



REPORT
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

For the period 21 September – 31 December 2014

BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE REGIONAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL

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The Report on the activities of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat is submitted by the Secretary General of the RCC to the RCC Board in line with Article 15 of the Statute of the RCC. It covers the period from 21 September to 31 December 2014.

I. Executive summary

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

The synergy between the Albanian SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office (C-i-O) and RCC has further strengthened the regional cooperation process in South East Europe (SEE). The RCC Secretariat participated and contributed to political and sectoral events organized by the Albanian SEECP CiO and advanced in the implementation of activities shared both by the Albanian SEECP CiO's program and the RCC SWP for 2014 – 2016. Bilateral and joint meetings between the RCC Secretary General and members of the SEECP Troika¹, held for the first time in the format-SEECP Troika and RCC Secretariat, resulted with a conclusion to strengthen cooperation between the SEECP Troika and RCC Secretariat by holding meetings of this kind on a yearly basis.

Further, the Albanian SEECP CiO had organized the first meeting of the SEECP Political Directors and the second meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Future of SEECP. The RCC Secretary General and representatives of SEECP participants, discussed the most important political developments in SEE, the EU integration process of the region and the ways for further enhancing cooperation among the SEECP participants.

EC's Enlargement Strategy paper of 8 October 2014 and the Conclusions of the Council of the EU of 16 December 2014 noted positively the SEECP and the RCC's work: "The Council fully supports the work of the South-East European Cooperation Process and the Regional Cooperation Council, its operational arm, and its focus on addressing the targets and priorities of the SEE 2020 Strategy"².

In the reporting period, the dialogue held with EU institutions provided a context for reviewing the progress made by RCC in implementing its SWP for 2014 – 2016 and for mustering support indispensable to RCC and its activities. In this context, the two-year agreement, signed with the EC on 27 November 2014 in Brussels, imbued the much needed predictability in RCC's strategic and operational work.

The last quarter of 2014 was marked by a strong push in the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy. This was evident in most of the areas: within integrated growth, new partnerships with UNCTAD and World Bank were forged to help implement a comprehensive investment agenda during 2015 and onwards; in smart growth the first funding commitments were being made to implement the R&D and innovation dimension; within sustainable growth the Study

¹ The SEECP Troika includes the former SEECP CiO Romania, the current SEECP CiO Albania and the incoming SEECP CiO Bulgaria.

² Council conclusions on Enlargement and Stabilization and Association Process, Brussels, 16 December 2014.

on Inter-modality in SEE was undertaken to help the economies in addressing issues of congestion and pricing in the road network, assist with railway liberalization and short-sea alternatives; in inclusive growth, the multilateral dialogue on labour mobility was initiated in all of the SEE 2020 beneficiaries with the presentation of a labour mobility studies and providing concrete recommendations in each of the Western Balkans capitals; finally, within governance for growth, an important new tool in the fight against corruption was developed - to be fully disseminated during 2015.

Further steps were also made in strengthening coordination, programming and monitoring functions. On coordination, RCC agreed with its partners to initiate a dialogue with the donor community to help align as much as possible the donor interventions with the needs and priorities identified within SEE 2020 Strategy and action plans. Moreover, the proposed programming guidelines for SEE 2020 were finalized during the quarter. Finally, to strengthen the monitoring of SEE 2020, RCC invited Eurostat to join efforts and assist the beneficiaries in monitoring the SEE 2020. Moreover, in terms of monitoring, RCC has been conducting a comprehensive public opinion and business sentiment survey in the Balkans – Balkan Barometer. The Balkan Barometer surveys will be conducted annually in order to assess how these sentiments are changing and what progress is being made.

In the area of justice and home affairs and security cooperation, the RCC Secretariat's work focused on strengthening mechanisms of regional cooperation. In the area of justice, pertinent activities targeted the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for 2014 – 2016, which envisages the creation of three regional networks - Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils, Mediators Associations and Regional Judicial Training Institutions - with the participation of all SEECP participants. In the area of security, the RCC facilitated and supported regional initiatives in the SEE region and concurrently submitted to the U.S. Department of State for consideration a project proposal on how to contribute to the efforts aimed at addressing the issue of foreign fighters in the region and corruption.

With regard to communication – related efforts, the RCC Secretariat conducted a „Street installations project“ in six cities: Podgorica, Tirana, Skopje, Pristina, Belgrade and Sarajevo, thereby interacting with the public opinion in SEE, raising awareness and recording opinions on regional cooperation and the goals of RCC.

In the forthcoming period, the RCC will seek to ensure further progress in meeting the needs of the region through the implementation of the RCC SWP for 2014 - 2016, thus supporting the national efforts in the EU integration process. The strategic character of relations between the SEECP and RCC, supported by forward-looking partnerships with regional and international organizations, will continue to provide a context conducive to converting some of the conclusions and political guidelines of the governments from the SEECP participants into reality, with the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2014 – 2016 remaining in RCC's focus.

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

RCC Board Meeting

The 24th meeting of the RCC Board, held on 15 October 2014 in Sarajevo, was attended by representatives of RCC Board participants.

The RCC Board adopted the decisions on: 1) the dates of the RCC Board meetings for the year 2015 and 2) the budget of the RCC Secretariat for the year 2015, as recommended by the RCC Financial Sub-Committee.

The RCC Board also reached the following conclusions: 1) accepted the Report of the RCC Secretary General on the activities of the RCC Secretariat for the period 1 April-20 September 2014 and on the implementation of the RCC SWP 2014-2016 and SEE 2020 Strategy; 2) approved the recommendations of the RCC Financial Sub-Committee; 3) gave its consent to the RCC Secretary General to extend for another 2 years the Cooperation Agreement between RCC and the European Training Foundation and to sign the MoU with the Vienna Economic Forum.

The meeting of the Financial Sub-Committee to the RCC Board was held on 30 September 2014 and agreed to submit to the RCC Board the recommendations to: 1) upgrade the Financial Management Manual (FMM) for the Grant and Sub-delegations in accordance with the recommendation from the 6 Pillar Evaluation Assessment, revising and updating the FMM in a way to reflect and/or adopt the EC PRAG rules and regulations on Grants and Sub-Delegations; 2) accept booking the cost of the flood relief for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, as per the Secretary General Decision, to be reported as a conference cost; 3) close the ING bank account and remove the signatory list for bank in Brussels from the RCC Secretariat FMM; 4) record VAT Brussels as a Bad Debt; 5) integrate the staff members of the Task Force on Culture and Society to the RCC Secretariat as a project staff from the 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015; 6) adopt the Draft Budget of the RCC Secretariat for 2015; and 7) adopted a list of assets for disposal and agreed to donate the servers.

Coordination between the SEECP and RCC

The 16th Coordination Meeting held on 14 October 2014 in Sarajevo, gathered representatives of the SEECP Troika, the RCC Secretariat and the EU institutions.

The RCC Secretary General reaffirmed RCC's readiness to support and contribute to a successful implementation of the calendar of activities of the Albanian SEECP CiO. The most important activities of the RCC Secretariat were presented, particularly those related to the implementation of the RCC SWP for 2014 - 2016 and the SEE 2020 Strategy. The RCC Secretary General assessed also the outcomes of high-level regional meetings.

The Albanian SEECP CiO informed that its calendar of events will include, among the other, the Summit of SEECP Heads of States/Government, meetings of MFAs, meetings of Political Directors preceded by the SEECP Troika and the first working session of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly.

The coordination meeting in its conclusions: 1) reaffirmed its support to the priorities and calendar of events of the Albanian SEECP CiO and expressed confidence that the intended outcomes will contribute to further progress in the European and Euro-Atlantic integration process; 2) noted the importance of a greater cooperation with the Adriatic - Ionian Initiative and the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and 3) welcomed the initiative to strengthen the

cooperation between the RCC Secretariat and other international/regional organizations, specifically with the Vienna Economic Forum and the European Union Training Foundation.

The RCC actively participated and contributed at the SEECP events organized by the Albanian SEECP CiO.

The MFA of the Albanian SEECP CiO and the RCC Secretary General, at their meeting on 18 September 2014 in Tirana, discussed the cooperation between the CiO and RCC and reflected on opportunities to enhance cooperation on concrete projects and ensure the conditions for their proper implementation.

The informal meeting of the SEECP MFAs, held on 25 September 2014 in New York, proved to be a venue for taking stock of the political developments in the region and for discussing the Albanian SEECP CiO's priorities and activities. The SEECP Participants fully supported the CiO and referred to the RCC as a valuable tool for regional cooperation and European integration, one that became more transparent, predictable and more useful to the RCC participants from SEE.

At the meeting of the SEECP Political Directors and the second meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Future of SEECP, organized on 6 November 2014 in Tirana, the RCC Secretary General and the SEECP Participants reflected on SEECP and RCC's work, the EU integration process and on the ways for further enhancing cooperation among the SEECP participants. The RCC Secretariat submitted, inter alia, concrete proposals which aim at increasing the visibility of the SEECP among EU institutions.

Furthermore, the Members of Parliament and National Coordinators from the Parliaments of the SEECP participants agreed at the meeting of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly Working Group (PA WG), organized on 7-8 November 2014 in Tirana, on the draft Rules for the SEECP PA Secretariat, with the exception of the seat. The participants discussed the draft Comprehensive Report on the possible model of the SEECP PA Secretariat, while reiterating the importance of an agreement on the seat of the SEECP PA Secretariat, and on the specific scale of financial contributions of the SEECP Participants.

The coordination between the SEECP and RCC also entailed separate bilateral and joint working meetings between the RCC Secretary General and representatives of the SEECP Troika. The meetings were held upon the initiative of the RCC Secretary General on 11 December 2014 at the premises of the RCC Secretariat in Sarajevo and included exchange of views on the most important developments in SEE, the activities of the RCC Secretariat and strengthening cooperation between SEECP Troika and RCC Secretariat. The SEECP Troika participants and the RCC Secretariat agreed to meet in this format on a yearly basis. Consultations between the RCC Secretary General and the incoming Bulgarian SEECP CiO have also been scheduled in order to pave the way for a sound coordination between the RCC and the incoming SEECP CiO.

Consultations of the RCC Secretary General with RCC participants

The RCC Secretary General, in the context of his permanent dialogue with the RCC participants, held meetings and consultations with high-level officials from USA, Italy, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

During the discussions, the RCC Secretary General provided a review of the most important developments in the context of the region's European integration. He also informed on the progress made in the implementation of the RCC SWP for 2014-2016. The RCC participants reassured the Secretary General of their full support for the RCC's work.

At the consultations with the USA held on 26 September 2014 in Washington D.C., the RCC Secretary General met with senior officials from the US Department of State and agreed to strengthen cooperation between RCC and USA with a focus on the most pressing issues for the region. The US expressed a particular interest in three areas and namely: 1) the problem of foreign fighters; 2) anticorruption; 3) broader engagement of civil society. In this context, the RCC Secretariat developed a proposal on the issue of foreign fighters and submitted it for consideration to the US Department of State. The RCC, as the operational arm of the SEECP, would focus its efforts on motivating and building an effective regional mechanism of cooperation among different but relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions and organization, with clear national responsibilities in dealing with foreign fighters, or capacities to contribute in addressing this challenge.

Moreover, the RCC Secretariat held consultations with Turkey and agreed on the importance of developing concrete projects, thereby enabling Turkey to share its experience and contribute to regional cooperation in SEE, including by promoting within the Turkish CiO of the G20/B20 a competitive business climate in the region. In this sense, RCC Secretariat also participated at the Inaugural Meeting of the Business20 (B20) of the Turkish Chairmanship-in-Office (15 December 2014).

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

The RCC Secretary General participated at a number of high-level events and international meetings with a regional dimension, including at the informal meeting of the W. Balkans MFAs (23 September 2014, New York); meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Economy from the W. Balkans (23 October 2014, Belgrade); meeting of the MFAs of the Visegrad 4 and W. Balkan countries (31 October 2014, Bratislava); the launching event for the EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region (18 November 2014, Brussels) and the 11th Vienna Economic Forum (24 November 2014, Vienna).

