REPORT

ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE

REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

For the period 15 March – 15 October 2018

BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL

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

Sarajevo, 18 October 2018

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The Report on the activities of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat is submitted by the RCC Secretary General to the RCC Board in line with Article 15 of the Statute of the RCC. It covers the period between 1 April and 31 August 2018.

1. Summary of activities

During the reporting period, the activities and efforts of the RCC Secretariat were focused on the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme (SWP) for 2017 – 2019 and the implementation of the MAP REA - the Multiannual Action Plan for establishing the Regional Economic Area in WB6 in particular. RCC Secretariat's has continued with active engagement in regional political and sectorial activities, thus serving interests of all RCC participants from the SEE region and feeding the aspirations of the region to the good-neighbourly relations, the European and Euro-Atlantic integration, mutual-trust and prosperity.

The Brdo pri Kranju SEECP high-level events (23-24 April 2018), marking the completion of the Slovenian SEECP C-i-O for 2017 – 2018, reaffirmed the importance and commitment to regional cooperation as a key precondition for the stability and prosperity of the SEE region and for progress on the European and Euro-Atlantic integration path. The SEECP participants welcomed in particular the focus placed on regional economic cooperation, growth and development within the region. The SEECP participants approved the appointment of Ms. Majlinda Bregu as Secretary General of the RCC, starting from 1 January 2019 and of Mr. Igor Luksic as Secretary General of the RCC, starting on 1 January 2022; agreed on the SEECP C-i-O's for 2018-2019 (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and 2019-2020 (Kosovo[1]) and endorsed the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General for 2017-2018. High level events praised the role, synergy with and congratulated the 10th Anniversary of the RCC as a truly regionally owned organization supporting the regional cooperation and EU integration of the RCC aspirants. The SEECP participants thanked the incumbent RCC Secretary General Svilanovic for his indispensable contribution to serving regional cooperation in South East Europe over the past almost six years of his tenure as the RCC Secretary General.

Organized back-to-back with the Brdo pri Kranju SEECP high-level events, the 10th RCC Annual meeting exchanged views on the situation in SEE and underlined the valuable role of RCC in promoting strategic coordination of regional cooperation processes, highlighting the importance of the MAP REA implementation. The participants welcomed the renewed momentum in the EU's enlargement agenda and welcomed the progress made by SEE aspirants in this respect. The RCC participants praised the activities implemented by the RCC and endorsed the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General for 2017-2018, while reconfirming the sound support for the implementation of the RCC SWP 2017-2019.

Overall, the Slovenian Croatian SEECP C-i-O has notably contributed to strengthened regional cooperation and supported Euro-Atlantic aspirations of the SEE participants. Moreover, the issues of economic development, regional economic integration focused on connectivity and digital transformation, security and youth were on the top of the agenda as key areas enabling further progress in SEE.

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

The activities related to the regional economic area were at the core of the RCC Secretariat activities in the period April-August 2018. The RCC Secretariat has continued to coordinate all MAP REA activities and oversee the overall implementation along its four components. Efforts have been invested in maintaining and facilitating the regional dialogue within MAP structures, monitoring implementation of key deliverables related to MAP REA, identifying next milestones and targets, etc. Successful implementation of key deliverables along the four MAP REA components has been acknowledged by the Economy Ministers Meeting, held on 4 July 2018 in Vienna and forward-looking commitments have been elaborated – to be further systematized in the strategic discussion planned at the upcoming MAP Coordinators meeting in October. The EU-Western Balkan Summit and London Summit have noted the progress toward the establishment of the Regional Economic Area and called upon stepping up efforts in this regard. In addition to the horizontal processes, the RCC actively contributed to the implementation of MAP within the skills and mobility, connectivity and competitiveness flagships.

The fourth cycle of the SEE2020 monitoring cycle was finalised, resulting in Annual Report on Implementation (ARI) of the SEE2020 for 2018 and the fourth edition of the Balkan Barometer (BB) Survey. The ARI was adopted on the 5th meeting of the SEE2020 Governing Board, while the BB 2018 findings were presented on the BB 2018 launching event, taking place in Brussels beginning of July.

In line with renewed momentum of the EU's enlargement agenda, RCC has sustained its active engagement with EU institutions, Brussels-based think tanks and foundations, as well as diplomatic missions to the EU. RCC has intensified and supported cooperation with the following important partners and actors : European Commission (DG NEAR, DG JUST, DG CONNECT, DG EMPL), Joint Research Center (JRC), European Committee of the Regions, European Economic and Social Committee, Press Club, European Policy Center, Friends of Europe, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Balkan Traffic Festival, PubAffairs Brussels, Hans-Seidel Foundation, European Endowment for Democracy, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SwP), Netherlands Institute of International Relations (Clingendael), EuroNavigator, Academic Cooperation Association (ACA).

The Bulgarian Presidency continued with its strong commitment to the EU perspective of the Western Balkans. These efforts culminated in the Sofia EU –Western Balkans Summit on the 17th of May. The RCC SG was invited to this high forum as an acknowledgement of the importance of and role played by the organization in promoting regional cooperation and the European aspirations of the region. A key objective of the RCC is to ensure that the upcoming Presidencies of the EU Council maintain the current focus on the Western Balkans and its future accession.

Together with the Bulgarian EU presidency, the RCC Liaison Office (LO) co-hosted an event "The Western Balkans' European Perspective through Growth, Good Governance and Enhanced Cooperation" on 25 April 2018. RCC Secretary General gave introductory remarks, whereas RCC deputy Secretary-General participated in the panel on "Strengthening the European perspective through regional cooperation".

The regular exchanges between RCC LO and representatives of the European Committee of the Regions were intensified as part of the Enlargement Days, the fourth edition of European Committee of the Regions' flagship event on enlargement policy on 3-4 May 2018.

