

REPORT

ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

For the period 1 January – 31 March 2017

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

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

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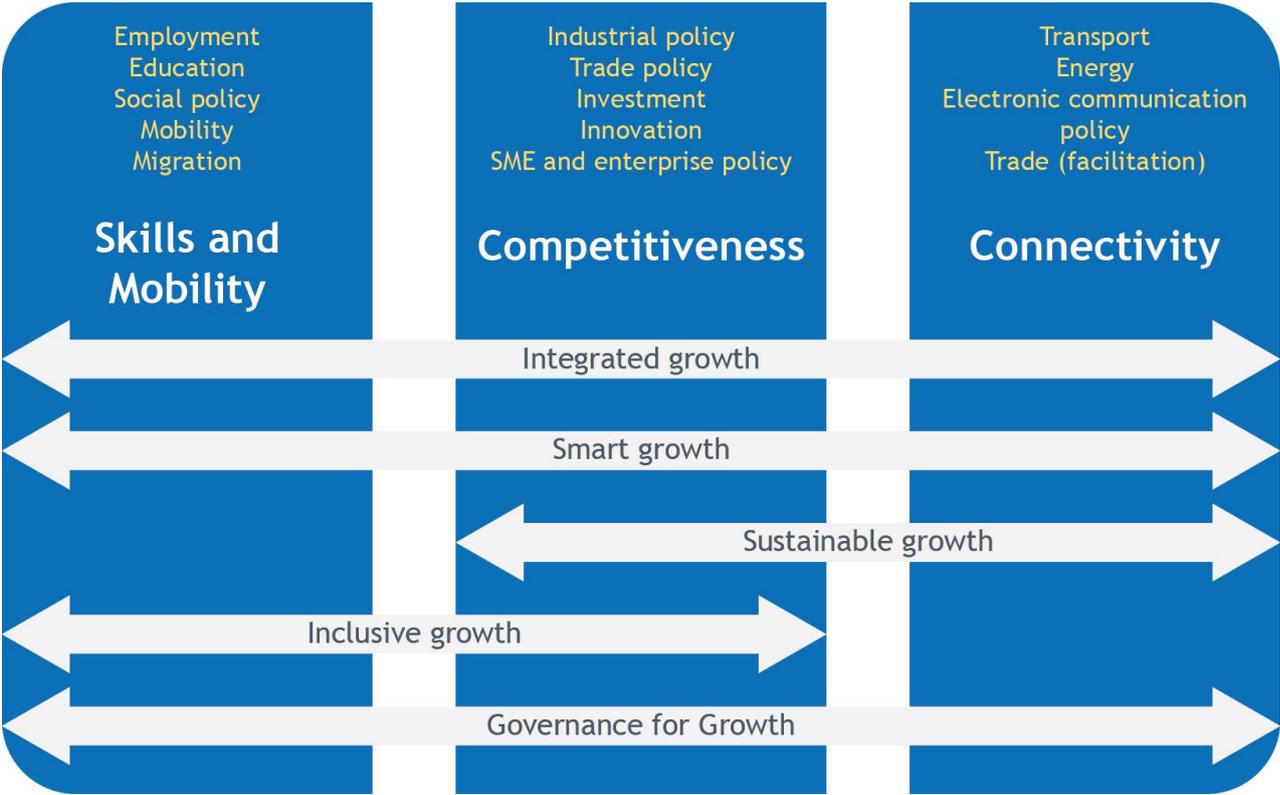
The Report on the activities of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat is submitted by the RCC Secretary General to the RCC Board in line with Article 15 of the Statute of the RCC. It covers the period between 1 January and 31 March 2017.

1. Introduction

Following the completion of implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2014-2016 (SWP 2014-2016) on 31 December 2016 and the start of implementation of new RCC SWP 2017-2019 as of 1 January 2017, this report marks the beginning of a reporting pattern that reflects the new SWP under implementation for the next three years. The most important feature of this pattern is the focus on the progress achieved in implementing the processes laid down in the RCC SWP 2017-2019.

RCC’s strategic goal for the next three years is greater economic integration through easier flow of capital, people, goods and services within the SEE and between the SEE and the EU, contributing also to better governance, improved functioning of the rule of law and enhanced security in South East Europe (SEE).

The Component “A” of the SWP 2017-2019 (**Implementing the SEE 2020 Strategy through flagship approach**) integrates efforts of different stakeholders in three “flagship initiatives”, enabling a wider-ranging impact across several dimensions and policy areas, focused on reducing – and where possible removing – obstacles to mobility, connectivity and competitiveness in SEE.



Thus, the focus of reporting on this component will be the implementation of:

- The “Skills and Mobility” flagship (Contribute to the development of a globally competitive skills base in the region and facilitate intra-regional mobility whereby contributing to economic growth

and job creation in SEE. Removing obstacles to mobility of professionals, students and researchers. Support to the development of effective labour market and social affairs policies. Support to the development of research and innovation systems in the region).

- The “Connectivity” flagship (Promote a better integrated and economically more dynamic region through closer transport and trade integration in functioning economic corridors. Increase interoperability of ICT services. Reduce roaming charges across the region).
- The “Competitiveness” flagship (Improving industrial structures and business/investment environment through a more coordinated investment policy and promotion. Producing a regional instrument in the area of investment).

In regard to Component “B” (**Governance, rule of law and security cooperation**), the RCC will report on the implementation of:

- Public administration reform (Support strengthening governance, improving administration’s capacity, and increasing transparency by improving the regulatory framework for competitiveness and growth. Promoting simpler and more business-friendly legislation. Promoting the development of e-services in public administration).
- Justice (Support the implementation of reforms aiming to improve the efficiency, the integrity, the accountability and the independence of judiciary. Improving the legal framework for regional judicial cooperation. Enhance mutual legal assistance between the judiciaries in the region. Support networking of SEE judicial training institutions. Support reducing the court backlogs in the region).
- Anti-corruption (Increase transparency and public awareness on corruption. Strengthen protections for whistle-blowers. Setting-up a regional platform for assistance on asset disclosure and recovery and on identification of conflict of interest).
- Fight against serious and organised crime (Better and expanded geographical scope of regional cooperation. Support to existing cooperation platforms and mechanisms. Strengthened cooperation with out-of-the-region actors, including UNODC, INTERPOL, EUROPOL, EUROJUST, CoE).
- Security cooperation (Maintaining support and strengthening coordination of the existing regional cooperation in the area of security. Addressing the emerging security challenges in the region).

In regard to Component “C” (**Horizontal and supporting activities**), RCC will report on:

- Strengthening cooperation with SEE governments, including also on programming, coordination and monitoring.
- Supporting and streamlining the regional cooperation structures.
- Broadening links and strengthening partnerships with other regional stakeholders (private sector, civil society, and media. Under component C the RCC will report also on the **Roma Integration 2020** initiative).

While RCC reports under different frameworks and timeframes, this report includes only activities related to the above-mentioned processes that are implemented (or planned to be implemented) during the specific reporting period.

2. Summary of activities

The report presents the progress made by the RCC Secretariat in implementing the RCC SWP 2017 - 2019, with an emphasis on implementing the SEE 2020 Strategy through the flagship approach (Component A), governance, rule of law and security cooperation (Component B), and horizontal and supporting activities (Component C).

The report provides information on the participation of RCC at the events of the Croatian SEECF Chairmanship-in-Office (C-i-O) and on key aspects of the dialogue of the RCC Secretary General with the RCC participants, as well as on the consultations held with European Union (EU) institutions, regional organisations and initiatives and other stakeholders actively engaged in the regional cooperation process in SEE.

The RCC Secretariat continued to provide a framework for regional cooperation in SEE in line with its mandate. The RCC Secretariat engaged in regional political and sectorial activities with pertinent regional and international stakeholders. The activities undertaken have enabled a dynamic start of the implementation of the new SWP 2017-2019.

Operational guidance and supervision were provided by the RCC Board, which held its 31th meeting on 15 March 2017 in Sarajevo. The RCC Secretary General informed the participants of the Board on the activities of the RCC Secretariat and, together with the Croatian SEECF C-i-O, summarised the conclusions of the Coordination Meeting between the SEECF Troika, the RCC Secretariat and the EU. The RCC Board accepted the Report on the activities of the RCC Secretariat for the period September – December 2016, noted the progress made in the final stage of the implementation of the SWP 2014-2016 and the main priorities of the new SWP 2017-2019.

The RCC Board took note of the presentations of the RCC project “Roma Integration 2020”; the Migration, Asylum and Refugees Regional initiative (MARRI); and Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA).

The Coordination Meeting between the SEECF Troika¹, the RCC Secretariat and the EU, which was held back-to-back with the meeting of the RCC Board on 14 March 2017 in Sarajevo, focused on the process of further advancing the practical coordination of the upcoming activities and events related to the priorities of the Croatian SEECF C-i-O and the RCC Secretariat.

The Croatian SEECF C-i-O convened a number of high-level meetings, continuing to steer the process in accordance with its priorities – Connection. Communication. Cooperation.