The informal meeting of the W. Balkans Foreign Ministers in particular, held on 23 September 2014 in New York, inspired concerted efforts among the W. Balkans economies to enhance cooperation within the EU accession process and better seize opportunities generated by the existing EU policies and financial instruments. In this regard, the MFAs agreed and reaffirmed their intention to continue cooperating in this informal format known as the Enhanced Cooperation within the Stabilization and Association Process.

In addition, the RCC Secretariat established a sound cooperation with EU macro regions, such as the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region. More specifically, the RCC Secretariat is participating in the activities of priority areas 10 (institutional capacity and cooperation) and 11 (security and organized crime) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Cooperation with the EU and other Brussels-based institutions

The RCC Liaison Office in Brussels continued to represent RCC before EU institutions and other Brussels-based organizations and informed them on the role and activities of RCC, including on the implementation of RCC SWP for 2014-2016 and the SEE 2020 Strategy. The RCC Liaison Office prepared visits and meetings of the RCC Secretary General in Brussels

and assisted RCC's experts in their contacts with EU institutions; provided regular and timely information and documents to the RCC Secretariat about EU decisions and discussions relevant to the region and to the RCC priority areas, as well as followed closely the developments of the EU Enlargement process.

The RCC Liaison Office organized a number of meetings for the RCC Secretary General with high-level officials of the EU and other Brussels-based institutions, including the EC Director General for Enlargement, the Director in DG Enlargement for Albania, BH, Serbia and Kosovo* and the Director in DG Enlargement for Enlargement Policy and Strategy, as well as the EEAS Managing Director for Europe (non EU) and Central Asia.

In the meetings with the Director General for Enlargement and the Directors in DG Enlargement, the RCC Secretary General discussed the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy and its link with the economic governance and the national economic reform programs; the issue of connectivity in the framework of the Berlin process; the role of regional cooperation in the EU enlargement process in the context of the December 2014 Council conclusions on enlargement and SAP; the German-UK initiative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and EU's financial support to RCC for 2015-2016.

The meeting with the EEAS managing Director focused on the connectivity under the Berlin process and the preparations of the December 2014 Council conclusions, as well as on the German-UK initiative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The RCC Secretary General participated as a speaker in the IPA MCP coordination meeting, held on 13 – 14 November 2014 in Brussels, where he assessed the political context for regional cooperation in the W. Balkans region. He noted the significance of the Berlin process, focusing on regional cooperation and in particular on interconnectivity and regional value chains, as well as the importance of the Belgrade ministerial meeting on the issues of infrastructure development and economic governance in the context of the EU enlargement policy. The RCC Secretary General briefed on RCC's main intervention areas under the SEE 2020 Strategy: programming, implementation and monitoring. He also informed about the linkages of the SEE 2020 and the economic governance process, in particular the ideas to replace the national Action Plans (NAPs) with the National Economic Reform Programs (NERPs) and to adjust the headline targets and interventions.

The RCC SG took part on 18 November 2014 in Brussels in the launching event for the EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region and expressed hope that the Adriatic-Ionian Strategy, with its strong focus on economic and social prosperity and growth in the region, will help improve the region's attractiveness, competitiveness and connectivity. Several pertinent recommendations have been made regarding RCC's intended engagement with the Adriatic Ionian Strategy. Specifically, the RCC can act as a bridge between the macro-region and the countries which are not members of the strategy in order to assure the involvement of the entire region. With activities focused on growth, the RCC can ensure the aforementioned link by focusing on areas of interest to the Adriatic Ionian Strategy that stem from the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

The RCC Secretary General participated as a key note speaker in the 'Friends of Europe' Annual Balkan Summit which was organized on 9 December 2014 in Brussels. He stressed

* 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.

the importance of regional cooperation for the economies of the W. Balkans and RCC focus on SEE 2020 as a growth and employment strategy. He reiterated that WBIF should be reformed to engage the Prime Ministers in the decision making process which would provide them with additional leverage to undertake the needed reforms and priorities on transport-related projects. He welcomed the European Semester “light” for the W. Balkans and suggested to the EU and the Commission to allocate funds for the investment and called for engagement of private sector.

The RCC Secretariat held consultations with the Open Society Foundation in Budapest (20 November 2014) and the European Commission in Brussels (8-9 December 2014) on the Roma Integration 2020 project, which might be placed under the supervision and guidance of the RCC and aligned with the priorities of the RCC SWP 2014 - 2016 and SEE Strategy 2020 Strategy. The concept of the new project will be submitted to the RCC Board for approval prior to finalization of the Agreement between the EC, RCC and Open Society Foundation.

Communication activities

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

In the reporting period, the RCC conducted a „Street installations project“ in six cities: Podgorica, Tirana, Skopje, Pristina, Belgrade and Sarajevo. The goal was to “feel the pulse of the region”, to interact with the public opinion in SEE, raise awareness and record opinions on regional cooperation and the goals of SEE 2020. The citizens were invited to share their opinion on: the most important/critical issues for their lives; how to encourage regional cooperation; what are the biggest challenges facing the region when it comes to better cooperation in the economic field, trade and transport, education, employment. The RCC's PR agency “Via Media” filmed the events in each city, selected the most interesting/typical statements and prepared brief video clips to be shown at the Roundtables beginning of 2015. The recordings will also be used for RCC communication channels, media and other interested groups. The „Street installations“ project generated large media interest during the recordings in the cities with major TV coverage.

In December, the RCC organized a visit of „Bosko Buha“ theatre to Sarajevo National Theatre with Branislav Nusic's play „Gospodja Ministarka“. This performance was publicised with TV, radio and newspaper reports in Bosnian and Serbian media. Another cultural event, the literary evening of Sarajevo born US/Serbian author Vladimir Pistalo was also well covered.

A number of interviews, statements and articles throughout the regional media were organized for the RCC Secretary General, SEE 2020 Coordinator and RCC experts on promotion of RCC activities, including interviews with the RCC Secretary General for respected medias in the region Pobjeda (Montenegro), Dani (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Politika (Serbia), Tanjug (Serbia), Radio Slobodna Evropa (regional), RTK (Kosovo*), BHRT (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and with the SEE 2020 Coordinator – TVSA (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and e-kapija (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the Spokesperson etc.

* 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.

Evaluation of general and institutional aspects

The RCC Secretariat continued to carry out activities pertaining to the implementation of the RCC SWP for 2014-2016 and its main components.

In this context, the strategic character of relations between the SEECP and RCC remained important for an environment conducive to the development of regional cooperation, the affirmation of the principle of regional ownership and for assuming a greater regional responsibility.

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

III. Strategy and Work Programme 2014 – 2016:

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

The past quarter was marked by a strong push in the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy. This was evident in most of the areas: within integrated growth, new partnerships with UNCTAD and World Bank were forged to help implement a comprehensive investment agenda during 2015 and onwards; in smart growth the first funding commitments were being made to implement the R&D and innovation dimension; within sustainable growth the Study on Inter-modality in SEE was undertaken to help the economies in addressing issues with congestion and pricing in the road network, assist with railway liberalization and short-sea alternatives; in inclusive growth, the multilateral dialogue on labour mobility was initiated in all of the SEE 2020 beneficiaries with the presentation of a labour mobility studies and providing concrete recommendations in each of the Western Balkans capitals; finally, within governance for growth, an important new tool in the fight against corruption was developed - to be fully disseminated during 2015.

The new Enlargement Strategy report and its focus on economic governance, public administration reform and rule of law as the three pillars of EU accession, has also had an impact on the SEE 2020 implementation. With the introduction of the National Economic Reform Programmes (NERP) by the European Commission, and the requirement that these NERPs are prepared annually by the enlargement countries, the National Action Plans (NAPs) being developed in the context of SEE 2020 seemed to duplicate a lot of the work to be done in this area. Thus, in consultations with the economies and the EC, RCC proposed that NAPs be abandoned in favour of the NERPs, pointing out the need to fully integrate the latter in SEE 2020 deliberations. This will further strengthen the link between the regional and national contexts.

Further steps were also made in strengthening coordination, programming and monitoring functions. On coordination, RCC agreed with its partners to initiate a dialogue with the donor community to help align as much as possible the donor interventions with the needs and priorities identified within SEE 2020 Strategy and action plans. This need was also underlined by the recent study on “Mapping donor interventions in the Western Balkans” commissioned by DG DevCo that found great potential for further coordination of donor interventions and called upon RCC to step into this role. The first meeting with the donors is being scheduled for February 2015.

The proposed programming guidelines for SEE 2020 were also finalized during the quarter and will be presented at the first meeting of the Programming Committee at the beginning of 2015. This will be a good opportunity to further involve the NIPAC offices of the Western Balkans economies into the SEE 2020 implementation and seek their guidance on regional programmes and interventions.

Finally, to strengthen the monitoring of SEE 2020, RCC also invited Eurostat to join the efforts and assist the beneficiaries in SEE 2020 monitoring efforts. Eurostat will thus be attending the meetings of the Task Force on SEE 2020 Monitoring that will be held during the first quarter of 2015 to recommend possible changes to SEE 2020 headline targets and finalize the set of indicators to be tracked within the SEE 2020 context. These recommendations will then be forwarded to the SEE 2020 Governing Board for consideration and adoption mid-next year.

The following provides a detailed overview of activities and results achieved in the five pillars of SEE 2020:

A. Integrated Growth

Within the Integrated growth pillar, RCC finalized an investment cooperation agenda, working with CEFTA Secretariat, to complement trade integration in the region. Under the auspices of the RCC's SEE Investment Committee (SEEIC), the concept for the development of a regional Investment Policy Review Benchmark Study that will commence at the start of 2015 has been approved. Also, the SEEIC members reviewed and approved the Regional Programme on Investment Policy and Regional Integration and recommended the programme for funding to the European Commission.

Both programs have been reviewed and discussed by the SEEIC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments during its meeting on 9 October 2014 in Sarajevo, and finally endorsed by the SEEIC plenary on 4 November 2014 in Zagreb. The regional benchmark study will be executed in a joint endeavour of UNCTAD, CEFTA and the RCC Secretariat, as per cooperation proposal initiated at the beginning of the 2014. The World Bank's proposal for Investment Policy and Regional Integration Programme, provided it receives funding, would be finalized by the World Bank in cooperation with CEFTA and SEEIC, under the guidance of the RCC. The proposal has been discussed with various European Commission services and the final decision on funding by the EC is pending.

RCC has agreed with the regional Foreign Investors Councils to organize joint activities, with the first action directed at fighting the grey economy in the region, particularly relating to: protection of intellectual property rights, taxation, customs, and labour market. The parties have agreed to organise a first regional meeting in the mid-2015, involving relevant regional Government representatives and foreign investor representatives, in order to develop the means and mechanisms to address the SEE2020 & FIC priority areas where shadow economy is most present.

B. Smart Growth

Within the Smart Growth pillar the RCC Secretariat has been engaged in developing SEE 2020 regional programs, in line with the draft programming guidelines. The RCC Secretariat was engaged in preparing programs in two of the Smart Growth pillar dimensions: Education and Competences; and Research and Innovation.

Education and Competences

In accordance with approved Regional Action Plan for 2014 for dimension Education and Competences, the RCC mobilized external expertise to assist the process of developing a Regional program on Teacher Education and Training. After dissemination of the first draft Program, the RCC is organising, together with dimension coordinator (ERI SEE), a Regional Consultative Workshop on the program, to be held in Tirana during January 2015. The aim of the event is to consult on the proposal with relevant stakeholders and collect valuable inputs for writing the final proposal of the Regional program. The final proposal of the programme will be ready by the end of February 2015.

