

# REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

For the period 1 April – 20 September 2014

# 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

### CONTENTS

I.	Executive Summary	4
II. C	General and institutional aspects of the RCC Secretariat's activities	7
-	RCC Board Meeting	7
-	Coordination between the SEECP and the RCC	7
-	RCC Annual Meeting	8
-	Participation of the RCC Secretariat's delegation at the high-level meetings of the Romanian SEECP C-i-O for 2013-2014 held in Bucharest	8
-	Consultations of the RCC Secretary General with RCC participants	9
-	Participation of the RCC Secretary General in other regional meetings and events	10
-	Cooperation with the EU and other Brussels-based institutions	10
-	Communication activities	11
-	Evaluation of general and institutional aspects	12
III.	Priority areas of the RCC activities	12
	South East Europe 2020 Strategy – Jobs and Prosperity in a European erspective	12
	A. Integrated Growth	13
	<ul><li>B. Smart Growth</li><li>- Education and Competences</li><li>- Research and Innovation</li><li>- Cultural and Creative Sectors</li></ul>	14
	C. Sustainable Growth  - Energy  - Transport  - Environment  - Competitiveness	18
	<ul><li>D. Inclusive Growth</li><li>- Employment</li><li>- Health</li></ul>	20

	E. Governance for Growth	21		
2.	Justice and home affairs and security cooperation – stability and rule of law - Justice and home affairs - Security cooperation	22		
3.	Cross-cutting issues – extending participation, widening partnerships - Parliamentary cooperation - Women Entrepreneurship	27		
IV.	Operation of the RCC Secretariat	29		
V.	Staff Changes in the RCC Secretariat	30		
VI.	State of financial contributions to the RCC Secretariat Budget for 2014	31		
ANN	NEX I	32		
_	ort on the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme I – 2016			
ANN	NEX II	38		
	of meetings and events attended by the RCC Secretary General and the RCC retariat Officials in the period 1 April $-20$ September 2014			
ANN	NEX III	47		
List	of planned events and activities of the RCC Secretariat in 2014			
ANN	NEX IV	54		
List	of Officials of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat			
ANN	NEX V	56		
List of Abbreviations				

The Report on the activities of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat is submitted by the Secretary General of the RCC to the RCC Board in line with Article 15 of the Statute of the RCC. It covers the period from 1 April to 20 September 2014.

#### I. Executive summary

The reporting period was characterized by the continuation of the process of implementing RCC's Strategy and Work Programme (SWP) 2014-2016 and its central pillar - the South East Europe 2020 Strategy: Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective, active contribution and participation in the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) high-level events, consultations between the RCC Secretary General and RCC participants, regional organizations and initiatives, as well as by a substantive dialogue with European Union (EU) institutions, in particular the EC.

Two high-level visits from the region to the RCC Secretariat by the Prime Minister of Serbia, Aleksandar Vucic, and the President of Montenegro, Filip Vujanović, highlighted Serbia's and Montenegro's commitment to regional cooperation in SEE and the role of RCC.

The RCC Secretary General spoke on economic governance at the EU - Western Balkans foreign ministers conference, organized by the Greek Presidency of the Council of the EU on 8<sup>th</sup> of May in Thessaloniki. The conference heard reassurances about the political commitment of the EU vis-a-vis the Western Balkans.

The RCC has been exerting its mandate as a leading, sui generis and all-inclusive forum. In deploying multifaceted activities, the RCC Secretariat benefited from an unwavering support and commitment on part of the RCC participants from within and outside the region, from a strategic synergy with the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office (C-i-O), and from the support of the EU that, inter alia, opened the possibility of associating closer RCC's work with the EU enlargement agenda.

The synergy between RCC and the Romanian SEECP C-i-O served as an effective platform for promoting and enhancing regional cooperation, as well as for supporting the EU integration efforts of the aspirants from SEE. Moreover, it contributed to a functional and substantial correlation and coherence of the various efforts in the region.

The SEECP high-level events, marking the end of the Romanian SEECP C-i-O, included meetings of the Political Directors, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of State/Government of the Participating States, all held towards the end of June 2014 in Bucharest. These meetings led to several very important outcomes: the adoption of the SEECP Bucharest Summit Declaration which, among others, opens the path for Kosovo's full-fledged participation in SEECP activities and meetings; utmost support for the Albanian SEECP C-i-O for 2014-2015; agreement on Bulgaria's proposal to assume the SEECP C-i-O for 2015-2016; the adoption of the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General on regional cooperation in SEE and an expression of strong political support for RCC's activities and particularly for the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

The RCC Annual meeting endorsed the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General on regional cooperation in SEE for 2013-2014, which contains assessments of the

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013, and information on the implementation of the RCC SWP 2014-2016 and the SEE 2020 Strategy.

#### Priority areas of the RCC activities

#### The SEE 2020 Strategy

The first policy cycle of the SEE 2020 Strategy implementation was initiated with the first meeting of the SEE 2020 Governing Board held on June 19<sup>th</sup> in Bucharest. The meeting (back-to-back with the RCC Annual Meeting) brought together the Western Balkans Ministers of EU integration and their respective designates, along with representatives of RCC participants from the region and the EU. The RCC presented the SEE 2020 Baseline report summarizing the regional and national plans of action, as well as the SEE 2020 Scoreboard - a monitoring tool to track progress along several indicators. In addition to taking stock of the progress made so far, the Governing Board issued guidance to the RCC and other participants of the process, specifying the direction for the SEE 2020 Strategy implementation over the next year.

Under the *Integrated Growth pillar*, the RCC and CEFTA Secretariats agreed on the modalities of cooperation between the SEE Investment Committee (SEEIC) and CEFTA within the framework of the SEE 2020 Strategy and successfully prepared and held the first meeting of the SEEIC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments (Joint WGI). Its participants endorsed the mandate and responsibilities of the Joint WGI, and introduced the prospective for cooperation in conducting regional Investment Policy Reviews (IPR). Investment and enterprise policy recommendations for the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy were also developed. Furthermore, SEEIC has endorsed the scope and methodology of the forthcoming IPR during its plenary meeting, along with the decisions to take the sectoral work forward within the scope of the SEE2020, by preparing policy response to the identified skills gap/human resources barriers in both of the priority sectors: food and beverages and tourism industry.

Under the *Smart Growth pillar* the RCC Secretariat mobilized external assistance for the drafting of four programs in three dimensions of the Smart Growth pillar (Education and Competences; Research and Innovation and Cultural and Creative Sectors).

Progress was also made in the *Sustainable Growth pillar*, particularly in areas such as energy, transport and competitiveness. A methodology for data collection was prepared and a tool for data collection and calculating of quantitative indicators was developed to capture the SEE 2020 Strategy progress in the energy dimension. In the area of transport, an agreement was reached for South-East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO) to prepare a Roadmap for the implementation of the priority activities in the regional action plan to be taken by the end of this year. On competitiveness, following up on selection of the two sectors of priorities within the context of the SEE 2020 Strategy - food and beverages processing and tourism industry, first meeting of the respective working groups have been held, under the auspices of the SEEIC and operating as a joint effort with the EU-funded and OECD-implemented Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative Project (NGCI). The first analysis of the sectoral work resulted in detection of skills gap as the main sectoral development barrier and will be deliberated further into policy responses.

Under the *Inclusive Growth pillar*, RCC initiated two regional studies on labour mobility and social economy development, which have been identified as the key regional measures to promote employment and inclusion in the 2020 timeframe. The RCC engaged external expertise to provide an in-depth understanding of the current situation in SEE in these two

areas and to propose concrete recommendations that will form the basis for discussions with governments and feed into policy making processes on the national level.

The focus of the work under the *Governance for Growth pillar* was on the creation of preconditions for the successful implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy through the development of Regional Action Plans together with dimension coordinators. In parallel, the implementation of certain activities of Regional Action Plans has already started, namely the anti-corruption dimension.

In the area of <u>Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)</u> the initial stage of the development of gap analyses in the regional cooperation in the field of migration management and fighting organized crime was completed. At the SEECP JHA ministerial meeting, organized by the Romanian SEECP C-i-O in May 2014 in Bucharest, the ministers presented the progress achieved in strengthening the rule of law, combating corruption and organized crime - as core priorities of the EU integration process. They recommended that the RCC continues to promote, guide and monitor regional cooperation involving all SEECP participating states.

In parallel with the implementation of activities for the reporting period, the Program Department and the Administration Department worked closely to prepare and approve the calendar of activities for the implementation of SEE 2020 and the related operational budget for the second part of 2014.

In the area of <u>Parliamentary Cooperation</u>, the RCC Secretariat continued to assist the SEECP in developing the parliamentary dimension of its work. In this context, the RCC Secretariat participated at the Inaugural Session of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly (Bucharest, 9-10 May 2014), which discussed, amended and adopted the following documents: 1) Declaration on the inauguration of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly; 2) Rules of Procedure of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly; 3) Report of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension Working Group for the Inaugural Session of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly; 4) Work Programme 2014/2015 of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly.

The <u>communication activities</u> of the RCC Secretariat focused on SEE 2020 Strategy, interviews with key RCC staff on organisation's activities, press coverage of RCC activities, social media activity and interaction with SEE media, and PR aspects of the two most important events for the RCC Secretariat in 2014 - the RCC Annual Meeting and the first meeting of the SEE 2020 Strategy Governing Board.

#### II. General and institutional aspects of the RCC Secretariat's activities

#### RCC Board Meeting

The 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the RCC Board, held on 24 April 2014 in Sarajevo, was attended by the representatives of all RCC Board participants with the exception of Finland, Ireland, Kosovo\*, Moldova, Norway and Switzerland.

The RCC Secretary General announced that the RCC Annual Meeting and the Meeting of the SEE 2020 Strategy Governing Board will be held on 19 June 2014 in Bucharest, back-to-back with the SEECP high-level events. He further informed on the composition of the SEE 2020 Governing Board.

The RCC Board meeting approved the Financial Report of the RCC Secretary General for the year 2013 and revised the Financial Management Manual.

The RCC Board also: 1) Accepted the Annual Report of the Secretary General on regional cooperation in SEE for 2013-2014; 2) Approved the Report of the RCC Secretary General on the activities of the RCC Secretariat for the period January-April 2014 and on the implementation of the RCC SWP 2014-2016 and SEE 2020 Strategy; 3) Adopted the amendments to the Rules of Procedures of the RCC Board, and tasked the RCC Secretary General and the RCC Secretariat to reshuffle the sequence of the meetings of the RCC Board; 4) Gave its consent for signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the RCC and CEI; 5) Agreed with the proposal of the RCC Secretary General to invite the ILO, the CBSS and the ICMPD to participate, as guests, at the RCC Annual Meetings.

#### Coordination between the SEECP and the RCC

The 15<sup>th</sup> Coordination Meeting, held on 23 April 2014 in Sarajevo, gathered representatives of the SEECP Troika - the SEECP C-i-O for the period 2013-2014 Romania, the incoming SEECP C-i-O Albania and the previous SEECP C-i-O The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the RCC Secretariat and the EU institutions.

The RCC Secretary General briefed on the activities of the RCC Secretariat carried out in the context of the implementation of the RCC SWP 2014-2016 and on the next steps in implementing the SEE 2020 Strategy. He announced that a presentation on the activities of SEESAC will be made at the RCC Board meeting and that the RCC Secretariat intends to continue this practice of inviting RCC's partners to present their activities to the RCC Board participants.

The coordination meeting, in its conclusions, agreed that the RCC Annual Meeting and the SEE 2020 Strategy Governing Board Meeting will be held on 19 June 2014 in Bucharest. The RCC Secretary General reaffirmed his support for the SEECP C-i-O's priorities and activities.

The representative of Albania, in its capacity as the incoming SEECP C-i-O for 2014-2015, informed on its preliminary priorities which focus on three pillars: 1) Strengthening the regional role of SEECP; 2) Improving the functioning of the SEECP; 3) Consolidating the sectoral relevance of the SEECP.

The RCC Secretary General held consultations with the MFA of Albania in its capacity as the SEECP C-i-O on 18 September 2014 in Tirana. The parties exchanged views on the priorities of the Albanian SEECP C-i-O and explored opportunities to maximize the synergy and enhance the regional cooperation on concrete projects. The discussions underscored the

importance of seeking possibilities, ways and modalities to ensure funds for the implementation of projects. Furthermore, the parties reflected on the need to strengthen the role and efficiency of the SEECP, the outcome of the Berlin conference dedicated to the W. Balkans, and the overall cooperation between SEECP C-i-O and RCC.

#### RCC Annual Meeting

The RCC Annual Meeting took place on 19 June in Bucharest, back-to-back with the high-level meetings of the SEECP and the SEE 2020 Strategy Governing Board. The meeting was co-chaired, on behalf of the Romanian SEECP C-i-O for 2013-2014, by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Titus Corlatean and, on behalf of the RCC, by the RCC Secretary General Mr. Goran Svilanovic. The meeting was attended by the RCC participants and representatives of regional organizations and initiatives.

The RCC Secretary General, in his introductory remarks, focused on the developments in regional cooperation in SEE; noted the most important results obtained following the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 and presented his Annual Report on regional cooperation in SEE for 2013-2014.

The participants of the RCC reaffirmed their commitments to regional cooperation and goodneighbourly relations in SEE as essential requirements for European and Euro-Atlantic integration. They praised the respect for the principle of all-inclusiveness in the RCC framework. The importance of the SEECP and RCC has been recurrently underlined, including their contribution to the improvement and promotion of mutual dialogue at all levels and areas of common interests for the region. Moreover, the RCC participants accentuated the need for a strong correlation between the SEECP political decision making and RCC operational implementation. This will ensure that the political and operational activities within regional cooperation in SEE are coordinated and streamlined. The RCC participants commended the results achieved by the RCC and the central engagement of the RCC Secretary General, inter alia, in the promotion and implementation of project - oriented cooperation in areas of common interest. The role of the implementation of the RCC SWP for 2014-2016 and especially of its central pillar, the SEE 2020 Strategy, in the intensification of the regional economic cooperation in SEE captured the attention of the participants. In this context, they expressed their strong support for and high expectations from the SEE 2020 Strategy, being confident that the quantitative targets of the Strategy in the areas of economic growth, trade, investments, education, employment, governance will further strengthen the EU accession efforts of the RCC participants from the region.

The incoming Albanian SEECP C-i-O for the period 2014-2015 announced that it will be guided by the principles of the SEECP Charter, SEECP Summit Declarations and Decisions taken by the SEECP Participating States when carrying out its mandate and activities.

