.

Organized back-to-back with the Dubrovnik SEECF high-level events, the RCC Annual meeting continued to ensure the strategic coordination and development of regional cooperation process in SEE. In line with the established practice, the agenda of the meeting included dedicated discussions on the importance of energizing the EU integration process through regional cooperation. The RCC participants assayed the activities of the RCC and endorsed the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary

General for 2016-2017, while reiterating unwavering support for the implementation of the RCC SWP 2017-2019.

The RCC Secretary General, in the framework of his permanent dialogue with the RCC participants, held consultations with high-level officials from the MFAs of Italy, Turkey and Slovenia in its capacity as the C-i-O of the SEECP, and from the State Department of the U.S.A. The consultations maintained and galvanized support for the activities of the RCC Secretariat in the context of the implementation of the RCC SWP for 2017 - 2019.

Moreover, the RCC Secretary General continued his efforts to maintain and augment the visibility and relevance of the RCC. In this regard, the RCC Secretary General participated and addressed high-level events with a pertinent regional dimension such as: the Conference „Integration and Disintegration of the European Union - the European Perspectives for South East Europe“ (8 April 2017, Cavtat); the Conference „Inclusive Insurance and Micro-insurance: Opportunities and Challenges for CEE and the Transcaucasian region“ (17 May 2017, Ljubljana); the Meeting of Ministers of Finance and National Bank Governors from SEE (16 June 2017, Becici) and the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CEI (22 June 2017, Minsk).

The RCC Secretariat maintained, through its Liaison Office in Brussels, active communication with a number of European Commission services, including the Secretariat-General and its unit on Europe 2020, European Semester and Economic Governance who participated at the RCC Governing Board meeting, and the TAIEX Unit. Regular contacts were held with representatives of Permanent Missions based in Brussels and institutions/organisations dealing with the region (such as European Foundation for Democracy, European Policy Centre, Open Society European Policy Institute, Friends of Europe, Regional School Public of Public Administration, NALAS, etc.).

The increased focus on the Western Balkans, already present in the first months of the year, has been strengthened further with the Union promoting regional economic cooperation with vigour. The process has been advanced with the strong commitment from the European Commission side and the direct involvement of the Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations. The collective effort of the EC, RCC, CEFTA and the participating economies (with meetings gathering all economies held in Sarajevo and Brussels in May 2017) resulted in the adoption of a Consolidated Multi-annual Action Plan on Regional Economic Area (MAP REA) at the Trieste Summit on 12th July 2017. An important implementation, coordination and monitoring role has been assigned to the RCC. And, as set out in the MAP, the RCC will keep the Western Balkans Summits and the PM Sherpas abreast on the progress made in the implementation of MAP.

Further, regional economic cooperation was additionally given a boost by the Prime Ministers from the Western Balkans who met in Durres on 26th August 2017 in order to discuss further steps to be taken towards the implementation of the Action Plan.

RCC continued the implementation of the three components of the SWP 2017-2019, namely the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy through the flagship approach (Component A), governance, rule of law and security cooperation (Component B), and horizontal and supporting activities (Component C).

A. Implementing SEE 2020 Strategy through Flagship Approach

A.1. “Skills and Mobility”, encompassing the policy areas of education, employment, mobility, migration and social policy

A.1.1.1. Removal of obstacles to (short-term) mobility of professionals in the region: mutual recognition of professional qualifications

- With regards to the **process of preparing the negotiations on mutual recognition agreement(s) of professional qualifications**, the 5th meeting of the CEFTA-ERI SEE-RCC Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (JWGMRPQ) took place on the 26th April 2017 in Belgrade where the text of the official Note to the Governments to open the negotiations on four multilateral agreements on recognition of professional qualifications for Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers has been agreed. At the 6th meeting of the JWG MRPQ which took place on the 12th May 2017 in Sarajevo the representative discussed and agreed on the action plan on removal of obstacles to recognition of professional qualifications to be integrated into the Multi-Annual Plan on Regional Economic Area to be agreed upon at the Prime Ministers' Summit in Trieste on July 13th, 2017
- Additional technical workshop with the representatives of Ministries responsible for education and science took place on 30th June 2017 in Belgrade to prepare the action plan on removal of obstacles to recognition of academic qualifications, mobility of researchers and supporting measures for the development of research systems in the region to be integrated into the Multi-Annual Plan on Regional Economic Area to be agreed upon at the Prime Ministers' Summit in Trieste on July 13th, 2017.
- To support the **process of Opening Science** in the Western Balkans an excellent cooperation with DG Research and Development Open Science and International Cooperation units has been established which resulted in the opening of the EU member state Working Group on Open Science to WB economies in observer status and inclusion of the WB economies to the regular EU reporting on Open Science. At the meeting of the Open Science Working Group the representatives of the Ministries of Science highlighted the differences in the integration of WB into the GEANT network (only Serbia and Montenegro are fully integrated into the GEANT network) as one of the key obstacles to fully harvesting the potential of the R&D digitalisation and Open Science agenda in Europe. The representatives also agreed to prioritise the mapping of the existing research infrastructure, including the e-infrastructure, to identify further gaps in the region over the next 6 months which could serve as a basis in developing an investment plan for the region; supporting the development of open access policies and negotiations with publishers to ensure better access to international journals for the research community in the WB
- The Employment and Social Affairs Platform (ESAP) (part of the Inclusive Growth pillar of the SEE 2020 Strategy, integrated within the "Skills and Mobility" flagship) is in implementation since March 2016. The first annual narrative and financial report on this project have been submitted to DG Employment on 1 May 2017.

Since the last reporting period, the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs have prioritised seven thematic areas for national peer reviews modelled against the EU mutual learning exercise, and the peer reviews on Youth Employment and Employment of Individuals with Disabilities have been kicked off. With regards to the Public Employment Services the bench learning exercise has been kicked off as a tool assisting PES from Western Balkans to strengthen performance management and align their operations and practices with the EU PES, as well as an important contributor on the region's EU accession path. A training based on the EU methodology aimed at preparing the Western Balkan PES offices to implement the bench learning methodology developed by the EU PES network. The EU PES assessors' network already exists but this is the first time that regional PES staff had an opportunity to receive the training and form the

Western Balkans' PES assessors network. Through the ESAP project the RCC has assembled a team of experts from the region to support the PES offices in the process and provide further assistance in learning and exchange of experience between the WB PES and the EU PES network.

- The twice postponed Ministerial of the SEE Health Network took place 03-04 April 2017 in Moldova. Held under the theme "Health, well-being and prosperity in SEE by 2030 in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN", its main outcome was the Chisinau pledge, agreed and signed by the participating ministers and other heads of delegation in the presence of WHO Regional Office for Europe, RCC, and of representatives of other partners, donors and implementing agencies.

A.2. The "Connectivity" flagship continues to be an important domain where numerous interventions in sector of transport, information communication technologies (ICT), energy, environment and climate change were implemented in the reporting period.

A.2.2 Digital integration agenda

- Within the reporting period, intensive consultations took part with governments, EC and regional and international stakeholders on prioritizing joint regional measures supporting the digital integration of WB6 within the pan-European digital market, as part of the Multi Annual Action Plan on a Regional Economic Area in Western Balkans Six (MAP), agreed during the WB6 Summit in Trieste. The endorsed MAP for the first time recognizes digital economy as an integral part of a transformative regional economic integration agenda for WB. In this respect, the regional digital agenda prioritized within MAP aims at: digital infrastructure development and improved regional connectivity; harmonized spectrum policies; coordinated roaming policies towards a roaming free region; enhanced cyber security, trust services and data protection; cooperation in policies that stimulate data economy; upgraded digital skills and accelerated digitization and uptake of smart technologies in our region.

The Declaration by the Italian Chair of the Trieste Western Balkans Summit 2017 acknowledges the potential benefits from the digitization of economic processes for WB6, as well as the need to further the necessary IT infrastructure and the legal frameworks for IT services. In order to combine the existing efforts and to develop recommendations for the future cooperation, the Declaration foresees the organization of an IT Summit on Western Balkans, together with the European Commission, the Regional Cooperation Council and business representatives. Preparations have kick-started for the organization of the ambitious High-level WB6 IT Summit, with the first meeting of the organizational Steering Committee, under Germany's initiative, scheduled to take place in October 2017. The organization of annual IT Summits aims to initiate a continuous and cooperative regional multi-stakeholder dialogue on the digital transformation challenges and prospects in WB.

Assessments continued within the framework of the industry-led Study on Digital Transformation in WB6. The Study's findings are expected to be presented at the WB6 IT Summit in 2018. In addition, the interim findings of the World Bank-led study on Balkan Digital Highway, generated following the field visit phase, are set to be presented in the framework of the upcoming 2017 Infofest.

A.2.3. Sectoral support in environment, energy and sustainable development

- During the reporting period, a series of consultations with partners in the environment dimension have continued. As a result, steps have been already taken on establishing a

Biodiversity Task Force under the existing Regional Working group on Environment. Task Force's objectives, responsibilities, composition and mode of operation are defined by the Terms of Reference which was endorsed by the participating economies in August. The RCC has partnered with GIZ ORF Biodiversity project which will finance activities of the Task Force while IUCN ECARO will undertake organizational, logistical and technical support activities acting as the Task Force Secretariat. The process of establishing Task Force, as a body which will be in charge of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the region was initiated and preparation for the first meeting, to be held in the beginning of October, are ongoing.