The Joint seminar of the Cluster of Knowledge on VET and the SEEVET – Net was organised by the ERI SEE interim Secretariat with the support of the Romanian National Centre for TVET Development and KulturKontakt Austria and hosted by the Albanian National Agency of Vocational Education and Training & Qualifications, in Tirana on 17 and 18 November. The meeting gathered representatives of Vocational education training institutions from the RCC participants from SEE, as well as representatives of relevant international organisations. The RCC Secretariat's representative presented the process of development and current stage in implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy. Subsequent discussions focused on the Education and Competences dimension. The participants recognised the increased use of work-based learning as a key strategy action in order to ensure education and training systems better meets economic and labour market needs (and provide learners with labour market relevant skills). SEEVET-Net discussed ongoing regional projects and initiatives and outlined the future cooperation activities for the year 2015 in defined areas of joint interest in the region. The decision on the new Chair (appointed among the Directors of VET Centers from SEE) will be made at the next meeting of SEEVET-Net. The proposal of the Director of the VET Center of Montenegro, to establish the permanent Secretariat of SEEVET-Net, seated in Podgorica, will be also discussed at the next meeting of the mechanism.

RCC took part in the high-level conference organized on 6 October 2014 in Tirana by the European Training Foundation (ETF) in the context of the implementation of the FRAME project. The conference brought together ministers of education and employment from South East Europe and Turkey with policy leaders from EU institutions and other international organisations, as well as the European and regional social partners. The objective of the event was to review the results of the FRAME project and offer an opportunity to discuss possible common next steps. The Conference offered a platform for participants to exchange views and share experience on their long-term skills visions and their efforts to adjust skills policies and human resources development systems. It also took stock of the achievements made by the FRAME participants in their skills visions and policies, particularly in VET, aiming to reflect on areas where improvement is needed. The participants also discussed on how skills policies, tools and best practice can be used to foster competitiveness, employment and social inclusion and how regional cooperation can bring additional results in the process.

Research and Innovation

In one of the main developments during this quarter, the European Commission has proposed the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation among the programs to be financed from the MB IPA 2014. This action, tentatively valued at EUR 5 mil would, in addition to the beneficiaries from the Western Balkans, also include the RCC and DG Joint Research Centres. The initial consultations on the design of the intervention were held between the RCC, DG ELARG and DG JRC. RCC briefed the Commission representatives on the work done already in this area, including the finalized

Regional Program on Technology Transfer along with the Programme on Networks of Excellence whose development is underway. These two regional programs, developed together with the representatives of Ministries in charge of science and research from the region, could provide valuable input for the planned MB IPA actions.

RCC is in the final stages of developing the Regional program on Networks of Excellence. The draft program was sent to relevant national institutions and bodies, representatives of international organisations, the non-governmental sector and the academic community, as well as relevant experts, who will have the opportunity to express their views at the Regional Workshop, to be organised by the RCC in Tirana in January 2015. The final draft of the programme will be ready by the end of February 2015.

Cultural and Creative Sectors

During the reporting period the Ljubljana process II – Rehabilitating our Common Culture has been finalised. The High-Level Regional Conference “Cultural Heritage Rehabilitation as a Key to Sustainable Development” held on 27-28 October 2014 in Dubrovnik, Croatia was organised by the RCC, RCC Task Force on Culture and Society and the Ministry of Culture of Croatia. This two day event focused on the importance of placing cultural heritage in the centre of future policies for sustainable development and economic growth. Simultaneously, it encapsulated the finalisation of Ljubljana Process II – Rehabilitating our Common Heritage, and introduced a new phase of the process through the Dubrovnik Declaration adopted during the conference. The Dubrovnik Declaration promotes culture and arts as an integral part of quality and sustainable education and participation of youth in assessing the rich diversity of cultural heritage. The conference gathered high-level representatives responsible for culture, participants of Ljubljana Process II – Rehabilitating our Common Heritage from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia, Romania and Slovenia; representatives of the RCC, the Italian Presidency of the Council of EU, European Commission, UNESCO, CEI, ICOMOS, Euroclio, Europa Nostra, Cultural Heritage without Borders, Expeditio, and other regional civil society organisations active in the area of cultural heritage.

Back-to-back with the high-level conference, the tenth Meeting of the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society (TFCS) was organized on 28 and 29 October 2014. TFCS members from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Romania, European Commission and RCC attended the event. The two-day event endorsed the quarterly Narrative Report of the TFCS Secretariat and discussed future steps in the involvement of the RCC TFCS as a Dimension Coordinator of the Cultural and Creative Sectors Dimension in the SEE 2020 Strategy. The meeting presented the final activities in implementation of the European Commission’s EUR 500,000 grant for sustaining the rehabilitation of cultural heritage in the Western Balkans. The focus of discussions was also on the three regional programmes being developed within the SEE 2020 on cultural heritage, audio-visual fund and design incubator.

On 27 November 2014 in Budva, the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society Secretariat organised the Workshop on Activity 4 – Site Management Plans with Relevant Training, as one of the four activities funded with the €0.5 Million EU Grant for Sustaining the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in the Western Balkans. The main purpose of this event was to present the prepared drafts of site management plans and discuss their future adoption as well as the implementation of the defined activities. The workshop was attended by

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national project leaders or their representatives from cultural heritage institutions from Albania, Croatia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Experts from the Ljubljana Process II Regional Expert Pool (REP) were also present as well as expert team members from the consortium in charge of preparing the site management plans, namely Cultural Heritage without Borders (regional), Co-Plan (Albania), Europa Nostra (Serbia), Expeditio (Montenegro), TFCS member from Montenegro, the RCC, and the RCC TFCS Secretariat.

Digital Society

An electronic SEE initiative meeting was held on 9-10 December 2014 in Brussels. The participants agreed to initiate concrete steps for enhancing broadband penetration, regional interoperability and the provision of e-Services and paving the way for the organization of a high level meeting during first half of 2015 that will boost the importance of ICT in the SEE 2020 strategy.

C. Sustainable Growth

Transport

In the transport sector, the RCC Secretariat, working with South-East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO), mobilized external expertise to prepare the Study on Inter-modality in SEE. The inception report was delivered and subsequently approved by the RCC and SEETO in accordance with the given timeline in ToR. The Study expected to be ready by the end of November 2015 will point out the general factors in favour of co-modality such as congestion and pricing in the road network, railway liberalization and short-sea alternatives, but analyse them in a context of the Western Balkan environment. It will also open opportunities for general socio-economic development of the SEE; therefore it makes an excellent product to contribute in the achievement of the main aims of the SEE2020 Strategy.

The RCC Secretariat together with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Government of the Republic of Serbia and with the support of the World Bank and the Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport organized the Workshop on regional road safety capacity building, held in 15-16 October 2014 in Belgrade. It brought together a wide range of road safety stakeholders and interested parties from the public and private sectors, including decision makers, planning authorities, NGOs and international organizations. The participants agreed that all relevant partners have to join capacities and resources and, work in more coordinated and balanced way and promote multi-sectoral approach in order to accelerate and timely fulfil the obligations arising from the pillars of the Decade's Action Plan for Road Safety 2011-2020.

The RCC participated at the 10th SEETO Annual Meeting of Transport Ministers which was held in Skopje on 4 December 2014. The Conference was attended by high-level delegations from the transport ministries in SEE region, the European Commission, regional organizations; various transport related institutions, the International Financing Institutions, private sector and consultancy. The high-level officials recognized the need to integrate SEE transport network into common EU transport policy and reiterated the importance of establishing a Transport Community.

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EC representatives highlighted the need to focus on the definition of the Core Network to enable stronger impetus for seamless transport services that overcome non-physical barriers. They welcomed the support of the Regional Participants to the WB6 initiative as highest priority for 2015 and recommended to take into account the findings of the Flagship Axes Initiative and REBIS Study.

Together with the JSPA, the RCC Secretariat co-organized the RCC&JSPA Preparatory Team Meeting and Meeting of the Working group on NSA Pool of the Experts, held on 1-2 December 2014 in Budapest which was hosted by the HungaroControl and Hungarian Aviation Authority. The meeting was used to present common activities of the RCC/JSPA on air traffic dimension in the SEE2020 Strategy and informed participants about the programming process and next steps. The Regional Programme on Air Transport was presented by JSPA Preparatory team and the way forward was discussed. The participants agreed to jointly work with SEETO on the air transport dimension in the RP with aim to join resources and capacity and achieve synergy. The SEE2020 operational plan for 2015 was also discussed and it was agreed to send the plan to RCC. During the National Supervisory Authority (NSA) Experts Pool meeting, the representatives of the ISIS Secretariat informed on the current state of play, presented the report and proposed common way forward.

Competitiveness

In the context of improving the competitiveness of the region, the meetings of Food & Beverages (FBEG) and Tourism Expert Group (TEG), held under the guidance of the SEEIC and OECD Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative (NGCI), have further deliberated on the means to address the skills gaps, detected previously as the main barrier in the sector. During its second meeting held on 2 October 2014, FBEG identified 21 „focus skills“ perceived as both important and scarce to the private and public sector. The focus skills that were lacking were identified across different business functions (such as purchasing, product development, etc.). Furthermore, FBEG agreed to focus its work further in order to close these skills gaps based on the following priorities: 1) Support employers in employee training; 2) Design education and training systems, and 3) Facilitate skills matching between business needs and skills supply. Regarding the work on fostering regional integration, the Expert Group agreed to proceed in the work of investigation of the initially indicated opportunities by a more detailed analysis on trade flows and the reasons for current trade flows. As a result, the real opportunities for regional integration will be shown in the next working group meeting.

In case of TEG, a number of 28 “focus skills” have been identified, also according to their importance and scarcity in the sector, mainly in general management, product development and production and marketing. The Expert Group further discussed concrete ways in which the governments in the region could work to bridge these skills gaps, mainly by introducing two key approaches: the design of efficient education systems and employee trainings. Furthermore, TEG has agreed to focus its work during 2015 in the following areas: 1) Supporting employers in employee training to help address the skills gaps in the tourism sector; 2) Focus on creating a regional brand to foster regional integration in the tourism sector; and 3) Targeting the cultural/historical niche market for further development.

The work of the sectoral expert groups has been endorsed by the SEEIC; selected priorities will be further deliberated in 2015 into sustainable regional programmes and projects. Next FBEG and TEG meetings will be scheduled in spring 2015, with detailed expert work, further analysis, and regional programme preparations to take place in the meantime, in cooperation of the RCC Secretariat and OECD NGCI. In preparation of sectoral regional programmes,

both expert groups have agreed to include other relevant regional stakeholders in the process in order to ensure comprehensive programmes that should address the development of both priority sectors.

In a further need to consolidate the various initiatives and programmes, the SEEIC has decided, during its plenary session on 4 November 2014, to establish the industrial policy working group in cooperation with the OECD. The Working Group on Industrial Policy is to represent a continuation of previous work done by the OECD on industrial policy and country competitiveness, conducted under the guidance of DG Enterprise. The Terms of Reference and Action Plan for the Working Group will be prepared and presented to the SEEIC for endorsement at the beginning of 2015, along with the request for nomination of government experts. The overall objectives of this particular working group is anticipated to be further development of the regional economies' institutional capacity for: 1) Effective design and implementation of industrial policies and measures to increase economic competitiveness, 2) Improved data collection, and 3) Other areas, such as employment generation, FDI attraction, innovation and skill development. In addition they should foster regional dialogue and co-operation among the SEE economies, identify synergies and share good practices. Finally, the aim will be to facilitate the process of policy convergence with the EU in all the areas related to industrial policy and economic competitiveness.

D. Inclusive Growth

Employment

Under the inclusive growth pillar of the SEE 2020 Strategy, RCC has completed two regional studies on labour mobility and social economy development, which have been identified as key regional measures to promote employment and inclusion in the 2020 timeframe. The studies have provided an in-depth understanding of the current situation in SEE in these two areas and proposed concrete recommendations that will form the basis for discussions with governments and feed into policy making processes at the national level. Seven national consultative workshops have been organized in the SEE capitals with the aim of engaging a broader range of stakeholders in discussing labour mobility in the region. A meeting of the Social Agenda Working Group on 18 December 2014 identified some important key milestones for enabling labour mobility, including sound statistical databases, regional capacities to analyse and assess data and trends, strengthened cooperation among key institutions and other concrete implementation mechanisms. RCC intends to follow up on these conclusions as well as the outputs of national workshops both at the technical and political level during 2015.