The RCC Secretary General took part in the Working Party on Non-Proliferation (CONOP) in the Council on 24 May 2018. The meeting was the opportunity to remind the Member States, the European External Action Service representatives, Permanent missions of the six Western Balkan

partners, NATO representatives and other relevant stakeholders about the importance of cooperation in the security field. The Secretary-General also pointed out the successful cooperation between the Regional Cooperation Council and SEESAC, including the integration of the gender mainstreaming approach into SALW policies.

The RCC LO jointly with the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SwP) hosted a Public roundtable "Why now enlargement in the Western Balkans is good – or bad – for the EU?" on 3 July 2018. RCC Secretary General took part in the panel discussion and used the opportunity to inform the participants about the RCC work to facilitate the EU accession process of Western Balkan partners.

The RCC Secretary General participated and addressed the following high-level events with a regional dimension such as: 10th Anniversary event of the European Fund for the Balkans (16 April 2018, Belgrade); Fifth meeting of NFP P/CVE Group (17 April 2018, Belgrade); Digital Summit (18-19 April 2018, Skopje); RCC - SEECP high level events (23 April 2018, Brdo pri Kranju); Regional Cooperation Day with Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU (25 April 2018, Brussels); 4th Enlargement Day of the European Committee of the Regions (4 May 2018, Brussels); EU-Western Balkans Summit Sofia; The Results of the EU-UNDP Partnership on Disarmament and Arms Control in South East Europe (24 May 2018, Brussels); SALW Commissions meeting and SEEMIC Working Group (28 and 29 May 2018, Tirana); Ministerial meeting on digital skills (7 June 2018, Belgrade); CEI Ministerial meeting (11 June 2018, Split); Launch of Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans (25 June 2018, Sofia); 7th Ministerial meeting – Western Balkans Platforms on Education and Training & Research and Innovation (26 June 2018, Brussels); Berlin Process Economy Ministers meeting (4 July 2018, Vienna); SEE2020 Governing Board meeting (5 July 2018, Brussels); Balkan Barometer presentation (6 July 2018, Brussels); The London Summit (10 July 2018, London) and the WB 6 Prime Ministers meeting (27 August 2018, Tirana).

Implementing SEE 2020 Strategy through Flagship Approach

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

A.1.1. Removal of obstacles to mobility of students and highly skilled workers in the region: mutual recognition of academic qualifications

The 2nd meeting of the Working Group on Recognition of Academic Qualifications was held on 26th March 2018 in Podgorica where the concept of Joint Exercise on Recognition of Academic Qualifications was discussed. The meeting was attended by representatives of Ministries responsible for higher education, ENIC/NARIC offices and Quality Assurance bodies of WB6. The participants agreed on the modalities and on the kick-start of a joint exercise on recognition of academic qualifications and the concept of a joint information system which would facilitate better exchange of information on recognition issues in the region. The participants also discussed the model and principles of recognition of academic qualifications as well as agreed to appoint their national coordinators and national teams for the joint exercise on recognition of academic qualifications.

During the reporting period, the RCC activities were focused around preparing a Joint Ministerial Statement stating agreed Principles for automatic recognition of academic qualifications in the Western Balkans adopted at the Meeting of the Ministers of Education under the Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training which took place on the 26th June 2018 in Brussels.

Furthermore on the topic of academic qualifications RCC organised the 3rd meeting of the Working Group on Recognition of Academic Qualifications held on 14th June 2018 in Brussels finalising the concept of Joint Exercise on Recognition of Academic qualifications, reviewing the List of Cases for the Joint Exercise on Recognition of Academic Qualifications, and setting up the timeline for its implementation. The meeting was attended by representatives of Ministries responsible for higher education, ENIC/NARIC offices and Quality Assurance bodies of WB6. At the meeting it was also agreed on the Joint Information System which will facilitate the recognition of academic qualifications in the region and is expected to be up and running by the end of this year.

A.2.1. Removal of obstacles to mobility of professionals: mutual recognition of professional qualifications

With regards to removing obstacles to recognition of professional qualifications, RCC finalised technical preparations and paved the way for economies to start their internal procedures of nominating teams which will represent them in regional negotiations for MRA. Hence the seventh and last meeting of the CEFTA-ERI SEE-RCC Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications took place on the 7th of May 2018 in Sarajevo. During this meeting participants confirmed the text of the Recommendation on opening of negotiations on mutual recognition agreement of professional qualifications for doctors of medicine, dentists, architects and civil engineers. The governments are to inform the RCC Secretary General of their position on opening negotiations and of the composition of their negotiating teams. It was agreed that following the information on the appointments of the negotiating teams the RCC will convene the first meeting of the negotiators. The 1st Meeting of the lead Negotiators on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications took place on 8th October 2018.

A.3.1. Removal of obstacles to mobility of researchers

On the third component of mobility RCC facilitated a Joint Statement from the Western Balkans on the more prominent inclusion of WB in the new Horizon Europe program which is being currently shaped by the EU institutions and EU Member States (EUMS) and which was also supported by the Ministers in charge of Science of the Western Balkans. This Statement would also be used to lobby further the EU institutions and EUMS in the next period before the HE program is finalised and approved in the EC. RCC convened a meeting of the Working Group on Research & Development which took place on the 13th June 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. At that meeting RCC gathered for the first time EURAXESS contact points from the region and agreed to go forward with the networking and raising capacities of EURAXESS contact points. An initial proposal with trainings needed in more detail will be devised and the first meeting back to back with the first training will be initiated in the last trimester of this year where the strategic element of the trainings will be discussed and shaped in the form of a work plan.

RCC in cooperation with DG JRC also co-organised a workshop on smart specialisation on April 11-12 in Ljubljana. The Workshop resulted in draft Roadmaps for the development of S3 for Albania, BiH, Kosovo* and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, while Serbia and Montenegro prepared the EDP plans in accordance with their current preparation phase of S3.

The Employment and Social Affairs Platform (ESAP) - part of the Inclusive Growth pillar of the SEE 2020 Strategy and integrated within the "Skills and Mobility" flagship - is in implementation since March 2016.