The process of Euro-Atlantic integration of SEE aspirants, economic interconnectivity, energy, transport and security, were at the centre of discussions at the informal meeting of the SEECF Ministers of Foreign Affairs (MFAs) held on 3 March 2017 in Zagreb. The SEECF MFAs meeting resulted in the adoption of a Joint Statement, emphasising the importance of an inclusive regional cooperation aimed at boosting the economic growth and connectivity of the region. The SEECF MFAs have also praised the RCC’s work in streamlining regional cooperation, as well as the progress

¹ The SEECF Troika includes the former SEECF C-i-O Bulgaria, the current SEECF C-i-O Croatia and the incoming SEECF C-i-O Slovenia.

achieved by the RCC in the implementation of the Regional Platform for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Foreign Terrorist Fighters in SEE and expressed full support to the RCC SWP 2017-2019.

The RCC Secretary General participated in the aforementioned meeting of the SEECP, briefed the SEECP participants on the main priorities of the SWP 2017-2019, highlighting the key role of the EU in the region as an anchor of stability and reforms, as well as the importance of the forthcoming Trieste Summit and RCC's preparations in this respect. Moreover, the RCC Secretary General presented the Progress Report on the activities of the RCC in the area of CVE-FTF. The RCC Secretary General also held talks on the margins of the informal meeting of the SEECP MFAs with the SEECP participants and ensured further support for the activities of the RCC.

As a follow-up to the meeting held last September in New York on the margins of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly, the WB MFA's meeting took place on 9 February 2017. The informal meeting convened the MFAs from the Western Balkans (WB), including the Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy and Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. The emphasis was on the Euro-integration process, connectivity agenda, regional economic integration and preparation of the Trieste WB Summit.

The RCC Secretariat has continued to promote the integration of the SEE region into the EU. Cooperation between the RCC and EC, EEAS and EP has been intensified in the reporting period, focusing on the activities of the RCC and the role of regional cooperation in the EU integration process. This included briefings of the RCC Secretary General to the Working Group on the Western Balkans of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament (AFET) and the Council of the EU Working Party on Western Balkans Region (COWEB), followed by meetings with senior representatives of different DGs in the EC and EEAS. The RCC Secretary General used these opportunities to: 1) present RCC's mission, pointing out the organisation's transformation and evolution over the years, results achieved in the implementation of the SWP 2014-2016 and main priorities of the new SWP 2017-2019; 2) highlight the need for keeping the momentum of enlargement policy alive and present ideas on the way forward in this respect.

In the light of preparations for the forthcoming Western Balkans Summit in Trieste (12 July 2017), the RCC Secretary General met the Special Envoy for the WB Summit at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The priorities for the WB Trieste Summit and possible contributions of RCC were emphasised.

Exchange of views on priorities and actions in the SWP 2017-2019 and continuous support for the RCC are the key outcomes of the dialogue of the RCC Secretary General with RCC participants, particularly with Croatia, Slovakia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The RCC Secretary General continued to represent the RCC at high-level events and international meetings with a regional dimension such as: the Conference "Region for Tourism, Tourism for the Region" (26 January 2017, Belgrade); the 10th Anniversary of the Implementation of the CEFTA Agreement: Results and Challenges (8 February 2017, Belgrade); Munich Security Conference 2017 (17-19 February 2017); Ministerial Meeting on the "Past and Future of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee" (21 February 2017, Geneva); Kopaonik Business Forum 2017 and the 12th Winter School on Diplomacy: EU and NATO in South Eastern Europe and the Black Sea Region - Foreign, Security and Energy Policies, (20-24 March 2017, Sandanski).

A. Implementing SEE 2020 Strategy through Flagship Approach

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

This reporting period served mostly for the preparatory work in the run-up of activities planned for the upcoming periods.

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

- With regards to the **process of preparing the negotiations on mutual recognition agreement(s) of professional qualifications**, the 4th meeting of the CEFTA-ERI SEE-RCC Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (JWGMRPQ) on 15 December 2016 in Tirana reached a tentative agreement to open negotiations in both health and construction sector for all four prioritised professions (Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers). This tentative agreement is in line with the recommendations of the Study on Mapping Positions of Key Stakeholders on Opening Negotiations on Mutual Recognition Agreements. An official Note to the Governments to open the negotiations on four multilateral agreements on recognition of professional qualifications for the mentioned professions has been drafted and will be discussed at the 5th Meeting of the JWGMRPQ to take place on the 26th April 2017.
- In addition, the RCC has been invited to be a member of the Steering Committee of the EU4Tech Western Balkans project (EuropAid/137885/DH/SER/Multi: Technology Transfer Capacity Building in the Western Balkans). The RCC provided inputs to the inception report of the project and participated at the 1st Steering Committee Meeting, where RCC underlined the need for the project activities to be tailored to the particular specificities of the Western Balkan economies and to build on the activities implemented already, including those carried out by RCC.
- The Employment and Social Affairs Platform (ESAP) (part of the Inclusive Growth pillar of the SEE 2020 Strategy, integrated within the “Skills and Mobility” flagship) is in implementation since March 2016. The first annual narrative and financial report on this project are to be submitted to DG Employment by 1 May 2017.

Since the last reporting period, the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs have prioritised seven thematic areas for national peer reviews modelled against the EU mutual learning exercise, to be conducted in 2017.

The demand driven technical assistance instrument of the ESAP project has been utilised by the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs of the Western Balkans. The assistance consisted of public consultations on the Employment and Social Reform Programme, as well as on assistance for developing a single integrated electronic system for all databases under their responsibility in two beneficiaries, while other participating economies are developing further requests.

Based on the EU experience, a regional analysis of current performance management practices was undertaken and a comprehensive methodological proposal for a bench-learning exercise among Western Balkan Public Employment Offices has been developed.

- With regard to the health sector (part of the Inclusive Growth pillar of the SEE 2020 Strategy, integrated within the “Skills and Mobility” flagship) the twice postponed Ministerial Meeting of the SEE Health Network has been rescheduled by the SEE Health Network Executive Committee for 2 April 2017 in Chisinau, Moldova.

A.2. The “**Connectivity**” flagship, encompassing the policy areas of transport, energy, environment, agriculture and ICT.

Under the Connectivity flagship, advancements continued in particular under the digital agenda, environment and energy policy areas. Work under the digital agenda built upon the first regional legal and market impact assessment on roaming policies and the launched regional coordination on the broadband reform structural measures prioritised within the Economic and Reform Programmes 2017-2019. Activities in the sphere of environment built upon the earlier operations of the Regional Working Group on Environment, as well as the high-level Podgorica Declaration².

A.2.2 Digital integration agenda

- An update of the Regional Roaming Study was completed so as to take into account the latest market impact data. The update evidences a clear increase in roaming traffic and confirms the significant roaming reductions, brought about with the Regional Roaming Agreement. The study confirms the success of the regional approach in regulating roaming policies and demonstrates how such a regional ‘home grown’ initiative, driven and supported by all parties, can be instrumental in achieving positive outcomes for consumers within the Western Balkan region.

In light of the new developments at the EU level and the agreement on wholesale price caps that will abolish retail roaming surcharges from 15 June 2017 in the EU area, the Western Balkans needs to implement further legal and regulatory measures. The RCC will continue to provide support to this end.

- As part of the overall efforts for digital transformation and integration of WB Digital Markets within EU’s Digital Single Market, the RCC liaised with the private sector in developing the concept for a regional study on digitisation. The study will analyse the current state of play of digitisation, assess the economic impact of enhanced digitisation, and formulate recommendations on policy and regulatory responses to facilitate the take-off of digitisation and boost growth and innovation.
- Finally, the RCC supported the World Bank’s Balkan Digital Highway Technical Assistance activity (currently in the kick-off phase), which aims to explore the potential of infrastructure-sharing between energy and telecommunication sectors as means of developing regional broadband internet infrastructure.

The analysis will seek to identify potential amendments to the telecommunication and energy frameworks to operationalise infrastructure sharing, as well as to determine a strategy and action plan based on the bottlenecks identified in each economy from technical, organisational and regulatory standpoints.

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

- Under “**environment**” sector, in line with the endorsed Podgorica Declaration, the preparatory work for a WB Ministerial Meeting (**A.2.3.2**) is underway. The high-level meeting is expected to re-affirm political commitment for regional cooperation with the aim of contributing towards meeting the climate and energy targets and aligning with environmental policies and standards.
- Further in the “**environment**” sector and in cooperation with partners (the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean, the Regional

² The Declaration adopted in April 2016 calls for a regional vision for sustainable development and joint efforts in the implementation of the Environment Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

Rural Development Standing Working Group and GIZ Open Regional Fund-Biodiversity) the RCC is working to prepare the launching of three regional projects through the Regional Working Group on Environment (RWG Env). The projects seek to: facilitate the enhancement of water, energy and food security, while preserving ecosystems and their functions; increase climate resilience; improve the capacities of the Western Balkan economies through integration of EU best practices with regards to climate proofing and green infrastructure in the developing road infrastructure; to increase knowledge on economic value of ecosystem services; improve monitoring and reporting capacities, as well as transboundary management of biodiversity.

Recognising the significance of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for the SEE region as a biodiversity hotspot, the RCC and GIZ have joint their efforts towards establishing a Task Force, within the RWG Env, in order to promote and facilitate regional cooperation and achievement of related Sustainable Development Goals and EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

- In the policy area of “**energy**” and in line with the Energy Union Strategy principles, the RCC’s work focused on energy security and sustainable development of the SEE region. The RCC continued activities on the development of the regional information system for energy management in public sector which will serve as a tool enabling the SEE economies to meet their mandatory 9% energy saving targets by 2018, as well as to gradually advance towards the 2030 energy and climate framework targets. National consultations with the SEE participants are underway and the RCC is preparing a regional analysis of legal and institutional framework in order to properly design and tailor the tool that will help meet the requirements and the concrete needs of participating economies.