Health

On 1-3 October 2014, the RCC Secretariat participated at the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG), the leading health policy event in the EU. In a parallel forum session, participants presented and discussed the SEE 2020 Strategy as a key policy commitment of the South East Europe Health Network (SEEHN).

The RCC Secretariat participated at the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the SEE Health Network on 18 November 2014 in Skopje and the 34th meeting of the SEE Health Network. The Ministers discussed the health reforms and the whole-of-government approach to the implementation of the WHO European Policy Framework for health and wellbeing Health 2020 and SEE 2020, as well as the importance of mobility and education of human resources for health. At the regular meeting of the health network, the draft regional programme on health, prepared under the RCC coordination, was presented and discussed.

E. Governance for Growth

During the reporting period, the RCC's work focused on development and implementation of regional action plans together with respective dimension coordinators. In parallel, the implementation of certain activities of regional action plans has already started in effective public services and anti-corruption dimension. The RCC Secretariat was engaged in regular meetings with the SEE 2020 Strategy dimension coordinators in order to start with the implementation of the regional action plan on Effective Public Services. The RCC Secretariat has also organised and chaired the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on Justice, which prepared and endorsed the working plan for 2015.

The work in the Public Effective Services dimension focused on building national and local capacities to use EU funds, especially in the frame of the new EU Programming period 2014 – 2020. The RCC Secretariat also prepared ground for two new studies in the field of Regulatory Impact Assessment and Regulatory Decentralization Observatory, to be conducted in 2015.

In the Anticorruption dimension, the activity was concentrated on the development of two studies and methodologies: Research and Methodology on Corruption Risk Assessment in Public Institutions in SEE and Research and Methodology on Corruption Proofing (Anti-corruption Expertise) of Legislation in SEE. It was also decided that the work on Research and Methodology on Corruption Risk Assessment in Public Institutions in SEE and Research will be postponed and finalized by May 2015.

In order to promote the findings of the research and methodologies, RCC together with the Albanian SEECPC-i-O, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) and Southeast European Leadership for Development and Integrity Centre for the Study of Democracy (SELDI) organised a Regional Conference on Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Policy Challenges (Tirana, 13 -14 November 2014). The conference brought together representatives of Governments of the SEE region and representatives of civil society organizations who discussed the fight against corruption and recommendations brought by the above mentioned documents. The participants adopted the recommendations which included Ten Principles of Effective Corruption Proofing (Scope, Prioritisation, Regulatory corruption risks, Timing, Responsible entity, Recommendations, Compliance, Online publicity, Broader framework on transparency and integrity and Training and public awareness).

In the Justice Dimension, RCC was focused on organizing the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on Justice. In order to prepare for the meeting, bilateral consultations with the members have been organised during October 2014 (Belgrade, Podgorica, Tirana, Skopje and Sarajevo). The 2nd Meeting of the WGJ was organised on 22-23 October in Sarajevo to discuss new developments and agree the course of action. One of the topics on the agenda was also the monitoring of justice dimension within the SEE 2020 framework and a compromise solution was reached between the WGJ members, RCC and the OECD on the indicators in the Justice Dimension. The working plan of WGJ for 2015 was agreed upon.

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

Justice and home affairs

In line with SWP 2014-2016, RCC's work during last quarter of 2014 in the area of justice and home affairs and security cooperation remained focused on the need to strengthen

mechanisms of regional cooperation. In this sense, RCC Secretariat participated in various regional events, contributing to strengthening cooperation in the justice and home affairs area.

The fourth Joint Training of Supplementary Information Request at National Entry (SIRENE) organized by MARRI Regional Centre in October 2014 brought together representatives of police services beneficiaries of the project “Support of cooperation among border police on airports in Southeast Europe - BORDAIRPOL”, representatives of Frontex and Italian EU Presidency. The training program informed the participants on the basics of Schengen Information System (SIS) and SIRENE, gave an overview of existing experiences within the beneficiary countries of BORDAIRPOL which are members of EU (Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia) and presented the state of play in the BORDAIRPOL project.

The EU Workshop on Countering Violent Extremism was organised by European External Action Service (EEAS) in cooperation with European Commission (DG Home and DG Enlargement), EU Member States and United States (State Department and Department for Homeland and Security) in October 2014 in Slovenia. The Workshop brought together EU, US and Western Balkans Countries. RCC was the only regional organisation invited to the workshop. The main goal of the Workshop was to achieve an active interaction amongst all the partners participating to the workshop, including representatives from the Western Balkans, about the problem that makes our societies less secure. One of the points in discussion was the need to strongly involve the civil society. RCC contribution to the workshop was the presentation of some of the findings from Gap Analysis in regional cooperation, which were included in the final conclusion of the Workshop.

The Conference on Promoting Partnership with Non-Law Enforcement Actors in Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors, held on 27-28 October 2014 in Vienna, brought together practitioners from police, border control, customs and other law enforcement agencies as well as strategy-drafters and planning staff engaged in cooperative frameworks, including public health authorities and social services of the OSCE member states as well as representatives of international organizations and the RCC Secretariat. The event provided an overview of the existing models, benefits and obstacles of working with actors outside the law enforcement sector in drug control and helped to identify ways of establishing and improving such relations. Several different experiences were presented as examples of lessons learned from cooperation of law enforcement agencies with public health authorities and social services to prevent drug abuse and matters related to illicit drug markets. In this context, participants underlined the need to prioritise preventive action against drug-related crimes, as well as preventive measures aimed at reducing drug abuse and dependence, and drug-related harm to health and society, especially to children and young people. The panelists also recognised the important role played by civil society, including the media and non-governmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem both globally and locally.

The 12th meeting of the PCC SEE Committee of Ministers, convened under the auspices of the Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office, took place on 11 November 2014 in Slovenia. Ministers responsible for home affairs and high-level officials from the Contracting Parties to the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe discussed the progress in the PCC SEE implementation process and the necessary modalities for the advancement of cross-border law enforcement cooperation amongst their countries. The RCC Secretariat was invited as an observer and a partner to the PCC SEE.

The working Level Meeting of the Treptower Group, held on 19 – 21 November 2014 in Potsdam, discussed the state of play of the activities of the Group and gave an overview of the activities of its members in the Western Balkans. All bilateral projects were presented including multilateral implemented by the Europol, Frontex and US European Command. At the meeting, RCC presented activities in the JHA area and particularly in the Anti-Corruption Dimension of SEE2020 and spoke about priorities for the incoming period.

The Annual General Assembly of Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEEPKA) discussed important organizational issue. A formal decision on the dissolution of SEPCA based on the Bulgarian Law on Non-Profit Organization has been adopted. At the same time, a new Memorandum of Understanding was signed marking the new start for the Association. The SEPCA Guidelines were endorsed and the new management of the organization was elected.

The Steering Group Meeting of the Priority Area 11-Security of the EU Strategy for Danube Region (EUSDR) discussed the state of play of the EUSDR PA 11, the selection of projects that will be financed under the PA11, as well as the implementation of the ongoing projects. Representatives of EUSDR PA1A-Mobility-Waterways-Infrastructure and Management presented proposals for cooperation between two priority areas. This cooperation is targeting the simplification of administrative processes and of paperwork that is significantly burdening businesses. So far, the collection of border control forms and the requested data have been done with feedback from IWT sector (transporters). A Survey among shipping companies/vessel operators will be organized and a practical manual will be developed together with recommendations to overcome the problems identified by the transporters.

The Annual Meeting of the Border Police Chiefs, held on 3-5 December 2014 in Belgrade under the auspices of the DCAF Border Security Programme, brought together the border police chiefs and other representatives from border police services from the Programme Beneficiaries: Albania, Bosna and Herzegovina, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, and partners Slovenia and Moldova; partner organisations Cepol, Frontex, IOM, OSCE, RCC (represented by Senior Expert on JHA), and DCAF representatives. The participants from Beneficiaries reviewed the progress achieved in 2014, agreed on the Working Plan 2015 and discussed the future work in view of the soon expiring *Regional Action Plan*, which guides the implementation in the period 2012–2015. Participants discussed the sustainability of achieved goals and focused on a reinforced monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the Programme for the purpose of accountability to donors as well as Beneficiaries. Participants were also informed on the change in the Programme budget for 2015, on the request of the Republic of Moldova to join in, on the Programme activities and also on the recent written request of Kosovo* to DCAF Ljubljana to be participate in the Programme activities.

The Steering Committee Meeting of the UNODC Regional Programme for SEE, which took place on 12 December 2014 in Vienna, gave an overview of the regional programme implemented by the UNODC. The meeting discussed the established partnerships with national authorities and summarized proposals for future cooperation. The plan of the Mid-term Review of the Programme was presented including expectations from national authorities involved in its implementation. The RCC Secretariat presented the strategic frameworks in which JHA Unit and RCC operate as well as activities implemented in 2014.

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Special emphasis was put on the dimensions of Anti-Corruption and Judiciary of the SEE2020 Strategy. In the same time, the most important activities planned for 2015 were outlined with the proposed areas for cooperation with UNODC.

The SEEPAG C-i-O organized the 25th SEEPAG conference on the “Legal instruments and mechanisms which can simplify and accelerate criminal procedure” on 28-29 October 2014 in Budapest. The participants presented the recent changes of the criminal procedure laws in the respective countries and pointed out to some problems the prosecutors were confronted with in implementing the new legal framework. The statistical data are in favour of the new legal solutions. The majority of the countries represented at the Conference have changed the legal system in the similar way, challenges, problems and achievements are similar as well. RCC presented a brief comment of the previous presentations and discussion, stressed the importance of the human rights protection, especially in the criminal procedure, pointed out the role of legal reforms that accelerate the criminal proceeding as the very important development and benefit for the citizens, presented the Justice Dimension of the SEE Strategy 2020, explained the recent developments in the Area of Justice, informed about the results of the two Working Group on Justice meetings, briefly presented the Regional Action Plan approved at the 1st meeting of the WGJ and explained the further steps of the Regional Action Plan’s implementation and concrete actions in 2015.

The RACVIAC SEE - Centre for Security Cooperation and Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia organised an event on ‘Regional Conference on Trends and Challenges in Implementing Anti-corruption Strategies’ on 25 November 2014 in Skopje. The participants presented and discussed anti-corruption strategies’ development and implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation from the regional perspective. The participants discussed the possible methods and tools for achieving goals. As prescribed in the SEE 2020 Strategy and RCC SWP 2014-2016, as well as RAI Work Plan for 2014 – 2015, the participants recommended the countries in SEE to review their policy and practice on corruption prevention. Conclusions of the meeting were: the need to share national practices and lessons learned; the representatives of civil society should participate in the work of monitoring bodies; the need to have published reports and the process of awareness raising; the need for more transparency and political accountability.

The EU-Western Balkans Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Forum was held in Belgrade on 12 December 2014. In the EU statements, the importance of regional cooperation, as well as the significance of the Chapters 23 and 24 for the accession process was pointed out. In the Joint Session, the EU referred to the importance of bilateral cooperation between the Western Balkans and the EU and of the internal, regional cooperation between the Western Balkans participants themselves, as well as to the EU enlargement process. In general, the reform processes, for example regarding the judiciary and the protection of fundamental rights, were seen as essential because they affect everybody. The EU offered to enhance the current communication channels with the region. In Justice Session and Home Affairs Session the more specified issues have been discussed.

Security cooperation

Within the security cooperation sector, the RCC Secretary General participated at the high level events held on 16 October 2014 in Budva/Montenegro: the South East Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) and the Regional Comprehensive Ministerial (RCM). The RCC Secretariat representative participated in the Western Balkans Defence Policy Directors (WBDPD) meeting on the 14 October, US-Adriatic Charter (A-5) Ministerial 15 October,

South East Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) and the Regional Comprehensive Ministerial (RCM) on the 16 October 2014.