- Two projects of regional importance, developed under the SEE 2020 Strategy (water-food-energy nexus, dealing with establishing balanced and prudent use of the three resources, and Climaproof on integrating climate consideration in road transport infrastructure development) and implemented by RCC partners were officially launched in June. The inception phase of the two, almost € 4 million worth projects, is now finalized and the Inception Report is about to be published and submitted to the Regional Working Group on Environment (RWG Env) for approval. Consultations on establishing steering mechanisms for these two projects in the future were held with the RWG Env participants.
- After the last meeting held in Belgrade in June 2017, and in line with the Declaration adopted by Ministers in Podgorica in 2016, preparations for the next ministerial meeting have started. Draft Ministerial Declaration is prepared by the RCC, as well as draft Work Plan for the RWG Env for the upcoming three years. Both documents were presented to the RWG Env participants and discussed during the last meeting held in June. Their finalization is expected before the next high level panel, where their adoption is anticipated.
- The RCC commissioned a Regional Study on Climate Change in Western Balkans and its Impact on Economic Development, which should evaluate expected changes of climate in the upcoming decades and assess their impact on some economic sectors (agriculture, water management, forestry and human health). The study is designed to help policy makers in the WB region providing better informational basis for development of national strategies and legislative framework. Also the Study should assess perspectives for meeting the Paris Climate Agreement commitments, or Climate Change strategy goal (as for Kosovo^{*}, not being part of UNFCCC).
- Under the sector "Energy", during the reporting period the RCC finalized the Study on Legal and Institutional Frameworks in Western Balkan, Achievements and Concept for Development of a Regional Energy Management Information System. The Study was presented to representatives of authorities in charge of energy efficiency in WB during the regional meeting held in July. Comprehensive consultations were also held with national representatives on possibilities for development of a regional tool (information system) for energy management in public sector, possible technical characteristics and models for putting this tool in operation in the future. The RCC performed a series of consultations with possible partners which may be involved in the next phases of the project and where their support would be valuable, especially in demanding data collection process, which will be needed. Representatives of national authorities also expressed interest for establishing a regional experts' group on energy management whose tasks would be to strengthen regional knowledge and experience exchange and invigorate regional cooperation in the area of energy management. Both initiatives are communicated and consulted with the Energy Community Secretariat since they will complement its activities on legal harmonization providing direct support to the participating economies in enforcement of

^{*} This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

national laws and achievement of targets set in accordance with the EU policy framework (9% energy savings, and further towards the 2030 Energy and Climate Framework targets).

A.3. The “Competitiveness” flagship activities were predominantly focused on preparation of the regional investment agenda as an integral part of the WB6 Multi-Annual Action Plan for development of Regional Economic Area.

A.3.1. Investment integration

- Regional Investment Policy Review benchmark study has been finalized, in consultations among the RCC, UNCTAD, and the SEE government experts in investment policy and promotion participating at the SEEIC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments (JWGI). The study is covering six areas: (i) the FDI-specific legal framework, (ii) international investment agreements, (iii) business facilitation, (iv) tax regime, (v) labour policy and skills, and (vi) competition regime, and additional chapter dealing with investment promotion. It aims at boosting both the region’s overall competitiveness as well as its capacity to attract FDI, especially in export-oriented industries and value chains. The final document will be published in the last quarter of 2017, along with a public presentation in the UN Headquarters in Geneva. Findings and recommendations of the Investment Policy Review will be integrated into the implementation of investment policy reforms project that RCC’s JWGI will be working on together with the World Bank and with financial support of the European Commission as of fall 2017.
- Consequently, the RCC intensively coordinated activities related to the development and endorsement of the WB6 Multi-Annual Action Plan for Regional Economic Area, related to the topic of investments. During the meeting of the JWGI in May 2017, the RCC has, with SEE government experts on investment policy and promotion, reviewed the actions of the regional investment agenda on investment analytics (mapping and data harmonization), policy reform (through joint regional dialogue on priority policies subject to reform, national reform implementation and monitoring), joint investment promotion (targeted and focused on priority sectors), and discussed how to underpin this cooperation through a formal regional instrument. In June 2017, on the occasion of the SEEIC meeting which also brought on board WB6 Sherpa representatives, these deliberations were translated into the final proposal of Multi-Annual Action Plan (MAP) on Regional Economic Area, entailing development and implementation of the regional investment reform agenda. The MAP was endorsed by the WB6 Prime Ministers at the Summit in Trieste on 12 July 2017. In addition to harmonization of investment policies and joint investment promotion of the region, MAP also entails capital market integration.

A.3.2. Industrial Development

Within the reporting period, under the agenda item “**A.3.2.6. Support to sectoral development**”:

- The RCC has finalized the Action Document for the “Triple P” tourism project, and forwarded it to EC and MC IPA Board for final consideration. The project received final approval by the MC IPA Board during July 2017. The RCC will further discuss with the EC on preparing the final project application, anticipating contract signing with the EC and project commencement by the end of 2017.

B. Governance, Rule of Law and Security Cooperation

B.1 “Public Administration Reform”

B.1.1. Public consultations on draft laws and public policy documents

- On the Public Administration Reform side, the RCC is continuing its activities to assist governments in Western Balkans to improve their practices on public consultations on drafting legislation and public policy documents. It aims at codifying the best practices in the field of public consultations on draft legislation and public policy documents in order to encourage and assist governments to design policies and legislation in an inclusive manner, enabling an active participation of society (including non-governmental organisations, private sector and advisory bodies).

The main outcome of the study “The Western Balkans Recommendation on Public Consultations in Legislative Drafting”, the draft Western Balkans Recommendation on Public Participation has been drafted and discussed within two Regional Workshops co-organized by the RCC, ReSPA and SIGMA, attended by relevant practitioners from bodies in charge of public administration as well as centres of government. The collected inputs contributed to the improvement of the Recommendation. The document lays down the processes, methods and principles that are recommendable to use in order to enable a genuine dialogue with those likely to be affected by the policy changes. The document is expected to be endorsed by the Regional Working Group on Better Regulation and later on adopted by the ministers in charge of public administration reform.

B.2. Rule of Law / Justice reforms

B.2.1. SEE networks, regional trainings and Western Balkans Working Group on Justice

- As focal point for the Working Group on Justice, the RCC kept continuous communication with DG JUST and DG NEAR to make sure that the activities in this area are based mostly on the progress in the EU negotiating Chapters 23 and 24 (for the negotiating EU candidates). The WGJ continued its assessment of the ongoing activities and advised the RCC to continue with its focus on judicial training and mediation.
- The work of the SEE JTI network continued to be focused on enhancing mutual legal assistance between judiciaries in the region, on cross-border cooperation in civil and commercial matters, as well as on improving competences of judges in EU case law, through regional seminars with relevant European institutions and SEELS for training of trainers at regional level.

The second meeting of the SEE JTI platform (25/26 April 2017) agreed on the need to continue with the support to the institution building processes of training centres and to continue with implementation of the recommendations in study commissioned by the RCC in 2016. In August the RCC published an open call for expert in justice and judicial training. This technical assistance would map ongoing projects in judicial training in the WB and it is expected to propose measures to improve and support independence of WB JTI.

- The RCC and GIZ ORF-LR are continuing the implementation of the 20-months sub-project on “Improving the Regional Cooperation between Western Balkans’ Judicial Training Institutions’, targeting the training of trainers for judges and prosecutors at regional level. Meetings of the project Steering Committee are held back-to-back with SEE JTI meetings.

B.3 “Anti-corruption”

B.3.1. Support in conducting sectoral corruption risk assessment / anti-corruption assessment of laws

- During the reporting period the RCC produced the Checklist for Corruption Risks in Healthcare Sector. The Checklist will enable national authorities to apply their existing mechanisms of risk assessments in public institutions or anti-corruption assessments of laws in a very specific sector. The Checklist describes the possible risks in such sub-sectors as Hospitals, Outpatient Providers, Laboratories & Imaging Services, Pharmacies, Human Organ Transplantation, Medical Research, Licenses & Permits (including Permission for clinical trials, Approval of drugs and medical devices, Listing of drugs and medical devices, and Accrediting health care providers), Medical Guidelines, Marketing and Distribution of Pharmaceuticals and Devices, Professional Education, Oversight Institutions.

The RCC is engaged in dialogs with relevant authorities from Sarajevo, Skopje and Podgorica to assist them in applying the Checklist and conduct risk assessments and corruption proofing of certain healthcare fields.

B.4. Security cooperation

Under the security component of the Stability and Rule of Law, the RCC has continued with the implementation of the **Regional CVE-FTF Platform** and support to existing specialized regional security cooperation formats in SEE. In line with Platform' priorities, Regional Workshop on "Role of education and civil society in PVE" took place on 25 May in Zagreb. The participants exchanged views on good practices with specific examples how teachers can help in prevention of youth radicalization, both through curricular and extracurricular activities. The workshop contributed to raised awareness and better understanding of the challenges.