During the reporting period three regional peer review workshops on employment policies and programmes were organized between April and June 2018 on the topics of self-employment, employment of persons with disabilities and youth employment. The workshops were hosted by the institutions in Kosovo*, Serbia and Montenegro, respectively, and brought together representatives of Ministries of Labour and Public Employment Services from the region to discuss and share good practices, promote dynamic mutual learning and policy transfers among the participating economies.

A regional meeting was organized in Brussels on 19 – 20 June 2018 with the aim of presenting to beneficiaries of the ESAP project from the Western Balkans and key Brussels-based stakeholders the findings of the main analytical ESAP reports on the labour market trends, active labour market policies, employment data sources, mutual learning reports on employment programmes and bench-learning.

Following the implementation of the bench-learning exercise among the Public Employment Offices of the Western Balkans, a regional comparative overview of Public Employment Services' performance management in the region has been prepared. The report highlights the main strengths and weaknesses, drivers of Public Employment Service performance and provides recommendations for their future development.

In light of the important role that informal employment plays in the regional economies, ESAP conducted in-depth reviews of direct and indirect policy approaches and institutional set-ups for employment formalization in each of the 6 Western Balkan economies. Additionally, the applicability and transferability of the best and most relevant EU policies into the regional context has been analysed. Expert recommendations from the reports will feed into policy discussions with national stakeholders. Furthermore continuous technical assistance actions have been implemented to address national employment and labour market priorities.

A.2. The "Connectivity" flagship seeks to provide support through interventions designed to spur digital transformation of the region, ensure uninterrupted supply of energy and transport services promoting clear sources and technologies with the view of protecting the environment and addressing climate change as the key challenges of sustainable development.

A.2.1 Digital integration agenda

The Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area adopted by WB leaders at the occasion of the 2017 Trieste Summit, Statement of Support for the WB Digital Agenda of the Sofia Summit and the Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans launched on 25 June 2018 set clear path for digital transformation of the region. Therefore, our activities in the reporting period were concentrated on transforming MAP objectives and commitments of regional leaders into concrete actions in close cooperation with the national Governments, the European Commission and other regional and international stakeholders supporting digitalisation of the region and reaping variety of its benefits.

In the reporting period focus of RCC activities was on the preparation of the WB Digital Summit (DS) as a permanent high level dialogue on digital transformation of the region. Also, various activities were performed aiming at harmonization of roaming and spectrum policy, as well as decreasing

roaming prices with the aim of ensuring full coverage of WB customers. Cooperation with relevant stakeholders and initiatives is reinforced and cooperation with national Governments resulted in many achievements in the reporting period. The Western Balkans Roaming Policy Meeting organized in the beginning of April initiated a regional dialogue among ministries responsible for ICT and Regulators on roaming policy harmonization and opened discussion on possible extension and/or renewal of the Regional Roaming Agreement. The first regionally-owned WB DS was hosted by The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 18th and 19th April in Skopje. At this occasion the Prime-Ministers and Ministers for digital society agreed the next steps and framework of future cooperation related to digital agenda for the region. In the light of this agreement RCC maintained regional cooperation and supported defining the Statement of Support for the Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans agreed by the leaders of the EU in consultation with regional partners. As the result of the Statement of Support, our activities supported preparation and endorsement of the Digital Agenda for WB while our work for defining roadmap for decreasing roaming prices continues. In line with commitments foreseen by the MAP, RCC also initiated regional cooperation on coordination and harmonization of spectrum policies in line with the World Radio-communication Conferences (WRC) and ITU framework, aiming at overcoming problems of cross-border interference and freeing up certain bands of spectrum.

Furthermore, in the reporting period RCC provided a platform for sharing experience and lessons learned from the first WB DS among partners involved in organization and initiated preparations of the second one with the Serbian Government as the Host of the 2019 WB DS.

Moreover, with the aim of analyzing regional market and providing analytical basis for further roaming policy harmonization and decreasing of costs, RCC commissioned a study on roaming prices and telecommunications market which should provide a baseline report on prices, services, prospects and models for creating a roaming free region. The study is expected to be finalized by the end of 2018, while its findings will serve as inputs for development of a Roadmap to facilitate lowering the cost of roaming as well as analytics for the Roaming Agreement to ensure full coverage of regional consumers.

A.2.2. Sectoral support in environment, energy and sustainable development

In the reporting period RCC continued with activities designed to support implementation of actions stemming from Bonn Ministerial Declaration. Our activities were focused on coordinated implementation of projects of regional importance and coordination of numerous partners active in the area. Thus series of consultations and common activities with partners in the environment have continued during the reporting period.

In cooperation with GIZ Open Regional Fund (GIZ ORF) for Biodiversity and IUCN ECARO[2] who acts as the Biodiversity Task Force (BD TF) Secretariat, RCC continued supporting the work of the regional BD TF and regional presence at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CoP 14) to be held in November in Egypt. The area of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity continues to be important while partners in this initiative have organized additional consultations in Kolašin (Montenegro) and are planning to organize final consultation (in October in Belgrade) and define regional approach and official poster for the CoP 14. BD TF continued to work on the implementation of the biodiversity Work Plan which identifies priorities in this area for the region.

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[2] International Union for Conservation of Nature, Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

In line with continual process of regional high-level cooperation, the Regional Working Group on Environment (RWG Env) met in Skopje and reviewed the progress achieved in the implementation of Bonn Ministerial Declaration. The RWG Env also initiated preparation of the next high-level panel on environment. The meeting will be co-hosted by RCC and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and will take place on 21st November in Skopje.

Successful implementation of the two projects developed under the SEE 2020 Strategy (water-food-energy Nexus and ClimaProof) continued in the reporting period. Coordination and regional ownership of these projects is ensured through Bonn Ministerial Declaration, while coordination role is played by the RWG Env. Preparations for the second Regional Roundtable on "The path towards Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems Nexus in South East Europe", to take place in October in Skopje, have already started. A Summer School for representatives of regional hydro-meteorological institutes, under the ClimaProof project, has been organized in July this year. This project is also progressing with the implementation providing training and developing useful software for analysing climate impacts on road infrastructure development.

