

REPORT

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

For the period 1 April – 15 September 2015

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

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

Sarajevo, 30 September 2015

Table of Contents

- 1. Summary of activities 3
- 2. Update on progress in implementing SWP 2014-16 10
- 3. Management and Operations 36
- 4. Key Challenges in the Reporting Period 37
- 5. State of financial contributions to the RCC Secretariat's budget for 2015 38
- Annex: RCC Annual Work Plan for 2015 39

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 from 1 April to 15 September 2015.

1. Summary of activities

The report presents the progress made by the RCC Secretariat in implementing the RCC Strategy and Work Programme (SWP) for 2014 – 2016, with an overt emphasis on its key pillars - the South East Europe (SEE) 2020 Strategy and Stability and Rule of Law. The report provides insights into the RCC - SEECP synergy and RCC's participation in the SEECP high - level events, with a focus on the main outcomes of the meetings and their role in further advancing the European and Euro-Atlantic integration process. The report includes the results of the RCC Annual meeting, the meeting of the SEE 2020 Governing Board and the presentation of the SEE Development Scoreboard (SEEDS). Key aspects of the dialogue of the RCC Secretary General with the RCC participants are presented, as well as the consultations held with European Union (EU) institutions, regional organizations and initiatives and other stakeholders actively engaged in the regional cooperation process in South East Europe (SEE).

The RCC Secretariat continued with its multifaceted activities in implementing the RCC SWP 2014 – 2016, while constantly seeking to ensure that these are deployed with greater efficacy. Operational guidance and supervision have been provided by the RCC Board, which held its 26th meeting on 12 May 2015 in Sarajevo. The RCC Secretary General informed the participants of the Board on the activities of the RCC Secretariat and, together with the Albanian SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office (C-i-O), summarized the workings of the Coordination Meeting between the SEECP Troika, the RCC Secretariat and the EU. In its conclusions, the RCC Board, inter alia, accepted the Report of the RCC Secretary General on the activities of the RCC Secretariat for the period January - April 2015 and the financial report of the RCC Secretariat for 2014. The RCC Board also accepted the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General on regional cooperation in SEE for 2014-2015, as well as endorsed the nomination proposal for renewing the mandate of the current RCC Secretary General for three more years starting from 1 January 2016.

Held back-to-back with the meeting of the RCC Board, on 11 May 2015 in Sarajevo, the Coordination meeting between the SEECP Troika¹, the RCC Secretariat and the EU, continued to provide a framework for further harmonizing the priorities of the SEECP C-i-O and RCC's SWP 2014 - 2016. The meeting produced conclusions emphasizing the outcomes of the cooperation between the Albanian SEECP C-i-O and the RCC, and reaffirming RCC's readiness to work together with the upcoming Bulgarian SEECP C-i-O.

The SEECP high-level events, marking the end of the Albanian SEECP C-i-O for 2014 - 2015, were held on 20 - 26 May 2015 in Tirana and included the SEECP Committee of Political Directors (PDs), the Formal meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (MFAs), the 2nd Plenary Session of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly (PA) and the Summit of the SEECP Heads of State/Government.

¹ The SEECP Troika included the former SEECP C-i-O Romania, the current SEECP C-i-O Albania and the incoming SEECP C-i-O Bulgaria.

The meetings of the SEECP MFAs, SEECP PA and SEECP Summit reiterated the commitments of the SEECP Participants to regional cooperation and good-neighbourly relations in SEE as essential requirements for the region's European and Euro-Atlantic integration and resulted with several very important outcomes:

The SEECP Tirana Summit Declaration, in particular, reaffirms the strong political "commitment to regional cooperation and good-neighbourly relations in SEE as essential requirements for the region's European and Euro-Atlantic integration. It recognizes the importance of joint efforts to identify projects of common interests that improve regional cooperation and regional interconnectivity and welcomes the efforts of the Western Balkans for preparing projects in the framework of the Berlin Process.

The SEECP Summit also expressed support for the RCC's mission; endorsed the Annual Report on Regional Cooperation in SEE for 2014-2015 and approved the appointment of Mr. Goran Svilanovic for a new mandate as the RCC Secretary General; commended the progress achieved in the implementation of the RCC SWP 2014-2016 and the SEE 2020 Strategy, which enhances the RCC's overall strategy-based approach in making regional cooperation more efficient and target-oriented; welcomed the endorsement by the SEE 2020 Governing Board of the SEE 2020 Strategy Annual Implementation Report, as a valuable contribution facilitating the EU integration process of SEE.

The Speakers of the SEECP Parliaments, in their Joint Declaration: expressed their determination to ensure that the SEECP PA becomes a valuable interlocutor for the European Parliament; pointed out to the importance of developing projects of common interest in the region and connect them with the activities of the EU; welcomed the participation of Kosovo* in the SEECP PA on a permanent basis and on equal terms in line with the Bucharest Summit Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the SEECP Participants.

Last but not least, the continuity of the SEECP Troika was ensured by the decision of the SEECP MFAs for Croatia to take over as the next SEECP C-i-O for 2016 -2017 after Bulgaria. Overall, the Albanian SEECP C-i-O brought a substantial contribution to the regional cooperation process in SEE and to increasing the relevance and effectiveness of SEECP.

The RCC Annual meeting took place back-to-back with the SEECP high-level events on 22 May 2015 in Tirana. The RCC participants made further headway in ensuring strategic coordination and development of the regional cooperation process in SEE. The meeting endorsed the organization's efforts to foster economic recovery and ensure that regional cooperation augments the efforts of the governments from SEE to advance in the European integration process. The Annual meeting endorsed the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General on regional cooperation in SEE for 2014 – 2015, and the nomination proposal for the RCC Secretary General.

At the same time, the Bulgarian SEECP C-i-O for 2015 – 2016 has kicked-off in June 2015 with activities which seek to address the most pressing concerns of the region. In this context, the opening of the Southeast Europe Economic Forum – Challenges Ahead of Economic Recovery – Round Table of the SEECP Ministers of Economy provided an invaluable framework for discussing regional trade, investments, infrastructure projects and economic development. Exploring solutions

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of independence.

related to energy diversification and security of supplies was a theme at the centre of the Conference on “Energy Security and Energy Infrastructure in SEE”.

A better alignment of priorities and actions and continuous political support for the RCC are key outcomes of the dialogue of the RCC Secretary General with RCC participants, particularly with Bulgaria in its capacity as the SEECF C-i-O for 2015 – 2016 and the EC. On the occasion of the latest consultations with the Bulgarian SEECF C-i-O, the RCC Secretary General signed the official Agreement on Assumption of Duties of the RCC Secretary General for the period 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2018. The parties have also discussed the SEECF – RCC synergy and what can the RCC Secretariat and the SEECF C-i-O jointly undertake in the interests of the SEE region. Above all, the consultations proved essential for exploring avenues for further enhancing the regional cooperation process in SEE.

The RCC Secretary General participated at a number of high-level events and international meetings with a regional dimension, including the Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Meeting (17 April, Budva); Foreign Ministers Meeting (23 April, Brdo pri Kranju); Conference on Combating Shadow Economy - a Necessity for Investments in SEE (28 April, Sarajevo); 6th International Investment Conference - Sarajevo Business Forum (13 May, Sarajevo); Western Balkans Regional Summit on Countering Violent Extremism (19 May, Tirana); CEI Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting (15 June, Ohrid); Bled Strategic Forum (1 September, Bled) and the Business 20 Conference (4 September, Ankara). RCC’s engagement in high-level events, with a regional dimension, is a pertinent contribution to its mission of developing and maintaining a regional climate of dialogue and openness towards regional cooperation, with a view to stimulate economic and social development and strengthen stability and rule of law.

RCC’s cooperation with EU institutions and bodies, in particular the EC, EEAS and EP has been maintained and further strengthened as a result of regular visits made by the RCC Secretary General to EU institutions and comprehensive exchanges of views with EU high-level representatives. The visibility of the synergy between the RCC and the SEECF in Brussels has further increased, in particular following the high – level event “Regional Cooperation Day” held on 6 of May 2015 in Brussels. The latter event allowed for high-level discussions by convening the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, W. Balkans MFAs and leading MEP, representatives of NGO and academia. It was an opportunity to unveil the results of the RCC Balkan Barometer and ensure a greater awareness of the importance of regional cooperation, economic governance, growth and connectivity in the context of EU enlargement.

Equally significant was the meeting of the Prime Ministers of the Western Balkans that reached an Agreement on the core transport network and a list of main transport routes. The high-level meeting served as an excellent platform for the RCC to reaffirm its commitment to connectivity agenda of the Western Balkans. Overall, the Berlin process and the Western Balkans agenda produced clear priorities for infrastructure development, especially with respect to transport. The Western Balkans Summit, which was held on 27 August 2015 in Vienna, brought substance to the Berlin Process that started last year. Issues of utmost importance for the region such as: solution of bilateral disputes; rule of law and good governance; fight against extremism and radicalization; migration; transport and energy connectivity; trade facilitation, mobility and growth; youth, education, science and research, as well as civil society were in focus. The Vienna Summit generated support, inter alia, for six projects in the area of transport and four in the area of energy. The RCC will coordinate several

activities in the field of mobility and growth, which are in line with the goals of the SEE 2020 Strategy. RCC was also engaged in the organization of the civil society forum – an initiative which will continue to evolve.

Working with its governments and regional partners, RCC also developed the first set of eight draft regional programmes concentrated in three main themes or flagships – Competitiveness and industrial development; Connectivity; and Skills and Mobility. The actions proposed were also shared with the European Commission, with the intention of informing the EC's own programming process for regional IPA that is currently ongoing.

On the monitoring side, RCC held the second meeting of the SEE 2020 Monitoring Task Force that agreed on the changes to the 11 headline targets that were confirmed by the SEE 2020 Governing Board as well. The Monitoring Task Force also accepted RCC's proposal to convert the Task Force into a standing Monitoring Committee that would direct and oversee the entire monitoring system of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

Furthermore, RCC, the national administrations and the regional dimension coordinators continued with the data collection process, gathering quantitative and qualitative data on agreed indicators; the annual process should be finalized during the next quarter. To complement this data with perception-based indicators, RCC launched the first Balkan Barometer report, a citizen and business opinion survey developed to track sentiments regarding SEE 2020 implementation and wider regional cooperation and EU accession issues. The quantitative, qualitative and perception-based indicators and data were fed into a new web platform – South East Europe Development Scoreboard (SEEDS), hosted by the RCC which was presented to the public during the Regional Cooperation Day in Brussels and the SEECP meetings in Tirana. Further adjustments and improvements, including updates of data, are envisioned in the second half of the year.

A small grants programme was launched during the quarter with an open call to organizations in SEE to support implementation of SEE 2020 objectives, promote and disseminate results achieved under the SEE 2020 framework and engage civil society organizations in monitoring SEE 2020 implementation and regional cooperation. RCC will analyse the results of this pilot grant programme during 2015 in designing its activities for the next year.

The second meeting of the Governing Board of the SEE 2020 Strategy was held back-to-back with the SEECP meetings in Tirana. The Governing Board endorsed the annual report on implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy and adopted the proposal to replace SEE 2020 NAPs with the Economic Reform Programmes (ERPs). On the monitoring side, the Governing Board welcomed the SEE Development Scoreboard as a unique monitoring tool that would help inform the policy development process and adopted the recommendation to replace four out of eleven headline targets that came from the SEE 2020 Monitoring Task Force. The Governing Board called for a greater focus on fewer regional priorities as the resources are scarce and there is a strong need to maximize the impact of regional cooperation. The initiative to strengthen coordination with donors and to further align donor activities with the needs of the SEE 2020 was also welcomed. Finally, the Governing Board expressed appreciation for RCC's initiative to help expand the availability of financial resources by deploying a new instrument for small grants to help with the implementation of certain priorities of the Strategy.

In addition to this, a number of activities from the Annual Work Plan for 2015 were implemented during the reporting period, described in further detail in the next section and summarized below:

- During the reporting period, the activities under the **Integrated Growth** pillar were focused on finalization of the regional programme on harmonization of investment policy and promotion, drafted jointly with the World Bank Group, the SEEIC and its relevant Working Group on Investments (managed jointly between CEFTA and SEEIC).
- In the area of **Smart growth**, the ERISSE agreement was signed by the last remaining party to the agreement. This finalises the formalisation of ERISSE and enables it to apply for EU projects and funds which are of a mutual interest to all signatories.
- In **Sustainable growth**, RCC partnered with the Energy Community Secretariat to prepare a proposal “Better Connected Consumers and Decision Makers in the Energy Sector - Path to Common SEE Energy Market”, included in the Flagship on Soft Connectivity. In the area of Environment a meeting of the Regional Working Group on Environment was held in Podgorica, Montenegro on May 14, 2015, ensuring enhanced regional cooperation in the domain of environment. This Working Group is membered by high-level representatives of ministries responsible for environment, water resources, land, energy and climate change from SEE and will oversee and guide regional activities in those sectors.

On the competitiveness side, the participating governments endorsed the “SEE 2020 Flagship Initiative - Sector Competitiveness and Industrial Development in SEE”, whose aim is to strengthen competitiveness and improve business climate in the SEE, with a focus on food and beverages processing industry, as well as activities related to New Vision for SEE's Tourism Development. In addition, SEEIC decided to establish the Industrial Policy Working Group in cooperation with the OECD. The overall objective of this regional activity will be to further support regional economies' capacity for effective design and implementation of industrial policies and measures, and hence increase economic competitiveness of the region. RCC Secretariat has also entered into a partnership with the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV), with the goal of executing a comprehensive analysis and providing recommendations on increasing the business synergies between the SEE economies and Turkey. The inception report of the study has been produced based on analysis provided with discussion of most relevant government representatives, think-tanks, as well as business and civil community of six SEE economies, and reviewed by the involved parties during a synthesis meeting in Sarajevo. The final draft of the report was presented during the B20 conference in Ankara, Turkey, at the panel co-hosted by the RCC and Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and dedicated to the SEE-Turkish cooperation.

- Within the **Inclusive growth** pillar, work intensified towards finalizing the application form for the IPA MB 2015 Employment Platform, to be implemented jointly by RCC and ILO. The Employment Platform is intended to be one of the key vehicles for implementing the SEE 2020 objectives under the inclusive growth pillar, in particular those pertaining to establishing and strengthening cooperation at the regional level related to labour market and social reforms; enhancing the capacities of the relevant administrations to plan, implement and monitor reforms through exchange of experience, good practices, utilization of

methodological and analytical tools available at EU level, strengthening the existing Public Employment Services Network with a view to facilitating the SEE 2020 labour mobility objective and preparations for future participation in EURES (European Employment Services).

Within the reporting period, RCC worked on identifying potential synergies in the area of furthering the social economy initiatives with one of the projects which has been awarded with a sub-grant. RCC will continue to promote its regional social economy agenda and strive to multiply its impact and sustainability also in the course of the project on social economy to be implemented through the direct grant awarded from RCC's operational budget.

The roadmap for facilitating labour mobility in SEE is in the process of being assessed by the governments. This process has taken substantial time, and is expected to be completed during 2015. Political support for labour mobility differs in the Western Balkans. Therefore, RCC will continue to support the governments in identifying the common interests and the real benefits of labour mobility. Further work was done in social economy development, where the RCC commissioned study shed light on the current situation and produced concrete recommendations to enhance the sector. There is a general consensus about the overall benefits of the enhanced social economy interventions but more needs to be done in terms of increased understanding and concrete commitment to move the agenda forward. Governments in the region have different perspectives and experiences with social economy initiatives, but identifying the common and regional themes will add value to their efforts. Furthermore, a detailed regional program for implementing the health priorities has been prepared, however funding both from national sources and international community remains limited for its implementation. An important milestone in the strengthening and full operationalization of the SEEHN network will be the functional and fully staffed secretariat. This has been delayed as Ministers of Health need to agree for the appointment of the new director.

- In the **Governance for Growth**, the study on "Corruption Risk Assessment in Public Institutions in South East Europe" and the "Comparative Study and Methodology on Anticorruption Assessment of Laws" were developed and published. They are expected to provide support to all interested institutions and individuals in SEE region and will be further disseminated by the RCC Secretariat and Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI).

Regarding the justice cooperation, three studies in the area of efficiency of judiciary were developed and approved by government experts. All the studies have been presented and the implementation of their recommendations will be discussed in the meeting of the Working Group on Justice in October 2015. RCC is in the process of establishing networks of Judicial Training Institutions and Councils for Judiciary that will serve as platforms for exchange of experiences and peer support. This process will continue throughout 2015.

- The **pillar on stability and rule of law** of the RCC SWP for 2014 - 2016 witnessed several trends which have the potential to rekindle the role of the RCC in this important sector for the SEE region. On security in particular, the RCC continued supporting, guiding and coordinating the activities of regional cooperation initiatives in security area, with the organization of SEENSA and SEEMIC EWG meetings. Following the relevant decisions of the

SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and the growing importance of these complex issues both for the region, and on the wider European and global level, the refocusing of the RCC efforts in security policy area was undertaken, with a new emphasis on the RCC's role in prevention and suppression of radicalization and violent extremism leading to terrorism and the outflow of the foreign (terrorist) fighters from the region (CVE-CT-FF). Intense efforts were undertaken to (re)define the RCC's current and future role in those efforts. In this context, and following the consultations with the relevant EU officials and the Bulgarian SEECP C-i-O, the RCC concept paper on SEE cooperation on Counter Terrorism and Foreign Fighters was finalized.

- On the **cross-cutting side**, the RCC has been engaged in establishing partnerships with different target groups beyond its core intergovernmental structure in order to ensure a wide support in executing its mission. More specifically, following the RCC Board Decision in May 2015, the RCC will participate in efforts to address the persisting social exclusion, segregation and marginalisation of Romani population in SEE, leading to lack of education, chronic unemployment, and limited access to healthcare, housing and essential services as well as widespread poverty, by undertaking a concrete initiative, Roma Integration 2020. Therefore, RCC Secretariat has actively engaged in a series of events and consultations with stakeholders in preparation for the new initiative. With the establishment of this new initiative it is hoped to reinforce the political and policy commitment from national and local government to make additional efforts to close the socio-economic gap between Roma and Non-Roma communities.

2. Update on progress in implementing SWP 2014-16

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 ²
Component 1: Horizontal activities				
RCC Board and coordination meetings	<i>Meeting of the RCC Board (12 May, Sarajevo)</i>	Acceptance of the Report on the activities of the RCC Secretariat for the period 1 January 2014 – 31 March 2015 and of the Annual Report of the Secretary General of RCC on regional cooperation in SEE for 2014-2015; endorsement of the nomination proposal for renewing the mandate of RCC Secretary General for a new mandate, starting from 1 January 2016; approval of the RCC Financial Report 2014; adoption of the RCC Financial Management Manual; approval of the Roma Integration 2020 initiative.	Additional progress in the implementation of the RCC SWP for 2014 – 2016; support for Secretary General and the RCC activities.	Finalized
	<i>Coordination meeting between SEECP Troika, RCC Secretariat and EU (11 May, Tirana)</i>	Briefing and coordination between the SEECP Troika, RCC and EU related to the implementation of the most recent and other planned activities.	Continued cooperation and synergy between RCC and SEECP; enhanced dialogue with the SEECP CiO.	Finalized
Cooperation between RCC and SEECP	<i>SEECP Troika Meeting (20 May, Tirana)</i>	Exchange of information regarding the RCC and SEECP high level meetings.	Continuity in coordination of activities between RCC and SEECP Troika.	Finalized
	<i>Meeting of the SEECP Political Directors (20-21 May, Tirana)</i>	Exchange of views on the latest developments in SEE, agreement on the draft SEECP Tirana Summit Declaration and the Consolidated Conclusions of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on SEECP Future.	Support for more effective and result – oriented cooperation in SEE and its EU integration process; better coordination and strengthened synergy between SEECP and RCC.	Finalized
	<i>Annual Meeting of the RCC (22 May, Tirana)</i>	Assessment of regional cooperation in SEE; endorsement of the nomination proposal for	Support for upholding a strong commitment for the regional	Finalized

² Status of completion is described as “Finalized”, “On-track”, “Delayed”, or “Dropped”.

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 ²
		renewing the mandate of the RCC Secretary General and of the Annual Report of the Secretary General of the RCC on regional cooperation in SEE for 2014 - 2015.	cooperation in SEE and its European agenda; ensuring RCC's stakeholders support for RCC's mission.	
	<i>Meeting of SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs (22 May, Tirana)</i>	Discussion on the political situation and recent developments in SEE; endorsement of the SEECP Tirana Summit Declaration and the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General on regional cooperation in SEE; adoption of the document of the SEECP Ad-hoc Working Group on the improvement and adaptation of SEECP with regard to future challenges.	Political guidance and support for RCC activities; reappointment of the RCC Secretary General for a second term; the continuity of the SEECP Troika was ensured by welcoming Croatia's readiness to assume the SEECP CiO after Bulgaria.	Finalized
	<i>SEECP Summit of Heads of State and Government (26 May, Tirana)</i>	Adoption of the SEECP Tirana Summit Declaration reaffirming the strong political commitment to regional cooperation and good-neighbourly relations in SEE as essential requirements for the region's European and Euro-Atlantic integration.	Reaffirmed support for the RCC's mission; acknowledgment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the RCC SWP 2014-2016 and the SEE 2020 Strategy; commitment to EU integration process of SEE.	Finalized
	<i>Southeast Europe Economic Forum - Challenges Ahead of Economic Recovery - Round Table of the SEECP Ministers of Economy within the Bulgarian SEECP CiO (18 June, Sofia)</i>	Debate on cooperation within the SEE region for further ensuring conditions conducive for economic development at regional level, with the focus on trade and investments as a mechanism for increasing the competitiveness.	Greater exposure to opportunities for regional trade, investments, infrastructure projects and economic development.	Finalized
	<i>Consultations with the SEECP CiO on counter terrorism (25 June, Sofia)</i>	Discussion with the Bulgarian MFA and other institutions on the draft RCC concept paper on SEE Counter Terrorism Cooperation Platform.	Support for RCC's initiative; engagement of SEECP CiO in the project implementation.	Finalized
Consultations of the Secretary General with SEECP and RCC participants	<i>Consultations with the upcoming Bulgarian SEECP CiO (8 April, Sarajevo)</i>	Full support of RCC for the priorities and calendar of events of the Bulgarian SEECP CiO, including the possibility of organizing joint events within the SEECP format.	Better alignment of the RCC's Work Plan and the calendar of events of the Bulgarian SEECP CiO.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
	<i>Briefing to the Austrian parliamentary hearing on the future Austrian regional cooperation strategy for the Danube Region and Western Balkans-2015-2020 (8 May, Vienna)</i>	Briefing on the RCC activities, with the focus on the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.	Support of the Austrian parliamentarians for the activities of RCC.	Finalized
	<i>Briefing for the Ambassadors of SEECP Participants accredited to the EU and NATO (5 June, Brussels)</i>	Briefing on the most important activities of the RCC in light of the last high-level meetings held in Tirana: RCC Annual meeting, the meeting of SEE 2020 Governing Board and the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy and the future plans of RCC; Discussion on EU enlargement, connectivity and preparations for the Vienna Summit.	Another important step undertaken to increase the synergy and visibility of SEECP and RCC in Brussels; Increased interest for the annual briefings of the SG demonstrated by higher attendance at the level of ambassadors.	Finalized
	<i>Consultations with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro (14 August, 2015)</i>	Briefing on the RCC activities; exchange of views on current challenges and advancement of regional cooperation in SEE.	Reaffirmed commitment of Montenegro to regional cooperation and the activities of RCC.	Finalized
	<i>Consultations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria (14 September, Sofia)</i>	Briefing on the RCC activities and the priorities of the SEECP CiO; discussion on the recent developments in SEE.	Continuous dialogue for strengthening coordination and joint actions between the RCC and SEECP.	Finalized
Regular consultations of SG with European Union institutions and services; dialogue with the EU macro strategies	<i>Meeting with the Director General of DG Near, EC (4 June, Brussels)</i>	Exchanged views on the results of the RCC Annual meeting and of the SEECP high level meetings in Tirana in May 2015 and stressed the importance of focusing on furthering market integration, removal of trade barriers and labour mobility; discussion regarding the preparations for the Vienna Summit under the Berlin Process and on the role of RCC.	Possible role of RCC in the “soft connectivity” and in civil society agenda were in principle defined.	Finalized
	<i>The EUSDR PA 11 Steering Group Meeting (1-2 July, Berlin)</i>	Briefing on recent developments within EUSDR; discussion on the ongoing projects and activities within the framework of PA 11. Special emphasis	Expressed readiness for project-based cooperation between the RCC and EUSDR PA 11.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
		was given on the available opportunities for funding projects in PA 11.		
	<i>Consultations with the EUSDR PA 10 (10 July, Vienna)</i>	Update on activities of RCC and EUSDR PA10; exchange of views on future possible joint actions.	Agreement on possible future activities which could pave the way for more concrete cooperation between RCC and EUSDR PA 10.	On-track
Participation of SG to high-level events	<i>Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Meeting (17 April, Budva)</i>	Agreement on the importance of a common approach to prevention, detection and fight against terrorism in the SEE region.	Support to the RCC for preparation of a regional cooperation platform in the SEE that would bring together all relevant national, regional and international stakeholders with the aim of developing a common approach on the issue of terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters.	Finalized
	<i>Western Balkans Six Prime Ministers Meeting (21 April, Brussels)</i>	Agreement on the core transport network through a joint statement and a list of main transport routes.	The RCC reaffirmed its commitment to connectivity agenda of the Western Balkans.	Finalized
	<i>Western Balkans Foreign Ministers Meeting (23 April, Brdo pri Kranju)</i>	Discussion on progress in reconstruction following the catastrophic floods in the region; prospects for young people in the Western Balkans; connectivity agenda of the region and political stability in the European neighbourhood; adoption of a joint statement which strongly confirms that the Western Balkans region remains firmly anchored in the EU integration process.	Further strengthening of regional cooperation, with emphasis on concrete projects.	Finalized
	<i>Regional Cooperation Day (6 May, Brussels)</i>	Commencement of the RCC practice, in collaboration with the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the EU and the European Fund for the Balkans, of holding annual meetings on current state of affairs and regional cooperation in SEE, for the Brussels-based	Promotion of regional cooperation in the context of EU enlargement agenda, its challenges and achievements; greater awareness about RCC activities and unveiling of the Balkan Barometer as a new monitoring tool produced by the	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
		audience (EP, EC, EEAS, GSC, diplomatic missions, think-tanks, civil society, business community) as well as the audience in SEE through media coverage.	RCC; greater awareness of the issues involving economic growth, governance and connectivity in the context of EU enlargement; another opportunity to demonstrate the synergy and greater visibility of RCC and SEECF in Brussels;	
	<i>6th International Investment Conference - Sarajevo Business Forum (13 May, Sarajevo)</i>	Promotion of the idea of the SEE region as a European centre for the production of healthy food, a major information technology hub, an educational centre for foreign students and also for tourism.	The importance of regional cooperation in achieving the economic goals was reaffirmed.	Finalized
	<i>Balkans Regional Summit on Counter Violent Extremism (19-20 May, Tirana)</i>	Discussion on developing new strategies and concrete programs and initiatives that can be announced at the counter violent extremism leaders' summit to be held in New York in September 2015.	Commitment to countering violent extremism in all of its forms and manifestations that leads to terrorism, as well as addressing the drivers of this extremism.	Finalized
	<i>Vienna Economic Forum – Tirana Talks (28 May, Tirana)</i>	High-level discussion on the European integration process and the investment strategy in the Western Balkans.	Contribution to the investment opportunities in the Western Balkans with the focus on regional projects.	Finalized
	<i>Western Balkans Summit Vienna 2015 (26-27 August, Vienna)</i>	Adoption of a joint declaration on bilateral issues, where Western Balkans committed themselves to resolve bilateral disputes without blocking their EU integrations processes; joint declaration on the establishment of the regional youth cooperation office of the Western Balkans; final declaration by the Chair of the Vienna Western Balkans Summit.	Contribution for the progress in the areas of regional cooperation, connectivity, economy the civil society and the rule of law in SEE. Recognition of the RCC's role in coordinating regional cooperation and recommendation for RCC to actively engage the civil society, growth and mobility areas.	Finalized
	<i>2015 Bled Strategic Forum: Vision of New Partnership (31 August - 1 September, Bled)</i>	Discussion devoted to the issues of changes necessary in the world's politics regarding issues such as mass migration, international terrorism and climate changes, as well as models of	Call for greater unity and coordination between European countries, and partnerships with international organizations and NGOs related to	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
		cooperation in the Western Balkans.	resolving the migration crisis. High level support for the Euro-Atlantic integration process of Western Balkans.	
	<i>Energy Security and Energy Infrastructure in South East Europe (15-16 September, Sofia)</i>	Discussion related to energy diversification and security of supplies as part of a broader strategy that could lead to the integration of Western Balkan countries into the Energy Union prior to their accession into the EU.	Contribution to the efforts of strengthening the cooperation at international, regional and EU level in terms of energy infrastructure security.	Finalized
Supporting increased involvement of civil society and academia in regional activities	<i>European Union and the Western Balkans: The Basics First seminar (26-29 April, Durres)</i>	Training on the EU integration process of the Western Balkans, the new approach in EU accession negotiations, the attitudes of EU citizens towards enlargement and the changes that are taking place within the EU.	Raised awareness of the participants about the value and necessity of European integration and regional cooperation.	Finalized
	<i>5th Western Balkans Civil Society Forum (2-3 June, Belgrade)</i>	Adoption of the Final Declaration related to: the perspectives for the EU and the Western Balkans; increasing transparency and openness of the EU accession process; the role of civil society in fighting against corruption; youth and employment – the role of social partners in promoting economic and social integration and minority rights in the Western Balkans.	Better inclusion of local civil society organisations in the debates on EU enlargement policy.	Finalized
	<i>The Shared Societies and Values Sarajevo Forum (25 June, Sarajevo)</i>	Emphasizing the added value of the Shared Societies notion in a diverse society such as Bosnia and Herzegovina.	Launching of the Foundation Shared Societies and Values Sarajevo, whose mission is to promote the concept of Shared Societies in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in a broader context.	Finalized
	<i>Conference on Regional Cooperation in the Western Balkans (14-17 September, Budva)</i>	Exchange of views on the state of regional cooperation and the remaining challenges in SEE with the focus on regional security cooperation and cooperation in the fields of energy security, infrastructure and development.	Call for close cooperation between the Western Balkans and the EU in security issues; highlighted need for greater economic integration in the region.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
Cooperation with other international organizations	<i>88th Rose Roth Seminar of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (1 April, Belgrade)</i>	Discussion on the Euro-Atlantic integration and democratic consolidation in the Western Balkans, with the special attention dedicated to the fight against corruption and organised crime, as well as the foreign terrorist fighters.	Participation of the RCC in the dialogue at the parliamentary level on major security matters between NATO countries' legislators and their counterparts from partner nations.	Finalized
	<i>Sixty-sixth session of the UNECE (14 - 16 April, Geneva)</i>	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region; Endorsement of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing.	Representing the region; strengthening cooperation with other international organizations; contribution to the visibility of the RCC.	Finalized
	<i>UNDP and ILO regional conference on employment and social inclusion, entitled "Creating Jobs for Equity and Prosperity" (16-17 April, Skopje)</i>	Discussion on successful policy and programming responses aimed at promoting entrepreneurship as a solution to high youth unemployment; adapting skills and vocational training to meet market demands; fostering sustainable and green enterprises; as well as developing policies aimed at opening the labour market to hard-to-employ groups.	Better knowledge on the RCC activities with the focus on implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.	Finalized
	<i>The CEI networking meeting with other regional and international organizations operating in the CEI area (4 May 2015, Vienna)</i>	Update on cooperation between the CEI and other regional organizations and exchange of views on future joint actions.	Greater awareness on the RCC activities and expressed readiness for cooperation between RCC and other regional and international organizations.	Finalized
	<i>The XVIII Meeting of the Adriatic and Ionian Council (13 May, Brussels)</i>	Adoption of the joint declaration which looks forward to a wider involvement of Parliaments in All and EUSAIR activities and the organization of the first EUSAIR Governing Board meeting, with the EU Commission.	Commitment to strengthening inclusive dialogue and cooperation with other regional organisations and Initiatives, in order to exchange best practices and explore possible ground of cooperation in projects of importance for the Adriatic-Ionian Region.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
	<i>CEI Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting (15 June, Ohrid)</i>	Adoption of the Communiqué related to the latest developments in the CEI Region, in particular the European integration process, the interconnectivity at large and the security, stability and prosperity of the region as well as on the current and future role of the CEI.	Augmented visibility of the RCC and SEECP.	Finalized
	<i>The OSCE 15th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference “People at risk: combating human trafficking along migration routes” (6-7 July, Vienna)</i>	Enhancement of the coherence of international efforts when addressing human trafficking in the context of migration processes.	Increased cooperation among the OSCE participating States and other partners in the context of the implementation of their human trafficking and migration related commitments.	Finalized
SEE 2020 Horizontal Activities – Coordination, Programming and Monitoring of SEE 2020				
Coordination, Programming, Monitoring	<i>SEE 2020 National Roundtable in Sarajevo</i>	The roundtable was dropped due to issues regarding organization and still undefined coordination mechanism for SEE 2020 implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.	No outcomes in the reporting period.	Dropped
	<i>RCC Advisory Council</i>	The activity was dropped for 2015 and will be explored in 2016, as a way of engaging the academic community and senior policy makers in a structured dialogue on regional cooperation	No outcomes in the reporting period.	Dropped
	<i>Support to coordination of the economic agenda - consultant</i>	The action will support the development of a detailed agenda in the area of competitiveness and industrial development, as one of the four long-term flagships of the RCC.	No outcomes in the reporting period.	On-track
	<i>SEE 2020 Governing Board (21 May, Tirana)</i>	Review of the progress made, presentation of the Annual Report on Implementation of SEE 2020.	Annual Report on Implementation of SEE 2020 endorsed. Political guidance on the future implementation of SEE 2020 received.	Finalized
Communications	<i>Presentation of SEEDS (22 May, Tirana)</i>	Official launch and presentation of the South East Europe Development Scoreboard (SEEDS), as a	Presentation and promotion of SEEDS - web-based platform -www.rcc.int/seeds	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
		part of the RCC Annual meeting.	enabling monitoring of implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy, as well as public and business perception of the economic situation in the region, and in each of its economies.	
	<i>Interviews with Secretary General</i>	Interviews for regional TVs and newspapers in Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as regional media such as Aljazeera Balkan, Radio Free Europe and N1. Guest at TV show Vicinities (broadcasted in 7 economies in the region) together with Prime Ministers of Albania and Serbia Edi Rama and Aleksandar Vucic.	Raising awareness about the RCC activities and promoting SEEDS as a new monitoring tool produced by the RCC.	Finalized
	<i>Meetings with media representatives</i>	Engagement of SEE press core throughout the region.	Maximize the media coverage and create and maintain good relations with the media in SEE and SEE press core in Brussels.	On-track
	<i>Follow the most relevant activities of the RCC SG, the Program and the Political departments of RCC</i>	Press coverage included following a number of RCC activities conducted by the Secretary General, Political and Program departments, resulting in 10 news items, 12 press releases, and 1 Personal angle stories, which is in total 23 items.	Raising public awareness about the RCC activities and SEE 2020 Strategy and activities of the Secretary General.	Finalized
	<i>Western Balkans Civil Society Forum (26 August, Vienna)</i>	Civil society representatives identified ways in which they can contribute in overcoming the existing challenges in regional cooperation, freedom of expression, media freedoms and jobs and prosperity.	Assistance for including civil society components in the future RCC activities.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
Component 2: Implementing the SEE 2020 and the Stability and Rule of Law priorities				
Integrated Growth: Free trade; Competitiveness; Integration into the global economy;	<i>Regional Benchmark Study: Regional Investment Policy Review</i>	RCC engaged with UNCTAD to prepare the adequate legal basis for cooperation on this activity.	No outcomes in the reporting period.	On-track
	<i>Regional Programme; Investment Policy and Regional Integration</i>	Programme finalization underway with comments received from the EC, to be integrated in the final document.	No outcomes in the reporting period.	On-track
	<i>Joint Investment Working Group of SEE Investment Committee and CEFTA Meeting (12 May, Sarajevo)</i>	Regular meeting of SEE Ministries in charge of investment policies, Investment Promotion Agencies, and CEFTA contact points, to review the respective SEE 2020 pillar monitoring results (OECD Competitiveness Outlook), discuss prospects for regional investment agreements, and programme on investment policy and promotion regional integration.	Contributions to the final version of SEE 2020 monitoring - qualitative and quantitative (OECD Competitiveness Outlook); improved draft programme on regional investment policy and promotion integration.	Finalized
	<i>SEE Investment Committee (SEEIC) plenary session (18 June, Podgorica)</i>	A regional meeting of SEE Economic Teams to review and endorse results of the regional expert groups on SEE 2020 Sectors of priorities; establish a working group on industrial policy; save the date and start preparations for the SEEIC Ministerial Conference.	Verified and endorsed actions in support to food and beverages processing and tourism industry under the SEE 2020 Flagship: Sector Competitiveness and Industrial Development in SEE; Established regional industrial policy working group; Proposed a date for the SEEIC ministerial conference (4 December 2015).	Finalized
	<i>Combating Shadow Economy: A Necessity for Investments in South East Europe (28 April, Sarajevo)</i>	First regional meeting of tax and customs authorities to discuss the prospects of joint cooperation in combating illicit economic activities that are hampering trade and business climate in the region; in cooperation of the RCC and Foreign Investors Councils of the SEE.	First joint regional declaration on combating shadow economy in the region adopted, along with measures to be implemented nationally.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
	<i>Support to Sarajevo Business Forum (13 May, Sarajevo)</i>	A high-level regional business conference bringing together major stakeholders of regional and international government.	Participation and high-level visibility of the RCC through a specialized panel and overall theme of the conference: One Region – One Economy.	Finalized
Smart growth: Education and competences; R&D and Innovation; Digital Society; Culture and creative sectors;	<i>ERISEE governing board meeting (24 April, Belgrade)</i>	22 participants present at this meeting to discuss and adopt the Work Program and Budget for 2015-2016, as well as the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the Education and Competences.	Agreement reached on concrete activities envisaged for 2015-2016 in the education and competences dimension which paves way for implementation activities from the SEE2020 strategy in this dimension in the forthcoming period.	Finalized
	<i>11th Coordination Meeting of the Task Force on Culture and Society (28-29 April, Durres)</i>	A total of 36 representatives from the ministries of culture and NIPAC offices took part in the discussions on how to secure support for culture and creative sectors. The opportunity was also used to discuss and agree on the regional work plan of the TFCS for the rest of 2015, and the ongoing activities for promotion of the three Regional Programmes within the Cultural and Creative Sectors Dimension of the SEE2020 Strategy	Achieved agreement on joint actions, and the use of various funding programs and mechanisms. Awareness raised on the importance of CCS for the overall development.	Finalized
	<i>Regional Workshop - Education through Culture: Cultural Education for Sustainable Development 21 May, Tirana)</i>	Bringing together around 30 participants from the ministries in charge of culture of the SEECF participants, as well as officials of UNESCO and RCC, to discuss on legal and institutional reforms in the related area.	The event provided a platform for discussion on the objectives, experiences and challenges among the SEECF participants, assisted by UNESCO and RCC.	Finalized
	<i>3rd Regional Conference of the Balkan Museum Network (15-16 April, Novi Sad)</i>	Brought together 80 representatives of museums from the South East Europe and the European Union, museum managers, cultural heritage	The discussions on modalities of future cooperation between the Balkan Museum Network and the RCC,	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
		officials, exhibition curators, historians, archaeologists, architects, as well as the representatives of the international organisations active in the field of culture and cultural heritage.	especially the Task Force on Culture and Society.	
	<i>EUROCLIO Regional Summer School (12-15 August 2015)</i>	The Regional Summer School brought together 83 history educators and cultural heritage experts from the TFCS participants, European Association of History Educators, etc.	Strengthened cooperation and networking between the heritage and history practitioners. Raised awareness of cultures and identities working in cultural heritage; Enhanced cooperation in cross-sectoral approach between governmental and civil sector; Increased access to innovative cultural heritage approaches; Enhanced perception of cultural heritage as educational tool to improve social inclusion and promote development of creativity, innovation, skills and knowledge.	Finalized
	<i>Prepare marketing and promotional materials for the purpose of fundraising activities for the programmes developed under CCS Dimension (1- 20 April)</i>	Four brochures/flyers (400 copies in total) preparation for the: (i) cultural and creative sectors (general), (ii) promotion of cultural heritage rehabilitation, (iii) regional design incubator and (iv) regional audio visual fund.	Improved visibility on the cultural and creative sectors within the SEE 2020 Strategy.	Finalized
	<i>Electronic SEE working group meeting (19 May, Sarajevo)</i>	2 participants from ministries in charge of ICT of 9 eSEE initiative participants, UNDP and RCC discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The updated regional program on e-services, including the regional roaming component • The preparation for the ICT ministerial conference Agreement reached on the follow up to the eSEE	Round-up discussions on the regional program on e-services, prepare for the upcoming ICT ministerial conference in the second half of the year, and discuss the concrete operational platform for cooperation in ICT in the framework of eSEE initiative.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
		Agenda Plus.		
	<i>Study in the identified Digital Society priorities of the SEE 2020 Strategy</i>	The study will inform the process of regional cooperation in the area of ICT, with a possible focus in the field of roaming.	The study is postponed for Q3, following the meeting of the Ministers that should provide clear guidance and mandate on the activity (i.e. “roaming-free Balkans”).	Delayed
	<i>Ministerial conference on Digital Society</i>	Ministerial meeting will take place on September 30 th in Montenegro and the preparations are currently underway. Coordination is under way with the e-SEE Initiative members, UNDP Secretariat and Ministry of Information Society and Telecommunications of Montenegro for preparing the Ministerial Conference.	Ministers and Heads of Delegations are expected to adopt a Ministerial Declaration re-affirming the political commitment for enhanced regional cooperation in ICT sector, including the roaming costs reduction initiative.	On-track
Sustainable Growth: Energy; Transport; Environment; Competitiveness.	<i>Finalized dialogue with energy Community Secretariat on implementing joint actions</i>	Agreement on co-organizing the conference “Energy. Development. Democracy: How successful policy dialogue can ensure sustainable use of energy and climate protection in South East Europe?” to be held in Podgorica, Montenegro, 29-30 September 2015, in association with GIZ, RCC, ECS, Deutsche Bundesstiftung fur Umwelt and other partners.	Enhanced dialogue and ensured prospects for further coordination and cooperation; opening opportunities for larger joint activities in the period 2016-2019.	Finalized
	<i>Joint elaboration of the flagship proposal “Adding Value to Infrastructure Investments by Enhancing Soft Connectivity in SEE”</i>	Enhanced dialogue and ensured prospects for further coordination and cooperation.	Flagship drafted and presented for approval.	Finalized
	<i>Facilitate and promote transfer of advanced sustainable energy technologies to the countries of the region</i>	Joint elaboration of the flagship proposal “Adding Value to Infrastructure Investments by Enhancing Soft Connectivity in SEE” and Proposed Action Under The Flagship “Better Connected Consumers and Decision Makers in the Energy Sector - Path to Common SEE Energy Market”.	Enhanced dialogue and ensured prospects for further coordination and cooperation; opening opportunities for larger joint activities in the period 2016-2019.	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 ²
	<i>Meeting of the Working Group on the SEE2020 Regional Programme on Air Transport (Sarajevo, 7 April)</i>	The Working Group brought together 15 participants from the Civil Aviation Authorities and Air Navigation Services Providers in order to discuss and further profile the Regional Programme.	Increased capacities of the national administrations on the project cycle management and support provided to further improve the projects proposed within RP	Finalized
	<i>Meeting of the Working Group on NSA (National Supervisory Authorities) Expert Pool Projects (Banja Luka, 20 May)</i>	Meeting gathered 12 participants from Civil Aviation Authorities to discuss the ongoing activities as regards the Regional NSAs Pool of Experts Project and the related Cooperation Agreement.	Established and formalized cooperation among NSAs; enabled regional data sharing and transfer of knowledge on SES regulation, promoted regional abilities and capacities.	Finalized
	<i>ISIS (Implementation of the Single European Sky in SEE) Governing Body meeting (Banja Luka, 21 May)</i>	Meeting gathered 20 participants from CAAs who presented the conducted activities, identified the way forward and validated the future ISIS II activities.	Enhanced political commitments of the national administrations to implement the Single European Sky II requirements.	Finalized
	<i>Establishment of Working Group/Forum on Infrastructure</i>	Meeting planned for the first half of the year has been dropped due to delays in finalizing the REBIS Study whose inputs are needed for preparing ToRs. The meeting will be replaced with a meeting to promote the results of the Intermodal Study.	No outcomes in the reporting period.	Dropped
	<i>Designing policy questionnaires for every transport mode and cross-sectoral solutions to engage different policy areas (such as trade, energy, environment, R&D);</i>	No activities in the reporting period.	No outcomes in the reporting period.	On-track
	<i>Finalization of the Intermodal Study (ongoing contract)</i>	Mid-term and Interim report were received and approved.	Tracking the progress in preparing the study.	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 ²
	<i>Liaise with REC, ECRAN, national and regional partners in order to develop regional targets and indicators</i>	Organized inaugural meeting of the Regional Working Group on Environment, held in Podgorica, Montenegro on May 14, 2015.	Efficient coordination process in the field of environment started in SEE.	Finalized
		Onset of preparations for the 2 nd meeting of the Regional Working Group on Environment to be held in Przno, Montenegro on 8 October 2015	Setting up the list of regional priority issues in the environmental sector to be utilized for further programming.	On-track
	<i>Study / Analysis: Business Synergies and Connectivity between South Eastern European Economies and Turkey</i>	Prepared a study in cooperation of the RCC and Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV); National consultations held in the SEE with relevant stakeholders (governments, businesses, think-tanks, civil society) for the goal of drafting a study on developing business synergies between Turkey and the SEE, and prospects of utilizing these synergies for increasing competitiveness of the region. Project to continue until Q4 2015, when the final study is expected to be launched, along with recommendations for SEE-Turkish business Cooperation.	A roadmap for strengthening links between the Western Balkans and Turkey's private sectors, and prospective on the Turkish private sector possibility of contributing to the achievement of SEE 2020 targets. Inception report of the study produced, followed by the first draft.	On-track
	<i>Synthesis Workshop on Analysis: "Business Synergies between South East Europe Economies and Turkey" (21 July, Sarajevo,)</i>	Initial findings of the Analysis "Strengthening the Connectivity and Business Synergies in the South East Europe" presented by the RCC and TEPAV to the stakeholders from the SEE's government, diplomatic, business and civil sector involved in the preparation of the study.	First draft of the subject study produced.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
	<i>G20/B20 Conference: Panel on Business Synergies between SEE Economies and Turkey (4 September, Ankara)</i>	Panel on Business Synergies between SEE Economies and Turkey held under the umbrella of one of the most prominent global political/business events and in cooperation of the RCC and Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey.	Findings of the study launched at one of the largest global business events, with inputs and recommendation for further SEE-Turkey cooperation.	Finalized
	<i>SEEIC Tourism Expert Group meeting (21-22 April, Belgrade)</i>	Regular regional meeting of relevant ministries in charge of tourism industry, national tourism boards and private sector representatives, in order to: 1) develop policy responses to main sector barriers in cooperation with OECD Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative Project and 2) draft the regional programme actions under the SEE 2020 Flagship Industrial Competitiveness in SEE.	Flagship on Sector Competitiveness and Industrial Development in SEE produced with activities pertaining to New Vision to SEE's Tourism Development; Main policy responses to the sector barrier (skills gap) developed under the NGCI Project, but also included in the respective SEE 2020 Flagship.	Finalized
	<i>SEEIC Tourism Expert Group meeting (planned for Q2 of 2015)</i>	Please see row above.	Please see row above.	Moved to TEG meeting of 21-22 April (one 2-day event, instead of 2 1-day events). Considered finalized
	<i>SEEIC Food and Beverages Expert Working Group meeting (22 May, Paris)</i>	Regular regional meeting of relevant ministries in charge of food and beverages processing and private sector representatives, in order to: 1) develop policy responses to main sector barriers in cooperation with OECD Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative Project and 2) draft the regional programme actions under the SEE 2020 Flagship Industrial Competitiveness in SEE.	Flagship on Sector Competitiveness and Industrial Development in SEE produced with activities pertaining to Strengthening Competitiveness and Improving Business Climate in the SEE with a Focus on Food and Beverages Processing Industry; Main policy responses to the sector barrier (skills gap) developed under the	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
			NGCI Project, but also included in the respective SEE 2020 Flagship.	
	<i>SEE Industrial Policy Working Group Meeting</i>	No results during reporting period / working group recently established and meeting postponed for Fall 2015.	No outcomes during reporting period / working group recently established and meeting postponed for Fall 2015.	Delayed for Fall 2015
Inclusive Growth: Employment; Health.	<i>Social Agenda Working Group meetings</i>	A regional meeting of representatives of 7 SEE ministries of labour to discuss cooperation on labour mobility and social economy was delayed. All feedback from line ministries on the roadmap for facilitating labour mobility needs to be received and processed before the next meeting, thus the meeting is rescheduled for second half of 2015.	A regional commitment reached for facilitating labour mobility based on a finalized and adopted roadmap and a regional roadmap for social economy development discussed.	Delayed for Q5 2015
	<i>Joint working group meeting on mutual recognition of professional qualifications</i>	The regional meeting gathered 25 representatives from ministries of trade, education and labour to adopt ToRs and agree on the steps to be followed towards the mutual recognition of professional qualifications.	Only some of the Ministries appointed the nominees to the group and the rest need to do so by the next meeting. ToRs were updated and commented during the meeting and the second meeting was scheduled for September 25 th 2015 whereby the ToRs will be adopted jointly with the devised work plan of the Joint WG for 2015-2016 which was adjusted to the updated ToRs.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
	<i>SEEHN consultations with other regional initiatives</i>	4 to 5 meetings between representatives of SEE Health Network and other relevant regional initiatives scheduled for Q1 and then rescheduled for the second half of 2015. Representatives of the SEEHN required additional time to prepare well for the consultations.	No outcomes during the reporting period.	Delayed / rescheduled for Q4 of 2015
	<i>Feasibility study on opportunities for investment in health in the framework of inclusive growth</i>	The study will identify areas with health as an entry point for investment.	Investments in health contribute to both better health outcomes and the overall goals of the SEE 2020 Strategy.	On track (ToRs under preparation)
	<i>Feasibility study on a cross border platform for emergency and response</i>	Assessment of existing systems, identification of needs and solutions.	A cross border platform to better respond to emergencies and better implement international health regulations.	On track ToRs are in finalization phase
	<i>Joint elaboration of the flagship proposal Skills and Mobility</i>	The flagship on Skills and mobility builds on the enhanced inter-linkages between inclusive, smart and integrated growth pillars and will support building capacities to design, monitor and coordinate interventions in education, labour market, employment, mobility and migration policies to address the challenges of the 21 st century labour market in the Western Balkans.	Flagship drafted and presented for approval.	On track Flagship in finalization phase
	<i>Submission of IPA MC proposal on Employment Platform</i>	The developed proposal is intended to contribute towards establishing and strengthening cooperation at the regional level related to labour market and social reforms; enhancing the capacities of the relevant administrations to plan, implement and monitor reforms through exchange of experience, good practices, utilization of methodological and analytical tools	Implementation of SEE2020 goals in the area of inclusive growth related to improved labour market governance and regional labour mobility.	On track Expected contracting by end of 2015

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 ²
		available at EU level, etc.; strengthening the existing Public Employment Services Network with a view to facilitating the SEE 2020 labour mobility objective and preparations for future participation in EURES (European Employment Services).		
	<i>Working group meetings of the SEEHN (14-15 May, Sarajevo)</i>	30 representatives of SEEHN and partner organizations to discuss the implementation of the health dimension of the SEE 2020 strategy and prepare for the forthcoming ministerial conference on health in June 2015.	SEEHN representatives initiate the implementation of tasks assigned in the context of the health dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy.	Finalized
	<i>Joint SEE Health Network / WHO Regional Office for Europe Ad-hoc Meeting of the Ministers of Health of the SEEHN Member States (22-23 June, Belgrade)</i>	Discussions at political level on further steps to strengthen the SEE regional cooperation for public health. Decision on the personnel of the SEEHN Secretariat.	Peer support and exchange of experiences. Failure to agree on the appointment of the director of the SEEHN secretariat.	Finalized
Governance for Growth: Effective public services; Anticorruption; Justice;	<i>Upgrading Policy and Regulatory Capacity: Study on regulatory impact Assessment</i>	ToR for conducting comparative study on Regulatory Impact Assessment prepared, tender launched, evaluation committee to meet on 20 July	Comparative study on Regulatory Impact Assessment	Delayed (or possibly dropped)
	<i>Subsidiarity and Multi-level Governance: Study on Decentralization Observatory for SEE</i>	ToR for conducting comparative study on Regulatory Impact Assessment prepared, tender launched, evaluation committee to meet on 20 July.	Comparative Study for Inception of Decentralization Observatory.	On-track
	<i>Technical assistance in corruption risk assessment and corruption proofing of legislation (May 2015)</i>	Development of CRA and CPL Methodologies; Organization of the Anti-corruption conference to present the developed methodologies.	Methodologies developed, studies published, conference organized.	Finalized
	<i>Mapping the anti-corruption actors in South East Europe</i>	Researching and collecting anti-corruption policy documents in countries; Developing ToRs for	Regional Anti-corruption Resource centre for South East Europe is created	Dropped

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 ²
		online anti-corruption Resource Centre	with all (government and non-government) bodies presented	
	<i>Completion of three assessments with recommendations: 'E-enforcement on the basis of authentic documents', 'Court related mediation' and 'Court backlog reduction programmes' (May 2015)</i>	Development of the three Studies planned in regional Action plan in Justice dimension, giving the overview of the best practices in the region and some EU member states and recommendation for the possible improvements of the system in the Beneficiaries efficiency of judiciary.	Recommendations for the possible improvements of the efficiency of judiciaries in the Beneficiaries. Reports will be put on RCC web page.	Finalized
	<i>Regional Conference 'Court Backlogs Reduction Programmes and Practices – presentation of Study'(14 May, Cavtat)</i>	Bringing together members of the Working Group on Justice, experts responsible for court backlog reduction programmes and RCC consultants/experts who delivered the Study/Report, to discuss the interim Report "Court backlog reduction programmes and practices and comparative overview of various case weighting systems' and to exchange experiences and best practice.	Provide an overview of the court backlog reduction systems in Western Balkans and some of the EU member states, as well as to propose possible solutions that could be acceptable for the Beneficiaries.	Finalized
	<i>Regional Conference 'Court Annexed Mediation', (26 May, Fruška Gora)</i>	Bringing together members of the Working Group on Justice, experts responsible for court backlog reduction programmes and RCC consultants/experts who delivered the Study/Report, to discuss the interim Report "Court Annexed Mediation" and to exchange experiences and best practice.	Provide an overview of the court annexed mediation systems in Western Balkans and some of the EU member states, as well as to propose possible solutions that could be acceptable for the Beneficiaries.	Finalized
	<i>Preparatory meeting "Establishment of the network/platform of judicial and prosecutorial councils" (11 June, Bar)</i>	The first of the regular meetings held. Exchange of practices and personal contacts among the representatives of the councils.	Peer support and regular exchange of experiences. Discussions on common practice and lessons learned.	Finalized
	<i>Preparatory meeting "Establishment of the SEE training institutions"</i>	The first of the regular meetings held. Exchange of practices and personal contacts among the	Peer support and regular exchange of experiences. Discussions on common	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
	<i>network", 23 June, Sarajevo)</i>	representatives of the judicial training institutions. Institution building.	practice and lessons learned.	
Promoting Stability and Rule of Law - JHA and Security Cooperation				
Justice and Home Affairs	<i>Mapping of all regional activities in the field of fighting serious and organized crime</i>	Activity delayed – consultations still ongoing with the involved stakeholders on the nature and scope of such exercise. Activity to be implemented once a consensus is reached on the feasibility, relevance and scope of the exercise.	Updated information on all regional actors and activities in the area of fighting against serious and organized crime, as well as against terrorism.	Delayed
Security cooperation: Supporting, coordinating and monitoring the activities of the Regional Initiatives and Task Forces in SEE	<i>30th Regional Meeting of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative of South East Europe - DPPI SEE (22-23 April, Belgrade)</i>	Agreement on the way to finalize the proposed project of joint procurement of equipment for flood preparedness training.	Enhanced disaster preparedness training and coordination in SEE, with the RCC's support.	Finalized
	<i>Bilateral consultations with the relevant national authorities of the RCC Participants in security sector (22-24 April, Belgrade; 19-20 May, Skopje; 26-27 May, Podgorica)</i>	Exchange of information and views about the ongoing regional security cooperation; identifying obstacles to cooperation and ways to improve it.	Support for the RCC's ongoing and planned activities in the security policy area; enhanced dialogue with RCC Participants from SEE.	Finalized
	<i>The 5th meeting of the South East Europe National Security Authority Chiefs' Forum –SEENSA (20 May, Skopje)</i>	Endorsement of the conclusions of working groups (education and training, cyber security, security agreements); decision on the host of the next SEENSA meeting (Montenegro); decision to establish SEENSA website	With the RCC's support: way forward for SEENSA as an useful regional security cooperation format; more efficient vetting and training; enhanced exchange of information and good practices.	Finalized
	<i>The Balkan Security Summit (21-22 May, Tirana)</i>	Policy recommendations for the SEE governments in countering radicalization, especially countering extremist propaganda (online and offline)	Guidance for the RCC role in countering radicalization and violent extremism leading to terrorism and the outflow of foreign fighters.	Finalized
	<i>Bilateral consultations with the U.S. State Department's representative (21 May, Tirana)</i>	Recommendations for future cooperation and the RCC engagement in countering radicalization and violent extremism leading to terrorism and the outflow of foreign fighters (CVE-CT-FF)	Guidance for the RCC role in countering radicalization and violent extremism leading to terrorism and the outflow of foreign fighters.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
	<i>The 4th Formal Regional Meeting of SEE SALW Commissions (25-26 May, Budva)</i>	Exchange good practices and lessons learnt as regards the legal solutions for the SALW arms control and their implementation	Further development of regional cooperation in the area of arms control (small arms and light weapons – SALW).	Finalized
	<i>Consultations with the relevant EU and NATO officials in the security policy area, with an emphasis on CVE-CT-FF, (1-3 June, Brussels)</i>	Recommendations for the RCC's ongoing and future engagement in CVE-CT-FF and the regional security cooperation in general, and the ways and means of the EU and NATO support and cooperation; recommendations for secure ways of communication in regional security cooperation formats	Guidance for the RCC role in CVE-CT-FF, especially on how to establish political/strategic level coordination at a national and regional level; more secure and efficient communication between the participants in the regional security cooperation formats; enhanced dialogue with NATO and EU institutions.	Finalized
	<i>The SEE Defence Ministerial (SEDM) Deputy Chiefs of Defence Meeting (4 June, Tirana)</i>	Adoption of a joint statement where commitment to further advance in the harmonization of regional defence and security cooperation in SEE is stressed.	The RCC's mission to strongly support the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the RCC participants was reiterated, together with the support of the RCC for the SEDM and its mission.	Finalized
	<i>The South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs' Forum Expert Working Group-SEEMIC EWG (9 June, Athens)</i>	Consensus achieved on the text of the Open Source Intelligence Assessment (OSINT Ass.); decision on the time and place of the next main SEEMIC; next SEEMIC chairman (host) proposed (Moldova); decision to explore the way for more efficient secure participants' communication, in accordance with the EU recommendations	RCC's support for SEEMIC cooperation was reiterated; preparation of the main SEEMIC conference, which is going to be held in the 4 th quarter of 2015; way forward for the establishment of a more efficient way of communication between the participants.	Finalized
	<i>OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference (30 June-1 July, Vienna)</i>	Exchange of good practices and lessons learnt in CVE-CT-FF, with an emphasis on countering extremist propaganda	Useful input for the planned RCC activities in the CVE-CT-FF area.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
	<i>Consultations with RACVIAC and relevant Croatian national authorities - RCC national coordinator and Military Intelligence (13 July, Zagreb)</i>	Exchange of information and views, explaining plans for continued cooperation, identifying obstacles.	Useful input for the planned RCC activities in the CVE-CT-FF area, and in security policy cooperation issues more broadly.	Finalized
	<i>The Special Meeting of the UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee on stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (27-28 July, Madrid)</i>	Adoption of conclusions on advancing the follow-up to Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) on better stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.	Agreement among participants on the need of a comprehensive multidisciplinary global strategy on countering the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters.	Finalized
	<i>First Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (7 September, Dubrovnik)</i>	Representation of the RCC at the global disarmament conference, which aims at greatly reducing production, storage, and use of cluster munitions.	Political support to the ban of cluster munitions in SEE, region which suffered from their use in recent past.	Finalized
	<i>Consultations with the UNODC on countering radicalization and violent extremism leading to terrorism and the outflow of foreign terrorist fighters (9 September, Vienna)</i>	Exchange of information on current and planned activities in CVE-FTF field, identifying possible areas for cooperation.	Identification of possible gaps and overlapping, initiating future practical cooperation.	Finalized
	<i>South East Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) Politico-Military Steering Committee (PMSC) meeting; bilateral consultations with relevant authorities of Turkey (16 - 18 September, Ankara)</i>	Decision on offering South East Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG) to NATO, defining way forward after Italy's withdrawal from SEEBRIG, continuation of inclusion of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a full-fledged member of SEDM and SEEBRIG.	Continued development of defence (especially military-to-military) cooperation in SEE.	Finalized
Extending Participation, Widening Partnerships – Cross-cutting Issues				
Gender Mainstreaming	<i>Regional Conference on Women Entrepreneurship Legislation (15 May, Sarajevo)</i>	Conference of women entrepreneurs and relevant government representatives, in discussion about legislation pertaining to women	Proposals developed for particular changes in labour law, company law, and development of SME/Women	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
		entrepreneurship in Bosnia and Herzegovina, held in cooperation of the RCC and Association of Business Women of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with support of associations of women entrepreneurs from other SEE economies and their best practice examples.	Entrepreneurship Strategy proposals for Bosnia and Herzegovina.	
	<i>Cetinje Parliamentary Forum on Women Entrepreneurship (8-9 June, Cetinje)</i>	Forum of SEE Parliaments' economic/finance committees and gender committees on prospective improvements needed for legislation in support to women entrepreneurship, held in cooperation of RCC and Parliament of Montenegro.	Joint regional declaration on proposals for legislative improvements and concrete actions in support to women entrepreneurship in SEE adopted.	Finalized
	<i>Board Meeting of the Project "Women Entrepreneurship – A Job Creation Engine in SEE" (13 July, Sarajevo)</i>	Regular project board meeting, reviewing the semi-annual report on the achieved results, reviewing the regular annual audit report, discussion on the next steps.	Semi-annual report approved by the donor; audit report approved by the donor.	Finalized
Parliamentary cooperation	<i>The 2nd meeting of the Working Group of the Parliamentary Assembly of the SEECP (17 April, Tirana)</i>	Debate on finalizing work on the draft documents related to the institutionalization of the SEECP PA (the draft budget and seat for the SEECP PA Secretariat).	No consensus has been reached on the issues related to the SEECP PA Secretariat.	On-track
	<i>International Parliamentarian Conference of Dubrovnik Process: Cooperation for Economic Growth and Energy Security in Southeast Europe (24-26 April, Cavtat)</i>	Discussion on increasing energy security for the SEE region, investments in energy infrastructure and energy efficiency; boosting trade and economic development in SEE on the path to European integration.	Ensuring further support of the parliamentarians from SEE, Germany and European Parliament for the successful implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
	<i>The 2nd Session of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly (23 May, Tirana)</i>	Adoption of the Joint Declaration where SEE parliaments expressed their determination to ensure that the SEECP PA becomes a valuable interlocutor for the European Parliament; pointed out to the importance of developing projects of common interest in the region and connect them with the activities of the EC.	A greater parliamentary oversight within the SEECP. Ensured all-inclusiveness of SEE parliamentary cooperation.	Finalized
Roma Integration 2020	<i>Workshop on "Thematic evaluation on IPA support to Roma communities, 2007-2013 (15 April, Brussels)</i>	Preparation of Evaluation report, focusing on DG NEAR Cooperation with international organisations, civil society, supporting Roma inclusion, Quality of intervention logic in IPA programmes 2007-2013, performance of IPA Roma programmes, quality of monitoring systems in enlargement countries.	Tentative findings, conclusions and recommendations of thematic evaluation on IPA support to Roma communities launched by DG NEAR in close consultation with key stakeholders.	Finalized
	<i>Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 International Workshop "Integrated approach to social inclusion of Roma through housing and employment", (18-20 May, Sarajevo)</i>	Assessing problem of homeless Roma families, discussing model of sustainable social housing, construction of housing units in accordance with international adequate standards and sharing lessons on legalization of informal Roma settlements and integrated approach to sustainable housing addressing employment and other social services.	Networking and assessment of Decade of Roma Inclusion results.	Finalized
	<i>EU Seminar on Roma Inclusion in Bosnia and Herzegovina (18-19 June, Sarajevo)</i>	Mapping and assessing the effectiveness of implementation of Roma related Action Plans and Strategy in B&H as regards education, employment, housing, civil registration and health.	Assessment of current state of affairs, strengthening cooperation amongst stakeholders, networking; input for Commission in the preparation and possible readjustment of EC policies, strategies, programmes and actions to support Roma communities.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS /deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion ²
	<i>9th Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues - CAHROM (27-29 May, Strasbourg)</i>	Discussion on Roma-related strategic priorities and recent developments: work engaged by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency to develop an indicators' template assessing national Roma inclusion strategies; gender/Roma women; ROMED and ROMACT joint programmes with the EC; proposal to set up a European Roma Institute; Presentation of upcoming RCC initiative in the "Coalition of International Organisations on Roma Inclusion"	Consultation with stakeholders, networking, preliminary discussions on formalizing the RCC participation to CAHROM; further progress in the preparation of the Roma Integration 2020 to be implemented under RCC umbrella.	Finalized
	<i>Final report of the thematic evaluation on IPA support to Roma communities (23 June, Brussels)</i>	Conclusions on performance of EU pre-accession assistance under IPA targeted to Roma communities, and identification of key lessons and recommendations to improve the future programming of IPA II assistance in the enlargement countries.	Final assessment on the implementation of IPA I Roma related projects.	Finalized
	<i>Consultations on Roma Integration 2020 (22-24 June, Brussels)</i>	Discussions on the Roma Integration 2020 Description of Action (DoA).	Finalisation of Description of Action (DoA).	On-track
	<i>Roma Decade Closing event - 8th International Steering Committee meeting (10-11 September, Sarajevo)</i>	Roundtable discussion on the achievements and shortfalls of the Decade; presentation of the Roma Inclusion Index; launch of a publication that aims to take stock and reflect on the developments of Roma inclusion since 2005. The event also provided additional information about the Roma Integration 2020 regional project.	Presentation of RCC's involvement in the upcoming Roma Integration 2020 regional initiative.	Finalized

3. Management and Operations

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

The Kingdom of Belgium has conditioned the implementation of relevant provisions of the Headquarters Agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium and the RCC Secretariat providing for the fiscal privileges and immunities of the Head and Deputy Head of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels with the issuing of an official authentic interpretation concerning the implementation of Article 17.1.(d) of the Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Governments of the other SEECP Participating States, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo on behalf of Kosovo* in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, on the Host Country Arrangements for the Secretariat of the RCC (Host Country Agreement) by the Parties to this Agreement in which the principle of taxability of the officials of the RCC Secretariat in their countries/places of origin and/or permanent residence would be explicitly confirmed. After a consultation procedure initiated by the RCC Secretary General in August 2008 it became evident that the adoption of an interpretative declaration amending the Agreement would not be acceptable to some of the Parties to the Host Country Agreement, as they consider that such declaration would run counter to the spirit of the current provisions of the Agreement and would lead to its de facto amendment. In light of the principles of general international law, the only recourse in this situation would be to proceed with amending the Host Country Agreement accordingly, in light of the request from the Kingdom of Belgium. This, however, remains subject to the will of the Parties to the Host Country Agreement. In this view, the RCC Secretary General sent a communication to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in early January 2009, proposing to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a Party to and, at the same time, a depositary of the Host Country Agreement to consider the possibility of initiating the process of amending relevant provisions of the Agreement in order to provide for requested confirmation of taxability. This proposal of the RCC Secretary General is still under consideration by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The RCC Liaison Office 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).

* 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.

During the reporting period, three new staff members have joined the RCC Secretariat: Mr. Marinko Raos as the Senior Advisor on Security Policy Issues; Ms. Maja Handjiska – Trendafilova as the Senior Expert on Inclusive Growth and Ms. Vanja Ivosevic as the Senior Expert on Smart Growth.

The RCC Secretariat has published new vacancies for the following positions:

1. Head of the Liaison Office in Brussels for the RCC Secretariat - deadline for submission of applications 5 July 2015;
2. Senior Advisor of the Liaison Office in Brussels for the RCC Secretariat - deadline for submission of applications 5 July 2015;

The RCC Secretary General, in accordance with his competences and following the recommendation of the selection committee, completed the hiring process.

4. Key Challenges in the Reporting Period

Some of the key challenges faced by the RCC in implementing its Strategy and Work Programme during the reporting period are summarized below:

- In relation to the commencement of the Regional Investment Policy Review, the RCC Secretariat has been facing a challenge in setting legal grounds for cooperation with UNCTAD, given the existing rules of the UN in terms of signing legal agreements, which are not subject to the rules stipulated by the RCC Rules and Procedures. The solution is being sought, and will be subject to a request from the RCC to the EC for a special permission for entering a legal agreement with UNCTAD.
- In the culture and creative dimension, the issue of funding remains to be the main concern affecting the sustainability of the Task Force for Culture and Society. RCC Secretariat is currently reviewing all possible options to address this issue over the coming months.
- On the gender mainstreaming issue, provided that the SIDA-funded project “Women Entrepreneurship – A Job Creation Engine in SEE” is coming to its planned closing by the end of 2015, the RCC should consider the means of future activities in regards to this subject and prospectively find new donor funding for similar activities.

5. State of financial contributions to the RCC Secretariat's budget for 2015

Contribution		Commitments	Paid	Not Paid
Contributing Countries (Donors)				
	Austria	50.000,00	50.000,00	0,00
	Czech Republic	50.000,00	50.000,00	0,00
	Federal Republic of Germany	50.000,00		50.000,00
	Finland**	50.000,00		0,00
	Hungary	50.000,00	50.000,00	0,00
	Italy	50.000,00	50.000,00	0,00
	Ireland	50.000,00	50.000,00	0,00
	Latvia	50.000,00	50.000,00	0,00
	Norway	50.000,00		50.000,00
	Sweden	50.000,00		50.000,00
	Switzerland	65.000,00	50.000,00	0,00
	United States of America	60.000,00	71.500,00	0,00
	Total contributing countries donors:	625.000,00	421.500,00	150.000,00
European Community 2015 contract				
		3.575.000,00	3.196.301,27	378.698,73
South East Europe Contributors				
	Albania	60.000,00	60.000,00	0,00
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	60.000,00	60.000,00	0,00
	Bulgaria	140.000,00	140.000,00	0,00
	Croatia	80.000,00	40.000,00	40.000,00
	Greece	140.000,00	140.000,00	0,00
	Kosovo*	40.000,00		40.000,00
	Moldova	40.000,00	40.000,00	0,00
	Montenegro	40.000,00	40.000,00	0,00
	Romania	140.000,00	140.000,00	0,00
	Serbia	80.000,00	80.000,00	0,00
	Slovenia	80.000,00	80.000,00	0,00
	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	60.000,00		60.000,00
	Turkey	140.000,00	140.000,00	0,00
	Set Aside Funds	200.000,00	200.000,00	0,00
	Total South East Europe Contributors:	1.300.000,00	1.160.000,00	140.000,00
Total Committed Funds		5.500.000,00	4.777.801,27	668.698,73

*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.

** Finland no longer contributes to the Budget of the RCC Secretariat

Annex: RCC Annual Work Plan for 2015

Component 1:	Horizontal activities, including political activities, coordination of SWP 2014-2016 and SEE 2020 Strategy implementation, monitoring and programming, communications					
	<i>Objective: Position RCC as the main focal point and the leading resource for governments, donors, civil sector and others engaging in regional cooperation</i>					
PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
<i>Meetings of the RCC Board (three meetings)</i>	x	x		x	<i>Meetings</i>	<p><i>Establish or maintain functioning coordination mechanisms with the governments, private sector, business community and civil society; Finalize the first programming cycle; Complete the annual monitoring cycle. Establish an understanding and awareness of what the RCC does, to raise and maintain support, including political and financial, based on its mission to promote mutual cooperation and European and Euro-Atlantic integration of South East Europe</i></p>
<i>RCC Annual Meeting (one meeting)</i>		x			<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Coordination Meetings between the SEECP Troika, RCC Secretariat and EU (four meetings)</i>	x	x		x	<i>Meetings</i>	
<i>SEECP support: Political Directors meetings (three meetings)</i>	x	x		x	<i>Meetings</i>	
<i>SEECP support: Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (three meetings)</i>	x	x	x		<i>Meetings</i>	
<i>SEECP support: SEECP Summit (one meeting)</i>		x			<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>SEECP support: Parliamentary cooperation (two meetings)</i>	x	x			<i>Meetings</i>	
<i>SEECP support: consultations with SEECP participants (six events)</i>	x	x	x	x	<i>Political consultations</i>	
<i>Annual briefings for Ambassadors in Brussels</i>			x		<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Regular consultations of SG with European Union institutions and services</i>	x	x	x	x	<i>Meetings</i>	
<i>Briefing of SG in COWEB</i>		x			<i>Conference</i>	
<i>Participation of SG in the high level conference on the Balkans, organized by Friends of Europe</i>				x	<i>Conference</i>	
<i>Coordination meeting of the regional organizations</i>		x			<i>Regional meeting</i>	
<i>SEE 2020 National Roundtable in Podgorica</i>	x				<i>Roundtable</i>	

<i>SEE 2020 National Roundtable in Tirana</i>	x				<i>Roundtable</i>	
<i>SEE 2020 National Roundtable in Belgrade</i>	x				<i>Roundtable</i>	
<i>Organization of the first meeting of the SEE2020 Monitoring Task Force</i>	x				<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>SEE 2020 National Roundtable in Pristina</i>	x				<i>Roundtable</i>	
<i>SEE 2020 National Roundtable in Skopje</i>	x				<i>Roundtable</i>	
<i>Organizing the first meeting of the Programming Committee of SEE 2020 to start the programming process for 2015</i>	x				<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Donor Coordination Meeting</i>	x				<i>Conference</i>	
<i>SEE 2020 National Roundtable in Sarajevo</i>	x				<i>Roundtable</i>	
<i>First Meeting of the RCC Business Forum</i>	x				<i>Conference</i>	
<i>RCC Advisory Council</i>		x			<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>SEE 2020 Governing Board</i>		x			<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Second meeting of the Programming Committee</i>				x	<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Support to coordination of the economic agenda - consultant</i>		x			<i>Tool/toolkit</i>	
<i>PR: Follow the most relevant activities of the Secretary General, the Program and the Political departments</i>	x	x	x	x	<i>Outreach events</i>	

Component 2:	Implementing the SEE 2020 and the Stability and Rule of Law priorities					
	<i>Objective: Improve connectivity, mobility and industrial development of SEE while complementing national efforts to improve public administration and strengthen the rule of law</i>					
PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Integrated Growth						
<i>Regional Investment Policy Review</i>				x	<i>Study</i>	<i>A regional roadmap established in the area of investment policy and promotion to support further regional investment integration</i>
<i>SEE Investment Committee and CEFTA Investment Working Group</i>		x			<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>SEE Investment Committee plenary session</i>		x			<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>SEE Investment Committee and CEFTA Investment Working Group</i>				x	<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>SEE Investment Committee plenary session</i>				x	<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>SEE Investment Committee ministerial (high-level) meeting</i>				x	<i>Conference</i>	
Smart Growth						
<i>Regional workshop on "Networks of Excellence"</i>	x				<i>Workshop</i>	<i>Two regional programs on networks of excellence and early stage start-ups developed to promote institutional and policy reforms and facilitate strategic investments; Enable establishment of WISE and its Secretariat as implementer of the Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation and R&D and innovation dimension coordinator for SEE 2020.</i>
<i>Existing contract - consultant on 'Networks of Excellence'</i>	x				<i>Report</i>	
<i>SEECF format "Networks of Excellence"- exchanging best practices from SEE</i>	x				<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>Regional workshop "Early Stage Start-up Program"</i>		x			<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>Develop a regional program on Early stage start-ups as one of the four main objectives of the Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation</i>		x			<i>Study</i>	
<i>WISE Steering Committee meeting (goals objectives of the R&D sector in SEE)</i>			x		<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Regional Scientific Forum (deliberations of WISE statutory documents)</i>	x				<i>Conference</i>	
<i>Regional workshop on Teacher Education and Training</i>	x				<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>Completion of existing contract - consultant on 'Teacher education and Training'</i>	x				<i>Study</i>	

<i>ERISEE governing board meeting</i>	x				<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Regional expert pool expanded, promoting further linkages in CCS, Increase contribution of the cultural and creative sectors to economic development</i>
<i>Two Coordination Meetings of the Task Force on Culture and Society</i>	x		x		<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Expand and rename the Ljubljana Process Regional Expert Pool in a way to have 3 categories covering Cultural and Creative Sectors (include experts on audio-visual, design and heritage) -Inauguration conference and workshop and creation of online database:</i>		x			<i>Conference</i>	
<i>Prepare marketing and promotional materials for the purpose of fundraising activities for the programs developed under CCS Dimension (with a focus on heritage)</i>	x				<i>Promotional material</i>	
<i>Organize a regional training for indicators in culture in cooperation with UNESCO and OECD</i>			x		<i>Training package</i>	
<i>Organize innovative on-site learning training activity targeted to history, heritage and citizenship educators in cooperation with EUROCLIO</i>			x		<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>Regional coordination (workshops/working group meetings)</i>	x		x		<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Ministerial conference</i>		x			<i>Conference</i>	<i>Increased political momentum for digital society and e-governance development; detailed assessment of current conditions and the development of concrete regional actions to increase connectivity</i>
<i>Study in the identified Digital Society priorities of the SEE 2020 Strategy</i>		x			<i>Study</i>	
Sustainable Growth						
<i>Establishment of Working Group/Forum on Infrastructure and first meeting</i>		x			<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Optimization of individual transport modes and promotion of green & energy efficient transport; Attracting international transport flows and increasing the mobility in the region through further development of the SEE Comprehensive Network;Contribute to the elimination of transport non-physical barriers;Encourage public sector participation in the financing of transport infrastructure and promote the PPP model;Explore and identify airspace utilization possibilities;Further implement the Single European Sky (SES);</i>
<i>Finalization of the Intermodal Study (existing contract)</i>				x	<i>Study</i>	
<i>Meeting with SEE2020 key transport stakeholders: National Coordinators & key users</i>				x	<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>SEECF format - Expert Meeting on Railway Network, "Upgrading Railway as growth engine for SEE"</i>	x				<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Hiring consultants on designing policy questionnaires for every transport mode and for cross-cutting issues with other dimensions (trade, energy, environment, R&D)</i>		x			<i>Other</i>	
<i>RCC/SEETO meetings and consultations</i>	x	x		x	<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Congress on Railways</i>			x		<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Working Group on Regional Program on Air Transport</i>	x				<i>Meeting</i>	

<i>Meetings of the Working group on NSA Expert Pool Projects</i>		x		x	<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>RCC/JSPAI Preparatory Team meeting</i>			x		<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Preparation of an Analytical Review of existing activities with regards to the Studies on Free Route Airspace, Performance-based Navigation and Wide-area Multilateration</i>		x			<i>Assessment</i>	
<i>RCC/JSPAI Consultation meeting</i>	x			x	<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Regional assessment on status of irrigation and potentials for increasing irrigated agriculture land;</i>			x		<i>Study</i>	
<i>Regional baseline report on status of forestation on annual level (last 3 years);</i>			x		<i>Study</i>	
<i>Regional Forestry Cooperation</i>			x		<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Regional Roundtable on the Nexus as means to raise awareness on the issue and discuss actions to foster the implementation of the Nexus approach at the national level;</i>			x		<i>Roundtable</i>	
<i>National Nexus dialogue in one economy to assess current inter-linkages among sectors at the policy and management levels and identify actions to address trade-offs as means towards sustainable utilization of resources and sustainable growth;</i>			x		<i>Roundtable</i>	
<i>Regional Roundtable on Private Sector Participation in South-Eastern Europe (SEE);</i>				x	<i>Roundtable</i>	
<i>SEEIC Tourism Expert Group meeting</i>	x				<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>SEEIC Industrial Policy Working Group meeting</i>	x				<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>Analysis of Business Synergies and Connectivity between South Eastern European Economies and Turkey</i>			x		<i>Study</i>	
<i>SEEIC Food and Beverages Expert Group meeting</i>		x			<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>SEEIC Tourism Expert Group meeting</i>		x			<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>SEEIC Industrial Policy Working Group meeting</i>			x		<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>SEEIC Food and Beverages Expert Group meeting</i>			x		<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>SEEIC Tourism Expert Group meeting</i>				x	<i>Meeting</i>	
Inclusive Growth						
<i>In country consultations on social economy</i>	x				<i>Roundtable</i>	<i>Increased commitment to promote social</i>

Ministerial Conference on Social Economy		x			Conference	economy; roadmap established and progress made towards the goal of mutual recognition of professional qualifications, and increased awareness and engagement for youth employment
Social Agenda Working Group meetings	x		x		Meeting	
Joint working group meetings on mutual recognition of professional qualifications	x		x		Meeting	
Analyses and assessments on mutual recognition of qualifications		x			Assessment	
Youth unemployment conference (EXIT festival)		x			Conference	
Visibility (printing)	x				Report	
SEEHN consultations with other regional initiatives	x				Meeting	Situation analysis provided with respect to cross border public health perspectives and health as an entry point for investment; established working relationships with other regional structures in the framework of health in all policies.
Feasibility study on opportunities for investment in health in the framework of inclusive growth			x		Study	
Review of legislation, regulations, standards and procedures related to border control of people's movement and trade with importance for human health		x			Meeting	
Working group meetings of the SEEHN	x		x		Meeting	
Visibility (printing)			x		Report	
Governance for Growth						
Upgrading Policy and Regulatory Capacity: Study on regulatory impact assessment;	x				Study	Provide a roadmap for increasing regulatory quality in all SEE2020 dimensions, particularly those directly linked to competitiveness and economic growth; help increase efficiency by advocating allocation of resources locally, closer to costumers, allowing the regional and municipal governments to come up with tailor-made initiatives that best fit local economic potential.
Upgrading Policy and Regulatory Capacity: Kick-off conference on study results; Publication of the Study;			x		Conference	
Subsidiarity and Multi-level Governance: Study on Decentralization Observatory for SEE	x				Study	
Decentralization Observatory for SEE: Kick-off Conference			x		Conference	
Translation of the Methodology on CPL and Methodology on CRA and its publishing in 5 languages		x			Tool/toolkit	Disseminated the work on corruption risk assessment (CRA) and corruption proofing of legislation (CPL) and developed tools to help utilization Developed regional cooperation on data exchange in asset disclosure and conflict of
Training on Performing CPL and using of IT tool (3 trainingsx7 participants with interpretation in local language)				x	Training package	
Training on Performing CRA and using of IT tool (3 trainings x7participants with interpretation in local language)				x	Training package	

<i>Consultancy to develop and maintain resource center, IT tools based on CPL and CRA Regional Methodology and to deliver trainings (60 days for company+45 days for CPL consultant+45 days for CRA consultant)</i>		x	x	x	<i>Tool/toolkit</i>	<i>interest and regional legal instrument</i>
<i>Regional Workshop and Conference of the Integrity Expert Network to develop Regional Legal Instrument on Data Exchange in Asset Disclosure (Workshop 25 peoplex2 days, Conference 35x1 day)</i>		x		x	<i>Other</i>	
<i>Consultancy to develop Regional Legal Instrument on Data Exchange in Asset Disclosure (2 consultants each 20 days)</i>		x	x	x	<i>Other</i>	
<i>3rd Meeting of the Working Group on Justice (discussion on the Regional Program and the Reports on E-enforcement, Mediation and Backlog reduction programs), Zagreb</i>	x				<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Developed regionally applicable mechanisms to address backlog reduction, e-enforcement and mediation, as well as networking of judicial and prosecutorial councils and judicial training institutions to producing common training modules and curricula in EU law and Ethics in Judiciary</i>
<i>Conference on E-enforcement - presentation of study, Zagreb</i>	x				<i>Conference</i>	
<i>Regional Program finalized and reported to WGJ</i>	x				<i>Other</i>	
<i>Tender "Report on the Training Institutions in judiciary in SEE countries and Report on comparative overview of various training models for presidents of courts and court administration", 15 working days</i>	x				<i>Report</i>	
<i>Completion of existing three assessments on e-enforcement, mediation and backlog reduction</i>	x				<i>Report</i>	
<i>Kick-off event "Establishment of the network of associations of mediators", Belgrade</i>		x			<i>Other</i>	
<i>Regional Conference "Court backlogs reduction programs and practices-presentation of Study", Split</i>		x			<i>Conference</i>	
<i>Kick-off event "Establishment of the network of judicial and prosecutorial councils", Budva</i>		x			<i>Other</i>	
<i>Kick-off event "Establishment of the SEE training institutions network", Tirana</i>		x			<i>Other</i>	
Stability and Rule of Law						
<i>Mapping of all regional activities in the field of fighting serious and organized crime</i>	x				<i>Report</i>	<i>Help in prioritizing, in particular due to the fact that many of those crime areas are of horizontal nature. Mapping is seen only as one part of the process, the second step should be highlighting (or prioritizing) the areas of needed intervention to regional</i>
<i>Workshop with donors and regional strategic partners to contribute to the Gap analysis</i>		x			<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>Workshop for presenting WB countries with results, updated list of needs, where priorities would be indicated</i>		x			<i>Workshop</i>	

<i>Setting-up of an ad hoc Task Force, which would develop a draft “Plan of Activities needed in the WB region”, based on a revision of Gap Analysis recommendations</i>			x	x	<i>Workshop</i>	<i>donors and strategic partners active in the region.</i>
<i>a) Consultations with relevant national security institutions on the planning and implementation of the RCC Secretariat activities in the Security cooperation area.</i>			x		<i>Meeting</i>	<i>It is expected that Inter and intra enhanced cooperation mechanisms will provide an improved information sharing means achievable through the RIs deepened cooperation. Developed operational links amongst RIs will provide space for mutual benefits in information exchange. The activities envisaged within the project will promote and achieve confidence within the Balkans, representing a unique framework in the security area.</i>
<i>b) Organizing and supporting one conference of SEEMIC, SEENSA, SEECIC, DPD, DPrD.</i>			x		<i>Conference</i>	
<i>c) Organizing two WG meetings of experts in preparation and implementation of decisions of SEEMIC, SEENSA, SEECIC, DPD, and DPrD.</i>			x		<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>d) Monitor the activities of the RI&TF in SEE, namely – SEDM, WBDPD, A5, RACVIAC, SEESAC, DPPI, RCM.</i>			x		<i>Other</i>	
<i>e) Assessment of the lessons learned, best practices and difficulties encountered after two year of implementing the RCC WP.</i>			x		<i>Assessment</i>	
<i>Balkan Opinion Barometer/Balkan Business Barometer</i>				x	<i>Report</i>	