A.3. The “**Competitiveness**” flagship, encompassing the areas of industrial, trade and investment policies, as well as innovation, SME and enterprise policies.

A.3.1. Investment integration

- Based on the agreement with UNCTAD, a draft Regional Investment Policy Review benchmark study has been elaborated. The study is covering six areas: (i) the FDI-specific legal framework, (ii) international investment agreements, (iii) business facilitation, (iv) tax regime, (v) labour policy and skills, and (vi) competition regime and additional chapter dealing with investment promotion. It aims at boosting both the region’s overall competitiveness as well as its capacity to attract FDI, especially in export-oriented industries and value chains.

The study will be subject to national consultations and reviewed at the SEEIC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments (JWGI), scheduled for the end of May 2017. The final draft of the study is expected to be finalised by mid July 2017 so that its recommendations are integrated into the implementation of EU MC IPA funded Investment Policy Reforms project, which is to commence in the third quarter of 2017 (to be implemented by WB in close coordination with JWGI).

- Coordination meeting between the RCC, the World Bank Group and CEFTA was organised with the purpose of assuring that Regional Investment Policy and Promotion project is being properly prepared and coordinated with the activities under the Investment Reform Agenda and FDI report, which is under preparation by CEFTA. Regional Investment Policy and Promotion Project Roadmap/Multi-Action Plan will be drafted by the end of April and its actions can inform the potential measures/initiatives on enhanced regional economic integration, to be discussed at the Trieste Summit.

Within the reporting period, under the agenda item “**A.3.1.3. Business friendliness certification**”:

- The RCC together with the GIZ Open Regional Fund - Modernisation of Municipal Services (GIZ ORF MMS) and NALED continued the efforts towards regional upscaling of promotion of the SEE region, re-branding its image and building a perception of an attractive business location to the global investor community through the development of promotion products and mechanisms. The focus of these activities is on implementing, maintaining and improving the standards for business friendliness across SEE. The aim is to contribute from a micro-level, to the improvement of the overall business/investment environment on a macro-level of the SEE, in order to increase the ranking of the region's economies in the Global Business and Doing Business Reports.

A.3.2. Industrial Development

- RCC has finalised the study on South East European Economic and Transport Corridors, with proposal for increasing business/economic activity along the existing physical infrastructure, as well as development of regional value chains in sectors of priority and proposals for their inclusion into the international value chains. The study has been produced in cooperation with TEPAV. It will be put forward for print by summer 2017.
- In order to further support the industrial development in the SEE region, the RCC has sought synergies with UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), tasked with similar priorities in each of the economies individually, where both organisations have agreed to explore possibilities for cooperation under the guidance of the SEEIC Industrial Policy Working Group. This work is anticipated to commence by summer 2017.

Under the agenda item **"A.3.2.6. Support to sectoral development"**:

- The RCC has undertaken further elaboration of the "Triple P" tourism project, anticipating developing a joint regional product/offer in tourism sector and its international promotion. The project is put forward for MC IPA financing. Upon positive feedback of the EC and positive consultations with the MC IPA Board (National IPA Coordinators), the RCC will prepare the final project application by summer 2017.

B. Governance, Rule of Law and Security Cooperation

B.1 "Public Administration Reform"

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

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

The main expected outcome is the study on "The Western Balkans Recommendation on Public Consultations in Legislative Drafting". The document would clearly lay down the processes, methods and tools that are recommendable to use in order to enable a genuine dialogue with those likely to be affected by the policy changes. The document will serve as both a practical guide on how to efficiently organise public consultations and a solid source for governments when upgrading their public consultations legal procedures.

The described activity is carried out in partnership with the Regional School of Public Administration and it is synchronised with SIGMA and USAID plans on the topic.

B.2. Justice

The RCC continued to serve as the hub for the three structures (Regional Working Group on Justice - WGJ, the SEE Network of Judicial Training Institutions - SEE JTI and the SEE Network of Associations of Mediators – SEE AM). The RCC is also engaged in providing trainings for judges through organising regional seminars, as well as through development of educational material for judges and prosecutors.

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

- As a focal point for WGJ, the RCC keeps the communication with DG JUST and DG NEAR to make sure that the activities in this area are based mostly on the progress in the EU negotiating Chapters 23 and 24. The March 2017 meeting assessed positively the ongoing activities and advised the RCC to continue its focus on judicial training and mediation.
- The present work of the SEE JTI network is focused on enhancing mutual legal assistance between judiciaries in the region, on cross-border cooperation in civil and commercial matters, as well as on improving competences of judges in EU case law, through regional seminars with relevant European institutions and SEELS for training of trainers at regional level. In this framework, the RCC and GIZ ORF-LR started to implement the 20-month sub-project on “Improving the Regional Cooperation between Western Balkans’ Judicial Training Institutions’ by preparing training of trainers for judges and prosecutors at regional level. Meetings of the project Steering Committee will be held back-to-back with SEE JTI meetings.

B.3 “Anti-corruption”

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

- In the field of corruption proofing of legislation and in cooperation with the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI), the RCC worked on building capacities of the relevant authorities of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and of non-governmental organisations there. Representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the General Secretariat of the Government, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, the Secretariat of Legislation and of the Ministry for Information Society and Administration, acquired knowledge and skills in conducting corruption proofing of draft legislation, corruption risk allocation, and diminishing the effects of corruptibility factors in legislation. Similar activities are planned in other economies in the region.
- In addition, the RCC has launched an activity to help governments in conducting corruption risk assessments in healthcare sector. The RCC assistance is focused on the development of a Checklist of Corruption Risks for Healthcare Sector, as well as on assisting competent authorities in carrying out the legislative and/or institutional risk assessment in certain sub-sectors of healthcare, as agreed with beneficiaries. Authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have already expressed their interest to participate in this support programme.
- The RCC also continued its work in the field of whistle-blowers protection. Whistleblowing has been shown in previous work to be a highly effective method of exposing crime, corruption and other serious wrongdoing. The RCC has published a survey on Public Attitudes to Whistleblowing in South

East Europe. The survey data provide hard evidence of where societies are in their progress towards better understanding and action against corruption, contributing to the awareness raising efforts.

B.4. Security cooperation

In line with the RCC's intention to give a more prominent role to the **security cooperation** in the SWP 2017-2019, the RCC Secretary General has presented the **Progress Report** on the activities of the RCC in the area of P/CVE-FTF at the informal meeting of the SEECP MFA's held on 3 March 2017 in Zagreb. The report reflects the progress made by the RCC in the implementation of the SEE Regional Platform on CVE-FTF, focuses on activities and results achieved in 2016, the plan of action for 2017 and puts forward recommendations with the purpose to inform policy-making in the efforts to address the problems of radicalization and violent extremism in SEE in short- and medium-term.

The RCC has further advanced in the implementation of the **Regional CVE-FTF Platform**. The third meeting of the RCC Group of National Focal Points for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Foreign Terrorist Fighters in South East Europe (**NFP CVE-FTF Group**) took place on 22 March in Skopje. The RCC Secretary General presented the results achieved in the implementation of the SEE Platform on CVE-FTF in 2016 and highlighted the activities to be organised by the RCC in the period ahead. Participants exchanged views on the current trends and challenges in violent extremism and radicalization, both in SEE and the EU and on good practices in P-CVE area at national and regional level. The state of implementation of national strategies and action plans was also in the focus of discussions. Moreover, the new specialised website (www.rcc.int/p-cve) was presented at the meeting. As a conclusion of the meeting, the participants agreed to put the emphasis on prevention, disengagement, rehabilitation, and reintegration of former FTFs and other former terrorists and violent extremists at the centre of the overall P-CVE efforts in the region, highlighting the importance of the civil society, local and religious communities, youth, as well as education in P-CVE efforts.

C. Horizontal and supporting activities

C.1. Coordination, monitoring, programming

C.1.1 Programming activities

- The reporting period served to conclude the SEE 2020 programming cycle for 2016. The five months long cooperation and consultation with the national authorities and the regional partners resulted in region's adoption by the SEE 2020 Programming Committee Meeting of the priorities laid down in the SEE 2020 Programming Document 2017–2019 (15 March 2017 in Sarajevo). The SEE 2020 Programming Document was presented the next day at the Donor Coordination meeting.

C.1.2. Monitoring activities

- During the reporting period the RCC concluded the data collection process for the annual reporting. The WB statistical offices provided their national data; the regional dimension coordinators (RDCs) provided their activity reports, while RCC collected other data from the international sources.
- The first draft of the Balkan Barometer 2017 has been prepared, the process of quantification of the four new headline targets has started and the internal process of preparation of the draft Annual Report on Implementation (ARI) of the SEE 2020 Strategy for 2017 has been launched. The next steps in terms of monitoring include the finalisation of the draft ARI and its endorsement by the next Monitoring Committee Meeting, scheduled to take place on 30 May 2017.

- Following the decision of the meeting of the SEE 2020 Monitoring Committee on 30 November 2016, the beta version of the online platform for data submission has been established and it is being tested.