A.3. The "Competitiveness" flagship activities in the reporting period were focused on development and finalization of the Regional Investment Reform Agenda (RIRA) and proposal for the regional programme on capital markets integration, as stipulated within the Investment Pillar of the Regional Economic Area. Industrial development is linked with the Smart Growth Pillar and development of the smart specialization schemes in the region, while sectoral activities were dedicated to implementation of the "Triple P" Tourism project.

A.3.1. Investment integration
The RCC, in cooperation with the World Bank Group, intensified activities on regional dialogue on harmonization of investment policies which led to finalization and endorsement of the Regional Investment Reform Agenda (RIRA) at the SEE Investment Committee Ministerial Meeting on May 11 2018, followed by confirmation of this agenda by the region's Economy Ministers at the meeting in Vienna on 4 July and Prime Ministers at the WB6 Summit on 10 July in London. Prior to intensive regional dialogue on finalization and endorsement of the proposal, the RCC also organized consultations with individual economy MAP REA Investment Contact Points and other institutions in charge of policies put forward by the RIRA, within the scope of the Regional Investment Policy and Promotion project, in order to ensure that the respective individual-economy priorities are properly addressed within the agenda. RIRA is a first initiative of a kind in the region and is to provide for greater harmonization of regional investment policies with the EU standards and international best practices, within the framework of the SEE 2020 Strategy, CEFTA and EU pre-accession and accession processes. It is comprised of a reform schedule for a wide set of investment pertinent policies on investor entry and establishment, retention and protection, and promotion. In regards to the latter, the RCC has facilitated, in cooperation with the World Bank, a detailed proposal for Joint Investment Promotion Initiative (JIPI) in the context of RIRA, and commenced series of capacity building initiatives for the region's Investment Promotion Agencies – the first one that took place with a study visit to German Trade and Investment Agency during the reporting period. RIRA policy set to be further enhanced by the upgrade and development of the network of International Investment Agreements and Bilateral Investment Treaties. Therefore the RCC has intensified cooperation of experts in charge of investment treaties with those from the judiciary and mediation in investment disputes, both from within the region and the EU practitioners in this field, in the form of capacity building and knowledge sharing on investment arbitration. In this respect, the regional experts have

had the opportunity to learn about the latest development on the topic of Multilateral Investment Court, and have agreed to commence preparation of the needs and relevant proposals for further improvement of the networks of International Investment Agreements (IIAs) and Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) under the auspices of the RCC.

The work on investment integration is intensively coupled with the integration of capital markets in the region, also under the framework of MAP REA. During the reporting period, the RCC has officially established Working Group on Capital Markets (WGCM), encompassing relevant line ministries (finance), central banks, securities commissions, and stock exchanges. The corresponding Terms of Reference for the WGCM was endorsed by the participants, who have expressed high expectations in terms of this agenda and the role of the RCC to coordinate this process both on political and expert level, given that increasing competitiveness of the region's capital market is of interest to all parties involved. Consequently, a proposal for a regional programme has been put forward for preparation and implementation of regional strategy on capital markets and its translation into individual economy policy reforms efforts. This proposal also entails supporting development of alternative sources of financing and access for business (particularly SMEs), advisory for initial public offerings for state owned enterprises and upgrade of regional online securities trading platform.

A.3.2. Industrial Development

During the reporting period, industrial development efforts were linked with Smart Growth, within the priority of Smart Specialization under the MAP REA. In this respect, the RCC facilitated and supported the process of establishment of a governance structure (S3 platforms) for preparing smart specialization strategies in those economies where not existing (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), and also provided opportunity for advanced training on entrepreneurial discovery process (EDP) to participants from Montenegro and Serbia where the governing structures for smart specialization strategy are already in place. As a result, draft Roadmaps were prepared for the development of S3 platforms for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, while Serbia and Montenegro prepared the EDP plans.

In support to the strategic sectors, the RCC has commenced the implementation of the "Triple P" Tourism project, financed by the EU, by establishing the project team comprised of: Team Leader, Key Expert on Cultural Tourism, Key Expert on Adventure Tourism, Communications Officer, Grant Officer, Project Officer, and Administrative Assistant. The project intensively focused its activities on tourism product development, policy reform and pilot projects development through a small grants scheme. Upon executing consultations in each economy with relevant institutional and private/civil sector stakeholders and re-establishing the Tourism Experts Group (TEG), the Triple P Tourism Project was officially and publicly launched on 28 June 2018 in Sarajevo. Parallel to this, industry assessments were performed in prioritized sector niches (culture and adventure tourism), and further advanced by the regional focus group discussion in each priority niche. Consequently, the main lines of regional tourism products development were defined, in cultural tourism: i) integration of archaeological sites of the Western Balkans into the existing Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route through close collaboration with Danube Competence Centre and the Council of Europe; ii) development of the concept of Crossroad of civilizations as a shared overarching regional identity, with the focus on fortifications that communicate diversity of heritage and legacies iii) development of brand new regional route dedicated specifically to art and design of post-World War II monuments and buildings, while in the area of adventure tourism, expansion of Via Dinarica trails has been prioritized, together with creation of its joint regional management structure and

coordination mechanisms. The project and its goals and activities have been promoted at the EUSAIR meeting of the Steering Group for sustainable tourism (Zagreb, April 2018), Sarajevo Business Forum (April 2018), Triple P Launch event (Sarajevo, Jun 2018), Sarajevo Film Festival (August 2018), with an extensive communication strategy and plan prepared for further promotion. On policy reform, online tourism policy survey has been developed and released to the relevant stakeholders from governmental, civil and private sector, resulting in identification of the main barriers and key gaps in both culture and adventure tourism. Next steps will involve developing proposals for prioritizing and addressing these barriers.