The meeting endorsed the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General on regional cooperation in SEE for 2013-2014, containing assessments of the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013, and information on the implementation of the RCC SWP 2014-2016 and the SEE 2020 Strategy.

Participation of the RCC Secretariat's delegation at the high-level meetings of the Romanian SEECP C-i-O for 2013-2014, held in the period 18-25 June 2014 in Bucharest The SEECP high-level events, marking the end of the Romanian SEECP C-i-O for the period 2013-2014, included the meeting of the SEECP Political Directors, the Formal meeting of the

MFAs and the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the SEECP Participating States.

At the SEECP Ministerial, the MFAs commended the Romanian SEECP C-i-O for including important issues on the regional agenda such as the reflection process on the future of SEECP, the organisation of the inaugural session of SEECP Parliamentary Assembly and the deepening of sectorial cooperation in various areas of mutual interest. The MFAs agreed to submit to the SEECP Summit the proposal to invite Kosovo\* to participate on a permanent basis in the SEECP activities and meetings, at all levels and on equal terms; praised the SEECP - RCC synergy and RCC's role as the driving force behind the project-oriented cooperation in SEE; expressed solidarity with the victims of floods in Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and thanked Romania as the current SEECP C-i-O for the demarches for assistance to flood-affected areas in SEE.

The RCC Secretary General, inter alia, briefed on the most important developments pertaining to the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy, including the preparation of the SEE 2020 Strategy Baseline Report and the results of the SEE 2020 Strategy Governing Board meeting. In this context, he pointed out that during the development of the national and regional action plans for implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy, the RCC and its partners took into account the feasibility of the actions, having in mind human and financial resources available over the next 18 months. He also underlined that the process of implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy will be: (1) transparent - SEE 2020 Strategy Scoreboard will be available online for all; (2) all-inclusive - upon request the SEECP participants that are not covered by the Strategy can take part in some activities related to its implementation; (3) without duplications - regular dialogue with EC will be maintained in order to avoid duplication of activities and ensure appropriate use of resources.

At the SEECP Summit, the Heads of State/Government adopted the SEECP Bucharest Declaration which, among the other, reiterates the firm engagement and determination of the region towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the South-East European region. The Declaration opened the path for Kosovo's \* full-fledged participation in SEECP activities and meetings. Moreover, the document ensures a strong political support for RCC's activities and the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

Overall, the SEECP Participating States assured the incoming Albanian SEECP C-i-O for the period 2014-2015 of their support and agreed with the proposal made by Bulgaria to assume the SEECP C-i-O for the period 2015-2016. They adopted the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General on regional cooperation in SEE for 2013-2014, and took note with appreciation of the presentation by the RCC Secretary General on the outcome of the SEE 2020 Strategy Governing Board Meeting held on 19 June in Bucharest, as well as the Baseline Report on the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

#### Consultations of the RCC Secretary General with RCC participants

The RCC Secretary General, within his permanent dialogue with the RCC participants, held meetings and consultations with high-level officials from Serbia, Germany and Czech Republic.

During the discussions, the RCC Secretary General provided a review of latest developments in SEE, particularly in the context of the region's European integration and on the ways of enhancing its EU agenda. He also informed on the outcome of the implementation of the RCC

SWP for 2011-2013, the onset of the implementation of the SWP for 2014-2016 and in particular on its central pillar - the SEE 2020 Strategy.

#### Participation of the RCC Secretary General in other regional meetings and events

The RCC Secretary General participated at a number of high-level events and international meetings with a regional dimension such as the informal meeting of the MFAs from the W. Balkans; Croatia Forum - EU Integration of W. Balkans: State of Play; International donors' conference for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia after the floods; Economic conference on the W. Balkans held on 28 August in Berlin; Bled Strategic Forum; and the Concluding Meeting of the 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

#### Cooperation with the EU and other Brussels-based institutions

The RCC Liaison Office in Brussels continued its activities of representing RCC before EU institutions and other Brussels-based organizations and stakeholders in order to inform them on RCC's role and activities, including on the implementation of RCC SWP 2014-2016 and the SEE 2020 Strategy; it prepared visits and meetings of the RCC Secretary General and the Deputy RCC Secretary General/Head of Programme Department in Brussels and assisted the RCC experts in their contacts with EU institutions; it provided regular and timely information and documents to the RCC Secretariat about EU decisions and discussions relevant to the region and to the RCC priority areas, as well as followed closely the developments of the EU Enlargement process.

The RCC Liaison Office had a number of meetings with different representatives of the EU institutions and bodies, ambassadors and diplomats from the SEE region accredited to the EU and organized a number of meetings for the RCC Secretary General with high-level officials of the EU and other Brussels-based institutions, including the Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, EC Director General for Enlargement, the Director in DG Enlargement for Albania, BH, Serbia and Kosovo\*, as well as the Director for Western Europe (non-EU), Western Balkans and Turkey of the EEAS.

At the meeting with the Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, held on 19 May 2014 in Brussels, the RCC Secretary General reflected on the assistance needs caused by the floods in the region and the mechanisms for the EU help.

In meetings with the Director General for Enlargement from the EC on 2 July and on 5 September, the RCC Secretary General discussed the preparations for the RCC Annual Meeting and the first SEE 2020 Strategy Governing Board meeting, as well as the results of the Western Balkans Conference in Berlin and the implications for further enhancing regional cooperation in the Western Balkans region.

The RCC Secretary General had a fruitful discussion with the Director for Western Europe (non-EU), Western Balkans and Turkey of the EEAS on 20 May 2014. The meeting focused on the subject of inclusiveness of regional cooperation in SEE, and stressed the need to work together with all stakeholders using all available channels to ensure inclusiveness in other regional organizations, including in the SEECP.

The RCC Secretary General spoke on economic governance at the EU - Western Balkans foreign ministers conference, organized by the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU on 8 May 2014 in Thessaloniki, at which the Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy also participated. The conference reiterated the political commitment of

the EU vis-a-vis the Western Balkans and the resolve of the Western Balkans countries to pursue the necessary reforms to achieve their European integration objective.

The RCC Secretary General participated as a speaker in the donors' conference for Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina "Rebuilding Together", on 16 July 2014, hosted by EC and coorganized with France and Slovenia. The event mobilized further support to these countries in the aftermath of the recent floods.

The RCC Secretary General and the SEE 2020 Coordinator made a presentation of SEE 2020 and its implementation to DG enlargement geographic units. The RCC Secretary General also briefed the ambassadors and diplomats from SEE accredited to the EU on the activities of the RCC, including on the results of the RCC Annual meeting, as well as the SEECP high level meetings in Bucharest.

The RCC Liaison Office participated, together with the Senior Expert on Inclusive Growth, at the CEFTA Secretariat, World Bank "Dialogue on Regional Mo of Professionals in CEFTA" (29 April). The event promoted trade in services in the context of increased regional mobility by providing a forum for the participants to discuss the potential mechanisms and tools to facilitate the mobility of professionals across the region.

The RCC Liaison Office continued its activities in support of the young professionals and students from the region. The RCC Liaison Office representative participated as lecturer at the 15<sup>th</sup> summer seminar for young professionals from SEE and the Black Sea in Albena (3 June) and presented RCC's mission and activities and in particular the SEE 2020 Strategy and its implementation. The RCC Liaison Office also presented RCC's activities (28 May) to a group of 12 Master Degree students from Kosovo\*, from the University of Pristina and International Business College from Northern Mitrovica, whose visit to Brussels was organized by the EU Special Representative Office in Pristina.

#### Communication activities

The RCC Secretariat continued focusing its communication activities on the SEE 2020 Strategy, placement of articles, interviews with key RCC staff on organization activities, social media activities, web site updates and interaction with SEE media.

European Fund for the Balkans/NEF offered the RCC the role of partner in realizing 1 episode of TV show "Okruzenje" (Vicinities) in 2014 season on a topic what is relevant for RCC in the scope of its SEE 2020 Strategy. The recording will take place on September the 21<sup>st</sup>. TV channels that will broadcast the show are: ALSAT-M TV from The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Radio Television Serbia, Vijesti television from Montenegro, Radio Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina, BN Television in the Republika Srpska, HRT – Croatian public television, RTK – Kosovo\* and RTS – Slovenia.

A number of interviews, statements, articles throughout the media in the region were organized for the RCC Secretary General and RCC Experts on promotion of RCC activities, including a prominent opinion piece by the Secretary General in Serbia's most respected weekly magazine Vreme, interviews with Head of SEE 2020 Coordination Unit and Expert on Integrated Growth, carried by a number of relevant regional media.

In the reporting period, to the knowledge of/available to the RCC Secretariat, 33 articles, interviews and statements on the RCC were published in SEE and international media, which is in line with fewer activities due to holiday season, bringing the total of 6.488 available

articles published since the beginning of operations of the RCC Secretariat. The same period witnessed 20.684 page views bringing the total to 6.245.823 page views. The RCC currently has 864 tweets, out of which 73 photo/videos tweets and 808 followers at its Twitter account. RCC has posted 10 tweets on its activities and retweeted 23 tweets of the RCC partners/stakeholders pertaining to the RCC activities, mentioning @rccint. The account generated 44 new followers and added 22 new Twitter profiles to follow bringing the total to 987 following accounts. RCC had 55 posts on its Facebook page in the reporting period. RCC individual posts were liked 157 and shared 6 times. Likes of the RCC FB page come mostly from the region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey) but there are also some followers from USA, United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, Russia, etc. RCC You Tube channel has 21 videos posted out of which 14 are RCC-produced and the remaining 7 are the videos relevant to RCC taken from other sources.

#### Evaluation of general and institutional aspects

The RCC Secretariat continued its activities pertaining to the implementation of the RCC SWP 2014-2016 and the SEE 2020 Strategy as its central pillar.

The strategic character of relations between the SEECP and the RCC remained pivotal for maintaining the momentum of the development of regional cooperation, the affirmation of the principle of regional ownership, as well as for moving towards a greater regional responsibility.

Drawing on the successful cooperation with the previous as well as incumbent SEECP C-i-O, the regular Coordination meetings of the SEECP Troika and the RCC Secretariat with the participation of the EU representatives proved to be a very useful tool in providing guidance and enhancing overall coordination.

#### III. Priority areas of the RCC activities

#### 1. South East Europe 2020 Strategy - Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective

The first policy cycle of the SEE 2020 Strategy implementation was initiated during the reporting period with the first meeting of the SEE 2020 Strategy Governing Board held on June 19. The meeting, organized back-to-back with the RCC Annual Meeting in Bucharest, brought together the Western Balkans Ministers of EU integration and their respective designates, along with the representatives of RCC participants from the region and the EU. RCC presented the SEE 2020 Strategy Baseline report at the meeting summarizing the regional and national plans of action, as well as the SEE 2020 Strategy Scoreboard - a monitoring tool to track progress along several indicators. In addition to taking stock of the progress made so far, the Governing Board issued guidance to the RCC and other participants of the process, specifying the direction for the SEE 2020 Strategy implementation over the next year.

There were several important milestones leading to the Governing Board meeting. Following the workshops organized with the OECD and the governments in Tirana (April 2), Pristina (April 16), and Podgorica (April 17), RCC rolled out a comprehensive technical assistance programme to support the SEE 2020 Strategy National Coordinators in developing the national action plans. During April and May, RCC mobilized a team of advisors to work with the Governments in identifying the main sets of action to be included in national action plans.

Draft national action plans were produced by all 5 governments, with one of the national action plans already being adopted during June.

In a parallel process, together with the regional dimension coordinators, 15 regional action plans were developed by end of April. Meetings with the regional dimension coordinators (4<sup>th</sup> Coordination Board on May 6) and the SEE 2020 Strategy National Coordinators (May 7) were held in Sarajevo to review the progress and agree on the methodology for the development of the Baseline Report, which was finalized and sent to the Governments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June.

Finally, the data collection process on the quantitative indicators was conducted during the second quarter. With the assistance of the regional dimension coordinators, data on a total of 180 indicators covering 2010-2013 was collected from the administrations and international sources. Most of the SEE 2020 Strategy policy areas have been covered through these indicators. Together with the 11 targets, these indicators will form a basis of the SEE 2020 Strategy Scoreboard - a public monitoring tool that will be updated annually and that will provide necessary information to the policy makers and the general public on the state of SEE 2020 Strategy implementation. The initial, beta version of the SEE 2020 Strategy Scoreboard has been published on the RCC website to solicit input from RCC's partners in this endeavor.

With this, the governments, the regional dimension coordinators and the RCC have completed the preparatory phase of SEE 2020 Strategy and the focus in the second half of the year will shift towards programming of interventions and implementation of planned activities. A summary of activities in the five pillars of the Strategy implemented over the past quarter is presented below.

In parallel with the implementation of activities for the reporting period, the Program Department and the Administration Department worked closely to prepare and approve the calendar of activities for SEE 2020 implementation and the related operational budget for the second part of 2014. The process was finalized with a two-day workshop (1-2 July 2014) during which both teams reviewed the performance of the first 6 months, developed the operating plan for the next 6 months, as well as develop a rolling, two-year programme of activities. This workshop served also to the SEE 2020 team to discuss and finalize the SEE 2020 Programming Guide, which was then sent to the SEE 2020 implementing partners.

#### A. Integrated Growth

Upon determining modalities of cooperation between two dimension coordinators of the Integrated Growth Pillar: CEFTA Secretariat and the SEE Investment Committee (SEEIC), the first meeting of the SEEIC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments took place on 13 May 2014 in Sarajevo. Participants at the meeting endorsed the mandate and responsibilities of the Joint WGI, while introducing the prospective for cooperation in conducting regional Investment Policy Reviews, as well as developing investment and enterprise policy recommendations for the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy, and identifying mutual points of interest on joint investment promotion of the region.

Furthermore, RCC and CEFTA Secretariats have continued deliberating on the prospective flagship initiatives/regional programmes within the scope of the SEE 2020 dealing with investment, in consultations with the World Bank regional office based in Vienna and UNCTAD. A draft project concept on Investment Policy and Regional Integration has been proposed by the World Bank, which was subject to review and further elaboration in the

forthcoming period. Cooperation with UNCTAD, initiated at the beginning of 2014, brought a proposal for a regional benchmark study on investment policy and execution of national Investment Policy Reviews by UNCTAD in each of the SEE 2020 Strategy economies.