The 9th SEEMIC Expert Working Group meeting took place on 20 April in Podgorica. The draft OSINT Assessment (Use of Social Networks by Violent Extremists) was agreed. The way forward, more specific, focused and continued practical cooperation between military intelligence services was also on the agenda. As one of the partners in the EU-supported effort within the framework of common, concerted approach in P/CVE area, the RCC has also engaged in WBCTi (Western Balkans Counter Terrorism Initiative) as a first pillar of IISG (Integrative Internal Security Governance Initiative). In this context, the RCC has participated at Regional Conference on P/CVE held in Ljubljana on 17-18 May 2017. Intensified dialogue and practical cooperation in P/CVE area between relevant government agencies, academia and civil society from EU and Western Balkans were at the core of discussions.

C. Horizontal and supporting activities

C.1. Coordination, monitoring, programming

C.1.1 Programming activities

- The reporting period served to start the preparatory activities for the SEE 2020 programming cycle for 2017. Additionally, after adoption of the SEE 2020 Programming Document 2017 – 2019 by the SEE 2020 Programming Committee and after presenting it to the Donor Coordination meeting, the priorities laid down in the document were closely discussed with the donors active in the region, as part of the continuous donor coordination process led by RCC. The next steps in terms of programming are to start the 2017 programming cycle.

C.1.2. Monitoring activities

- During the reporting period the RCC concluded the data collection process for the annual reporting. The WB statistical offices provided their national data; the regional dimension

coordinators (RDCs) provided their activity reports, while RCC collected other data from the international sources.

- The second draft of the Balkan Barometer 2017 has been prepared.
- The draft Annual Report on Implementation (ARI) of the SEE 2020 Strategy for 2017 prepared by RCC was endorsed by the SEE 2020 Monitoring Committee meeting held on 30 May 2017. Furthermore, the draft ARI was adopted on the SEE2020 Governing Board held on June 28, 2017 in Dubrovnik.
- The next steps in terms of monitoring include verification of the data provided in the online platform, prior to the official start of the new monitoring cycle

C.1.3. Coordination activities, grants

- The successful candidates that responded to the 3rd Call for Proposal under the small grants program started implementation of their contract by beginning of June 2017.
- The next steps include preparatory activities for the 4th Call for Proposals.

On the **Roma Integration 2020 programme**, under the RCC framework, the Roma Integration 2020 Action Team organized consultation meetings with its government partners (National Roma Contact Points and inter-ministerial bodies on Roma Integration) in May 2017 to discuss the process on completion of the 2016 monitoring reports and agree on the assistance and expertise needed for this task. The team provided expert support to its government partners in improving the 2016 monitoring reports. The expert support assisted government officials in enhancing their capacities to efficiently fill out the regionally adopted monitoring template by providing the necessary data and information as requested in the template.

The RI2020 organized three public dialogue forums in Tirana, Belgrade and Podgorica during May-July 2017. These forums provided for presentations of the 2016 monitoring reports of the governments, discussions on the implementation of the adopted Roma Seminar operational conclusions, budget proposals and prioritization of measures for 2018, and consultations on relevant mainstream socio-economic policies to be used for advancing Roma integration. The conclusions of the public dialogue forums are available online at the RI2020 website, and have been widely shared with relevant stakeholders.

In the upcoming period (September – December 2017), the Roma Integration 2020 Action Team will organize the remaining Public Dialogue Forums in Ankara, Sarajevo, Pristina and Skopje, as well as organize its second Task Force meeting to review the progress of Roma integration and related developments at regional level. The RI2020 will also organize two regional workshops on the topics of *Filling in the budget gaps for Roma Integration through donor coordination in the Western Balkans and Turkey* and *Combating antigypsyism*.

On communication, the RCC Secretariat has continued implementing its triannual Communication Strategy which reflects the new agenda of the organisation, upgrades the established RCC profile to reflect its increasingly regionally-owned, active and all-inclusive role and influence. The primary objective is to keep building the understanding on what the RCC does, increasing political, financial as well as public support for its activities, but also to keep raising awareness of the organisation and the regional cooperation process in general, building and promoting the SEE image based on the RCC's key mission postulates.

RCC has produced a number of promotional materials, such as videos, brochures and infographics, rounding up overall RCC's activities within the Connectivity, Competitiveness and Skill and Mobility flagships, Security cooperation and Rule of Law areas and ESAP and Roma Integration projects. These focused materials as well as the user-friendly website combine information for different target audiences and provides overall picture of what RCC is, what are the major fields of organization's work, goals etc. The RCC Secretariat continued to maintain partnership relations with relevant regional initiatives and organisation's in promoting activities of common interest.

2. Update on progress in implementing SWP 2017-2019

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
Component A. Implementing the SEE 2020 Strategy through the flagship approach				
A.1. Skills and Mobility				
A.1.1. Increased labour mobility in the Western Balkans	<i>A.1.1.1.5. Study on “Mapping Positions of Key Stakeholders on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications in SEE for four professions - Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers”.</i>	The first part of the study – national in-depth and cross-national comparative study of the legislation and regulatory frameworks for recognition of professional qualifications of the four prioritized professions (doctors of medicine, dentists, architects and civil engineers) has been concluded and presented at the 4 th meeting of the JWGMRPQ. The second part of the study aims to map positions of key stakeholders on mutual recognition of professional qualifications in SEE for four prioritized professions and will be presented at the 5 th meeting of the JWGMRPQ in April 2017.	The study provides the basis for the opening of the negotiations on mutual recognition agreements in the four prioritized professions – doctors of medicine, dentists, architects and civil engineers.	Finalized
	<i>A.1.1.1. 5th Meeting of Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications</i>	The representatives of the Ministries of Trade, Education and Labour discussed the draft text of the official Note to the Governments to open the negotiations on four multilateral agreements on recognition of professional qualifications for Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers.	The participants agreed on the draft text of the official Note to the Governments to open the negotiations on four multilateral agreements on recognition of professional qualifications for Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers.	Finalized
	<i>A.1.1.4. 6th Meeting of Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications</i>	The representatives of the Ministries of Trade, Education and Labour discussed the action plan on the removal of obstacles to recognition of professional qualifications to be integrated into the Multi-Annual Plan on Regional Economic Area to be agreed upon at the Prime Ministers’ Summit in	The representatives of the Ministries of Trade, Education and Labour agreed on the action plan on the removal of obstacles to recognition of professional qualifications to be integrated into the Multi-Annual Plan on Regional Economic Area to be agreed upon at the Prime Ministers’	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
		Trieste on July 13 th , 2017.	Summit in Trieste on July 13 th , 2017.	
	<i>A.1.2.1. Technical Workshop on the Action Plan on Mobility of Researchers and the Action Plan on Automatic Recognition of Academic Qualifications in the WB</i>	The representatives of the Ministries of Education and Research discussed the <i>Action Plan on Mobility of Researchers and the Action Plan on Automatic Recognition of Academic Qualifications in the WB</i> to be integrated into the Multi-Annual Plan on Regional Economic Area to be agreed upon at the Prime Ministers' Summit in Trieste on July 13 th , 2017.	The representatives of the Ministries of Education and Research agreed upon the <i>Action Plan on Mobility of Researchers and the Action Plan on Automatic Recognition of Academic Qualifications in the WB</i> to be integrated into the Multi-Annual Plan on Regional Economic Area to be agreed upon at the Prime Ministers' Summit in Trieste on July 13 th , 2017.	Finalized
A.1.1.4. Western Balkans open and connected science	<i>A.1.1.4.1. First Working Group meeting on the Open Science</i>	The representatives of the Ministries of Science discussed the current e-infrastructure in the region and the priorities for 2017 and 2018.	The mapping of the current e-infrastructure showed the lack of full integration of the WB into the existing pan-European GEANT network. The participants agreed on the following priorities to conduct mapping of the existing research infrastructure, including the e-infrastructure, to identify further gaps in the region over the next 6 months which could serve as a basis in developing an investment plan for the region; supporting the development of open access policies and negotiations with publishers to ensure better access to international journals for the research community in the WB.	Finalized
A.2. Connectivity				
A.2.2. Digital integration	<i>CEFTA-RCC-EC Technical Workshop on Regional Economic Integration in the Western Balkans, Sarajevo 11th May</i>	Adopted Workshop Conclusions: welcomed inclusion of digital aspects within the high-level Berlin process; acknowledged growth potentials of digital economy and welcomed the regional initiatives on roaming and broadband	Endorsed Multi Annual Action Plan for Regional Economic Area in WB6, integrating the prioritized measures on Digital integration. The MAP sets out a mid-term, structured agenda for regional economic integration, along the lines proposed by WB6 Leaders, namely: promoting further trade	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
		development; expressed readiness to detail joint priority actions and commitments, in a regional context, to constitute an integral part of the MAP on regional economic integration (in areas of roaming, broadband connectivity, trust and security, digital skills, open government, data economy, etc.).	integration, introducing a dynamic regional investment space, facilitating regional mobility, and creating a digital integration agenda.	
	<i>Digital Agenda meeting, Brussels, 30th May</i>	Completed consultations with representatives of WB6 economies, EC and RCC on finalization of the digital integration measures within the MAP.	Endorsed Multi Annual Action Plan for Regional Economic Area in WB6, integrating the prioritized measures on Digital integration.	Finalized
A.2.3. Sectoral support in environment, energy and sustainable development	<i>The 4th Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Environment Belgrade, 20th June.</i>	Continuing coordination of the Regional Working Group on Environment, all participant present to the meeting	The next ministerial meeting announced for autumn 2017. Draft ministerial declaration and draft Work Plan for the RWG Env presented by RCC	Finalized
	<i>Study on Climate Change in Western Balkans and its Impact on Economic Development</i>	Process of selection of experts completed and the Contract signed.	Opening way to commence the analysis and the study	On-track
	<i>Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on Natural Resource Management</i>	<i>Support the Regional Rural Development</i>	Support agricultural development in rural areas under the Environment Dimension.	Finalized
	<i>Ministerial Meeting (Ministers of environment)</i>	Planned to be hosted by Serbia in May 2017.	Postponed on request by the Ministry for Agriculture and Environmental Protection	Moved to Q4
	<i>Study on Legal and Institutional</i>	Study prepared by RCC expert and presented	Governments in the region enabled to achieve the	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>Frameworks in Western Balkans and Concept for Development of an Information System for Energy Management in the Public Sector.</i>	during the regional meeting of representatives dealing with energy management in public sector.	9% of energy savings by 2018 (SEE 2020 Strategy "Energy" Dimension.	
	<i>Development of an energy management platform for SEE, Regional Meeting on Energy Management took place on 25th July</i>	Experts from the participating economies gathered in presence of also other implementing agencies (GIZ). Presentation of the RCC Study, exploring interest of the participants for the development of an information system as proposed by RCC. Exploring the interest for establishing a regional experts' group on energy management by the participating economies	Agreement at technical level for the need to establish the platform reached. Further communication at higher decision making level necessary	Finalized
A.3. Competitiveness				
A.3.1. Investment Integration	<i>Regional Benchmark Study: Regional Investment Policy Review</i>	Final text of the IPR prepared	Regional Investment Policy Review discussed, finalized and endorsed by participants of the RCC's JWGI.	Finalized
	<i>Regional Programme; Investment Policy and Regional Integration</i>	Administrative work in progress.	Contracting procedures between the stakeholders (WB and EC) have been finalized. Kick off of the project is moved to Fall 2017, due to preparations of the WB6 Summit for July 2017, where the regional cooperation in development of the investment reform agenda is to be confirmed. The project is to commence after this important political momentum.	On-track