At the Weekend Media Festival (Rovinj, 20-23 September) special presentation on the regional cooperation in tourism development and the actions and goals of the RCC Triple P Tourism in SEE project were delivered as a part of the event official program. In addition, a group of 6 journalists from the WB6 economies were supported to participate in the event. This support served to establish the core group of journalists/media in the region as the "project media pool" that will over the project period assist communicating the goals and objectives to wider audiences. The effort was also a push in upgrading the media capacity to follow and report on tourism development addressed through a selection of presentations, debates and workshops that participating journalists attended.

The RCC Triple P Tourism project took part in the 8th Annual Advisory Forum of the Council of Europe Cultural Routes on 26-28 September. This annual event offers an opportunity to debate priorities, review progress and share experiences. The 2018 Forum focused on the theme of the Routes connecting values, heritage, sites and citizens: strategies and synergies in a global perspective with the aim to strengthen cooperation between and among EU programmes, UNESCO World Heritage sites and other international, national and regional organisations. Series of discussions, roundtables, seminars and workshops were held during the event. The RCC Triple P Tourism project attended the event with the goal of gaining deeper insight into the processes of cultural route development and in particular the certification process, and to establish contact and open communication with those routes that are present within the Western Balkans to explore their interest and readiness to expand with new sites from the region.

To support further the infrastructure for regional tourism product development, Grants Work Programme and Grant Applications Guidelines has been in accordance with the EU and RCC rules on small grants. To ensure quality of applications with appropriate information dissemination, info days were organized in all 6 Western Balkans economies with attendance of total 349 industry participants. Subsequent publishing of the first Call for Proposal: "Support to the implementation of the RCC Triple-P Tourism in SEE: Promotion, Policy, and Pilots Grants Work Programme" resulted in significant application number from each eligible economy: total of 221, out of which 97 applications have met the deadline and administrative requirements. Evaluation process of the submitted concept notes has been completed, where 37 applicants have been invited to submit their full applications by 8 October 2018 for further evaluation. Envisaged 10+ grants are to be awarded for full eligible allocation of this call, in the amount up to 54,000 EUR maximum per application.

B.   Governance, Rule of Law and Security Cooperation

B.1 "Public Administration Reform"

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

Within the reporting period in the field of Public Administration Reform, the following has been implemented: following the broad consultation process over the previously developed Methodology on peer review missions to implement the Recommendation on Public Participation, the draft Methodology was presented at the Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Better Regulations, hosted by the RCC in April. Based on the endorsed methodology, the preparations for the first peer review mission which is to take place in October are underway. Finally, within the reporting period, the RCC in cooperation with ReSPA engaged international expert to conduct the peer missions in the region, with the purpose to enable peer learning exercise on public participation performance as well as to accommodate the existing best practices, thus implementing the regional standards on public participation on the most efficient way.

Additionally, regional conference was organised in partnership with ReSPA and supported by Centre of Public Administration Research KDZ form Austria on the topic of unlocking the benefits of public participation in decision making. The conference had regional coverage and resulted in raised awareness on the need to effectively organize and conduct public participation.

B.2. Rule of Law / Justice Reforms

B.2.1. SEE networks (judicial training institutions and associations of mediators), regional trainings and Western Balkans Working Group on Justice (WGJ)

The measures undertaken in the field of Justice during the first quarter of 2018 opened the way for the activities implemented during the reporting period:

The RCC was engaged in consultations with Council of Europe (CEPEJ – CoE Commission for efficiency of justice and HELP – CoE Human Rights Education for Legal professionals) regarding future cooperation. The aim is to organize different judicial training activities in WB6, with CoE's active participation.

Discussions have been held with Council of Europe (CEPEJ and HELP) to prepare the regional conference that will be held on 21-22 November 2018. The RCC has prepared the agenda and the list of topics for discussion in that meeting. CEPEJ (Commission on the efficiency of justice, Council of Europe) will participate in RCC SEE JTI Network meeting on 21-22 November 2018. It will present the latest data on the efficiency of judiciaries in SEE. For the purpose of that meeting, further consultations were undertaken with the representatives of European Judicial training Network (EJTN), SEELS (SEE Schools of Law Network) and University of Graz.

TAIEX started with preparation to organise regional workshop for judges and prosecutors based on RCC's proposal and concept note on judicial ethics. The workshop will be organised by Judicial training Centre in Podgorica, with the RCC organisational support.

On RCC's initiative and under RCC's organisation, CoE HELP is preparing a regional seminar for judges and prosecutors on cross-border cooperation in criminal matters (planned for December 2018).

RCC organised the 3rd Meeting of SEE Network of Associations of Mediators on 24-25 April 2018. Participants proposed to develop the guideline with concrete recommendations in alternative dispute resolution area and to organise meetings in cooperation with Judicial training institutions under the RCC auspices. The Network asked RCC to map the projects in mediation and to enhance promotion of mediation by raising public awareness.

The RCC organised regional judicial training institutions meeting "Judicial training in the Western Balkans: The role of judicial training in the appointment and career of judges and prosecutors" that was held on 7-8 June 2018. The representatives of ministries of justice, councils for judiciaries and judicial training institutions participated at the meeting together with the representatives of EC – DG NEAR, SEELS and EJTN (contact person for RCC in regional judicial training field). Based on one of the conclusions of the meeting the RCC published open call for expert in order to identify common standards in regional judicial training.

Back-to-back with these meetings in April and June 2018, the RCC organised the 9th and the 10th meetings of WB6 Working Group on Justice. The participants discussed and evaluated past activities and agreed on the future activities in the area of justice. WB WGJ concluded that regional cooperation in the area of justice enabled by the RCC continues to be very important support to the WB governments in achieving EC standards and fulfilling benchmarks related to Chapter 23 and 24 of accession negotiations.

The RCC and GIZ Open Regional Fund – Legal Reforms (GIZ ORF-LR) are continuing the implementation of the 20-months sub-project on 'Improving the Regional Cooperation between Western Balkans' Judicial Training Institutions', developing regional database of legal experts in European law to be finalised in October 2018.