The RCC Secretary General participated in the Conference “Western Balkans – the future of integration” organized by the NATO Defence College Foundation on the 7-8 October 2014. The Conference interventions and discussions focused on the following main issues: regional cooperation, from post-war societies to a truly regional co-operation; the role of security and of the economy in shaping this new landscape.

The WBPDP meeting focused on the ways to maintain interoperability through regional partnering in Regional Emergency Management Assistance (REMA) project, and the SEE participation in the post ISAF period – possibilities for a joint SEE participation. The crisis in Ukraine, Syria and Iraq were mentioned and countries expressed their concern regarding the influence these conflicts have on SEE. All participants informed on the Regional training centers located in each country, urging other A5 participants to make use of them. The utilization of SALW was raised and some countries expressed their concerns regarding the growing stockpiles of deteriorating ordinance in the Region. In addition, information was delivered on the development of the Balkan Regional Approach to Air Defence (BRAAD) project. Kosovo* representative reflected on the readiness to develop a Regional center as well.

The A-5 Ministerial discussed regional cooperation and the projects developed by the A-5 members. The focus was on the establishment of the Joint Medical Forces, REMA project, BRAAD project and the developments in Ukraine and its influence on SEE. In the Joint Statement, A5 participants stated their strong determination to promote enduring peace, stability with the aim to strengthen the ongoing cooperation in both political and security dialogue within A5, as well as welcomed the Wales Summit Declaration reaffirming NATO’s open door policy. A5 members acknowledged the need to be aware of budgetary austerity when planning and creating joint tasks, introducing efforts to promote efficient spending of defence budgets and smart prioritization of regional projects, including Regional Training Centers. The Ministers remained committed to reducing unnecessary duplications, ensuring maximum coherence, streamlining structures and improving working methods in order to achieve more efficiency in the future defence cooperation.

The SEDM Ministerial discussed SEDM’s future, the Multinational Peace Force Southeastern Europe HQ location and critical slots, updates on the SEEBRIG activities and approval of their budget and documents. Ministers especially welcomed RCC SG’s participation in their meeting. Additional actions for the prevention of duplications and further synchronization of regional efforts that are related to the harmonization of existing initiatives, meetings and activities in the SEE region were suggested; these include the proposal that each regional initiative should be focused on a specific domain. The Ministers reiterated the commitment to promote all initiatives genuinely aimed to improve SEDM efficiency and visibility, reduce unnecessary duplications, ensure maximum coherence, streamline structures and improve working methods in order to achieve more effectiveness and efficiency in future regional defence cooperation.

The RCM focused on regional cooperation where Bulgaria presented a Non-paper. In his address to CRM, the RCC Secretary General stated that RCC, as an umbrella organization, is

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strongly committed to support the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of its participants from the region and to promote and strengthen regional cooperation, as well as uphold an all-inclusive and regionally-owned framework. He underlined that the RCC Secretariat continues to develop a close coordination with NATO, the European External Action Service and the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU in view of promoting and supporting effective regional mechanisms in the security area and encouraging the cross-sectoral dimension in addressing security challenges in SEE, which are priorities within the RCC SWP for 2014-2016.

The RCC Secretariat participated at the SEENSA Cyber Defense Working Group which was jointly organized by the NSA of Serbia and RCC on 22 – 24 October 2014 in Belgrade. The meeting gathered the representatives of the SEENSA members who discussed cyber defense issues of relevance to cooperation within the SEENSA Forum and presented the current state of affairs in the area of cyber defense in their respective countries.

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

Women Entrepreneurship

The project “Women Entrepreneurship: A Job Creation Engine in SEE” has held its regular Board Meeting, including the participation of the representatives of the donor (SIDA), coordinator (RCC Secretariat) and implementing partners (SEECCEL and GTF); the involved parties agreed to start developing proposal for the continuation of the activities in support to the women entrepreneurship in the region. The meeting was held on the margins of the regional Strategic Conference on Women Entrepreneurship, on 11 November 2014, which brought together the representatives of the business women associations from the region. At this event, main ideas have been exchanged among the involved stakeholders on continuation of support to women entrepreneurship beyond 2015, when this particular project is scheduled to end.

Parliamentary Cooperation

The EC/Directorate General for Enlargement produced a Study on Parliamentary Cooperation in SEE. The purpose was to assess the existing parliamentary initiatives and to explore the possibility of supporting the most efficient regional parliamentary platform in SEE. In this context, the RCC Secretariat provided pertinent inputs, including on the modalities of engagement between the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly and RCC. Moreover, the RCC Secretariat has recommended to the EC to disseminate widely the aforementioned study among the SEECP participants.

IV. Operation of the RCC Secretariat

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

The Kingdom of Belgium has conditioned the implementation of relevant provisions of the Headquarters Agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium and the RCC Secretariat providing for the fiscal privileges and immunities of the Head and Deputy Head of the RCC Secretariat’s Liaison Office in Brussels with the issuing of an official authentic interpretation concerning the implementation of Article 17.1.(d) of the Agreement between the Council of

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

The RCC Liaison Office and the Director of the CEFTA Secretariat visited the Director for international organizations in the Protocol of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the ratification process of the Headquarters Agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium and the RCC Secretariat (signed in 2008). However, following this visit no further information has been received from the Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

V. Staff changes in the RCC Secretariat

During the reporting period, the following changes have been made:

Senior Expert on Sustainable Growth - Ms. Despoina Syrri, employed as of 1 September 2014, was transferred to the post of Advisor at the Political Department, as of 1 November 2014.

The vacancy for the post of Senior Expert on Sustainable Growth was published on 31 October 2014. The recruitment procedure is currently in process.

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VI. State of financial contributions to the RCC Secretariat budget for the year 2014 until 31 December 2014

Contribution	Commitments	Roll Over 2013	Contributions	Bank charges	Contributions net of bank charges, including roll over	Date Received	Percent
Contributing Countries (Donors)							
Austria	50.000,00	324,66	49.675,34		50.000,00	19-Nov-14	100,00%
Czech Republic	50.000,00		50.000,00		50.000,00	26-Jun-14	100,00%
Federal Republic of Germany	50.000,00		50.000,00		50.000,00	25-Aug-14	100,00%
Finland	50.000,00		50.000,00		50.000,00	12-Jan-15	100,00%
France	50.000,00				-		0,00%
Hungary	50.000,00	324,66	49.675,34		50.000,00	12-Mar-14	100,00%
Italy	50.000,00	2.463,65	47.536,35		50.000,00	21-Feb-14	100,00%
Ireland	50.000,00	324,66	49.676,00		50.000,66	29-Apr-14	100,00%
Latvia	50.000,00	324,66	49.675,34		50.000,00	10-Mar-14	100,00%
Norway	50.000,00		49.993,27	-	49.993,27	5-Mar-14	99,99%
Sweden	50.000,00		50.000,00		50.000,00	12-Dec-14	100,00%
Switzerland	65.000,00		49.965,00		49.965,00	10-Jun-14	76,87%
United States of America	120.000,00		69.879,29		69.879,29	23-Dec-13	58,23%
Total contributing countries donors:	735.000,00	3.762,29	616.075,93		619.838,22		84,33%
European Commission contract	3.575.000,00		2.860.000,00		2.860.000,00	31-Dec-13	80,00%
South East Europe Contributors							
Albania	60.000,00		60.000,00		60.000,00	5-Sep-14	100,00%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	60.000,00		60.000,00		60.000,00	7-May-14	100,00%
Bulgaria	140.000,00		140.000,00		140.000,00	23-Jan-14	100,00%
Croatia	80.000,00		40.000,00		40.000,00	30-Apr-14	50,00%
Greece	140.000,00		140.000,00		140.000,00	20-May-14	100,00%
Kosovo*	40.000,00				-		0,00%
Moldova	40.000,00		40.000,00		40.000,00	23-Apr-14	100,00%
Montenegro	40.000,00		40.000,00		40.000,00	18-Mar-14	100,00%
Romania	140.000,00		107.390,00		107.390,00	18-Dec-14	76,71%
Serbia	80.000,00		80.000,00		80.000,00	21-Feb-14	100,00%
Slovenia	80.000,00		80.000,00		80.000,00	10-Dec-14	100,00%
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	60.000,00				-		0,00%
Turkey	140.000,00		140.000,00		140.000,00	9-May-14	100,00%
South East Europe Contributors set aside funding**					-		
Total South East Europe Contributors:	1.100.000,00	-	927.390,00	0,00	927.390,00		84,31%
Total Committed Funds	5.410.000,00	3.762,29	4.403.465,93	0,00	4.407.228,22		81,39%

*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.

** balance of set aside funds is EUR 426,022 (Albania paid 2013 contribution in 2014)

ANNEX I

REPORT

On the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2014 – 2016 in the period 21 September – 31 December 2014

Horizontal activities

Horizontal Functions:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC Secretariat	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
Representing the region		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of the Foreign Ministers - Visegrad 4 and WB Countries – Bratislava, 31 October 2014 • 21st OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting – Basel, 4 – 5 December 2014 • CEI Annual Summit – Vienna, 24 November 2014
Coordination and cooperation with the SEECP C-i-O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEECP Troika Coordination meeting – Sarajevo, 14 October 2014 • RCC - SEECP Troika consultations – Sarajevo, 11 December 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations with the MFA of Albania – Tirana, 18 September 2014 • Working Lunch of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the SEECP – New York, 25 September 2014 • Meeting of the Committee of SEECP Political Directors – Tirana, 6 November 2014 • Meeting of the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Future of SEECP – Tirana, 6 November 2014
Exerting strategic leadership in regional cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Meeting of the SEE 2020 National Coordinators - Brussels, 23 September 2014 • Fifth Meeting of the Coordination Board of the SEE 2020 Strategy - Brussels, 24 September 2014 • RCC Board Meeting – Sarajevo, 14 October 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal Meeting of the Western Balkans Foreign Ministers – New York, 23 September 2014 • WB6 Ministers of Economy Meeting – Belgrade, 23 October 2014

<p style="text-align: center;">Consultations with RCC Participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations with the officials of the US Department of State – Washington, 26 September 2014 • Meeting with MFA Italy – Rome, 7 October 2014 • Consultations with the TOBB, TEPAV and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Ankara, 9-11 October 2014 • Meeting with the Director General for Enlargement, EC - Brussels, 18 November 2014 • Meeting with Prime Minister of Serbia – Belgrade, 25 November 2014 • Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Skopje, 19 December 2014 • Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia – Belgrade, 29 December 2014 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Providing regional perspective in donor assistance, notably in EU Instrument for pre- Accession</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-beneficiary IPA Regional Coordination Meeting - Brussels, 13-14 November 2014 • 11th meeting of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) - Luxembourg, 9 December 2014
<p style="text-align: center;">Supporting increased involvement of civil society in regional activities</p>		

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

Objectives:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC Secretariat	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
Horizontal coordination		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEFTA Week - Skopje, 19-20 November 2014 • Fifth meeting of the Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (EDIF) - Luxembourg, 10 December 2014
Integrated Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEEIC – CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investment Meeting – Sarajevo, 9 October 2014 • 16th SEEIC Meeting – Zagreb, 4 November 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the Representatives of the Foreign Investors Councils (FIC) of the Western Balkans: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro – Belgrade, 16 October 2014 • CEFTA Week – Skopje, 18-20 November 2014
Smart Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-Level Regional Conference Cultural Heritage Rehabilitation as a Key to Sustainable Development – Dubrovnik, 27-28 October 2014 • 10th Meeting of the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society – Dubrovnik, 28-29 October 2014 • eSEE Meeting – Brussels, 9-10 December 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of the Regional SEE Working Group on Recognition of Qualifications - Zagreb, 22-23 September 2014 • Meeting of the Steering Platform on research for Western Balkan Countries - Trieste, 24 September 2014 • High Level Conference: Skills for the Future: SEE and Turkey – Tirana, 6 October 2014 • Workshop on Activity 4 – Site Management Plans with Relevant Training organised by the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society – Budva, 25-26 November 2014 • Joint seminar of the Cluster of Knowledge on Vocational Education and Training and South East Europe Regional VET Network – Tirana, 17-18 November 2014