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>A.3.1.2. Meeting of the SEEIC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments, 24 May 2017, Podgorica, Montenegro</i>	Regional Investment Policy Review study finalized and draft REA MAP for investments prepared	Draft MAP REA for investments put forward to SEEIC and WB6 sherpas for final consideration	Finalized
	<i>A.3.1.3. SEEIC Plenary Meeting dedicated to preparations for WB6 Trieste Summit, 13 June 2017, Becici, Montenegro</i>	Final version of REA MAP for investments prepared	MAP REA put forward for endorsement by the WB6 PMs (endorsed 12 July 2017 in Trieste)	Finalized
A.3.2. Industrial Development	<i>“Triple P” Tourism Project</i>	Final draft of the Action Document prepared and forwarded to MC IPA Board for final consideration	Project approved by the MC IPA Board in July 2017	On-track
	<i>Tourism Expert Group meeting</i>	Postponed for Q3-4, upon decision of MC IPA on “Triple P” Tourism Project		Postponed
	<i>Industrial Policy Working Group meeting</i>	Postponed for Q3-4, due to majority activities dedicated to MAP REA during Q2		Postponed
Component B. Governance, Rule of Law and Security Cooperation				
B.1. Public Administration Reform				
B.1.1. Public consultations on draft laws and public policy documents	<i>Building capacities of relevant public authorities in conducting public consultations on legislative drafting</i>	The main output of the activity - Western Balkans Recommendation on Public Participation has been developed. It has been discussed within two Regional Workshops co-organized by the RCC, ReSPA and SIGMA. The inputs collected during the Workshops have been incorporated in the document and it has been substantially improved. The draft became a solid document which will be proposed for endorsement at the Regional Working Group on Better Regulation and later for adoption at a high level forum.	The Western Balkans Recommendation would lay down the processes, recommended methods and tools to enable a genuine dialogue with those likely to be affected by the policy changes. The document will serve practical guide on how to efficiently organize public consultations and a solid source for governments when upgrading their public consultations legal procedures. As a long term outcome, the RCC envisages to provide knowledge and skills for governments to design policies and legislation in an inclusive manner, enabling an active participation of society (including non-governmental organizations, private sector and advisory bodies).	On-track

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
B.2. Justice				
B.2.1. SEE networks, regional trainings and Western Balkans Working Group on Justice	<i>2nd Meeting of the SEEJTI Network. Istanbul, 25 - 26 April 2017</i>	Aiming at building capacities of judicial training institutions in SEE, the meeting gathered the directors of judicial training institutions in SEE to discuss possibilities of regional cooperation on institutional building, improved competence of judges and cross-border cooperation among judiciaries.	The convening and coordination role of RCC on these matters was confirmed. The need for more regional trainings and improvement of cross-border cooperation among judiciaries was identified.	Finalized
	<i>Meeting of the WB6 JTI directors, SG EJTN and representatives of DG JUST and DG NEAR Brussels, 7 July 2017</i>	The meeting of the WB6 Judicial Training Institution directors, EJTN SG and the representatives of the EC exchanged information about on-going and planned activities and projects in the judicial training area, so as to identify activities and processes that are complementary.	Better alignment of complementary activities, avoidance of duplication of activities and better use of available resources.	Finalized
B.3. Anti-corruption				
B.3.1. Support in conducting sectoral corruption risk assessment/anti-corruption assessment of laws	<i>Corruption risk assessments in healthcare sector</i>	Support governments in conducting corruption risk assessment/anti-corruption assessment of laws at a sectoral level. Development by RCC of a Checklist of Corruption Risks for Healthcare Sector, describing the possible corruption risks in Hospitals, Outpatient Providers, Laboratories, Imaging Services, Pharmacies, Human Organ Transplantation, Medical Research, Licenses & Permits, etc.	Competent authorities enabled to carrying out the legislative and/or institutional risk assessment in certain sub-sectors of healthcare according to the developed Checklist. Increased capacities of authorities responsible for conducting corruption risk assessment and anti-corruption assessment of laws to identify the risks related to healthcare sector in the institutional and legislative frameworks.	On-track
B.4. Security cooperation				