B.3 "Anti-corruption"

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

During the reported period, RCC together with RAI provided support to Montenegrin Anti-corruption Agency in developing its Questionnaire for assessment of efficiency and effectiveness of Integrity Plans in healthcare sector. Along this assistance, RCC together with RAI and the Montenegrin Anti-corruption Agency organized workshops in Budva and Podgorica, with the aim to enhance capacities of the Montenegrin stakeholders in conducting the preventive measures in line with the RCC's Regional Methodologies on the same matters.

Within the reporting period the RCC had finalised the Study - Checklists on Corruption Risks in the Healthcare Sector. The Checklist is published on the RCC website[3].

B.4. Security cooperation

Under **the security component** of the Stability and Rule of Law, efforts were focused on continuous implementation of the **Regional CVE-FTF Platform** and support to existing specialized regional security cooperation formats in SEE.

The Fifth meeting of SEE National Focal Points Group (SEE NFP) took place in Belgrade on 17 April 2018. The participants welcomed the progress made by the governments from SEE in legal framework, P/CVE national coordination mechanisms, updating the legal and institutional framework and enhancing regional and international cooperation in countering violent extremism and

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[3] https://www.rcc.int/pubs/68/checklists-on-corruption-risks-in-the-healthcare-sector

radicalization leading to terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters. It has been underlined that the efforts should also be focused on: better prevention of VE through normative and legal approach and ways how to criminalize online radicalization while respecting the right of freedom of speech. It has been agreed to put the emphasis on prevention, disengagement, rehabilitation, reintegration of former FTFs, raising awareness, especially among youth and the phenomena of local radicalization. Participants emphasized that engagement of the civil society, local and religious communities, youth, as well as education are important for the success of P/CVE efforts. The need for developing clear indicators (both, at institutional and societal level) in dealing with radicalization was also mentioned.

As a continuation of the meetings in UK and Montenegro, the RCC has actively participated at the preparatory meeting and MoU drafting conference dedicated to the security agenda of the London Western Balkans Summit within the framework of the Berlin Process, held on 15 May 2018 in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The participants agreed on the following: 1) Ministers of interior in London will discuss and adopt a Joint Declaration; 2) Participants of the Berlin process London Summit are expected to also fully endorse "A Call to Action to End Forced Labor, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking" launched on the 19th September 2017 during the 72nd Meeting of the UN General Assembly; 3) The Joint Statement on strengthening regional cooperation and regional commitments towards Small Arms and Light Weapons will also be part of the London Summit conclusions and 4) Technical protocols on information-exchange (e.g. on ballistics, terrorist threat, illicit trade, financial intelligence) will be discussed and agreed on a later stage involving relevant stakeholders from WB6 economies. It has been decided that the implementation of aforementioned commitments will be monitored by the Berlin Process – Security Commitments Steering Group whose formation will be officially endorsed by the Ministers of Interior of the WB at the London Summit. The Group, composed of high level officials from relevant Ministries and security agencies will be created in September 2018 and will meet twice a year. It will be chaired by the UK for the year after the date of the 2018 London Summit, and beyond that by a chair to be decided by the participants.

The 10th SEEMIC Working Group meeting held in Tirana, 29 May 2018 has agreed on the draft Draft OSINT 2018 report "Challenges to Critical Cybersecurity Infrastructure in SEE" and will be presented to Military Intelligence Chiefs at their annual gathering planned for November 2018. The document is structured around five subtitles: 1) Cyberattacks to critical infrastructure as a raising threat; 2) Public-private partnership in critical cybersecurity infrastructure; 3) Regional and international nature of cybersecurity; 4) Cybersecurity challenges to military infrastructure and 5) Human factor in cybersecurity.

C. Horizontal and supporting activities

C.1. Coordination, monitoring, programming

C.1.1 Programming activities

During the reporting period, RCC finalised the fourth cycle of monitoring process of the SEE2020 Strategy. The data collected through the online platform were transferred into the SEE Score Board platform (SEEDS), which is now available to the wider public. The monitoring process finalised with the preparation of the SEE2020 Annual Report on Implementation for 2018, which was agreed with the national authorities through the SEE2020 Monitoring Committee. The final report was endorsed by the SEE2020 Governing Board, held on 05 July 2018 in Brussels. The next steps include preparation for the next monitoring cycle of the SEE2020 Strategy implementation.

C.1.2. Monitoring activities

Within this period the RCC finalised the fourth edition of the Balkan Barometer (BB 2018). The survey covered the business and public opinion for the current year, including comparative measurement of the findings in all four editions. The survey also provided analysis of the perception across the WB6 on the MAP REA aspects, in particular in the areas of mobility, investment and digital agenda. The findings of the BB 2018 were presented on a launching event in Brussels on 06 July 2018. The meeting was covered by regional (Sarajevo, Belgrade, Pristina, Tirana, Podgorica, Skopje and Sofia) and Brussels media, thus ensuring the regional coverage and dissemination of the findings. For the purposes of dissemination of the findings, the RCC also developed Balkan Barometer brochure with infographics and a video presenting the main findings.

Next steps include preparatory activities for the start of the next Balkan Barometer survey.

C.1.3. Coordination activities, grants

Work continued also on implementing the RCC grant facility call for proposals (4th CfP) in the total amount of (approx.) 80.000 EUR. The specific objective of the 4th CfP is to support the implementation of the Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans (MAP REA). The 4th CfP evaluation procedure was finalized and the successful applicants started with the project implementation.

C.1.4. Horizontal activities related to the MAP REA

Several activities to ensure the MAP REA implementation have been organized during the reporting period.

The second meeting of the MAP Component Contact Points (MAP CCPs) was held in Tirana on 15 May 2018 to review the progress on the MAP measures and discuss on the first draft Annual Report on MAP REA implementation, prepared by the RCC and CEFTA Secretariats based on inputs provided by WB economies. The MAP CCPs had an informed discussion on the draft report and agreed in principle with its structure and main features. Next steps for validation of the main findings from the report were also agreed.