Sustainable Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Meeting of the Food and Beverages Processing Expert Group – Paris, 2 October 2014 • 2nd Meeting of the Tourism Expert Group – Paris, 20 October 2014 • Continued consultations with the SEETO and JSPA Initiative, (held on 13 and 25 November 2014) with regard to the implementation of the Transport Dimension of the SEE 2020 Sustainable Growth Pillar as well as preparation of the Regional Programme on Transport and SEE2020 operational plan for 2015. • Worked together with SEETO on selection of the bidder engaged in preparation of Study on Inter-modality under SEE2020 framework. • Road Safety Capacity Building Workshop, organized by UNECE, RCC, Serbian Government – Belgrade, 15-16 October 2014. <u>RCC role:</u> opened the conference, participated in the panel discussion and delivered closing remarks. • JSPAI, the RCC&JSPAI Preparatory Team Meeting and Meeting of the working group on NSA Pool of the Experts, organized by RCC and JSPAI and hosted by HungaroControl, Budapest, 1-2 December 2014. <u>RCC role:</u> opened the conference, delivered presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th SEETO Annual Meeting of Transport Ministers, organized by SEETO and the Ministry of Transport and Communication of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - Skopje, 4 December 2014. <u>RCC role:</u> get insight regarding the progress achieved in development of the SEETO Comprehensive transport network
Inclusive Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultative National Workshops on Labour Mobility – SEE capitals, 20 – 30 October 2014 • Working Group on Social Agenda Meeting – Sarajevo, 18 December 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Health Forum – Gastein, 1-3 October 2014 • 11th Steering Committee Meeting of the South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning – Pristina, 4 November 2014 • Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the SEE Health Network – Skopje, 18 November 2014 • 34th meeting of the SEE Health Network – Skopje, 19-20 November 2014

<p style="text-align: center;">Governance for Growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations with the Member of the Working Group on Justice – Belgrade, 2 October 2014 • Consultations with the Member of the Working Group on Justice – Podgorica, 8 October 2014 • Consultations with the Member of the Working Group on Justice – Tirana, 9 October 2014 • Consultations with the Member of the Working Group on Justice – Skopje, 14 October 2014 • Second Meeting of the Working Group on Justice – Sarajevo, 22-23 October 2014 • Regional Conference on Good Governance and Anti-corruption Policy Challenges, Tirana, 13-14 November 2014 • NALAS Informal Network of EU Project Managers - Skopje, 2-3 December 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SELDI Steering Committee - Sofia, 28 October 2014 • 5th Meeting of ReSPA Governing Board - Skopje, 30-31 October 2014
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Priority area 2: Justice and home affairs and security cooperation– stability and rule of law

Objectives:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC Secretariat	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
Justice and home affairs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEELS Management Board Meeting - Zagreb, 23-24 September 2014 • 4th Joint Training “Supplementary Information Request at the National Entry-SIRENE” - Ohrid, 2 October 2014 • EU Workshop on Countering Violent Extremism - Ljubljana, 16-17 October 2014 • Conference on Promoting Partnership with Non-Law Enforcement actors in Combating the Threat of illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors - Vienna, 27-28 October 2014 • 25th SEEPAG conference on the “Legal instruments and mechanisms which can simplify and accelerate criminal procedure” - Budapest, 28-29 October 2014 • 12th Committee of Ministers of the PCC SEE - Brdo pri Kranju, 11 November 2014 • Treptower Group Working Level Meeting - Potsdam, 19-21 November 2014 • Regional Conference on Trends and Challenges in Implementing Anti-corruption Strategies - Skopje, 25 November 2014 • SEPCA Annual General Assembly - Belgrade, 25-26 November 2014 • Consultations with EC - Brussels, 27 November 2014 • VIII Steering Group Meeting of the EUSDR PA 11-Security - Sofia, 28 November 2014 • 2nd meeting of the Border Police Chiefs under the auspices of the DCAF Border Security Programme - Belgrade, 3-5 December 2014 • UNODC Regional Programme for SEE Steering Committee Meeting - Vienna, 12 December 2014 • EU-WB JHA Ministerial Forum - Belgrade, 12 December 2014

Security cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEENSA Cyber Defense Working Group, Belgrade, 22 – 24 October 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Regional Ministerial (Ministers of Defence) Meeting – Budva, 16 October 2014 • South-East Defence Ministerial Meeting – Budva, 16 October 2014
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Priority area 3: Cross-cutting issues – extending participation, widening partnerships

Objectives:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC Secretariat	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
Women Entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Entrepreneurship Strategic Conference and Project Board Meeting – Sarajevo, 11 November 2014 	
Parliamentary cooperation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of the Working Group on the Parliamentary Assembly of the SEECP – Tirana, 7-8 November 2014

ANNEX II

LIST OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE RCC SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE RCC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS IN THE PERIOD 21 SEPTEMBER – 31 DECEMBER 2014

GENERAL

- Consultations with the MFA of Albania – Tirana, 18 September 2014
- Third Meeting of the SEE 2020 National Coordinators - Brussels, 23 September 2014
- Informal Meeting of the Western Balkans Foreign Ministers – New York, 23 September 2014
- 5th Meeting of the Coordination Board of the SEE 2020 Strategy - Brussels, 24 September 2014
- Working Lunch of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the SEECP – New York, 25 September 2014
- Consultations with the officials of the US Department of State – Washington, 26 September 2014
- 4th Belgrade Security Forum – Belgrade, 1 – 2 October 2014
- 2014 Course on Sustainability – Venice, 2 October 2014
- OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Working Session - Warsaw, 2 October 2014
- Meeting with Italian Director General of EU issues – Rome, 7 October 2014
- NATO Conference "Western Balkans-The futures of integration" – Rome, 7-8 October 2014
- High-level meeting to foster cooperation and institutional capacity for Roma integration at the interfaces of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), the National Roma Strategies and the European Structural and Investments Funds (ESIF) - Vienna, 9-10 October 2014
- Consultations with the TOBB, TEPAV and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey - Ankara, 9-11 October 2014
- Investment Summit organized by journal “Nin” – Belgrade, 10 October 2014
- SEECP Troika Coordination meeting – Sarajevo, 14 October 2014
- RCC Board Meeting – Sarajevo, 14 October 2014
- Agriculture Policy Forum 2014: Promoting Sustainable Rural Development through Agriculture in South Eastern Europe – Kopaonik, 14-17 October 2014
- Comprehensive Regional Ministerial (Ministers of Defence) Meeting – Budva, 16 October 2014
- International Workshop The Western Balkans: Interests and Policies of the EU, Russia and Turkey – Berlin, 16-17 October 2014
- Third Stakeholders’ Conference “The Danube Region Transport Days 2014” – Ljubljana, 21-22 October 2014
- SEENSA Cyber Defense Working Group Meeting – Belgrade, 22 – 23 October 2014
- 7th Meeting of the Steering Group of Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity & Cooperation” of the EUSDR - Brussels, 23 October 2014
- WB6 Ministers of Economy Meeting – Belgrade, 23 October 2014
- 7th Meeting of the Steering Group of Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity & Cooperation” of the EUSDR – Brussels, 23 October 2014
- Workshop on Roma Inclusion Policies - Belgrade, 27 October 2014
- 3rd Formal Regional Meeting of Small Arms and Light Weapons Commissions – Pristina, 28 - 29 October 2014
- Conference on discriminations and MIDAS conference, European University Institute Global Governance programme and ELIAMEP and Heinrich Boell Stiftung - Athens, 29 - 30 October 2014
- Meeting of the Foreign Ministers - Visegrad 4 and WB Countries – Bratislava, 31 October 2014
- 38th Meeting of the European Trilateral Commission – Belgrade, 1 – 2 November 2014

- 2014 Council of Europe World Forum for Democracy and Sessions of the Network of Schools for Political Studies of the Council of Europe - Strasbourg, 3-7 November 2014
- 6th Aspen Southeast Europe Foreign Ministers' Conference – Berlin, 5 November 2014
- Meeting of the Committee of SEECP Political Directors – Tirana, 6 November 2014
- Working Group on the Parliamentary Assembly of the SEECP – Tirana, 7-8 November 2014
- Regional Strategic Conference & Workshop 'Women Entrepreneurship: A Job Creation Engine for South East Europe' – Sarajevo, 10 November 2014
- 8th Annual Working Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the South East Europe– Sofia, 11-14 November 2014
- IPA regional coordination meeting – Brussels, 13-14 November 2014
- Meeting with the EEAS Managing director for Europe (non-EU) and Central Asia – Brussels, 13 November 2014
- Meeting with the EC Director for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo* and the EC Director on Enlargement Strategy and Policy - Brussels, 13 November
- Closing Regional Academy for Democracy seminar in 2014: Gender Equality in the Western Balkans: Politics or Policy? - Sarajevo, 13-16 November 2014
- Launching event for the EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian region - Brussels, 18 November 2014
- Meeting with the Director General for Enlargement - Brussels, 18 November 2014
- REC General Assembly - Szentendre, Hungary, 19-20 November 2014
- Consultation meeting with Open Society Foundation Director of Roma Initiative - Budapest, 20 November 2014
- 11th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna, 24 November 2014
- CEI Annual Summit – Vienna, 24 November 2014
- Meeting with Prime Minister of Serbia – Belgrade, 25 November 2014
- Conference - View across borders – Pension systems of the Balkan region – an exchange of experiences – Vienna, 27 November 2014
- Seminar “The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA): Enhancing cross-border economic co-operation between Greece and its neighbours” - Athens, 28 November 2014
- FES Round Table: Western Balkans, EU and NATO in 2015 – Budva, 29 November 2014
- Sava River Commission – 5th Meeting of the Framework agreement on the Sava River Basin – Zagreb, 2 December 2014
- 21st OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting – Basel, 4 – 5 December 2014
- Conference “EU and Western Balkans 2015-2020” – Belgrade, 5 December 2014
- Coordination meeting in preparation of the future of the Roma Decade - Brussels, 8-9 December 2014
- Friends of Europe’s annual European Policy Summit ‘Balkans Revival: Kick-starting stalled policies’, – Brussels, 9 December 2014
- WBIF Steering Committee Meeting – Luxemburg, 9 December 2014
- EDIF Platform Advisory Board meeting – Luxemburg, 10 December 2014
- Panel discussion: "European Future of the Western Balkans - Will the New Initiative for Bosnia and Herzegovina Foster the EU Accession Process of The Region?" – Berlin, 10 December 2014
- RCC - SEECP Troika consultations – Sarajevo, 11 December 2014
- Meeting of the Social Agenda 2020 Working Group on the implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy - Sarajevo, 18 December 2014

* 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.