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
B.4.1. Supporting the existing security cooperation mechanisms in SEE	<i>The 9th SEEMIC Expert Working Group, 20 April 2017, Podgorica</i>	Agreed Draft OSINT Assessment. Conclusion on the way forward to make SEEMIC more specific and focused.	Continued practical cooperation between military intelligence services within the region. Building upon already achieved level of mutual confidence.	Finalized
	<i>6'S Expert Working Group plus Workshop in RACVIAC Format (SEENSA related issues), 4 May, 2017, Zagreb</i>	Exchange of information, views and good practices on industrial security between national security authorities and their private sector partners.	Preparations for the next SEENSA at the level of Directors. Continued practical cooperation between national security authorities. Building upon already achieved level of mutual confidence. Enhanced dialogue between relevant government agencies and private sector/academia.	Finalized
	<i>The SEDM Deputy Chiefs of Staff Meeting (DCHOD), 7 June 2017, Podgorica</i>	Update on SEDM activities and conclusions on way forward, including planned joint military exercises.	Continued military cooperation among participants from SEE with different status in European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes.	Finalized
B.4.2. Addressing the emerging security challenges in the region (CVE-FTF Platform)	<i>George Marshall Centre – DCAF Ljubljana Regional Conference on P/CVE, 17-18 May 2017, Ljubljana</i>	Exchange of information, views and good practices in P/CVE between the EU member states and participants from WB. Conclusions about the way forward, especially in the context of WBCTI and IISG.	Intensified dialogue and practical cooperation in P/CVE area between relevant government agencies, academia and civil society from EU and WB.	Finalized
	OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference 2017: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism, 23 – 24 May 2017, Vienna	Dialogue on national experiences and international co-operation in countering terrorism, engaging and empowering youth in preventing and countering VERLT, as well as on rehabilitation, reintegration and prevention of radicalization to terrorism.	Visibility for the activities of the RCC in the area of CVE-FTF by virtue of the distribution at the OSCE event of the Report on the activities of the RCC in the area of Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism.	Finalized
	<i>RCC Regional Workshop on "Role of education and civil society in PVE", 25 May 2017,</i>	Exchange of views on good practices with specific examples how teachers can help prevent radicalization, both in curricular and extracurricular	Raised awareness and better understanding of the problem, as a part of ongoing process of engagement in prevention of youth radicalization.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>Zagreb</i>	activities.		
	<i>Pre-monitoring visit to RCC Grantee in P/CVE area, 30 May 2017, Podgorica</i>	Setting up of parameters and ways to implement the Grantee's project.	The project put on track and its implementation started.	Finalized
	<i>Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN) - Thematic event on returnees, 19 June 2017, Brussels</i>	Exchange of views and research results; Draft RAN Manual on "Responses to returning FTF and their families launched.	Harmonization of various approaches to deal with returnees.	Finalized
	<i>OSCE Annual Security Review Conference – ESRC, 27-29 June 2017, Vienna</i>	Dialogue on all major security threats, challenges and their trends in Europe, with an emphasis on crisis in Eastern Ukraine.	Continued dialogue at OSCE level to overcome existing differences.	Finalized
Component C. Horizontal and supporting activities				
C.1. Programing, monitoring and coordination				
C.1.1. Programming activities	<i>SEE 2020 Strategy Programming process 2017</i>	The preparatory package for the start of the programming cycle started.	The SEE 2020 Strategy Programming process successfully kicked-off.	on-track
C.1.2. Monitoring activities	<i>Balkan Barometer 2017</i>	Collected data are processed, tables and graphs drafted, analysis are performed.	Balkan Barometer 2017 ready for printing.	Finalized
	<i>2017 data collection cycle</i>	The data for 2017 monitoring cycle are collected from national, regional and international sources.	The collected data enables drafting the SEE 2020 Strategy Annual Report on Implementation.	Finalized
	<i>SEEDS – South East Europe Development Scoreboard</i>	Data collected through 2016/2017 monitoring cycle cross-checked and uploaded to the RCC SEEDS data base.	SEEDS published on RCC website.	On-track
	<i>Setting-up the online platform for data submission</i>	The online platform developed in final – official version.	Final online platform enabling for administrations data uploading.	Finalized
	<i>The 4th SEE 2020 Governing Board</i>	SEE 2020 Governing Board meets to assess the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy	Annual Report on Implementation approved Four new headline targets adopted	finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>Dubrovnik, 28 June 2017</i>		Recommendations for the next new cycle provided	
C.1.3. Coordination activities, grants	<i>The 3rd Call for proposals under the RCC Small Grant Facility</i>	Final report on successful applicants drafted and approved Contracts signed with successful applicants Initial (pre-monitoring) reports finalised	The start of implementation of the successful proposal enabled	On-track
C.2. Political Department activities				
C.2.1. Strengthening cooperation between the SEE governments and with the EU				
C.2.1.1. Assist SEEC and SEEC C-i-O	<i>Coordination meeting between the SEEC Troika, RCC Secretariat and EU, 15 May 2017, Sarajevo</i>	Briefing for the SEEC Troika, RCC and EU on the implementation of the recent and planned sectoral activities of the Croatian SEEC C-i-O and the RCC Secretariat, including preparation for the high level events in June 2017 in Dubrovnik.	Further advancement in coordination between the SEEC Troika, the RCC and EU, related to the priorities of the Croatian SEEC C-i-O and the RCC Secretariat.	Finalized
	<i>RCC Board Meeting, 16 May 2017, Sarajevo</i>	Acceptance of the Report of the Secretary General on the activities of the RCC Secretariat for the period January – March 2017; Acceptance of the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General for 2016 – 2017; Adoption of the Decision on the approval of the Financial Report of the RCC Secretariat for the year 2016; Discussions on RCC Secretariat's activities; briefing on the realized and planned events of Croatian SEEC C-i-O; presentation of Regional Environmental Center.	Political support for the implementation of the activities under the RCC SWP for 2017 - 2019.	Finalized
	<i>Plenary Session of the SEEC Parliamentary Assembly, 10 June 2017, Zagreb</i>	Adoption of the Final Declaration, the Work Programme of the SEEC PA for the period 2017 – 2018, the reports of the General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy, the General Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Security and the General Committee on Social	Support for RCC's activities and its programmes aimed at achieving free flow of goods, services and investments, cross-border enforcement of rights and establishment of businesses and economic growth in the SEE region.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
		Development, Education, Science and Research; as well as the resolutions of the General Committees.		
	<i>SEECP Seminar for Junior Diplomats, 11-15 June 2017, Zagreb</i>	Presentation and debate on diplomatic practices and developments, including global and European trends, role of the SEECP, the RCC activities, the EU structures and policies and Croatian experiences in negotiating with the EU.	Strengthen networking and exchange experiences and good practices in dealing with the European integration issues; Increased awareness among young diplomats from SEE about regional cooperation and RCC's role in promoting and facilitating the European and Euro-Atlantic integration process.	Finalized
	<i>Meeting of the SEECP Political Directors, 29 June 2017, Dubrovnik</i>	Exchange of views on the latest developments in SEE; Finalization of the draft SEECP Dubrovnik Summit Declaration.	Sound coordination and synergy between the SEECP and the RCC Secretariat.	Finalized
	<i>RCC Annual Meeting, 29 June 2017, Dubrovnik</i>	Presentation and endorsement of the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General for 2016-2017; Thematic discussion on energizing the EU integration process of SEE by strengthening regional cooperation; Views of regional cooperation organizations and initiatives.	Commitment to intensified regional cooperation and to an efficient and project-oriented cooperation. Political support for the implementation of the RCC SWP for 2017 – 2019.	Finalized
	<i>Meeting of SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs, 30 June 2017, Dubrovnik</i>	Exchange of views on the current situation and latest developments in SEE; discussion on ways and modalities how to achieve greater visibility of SEECP within EU Institutions; Discussion on the SEECP C-i-O for the period 2018-2019 and 2019-2020; Endorsement of the Annual Report of the	Reconfirmed commitment to regional cooperation in SEE, in particular on economic cooperation, transport and infrastructure; Synergy between SEECP political decision making process and RCC as its operational arm.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
		RCC Secretary General 2016-2017 and of the SEECP Dubrovnik Summit Declaration.		
	<i>SEECP Summit, 30 June 2017, Dubrovnik</i>	Overview on the latest trends and developments in SEE; Consensus on regional priorities aimed at fostering connectivity, competitiveness, economic integration, governance and security; Agreement on common, concerted and intensified regional cooperation in dealing with security challenges in the region; Support for RCC's role as SEECP's operational arm and as a reliable, project-oriented regional organization; Endorsement of the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General for 2016-2017; Adoption of the SEECP Dubrovnik Summit Declaration.	Reaffirmed commitment to an enhanced and inclusive regional cooperation within the SEECP framework, as the most valuable political forum; Stability and prosperity of the region set as the main political priority for SEE along with continuous support for the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of SEECP aspirants.	Finalized
C.2.1.2. Consultations of the Secretary General with SEECP and RCC participants	<i>Consultations with the Special Envoy for the Western Balkans Summit in MFA Italy, 5 April 2017, Rome</i>	Briefing on RCC activities and on the preparations for the Western Balkans Summit on 12 July 2017 in Trieste.	Close cooperation and engagement of RCC within the Berlin Process.	Finalized
	<i>Consultations with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, 28 April 2017, Ankara</i>	Exchange of views on the latest developments in the SEE region and on the activities of the RCC; Further engagement of Turkey in RCC's activities	Support of Turkey to the RCC's activities.	Finalized
	<i>Consultations with the Political Director/Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of</i>	Dialogue on the priorities and agenda of the incoming Slovenian C-i-O, RCC's SWP 2017-2019, with an emphasis on the implementation of the	Coordination and synergy between the RCC Secretariat and Slovenia, as incoming SEECP C-i-O.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>Slovenia, 2 June 2017, Ljubljana</i>	SEE 2020 Strategy through the flagship approach, RCC's Work Plan for 2017, decision on the next SEECP C-i-O's, RCC's input and expectations from the Trieste WB Summit.		
	<i>Consultations with the US Department of State, 7 - 8 June 2017, Washington D.C.</i>	Briefing on RCC's activities with an emphasis on security cooperation and P/CVE efforts; Exchange of views on latest developments in SEE and process of Euro-Atlantic integration.	US support for the activities of the RCC.	Finalized
C.2.1.3. Maintain the dialogue with the EU institutions	<i>Meeting of RCC DSG with the Head of A.3 Unit in DG NEAR, 29 May 2017, Brussels</i>	Presentation of activities related to the preparation of MAP REA.	Exchange of information about the stage of preparation and next steps which should be taken in order for MAP REA to be timely prepared.	Finalized
C.2.1.4. Support to parliamentary activities related to the EU acquis and the SEE 2020 Strategy	<i>No activities held in the reporting period.</i>			
C.2.2. Broadening links and strengthening partnerships with other regional stakeholders				
C.2.2.1. Participation of SG to high-level events	<i>BSEC Summit, 22 May 2017, Istanbul</i>	Consensus on the need of reforming BSEC in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Summit Declaration adopted.	Reinvigorate the quarter-century of cooperation with the aim to enhance peace, stability, dialogue and mutual understanding in the Black Sea region.	Finalized
	<i>The Eighth Aspen Southeast Europe Foreign Ministers Conference, 31 May 2017, Berlin</i>	Thematic discussion on regional cooperation, economic development and democratization.	Germany's commitment to the European future of the region and promotion of a greater joint European engagement in the Western Balkans; Initiation of further funds for financial support for the development of the region.	Finalized
	<i>Dubrovnik Forum 2017 "Adriatic-Mediterranean Cooperation and Southeast European Security", 1 July 2017,</i>	Discussions on the common challenges within the Mediterranean and neighboring areas; Developing business opportunities in the Mediterranean.	Concerted approach on security and stability through enhanced cooperation, solidarity and dialogue.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>Dubrovnik</i>			
C.2.2.2. Work with media/communications	<i>RCC as the International partner of the Sarajevo Film Festival (SFF) 2017's edition, 11-18 August 2017, Sarajevo</i>	RCC was an International partner of the 2017's Sarajevo Film Festival, the biggest and the most important film festival in the region. The Heart of Sarajevo for the Best Student Film, introduced in the competition programme 2017 for the first time, has been under the patronage of the RCC.	Awareness raising and fostering regional cooperation in the area of culture by partnering with one of the most important cultural events in the region.	Finalized
	Support to the special edition of regional TV show Okruzenje (Vicinity).	Support to the special edition of regional TV show Okruzenje (Vicinity) hosting RCC Secretary General, featuring the Western Balkans Trieste Summit. The show has been broadcasted in July on 8 TV stations throughout the region.	Achieving better understanding on what the RCC does and increasing general awareness of the RCC activities, especially about its role in preparation and implementation of the Multi-annual Action Plan on a Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans.	Finalized
	<i>Support to the 1st Sarajevo Southeast European Violin Competition, 13-19 July 2017, Sarajevo</i>	RCC supported the First Sarajevo Southeast European Violin Competition. The competition has been organised by SASEVC with the focus on discovering talented and very gifted young musicians.	Awareness raising and fostering regional cooperation in the area of culture.	Finalized
	<i>Interviews with Secretary General and other RCC staff members</i>	Interviews organized with regional and international media, including regional TV N1, BiH's public broadcaster BHRT, Serbian Blic, Albanian Tirana Times, etc.	Achieving better understanding on what the RCC does and increasing general awareness of the RCC activities.	Finalized
	<i>Promoting the most relevant activities of the Secretary General, the Program and the Political departments, as well as ESAP and Roma Integration 2020 projects and Grantees</i>	Press coverage included following a number of RCC activities conducted by the Secretary General, Political and Program departments, resulting in 31 news items and press releases, and more than 1700 media reports in April-August period.	Achieving better understanding on what the RCC does and increasing general awareness of the RCC activities.	Finalized
	<i>Production of public</i>	RCC has produced brochures on RCC activities,	Achieving better understanding on what the RCC	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>information materials</i>	featuring Rule of Law, Security cooperation and ESAP project. Videos featuring Skills and Mobility, Security Cooperation, Rule of Law flagships have also been produced, presented and promoted, as well as the short 30 seconds video on RCC's role mission. A follow up tutorial video on the SEE 2020 Strategy Governance Cycle interactive infographic has also been produced. The infographic featuring the media-wise most important findings of the Annual Report 2016-2017 has been presented at the RCC's Annual Meeting.	does and increasing general awareness of the RCC activities.	