RCC, tasked with the overall coordination and monitoring of the MAP REA, finalized the first Annual Report on MAP REA implementation. The report was presented during the MAP CCPs meeting and validated by the economies through electronic consultation, with afterwards comments and suggestions duly reflected in the final draft. Moreover, MAP Brochure is prepared – progress at regional level and each economy along the four components presented and next steps systematized.

RCC contributed in the preparation of the Economy Minister's Meeting of the London Summit, held on 4 July 2018, and led the panel discussion related to MAP REA presenting the key achieved deliverables and next commitment. The Economy Minister's Meeting recognised the pivotal role of RCC in MAP REA implementation, highlighted the progress made in so far and welcomed the preparation of the forward-looking commitments.

RCC has continued to maintain regular reporting to MAP structures and WB PM's representatives. On this note, RCC has presented during the Sherpa's meeting, respectively held on 11 April and 20 June

2018, progress made at regional and, at each economy level based on the letters of Commissioner Hahn sent to WB6 on priority measure relevant to MAP REA.

On the **Roma Integration 2020 programme**, under the RCC framework, the Roma Integration 2020 Action Team organized a regional conference on the topic of "Holistic Approach to Housing for Roma in the Enlargement Region" on 31 May and 01 June 2018. The regional conference brought together the National Roma Contact Points (NRCPs) from the Western Balkans and Turkey, along with the primary responsible government officials dealing with the priority area of housing, as well as officials dealing with local level governance, employment and social care programming. The regional workshop also provided for participation of one Roma civil society representative per participating economy. Guests and panellists of the workshop included relevant persons from the enlargement region active in the field of housing, including representatives of relevant NGOs and international organizations.

This workshop was an effort to increase the knowledge and understanding of public officials on the advantages of a holistic approach to housing and serve as a platform to discuss ways in which the approach can be applied when preparing and implementing future housing initiatives. The main topics of discussion were housing legalization and social housing and how these solutions can be integrated into a holistic approach. A number of successful stories and appropriate legislative solutions were presented.

The Roma Integration 2020 also established a regional Working Group on Roma Responsible Budgeting comprised of the NRCPs and representatives of the Ministries of Finance of the enlargement region. Such an initiative came from the participating economies in order to initiate the process of developing guidelines on Roma responsible public budgeting which will be completed by the end of 2018.

The Action Team co-organized with the NRCPs Public Dialogue Forums in Albania, Montenegro, and Serbia with the participation of representatives of relevant central and local government units, European Union Delegations and civil society. The aim of the forums was to present the progress reports for 2017 on the implementation of the Roma Integration Action Plans and discuss these reports with the civil society. The Action Team issued policy briefs summarizing the main conclusions and recommendations from the meetings.

On **Communication**, the RCC continued to implement its triannual Communication Strategy which reflects the agenda of the organisation, upgrades the established RCC profile to reflect its increasingly regionally-owned, active and all-inclusive role and influence. The primary objective is to keep building the understanding on what the RCC does, increasing political, financial as well as public support for its activities, but also to keep raising awareness of the organisation and the regional cooperation process in general, building and promoting the SEE image based on the RCC's key mission postulates.

RCC continues developing and promoting tools for user-friendly dissemination of information on RCC's role in the region, gaining better understanding and interest from different target audiences regarding RCC's focus and activities. This is resulting with a major increase in media interest and media coverage of RCC's events and projects, and also with general support to the RCC and its activities. As an example of the heightened interest and understanding of the RCC by its major stakeholders, including media, the organisation's website had over 20% more visits and 50% more page views. Social media followers and their engagement either achieved the set target or

overpassed it from 30% to 70%. Comparing to the same period of 2017, the number of media reports rose by more than 300%.