C.1.3. Coordination activities, grants

- The day after its approval by the Programming Committee, the SEE 2020 Programming Document 2017-2019 was shared with all donors, including IFIs, international organisations and other interested parties in the region during the Donor Coordination meeting that took place in Sarajevo on 16 March 2017. The meeting served for information sharing about ongoing and planned activities in the Western Balkans amongst government representatives, donors, implementing agencies, regional cooperation structures and international organisations. The next steps include bilateral discussions with the donors on the priorities stipulated in the Programming Document, as part of the annual donor coordination process. The next programming cycle will start in June 2017.
- With regard to the small grants programme, the 3rd Call for Proposal is in its second phase of evaluation by RCC Secretariat. The applicants are evaluated on their Full Application Form. The next steps include the grant award to the successful applicants and the start of projects' implementation by the beginning of June 2017 the latest.

On the **Roma Integration 2020 programme**, under the RCC framework, the Roma Integration 2020 Action Team organised a regional workshop on Budgeting for Roma Integration Policies on 20-21 March 2017 in Skopje. The workshop's main objective was to effectively assist the participating economies to integrate measures from the existing Roma integration strategies, including sectorial policies (strategies, action plans), into the domestic budget and other donor funding opportunities. As requested by the participating economies, similar workshops will be organised at national level in the upcoming months.

Between January and March 2017, the Roma Integration 2020 Action Team participated at various meetings of the inter-ministerial coordination bodies on Roma Integration. During such meetings, the Action Team provided expert support on the annual action plans formulation and detailed elaboration on the annual reporting cycle, including data collection and relevant information requested for reporting. The annual reports on Roma Integration are due end of March 2017. The Action Team will coordinate the process of finalisation of the annual reports.

On **Communication**, RCC started with the implementation of its new triannual Communication Strategy which reflects the new agenda of the organisation and upgrades the established RCC profile to reflect its increasingly active regional role. The objective is to keep building the understanding on what the RCC does, increasing political, financial as well as public support for its activities, but also to raise awareness of the organisation and the regional cooperation process in general, building and promoting the SEE image based on the RCC's key mission.

In this regard the RCC launched redesigned and user-friendly website, which provides overall picture of RCC and its work and goals, featuring news, announcements, background texts, photo and video gallery, electronic publications, reports, documents, etc. Besides, the website houses several platforms related to RCC work: SEE Donor Assistance Database/SEEDAD, Balkan Barometer, SEE Platform on Countering Violent Extremism (P-CVE), and SEE 2020 Scoreboard. Moreover, RCC produced print and video public information materials, including brochures and four videos presenting the RCC activities, results and goals. The RCC continued maintaining partnership relations with relevant regional initiatives and organisations in promoting activities of common interest.

3. Update on progress in implementing SWP 2017-2019

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
Component A. Implementing the SEE 2020 Strategy through the flagship approach				
A.1. Skills and Mobility				
A.1.1. Increased labour mobility in the Western Balkans	<i>A.1.1.1.5. Study on “Mapping Positions of Key Stakeholders on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications in SEE for four professions - Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers”</i>	The first part of the study – national in-depth and cross-national comparative study of the legislation and regulatory frameworks for recognition of professional qualifications of the four prioritised professions (doctors of medicine, dentists, architects and civil engineers) has been concluded and presented at the 4 th meeting of the JWGMRPQ. The second part of the study aims to map positions of key stakeholders on mutual recognition of professional qualifications in SEE for four prioritised professions and will be presented at the 5 th meeting of the JWGMRPQ in April 2017.	The study provides the basis for the opening of the negotiations on mutual recognition agreements in the four prioritised professions – doctors of medicine, dentists, architects and civil engineers.	On-track
A.1.1.4. Western Balkans open and connected science	<i>A.1.1.4.1. First Working Group meeting on the Open Science</i>	Postponed.	Postponed.	Moved to Q2
A.2. Connectivity				
A.2.2. Digital integration	<i>A.2.2.3. Update of Legal and Market Impact Study on roaming policies in Western Balkans</i>	Assessed latest market impact of the Regional Roaming Agreement.	Policy recommendations on modalities for extending the existing Regional Roaming Agreement and defining the scope for future collaboration in the area of roaming.	Finalised
A.2.3. Sectoral support in environment, energy and sustainable development	<i>Coordination of the Regional Working Group on Environment activities and its structures, 9 March 2017, Vienna</i>	Consultation meeting with Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and UN Vienna on cooperation in implementation of two regional	After signing of the contracts (between ADA as a donor and implementing partners) and official start of two regional projects (Water-Energy-Food Nexus, and Environmental Proofing) the	On-track

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
		projects.	agreement on implementation under the RWG Env umbrella is reached. The RWG Env will undertake the regional coordination role, steer and endorse projects' outputs.	
	<i>Development of an energy management platform for SEE</i>	National consultations with authorities in charge of energy efficiency launched. Agreement reached on technical details of energy management platform and database for all public facilities (data entering, verification, authorisation, hosting and other details).	No outcomes in the reporting period. The expected outcome is a register of public buildings and tool for monitoring energy consumption, contributing to mandatory 9% energy efficiency target and CO2 emissions reduction.	On-track
A.3. Competitiveness				
A.3.1. Investment Integration	<i>Regional Benchmark Study: Regional Investment Policy Review</i>	Draft version of the study received and sent together with the comments for revision to UNCTAD.	Revised draft of Regional Investment Policy Review will be sent to the SEEIC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments until the end of April 2017 for their comments. The draft will be discussed and endorsed by the end of May 2017. Finalisation of the study is expected around July 2017.	On-track
	<i>Regional Programme; Investment Policy and Regional Integration</i>	Administrative work in progress.	Contracting procedures between the stakeholders (WB and EC) is in the final phase. Kick off of the project is planned during the SEEIC meeting scheduled for June 2017.	On-track
	<i>A.3.1.2. 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Spatial Planning, Building and Infrastructure, 28 February 2017, Belgrade</i>	Discussion on development of EBPS-II concept note of upcoming new phase of electronic building permitting system, whose preparation is based on the needs of the SEE economies; review of achievements in SEE economies that already implemented the e-building permit system and debate on the future steps.	Project is developed and mature for fundraising and promoting e-building permits system to the international donor community.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>A.3.1.3. 2nd Meeting of Working Group on Business Friendliness Certification, 1 March 2017, Belgrade</i>	Exchange of views on improvements within the municipalities during the certification process, and on effects of the certification process to local economic parameters; support to BFC SEE certified municipalities in development and fund-raising for local public private partnership projects.	BFC SEE online platform for exchanging best practices to be established by the end of April.	Finalised
A.3.2. Industrial Development	<i>Study on South East European Economic and Transport Corridors</i>	Final draft of the study received.	The study on development of regional economic corridors and value chains is put forward for official print in the upcoming period.	On-track
Component B. Governance, Rule of Law and Security Cooperation				
B.1. Public Administration Reform				
B.1.1. Public consultations on draft laws and public policy documents	<i>Building capacities of relevant public authorities in conducting public consultations on legislative drafting</i>	The main output of the activity is producing the Western Balkans Recommendations, which would clearly lay down the processes, methods and tools that are recommendable to use in order to enable a genuine dialogue with those likely to be affected by the policy changes. The document will serve as both a practical guide on how to efficiently organise public consultations and a solid source for governments when upgrading their public consultations legal procedures.	The short-term outcome lies in codifying the best practices in the field of public consultations on draft legislation and public policy documents by setting up a set of recommendations on public consultation in legislative drafting (processes, methods and tools that are recommendable to use). As a long-term outcome, the RCC envisages to provide knowledge and skills for governments to design policies and legislation in an inclusive manner, enabling an active participation of society (including non-governmental organisations, private sector and advisory bodies).	On-going
	<i>Corruption risk assessments in healthcare sector</i>	To support governments in conducting corruption risk assessment/anti-corruption assessment of laws at a sectoral level, particularly in healthcare, the RCC will develop a Checklist of Corruption Risks for Healthcare Sector. Furthermore, it will assist competent authorities in carrying out the legislative and/or institutional risk assessment in certain sub-sectors of healthcare, as agreed with	Authorities responsible for conducting corruption risk assessment and anti-corruption assessment of laws will increase their ability to identify the risks related to healthcare sector.	On-going