3. Management and operations

A remaining open issue related to the setting-up of the RCC Secretariat concerns the implementation of the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium and the RCC Secretariat, which regulates the status of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels.

The Kingdom of Belgium has conditioned the implementation of relevant provisions of the Headquarters Agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium and the RCC Secretariat providing for the fiscal privileges and immunities of the Head and Deputy Head of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels with the issuing of an official authentic interpretation concerning the implementation of Article 17.1.(d) of the Host Country Agreement by the Parties to this Agreement in which the principle of taxability of the officials of the RCC Secretariat in their countries/places of origin and/or permanent residence would be explicitly confirmed. After a consultation procedure initiated by the RCC Secretary General in August 2008 it became evident that the adoption of an interpretative declaration amending the Agreement would not be acceptable to some of the Parties to the Host Country Agreement, as they consider that such declaration would run counter to the spirit of the current provisions of the Agreement and would lead to its de facto amendment. In light of the principles of general international law, the only recourse in this situation would be to proceed with amending the Host Country Agreement accordingly, in light of the request from the Kingdom of Belgium. This, however, remains subject to the will of the Parties to the Host Country Agreement. In this view, the RCC Secretary General sent a communication to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in early January 2009, proposing to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a Party to and, at the same time, a depositary of the Host Country Agreement to consider the possibility of initiating the process of amending relevant provisions of the Agreement in order to provide for requested confirmation of taxability. This proposal of the RCC Secretary General is still under consideration by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The RCC Liaison Office keeps regular contact with the Protocol of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the ratification process of the Headquarters Agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium and the RCC Secretariat (signed in 2008).

During the reporting period, there was one completed recruitment process for the post of Coordinator of SEE 2020 Strategy. Moreover, the vacancy for the post of Head of Political Department was published in August 2017.

4. Key challenges in the reporting period

The situation with regard to risks and challenges to the implementation of regional cooperation is remained and also for the foreseeable future will basically be the same. RCC will work to obtain adequate government representation and/or timely action from the beneficiaries' side. Previous experience shows that in addition to sometimes unclear mandate, the lacking of proper capacities and expertise of nominated participants to take part in various RCC-facilitated processes, as well as the multifaceted challenges the economies of the region are facing domestically tend to move away the attention from cooperation at regional level.

The streamlining of the regional cooperation mechanisms, helped by the study initiated and commissioned by the European Commission's DG NEAR, could perhaps address at least partially those concerns and challenges.

5. State of financial contributions to the RCC Secretariat's budget for 2017

Contribution		Commitments	Contributions	Date Received
Contributors (Donors)				
	Austria	50.000,00	50.000,00	3-Jun-17
	Czech Republic	50.000,00	50.000,00	17-May-17
	Federal Republic of Germany	50.000,00	50.000,00	25-Apr-17
	Hungary	50.000,00	50.000,00	17-Feb-17
	Italy	50.000,00		
	Ireland	50.000,00	50.000,00	30-May-17
	Latvia	50.000,00	50.000,00	30-Jan-17
	Norway	50.000,00	50.631,43	8-Aug-17
	Sweden	50.000,00		
	Switzerland	50.000,00	50.000,00	3-Apr-17
	United States of America	60.000,00	60.000,00	3-May-17
	Total contributing countries donors:	560.000,00	460.631,43	
	European Commission	2.500.000,00	2.499.838,00	4-Jan-17
South East Europe Contributors				
	Albania	60.000,00		
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	60.000,00	60.000,00	23-Feb-17
	Bulgaria	140.000,00	140.000,00	14-Feb-17
	Croatia	80.000,00	80.000,00	10-Mar-17
	Greece	140.000,00	140.000,00	4-May-17
	Kosovo*	40.000,00		
	Moldova	40.000,00		
	Montenegro	40.000,00	40.000,00	26-Apr-17
	Romania	140.000,00		
	Serbia	80.000,00	80.000,00	27-Feb-17
	Slovenia	80.000,00	80.000,00	27-Feb-17
	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	60.000,00		
	Turkey	140.000,00	140.000,00	25-Apr-17
	South East Europe Contributors set aside funding	425.000,00		
	Total South East Europe Contributors:	1.525.000,00	760.000,00	
	Total Committed Funds	4.585.000,00	3.720.469,43	

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

6. Annex: RCC Annual Work Plan for 2017

Component A. Implementing the SEE 2020 Strategy through the flagship approach

Objective: Greater economic integration through easier flow of capital, people, goods and services within SEE and between SEE and the EU

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
A.1. Skills and Mobility						
A.1.1. Increased labour mobility in the Western Balkans						
A.1.1.1. Removal of obstacles to (short-term) mobility of professionals in the region						
1.1.1.1. 5 th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications		x			Events/ conferences	<i>The Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications works towards opening negotiations on an international agreement on recognition of professional qualifications in prioritized sectors of health and construction. In 2017 the joint working group is expected to recommend the start of negotiations in one or all of the prioritized professions.</i>
1.1.1.2. 1 st Meeting of the negotiating group (Health)				x	Events/ conferences	
1.1.1.3. 2 nd Meeting of the negotiating group (Construction)				x	Events/ conferences	
1.1.1.4. 6 th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications			x		Events/ conferences	
1.1.1.5. Technical assistance: Comparative study on positioning of national stakeholders					Professional services	
1.1.1.6. Technical assistance: Independent legal consultant				x	Professional services	
1.1.1.7. Technical assistance: Two independent mediators for negotiation process (one for health & one for construction)				x	Professional services	
A.1.1.2. Creating preconditions for automatic recognition of qualifications						
1.1.2.1. 1 st Meeting of the International Expert Group on Automatic Recognition of Qualifications			x		Events/ conferences	<i>The Ministries of Education of WB, as well as Croatia and Slovenia, have agreed to work towards creating conditions for automatic recognition of academic qualifications. In October/November a seminar on recognition of academic qualifications is planned.</i>
1.1.2.2. 2 nd Meeting of the International Expert Group on Automatic Recognition of Qualifications, back to back with a Seminar on Automatic Recognition of Qualifications in SEE				x	Events/ conferences	
1.1.2.3. Technical Assistance on Automatic Recognition of Qualifications.				x	Professional services	
A.1.1.3 Mobility of high-skilled labour (PhD, researchers, academics) in SEE						
1.1.3.1. Preparatory meeting on mobility of PhD, researchers and academics in SEE			x		Events/ conferences	<i>RCC commissioned a study on mobility of the WB PhD students and researchers. The study will be presented at a seminar in June and should result in setting up a working group on developing better policies for mobility of researchers.</i>
1.1.3.2. Technical Assistance on mobility of PhD candidates, researchers and academics in SEE				x	Professional services	