- The Inaugural meeting of the Turkish Presidency of the G20/Business 20 – Istanbul, 15 December 2014
- Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Skopje, 19 December 2014
- Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia – Belgrade, 29 December 2014

Integrated Growth

- Meeting of the German Federation of Industries - Budva, 24-25 September 2014
- SEEIC – CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investment Meeting – Sarajevo, 9 October 2014
- Meeting with the Representatives of the Foreign Investors Councils (FIC) of the Western Balkans: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro – Belgrade, 16 October 2014
- 16th SEEIC Meeting – Zagreb, 4 November 2014
- CEFTA Week – Skopje, 18-20 November 2014

Smart Growth

- Meeting of the Regional SEE Working Group on Recognition of Qualifications - Zagreb, 22-23 September 2014
- Meeting of the Steering Platform on research for Western Balkan Countries - Trieste, 24 September 2014
- Second Meeting of the Steering Committee of the R&D Strategy for Innovation - Ohrid, 30 September 2014
- High Level Conference: Skills for the Future: SEE and Turkey – Tirana, 6 October 2014
- High-Level Regional Conference Cultural Heritage Rehabilitation as a Key to Sustainable Development – Dubrovnik, 27-28 October 2014
- 10th Meeting of the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society – Dubrovnik, 28-29 October 2014
- Consultations with DG ELARG and DG JRC on the implementation of the R&D Regional programme – Brussels, 4 November 2014
- Joint seminar of the Cluster of Knowledge on Vocational Education and Training and South East Europe Regional VET Network – Tirana, 17-18 November 2014
- Workshop on Activity 4 – Site Management Plans with Relevant Training organised by the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society – Budva, 25-26 November 2014
- eSEE Meeting – Brussels, 9-10 December 2014

Sustainable Growth

- Second Meeting of the Food and Beverages Processing Expert Group – Paris, 2 October 2014
- Road Safety Capacity Building Workshop – Belgrade, 15-16 October 2014
- Second Meeting of the Tourism Expert Group – Paris, 20 October 2014
- RCC/SEETO consultation meeting under the SEE2020 strategy framework – Belgrade, 25 November 2014
- Environment and Security Initiative Partners Meeting for policy and field updates from the regions – Belgrade, 26 November 2014
- JSPAI & RCC Preparatory Team Meeting and Meeting of the Working group on NSA Pool of the Experts – Budapest, 1-2 December 2014
- 10th SEETO Annual Meeting of Transport Ministers – Skopje, 4 December 2014

- International Multi-stakeholders Roundtable on “Water, Food, Energy and Environment Nexus in Southeastern Europe” and Working meeting of the Directors of the Ministries related the “Water, Food, Energy and Environment Nexus in Southeastern Europe” – Zagreb, 9-11 December 2014

Inclusive Growth

- European Health Forum – Gastein, 1-3 October 2014
- Consultative National Workshops on Labour Mobility – SEE capitals, 20 – 30 October 2014
- 11th Steering Committee Meeting of the South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning – Pristina, 4 November 2014
- Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the SEE Health Network – Skopje, 18 November 2014
- 34th meeting of the SEE Health Network – Skopje, 19-20 November 2014
- Working Group on Social Agenda Meeting – Sarajevo, 18 December 2014

Governance for Growth

- Consultations with the Member of the Working Group on Justice – Belgrade, 2 October 2014
- Consultations with the Member of the Working Group on Justice – Podgorica, 8 October 2014
- Consultations with the Member of the Working Group on Justice – Tirana, 9 October 2014
- Consultations with the Member of the Working Group on Justice – Skopje, 14 October 2014
- Second Meeting of the Working Group on Justice – Sarajevo, 22-23 October 2014
- 25th SEEPAG conference on the “Legal instruments and mechanisms which can simplify and accelerate criminal procedure” – Budapest, 28-29 October 2014
- SELDI Steering Committee – Sofia, 28 October 2014
- 5th Meeting of RESPA Governing Board – Skopje, 30-31 October 2014
- Regional Conference on Good Governance and Anti-corruption Policy Challenges – Tirana, 13-14 November 2014
- Regional Conference on Trends and Challenges in Implementing Anti-corruption Strategies – Skopje, 25 November 2014
- NALAS Informal Network of EU Project Managers – Skopje, 2-3 December 2014

Justice and Home Affairs

- SEELS Management Board Meeting, Zagreb, 23-24 September 2014
- 12th meeting of the PCC SEE Expert Working Group - Sofia, 30 September - 1 October 2014
- 4th Joint Training "Supplementary Information Request at the National Entry - SIRENE" – Ohrid, 2 October 2014
- EU Workshop on Countering Violent Extremism – Ljubljana, 16-17 October 2014
- Conference on Promoting Partnership with Non-Law Enforcement Actors in Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors – Vienna, 27-28 October 2014
- 12th Committee of Ministers of the Police Cooperation Convention of the Southeast Europe – Brdo pri Kranju, 11 November 2014
- Treptower Group Working Level Meeting – Potsdam, 19-21 November 2014
- SEPCA General Assembly – Belgrade, 25-26 November 2014
- Consultations with the European Commission regarding the further work in the area of Justice and Home Affairs – Brussels, 27 November 2014
- EUSDR PA11 Steering Committee Meeting – Sofia, 28 November 2014
- 2nd Meeting of the Border Police Chiefs under the auspices of the DCAF Border Security Programme – Belgrade, 3-5 December 2014

- UNODC Regional Programme for SEE Steering Committee Meeting – Vienna, 12 December 2014
- EU-Western Balkans Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Forum – Belgrade, 12 December 2014

Liaison Office

- Roma integration award ceremony with the participation of the Enlargement Commissioner – Brussels, 1 October 2014
- EC preparatory meeting of the Belgrade WB Six Ministerial with the WB Ambassadors – Brussels, 6 October 2014
- Hearing in the EP of EU HR/VP designate - Brussels, 6 October 2014
- High Level Conference on skills for the future – Western Balkans and Turkey - Tirana, 6 October 2014
- Meeting the EEAS desk officer for RCC - Brussels, 7 October 2014
- Meeting with the MEP (S&D) – Brussels, 9 October 2014
- EPC Policy Briefing with the Deputy PM and MFA of Serbia - Brussels, 10 October 2014
- EC Evaluation Committee – Brussels, 16 October 2014
- Meeting with EU HoD - Brussels, 21 October 2014
- Meeting with DG Employment – Brussels, 27 October 2014
- First public speech of the new Secretary General of NATO, organized by the GMF - Brussels, 28 October 2014
- Workshop European Research funding in the post-2004 Member States in the frame of the initiative MIRRIS, DG Research – Brussels, 29 October 2014
- CEFTA evaluation committee – Brussels, 3 November 2014
- EPC debate on the economics of EU enlargement to the Balkans with the participation of the DG for Enlargement and RCC SEE 2020 Coordinator – Brussels, 4 November 2014
- Signing the EU (represented by the EC) Contribution Agreement with the RCC Secretariat for the period 2015-2016 – Brussels, 27 November 2014
- Meeting with DG Enlargement and DG Home - Brussels, 27 November 2014
- EP Foreign Policy Committee exchange of views with the WB MFAs on the enlargement progress reports - Brussels, 2 December 2014
- EPC policy dialogue on BH with the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations - Brussels, 2 December 2014
- ‘Friends of Europe’ Balkan summit with the participation of RCC SG as a key note speaker - Brussels, 8 December 2014

ANNEX III

RCC ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR 2015

Component 1:	Horizontal activities, including political activities and support for the SEECP, 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>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>		<i>x</i>	<i>Meetings</i>	<i>Increased synergy and coordination between RCC and SEECP; support for the SEECP CiO activities; better harmonization between the SEECP CiO and RCC activities; increased sectoral relevance of SEECP; dynamic dialogue with the EU institutions; Increased SEECP and RCC visibility with the EU institutions</i>
<i>RCC Annual Meeting (one meeting)</i>		<i>x</i>			<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Coordination Meetings between the SEECP Troika, RCC Secretariat and EU (four meetings)</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>		<i>x</i>	<i>Meetings</i>	
<i>SEECP support: Political Directors meetings (three meetings)</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>		<i>x</i>	<i>Meetings</i>	
<i>SEECP support: Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (three meetings)</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>		<i>Meetings</i>	
<i>SEECP support: SEECP Summit (one meeting)</i>		<i>x</i>			<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>SEECP support: Parliamentary cooperation (two meetings)</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>			<i>Meetings</i>	
<i>SEECP support: consultations with SEECP participants (six events)</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Political consultations</i>	
<i>Annual briefings for Ambassadors in Brussels</i>			<i>x</i>		<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Regular consultations of SG with European Union institutions and services</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Meetings</i>	
<i>Briefing of SG in COWEB</i>		<i>x</i>			<i>Conference</i>	
<i>Briefing of SG and SEECP CiO with the WG of the AFET Committee of EP</i>	<i>x</i>				<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Participation of SG in the high level conference on the Balkans,</i>				<i>x</i>	<i>Conference</i>	

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

Component 2:	Implementing the SEE 2020, the Stability and Rule of Law and Security cooperation 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 programmes 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>	<i>x</i>				<i>Conference</i>	
<i>Regional workshop on Teacher Education and Training</i>	<i>x</i>				<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>Completion of existing contract - consultant on 'Teacher education and Training'</i>	<i>x</i>				<i>Study</i>	
<i>ERISEE governing board meeting</i>	<i>x</i>				<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Two Coordination Meetings of the Task Force on Culture and Society</i>	<i>x</i>		<i>x</i>		<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>Expand and rename the Ljubljana Process Regional Expert Pool in a way to have 3 categories covering Cultural and Creative Sectors (include experts on audiovisual, design and heritage) -Inaugural conference and workshop and creation of online database:</i>		<i>x</i>			<i>Conference</i>	
<i>Prepare marketing and promotional materials for the purpose of fundraising activities for the programmes developed under CCS Dimension (with a focus on heritage)</i>	<i>x</i>				<i>Promotional material</i>	
<i>Organise a regional training for indicators in culture in cooperation with UNESCO and OECD</i>			<i>x</i>		<i>Training package</i>	
<i>Organise innovative on-site learning training activity targeted to history, heritage and citizenship educators in cooperation with EUROCLIO</i>			<i>x</i>		<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>Regional coordination (workshops/working group meetings)</i>	<i>x</i>		<i>x</i>		<i>Meeting</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>Ministerial conference</i>		<i>x</i>			<i>Conference</i>	
<i>Study in the identified Digital Society priorities of the SEE 2020 Strategy</i>		<i>x</i>			<i>Study</i>	

Sustainable Growth						
<i>Establishment of Working Group/Forum on Infrastructure and first meeting</i>		x			Meeting	<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>Finalisation of the Intermodal Study (existing contract)</i>				x	Study	
<i>Meeting with SEE2020 key transport stakeholders: National Coordinators & key users</i>				x	Meeting	
<i>SEECF format - Expert Meeting on Railway Network, "Upgrading Railway as growth engine for SEE"</i>	x				Meeting	
<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			Other	
<i>RCC/SEETO meetings and consultations</i>	x	x		x	Meeting	
<i>Congress on Railways</i>			x		Meeting	
<i>Working Group on Regional Programme on Air Transport</i>	x				Meeting	
<i>Meetings of the Working group on NSA Expert Pool Projects</i>		x		x	Meeting	
<i>RCC/JSPAI Preparatory Team meeting</i>			x		Meeting	
<i>Preparation of an Analytical Review of existing activities with regards to the Studies on Free Route Airspace, Performance-based Navigation and Wide-area Multilateralism</i>		x			Assessment	
<i>RCC/JSPAI Consultation meeting</i>	x			x	Meeting	
<i>Regional assessment on status of irrigation and potentials for increasing irrigated agriculture land;</i>			x		Study	
<i>Regional baseline report on status of forestation on annual level (last 3 years);</i>			x		Study	
<i>Regional Forestry Cooperation</i>			x		Meeting	
<i>Regional Roundtable on the Nexus as means to raise awareness on the issue and discuss actions to foster the</i>			x		Roundtable	