The aforementioned proposals have been subject to a further analysis and comments of the SEEIC plenary fora at the 15<sup>th</sup> SEEIC meeting on 26 June, held under the co-chairmanship of the RCC and the Government of the Republic of Croatia - Ministry of Economy. Economic Teams of SEEIC, with support of the partners from the EC, CEFTA, OECD Investment Compact SEE, World Bank (IFC), UNCTAD, and European Training Foundation, reviewed and endorsed the UNCTAD proposal for regional Investment Policy Reviews, while the World Bank project is to be further elaborated during the coming period. In the context of implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy pillars which the SEEIC is in charge of as the Dimension Coordinator: Integrated Growth and Sustainable Growth (Competitiveness Dimension), SEEIC has adopted a corresponding Rolling Work Plan and SEE 2020 Strategy Regional Action Plan for the time period 2014-2015. The meeting also took note of the full integration of the SEEIC within the RCC structures, commencing as of 1 July 2014.

Along with the need for expanding the stakeholders' base in implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy to the business community, the RCC Secretariat has supported and participated at this years "Sarajevo Business Forum". The Forum took place on 14-15 May, and presented investment opportunities of the region in various sectors to the international business community. Additionally, the RCC Secretariat has established contacts and initiated discussions with the representatives of the Foreign Investors Councils (FIC) across the region, for the goal of aligning priorities of the FIC White Book(s) to those of the SEE 2020 Strategy, particularly in the areas of crucial importance in fighting against shadow economy in the region.

In line with supporting investment activities of the SEE region among the international business community, the RCC has participated at the Western Balkans Business Conference in Berlin, Germany on 28 August. The Conference was initiated by the German Chancellor, hosted by the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy and supported by the Governments of the invited Western Balkans countries and German business community, under the motto "Through trade, investment and regional cooperation to new dynamics". The idea of working closely with Western Balkans countries to bring them closer to the EU - a process initiated in Berlin is expected to continue and be converted into a longer working process, hosted by Austria in 2015 and then France. The first upcoming event was announced in the anticipated series, named "Economy – Basis for Western Balkans Regional Cooperation", scheduled to take place on 24th and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in Budva, Montenegro, under the auspices of the Federation of German Industries and Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro.

#### **B. Smart Growth**

Within the Smart Growth pillar the RCC Secretariat embarked on realization of the planned activities aiming to develop SEE 2020 Strategy regional programs, in compliance with developed programming guidelines. In that light, external assistance has been mobilized for drafting four programs in three dimensions of the Smart Growth pillar: Education and Competences; Research and Innovation and Cultural and Creative Sectors. RCC TFCS Secretariat developed the fifth draft regional program. 4 Regional workshops, as the main steps in the process of consultations on regional programs, have been organised in the reporting period.

#### - Education and Competences

18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body was organized by the RCC Secretariat in coordination with ERI SEE Secretariat. The RCC Secretariat, as a member of the ERI SEE Governing Board, initiated the event in line with its general efforts to assist the finalization of the process of creation of ERI SEE, as transparent and efficient mechanism for cooperation in SEE in the area of education. ERI SEE also acts as the coordinator of the SEE 2020 Strategy Education and Competencies dimension. ERI SEE Board was informed on the decision made in Tirana, as the only member which has not yet signed the Host Country Agreement on Establishment of the ERI SEE Secretariat, to sign the document. The Host Country Agreement shall enter into force upon signature of all ERI SEE members, and after the receipt of the fourth notification of the Parties. The Board adopted ERI SEE Work Program and Budget for 2014, together with the Regional Action Plan for the Education and Competences dimension. The RCC continued bilateral communication with the new Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development of Serbia, which reconfirmed strong commitment of the Serbian Government to host the international Secretariat of this mechanism.

In accordance with the approved regional action plan, the RCC Secretariat contracted external consultant for assisting the process of development of the Regional program on access, completion and prevention of drop out in education. After dissemination of the first draft Program, the RCC organised, together with dimension coordinator (ERI SEE), a Regional Workshop on the program, held in Budva. The aim of the event was to deepen the consultations with relevant stakeholders and collect valuable inputs for writing the final draft of the Regional program.

The FRAME Monitoring 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Technical meeting, organised by the European Training Foundation has been convened to present the final version of the FRAME monitoring tool. The aim of the monitoring component is to help the participants to build up and follow an evidence-based tool to monitor progress towards achieving the roadmap and capacity development plan, taking into account national, regional and European strategic objectives. Event enabled in-depth discussions on the experiences and further needs for enhancing capacity to monitor progresses in building human capital with particular reference to other monitoring requirements, such as the SEE 2020 Strategy and IPA II programming and reporting. Participants emphasised the need for developing compatible methodologies and indicators used in different context: EU benchmarking and pre-accession support/IPA monitoring, SEE 2020 Strategy monitoring and FRAME.

#### - Research and Innovation

The Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation was organized by the RCC Secretariat in cooperation with Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. The RCC Secretariat, as a member of the Steering Committee, initiated the event in the context of implementation of the Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation, adopted by the ministers in charge of science in October 2013 in Zagreb. Ministers approved the establishment of regional mechanism which will implement the Strategy -Western Balkans Research and Innovation Strategy Exercise (WISE). It was decided that Serbia will be the first Chair of the mechanism and that the Seat of mechanism's permanent secretariat will be in Split, Croatia. The event offered a platform for discussing the WISE draft statutory documents, which were improved and sent to WISE members for conducting internal consultations with institutions in charge for approval of the international

agreements. The Steering Committee also discussed and adopted the Regional Plan of Action of the Research and Innovation dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy Smart Growth pillar.

The RCC Secretariat held consultations with the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, discussing different models and the next steps in the process of establishment of the WISE. Permanent WISE secretariat will be, upon decision of the Western Balkans Ministers of Science, based in Split, Croatia. The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss the annual plan of activities within the R&D and Innovation dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy, in compliance with the Regional Strategy on R&D for Innovation for the Western Balkans.

In compliance with approved Regional Action Plan in Research and Innovation dimension, the RCC Secretariat contracted external consultants for assisting the process of development of the Regional Program on Technology Transfer. The Draft Regional program was sent to relevant national institutions and bodies, representatives of international organisations, the non-governmental sector and the academic community, as well as relevant experts, who had the opportunity to express their views at the Regional Workshop, organised by the RCC in Budva. Event provided valuable input for improving the final draft of the Regional program on Technology Transfer.

The WBC-INCO.NET Final Conference and Brokerage event - *Towards 2020: New Horizons for RTD and Innovation in the Western Balkans Region* was organized by the Center for Social Innovation, as coordinator of WBC-INCO.NET project. It has operated for 6 years, aiming to provide high quality and targeted information on research in and from the Western Balkan countries, with the goal to contribute to the integration of these countries' research and innovation systems into the European Research Area. The focus of the conference was primarily on the Horizon 2020 and the opportunities for collaboration in science between the candidate and potential candidate countries for the membership to the EU and EU Member States under this new EU Programme. The event was an excellent opportunity for exchange of information on other on-going and up-coming activities in Western Balkan countries - in particular related to innovation issues.

#### - Cultural and Creative Sectors

The Ninth Meeting of the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society (TFCS) was organized by the TFCS Secretariat. Serbia, as the new TFCS Chair, presided the meeting. The two-day event endorsed the Comprehensive Report of the results and actions within Ljubljana Process II prepared by the RCC TFCS Secretariat and discussed future steps in the involvement of the RCC TFCS as a Dimension Coordinator of the Cultural and Creative Sectors dimension in the SEE 2020 Strategy. The meeting presented the final phases of implementation of the EC's 500,000 euro grant for sustaining the rehabilitation of cultural heritage in the Western Balkans with an overview of 14 implemented projects on cultural heritage sites in six Western Balkans countries. Preparation of project designs for six cultural heritage sites in four Western Balkans countries has also been completed. Regarding the future and sustainability of the Ljubljana Process, it was agreed that a new draft General Reference Framework will be prepared by the TFCS Secretariat. TFCS acknowledged the working document on the Ljubljana Process high level conference which should be organized in October 2014 in Dubrovnik. TFCS will actively contribute to development of regional programmes envisaged by the respective dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

In this dimension, the RCC Secretariat mobilized external assistance for drafting the Regional programs on Regional Audiovisual Fund and on Regional Design Incubator. Consultants prepared draft regional programs, which were disseminated to all relevant stakeholders for providing suggestions to the text. Workshops on Regional programs related to Audiovisual Fund and Design Incubator were held in Jahorina, BiH. RCC organised these events in partnership with the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society, as dimension coordinator. The Workshops were attended by the representatives of ministries of culture of the SEE 2020 Strategy participants, designer associations, design festivals, universities, advertising agencies, museums, production companies, film funds and agencies, film festivals, film academies, filmmakers, various NGOs and independent experts. Regional workshops have been main events in wide consultation process aiming to discuss and improve mentioned draft regional programs. Additionally, the RCC and the Sarajevo Film Festival (SFF) organized a round table on regional cooperation in the audio visual sector. This round table, on the margins of the Sarajevo Film Festival, aimed to re-confirm the consensus and commitment of the RCC participants from the W. Balkans to contribute and develop further the regional programme on the audiovisual fund. RCC TFCS Secretariat prepared draft Regional program Ljubljana process - Promoting Cultural Heritage Rehabilitation, which has been sent for comments to stakeholders.

The RCC Secretary General participated at the first meeting of a new, unified platform for ministerial cooperation in the region - Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe (CoMoCoSEE) - Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development. The platform, merging the CoMoCoSEE with the annual Ministerial Conferences on Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe, was organized by the Ministry of Culture of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as the CoMoCoSEE Presidency, and UNESCO Venice Office. CoMoCoSEE approved the Second Appendix to the Charter of the CoMoCoSEE and adopted a Regional Strategy for Cultural Cooperation in South East Europe. Regional Strategy sets forth priority areas for future cooperation in the area of culture, as well as guiding principles and modalities of action. The Ministers and high-level representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia handed over the joint Stećci Nomination Dossier to the UNESCO Director General, for inscription on the World Heritage List. Presidency of the CoMoCoSEE was handed over to Turkey.

The RCC Secretary General held a meeting with the Director General of UNESCO. The Director General presented the initiative to revive the annual Summits of Heads of State in South-East Europe, held from 2003 to 2012 on topics focusing on regional cooperation, dialogue and development through culture and cultural heritage. She inquired about the possibility of its re-launching through cooperation with the RCC, especially in the light of the RCC's all-inclusive regional cooperation. The RCC Secretary General noted that raising the issues related to culture and cultural heritage to the attention of the highest political level will not just boost regional cooperation in this field but will have an overall positive influence on the region. The counterparts agreed that a joint organizational format of the regional Summit would present a complementary, value-added action to the common framework of both organizations. The Summit would be organized in 2015, with a focus on culture and the preservation of cultural heritage. Heads of two organizations identified possibility for direct cooperation through the UNESCO Culture and Development Indicator Suite, which will be supported by the RCC.

#### C. Sustainable Growth

#### - Energy

In the area of Energy, the activities during the quarter were mostly focused on monitoring. A methodology for data collection was prepared and a tool for data collection and calculating of quantitative indicators was developed to capture the SEE 2020 Strategy progress in the Energy dimension. In addition to this, the list of qualitative indicators was finalized and a methodology for self-assessment by the governments prepared.

Furthermore, the RCC Secretariat provided support to the Energy Community Secretariat in preparing a monitoring tool for Projects of Energy Community Importance (PECI) with information on most recent developments regarding PECI.

#### - Transport

The RCC Secretariat continued to cooperate closely with the South-East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO) as the transport dimension coordinator of the SEE 2020 Strategy Sustainable Growth Pillar. In that respect the RCC Secretariat and SEETO had a consultative meeting on 7 of May 2014 in Sarajevo in order to discuss transport activities in the SEE 2020 Strategy regional action plan and the way forward. It was agreed that SEETO will prepare a Roadmap for implementation of the most priority activities in the regional action plan to be taken by the end of this year. It is currently involved in the preparation of the SEE2020 Regional Programme on Transport.

The RCC Secretariat also had a meeting with the Joint Service Provision Area Initiative (JSPAI) as other regional structure involved in the SEE 2020 Strategy implementation, held on 5 of May 2014 in Podgorica to discuss about their engagement in the SEE 2020 Strategy Regional Action Plan as well as the progress in organizing the RCC/JSPAI Conference on "Air Transport as a Driver for Development and Economic Prosperity in SEE" that was held on 22 of May 2014 in Sarajevo. This event brought together representatives of the ministries responsible for air transport, airlines, airports, respective regional organizations and academia. The aim of the conference was to explore the existing potential in regional air traffic with aim to fostering advanced economic and social development and cooperation in SEE as well as to contribute to the SEE 2020 Strategy air transport key strategy actions. The participants discussed about the needs and potential of improved air traffic connectivity and the way and criteria how to contribute to the improved intra-regional air services in the SEE, national air carrier's privatisation, economic impact of air transport development.

The RCC Secretariat continued preparatory activities together with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) related to the organization of the Workshop on building regional capacities on road safety management, to be held in 15-16 October 2014 in Belgrade. The aim of the workshop is to discuss the legal, institutional, budget and staffing arrangements for road safety management. The SEETO has also been invited to support and attend the event and contribute to it by mobilizing expertise in this field.

The RCC Secretariat also contributed to the organisation of the Road Congress jointly with the BiH Association of Consulting Engineers (ACE BiH) and BiH Ministry of Communications and Transport held on 18-19 September 2014 in Sarajevo. The event discussed planning and development of the road transport system, management, construction, maintenance, protection of the environment, road safety and financing of the transport sector.

It contributed to the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy key transport actions given that it addressed the development of transport infrastructure as the main precondition towards achieving sustainable growth in the region.

In the context of the implementation of ISIS II Programme, the High Level Meeting on Single European Sky Performance Scheme and the Governing Body Meeting were held on May 13 and 14 in Pristina. The conclusions of the meetings called for increased level of the regional co-operation among the Civil Aviation Authorities reflected through the establishment and endeavors of the JSPAI. The Governing Board also called for active involvement and support of the RCC on including Air Traffic Management related regional activities in the SEE 2020 Strategy and its implementation. The EC committed to continue to support politically and financially the ISIS Programme. The RCC co-chaired the meeting together with DG for Mobility and Transport.

#### - Environment

The focus of RCC Secretariat's activities in this area is coordination with REC which is the main regional dimension coordinator and other stakeholders involved in this dimension, such as SWG RRD, GWP-Med.

The RCC Secretariat participated at the ENVSEC Regional Meeting for SEE, which was hosted by REC and held in Podgorica on March 31 and April 1, 2014.

#### - Competitiveness

During the reporting period a follow up was executed on selection of the two sectors of priorities within the context of the SEE 2020 Strategy - food and beverages processing and tourism industry, and establishment of the two respective working groups with clear mandate to examine challenges facing Western Balkan businesses in the priority sectors and develop recommendations for adequate policy responses. With the first meeting of the Food and Beverages Expert Group (FBEG) taking place in the previous reporting period, the meeting of the Tourism Expert Group (TEG) followed on April 28-29 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, under the auspices of the SEE Investment Committee and OECD's Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative (NGCI).