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
1.1.3.3. Training on EURAXES				x	TAIEX ¹	
A.1.1.4. Western Balkans open and connected science						
1.1.4.1. 1 st Working Group meeting on the Open Science		x			Events/ conferences	<i>Following the EU Competitiveness Council conclusion to open access of publically funded scientific publications and data by 2020, the WB economies have committed to the same goal and have set up a Working Group on Open Science aimed at supporting the economies in developing measures, policies and the infrastructure for Open Science.</i>
1.1.4.2. Training of the National Contact Points on Open Science		x			TAIEX	
1.1.4.3. Technical Assistance on Open Science				x	Professional services	
1.1.4.4. Joint Working Group meeting on Open Science and Mobility of Researchers				x	Events/ conferences	
A.2. Connectivity						
A.2.1. Developing economic corridors						
2.1.1. Enterprise-level analysis of IT industry, linkages and export potentials		x			Professional services	<i>Regional assessment of IT industry growth potentials and recommendations for further development.</i>
A.2.2. Digital integration						
2.2.1. Meetings of Regional platforms on roaming and broadband		x		x	Events/ conferences	<i>Extended Regional Roaming Agreement; assessed market impact of the Regional Roaming Agreement; enhanced capacities and regional exchange of practices in key areas of digital single market framework.</i>
2.2.2. High level ICT Forum on Digitalization of Western Balkans				x	Events/ conferences	
2.2.3. Market impact assessment of the regional roaming agreement			x		Professional services	
2.2.4. Capacity building on digital single market framework (roaming, broadband, cyber security, etc.)		x	x		TAIEX	
A.2.3. Sectoral support in environment, energy and sustainable development						
2.3.1. Meetings of Regional Working Group on Environment and its structures		x		x	Events/ conferences	<i>Strengthened institutional capacities and cooperation among SEE economies in the area of environment and climate change and coordinated regional approach in implementation of three important regional projects (nexus, biodiversity and climate proofing in road infrastructure development); establishment of structured sustainable policy dialogue at highest political level among WB economies and EU MS; supporting low-carbon development of the WB region through enhancing sustainable use of energy in the transport sector, promotion of energy efficiency, as well as renewable (electricity and advanced biofuels) and alternative energies for mobility purposes; support to the WB region in achieving mandatory</i>
2.3.2. Environment Ministerial meeting (Podgorica Initiative)			x		Events/ conferences	
2.3.3. Targeted capacity building for Regional Working Group on Environment and its structures (TAIEX)		x	x		TAIEX	
2.3.4. Assessments of climate and environmental challenges in SEE		x		x	Professional services	
2.3.5. Regional policy dialogue in rural development				x	Events/ conferences	
2.3.6. Study on sustainable use of energy in Western Balkans transport sector			x		Professional services	

¹ The mark "TAIEX" in the column "Type of Intervention" indicated that this is at the stage of proposal from RCC, whose implementation is conditioned by the outcome of negotiation with potential financing and schemes, including TAIEX.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
2.3.7. Regional meeting on energy management platform (EMP)		x			Events/ conferences	<i>energy saving targets (9%) through establishment of regional energy management platform (software, training and network) for public sector.</i>
2.3.8. Software development for the EMP			x		Professional services	
2.3.9. Piloting, testing, training and documentation of the EMP				x	Professional services	
2.3.10. Regional event to present the results of the EMP (depending on availability of funding in second half of 2017)				x	Events/ conferences	
A.3. Competitiveness						
A.3.1. Investment Integration						
3.1.1. Meetings of SEEIC Working Group on Investments (technical meetings on the matters of investment policies and promotion)		x		x	Events/ conferences	<i>Regional investment reform agenda developed and implementation commenced.</i>
3.1.2. E-permitting Working Group Session (technical meetings on implementation and maintenance of electronic systems for construction permits and spatial planning)	x		x		Events/ conferences	
3.1.3. Business Friendliness Working Group Session (technical meetings on setting and implementing the standards for business friendliness and improving municipal services to business)	x		x		Events/ conferences	
3.1.4. SEEIC Plenary Session (plenary meetings of the SEE's economic teams, represented by the officials from the ministries of economies, endorsing the findings and recommendations of technical working groups for further implementation)		x		x	Events/ conferences	
3.1.5. SEEIC Ministerial Meeting (annual meeting of the ministers of SEE economies, providing political support in the form of joint statement for the regular annual recommendations of the SEEIC's work in the areas of investments, industry, and sectors of priority)				x	Events/ conferences	
3.1.6. Support to investment conferences (Support to one big regional business/investment conference aimed at investment promotion of SEE)				x	Professional services	
A.3.2. Industrial Development						
3.2.1. Meeting of the food and beverages expert group (technical meeting on the matters hindering development of the sector, developing proposals for their mitigation, and developing a regional supply chain in the sector)				x	Events/ conferences	<i>Regional industrial policy coordinated and strategic sectors supported through creation of regional value chains along the economic corridors.</i>
3.2.2. Meeting of the tourism expert group (technical meeting on the matters hindering development of the sector, developing proposals for their mitigation, and developing a regional joint offer/product in the sector)			x		Events/ conferences	
3.2.3. Meeting of the ministers of tourism (providing political support to development of joint regional		x			Events/ conferences	

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
product in tourism)						
3.2.4. Meetings of the industrial policy expert group (expert meetings on improvement and harmonization of industrial policies in SEE)		x		x	Events/ conferences	
3.2.5. Regional assessment study in support to the industrial development working group (follow up of economic corridors diagnostics and regional analysis of economic zones) (x	Professional services	
3.2.6. Support to sectoral development (tourism routes mapping and food and beverage supplier database) -study in support to work of the sectoral working group				x	Professional services	
Component B. Governance, Rule of Law and Security Cooperation						
Objective: Better governance, improved functioning of the rule of law and enhanced security in SEE						
B.1. Public Administration Reform						
B.1.1. Public consultations on draft laws and public policy documents						
1.1.1. Development of the Regional Practical Guidelines/Recommendations for Public Consultations on draft laws and public policy documents				x	Professional services	<i>Codification in a regional standard of best practices on designing policies and legislation, enabling an inclusive and active participation of society.</i>
1.1.2. Workshops on the draft Regional Practical Guidelines/Recommendations for Public Consultations on draft laws and public policy documents	x		x		Events/ conferences	
1.1.3. Regional Conference to endorse the Regional Practical Guidelines/Recommendations for Public Consultations on draft laws and public policy documents				x	Events/ conferences	
1.1.4. Designing and printing the publication with the Regional Practical Guidelines/Recommendations for Public Consultations on draft laws and public policy documents				x	Professional services	
B.2. Justice						
B.2.1. SEE networks, regional trainings and Western Balkans Working Group on Justice						
2.1.1. Meetings of SEE Judicial Training Institutions Network/Platform		x		x	Events/ conferences	<i>Functional platforms for exchange of experiences in judicial training and mediation in SEE; coordinated activities in the area of training and mediation; reduced court backlog, improved skills, competence and effectiveness of judges and prosecutors in EU law.</i>
2.1.2. Rule of Law Forum “European Convention on Human Rights, art. 14 – Freedom of Expression”– in cooperation with CSOs (participants: WB constitutional and supreme courts judges, governmental agents and directors of judicial training institutions)	x				Events/ conferences	
2.1.3. Meetings of Working Group on Justice, as a structure approving and evaluating RCC activities in the area of justice	x			x	Events/ conferences	

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
2.1.4. Meeting of SEE Associations of Mediators Network/Platform				x	Events/ conferences	
2.1.5. Development of training materials in cross-border cooperation (EU procedure and legislation)	x				Professional services	
2.1.6. Regional trainings in EU law and trainings of trainers for judges and prosecutors in cooperation with EIPA and SEE Schools of Law	x			x	Events/ conferences	
B.3. Anti-corruption						
B.3.1. Support in conducting sectoral corruption risk assessment / anti-corruption assessment of laws						
3.1.1. Training of relevant national authorities and NGOs on conducting corruption proofing of legislation according to the RCC's Methodology				x	Events/ conferences	<i>Corruption risk assessment/anti-corruption assessment of laws carried out as recommended by studies developed by RCC in three economies.</i>
3.1.2. Development of a comprehensive Guideline/Checklist of corruption risk in healthcare sector for conducting sectoral corruption risk assessment/anti-corruption assessment of laws	x				Professional services	
3.1.3. Technical assistance to governments in applying the Checklist/ Guideline and Regional Methodologies				x	Professional services	
3.1.4. Regional Event on Corruption Risk Assessment and Anti-corruption of Laws				x	Events/ conferences	
B.4. Security cooperation						
B.4.1. Supporting the existing security cooperation mechanisms in SEE						
4.1.1. SEENSA/working group meeting	x				Events/ conferences	<i>Specific topics (such as industrial security) discussed and recommendations made.</i>
4.1.2. SEEMIC Expert working group meeting		x			Events/ conferences	<i>Agreed Draft OSINT Assessment.</i>
4.1.3. SEEMIC meeting - main conference				x	Events/ conferences	<i>Adopted OSINT Assessment; debate on main security challenges in SEE; guidance for further SEE military intelligence services cooperation.</i>
4.1.4. SEENSA meeting			x		Events/ conferences	<i>Stock-taking of the current state of cooperation between SEE NSAs, debate and guidance for further cooperation, especially in vetting procedures, and education and training.</i>
B.4.2. Addressing the emerging security challenges in the region (CVE-FTF Platform)						
4.2.1. Meetings of the RCC Group of National Focal Points for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Foreign Terrorist Fighters in Southeast Europe (NFP CVE-FTF Group)	x			x	Events/ conferences	<i>Stock-taking of the current state of CVE efforts and cooperation in the region, exchange of examples of good practice, guidance for future CVE work.</i>