<i>implementation of the Nexus approach at the national level;</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>Recommendation and endorsement by the SEEIC members of policy approaches to removing of sector barriers (skills gap in both sectors), with the adoption of joint regional projects; Regional supply chain in food and beverages processing industry to be marketed abroad; Develop a regional programme of joint tourism offer for the global market; Agreement brokered on the main policy directions for cooperation in industrial development in the region</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>	<i>x</i>				<i>Roundtable</i>	<i>Increased commitment to promote social economy; roadmap established and progress made towards the goal of mutual recognition of professional qualifications, and increased awareness and engagement for youth employment</i>
<i>Ministerial Conference on Social Economy</i>		<i>x</i>			<i>Conference</i>	
<i>Social Agenda Working Group meetings</i>	<i>x</i>		<i>x</i>		<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Joint working group meetings on mutual recognition of professional qualifications</i>	<i>x</i>		<i>x</i>		<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Analyses and assessments on mutual recognition of qualifications</i>		<i>x</i>			<i>Assessment</i>	
<i>Youth unemployment conference (EXIT festival)</i>		<i>x</i>			<i>Conference</i>	
<i>Visibility (printing)</i>	<i>x</i>				<i>Report</i>	
<i>SEEHN consultations with other regional initiatives</i>	<i>x</i>				<i>Meeting</i>	<i>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.</i>
<i>Feasibility study on opportunities for investment in health in the framework of inclusive growth</i>			<i>x</i>		<i>Study</i>	
<i>Review of legislation, regulations, standards and procedures related to border control of people's movement and trade with importance for human health</i>		<i>x</i>			<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Working group meetings of the SEEHN</i>	<i>x</i>		<i>x</i>		<i>Meeting</i>	
<i>Visibility (printing)</i>			<i>x</i>		<i>Report</i>	
Governance for Growth						
<i>Upgrading Policy and Regulatory Capacity: Study on regulatory impact Assessment;</i>	<i>x</i>				<i>Study</i>	<i>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,</i>
<i>Upgrading Policy and Regulatory Capacity: Kick-off conference on study results; Publication of the Study;</i>			<i>x</i>		<i>Conference</i>	
<i>Subsidiarity and Multi-level Governance: Study on Decentralization Observatory for SEE</i>	<i>x</i>				<i>Study</i>	

<i>Decentralization Observatory for SEE: Kick-off Conference</i>			x		<i>Conference</i>	<i>closer to costumers, allowing the regional and municipal governments to come up with tailor-made initiatives that best fit local economic potential.</i>
<i>Translation of the Methodology on CPL and Methodology on CRA and its publishing in 5 languages</i>		x			<i>Tool/toolkit</i>	<i>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 interest and regional legal instrument</i>
<i>Training on Performing CPL and using of IT tool (3 trainingsx7 participants with interpretation in local language)</i>				x	<i>Training package</i>	
<i>Training on Performing CRA and using of IT tool (3 trainings x7participants with interpretation in local language)</i>				x	<i>Training package</i>	
<i>Consultancy to develop and maintain resource centre, 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>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 Programme and the Reports on E-enforcement, Mediation and Backlog reduction programmes), 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 Programme-finalised 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>		<i>x</i>			<i>Other</i>	
<i>Regional Conference "Court backlogs reduction programs and practices-presentation of Study", Split</i>		<i>x</i>			<i>Conference</i>	
<i>Kick off event "Establishment of the network of judicial and prosecutorial councils", Budva</i>		<i>x</i>			<i>Other</i>	
<i>Kick off event "Establishment of the SEE training institutions network", Tirana</i>		<i>x</i>			<i>Other</i>	
Stability and Rule of Law/Security						
<i>Mapping of all regional activities in the field of fighting serious and organised crime</i>	<i>x</i>				<i>Report</i>	<i>Help in prioritising, 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 prioritising) the areas of needed intervention to regional donors and strategic partners active in the region.</i>
<i>Workshop with donors and regional strategic partners to contribute to the Gap analysis</i>		<i>x</i>			<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>Workshop for presenting WB countries with results, updated list of needs, where priorities would be indicated</i>		<i>x</i>			<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>			<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Workshop</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>			<i>x</i>		<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 exchangeThe activities envisaged within the project will promote and achieve confidence within the Balkans, representing a unique framework in the security area.</i>
<i>b) Organising and supporting one conference of SEEMIC, SEENSA, SEECIC, DPD, DPrD.</i>			<i>x</i>		<i>Conference</i>	
<i>c) Organising two WG meetings of experts in preparation and implementation of decisions of SEEMIC, SEENSA, SEECIC, DPD, DPrD .</i>			<i>x</i>		<i>Workshop</i>	
<i>d) Monitor the activities of the RI&TF in SEE, namely – SEDM, WBDPD, A5, RACVIAC, SEESAC, DPPI, RCM.</i>			<i>x</i>		<i>Other</i>	
<i>e) Assessment of the lessons learned, best practices and difficulties encountered after two year of implementing the RCC WP.</i>			<i>x</i>		<i>Assessment</i>	

<i>Balkan Opinion Barometer/Balkan Business Barometer</i>				<i>x</i>	<i>Report</i>	
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ANNEX IV

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

1. Mr. Goran Svilanovic, Secretary General
2. Ms. Gordana Demser, Legal and Political Advisor/ Head of the Office of the Secretary General
3. Mr. Nenad Sebek, Spokesperson
4. Ms. Jasna Sinancevic, Personal Assistant to the Secretary General
5. Ms. Selma Ahatovic – Lihic - Public Affairs Assistant
6. Mr. Sladjan Rikanovic, Driver/Security

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

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

PROGRAMME DEPARTMENT

1. Mr. Gazmend Turdiu, Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Programme Department

SEE 2020 STRATEGY COORDINATION UNIT

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

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS UNIT

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

BRUSSELS LIAISON OFFICE

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

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

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

ANNEX V

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABC	Association of Balkan Chambers
ACE	Association of Consulting Engineers of Bosnia and Herzegovina
ACI	Airport Council International Europe
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AEA	Association of the European Airlines
AII	Adriatic-Ionian Initiative
ALAs	Association of Local Authorities
AREC	Adriatic Region Employers' Centre
ATM	Air Traffic Management
BAC	Business Advisory Council
BCSDN	Balkan Civil Society Development Network
BRESCE	UNESCO Venice Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe
bSEE	Task Force Broadband South Eastern Europe Task Force
BfV	Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CARICC	Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre
CEB	Council of Europe Development Bank
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
CeGD	Centre for e-Governance Development
CEI	Central European Initiative
CGRS	Commission for Global Road Safety
C-i-O	Chairmanship-in-Office
CoE	Council of Europe
CoMoCoSEE	Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe
COSAP	Conference of the European Integration Parliamentary Committees of States participating in the Stabilization and Association Process
COWEB	Working Group on Western Balkans of the Council of the EU
CP	Contracting Parties
CPESSEC	Centre of Public Employment Services of Southeast European Countries
CPF	Cetinje Parliamentary Forum
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CTED	Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate
DABLAS	Danube and Black Sea Task Force
DCAF	Democratic Control of Armed Forces
DCHOD	Deputy Chief of Defence
DCP	Danube Cooperation Process
DPPI	Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative
EAS	External Action Service
EASA	European Aviation Safety Agency
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
ECAA	European Common Aviation Area
ECRB	Energy Community Regulatory Board
ECS	Energy Community Secretariat
ECT	Energy Community Treaty
EEAS	European External Action Service
EHEA	European Higher Education Area
EIB	European Investment Bank
ELFA	European Law Faculty Association
ELIAMEP	Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy
ENIC	European Network of Information Centres
EnC	Energy Community
ERF	European Union Road Federation
ERI SEE	Education Reform Initiative for South Eastern Europe
ERSO	European Road Safety Observatory
eSEE Initiative	Electronic South Eastern Europe Initiative
ESENSEE	Eco Social Economy Network South and East Europe

EU	European Union
EUMS	European Union Military Staff
EUSDR	EU Strategy for the Danube Region
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FES	Friedrich Ebert Foundation
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GRECO	Group of States against Corruption
GRSP	Global Road Safety Partnership
GS Council of EU	General Secretariat Council of European Union
GTF	Gender Task Force
HIDAA	High Inspectorate for Declaration and Audit of Assets
ICDT	International Centre for Democratic Transition
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IEN	Integrity Expert Network
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IFIAG	International Financial Institution Advisory Group
IFP	Infrastructure Project Facilities
ILECUs	International Enforcement Coordination Units
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOE	International Organization of Employers
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IOs	International Organizations
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
IRI	Investment Reform Index
IRF	International Road Federation
IRTAD	International Road Traffic and Accident Database
ISIS	Implementation of Single European Sky in South East Europe
ISRBC	International Sava River Basin Commission
ITF	International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation
JPM	Joint Parliamentary Meeting
JSPAI	Joint Service Provision Area Initiative
KOGSEB	Small and Medium – sized Enterprise Development Administration of Turkey
LSE	London School of Economics
MARRI	Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative
MB IPA	Multi-Beneficiary Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
MCAASEES	Marshall Center Alumni Association for Southeast European Security
ME CAA	Montenegrin Civil Aviation Agency
MIDAS	Migration & Detention Assessment
MIDWEB	Migration for Development in the Western Balkans
MIPD	Multi Indicative Planning Document
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MONEYVAL	Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NALAS	Network of Associations of Local Authorities of SEE
NARIC	National Academic Recognition Information Centres
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NI-CO	Northern Ireland Cooperation Overseas
NIPACs	National IPA Coordinators
NOS	NATO Office of Security
OCTA	Organized Crime Threat Assessment for South East Europe
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECD-NGCI	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative
OLAF	European Antifraud Office

OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSINT	Open Source Intelligence
PCC Secretariat	Police Cooperation Convention Secretariat
PE	Private Equity
PFS	Partners for Financial Stability
PHLG	Permanent High Level Group
PIDIN	Partnership for Improvement of Danube Infrastructure and Navigation
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PSO	Peace Support Operations
RACVIAC	Centre for Security Cooperation
RAI	Regional Anticorruption Initiative
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
RCC TF FBHC	RCC Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital
RCI	Regional Competitiveness Initiative
REC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe
RENA	Regional Environmental Network for Accession
ReSPA	Regional School of Public Administration
RI&O	Regional Initiatives and Organizations
RI&TFs	Regional Initiatives and Task Forces
RNIPA	Regional Network of Investment Promotion Agencies
RSA	Road Safety Audits
RSD	Regional Strategic Document
RSRDI	Regional Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation in Western Balkans
RSI	Road Safety Inspection
RSPC SEE	Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe
RTD	Research and Technical Development
SAP+	Stabilization and Association Process Plus (cumulation zone with EU, EFTA, Western Balkans and Turkey)
SECE CRIF	South East and Central European Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
SECI	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative
SECI Centre	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative, Regional Centre for Combating Organized Crime
SEDM	South East Europe Defence Ministerial
SEDRI	Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative
SEE	South East Europe
SEEC	South East Europe Clearing House
SEECIC	South East European Counter-Intelligence Chiefs Forum
SEECCEL	South East Europe Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning
SEECF	South-East European Cooperation Process
SEE-ERA.NET	South East European – European Research Area Network
SEE-ERA.NET PLUS	South East European – European Research Area Network Plus
SEEFREC	SEE Firefighting Regional Centre network
SEEHN	SEE Health Network
SEEIC	South East Europe Investment Committee
SEELS	South East European Law School Network
SELEC	Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre
SEEMIC	South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs
SEE MoD-GS	South East Europe Ministries of Defence and General Staffs
SEENSA	National Security Authorities of South East Europe Countries
SEE PPP Network	South East Europe Public Private Partnership Network
SEEPAG	Southeast European Prosecutors Advisory Group
SEPCA	Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association
SEESAC	South East Europe Small Arms and Light Weapons Clearing House
SES	Single European Sky
SEETO	South-East Europe Transport Observatory
SIDA	Swedish Development Agency
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SMEM	Serbian Ministry of Energy and Mining
SPMU	Strategic Police Matters Unit
SSR	Security Sector Reforms

STREW	Structural Reform in Higher Education in Western Balkans Countries
SWG RRD	Standing Working Group on Regional Rural Development
SWP	Strategic Work Programme
SWEROAD	Swedish National Road Consulting
TACSO	Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations
TCT	Transport Community Treaty
TEG	Tourism Expert Group
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport network
TF	Task Force
TFCS	Task Force on Culture and Society
ToR	Terms of Reference
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNCTED	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USEUCOM	USA European Command
VC	Venture Capital
WB	World Bank
WBIF	Western Balkans Investment Framework
WBPN	Western Balkans Prosecutor Network
WG	Working Group
WHO	World Health Organization
WINPRO	Witness Protection in the Fight against Serious Crime and Terrorism
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WPON	Women Police Officers Network