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
		beneficiaries.		
	<i>Whistle-blowers protection</i>	A public survey conducted to find out public attitudes to whistleblowing in Western Balkans economies.	The survey data provide evidence of where societies are in their progress towards better understanding of and action about corruption.	Finalised
B.2. Justice				
B.2.1. SEE networks, regional trainings and Western Balkans Working Group on Justice	<i>7th Meeting of the Western Balkans Working Group on Justice (WGJ), 21 March 2017, Podgorica</i>	Recommendations on the focus of future RCC activities are agreed, the 2017 working programme in justice area discussed.	The planned activities for 2017 in the justice area were endorsed.	Finalised
	<i>Regional Seminar for judges "Cross-border Cooperation in Civil, Commercial and Family Matters" in cooperation with EIPA and SEELS, 21-22 March 2017, Podgorica</i>	A group of SEE judges received training in the area of EU law on cross-border cooperation related matters.	Selection of a group of judges which will serve as trainer of trainers in cross-border cooperation matters.	Finalised
	<i>Rule of Law Forum "Freedom of Expression in ECtHR Case Law", organised by international CSOs in cooperation with RCC, 17-18 March 2017, Tirana</i>	Judges from SEE received training in implementation of international law, enhanced understanding on decision-making based on case law, as well as improved knowledge of definition and arguments in defending fundamental freedoms; basic elements for future workshops and trainings for judges and prosecutors in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the draft of future training guidelines were discussed.	Created platform of ECtHR judges, constitutional and supreme court judges and directors of judicial training institutions to enable peer-to-peer exchange of experiences in implementation of ECtHR in national processes.	Finalised
	<i>Development of educational materials and evaluation forms for regional seminars of SEE judges (practical issues in the framework of the judicial co-</i>	Developed materials used during the regional seminar in Podgorica and will be used for future seminars for judges in cross-border cooperation.	RCC-owned educational material for judges and prosecutors in SEE were produced as a basis for future regional trainings on the cross-border cooperation in civil matters.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>operation in civil, commercial and family matters), March 2017</i>			
B.3. Anti-corruption				
B.3.1. Support in conducting sectoral corruption risk assessment/anti-corruption assessment of laws	<i>Support in conducting sectoral corruption risk assessment/anti-corruption assessment of legislation</i>	As support to the governments in conducting anti-corruption assessment of laws, the RCC Secretariat, together with the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative, conducts trainings for relevant national authorities and non-gov. organisations. One of such trainings was conducted in Skopje on March 27-28. Other similar trainings will be organised.	The beneficiaries of the trainings learn how to conduct anti-corruption assessment of laws according to the RCC Regional Methodology on anti-corruption assessment of laws. They also receive knowledge on how to allocate the risks, mitigate their effects, and are taught how to identify conflict of interests in draft laws or governmental decisions. This kind of skills will enable them to pass in a greater part corruption free legislation. To properly conduct anti-corruption assessment of draft laws (corruption proofing of legislation) also means less opportunity for those who will be responsible for the implementation side to engage in illegal activities.	On-going
B.4. Security cooperation				
B.4.1. Supporting the existing security cooperation mechanisms in SEE	<i>Meeting of RACVIAC Multinational Advisory Group, 19 January 2017, Rakitje</i>	Presentation of the RACVIAC Programme for 2017 within their respective Pillars; information regarding the execution of the budget for 2016 and projections for the 2017 budget; briefing on the current stage of ongoing activities and projects.	Active participation and support to RACVIAC's activities.	Finalised
	<i>36th South East Europe Defence Ministerial Coordination Committee (SEDM-CC) Meeting, 29-30 March 2017, Izmir</i>	Presentation of key activities and achievements under the Turkish Chairmanship for 2015-2017; exchange of views on the emerging security threats and the need for a new approach in future SEDM cooperation; support for the role of	Contribution to the visibility of RCC activities in the security area, particularly the SEE CVE-FTF Platform; enhanced coordination with other security cooperation formats.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
		SEEBRIG.		
B.4.2. Addressing the emerging security challenges in the region (CVE-FTF Platform)	<i>Regional Workshop for SEE on Strengthening International and Regional Cooperation in Criminal Matters related to Terrorism, with focus on FTFs, 14-16 February 2017, Vienna</i>	Exchange of experiences and good practices in addressing terrorism and FTFs; discussions on relevant national legislation and the implementation of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, briefing on how the challenges faced by SEE in this field have been addressed.	Promotion of RCC's activities within the SEE CVE-FTF Platform; enhanced coordination with relevant international organisations.	Finalised
	<i>Third meeting of the RCC Group of National Focal Points for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Foreign Terrorist Fighters in South East Europe (NFP CVE-FTF Group), 22 March 2017, Skopje</i>	Debate on the current trends, challenges and good practices in P-CVE area; agreement on renaming of SEE NFP Group on CVE-FTF to SEE NFP Group on P(Prevention)-CVE; assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the CVE-FTF Platform; support for the RCC specialised SEE P-CVE website.	Support for the RCC in the implementation of the SEE CVE-FTF Platform; functional RCC website specialised on P-CVE (www.rcc.int/p-cve).	Finalised
	<i>Coordination Meeting on Integrated Internal Security Governance (IISG) initiative, 29 March 2017, Budapest</i>	Briefing on the structure of IISG and the Western Balkans Counter-Terrorism Initiative (WBCTi) as its pillar; presentation of planned joint projects.	Promotion of RCC's activities within the SEE CVE-FTF Platform; raising awareness on the need for close coordination and non-duplication of efforts in CVE area at European and regional level.	Finalised
Component C. Horizontal and supporting activities				
C.1. Programing, monitoring and coordination				
C.1.1. Programming activities	<i>SEE 2020 Strategy Programming Committee Meeting, 15 March 2017, Sarajevo</i>	The Draft SEE 2020 Programing Document developed in consultation with national authorities and regional partners was presented and discussed by the SEE 2020 Strategy Programming Committee.	The SEE 2020 Strategy Programming Document 2017-2019 was approved by the Programming Committee.	Finalised
C.1.2. Monitoring activities	<i>Balkan Barometer 2017</i>	Collected data are processed, tables and graphs drafted, analyses are performed.	Balkan Barometer 2017 ready for printing.	On-track
	<i>2017 data collection cycle</i>	The data for 2017 monitoring cycle are collected from national, regional and international sources.	The collected data enables drafting the SEE 2020 Strategy Annual Report on Implementation.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>SEEDS – South East Europe Development Scoreboard</i>	Data collected through 2016/2017 monitoring cycle cross-checked and uploaded to the RCC SEEDS database.	SEEDS published on RCC website.	On-track
	<i>Setting-up the online platform for data submission</i>	The online platform developed in a beta version.	Beta version of the online platform available for testing and data uploading.	Finalised
C.1.3. Coordination activities, grants	<i>3rd Donor Coordination Meeting, 16 March 2017, Sarajevo</i>	More than 120 participants attended the meeting. Information on implemented, ongoing and planned activities is shared. The SEE 2020 Strategy is presented to the donor community.	Better coordination of donor activities and alignment with regional priorities.	Finalised
	<i>The second phase of the 3rd Call for Proposals under the RCC Small Grant Facility; evaluation of applications</i>	Internal evaluation procedure in RCC (ongoing).	Second phase implemented.	On-track
C.2. Political Department activities				
C.2.1. Strengthening cooperation between the SEE governments and with the EU				
C.2.1.1. Assist SEEC and SEEC C-i-O	<i>Meeting of the SEEC Political Directors, 2 March 2017, Zagreb</i>	Exchange of views on the latest developments in SEE; finalisation of the draft Joint Ministerial Statement.	Sound coordination and synergy between the SEEC and the RCC Secretariat.	Finalised
	<i>Informal Meeting of SEEC Ministers of Foreign Affairs, 3 March 2017, Zagreb</i>	Assessment of regional developments in SEE; discussion on ways and modalities in which SEEC cooperation can be used to overcome present challenges and maximise joint opportunities; exchange of views on the next SEEC C-i-O (after Slovenia); adoption of the Joint Ministerial Statement.	Reconfirmed commitment to regional cooperation in SEE; support for the activities of RCC Secretariat and its efforts in streamlining regional cooperation towards target-oriented programmes.	Finalised
	<i>SEEC Troika, RCC and EU meeting, 14 March 2017, Sarajevo</i>	Briefing for the SEEC Troika, RCC and EU on the implementation of the recent and planned activities of the Croatian SEEC C-i-O and the RCC Secretariat.	Further advancement in coordination between the SEEC Troika, the RCC and EU, related to the priorities of the Croatian SEEC C-i-O and the RCC Secretariat.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>RCC Board Meeting, 15 March 2017, Sarajevo</i>	Acceptance of the Report of the Secretary General on the activities of the RCC Secretariat for the period September - December 2016; exchange of views on RCC activities; briefing on the realised and planned events of Croatian SEECP C-i-O; presentations on "Roma Integration 2020" project and on activities of the Migration, Asylum and Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) and the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA).	Political support for the implementation of the activities under the RCC SWP for 2017 - 2019.	Finalised
C.2.1.2. Consultations of the Secretary General with SEECP and RCC participants	<i>Consultations with Special Envoy for the Western Balkans Summit in MFA Italy, 12 January 2017, Rome</i>	Briefing on the RCC activities and the preparations for the upcoming fourth annual Western Balkans Summit, to be held under Italian chairmanship of Berlin Process on 12 July 2017 in Trieste.	Close cooperation and active engagement of RCC within the Berlin Process.	Finalised
	<i>Consultations with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 19 January 2017, Sarajevo</i>	Exchange of views on the latest developments in the SEE region and on the activities of the RCC.	Support of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the activities of RCC.	Finalised
	<i>Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, 28 February 2017, Bratislava</i>	Briefing on the RCC activities; exchange of views on the current challenges and advancement of regional cooperation in SEE.	Reaffirmed commitment of Slovakia to regional cooperation and the activities of RCC.	Finalised
	<i>Consultations with Assistant Minister for Economic and Political Affairs in MFEA Croatia, 1 March 2017, Zagreb</i>	Exchange of views on recent and upcoming activities of Croatian SEECP C-i-O and RCC Secretariat.	Further advancement in coordination of activities related to the priorities of the Croatian SEECP C-i-O and the RCC Secretariat.	Finalised
C.2.1.3. Maintain the dialogue with the EU institutions	<i>Meeting with the representatives of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), 19 January 2017, Brussels</i>	Discussion on possible cooperation between the RCC and the EESC.	Contribution of RCC to the Civil Society Forum, to be organised by EESC in July 2017 in Sarajevo.	Finalised
	<i>Meetings with the EU senior</i>	Briefing on the RCC SWP for 2017-2019; exchange	Confirmation of EC commitment to continue	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>officials from DG NEAR and EEAS, 6-7 February 2017, Brussels</i>	of views on the recent developments in SEE, as well as on expectations from the upcoming Trieste Western Balkans Summit and its focus on regional economic integration agenda.	supporting the RCC and its activities; engagement of RCC in the conceptualisation and implementation of the regional economic integration agenda.	
	<i>Briefing for the Working Group on the Western Balkans of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament (AFET) 7 February 2017, Brussels</i>	Briefing on the activities of RCC and the SEECF in the context of the enlargement agenda.	Reiterated support of the members of EP for the RCC and regional cooperation in SEE.	Finalised
	<i>Briefing for the Council of the EU Working Party on Western Balkans Region (COWEB), 13 March 2017, Brussels</i>	Briefing on the main results achieved from implementation of RCC SWP for 2014-2016 and on the goals of RCC for the new three-year cycle.	Preserving attention of members of COWEB on regional cooperation and on the regional interventions seeking to support the reform processes in SEE.	Finalised
C.2.1.4. Support to parliamentary activities related to the EU acquis and the SEE 2020 Strategy	<i>Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Trans-European Networks Policy and Connectivity Agenda, 3 March 2017, Pristina</i>	Parliamentary debate on the connectivity agenda, state of play regarding the fulfilment of the connectivity soft measures and connectivity projects in SEE; briefing on the latest developments in preparation of Treaty Establishing the Transport Community between the EU and Western Balkans.	Raising awareness on the RCC activities and its contribution in the key areas of the connectivity agenda; enhanced cooperation between RCC and the EP; parliamentary support for the SWP 2017 - 2019.	Finalised
C.2.2. Broadening links and strengthening partnerships with other regional stakeholders				
C.2.2.1. Participation of SG to high-level events	<i>1st Preparatory Meeting of the 25th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum: "Greening the Economy and Building Partnerships", 23-24 January 2017, Vienna</i>	Discussion on good governance, fighting corruption, business partnerships, and combatting unemployment to prevent conflicts and radicalisation.	Raising awareness and stimulating the political will in dealing with economic, environmental and security related challenges.	Finalised
	<i>"Region for Tourism, Tourism for the Region" Conference, 26 January 2017, Belgrade</i>	Discussion on tourism offers in SEE and possibilities for connecting tour operators in the region, aimed at attracting tourists from around the world.	Promotion of RCC activities related to fostering regional integration in the tourism sector.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>10th Anniversary of the Implementation of the CEFTA Agreement: Results and Challenges, 8 February 2017, Belgrade</i>	Exchange of views on the achieved results, challenges and future directions for achieving bigger trade exchange under the framework of CEFTA Agreement.	Contribution to the efforts for greater liberalisation and economic integration of the SEE region.	Finalised
	<i>Western Balkans Six Ministerial Meeting: Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Energy, 9 February 2017, Skopje</i>	Adoption of Joint Statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of the Ministers of Energy; reaffirmed commitment to the Berlin Process and to the regional connectivity agenda; signing ceremony for the second phase of the Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP Plus) and Green for Growth Fund (GGF).	Reaffirmed political commitment for regional economic integration in SEE; a step forward towards achieving better energy efficiency and broader use of renewable energy sources in SEE.	Finalised
	<i>Conference on "Building Resilience in the Western Balkans", 16 February 2017, Brussels</i>	Debate on the various drivers of fragility in the Western Balkans and the kind of responses that may be needed from the EU and/or local actors.	Fostering interaction between the academic and think-tank community, on the one hand, and policymakers and practitioners on the other, in the context of strengthening institutional and societal resilience in the Western Balkans.	Finalised
	<i>Munich Security Conference 2017, 17-19 February 2017, Munich</i>	High level discussion on major developments and challenges in international security, focusing on future relations of NATO with the US and with Russia, as well as on the conflict in Syria and the crisis in Ukraine.	Contribution to better understanding of today's global security environment and its actors.	Finalised
	<i>Ministerial Meeting on the "Past and Future of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee", 21 February 2017, Geneva</i>	Celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the Inland Transport Committee, taking stock of its past contributions and debate on its future mission until 2030.	Promotion of sustainable transport which is safe, clean and competitive in the UNECE region and beyond.	Finalised
	<i>Kopaonik Business Forum 2017: Reform Agenda for Serbia, 7-9 March 2017, Kopaonik</i>	Consensus on the economic reform agenda of Serbia and on necessity of reforms leading towards regional economic integration as the part of the EU accession process of the Western Balkans.	Visibility of the RCC activities related to economic development of the SEE region.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>C.2.2.3. 12th Winter School on Diplomacy: EU and NATO in South Eastern Europe and the Black Sea Region - Foreign, Security and Energy Policies, 20-24 March 2017, Sandanski/Bulgaria</i>	Presentations and debate on regional cooperation, security, migration and energy challenges in SEE and the BSEC region.	Raising awareness among young diplomats from RCC participants from SEE about regional cooperation and RCC's role in promoting and facilitating the European and Euro-Atlantic integration process.	Finalised
	<i>Istanbul Development Dialogues 2017: Risk and Resilience, 23-24 March 2017, Istanbul</i>	Discussion on the economic, political, social and environmental shocks that are taking place across the planet, their relationship with growing global inequalities and their implications for long-term development planning.	Contribution to designing effective policy and interventions for crisis prevention and response.	Finalised
C.2.2.2. Work with media/communications	<i>Redesigned RCC website www.rcc.int</i>	RCC launched its redesigned, reorganised, technically upgraded and user friendly website on 14 March 2017. The website reflects the RCC work as well as updates of results and achievements in implementation of the RCC SWP.	Upgraded information sharing, promotion of RCC activities, presentation of various sets of information in an easy-to-navigate manner.	Finalised
	<i>Champion of Regional Cooperation Award, 15 March 2017, Sarajevo</i>	The RCC has selected the Sarajevo Film Festival as the Champion of Regional Cooperation in the year 2016. The Award was presented in a ceremony in Sarajevo, on the margins of the RCC's Donor Coordination Meeting.	Awareness raised on the RCC's mission and vision. Recognition and promotion of regional cooperation in SEE.	Finalised
	<i>Visit of Serbian media representatives to RCC Secretariat, 31 March 2017, Sarajevo</i>	Briefing on RCC activities to 11 journalists from Serbia and representatives of their Government's Team for social inclusion and poverty reduction.	Raising awareness about the RCC activities.	Finalised
	<i>Interviews with Secretary General and other RCC staff members</i>	Interviews organised with local and regional media, including TV N1, RTS, Tanjug news agency, B92, Radio Belgrade, BHRadio1 and Vijesti.	Raising awareness about the RCC activities.	Finalised
	<i>Promotion of the most</i>	Press coverage included following a number of RCC	Raising public awareness about the RCC activities	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>important activities of RCC</i>	activities conducted by the Secretary General, Political and Programme departments, resulting in 23 news items and press releases, and more than 1100 media reports in the first three months of 2017.	and SEE 2020 Strategy.	
	<i>Production of public information materials</i>	Two brochures on RCC activities have been produced, featuring Skills and Mobility flagship and Roma Integration project. Videos “Meet the Regional Cooperation Council”, with “behind the scene” bonus video, as well as videos featuring Connectivity and Competitiveness flagship have been produced. RCC LinkedIn account has been created.	Explaining RCC achievements and activities as well as raising awareness about the organisation.	Finalised

4. Management and operations

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

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

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

During the reporting period, there were no staff changes in the RCC Secretariat.

5. Key challenges in the reporting period

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

The reduction of the budget for 2017 has put an additional strain to the overall implementation of the RCC SWP 2017-2019 and specifically to the Annual Work Plan 2017. While a better prioritisation of activities to match the available resources has been a key criteria during the planning exercise for

2017, RCC will work to find alternative funding sources to facilitate and/or implement those needed processes and activities for which funding is not available in the present budget.

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

Contribution	Commitments	Contributions	Date Received
Contributors (Donors)			
Austria	50.000,00		
Czech Republic	50.000,00		
Federal Republic of Germany	50.000,00		
Hungary	50.000,00	50.000,00	17-Feb-17
Italy	50.000,00		
Ireland	50.000,00		
Latvia	50.000,00	50.000,00	30-Jan-17
Norway	50.000,00		
Sweden	50.000,00		
Switzerland	50.000,00	50.000,00	3-Apr-17
United States of America	60.000,00		
Total contributing countries donors:	560.000,00	150.000,00	
European Commission	2.500.000,00	2.499.838,00	4-Jan-17
South East Europe Contributors			
Albania	60.000,00		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	60.000,00	60.000,00	23-Feb-17
Bulgaria	140.000,00	140.000,00	14-Feb-17
Croatia	80.000,00	80.000,00	10-Mar-17
Greece	140.000,00		
Kosovo*	40.000,00		
Moldova	40.000,00		
Montenegro	40.000,00	40.000,00	26-Apr-17
Romania	140.000,00		
Serbia	80.000,00	80.000,00	27-Feb-17
Slovenia	80.000,00	80.000,00	27-Feb-17
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	60.000,00		
Turkey	140.000,00	140.000,00	25-Apr-17
South East Europe Contributors set aside funding	425.000,00		
Total South East Europe Contributors:	1.525.000,00	620.000,00	
Total Committed Funds	4.585.000,00	3.269.838,00	

*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.

7. Annex: RCC Annual Work Plan for 2017

Component A. Implementing the SEE 2020 Strategy through the flagship approach						
Objective: Greater economic integration through easier flow of capital, people, goods and services within SEE and between SEE and the EU						
PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
A.1. Skills and Mobility						
A.1.1. Increased labour mobility in the Western Balkans						
A.1.1.1. Removal of obstacles to (short-term) mobility of professionals in the region						
1.1.1.1. 5 th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications		x			Events/ conferences	<i>The Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications works towards opening negotiations on an international agreement on recognition of professional qualifications in prioritised sectors of health and construction. In 2017 the joint working group is expected to recommend the start of negotiations in one or all of the prioritised professions.</i>
1.1.1.2. 1 st Meeting of the negotiating group (Health)				x	Events/ conferences	
1.1.1.3. 2 nd Meeting of the negotiating group (Construction)				x	Events/ conferences	
1.1.1.4. 6 th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications			x		Events/ conferences	
1.1.1.5. Technical assistance: Comparative study on positioning of national stakeholders					Professional services	
1.1.1.6. Technical assistance: Independent legal consultant				x	Professional services	
1.1.1.7. Technical assistance: Two independent mediators for negotiation process (one for health & one for construction)				x	Professional services	
A.1.1.2. Creating preconditions for automatic recognition of qualifications						
1.1.2.1. 1 st Meeting of the International Expert Group on Automatic Recognition of Qualifications			x		Events/ conferences	<i>The Ministries of Education of WB, as well as Croatia and Slovenia, have agreed to work towards creating conditions for automatic recognition of academic qualifications. A seminar on recognition of academic qualifications is planned in October/November.</i>
1.1.2.2. 2 nd Meeting of the International Expert Group on Automatic Recognition of Qualifications, back to back with a Seminar on Automatic Recognition of Qualifications in SEE				x	Events/ conferences	
1.1.2.3. Technical Assistance on Automatic Recognition of Qualifications.				x	Professional services	
A.1.1.3 Mobility of high-skilled labour (PhD, researchers, academics) in SEE						
1.1.3.1. Preparatory meeting on mobility of PhD, researchers and academics in SEE			x		Events/ conferences	<i>RCC commissioned a study on mobility of the WB PhD students and researchers. The study will be presented at a seminar in June and should result in setting up a working group on developing better policies for mobility of researchers.</i>
1.1.3.2. Technical Assistance on mobility of PhD candidates, researchers and academics in SEE				x	Professional services	
1.1.3.3. Training on EURAXES				x	TAIEX ³	
A.1.1.4. Western Balkans open and connected science						
1.1.4.1. 1 st Working Group meeting on the Open Science		x			Events/ conferences	<i>Following the EU Competitiveness Council conclusion to open access of publicly funded scientific publications and data by 2020, the WB economies have committed to the same</i>
1.1.4.2. Training of National Contact Points on Open Science		x			TAIEX	

³ The mark "TAIEX" in the column "Type of Intervention" indicated that this is at the stage of proposal from RCC, whose implementation is conditioned by the outcome of negotiation with potential financing and schemes, including TAIEX.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
1.1.4.3. Technical Assistance on Open Science				x	Professional services	<i>goal and have set up a Working Group on Open Science aimed at supporting the economies in developing measures, policies and the infrastructure for Open Science.</i>
1.1.4.4. Joint Working Group meeting on Open Science and Mobility of Researchers				x	Events/ conferences	
A.2. Connectivity						
A.2.1. Developing economic corridors						
2.1.1. Enterprise-level analysis of IT industry, linkages and export potentials		x			Professional services	<i>Regional assessment of IT industry growth potentials and recommendations for further development.</i>
A.2.2. Digital integration						
2.2.1. Meetings of regional platforms on roaming and broadband		x		x	Events/ conferences	<i>Extended Regional Roaming Agreement; assessed market impact of the Regional Roaming Agreement; enhanced capacities and regional exchange of practices in key areas of digital single market framework.</i>
2.2.2. High level ICT Forum on Digitalisation of Western Balkans				x	Events/ conferences	
2.2.3. Market impact assessment of the regional roaming agreement			x		Professional services	
2.2.4. Capacity building on digital single market framework (roaming, broadband, cyber security, etc.)		x	x		TAIEX	
A.2.3. Sectoral support in environment, energy and sustainable development						
2.3.1. Meetings of Regional Working Group on Environment and its structures		x		x	Events/ conferences	<i>Strengthened institutional capacities and cooperation among SEE economies in the area of environment and climate change and coordinated regional approach in implementation of three important regional projects (nexus, biodiversity and climate proofing in road infrastructure development); establishment of structured sustainable policy dialogue at highest political level among WB economies and EU MS; supporting low-carbon development of the WB region through enhancing sustainable use of energy in the transport sector, promotion of energy efficiency, as well as renewable (electricity and advanced biofuels) and alternative energies for mobility purposes; support to the WB region in achieving mandatory energy saving targets (9%) through establishment of regional energy management platform (software, training and network) for public sector.</i>
2.3.2. Environment Ministerial Meeting (Podgorica Initiative)			x		Events/ conferences	
2.3.3. Targeted capacity building for Regional Working Group on Environment and its structures (TAIEX)		x	x		TAIEX	
2.3.4. Assessments of climate and environmental challenges in SEE		x		x	Professional services	
2.3.5. Regional policy dialogue in rural development				x	Events/ conferences	
2.3.6. Study on sustainable use of energy in Western Balkans transport sector			x		Professional services	
2.3.7. Regional meeting on energy management platform (EMP)		x			Events/ conferences	
2.3.8. Software development for the EMP			x		Professional services	
2.3.9. Piloting, testing, training and documentation of the EMP				x	Professional services	
2.3.10. Regional event to present the results of the EMP (depending on availability of funding in second half of 2017)				x	Events/ conferences	
A.3. Competitiveness						
A.3.1. Investment Integration						
3.1.1. Meetings of SEEIC Working Group on Investments (technical meetings on the matters of investment policies and promotion)		x		x	Events/ conferences	<i>Regional investment reform agenda developed and implementation commenced.</i>
3.1.2. E-permitting Working Group Session (technical meetings on implementation and maintenance of electronic systems for construction permits and spatial planning)	x		x		Events/ conferences	
3.1.3. Business Friendliness Working Group Session (technical meetings on setting and implementing the standards)	x		x		Events/ conferences	

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
for business friendliness and improving municipal services to business)						
3.1.4. SEEIC Plenary Session (plenary meetings of the SEE's economic teams, represented by the officials from the ministries of economies, endorsing the findings and recommendations of technical working groups for further implementation)		x		x	Events/ conferences	
3.1.5. SEEIC Ministerial Meeting (annual meeting of the ministers of SEE economies, providing political support in the form of joint statement for the regular annual recommendations of the SEEIC's work in the areas of investments, industry, and sectors of priority)				x	Events/ conferences	
3.1.6. Support to investment conferences (support to one big regional business/investment conference aimed at investment promotion of SEE)				x	Professional services	
A.3.2. Industrial Development						
3.2.1. Meeting of the food and beverages expert group (technical meeting on the matters hindering development of the sector, developing proposals for their mitigation, and developing a regional supply chain in the sector)				x	Events/ conferences	<i>Regional industrial policy coordinated and strategic sectors supported through creation of regional value chains along the economic corridors.</i>
3.2.2. Meeting of the tourism expert group (technical meeting on the matters hindering development of the sector, developing proposals for their mitigation, and developing a regional joint offer/product in the sector)			x		Events/ conferences	
3.2.3. Meeting of the ministers of tourism (providing political support to development of joint regional product in tourism)		x			Events/ conferences	
3.2.4. Meetings of the industrial policy expert group (expert meetings on improvement and harmonisation of industrial policies in SEE)		x		x	Events/ conferences	
3.2.5. Regional assessment study in support to the industrial development working group (follow up of economic corridors diagnostics and regional analysis of economic zones)				x	Professional services	
3.2.6. Support to sectoral development (tourism routes mapping and food and beverage supplier database) - study in support to work of the sectoral working group				x	Professional services	
Component B. Governance, Rule of Law and Security Cooperation						
Objective: Better governance, improved functioning of the rule of law and enhanced security in SEE						
B.1. Public Administration Reform						
B.1.1. Public consultations on draft laws and public policy documents						
1.1.1. Development of the Regional Practical Guidelines/Recommendations for Public Consultations on draft laws and				x	Professional services	<i>Codification in a regional standard of best practices on designing policies and legislation, enabling an inclusive and active participation of</i>