During its first plenary session, TEG members have: (i) agreed upon the mandate and the work plan, as well as on key activities for 2014; (ii) provided an overview of the South East Europe (SEE) tourism sector and identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, as well as key barriers to sector development; (iii) shared good practices in addressing key barriers to tourism sector development; and (iv) prioritised barriers to sector development for the further project work. Two policy areas were identified as having most potential impact and a high improvement feasibility: Strategic Planning, Marketing and Branding as well as Human Resources, Education and Training. Following a dynamic discussion, human resources were assessed of highest importance and with need for improvement in the region, not only in terms of conventional education per se, but in terms of professional education and training. Having in mind that the human capital is generally a great asset of the SEE region, professional education and training would provide for higher service level and also in promotion sphere, hence placing a high impact on tourism development in the region.

This decision has been endorsed by the SEE Investment Committee plenary for during the SEEIC 15<sup>th</sup> meeting on 26 June in Zagreb, and will represent the base for future work of TEG in development of adequate policy responses to the sector barriers.

Furthermore, based on the selection of the human resources/skills gap as the main barrier to the sector development (in both SEE 2020 priority sectors), RCC and SEE Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (SEECEL) have commenced preparation for the relevant regional programs, intended to address these particular barriers. The programs are to be further deliberated and finalized during fall 2014.

#### **D.** Inclusive Growth

#### - Employment

Under the inclusive growth pillar of the SEE 2020 Strategy, RCC has initiated two regional studies on labor mobility and social economy development, which have been identified as key regional measures to promote employment and inclusion in the 2020 timeframe. RCC has mobilised external expertise to provide an in-depth understanding of the current situation in SEE in these two areas and propose concrete recommendations that will form the basis for discussions with governments and feed into policy making processes at the national level. Currently, RCC is preparing to organize national workshops in each of the involved 7 SEE capitals to engage a broader range of stakeholders in discussions on labor mobility in the region

On 3-4 June 2014, RCC organized and hosted the Social Agenda 2020 working group meeting, which brought together representatives of ministries of labor and other stakeholders to discuss the preliminary findings of the regional studies on labor mobility and social economy development. This meeting served an opportunity to present to the participants one of the tangible products of the EC - World Bank - RCC partnership related to the establishment of a jobs gateway learning network - a collaborative space to foster continuous knowledge exchange on employment and social development. Additionally, in the framework of this meeting and the SEE 2020 Strategy, RCC met also with ILO representatives to initiate a possible cooperation.

On 30 April 2014, RCC participated at a CEFTA organized dialogue on regional mobility of professionals, which aimed to promote trade in services in the context of increased regional mobility. RCC representatives presented their current work and used the opportunity to establish contacts and agree on cooperation with ministries of education and trade, as key stakeholders in promoting labor mobility actions.

On 27 June 2014, upon the invitation of IOM, RCC participated at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual forum of the EU strategy for the Danube region and presented in a workshop on labor mobility in SEE. Additionally, RCC is closely cooperation with IOM in terms of aligning its activities with the current work of the IOM and exploring joint cooperation opportunities. DG Employment and DG Enlargement representatives have also been consulted in this process.

#### - Health

On 11-13 June 2014, RCC participated at a regional conference organized by UNFPA on population and development dialogue. The conference served to initiate a broad dialogue on better understanding the impact of current demographic changes on societies in the region and

identifying ways to address issues related to universal education, reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality, and access to reproductive and sexual health services.

On 23-24 June 2014, RCC participated at a regional conference organized by Friedrich Ebert Foundation on health care in SEE. Organizers presented a regional study on "The Performance of Public Health Care Systems in SEE", which is an empirical comparative analysis of the expected versus the actual performance of the public health system. The study revealed six major policy reform areas: better define and evaluate the costs of benefit packages, develop prevention services, develop rehabilitation, palliative and long term care services, improve the financing of the health care system, create an effective human resource policy in health and address informal payments in the public health care systems. These finding are in line with the health priorities of the SEE 2020 Strategy on health promotion, broad governance for health, and health workforce development.

During the 33<sup>rd</sup> plenary meeting of the SEE Health Network (SEEHN), held in Bucharest on 8-10 July 2014, RCC discussed with participants key strategic areas of work for 2014-2020 in implementing the SEE 2020 strategy. Priority actions include assessing and addressing social determinants of health and inequities in the region as well as strengthened intersectoral governance of health to achieve inclusive growth in the framework of the SEE 2020 strategy. RCC will support the network to structure the regional health programme of the SEE 2020 Strategy into a coherent document of actions that the governments will adopt.

During the reporting period, the hiring procedure for the four staff of the SEEHN secretariat has advanced and it is expected that the secretariat will be fully functional by the time of the next meeting of the SEEHN in late autumn.

#### E. Governance for Growth

In the second quarter the focus of the work was put on creation of preconditions for successful implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy through the development of regional action plans together with dimension coordinators. In parallel, the implementation of certain activities of regional action plans has already started (anti-corruption dimension). RCC was engaged in regular meetings with the SEE 2020 Strategy dimension coordinators in order to finalize regional actions plans, define specific activities that each stakeholder needs to prepare and implement, outline timelines for the foreseen activities and define budget needed for the implementation.

Selection procedures for the following tenders were completed: Support to the Implementation of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy - Regional Action Plan in the Area of Justice; Expert on Public Administration Reform - Support to ReSPA Work and Preparation of the Regional Action Plan; Support to the Implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy - Development of Research and Methodology on Corruption Risk Assessment in Public Institutions in SEE, and Research and Methodology on Corruption Proofing (Anti-corruption Expertise) of Legislation in SEE. Contractors were selected and finished their work in the area of Justice and Effective Public Services.

RCC has organized two consecutive workshops dedicated to anti-corruption. The aim of those events was to streamline and finalize the structure and content of both the above-mentioned methodologies and prepare for the follow-up conference, to be organized with SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office, the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) and Southeast European Leadership for Development and Integrity Center for the Study of Democracy

(SELDI). This conference will bring together representatives of Governments of the region and representatives of civil society organizations who will discuss fight against corruption and recommendations brought by two studies and methodologies.

The RCC Secretariat organized several skype conferences and meetings with ReSPA and NALAS for the purpose of preparing the regional action plan in the area of Effective Public Services, several meetings with the management of Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative in order to specify activities for 2014 and 2015 and required budget for Dimension O-Anticorruption. The RCC Secretariat also organised the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group for Justice, where the regional action plan for justice was agreed as well as indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation.

#### 2. Justice and home affairs and security cooperation - stability and rule of law

#### - Justice and home affairs

In the area of JHA the initial stage of development of gap analyses of the regional cooperation in the field of migration management and fighting organized crime have been completed. Preliminary findings were discussed with experts on the workshop organised by the RCC Secretariat in May in Zagreb and presented at the Ministerial meeting of Brdo Process in June in Brdo pri Kranju. Ministers supported the approach and invited RCC to continue with work in close cooperation with RCC participants in the region, relevant initiatives/organisations and donors, especially with the EC.

The Romanian SEECP C-i-O organized JHA ministerial meeting in May in Bucharest. Ministers presented the progress achieved in strengthening rule of law, combating corruption and organized crime - as core priorities of the EU integration process; exchanged views on the activities carried out at national, regional and European level in their respective scope and stressed the need of enhancing regional cooperation in justice and home affairs; recommended RCC to continue promoting, guiding and monitoring regional cooperation involving all SEECP participating states.

The Ministerial Conference on Contemporary Challenges in Regional Police Cooperation organised by Swiss OSCE Chairmanship in April in Opatija enabled an exchange of views and experiences among partners within established regional police cooperation frameworks and to discuss ways to achieve a greater efficiency of law enforcement measures through stronger alignment and cooperation. In the first panel "Tackling the Changing Faces of Organised Crime" ministers share the experience what efforts have been made so far and what efforts should be made in the future to adapt to the new modus operandi of highly organized and mobile criminal groups, especially by using the international and regional police mechanisms. In the second panel, ministers tried to answer how could police manage a multicultural society and if there is enough knowledge and capacity to be successful at its work. Ministers concluded that there is a need for strong migration partnership, more support and help from the EU is needed; there is a strong need for regional cooperation to face such a challenge, for better policing the closer cooperation between law enforcement authorities and migration authorities is needed, more efforts should be put in education and training to prepare police officers to different situations in the society, public awareness and work with local population is essential, inclusion of civil society and NGOs is of a crucial importance as well as shared responsibility.

At the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Ministerial Review Conference on the Cooperation in the field of Border Security in SEE in April in Opatija ministers were presented the planned cross-border cooperation measures aimed to prevent and detect cross-border crime and illegal migration. Ministers welcomed the idea that EU Member States will join the future operations in the region. Ministers also supported further operational activities which are planned in the area of Common Return, where the countries have finalised a multi-lateral agreement, and agreed to close the legal gaps for cooperation in Joint Return Flight operations. The Programme activities will continue in the areas of data exchange and management, intelligence-led policing, adoption of EU acquis in the area of border management through capacity building and support in national self-evaluations, conduct of trainings tailored to regional needs, and raising capacities of national police training institutions.

At the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe (PCC SEE) in April in Opatija, ministers acknowledged the need for ensuring automated DNA data exchange within the PCC SEE area. It is of a crucial importance to bring all contracting parties to an equal level in the area of cross-border automated DNA exchange. They also agreed on the preparation and signing of a common multilateral implementation agreement based on the EU Prüm instrument, while also considering the need for appropriate technical annexes, to be the first step in this essential yet demanding area.

At MARRI regional forum organised in June in Cavtat, the heads of delegation adopted the Cavtat Declaration which paves the way for MARRI all-inclusiveness and Kosovo further engagement in MARRI activities. MARRI Member States recognised MARRI as an important instrument of regional cooperation in the field of migration management but also reiterated that some improvements are necessary as they would be able to respond to new trends and situation, as well as in addressing the consequences of migration flows.

Under the auspices of Romanian SEECP C-i-O, the Ministry of Justice of Romania, British Embassy in Bucharest, Konrad Adenauer Foundation-Rule of Law Programme for Southeast Europe and the RCC co-organized the conference "Promoting Best Practices in Fighting High-level Corruption and in Asset Recovery" in April in Bucharest. The purpose of the Conference was to share best practice and expertise amongst SEECP participating states and to boost regional cooperation in the fight against corruption, asset recovery and conflicts of interest. Participants were representatives of various national anti-corruption bodies such as Agencies. specialized prosecutorial services and asset recovery offices/services. Numerous high profile cases were presented, including data on seized assets showing very positive trends for the region (just Romania has seized assets worth almost 350 million EUR during the last year). Moreover, common challenges in execution of confiscated assets and management of seized assets and best practices in asset recovery were shared. Representatives of competent national authorities discussed possibility of further improvement of cross-border recognition of court orders regarding assets originating from crime and corruption.

The meeting of the Treptower group in April in the Hague gave an opportunity to donors to overview the situation in the police development assistance in Western Balkans. Results of EMPACT and SOCTA/MASP were discussed as well as its impact to cooperation with Western Balkans in the light of signing of OCA with Serbia and Albania and starting negotiations of agreements with Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Closing Conference of the IPA 2010 Fight against organised crime and corruption: Strengthening the Prosecutors' Network in April in the Hague summarized activities implemented during the project which started in November 2011 and presented results achieved in each beneficiary including asset seizures in numerous cases which were done in cooperation with liaison prosecutors. Successful transfers of proceedings were presented. As one of the main achievements Memoranda of Understanding between prosecution services and NGOs were presented, which are important for suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings. Rise in quality of cooperation between EUROJUST and beneficiaries, and establishment of Joint Investigative Teams is considered success and it has been supported with results of specific cases developed during the project between beneficiaries and EU Member States with the help of delegated Liaison Prosecutors.

A regional workshop on effective protection of victims and witnesses of trafficking in person in criminal proceedings in the SEE organised in April in Sarajevo intended to improve the position of victims in criminal proceedings in the SEE through effective international cooperation with focus on avoiding secondary victimization and analyzing possibilities for compensation of victims. Particular attention was dedicated to international cooperation in cases of trafficking with role of competent authorities in obtaining victim or witness evidence from other countries in a manner that ensures their protection and security.

In its strive to support regional activities of NGO's, representatives of the RCC Secretariat participated as lecturers at the Summer School for Security Policy organised by the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy, Kosovar Centre for Security Studies and Institute for Democracy and Mediation from Tirana in May in Ulcinj. Purpose of the Summer School was to establish links among the participants from Albania, Serbia and Kosovo\* as well as to increase their capacities for involvement in security policymaking. Participants were young politicians, graduate students, journalists, and civil society activists.

SELEC held several important strategic and operational meetings including SELEC Council, 20<sup>th</sup> Anti-drug Trafficking Task Force (ADTTF) Meeting and Mirage Task Force Meeting. Topics of the SELEC Council included administrative and financial issues and adoption of Draft Cooperation Agreements with Interpol and USA. Operational meetings discussed regional police and customs cooperation in the field of suppression of drug trafficking and trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling. On both meetings preliminary findings of Annual reports in those areas were presented, showing stable situation in drug trafficking and significant raise in illegal migration in the region.

Trans-regional Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation in Combating Irregular Migration and Smuggling of Migrants through SEE organised in June in Athens was a closing event of the UNODC/IOM/OSCE project "Strengthening understanding of the link between irregular migration and transnational crime impacting migrants in irregular situation". The main objective was to facilitate networking and informal information sharing of criminal justice and migration actors and to identify ways to improve cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination to combat the organized crime involvement in irregular migration and to better protect migrants. Participants concluded that, in order to further improve situation in the field, it is necessary to: involve wider range of actors in pro-active identification: labour inspectors, health practitioners, social workers and teachers; build skills and capacity of police to identify cases of trafficking, including to screen, interview and refer cases appropriately; pursue a proactive approach to identification of trafficking cases; provide support to all types of trafficking case; deliver long-term, sustainable reintegration support; increase cooperation

and coordination among national actors responding to trafficking and intensify gathering of the intelligence about smugglers from the migrants.

The meeting of the Programme Steering Committee of the UNODC Regional Programme for SEE, organised in June 2014 in Vienna, gathered representatives of beneficiary countries, donors as well as international organizations interested in implementation of this programme. The RCC used this opportunity to present the strategic framework in which RCC operates and the activities within Strategy and Work Programme 2014-2016 and SEE 2020 Strategy Governance for Growth Pillar with special emphasizes on Anti-Corruption and Judiciary dimensions, which contain activities complementing the UNODC Regional Programme.

The Steering Committee Meeting of EU Strategy for Danube Region Priority Area 11 discussed state of play of the EUSDR PA 11, as well as implementation of ongoing projects; proposed cooperation with Priority Area 1A-Mobility, as well as call for proposals of Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects and subsequent project ideas in June in Bucharest. The discussion underlined mutual interest for cooperation of PA 1A and PA11. This cooperation should result in more efficient and faster transportation along Danube with less bureaucracy particularly related to customs administration. For that purpose, questionnaire will be prepared to examine in which points businesses see obstacles or down points that affect efficient transport.

The RCC Secretariat was also invited as a speaker to 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Budapest process Working Group on the South East European Region organised in June in Budapest. The group examined the state of play, discussed about collection of updates as well as to define future work in more details. The main focus of the WG on the SEE Region will be areas of cooperation between SEE and Silk Routes Region. The starting point was that a comprehensive and regional approach is needed to address the issue of migration flows and that in planning possible actions, the full range of legal, administrative and cooperation tools should be considered.

The RCC Secretariat was also invited as a participant to The Aspen Institute Germany Conference "Rule of law enhancement in Western Balkans: Identifying the next steps", 8-11 September, Alt Madlitz. The aim of the conference was to bring together academics, politicians, media, civil society, experts, business and others who are dealing with rule of law in Western Balkans and to enable open discussion and exchange of practices in rule of law enhancement, as an important prerequisite for economic growth and development of WB. The participants have discussed on the five topics concerning the importance of rule of law for the accession process of Western Balkan Countries and the possible actions for its enhancement, as well as its importance for the investments and economic growth. The participants had the opportunity to discuss with German Officials and members of the Parliament the and the Berlin Conference on Western Balkans conclusions.

#### - Security cooperation

Within the security cooperation sector, the RCC Secretariat had consultations with representatives of the Bulgarian and Serbian MI (March, June 2014). The MI representatives confirmed their support to SEEMIC, stressed the necessity to further develop the annual regional intelligence assessments and improve their intelligence quality, as well as positively assessed the implementation of the secure communication line among the SEE MI's. Exchange of views took place on the outcome of the SEEMIC WG and the upcoming SEEMIC Conference. The Serbian representatives reiterated their position on the format and

participation of MI representatives from SEE in SEEMIC. The request of SEENSA to SEEMIC for delivery of the last SEEMIC Intelligence analysis and also the possible offer of the analysis to SEDM were discussed. MI expressed their positive response to these initiatives.

Consultations took place with the Director of the Bulgarian Civil Protection and Fire safety Agency (CVFPA) in March 2014. The ongoing process of nomination of candidates for the DPPI Secretariat was discussed and the relevant procedures were clarified. The BG representatives expressed their position on the necessity of a HQA for DPPI and the institutionalization of the initiative. The RCC Secretariat was urged to assist the DPPI new secretariat in finalizing this process.

On the 24 April 2014 in Skopje, the SEEMIC Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting took place, co-organized by the MI of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and RCC. The EWG participants debated, developed and signed the third Regional Intelligence Analysis on one of the contemporary challenges, which will be adopted by SEEMIC in fall 2014. The EWG further discussed and agreed on the new topic for the fourth assessment and the agenda for the 6<sup>th</sup> SEEMIC Conference that took take place in Skopje 23 September 2014. The RCC Secretariat representative briefed SEEMIC on the statute of the secure communication line implementation and urged the MI's that have not finalized the internal procedures to do so as soon as possible. The USCOM representative delivered a specially tailored presentation on the future development of WEBADIC and the Agenda of the meeting that will take place as a back-to-back to SEEMIC was agreed.

The Fourth Meeting of the Heads of the National Security Authorities (NSA) of the RCC participants from SEE (SEENSA) was held on 20 May 2014 in Sarajevo. The meeting was co-organized by RCC Secretariat and the National Security Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the full support of the NATO Office of Security (NOS). The participants of the meeting presented reports on the work of the TWG, exchanged views on future activities and reflected on the results and plans of the TWG on Training (TWG T). The SEENSA Forum agreed to consider the proposed activities as part of a 'regional project', in order to seek EU and NATO support such as know-how, expertise, logistic, financial. In this context, individual EU/NATO members were also asked for assistance. It was agreed that a program for Train the trainers course will be drafted, which will be coordinated with NOS and EU and approved by all SEENSA members. An official letter will be sent to the RCC Secretariat by SEENSA in which RCC will be asked to assist in fundraising for implementation of the program Train the trainers. Moreover, the work of the TWG on Cyber Defence (TWG CD) was presented followed by proposals for future activities. It was announced that the meeting of the TWG CD could not take place due to EC's decision to stop the allocated funds from TAIEX program, as well as a decision was made to task RCC to submit a request to SEEMIC to release the last Regional Intelligence Analysis for SEENSA use. The TWG on Security Agreements work was also presented. SEENSA participants acknowledged the importance of the matrix of the Agreements and decided that the work of the Group should continue by every NSA. An analysis of the Agreements should be drafted by each NSA with a focus on the implementation of arrangements and submitted thereafter to the TWG Coordinator. On the basis of these analyses the members of the TWG will draft, in cooperation with NOS, a manual on good practices and recommended scope of a draft Agreement that might be used by the SEENSA members in their future work and drafting of implementation arrangements. All participants agreed to prepare the analyses and submit them to the TWG Coordinator by the end of July 2014. The TWG on Industrial Security achievements were presented by a letter from the Croatian NSA. NOS representative delivered a presentation on NATO Security in NATO Procurement and NATO Industrial Security. In the follow-up discussion the importance of the issues was underlined by all participants, BiH invited all NSA's to actively participate and contribute to the workshop that is to be organized in fall.

The RCC Secretariat had consultations with the Head of the Serbian NSA in Belgrade in June 2014 and discussed the work of the TWG lead by the Serbian NSA, as well as the resources planned according to the RCC SWP 2014-2016 to assist the organizers of the TWG. The Serbian NSA will develop the concept note and details of the TWG and will coordinate the documents with RCC Secretariat in the forthcoming period.

The RCC Secretariat held consultations with representatives of the Ministry of Defense (MoD) of Montenegro in Podgorica on 13 May 2014. The counterparts discussed the upcoming Second Comprehensive Regional Ministerial that will be organized by MoD Montenegro in the period 14-16 October 2014. According to RCC SWP 2014-2016, assistance was offered to the MNE MoD representatives and details of the financial side of this assistance were discussed. The RCC Secretariat informed the counterparts about developments in SEEMIC and the effort of building operational links among the different security cooperation mechanisms in SEE.

The RCC Secretariat participated in the SEDM CC meeting held in Bucharest 20 March 2014. The meeting was organized by the Romanian Chairmanship and was attended by all the representatives of the participating states in SEDM. A wide range of aspects was discussed, in particular with political, diplomatic and military implications over the next developments in streamlining the security cooperation initiatives in SEE.

The RCC Secretariat representative participated in the Conference, organized by the Center for Security Studies of Kosovo\*, and discussed Kosovo\* membership and participation in Regional Initiatives.

The RCC Secretariat representative took part in the 31<sup>st</sup> SEDM CC meeting held in Bucharest on 17-18 September 2014. The participants expressed their support for SEDM future as a fruitful and value added initiative. They underlined the necessity of avoiding overlapping with other Regional initiatives and task forces. Some representatives underlined that the synergy approach calls for better coordination between SEDM and B-9 Initiative. It was stated that there should be no overlap with NATO and EU projects in SEE. The ongoing SEDM projects were discussed. The RCC representative underlined the necessity of operational links among the RI&TF especially in the project implementation and recommended SEDM to unite efforts with DPPI on the SEESIM project.

#### 3. Cross-cutting issues - extending participation, widening partnerships

#### - Parliamentary Cooperation

In the area of parliamentary cooperation, the RCC Secretariat continued to assist the SEECP in developing the parliamentary dimension of its work. In this context, the RCC Secretariat participated at the Inaugural Session of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly (Bucharest, 9-10 May 2014). The SEECP Parliamentary Assembly adopted the following documents: 1) Declaration on the inauguration of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly; 2) Rules of Procedure of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly; 3) Report of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension Working Group for the Inaugural Session of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly; 4) Work Programme 2014/2015 of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly. The Declaration on

the inauguration of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly confirms that: the basic conditions for transforming the parliamentary dimension into a SEECP Parliamentary Assembly - the putting in place a decision-making mechanism and establishing three General Committees dealing with specific issues, namely on: a) Economy, Infrastructure and Energy, b) Justice, Home Affairs and Security Cooperation, and c) Social Development, Education, Research and Science - are met; highlights that, until having a fully functional Secretariat and an operational budget, the national parliament holding the C-i-O of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly shall serve, with assistance of the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe, as an ad hoc Secretariat for the Plenary Session, the Standing Committee, the President and the Bureau of the Assembly, while the national parliament holding the Chairmanship of a General Committee or of an Ad hoc Working Group shall also fulfil the tasks of an ad hoc Secretariat for the respective body of the Assembly; expresses willingness to develop a close and effective cooperation between the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly and the RCC Secretariat.

The RCC Secretariat participated at the IX Meeting of the COSAP (Becici, 2-3 June 2014). The Conference addressed internal reforms, the use of IPA funds, as well as the transparency and inclusion of the European integration process. In the course of the debate, the participants drew attention to the importance of parliamentary oversight over the EU negotiation process, as well as to other elements important for successful negotiations, such as: a) Interparliamentary and cross-border cooperation; b) the need to implement the public administration reform strategies and to promote transparency and communication with the citizens about European integration issues; c) the importance of stronger parliamentary communication with the EU Member States and the European Parliament. At the end of the conference the participants adopted a Joint Statement.

The RCC Secretariat was also represented at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Parliamentarians' Conference of Dubrovnik Process (Dubrovnik/Cavtat, 25-27 April 2014). The conference met under the title "Parliaments and Civil Society in Southeast Europe: Partners or Adversaries?" The attending parliamentarians and experts/advisers gave special focus to the messages of recent protest in SEE, to relation between civil society and politics, including interaction and cooperation of parliaments and civil society.

#### - Women Entrepreneurship

Regular Women Entrepreneurship Strategic Planning Workshop took place in Dubrovnik, on 3-5 April 2014, under the auspices of the SIDA-funded and RCC-coordinated project: "Women Entrepreneurship - A Job Creation Engine in SEE". On this occasion, for the first time, a trade fair of women entrepreneurs of the SEE region has been organized back to back with the meeting of the Global Association of Women Entrepreneurs (FCEM), where more than 100 participants from 30 countries have exchanged their experiences, and representatives of the business women associations of the SEE region (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro) have been admitted to FCEM.

The Board Meeting of the Women Entrepreneurship Project has been held in Zagreb, on 4-5 June 2014, where the donor (Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency - SIDA), the coordinator (RCC) and the implementing partners (SEE Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning and Gender Task Force) deliberated the results of the Project achieved thus far, discussed and officially approved the report for the previous period and forthcoming activities of the Project. At this occasion, a Best Practices booklet on Women Entrepreneurship in the region was presented.

In line with the activities of political support to the Women Entrepreneurship in the region, the RCC co-organized and participated at the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum dedicated to Women Entrepreneurship, in Cetinje on 9-10 June 2014. On this occasion, members of the regional Parliaments adopted a joint Declaration, which supports gender equality and calls for economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs in the region, through establishment and implementation of appropriate legislative framework and access to finance for women entrepreneurs.

The project "Women Entrepreneurship: A Job Creation Engine in SEE" has successfully undergone its second audit (expenditure verification) procedure, with positive results and initial discussions have been established with the donor-SIDA for prospective continuation of the project (after 2015). Finally, activities took place in preparation of the next regional Women Entrepreneurship Workshop, to be held in Sarajevo during Fall 2014.

#### IV. Operation of the RCC Secretariat

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 Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Governments of the other SEECP Participating States, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo on behalf of Kosovo in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, on the Host Country Arrangements for the Secretariat of the RCC (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 and the Director of the CEFTA Secretariat visited the Director for international organizations in 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). However, following this visit no further information has been received from the Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### V. Staff changes in the RCC Secretariat

The RCC Secretariat has completed the recruitment procedure of hiring five staff members, as per the vacancies published during the month of April 2014. All of the five recruited staff are under the employment category for RCC Officials.

- 1. Spokesperson Mr. Nenad Sebek, employed as of 2 June 2014;
- 2. Expert on Smart Growth Ms. Mimika Loshi, employed as of 2 June 2014;
- 3. Expert on Governance for Growth Ms. Ivana Goranic employed as of 16 June 2014;
- 4. Senior Policy Analyst Ms. Maja Pinjo-Talevska, employed as of 2 June 2014;
- 5. Senior Expert on Sustainable Growth Ms. Despoina Syrri, employed as of 1 September 2014.

#### VI. State of financial contributions to the RCC Secretariat budget for the year 2014 until 20 September 2014

-0 A					Contributions net of		
Contribution	Commitments	Roll Over 2013	Contributions	Bank charges	bank charges,	Date Received	Percent
Countribution Countries (Donous)					including roll over		
Contributing Countries (Donors)	FO 000 00						0.000/
Austria	50.000,00		F0 000 00		-	25 1 14	0,00%
Czech Republic	50.000,00		50.000,00		50.000,00	26-Jun-14	100,00%
Federal Republic of Germany	50.000,00		50.000,00		50.000,00	25-Aug-14	100,00%
Finland	50.000,00				18		0,00%
France	50.000,00				-		0,00%
Hungary	50.000,00	324,66	49.675,34		50.000,00	12-Mar-14	100,00%
Italy	50.000,00	2.463,65	47.536,35		50.000,00	21-Feb-14	100,00%
Ireland	50.000,00	324,66	49.676,00		50.000,66	29-Apr-14	100,00%
Latvia	50.000,00	324,66	49.675,34		50.000,00	10-Mar-14	100,00%
Norway	50.000,00		49.993,27	=	49.993,27	5-Mar-14	99,99%
Sweden	50.000,00				<del>-</del>		0,00%
Switzerland	65.000,00		49.965,00		49.965,00	10-Jun-14	76,87%
United States of America	120.000,00		69.879,29		69.879,29	23-Dec-13	58,23%
Total contributing countries donors:	735.000,00	3.437,63	466.400,59		469.838,22	20035 7002020 5540	63,92%
European Commission contract	3.575.000,00		2.860.000,00		2.860.000,00	31-Dec-13	80,00%
South Fort Francis Contributous							
South East Europe Contributors	50,000,00		50,000,00		50,000,00	F C 1.4	100.000/
Albania	60.000,00		60.000,00		60.000,00	5-Sep-14	100,00%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	60.000,00		60.000,00		60.000,00	7-May-14	100,00%
Bulgaria	140.000,00		140.000,00		140.000,00	23-Jan-14	100,00%
Croatia	80.000,00		40.000,00		40.000,00	30-Apr-14	50,00%
Greece	140.000,00		140.000,00		140.000,00	20-May-14	100,00%
Kosovo*	40.000,00				<u>=</u>		0,00%
Moldova	40.000,00		40.000,00		40.000,00	23-Apr-14	100,00%
Montenegro	40.000,00		40.000,00		40.000,00	18-Mar-14	100,00%
Romania	140.000,00				-		0,00%
Serbia	80.000,00		80.000,00		80.000,00	21-Feb-14	100,00%
Slovenia	80.000,00		_ = = m =				0,00%
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	60.000,00				-		0,00%
Turkey	140.000,00		140.000,00		140.000,00	9-May-14	100,00%
South East Europe Contributors set aside funding**							
Total South East Europe Contributors:	1.100.000,00	-	740.000,00	0,00	740.000,00		67,27%
		1					

<sup>\*</sup>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.

<sup>\*\*</sup> balance of set aside funds is EUR 426,022 (Albania paid 2013 contribution in 2014)

## ANNEX I

REPORT On the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2014 – 2016 in the period 1 April – 20 September 2014

#### Horizontal activities

Horizontal Functions:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC Secretariat	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
1. Representing the region		<ul> <li>EU – WB ministerial meeting, Thessaloniki, 8 May 2014</li> <li>XVII Adriatic Ionian Council Meeting, Brussels, 13 May 2014</li> <li>Annual forum - EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Vienna, 26 June 2014</li> <li>Balkans Foreign Ministers preparatory meeting, Brussels, 2 July 2014</li> <li>WB6 Meeting - Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Kotor, 10 July 2014</li> <li>International Donors' Conference for BH and Serbia after the floods 'Rebuilding Together' – Brussels, 16 July 2014</li> <li>Germans Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy's "Economic Conference on the Western Balkans" – Berlin, 28 August 2014</li> </ul>
2. Coordination and cooperation with the SEECP C-i-O	<ul> <li>Coordination meeting between the SEECP Troika, the RCC Secretariat and the EU, Sarajevo, 23 April 2014</li> <li>Meeting of the Ad-hoc Working Group on SEECP Future, Sarajevo, 23 April 2014</li> <li>Consultations with high level officials of the MFA of Albania, Tirana, 17-18 September 2014</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Meeting of SEECP Political Directors, Bucharest, 18 June 2014</li> <li>Meeting of the MFAs of the SEECP, Bucharest, 20 June 2014</li> <li>Summit of the SEECP Heads of State or Government, Bucharest, 25 June 2014</li> </ul>
3. Exerting strategic leadership in regional cooperation	<ul> <li>RCC Board meeting, Sarajevo, 24 April 2014</li> <li>4<sup>rd</sup> Coordination meeting of the SEE 2020 Strategy, Sarajevo, 6 May 2014</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the SEE 2020 Strategy National Coordinators - Sarajevo, 7 May 2014</li> <li>RCC Annual Meeting, Bucharest, 19 June 2014</li> <li>SEE 2020Governing Board Meeting, Bucharest, 19 June 2014</li> <li>Briefing to the SEE ambassadors to EU and NATO, Brussels, 4 July 2014</li> </ul>	

L. Consultations with RCC Participants	<ul> <li>Meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, Sarajevo, 13 May 2014</li> <li>Meeting with the President of Montenegro, Sarajevo, 14 May 2014</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Meetings with the high level officials of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade, 28 May 2014</li> <li>Meetings with representatives of the EU (EC and EEAS), Brussels, 19 – 20 May 2014</li> <li>Meeting with State Secretary of Germany, Berlin, 12 June 2014</li> </ul>
5. Providing regional perspective in donor assistance, notably in EU assistance under the Instrument for pre-Accession		IPA MB Programme Coordination Meeting, Istanbul, 15-16 May 2014
5. Supporting increased involvement of civil society in regional activities		<ul> <li>Regional conference on Enhancing Interfaith Dialogue as a means for democratic Development, Prizren, 23 – 25 May 2014</li> <li>The Aspen Institute Conference on Economic Development in the Western Balkans, Berlin, 23-25 June 2014</li> </ul>

Priority area 1: South East Europe 2020 Strategy-job creating growth and EU integration

Objectives:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC Secretariat	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
Horizontal coordination	<ul> <li>SEE 2020: Roundtable meeting on identifying priority measures for 2014, Tirana, 2 April 2014</li> <li>SEE 2020: Roundtable meeting on identifying priority measures for 2014, Prishtina, 16 April 2014</li> <li>SEE 2020: Roundtable meeting on identifying priority measures for 2014, Podgorica, 17 April 2014</li> <li>4th Coordination Board of the SEE 2020 Strategy, Sarajevo, 6 May 2014</li> <li>2nd SEE 2020 National Coordinators Meeting, Sarajevo, 7 May 2014</li> <li>South East Europe 2020 Strategy Governing Board Meeting, Bucharest, 19 June 2014</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>WBIF Task Force Meeting, Brussels, 8 April 2014</li> <li>Western Balkans EDIF Platform Advisory Group meeting, Berlin, 10 June 2014</li> <li>10th WBIF Steering Committee Meeting, Berlin, 11-12 June 2014</li> </ul>
Integrated Growth	<ul> <li>Coordination visit to the CEFTA Secretariat, Brussels, 8-10 April 2014</li> <li>SEEIC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investment Meeting, Sarajevo, 13 May 2014</li> <li>Sarajevo Business Forum, Sarajevo, 14-15 May 2014</li> <li>Coordination Meeting with the co-chairs of the SEE Investment Committee (Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Croatia), Zagreb, 5 June 2014</li> <li>15th South East Europe Investment Committee Meeting, Zagreb, 26 June 2014</li> </ul>	
Smart Growth	<ul> <li>The Ninth Meeting of the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society (TFCS), Ulcinj 27-28 May</li> <li>Meeting between the RCC Secretary General, Mr. Goran Svilanovic, and Director General of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova, Ohrid, 28 June 2014</li> <li>18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body, Podgorica, 8 April 2014</li> <li>Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional R&amp;D Strategy for Innovation, Split, 1-2 April 2014</li> <li>Meeting between the RCC Secretariat and the representatives of Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, Zagreb, 5-6 June 2014</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe (CoMoCoSEE) – Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development, Ohrid, 27-28 June 2014</li> <li>FRAME Monitoring 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Technical meeting, Torino, 25 June 2014</li> <li>Advisory Committee for Vocational Training and Directors General for Vocational Training Preparatory Meeting with Candidate Countries, Torino, 21 May 2014</li> <li>WBC-INCO.NET Final Conference and Brokerage event - Towards 2020: New Horizons for RTD and Innovation in the Western Balkans Region, Vienna, 27-28 March 2014</li> </ul>

Sustainable Growth	<ul> <li>First meeting of the SEE Tourism Expert Group, Dubrovnik, 28-29 April 2014</li> <li>Continued consultations with the SEETO And JSPA Initiative with regard to the implementation of the Transport Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy Sustainable Growth Pillar</li> <li>Cooperated with the UNECE and SEETO regarding the organization of the Road Safety Workshop</li> <li>Continued to cooperate with the BIH Association of Consulting Engineers (ACE BiH) and BIH Ministry of Communications and Transport related to the Road Congress organization</li> <li>Cooperated with the ISIS PS related to the organization of the ISIS Governing Body and High-Level SES meetings held on 14-15 May in Pristina</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Consultative meeting with the Joint Service Provision Area Initiative (JSPAI) Preparatory Team, Podgorica, 5 May 2014</li> <li>Consultative meeting with SEETO, Sarajevo, 7 May 2014.</li> <li>Conference on "Air Transport as a Driver for Development and Economic Prosperity in SEE", Sarajevo, 22 May 2014</li> </ul>
Inclusive Growth	Social Agenda 2020 Working Group Meeting, Sarajevo, 3-4 June 2014	<ul> <li>Promoting the Social Dimension of EU Enlargement, Roundtable, Brussels, 1 April 2014</li> <li>Dialogue on Regional Mobility of Professionals in CEFTA, Brussels, 29 April 2014</li> <li>Population and Development Dialogue, Prague, 11-12 June 2014</li> <li>Health Care in SEE, Bucharest, 23-24 June 2014</li> <li>Workshop on Labor Mobility in Central and South-eastern Europe, Vienna, 27 June 2014</li> <li>33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SEE Health Network, Bucharest, 10-11 July 2014</li> </ul>
Governance for Growth	<ul> <li>Meeting with the RAI Management – organized by RCC Secretariat, on several occasions in April, May and June 2014</li> <li>Meeting with ReSPA and NALAS Management, Sarajevo, 7 May 2014; several skype conferences in May and June.</li> <li>1st meeting of the Working Group on Justice, Ljubljana, 22-23 May 2014</li> </ul>	

Priority area 2: Justice and home affairs and security cooperation-stability and rule of law

Objectives:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC Secretariat	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
Objectives:	Activities organized/co-organized by the KCC Secretariat	1 at despation at events of gamzed by other partners/institutions
Justice and home affairs	<ul> <li>Regional Conference on Promoting Best Practices in Fighting High-level Corruption and Asset Recovery, Bucharest, 8-9 April 2014</li> <li>Expert meeting on the gap analyses of regional cooperation in the field of migration management and fighting serious and organised crime, Zagreb, 26-27 May 2014</li> </ul>	
Security	<ul> <li>Consultations with Ministry of Defense of Montenegro, Podgorica, 13 May 2014</li> <li>Forth Meeting of the Heads of the National Security Authorities of SEE Participants to SEENSA, Sarajevo, 20 May 2014</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>SEEMIC Expert Working Group, Skopje, 24 April 2014</li> <li>SEECP Cyber Security Conference, Bucharest, Romania, 24 June 2014</li> </ul>

Priority area 3: Cross-cutting issues – extending participation, widening partnerships

<b>Objectives:</b>	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC Secretariat	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
Women Entrepreneurship	<ul> <li>Women Entrepreneurship - Strategic Planning Workshop and Trade Fair, Dubrovnik, 3-5 April 2014</li> <li>Board Meeting of the Women Entrepreneurship Project, Zagreb, 4-5 June 2014</li> <li>Cetinje Parliamentary Forum (dedicated to Women Entrepreneurship), Cetinje, 9-10 June 2014</li> </ul>	
Parliamentary cooperation		<ul> <li>Dubrovnik Process Conference on Parliaments and Civil Society in SEE - Dubrovnik/ Cavtat, 25 - 27 April 2014</li> <li>Inaugural Session of SEECP Parliamentary Assembly, Bucharest, 10 May 2014</li> <li>IX Meeting of the Conference of the European Integration/Affairs Committees of States Participating in the Stabilization and Association Process of the South East Europe-COSAP, Becici, 3 June 2014</li> </ul>

# **ANNEX II**

# LIST OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE RCC SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE RCC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS IN THE PERIOD 1 APRIL – 20 SEPTEMBER 2014

#### **GENERAL**

- 1. The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) Regional Meeting for SEE Podgorica, 31 March 1 April 2014
- 2. RCC Financial Sub-Committee Meeting Sarajevo, 2 April 2014
- 3. South East Europe 2020 Strategy: Identifying Priority Actions for 2014, Roundtable Meeting Tirana, 2 April 2014
- 4. WBIF Task Force Meeting—Brussels, 8 April 2014 (Head of Unit/Coordinator of the SEE2020 Strategy)
- 5. Contemporary Challenges in Regional Police Cooperation Ministerial Conference under the Auspices of Switzerland Opatija, 8 9 April 2014
- 6. South East Europe 2020 Strategy: Identifying Priority Actions for 2014, Roundtable Meeting Pristina, 16 April 2014
- 7. South East Europe 2020 Strategy: Identifying Priority Actions for 2014, Roundtable Meeting Podgorica, 17 April 2014
- 8. Coordination Meeting between the SEECP Troika, the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat and the representatives of the EU Sarajevo, 23 April 2014
- 9. 1st meeting of the SEECP Ad-Hoc Working Group Sarajevo, 23 April 2014
- 10. RCC Board Meeting Sarajevo, 24 April 2014
- 11. Dubrovnik Process Conference on Parliaments and Civil Society in SEE Dubrovnik/ Cavtat, 25 27 April 2014
- 12. 4<sup>rd</sup> Coordination meeting of the SEE2020 Strategy Sarajevo, 6 May 2014
- 13. 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the SEE 2020 National Coordinators Sarajevo, 7 May 2014
- 14. EU WB ministerial meeting Thessaloniki, 8 May 2014
- 15. Inaugural Session of SEECP Parliamentary Assembly Bucharest, 10 May 2014
- 16. Visit of Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia to RCC Sarajevo, 13 May 2014

- 17. XVII Adriatic Ionian Council Meeting Brussels, 13 May 2014
- 18. Sarajevo Business Forum Sarajevo, 14 15 May 2014
- 19. Visit of President of Montenegro to RCC Sarajevo, 14 May 2014
- 20. IPA MB Programme Coordination Meeting Istanbul, 15-16 May 2014
- 21. Meetings with representatives of the DG Enlargement and EEAS (Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Director General of DG Enlargement, Deputy Head of Regional Cooperation and Programs Unit of DG Enlargement, EEAS Director on Western Europe (non-EU), Western Balkans and Turkey) Brussels, 19 20 May 2014
- 22. Region and Politics: Enhancing Interfaith Dialogue as a Mean for Democratic Development Prizren, 23 25 May 2014
- 23. EU Forum for Prosperity and jobs in BiH Sarajevo, 26 May 2014
- 24. SEELS Regional Conference "Promotion of scientific research and education in European integration and policy" Rijeka, 27 28 May 2014
- 25. Meetings with the high level officials of the Government of the Republic of Serbia Belgrade, 28 May 2014
- 26. Ministerial Conference on Justice and Home Affairs Bucharest, 29 May 2014
- 27. Brdo Process event Brdo pri Kranju, 2 3 June 2014
- 28. CEI Ministerial Conference Vienna, 3 June 2014
- 29. Sarajevo Summit Danube Salon preparations Sarajevo, 4 June 2014
- 30. XVI Cetinje Parliamentary Forum "Women in Business" Cetinje, 9 June 2014
- 31. MARRI Regional Forum Cavtat, 10 June 2014
- 32. Western Balkans EDIF Platform Advisory Group meeting Berlin, 10 June 2014
- 33. 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the WBIF Steering Committee Berlin, 11 June 2014
- 34. Political Consultations Meeting with State Secretary of Germany Berlin, 12 June 2014
- 35. Regional Summit of Ministers of Finance and Governors "Financial Future of the Region" Budva. 13 June 2014
- 36. Meeting of the Political Directors of the SEECP Bucharest, 18 June 2014
- 37. South East Europe 2020 Strategy Governing Board Meeting Bucharest, 19 June 2014