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
4.2.2. Regional expert workshop on the role of education system and civil society in prevention of radicalization		x			Events/ conferences	<i>Conclusions to serve as a basis for policy recommendations for future curricular and extracurricular activities in prevention of youth radicalization in SEE.</i>
4.2.3. Regional expert workshop on prevention and suppression of online radicalization and violent extremist propaganda (depending on availability of funding in second half of 2017)			x		Events/ conferences	<i>Exchange of good practices and recommendations on how to prevent online radicalization and counter online violent extremist propaganda.</i>
4.2.4. Commissioning a Study on rehabilitation and reintegration of former terrorists and violent extremists			x		Professional services	<i>To serve both as a preparation for the corresponding Workshop and to inform the debate at the next NFP CVE-FTF Group Meeting.</i>
4.2.5. Regional expert workshop on disengagement and de-radicalization of former terrorists				x	Events/ conferences	<i>Conclusions to serve as a basis for policy recommendations for the development of effective programmes of disengagement and de-radicalization of former terrorists.</i>
4.2.6. Regional P-CVE Coordination Conference (co-organized with PCC SEE and other partners)				x	Events/ conferences	<i>Creating synergies and enhanced CVE results with limited resources, better inter-organizational cooperation and avoidance of unnecessary duplication.</i>
Component C. Horizontal and supporting activities						
Objective: Positioning the RCC as the main focal point for regional cooperation and the preeminent resource for governments, private sector, donors and the civil sector						
C.1. Programming, monitoring and coordination						
C.1.1. Programming activities						
1.1.1. SEE 2020 Programming Committee Meetings	x		x		Events/ conferences	<i>Establish or maintain functioning programming process for the successful implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy.</i>
1.1.2.. 3 rd Meeting on Donor Coordination in the Western Balkans	x				Events/ conferences	
C.1.2. Monitoring activities						
1.2.1. SEE 2020 Monitoring Committee Meetings		x		x	Events/ conferences	<i>Enable evidence-based policy making and a shift from activity based to result oriented monitoring.</i>
1.2.2. Balkan Barometer 2017				x	Professional services	
1.2.3. WIIW database - membership fee			x		Professional services	
1.2.4. Amadeus subscription				x	Professional services	
C.1.3. Coordination activities, grants						
1.3.1. 3 rd SEE 2020 Governing Board Meeting		x			Events/ conferences	<i>Establish or maintain functioning coordination mechanisms with the governments, private sector, business community and civil society for the successful implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.</i>
1.3.2. SEE 2020 Coordination Meeting				x	Events/ conferences	
1.3.3. Support to horizontal activities (short term technical assistance)	x	x	x	x	Professional services	
1.3.4. RCC Grant Facility		x		x	Grants	
1.3.5. Support to national coordination activities	x	x	x	x	Events/ conferences	
C.2. Political Department activities						
C.2.1. Strengthening cooperation between the SEE governments and with the EU						
C.2.1.1. Assist the SEECF and SEECF C-i-O						

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
2.1.1.1. Meetings of the RCC Board	x	x		x	Events/ conferences	<i>Operational guidance and supervision of the RCC; acceptance of the regular reports of the Secretary General; decisions pertinent to the activities of the RCC Secretariat and overseeing their implementation.</i>
2.1.1.2. Coordination Meetings between SEECF Troika, RCC Secretariat and EU	x	x		x	Events/ conferences	<i>Review of the developments pertaining to regional cooperation in SEE and provision of recommendations; harmonization of the priorities of the SEECF C-i-O with the Strategy and Work Programme of the RCC.</i>
2.1.1.3. RCC Annual Meeting		x			Events/ conferences	<i>Strategic coordination and further development of the regional cooperation processes; endorsement of the Annual Report of the Secretary General of the RCC for 2016 - 2017.</i>
C.2.1.2. Consultations of the Secretary General with SEECF and RCC participants						
2.1.2.1. Regular political dialogue with the RCC participants	x	x	x	x	Consultations	<i>Political support to the activities of RCC.</i>
C.2.1.3 Maintain the dialogue with the EU institutions						
2.1.3.1. Regular dialogue with the EU institutions and EU Member States	x	x	x	x	Consultations	<i>Ensuring close association of the RCC work with the EU enlargement agenda as well as better coordination of joint efforts.</i>
2.1.3.2. Informal meeting of the MFAs from the Western Balkans with the EU Commissioner				x	Events/ conferences	<i>Support towards the EU accession goals of the Western Balkans region.</i>
C.2.1.4. Support to parliamentary activities related to the EU acquis and the SEE 2020 Strategy						
2.1.4.1. Inter-parliamentary Conference on Trans-European Networks Policy and Connectivity Agenda (Organized by European Parliament)		x			Events/ conferences	<i>Raising awareness of SEE parliamentarians on the new trans-European network policy and its reflections to the region.</i>
2.1.4.2. Inter-parliamentary Conference on Stability and Growth in South East Europe (Co-organized with European Parliament and the Croatian Chairmanship of the SEECF PA for 2016 - 2017)				x	Events/ conferences	<i>Contributing to the dialogue between EP and the Parliaments from the SEE region in the context of the European integration process.</i>
C.2.2. Broadening links and strengthening partnerships with other regional stakeholders						
C.2.2.1. Participation of SG to high-level events	x	x	x	x	Events/ conferences	<i>Streamlining the regional cooperation in SEE and promotion of RCC activities; deepening of regional cooperation through stronger partnerships with all concerned stakeholders.</i>
C.2.2.2. Work with media/communication	x	x	x	x	Communication with media	<i>Increasing public awareness and support for the RCC activities.</i>
C.2.2.3. Support to the Winter School on Diplomacy (Organized by Diplomatic Institute of Bulgarian MFA)	x				Events/ conferences	<i>Raising awareness of the young diplomats on the regional cooperation in SEE.</i>
C.2.2.4. Diplomatic Training Seminar (Co-organized with the Diplomatic Academy of the Croatian MFA)		x			Events/ conferences	<i>Support to improving diplomatic skills of young diplomats from SEE, as a mechanism for achieving the EU standards and criteria.</i>

7. List of Abbreviations

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AFET	Working Group on the Western Balkans of the EP's Committee on Foreign Affairs
ARI	Annual Report on Implementation
BFC	Business Friendliness Certification
BSEC	Black Sea Economic Cooperation
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
C-i-O	Chairmanship-in-Office
CoE	Council of Europe
COWEB	Working Group on Western Balkans of the Council of the European Union
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CVE	Countering of Violent Extremism
CVE-FTF Platform	South East Europe Regional Platform for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters
DG	Directorate-General
DG JUST	Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers
DG NEAR	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
EC	European Commission
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
EEAS	European External Action Service
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
EIPA	European Centre for Judges and Lawyers
EMP	Energy Management Platform
EP	European Parliament
ERI SEE	Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe
ESAP	Employment and Social Affairs Platform
EU	European Union
EUROJUST	European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit
EUROPOL	European Police Office
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FTF	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
GGF	Green for Growth Fund
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GIZ ORF MMS	GIZ Open Regional Fund - Modernization of Municipal Services
GWP-Med	Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IFI	International Financial Institution
IISG	Integrated Internal Security Governance
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
IT	Information Technology
JTI	Judicial Training Institutions
JWGI	Joint Working Group on Investments
JWGMRPQ	Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications
MARRI	Migration, Asylum and Refugees Regional Initiative
MC IPA	Multi-Country Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NALED	National Alliance for Local Economic Development
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NFP CVE-FTF Group	RCC Group of National Focal Points for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Foreign Terrorist Fighters in Southeast Europe
NSA	National Security Authority
ORF	Open Regional Funds for South East Europe

ORF LR	Open Regional Fund for South East Europe – Legal Reform
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSINT	Open Sources Intelligence Assessment
P-CVE	Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism
RAI	Regional Anticorruption Initiative
RACVIAC	RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
RDC	Regional Dimension Coordinator
REEP Plus	Regional Energy Efficiency Program
ReSPA	Regional School of Public Administration
RWG Env	Regional Working Group on Environment
SEDM	South East Europe Defence Ministerial
SEDM-CC	South East Europe Defence Ministerial Coordination Committee
SEE	South East Europe
SEE 2020	South East Europe 2020 Strategy: Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective
SEEBRIG	South-Eastern Europe Brigade
SEECP	South-East European Cooperation Process
SEECP PA	South-East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly
SEEDAD	South East Europe Donor Assistance Database
SEEDS	South East Development Scoreboard
SEEIC	South East Europe Investment Committee
SEELS	South East European Law School Network
SEEMIC	South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs
SEENSA	South East European National Security Authorities
SIGMA	Support for Improvement in Governance and Management
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SWP	Strategy and Work Programme
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the EC
TEPAV	Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	Western Balkans
WBCTi	Western Balkans Counter-Terrorism Initiative
WGJ	Working Group on Justice
WIIW	Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies