



REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL TASK FORCE ON CULTURE AND SOCIETY Brief information

The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013, endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) in June 2010, stipulates that, in line with a decision by the Western Balkans culture ministers, the RCC will take the role of the coordinator in the new phase of Ljubljana Process after 2010 (Ljubljana Process II). The process is supported by the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

The RCC Strategy envisages that a Task Force (TF) on Culture and Society will be established and a permanent secretariat will be appointed by the RCC in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the European Commission, in order to assume the Ljubljana Process management and fund-raising activities and to be a counterpart of national task forces which will be created in each country of the region.

The aim of the Task Force on Culture and Society is to promote regional cooperation in the sphere of culture by creating a platform for dialogue of relevant stakeholders. The subsequent goal is to maximize the benefits of investment in culture through its contribution to sustainable economic and social development by ensuring the coherency with other actions promoted at regional and national level. The Task Force on Culture and Society will be responsible for ensuring political support to the realisation of specific development projects, including their promotion, strengthening of cooperation between the beneficiaries, development of partnerships, for securing both the funding and the sustainability.

Preparations for launching the project Support to the Ljubljana Process II – Rehabilitating our Common Heritage have been completed. A protocol between the Government of Montenegro and the RCC Secretariat on the Host Country Arrangements for the Secretariat of the Regional Cooperation Council Task Force on Culture and Society was signed. The RCC Task Force on Culture and Society was established based on nominations of respective national institutions and international organizations. Three members of the TF Secretariat were selected and the contracts for the phase II of Ljubljana Process between the European Commission on one side and RCC and Council of Europe on other were signed.

The project implementation starts with the Constitutive Meeting of the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society on 23 June 2011, in Cetinje. The Constitutive Meeting will establish the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society, open the TF Secretariat and appoint its Chair and Co-Chair.

Members of the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society are high-level officials from the respective governmental institutions of the RCC members from South East Europe, a representative of the RCC Secretariat, a representative of the Council of Europe and a representative of the European Commission. The Task Force is led by a Chairperson chosen amongst its Members. All the decisions of the Task Force shall be taken by consensus. The TF Secretariat is responsible for technical management of TF activities. It will act as the secretariat of the projects as well as of the daily follow-up of activities. The Secretariat will take on the work to achieve the objectives of the project and to foster successful transfer of the Ljubljana Process to the region. The premises of the Secretariat will be located in Cetinje, Montenegro.