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
public policy documents						society.
1.1.2. Workshops on the draft Regional Practical Guidelines/Recommendations for Public Consultations on draft laws and public policy documents	x		x		Events/ conferences	
1.1.3. Regional Conference to endorse the Regional Practical Guidelines/Recommendations for Public Consultations on draft laws and public policy documents				x	Events/ conferences	
1.1.4. Designing and printing the publication with the Regional Practical Guidelines/Recommendations for Public Consultations on draft laws and public policy documents				x	Professional services	
B.2. Justice						
B.2.1. SEE networks, regional trainings and Western Balkans Working Group on Justice						
2.1.1. Meetings of SEE Judicial Training Institutions Network/Platform		x		x	Events/ conferences	Functional platforms for exchange of experiences in judicial training and mediation in SEE; coordinated activities in the area of training and mediation; reduced court backlog, improved skills, competence and effectiveness of judges and prosecutors in EU law.
2.1.2. Rule of Law Forum “European Convention on Human Rights, art. 14 – Freedom of Expression”– in cooperation with CSOs (participants: WB constitutional and supreme courts judges, governmental agents and directors of judicial training institutions)	x				Events/ conferences	
2.1.3. Meetings of Working Group on Justice, as a structure approving and evaluating RCC activities in the area of justice	x			x	Events/ conferences	
2.1.4. Meeting of SEE Associations of Mediators Network/Platform				x	Events/ conferences	
2.1.5. Development of training materials in cross-border cooperation (EU procedure and legislation)	x				Professional services	
2.1.6. Regional trainings in EU law and trainings of trainers for judges and prosecutors in cooperation with EIPA and SEE Schools of Law	x			x	Events/ conferences	
B.3. Anti-corruption						
B.3.1. Support in conducting sectoral corruption risk assessment / anti-corruption assessment of laws						
3.1.1. Training of relevant national authorities and NGOs on conducting corruption proofing of legislation according to the RCC’s Methodology				x	Events/ conferences	Corruption risk assessment/anti-corruption assessment of laws carried out as recommended by studies developed by RCC in three economies.
3.1.2. Development of a comprehensive Guideline/Checklist of corruption risk in healthcare sector for conducting sectoral corruption risk assessment/anti-corruption assessment of laws	x				Professional services	
3.1.3. Technical assistance to governments in applying the Checklist/ Guideline and Regional Methodologies				x	Professional services	
3.1.4. Regional Event on Corruption Risk Assessment and Anti-corruption of Laws				x	Events/ conferences	
B.4. Security cooperation						

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
B.4.1. Supporting the existing security cooperation mechanisms in SEE						
4.1.1. SEENSA/working group meeting	x				Events/conferences	<i>Specific topics (such as industrial security) discussed and recommendations made.</i>
4.1.2. SEEMIC expert working group meeting		x			Events/conferences	<i>Agreed Draft OSINT Assessment.</i>
4.1.3. SEEMIC meeting - main conference				x	Events/conferences	<i>Adopted OSINT Assessment; debate on main security challenges in SEE; guidance for further SEE military intelligence services cooperation.</i>
4.1.4. SEENSA meeting			x		Events/conferences	<i>Stock-taking of the current state of cooperation between SEE NSAs, debate and guidance for further cooperation, especially in vetting procedures, and education and training.</i>
B.4.2. Addressing the emerging security challenges in the region (CVE-FTF Platform)						
4.2.1. Meetings of the RCC Group of National Focal Points for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Foreign Terrorist Fighters in Southeast Europe (NFP CVE-FTF Group)	x			x	Events/conferences	<i>Stock-taking of the current state of CVE efforts and cooperation in the region, exchange of examples of good practice, guidance for future CVE work.</i>
4.2.2. Regional expert workshop on the role of education system and civil society in prevention of radicalization		x			Events/conferences	<i>Conclusions to serve as a basis for policy recommendations for future curricular and extracurricular activities in prevention of youth radicalization in SEE.</i>
4.2.3. Regional expert workshop on prevention and suppression of online radicalization and violent extremist propaganda (depending on availability of funding in second half of 2017)			x		Events/conferences	<i>Exchange of good practices and recommendations on how to prevent online radicalization and counter online violent extremist propaganda.</i>
4.2.4. Commissioning a Study on rehabilitation and reintegration of former terrorists and violent extremists			x		Professional services	<i>To serve both as a preparation for the corresponding Workshop and to inform the debate at the next NFP CVE-FTF Group Meeting.</i>
4.2.5. Regional expert workshop on disengagement and de-radicalization of former terrorists				x	Events/conferences	<i>Conclusions to serve as a basis for policy recommendations for the development of effective programmes of disengagement and de-radicalization of former terrorists.</i>
4.2.6. Regional P-CVE Coordination Conference (co-organised with PCC SEE and other partners)				x	Events/conferences	<i>Creating synergies and enhanced CVE results with limited resources, better inter-organisational cooperation and avoidance of unnecessary duplication.</i>
Component C. Horizontal and supporting activities						
Objective: Positioning the RCC as the main focal point for regional cooperation and the preminent resource for governments, private sector, donors and the civil sector						
C.1. Programming, monitoring and coordination						
C.1.1. Programming activities						
1.1.1. SEE 2020 Programming Committee Meetings	x		x		Events/conferences	<i>Establish or maintain functioning programming process for the successful implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy.</i>
1.1.2.. 3 rd Meeting on Donor Coordination in the Western Balkans	x				Events/conferences	
C.1.2. Monitoring activities						
1.2.1. SEE 2020 Monitoring Committee Meetings		x		x	Events/conferences	<i>Enable evidence-based policy making and a shift from activity based to result oriented monitoring.</i>
1.2.2. Balkan Barometer 2017				x	Professional services	
1.2.3. WIIW database - membership fee			x		Professional services	
1.2.4. Amadeus subscription				x	Professional services	
C.1.3. Coordination activities, grants						

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
1.3.1. 3 rd SEE 2020 Governing Board Meeting		x			Events/ conferences	<i>Establish or maintain functioning coordination mechanisms with the governments, private sector, business community and civil society for the successful implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.</i>
1.3.2. SEE 2020 Coordination Meeting				x	Events/ conferences	
1.3.3. Support to horizontal activities (short-term technical assistance)	x	x	x	x	Professional services	
1.3.4. RCC Grant Facility		x		x	Grants	
1.3.5. Support to national coordination activities	x	x	x	x	Events/ conferences	
C.2. Political Department activities						
C.2.1. Strengthening cooperation between the SEE governments and with the EU						
C.2.1.1. Assist the SEEC and SEEC C-i-O						
2.1.1.1. Meetings of the RCC Board	x	x		x	Events/ conferences	<i>Operational guidance and supervision of the RCC; acceptance of the regular reports of the Secretary General; decisions pertinent to the activities of the RCC Secretariat and overseeing their implementation.</i>
2.1.1.2. Coordination Meetings between SEEC Troika, RCC Secretariat and EU	x	x		x	Events/ conferences	<i>Review of the developments pertaining to regional cooperation in SEE and provision of recommendations; harmonisation of the priorities of the SEEC C-i-O with the Strategy and Work Programme of the RCC.</i>
2.1.1.3. RCC Annual Meeting		x			Events/ conferences	<i>Strategic coordination and further development of the regional cooperation processes; endorsement of the Annual Report of the Secretary General of the RCC for 2016 - 2017.</i>
C.2.1.2. Consultations of the Secretary General with SEEC and RCC participants						
2.1.2.1. Regular political dialogue with the RCC participants	x	x	x	x	Consultations	<i>Political support to the activities of RCC.</i>
C.2.1.3 Maintain the dialogue with the EU institutions						
2.1.3.1. Regular dialogue with the EU institutions and EU Member States	x	x	x	x	Consultations	<i>Ensuring close association of the RCC work with the EU enlargement agenda as well as better coordination of joint efforts.</i>
2.1.3.2. Informal meeting of the MFAs from the Western Balkans with the EU Commissioner				x	Events/ conferences	<i>Support towards the EU accession goals of the Western Balkans region.</i>
C.2.1.4. Support to parliamentary activities related to the EU acquis and the SEE 2020 Strategy						
2.1.4.1. Inter-parliamentary Conference on Trans-European Networks Policy and Connectivity Agenda (organised by European Parliament)		x			Events/ conferences	<i>Raising awareness of SEE parliamentarians on the new trans-European network policy and its reflections to the region.</i>
2.1.4.2. Inter-parliamentary Conference on Stability and Growth in South East Europe (co-organised with European Parliament and the Croatian Chairmanship of the SEEC PA for 2016 - 2017)				x	Events/ conferences	<i>Contributing to the dialogue between EP and the Parliaments from the SEE region in the context of the European integration process.</i>
C.2.2. Broadening links and strengthening partnerships with other regional stakeholders						
C.2.2.1. Participation of SG to high-level events	x	x	x	x	Events/ conferences	<i>Streamlining the regional cooperation in SEE and promotion of RCC activities; deepening of regional cooperation through stronger partnerships with all concerned stakeholders.</i>
C.2.2.2. Work with media/communication	x	x	x	x	Communication with media	<i>Increasing public awareness and support for the RCC activities.</i>
C.2.2.3. Support to the Winter School on Diplomacy (organised by Diplomatic Institute of Bulgarian MFA)	x				Events/ conferences	<i>Raising awareness of young diplomats on the regional cooperation in SEE.</i>

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
C.2.2.4. Diplomatic Training Seminar (co-organised with the Diplomatic Academy of the Croatian MFA)		x			Events/ conferences	<i>Support to improving diplomatic skills of young diplomats from SEE, as a mechanism for achieving the EU standards and criteria.</i>

8. List of Abbreviations

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

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