- 38. RCC Annual Meeting Bucharest, 19 June 2014
- 39. SEECP Ministerial meeting Bucharest, 20 June 2014
- 40. The Aspen Institute Conference on Economic Development in the Western Balkans Berlin, 23 25 June 2014
- 41. 14<sup>th</sup> Serbian Economic Summit Belgrade, 24 June 2014
- 42. Summit of the SEECP Heads of State or Government Bucharest, 25 June 2014
- 43. Annual forum EU Strategy for the Danube Region Vienna, 26 June 2014
- 44. First regional meeting of the Council of Ministers of Culture of SEE Ohrid, 28 June 2014
- 45. Forum Serbian German Cooperation Berlin, 30 June 2014
- 46. 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Council of Regional Platform for Benchmarking and Cooperation in Higher Education and Research Ljubljana, 30 June 2014
- 47. Conference on Employment growth-On a Road to Recovery Sarajevo, 1 July 2014
- 48. Preparatory meeting with the 6 WB Ambassadors in view of the informal meeting of the Western
- 49. Balkans Foreign Ministers preparatory meeting Brussels, 2 July 2014
- 50. Briefing to the SEE ambassadors to EU and NATO Brussels, 4 July 2014
- 51. WB6 Meeting Ministers of Foreign Affairs Kotor, 10 July 2014
- 52. Croatia Forum EU Integration of Western Balkans: State of Play Dubrovnik, 10-12 July 2014
- 53. International Donors' Conference for BH and Serbia after the floods 'Rebuilding Together' Brussels, 16 July 2014
- 54. Germans Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy's "Economic Conference on the Western Balkans" Berlin, 28 August 2014
- 55. Bled Strategic Forum Bled, 1-2 September 2014
- 56. Concluding Meeting of the 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum Prague, 10-12 September 2014
- 57. Meeting with First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Prague, 12 September 2014
- 58. FES Belgrade Conference EU and Western Balkans 2020 organised by the FES and Center for Foreign Politics Belgrade, 15 September 2014

59. Consultations with high level officials of the MFA of Albania – Tirana, 17-18 September 2014

# **Integrated Growth**

- 1. Working visit to the CEFTA Secretariat Brussels, 8-10 April 2014
- 2. SEEIC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investment Meeting Sarajevo, 13 May 2014
- 3. Meeting with the co-chairs of the SEE Investment Committee (Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Croatia) Zagreb 4 June 2014
- 4. 15<sup>th</sup> South East Europe Investment Committee Meeting Zagreb, 26 June 2014

# Smart Growth

- First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the R&D Strategy for Innovation Split, 1 2 April 2014
- 2. ERI SEE Governing Board Meeting Podgorica, 8 April 2014
- 3. Advisory Committee for Vocational Training and Directors General for Vocational Training Turin, 21 May 2014
- 4. Ninth Meeting of the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society Ulcinj, 27 28 May 2014
- 5. Meeting regarding founding activities of the Western Balkans Research and Innovation Strategy Exercise (WISE) Zagreb, 5 6 June 2014
- 6. Meeting with the Head of UNESCO Venice Antenna Office in Sarajevo Sarajevo, 10 June 2014
- 7. 2<sup>nd</sup> FRAME Monitoring Regional Technical Meeting Turin, 25 June 2014
- 8. Workshop on Audiovisual Jahorina, 7-8 July 2014
- 9. Workshop on Regional Design Incubators Jahorina, 10-11 July 2014
- 10. Round table on regional cooperation in audio visual sector Sarajevo, 22 August 2014
- 11. Consultations with the ERI SEE Secretariat regarding establishment of the Secretariat and development of the Regional program on Access to Education Belgrade, 2 September 2014
- 12. Regional Workshop on Access, completion and prevention of drop outs in education Budva, 15-16 September 2014

13. Regional Workshop on Technology Transfer – Budva, 18-19 September 2014

# Sustainable Growth

- Women Entrepreneurship Trade Fair & Strategic Planning Workshop Dubrovnik, 3 5 April 2014
- 2. First meeting of the SEE Tourism Expert Group Dubrovnik, 28 29 April 2014
- 3. Consultations with JSPA Initiative Podgorica, 5 May 2014
- 4. Consultations with SEETO Sarajevo, 7 May 2014
- 5. ISIS Governing Board Meeting Pristina, 14 May 2014
- 6. RCC/JSPA Conference on Air Transport as a Driver for Development and Economic Prosperity in the South East Europe Sarajevo, 22 May 2014
- 7. Meeting with the Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Croatia and SEECEL Zagreb, 4 June 2014
- 8. Board Meeting of the Women Entrepreneurship Project Zagreb, 5 June 2014
- 9. Cetinje Parliamentary Forum dedicated to Women Entrepreneurship Cetinje, 9-10 June 2014
- 10. SEETO Key Transport Users Meeting Skopje, 16 September 2014
- 11. 4th Road Congress Sarajevo, 18-19 September 2014

# **Inclusive Growth**

- 1. Round table "The Social Dimension of EU Enlargement" Brussels, 1 April 2014
- 2. CEFTA World Bank Dialogue on Regional Mobility of Professionals Brussels, 29 April 2014
- 3. Meeting of the Social Agenda 2020 Working Group on the implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy Sarajevo, 3-4 June 2014
- 4. UNFPA Regional Conference on Population and Development Dialogue Prague, 11-13 June 2014
- 5. Health Care in SEE: Situation and Challenges Conference Bucharest, 23-24 June 2014
- 6. 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum of the EU strategy for the Danube Region Labour Mobility in Central and South-East Europe Challenges and Opportunities Vienna, 27 June 2014

# Justice and Home Affairs

- SPCP Ministerial Conference on Regional Cooperation, under the auspices of the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship; 10<sup>th</sup> DCAF Ministerial Conference on Border Security; 11<sup>th</sup> PCC SEE Committee of Ministers Meeting, under the auspices of the Bosnia and Herzegovina PCC – Opatija, 8-10 April 2014
- 2. Regional Conference "Promoting Best Practices in Fighting High-level Corruption and Asset Recovery" Bucharest, 8 9 April 2014
- 3. Treptower Group Working Level Meeting The Hague, 10-11 April 2014
- 4. Closing Conference of the IPA 2010 Fight against organised crime and corruption: Strengthening the Prosecutors' Network The Hague, 14-16 April 2014
- 5. Regional workshop on effective protection of victims and witnesses of trafficking in person in criminal proceedings in the SEE Sarajevo, 29-30 April 2014
- 6. Summer School for Security Policy Ulcinj, 15-16 May 2014
- 7. SELEC the 20<sup>th</sup> Anti-drug Trafficking Task Force Meeting Bucharest, 20-21 May 2014
- 8. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Justice Ljubljana, 22-23 May 2014
- 9. Expert meeting on the gap analyses of regional cooperation in the field of migration management and fighting serious and organised crime Zagreb, 26-27 May 2014
- 10. SELEC Council Meeting Bucharest, 29 May 2014
- 11. 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Budapest process Working Group on the South East European Region Budapest, 4 June 2014
- 12. Trans-regional Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation in Combating Irregular Migration and Smuggling of Migrants through SEE Athens, 11-12 June 2014
- 13. 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Mirage Task Force Bucharest, 19 June 2014
- 14. Meeting of the Programme Steering Committee of the UNODC Regional Programme for SEE Vienna, 30 June 2014
- 15. 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Group of PA 11 of the Danube Strategy Bucharest, 30 June 1 July 2014
- 16. The Aspen Institute Conference "Rule of Law enhancement in the Western Balkans: Identifying the next steps" Alt Madlitz, Germany, 8-11 September 2014

# **Security Cooperation**

- 1. SEEMIC Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting Skopje, 24 April 2014
- 2. Consultations with representatives of the Ministry of Defense of Montenegro Podgorica, 13 May 2014
- 3. Fourth Meeting of the Heads of the National Security Authorities (NSA) of the SEE Participants of the Regional Cooperation Council (SEENSA) Sarajevo, 20 May 2014
- 4. Consultations with the Head of the Serbian NSA Belgrade, June 2014

# COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Participation in SEECOM Board meeting Podgorica, 15 April 2014
- 2. Participation in the SEEHN Communication workshop Skopje 24-25 April 2014
- 3. Meeting with Head of FES Office in Sarajevo on preparations of the 3rd Academy on Media Law Sarajevo, 6 June 2014
- 4. Meeting with Spokesperson of OSCE Mission to BiH on preparations of the 3rd Academy on Media Law Sarajevo, 12 June 2014
- 5. Meetings in Belgrade with editors in chief or directors of "Danas", "Vreme", RTS, "BETA news agency", "Blic" on possible cooperation on the Media Law Academy and on promoting the work of the RCC

# LIAISON OFFICE

- 1. Meeting with the DG Employment representative, including a conference call with the World Bank Washington Office Brussels, 1 April 2014
- 2. Meeting with the Deputy Head of Regional Cooperation and Programmes Unit of DG Enlargement Brussels, 2 April 2014
- 3. Meeting with the Director, Roma Initiatives, Open Society Institute, Hungary, Head of Unit, Deputy Head of Unit and Head of Section, DG Enlargement Brussels, 4 April 2014
- 4. ACROSEE and CEI organized Project Workshop: Bridging European Regions, the new Ten-T guidelines and their impact on the European transport policy and cohesion Brussels, 4 April 2014
- 5. Evaluation committee for the tender "Technical assistance in trade in services negotiations" in CEFTA countries Brussels, 10 April 2014

- 6. Meeting with the Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner for international cooperation, humanitarian aid and crisis response Brussels, 15 April 2014
- 7. Dialogue on regional mobility of professionals Brussels 29 April 2014
- 8. Meeting with the Antici diplomat of the Permanent representation of Bulgaria to the EU Brussels, 5 May 2014
- 9. High Level Meeting on Single European Sky Performance Scheme Pristina, 13 May 2014
- 10. Meeting with the representative of Germany in COWEB Brussels, 23 May 2014
- 11. Presentation of RCC activities to a group of 12 Master Degree students from Kosovo\* Brussels, May 28 2014
- 12. 15<sup>th</sup> summer seminar for young professionals from SEE and the Black sea Albena, 3 June 2014
- 13. Meeting with the Director General of UNESCO Brussels, 25 June 2014
- 14. Meeting with the DG Employment, External Relations, Neighbourhood Policy, Enlargement, IPA representatives Brussels, 1 July 2014
- 15. Meeting with the Director General for Enlargement, EC Brussels, 2 July 2014
- 16. Meeting with the Director for Albania, BH, Serbia and Kosovo\* in DG Enlargement Brussels, 3 July 2014
- 17. Meeting with EC Consultant on parliamentary cooperation Brussels, 4 July 2014
- 18. RCC Presentation of SEE 2020 Strategy to DG Enlargement Brussels, 4 July 2014
- 19. Meeting with the Desk officer for RCC in the EEAS Brussels, 7 July 2014
- 20. EuroComment briefing about the results of the special meeting of the European Council on 30 August Brussels, 3 September 2014
- 21. Meeting of the Ambassadors from the Western Balkans Missions to the EU organized by the Mission of BH Brussels, 5 September 2014
- 22. Meeting with the Head of Unit 'External Relations, Neighbourhood Policy, Enlargement, IPA' of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Brussels, 11 September 2014
- 23. Meeting with the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the EU Brussels, 12 September 2014
- 24. Meeting with the Deputy Head of Unit Regional Cooperation and Programmes in DG Enlargement Brussels, 15 September 2014

25.	Meeting Brussels,			OSI	Brussels	and	DG	Enlargement	representatives –

# **ANNEX III**

# LIST OF PLANNED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE RCC SECRETARIAT IN 2014

Secretary General/RCC Secretariat Officials

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE WORK PROGRAM
1.	WB6 MFAs and Ministers of Economy	MFA Serbia	October 2014	Belgrade		
2.	RESPA Ministerial Governing Board Meeting	ReSPA	31 October 2014	Skopje		
3.	Third Academy on Media Law in South East Europe	RCC Secretariat in cooperation with: Friedrich Ebert Foundation/OSCE Mission to BiH /ARTICLE 19: Global Campaign for Free Expression/European Association of Public Service Media in South East Europe	October/ November 2014	Belgrade		
4.	Outreach and SEE 2020 roundtables planned for November (Pristina/Skopje 4-5 November; Tirana/Podgorica 11-12 November; Sarajevo/Belgrade 27-28 November)	RCC Secretariat/National authoroties				

5.	First Meeting of the Task Force on SEE 2020 Monitoring	RCC Secretariat	November	Sarajevo	
6.	IPA Meeting		13 November 2014	Brussels	
7.	Launching Conference of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region		18 November 2014	Brussels	
8.	Vienna Economic Forum		24 November 2014	Vienna	
9.	CEI Annual Summit		24 November 2014	Vienna	
10.	Coordination Meeting between the SEECP Troika, the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat and the representatives of the EU	RCC Secretariat/ SEECP CiO	February 2014	Sarajevo	
11.	RCC Board meeting	RCC Secretariat	February 2014	Sarajevo	

# Integrated Growth Pillar/Implementation of the RCC SWP2014-2016

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE WORK PROGRAM
1.	2nd meeting of the Food and Beverages Expert Group	OECD/RCC Secretariat	02 October 2014	Paris		
2.	Meeting of the Working Group on Investments	RCC Secretariat	09 October 2014	Sarajevo		
3.	2nd meeting of the Tourism Expert Group	RCC Secretariat	20 October 2014	Paris		
4.	16 <sup>th</sup> SEEIC Meeting	RCC Secretariat	04 November 2014	Croatia		
5.	SEEIC Ministerial Conference	RCC Secretariat	11 December 2014 (tbc)	Croatia		

# Inclusive Growth Pillar/Implementation of the RCC SWP2014-2016

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE WORK PROGRAM
1.	National Workshop on Labour Mobility	RCC Secretariat/Government of Montenegro	20 October 2014 (tbc)	Podgorica		
2.	National Workshop on Labour Mobility	RCC Secretariat/Government of Albania	21 October 2014	Tirana		

3.	National Workshop on Labour Mobility	RCC Secretariat/Government of Kosovo*	22 October 2014 (tbc)	Pristina	
4.	National Workshop on Labour Mobility	RCC Secretariat/Government of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	24 October 2014 (tbc)	Skopje	
5.	National Workshop on Labour Mobility	RCC Secretariat/Government of Croatia	28 October 2014	Zagreb	
6.	National Workshop on Labour Mobility	RCC Secretariat/Government of Serbia	29 October 2014 (tbc)	Belgrade	
7.	National Workshop on Labour Mobility	RCC Secretariat/Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina	30 October 2014	Sarajevo	
8.	Workshop on Regional Programme on Health	RCC Secretariat/ SEEHN	Oct/Nov	TBD	
9.	eSEE Meeting, to assess the potential for expanding broadband penetration and/or working out a roadmap for establishing cross- border e-Services, including health, education and trade	RCC&eSEE	November 2014	TBD	2.1.3 SEE 2020 Strategy implementation (Smart Growth – F. Digital Society)
9.	1 <sup>st</sup> high level meeting on employment – tentative, depending on the progress achieved in the technical work and meetings	RCC Secretariat	20 November 2014 (tbc)	TBD	

# Sustainable Growth Pillar / Implementation of the RCC SWP 2014-2016

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE WORK PROGRAM
1.	Workshop on building regional capacities on road safety management	RCC/UNECE/Serbian authorities	15-16 October 2014	Belgrade	Legal, institutional, budget and staffing arrangements for road safety management; present a regional survey on the Road Safety Strategy; road safety management practices in different countries	10.Contribute to the development of sustainable and integrated transport in the region
2.	Policy Dialogue on Water and Energy Nexus in Trans-boundary Basins in South Eastern Europe - Stakeholders and Directors' meetings	RCC, GWP-Med	November 2014	Sarajevo		
3.	First meeting of Working Group/Forum on Infrastructure	RCC/SEETO	December 2014	Brussels (TBC)	Set the scene for further investment coordination concerning the SEE Transport Comprehensive Network, the development of which is principal goal for both SEE 2020 Strategy and SEETO MoU.	10.Contribute to the development of sustainable and integrated transport in the region

# Justice and Home Affairs

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE RCC SWP
1.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Working Group on Justice	RCC Secretariat	22-23 October 2014	Sarajevo	Regional action plan on the implementation of the Justice dimension of the SEE 2020 and quantitative indicators for monitoring of the implementation	
2.	Anti-corruption Conference	RCC Secretariat/ Albanian SEECP CiO	November 2014	Tirana		
3.	High level conference on migration management (follow up to the gap analyses of the regional cooperation	OSCE / RCC Secretariat	October / November 2014	TBD	Implementation of the recommendations from Gap analyses of regional cooperation	

# Smart Growth Pillar / Implementation of the RCC SWP 2014-2016

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE RCC SWP
1.	Meeting of the Regional SEE Working Group on Recognition of Qualifications	RCC Secretariat/Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of Croatia, ERI SEE	22-23 September 2014	Zagreb		
2.	Meeting of the Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkans Countries	RCC Secretariat/EC-DG Enlargement/CEI/ EU Italian Presidency/ Serbian Ministry of Science and Research	24 September 2014	Trieste		

3.	WISE Governing Board Meeting	RCC Secretariat	30 September 2014	Ohrid	
4.	Ljubljana Process Conference Cultural heritage rehabilitation as a Key to Sustainable Development	RCC Secretariat and TFCS Secretariat	27-28 October 2014	Dubrovnik	Taking over coordination of Ljubljana process
5.	Thematic meeting on R&D platform "SEE Science Forum"	RCC Secretariat and Croatian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport	Oct/Nov 2014	Split	2.1.3 SEE 2020 Strategy implementation (Smart Growth – E. R&D and Innovation)
6.	Regional Workshop on Teacher Training	RCC Secretariat/ERI SEE	01 December 2014 (tbc)	TBD	
7.	Regional Workshop on Networks of Excellence	RCC Secretariat	04 December 2014 (tbc)	TBD	
8.	Annual Regional Conference on Education	RCC Secretariat/ERI SEE	December 2014	TBD	

#### **ANNEX IV**

# LIST OF OFFICIALS OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL (RCC) SECRETARIAT

#### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- 1. Mr. Goran Svilanovic, Secretary General
- 2. Ms. Gordana Demser, Legal and Political Advisor/Head of the Office of the Secretary General
- 1. Mr. Nenad Sebek, Spokesperson (Employment contract took effect on 2 June 2014)
- 3. Ms. Jasna Sinancevic, Personal Assistant to the Secretary General
- 4. Ms. Alma Pozder Arslanagic Public Affairs Assistant (temporary replacement for Ms. Selma Ahatovic Lihic, who is on maternity leave as of 14 July 2014)
- 5. Mr. Sladjan Rikanovic, Driver/Security

# POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

- 2. Ms. Stefana Greavu, Head of Political Department
- 3. Ms. Maja Pinjo Talevska, Senior Politicy Analyst
- 4. Mr. Efrem Radev, Senior Advisor on Security Policy Issues
- 5. Mr. Erhan Turbedar, Senior Political Advisor
- 6. Mr. Dorin Vremis, Political Advisor
- 7. Ms. Natasa Mitrovic, Assistant to Political Department

# PROGRAMME DEPARTMENT

- 1. Mr. Gazmend Turdiu, Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Programme Department
- 2. Ms. Maja Taylor, Assistant to Head of Programme Department (contract terminated as of 1 October 2014)

# SEE 2020 STRATEGY COORDINATIONATION UNIT

- 1. Mr. Sanjin Arifagic, Head of Unit/Coordinator of SEE 2020 Strategy
- 2. Mr. Mladen Dragasevic, Senior Expert on Smart Growth
- 3. Mr. Nand Shani, Senior Expert Inclusive Growth
- 4. Ms. Despoina Syrri, Senior Expert on Sustainable Growth
- 5. Ms. Dragana Djurica, Expert on Integrated Growth
- 6. Ms. Amna Redzepagic, Expert on Sustainable Growth
- 8. Ms. Mimika Loshi Expert on Smart Growth
- 7. Ms. Elvira Ademovic, Assistant to Programme Department
- 8. Ms. Nedima Hadziibrisevic, Assistant to Programme Department

# JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS UNIT

- 1. Ms. Suzana Ivanovic, Head of JHA/Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs
- 2. Mr. Predrag Vujicic, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs
- 3. Ms. Ivana Goranic Expert on Governance for Growth

# **BRUSSELS LIAISON OFFICE**

- 1. Mr. Stanislav Daskalov, Head of Liaison Office
- 2. Ms. Lidija Topic, Senior Advisor

# ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

- 1. Ms. Mirna Muratovic, Head of Administration
- 2. Ms. Mirela Mahic, Administration Officer
- 3. Mr. Sead Filipovic, Finance Officer
- 4. Mr. Maid Medunjanin, IT Officer
- 5. Ms. Alma Gadzic, Accountant
- 6. Ms. Admira Rastoder Finance Assistant
- 7. Ms. Dijana Keselj-Novaković, Translator/Interpreter
- 8. Ms. Vanja Vekic, Receptionist
- 9. Mr. Denis Suljic, Driver/Courier
- 10. Mr. Fikret Kadic, Driver/Courier

#### ANNEX V

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABC Association of Balkan Chambers

ACE Association of Consulting Engineers of Bosnia and Herzegovina

ACI Airport Council International Europe
ADA Austrian Development Agency
AEA Association of the European Airlines

AII Adriatic-Ionian Initiative

ALAs Association of Local Authorities
AREC Adriatic Region Employers' Centre

ATM Air Traffic Management
BAC Business Advisory Council

BCSDN Balkan Civil Society Development Network

BRESCE UNESCO Venice Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

bSEE Task Force Broadband South Eastern Europe Task Force

BfV Bundesamtes für Verfassungsschutz CAP Common Agricultural Policy

CARICC Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre

CEB Council of Europe Development Bank
CEFTA Central European Free Trade Agreement
CeGD Centre for e-Governance Development

CEI Central European Initiative

CGRS Commission for Global Road Safety

C-i-O Chairmanship-in-Office CoE Council of Europe

CoMoCoSEE Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe

COSAP Conference of the European Integration Parliamentary Committees of States

participating in the Stabilization and Association Process

COWEB Working Group on Western Balkans of the Council of the EU

CP Contracting Parties

CPESSEC Centre of Public Employment Services of Southeast European Countries

CPF Cetinje Parliamentary Forum CSOs Civil Society Organizations

CTED Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate
DABLAS Danube and Black Sea Task Force
DCAF Democratic Control of Armed Forces

DCHOD Deputy Chief of Defence
DCP Danube Cooperation Process

DPPI Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative

EAS External Action Service

EASA European Aviation Safety Agency

EBRD European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

EC European Commission

European Common Aviation Area **ECAA** Energy Community Regulatory Board **ECRB Energy Community Secretariat ECS ECT Energy Community Treaty** European External Action Service **EEAS** European Higher Education Area **EHEA** European Investment Bank **EIB** European Law Faculty Association **ELFA** 

ELFA European Law Faculty Association
ENIC European Network of Information Centres

EnC Energy Community

ERF European Union Road Federation

ERI SEE Education Reform Initiative for South Eastern Europe

ERSO European Road Safety Observatory eSEE Initiative Electronic South Eastern Europe Initiative

ESENSEE Eco Social Economy Network South and East Europe

EU European Union

EUMS European Union Military Staff
EUSDR EU Strategy for the Danube Region
FATF Financial Action Task Force
FES Friedrich Ebert Foundation

GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

GRECO Group of States against Corruption
GRSP Global Road Safety Partnership

GS Council of EU General Secretariat Council of European Union

GTF Gender Task Force

HIDAA High Inspectorate for Declaration and Audit of Assets ICDT International Centre for Democratic Transition

ICMPD International Centre for Migration Policy Development

ICPDR International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

ICT Information and Communication Technologies

IEN Integrity Expert Network

IFC International Finance Corporation
IFIS International Financial Institutions

IFIAG International Financial Institution Advisory Group

IFP Infrastructure Project Facilities

ILECUs International Enforcement Coordination Units

ILOInternational Labour OrganizationIOEInternational Organization of EmployersIOMInternational Organization for Migration

IOs International Organizations

IPA Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance

IRI Investment Reform Index IRF International Road Federation

IRTAD International Road Traffic and Accident Database

ISIS Implementation of Single European Sky in South East Europe

ISRBC International Sava River Basin Commission

ITF International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance

ITUC International Trade Union Confederation

JPM Joint Parliamentary Meeting

KOGSEB Small and Medium – sized Enterprise Development Administration of Turkey

LSE London School of Economics

MARRI Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative

MB IPA Multi-Beneficiary Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance

MCAASEES Marshall Center Alumni Association for Southeast European Security

ME CAA Montenegrin Civil Aviation Agency

MIDWEB Migration for Development in the Western Balkans

MIPD Multi Indicative Planning Document

MoD Ministry of Defence

MONEYVAL Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the

Financing of Terrorism

MoU Memorandum of Understanding

NALAS Network of Associations of Local Authorities of SEE NARIC National Academic Recognition Information Centres

NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO Non-governmental Organization
NI-CO Northern Ireland Cooperation Oversees

NIPACs National IPA Coordinators NOS NATO Office of Security

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OLAF European Antifraud Office

OCTA Organized Crime Threat Assessment for South East Europe
OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

OSINT Open Source Intelligence

PCC Secretariat Police Cooperation Convention Secretariat

PE Private Equity

PFS Partners for Financial Stability
PHLG Permanent High Level Group

PIDIN Partnership for Improvement of Danube Infrastructure and Navigation

PPP Public Private Partnership
PSO Peace Support Operations
RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation
RAI Regional Anticorruption Initiative
RCC Regional Cooperation Council

RCC TF FBHC RCC Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital

RCI Regional Competitiveness Initiative

REC Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe

RENA Regional Environmental Network for Accession
ReSPA Regional School of Public Administration
RI&O Regional Initiatives and Organizations
RI&TFs Regional Initiatives and Task Forces

RNIPA Regional Network of Investment Promotion Agencies

RSA Road Safety Audits

RSD Regional Strategic Document

RSRDI Regional Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation in Western Balkans

RSI Road Safety Inspection

RSPC SEE Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe

RTD Research and Technical Development

SAP+ Stabilization and Association Process Plus (cumulation zone with EU, EFTA,

Western Balkans and Turkey)

SECE CRIF South East and Central European Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility

SECI Southeast European Cooperative Initiative

SECI Centre Southeast European Cooperative Initiative, Regional Centre for Combating Organized

Crime

SEDM South East Europe Defence Ministerial

SEDRI Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative

SEE South East Europe

SEEC South East Europe Clearing House

SEECIC South East European Counter-Intelligence Chiefs Forum
SEECEL South East Europe Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning

SEECP South-East European Cooperation Process

SEE-ERA.NET South East European – European Research Area Network SEE-ERA.NET PLUS South East European – European Research Area Network Plus

SEEFREC SEE Firefighting Regional Centre network

SEEHN SEE Health Network

SEEIC South East Europe Investment Committee
SEELS South East European Law School Network
SELEC Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre
SEEMIC South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs

SEE MoD-GS
South East Europe Ministries of Defence and General Staffs
SEENSA
National Security Authorities of South East Europe Countries
SEE PPP Network
SEEPAG
South East Europe Public Private Partnership Network
SEEPAG
Southeast European Prosecutors Advisory Group
SEPCA
Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association

SEESAC South East Europe Small Arms and Light Weapons Clearing House

SES Single European Sky

SEETO South-East Europe Transport Observatory

SIDA Swedish Development Agency
SME Small and medium-sized enterprise
SMEM Serbian Ministry of Energy and Mining

SPMU Strategic Police Matters Unit SSR Security Sector Reforms

STREW Structural Reform in Higher Education in Western Balkans Countries

SWG RRD Standing Working Group on Regional Rural Development

SWP Strategic Work Programme

SWEROAD Swedish National Road Consulting

TACSO Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations

TCT Transport Community Treaty
TEN-T Trans-European Transport network

TF Task Force

TFCS Task Force on Culture and Society

ToR Terms of Reference

UNCTED United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNISDR United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction UNMIK United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSCR United Nations Security Council Resolution

USAID United States Agency for International Development

USEUCOM USA European Command

VC Venture Capital WB World Bank

WBIF Western Balkans Investment Framework
WBPN Western Balkans Prosecutor Network

WG Working Group

WHO World Health Organization

WINPRO Witness Protection in the Fight against Serious Crime and Terrorism

WMO World Meteorological Organization WPON Women Police Officers Network