2. Update on progress in implementing SWP 2017-2019

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
Component A. Implementing the SEE 2020 Strategy through the flagship approach				
A.1. Skills and Mobility				
A.1.1. Removal of obstacles to mobility of students and highly skilled workers in the region	*2nd meeting of the Working Group on Recognition of Academic Qualifications, 26 March, Podgorica*	Discussed the concept of Joint Exercise on Recognition of Academic Qualifications; discussed model and principles of recognition of academic qualifications	Agreed modalities and kick-start of joint exercise on recognition of academic qualifications and the concept of a joint information system; agreement to appoint national coordinators and national teams for the joint exercise on recognition of academic qualifications	Finalized
	3nd meeting of the Joint ERI SEE – RCC Working Group on Recognition of Academic Qualifications 14 June 2018, Brussels	Discussed the concept of the joint exercise on recognition of academic qualifications and the concept of joint information system to facilitate recognition of academic qualifications. Prepared the Joint Ministerial Statement supporting automatic recognition of academic qualifications adopted at the Ministerial meeting under the WBPET on 26th June 2018 in Brussels.	Finalized concept of the joint exercise and the concept of joint information system to facilitate recognition of academic qualifications. Joint Ministerial Statement stating joint principles leading to automatic recognition of academic qualifications adopted at the Ministerial Meeting under the WBPET	Finalized
A.2.1. Removal of obstacles to mobility of professional qualifications	*7th meeting of the Joint ERI SEE CEFTA RCC Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications 7 May 2018, Brussels*	Participants discussed the text of the Recommendation on opening of negotiations on MRA and were presented the legal text of the MRA based on which the negotiations will be concluded. The governments expected to complete their internal governmental and inform the RCC Secretary General.	Participants agreed on the text of the Recommendation on opening of negotiations on MRA and pledged to move the process further internally in their structures.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
A.3.1. Removal of obstacles to mobility of researchers	*Meeting of the R&D Working Group* *13 June 2018, Brussels*	RCC facilitated a Joint Statement from the Western Balkans on the new Horizon Europe program supported by the Ministers in charge of Science of the Western Balkans. EURAXESS contact points from the region identified capacity building needs of EURAXESS contact points.	Joint Statement from the Western Balkans on the new Horizon Europe program finalized and circulated to EU Austrian Presidency as a Joint effort by Ministers in charge of Science to lobby for WB prominent inclusion in HE program.	Finalized
	Workshop on the Governance of Smart Specialisation and Training on the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) in the Western Balkans *11 – 12 April 2018, Ljubljana, Slovenia*	Networking and peer-learning on smart specialisation strategies between the participants and guidelines provided by DG JRC experts on S3.	Draft Roadmaps prepared for the development of S3 for Albania, BiH, Kosovo* and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, while Serbia and Montenegro prepared the EDP plans.	Finalized
A.2. Connectivity				
A.2.2. Digital integration	*1ˢᵗ Western Balkans Roaming Policy Meeting, 05 April 2018, Brussels*	Discussion on the state of play and plans for the WB in view of expected EU-WB Summit in Sofia and a Roadmap to facilitate lowering the cost of roaming. Discussion on needs for coordination of spectrum policies in Western Balkans.	Next steps towards roaming free area identified and discussed. Possibilities for other WB economies to join the RRA discussed. Initiated preparation of the new RRA.	Finalized
	1ˢᵗ Western Balkans Digital Summit, 18 / 19 April 2018, Skopje	Established permanent high-level policy dialogue on digital transformation of WB; Regional coordination of the implementation of MAP	High level agreement for future regional cooperation in the area of digital integrations; Paved the way for preparation and endorsement of the Sofia Declaration and Digital Agenda for Western Balkans	Finalized
	Meeting on Coordination and harmonization of spectrum policies in the Western Balkans,	Discussion on 5G Networks Spectrum requirements, the new EU spectrum policy framework, as well as the cross border	Agreement on solving cross-border interference problems in Western Balkans. Expressed readiness for continuation of alignment	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	11 / 12 June, Prague, Czech Republic	coordination aspects including the challenges and solutions.	with the EU acquis in digital area.	
	Follow-up meeting and lesson learnt on the first Western Balkans Digital Summit, 21 August, Skopje	Shared experience from the organization of the first WB Digital Summit and readiness to support the organization of the second one following the principle of multi-stakeholder approach. Greater ownership of WB6 economies. Possible establishment of working groups to facilitate digital transformation of WB.	Readiness of all partners (including Government of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, German Federal Government, RCC) to continue cooperation in the framework of the WB DS organization with certain roles and responsibilities.	Finalized
	Meeting on the organization of the WB DS 2019 and Roaming policy harmonization in WB, 24 August, Belgrade	Initiated organization of the second WB DS and discussed roles, responsibilities and timeframe for the realization. Discussed obstacles for extension of the existing RRA and possibilities to ensure full coverage of all WB customers.	Agreement on the tentative timeframe for the organization of the WB DS (the first steering committee meeting and dates for the Summit). Agreement on investing additional efforts in ensuring full coverage of all consumers in WB by the next BEREC meeting or WB DS 2019.	Finalized
	Development of a Study on Telecommunications market and domestic and roaming prices for telecommunication services (calls, SMS and data transfer). Consultants engaged in the open call 026-018	Identification of all Mobile Network Operators and Virtual Mobile Network Operations in WB and their market shares. Collecting of data on domestic and roaming prices of telecommunication services (calls, SMS and data transfer). Analyzing of potentials for decreasing roaming prices and development of policy recommendations for WB.	Market analysis of domestic and roaming prices of telecom operators in Western Balkans, to be developed by the end of 2018 at the disposal of the WB economies, to serve as basis for advancing the roaming reduction process.	On-track
A.2.3. Sectoral support in environment, energy and	*7th Meeting of the Regional Working Group on*	Monitoring of the implementation of Nexus, ClimaProof and Biodiversity regional initiatives.	Agreement on the organization of the next ministerial meeting to be held in Skopje on 21st	Finished

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
sustainable development	*Environment, 30 May, Skopje*	Presentation of activities of RDCs in the Environment Dimension. Presentation of the status in alignment with the EU acquis. Identified date and agreed format of the next RWG Env meeting at ministerial level.	November 2018. Agreement on the participation of the WB at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in November in Egypt.	
	Study on Air-pollution in WB and its negative impact on human health.	Initial discussions and development of the concept for the Study on Air-pollution in cooperation with UN Environment and World Health Organization.	Study on Air-pollution to be prepared by the next Environment Ministerial Meeting, planned to be organized in November 2018 in The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.	On-track
A.3. Competitiveness				
A.3.1. Investment Integration	*A.3.1.1. Development of Regional Investment Reform Agenda (RIRA)*	The list of identified issues and proposed investment reforms classified and categorized.	Understanding of the investment pertinent issues among all stakeholders which needs to be addressed through adoption of regional investment reform agenda.	Finalized
	A.3.1.2. National consultations on Regional Investment Reform Agenda (RIRA), 3-5 April 2018, Tirana, Pristina, Podgorica, Skopje, Sarajevo, Belgrade	Identified and proposed investment reform agenda per each policy dimension.	National priorities properly addressed within the agenda.	Finalized
	A.3.1.3. SEEIC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments, Vienna, 16 April 2018	Proposed Regional Investment Reform Agenda (RIRA) discussed and amendments to the first draft made. The roles and responsibilities of the SEEIC-CEFTA JWGI amended in line with the priorities of MAP REA Investment Pillar, by discussing and redrafting the SEEIC-CEFTA JWGI Terms of Reference.	Approved draft of RIRA ready for SEEIC plenary meeting and its possible adoption.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	A.3.1.4. Second meeting of the Western Balkans 6 Capital Market Authorities, Vienna, 17 April 2018	Confirmed the establishment of the Working Group on Capital Markets under the RCC auspices and proposed a multi-annual regional programme on capital markets development and integration	Raising awareness of the WB Investment promotion agencies of importance of promoting the region as a unique investment destination in order to attract sustainable and quality investments.	Finalized
	A.3.1.5. Study visit to German Trade and Investment Agency and Workshop on Joint Investment Promotion Initiative (JIPI), 18 April 2018, Berlin	Joint Investment Promotion Initiative (JIPI) designed as an operational program which will facilitate increasing and sustainable levels of foreign direct investment (FDI) across the Western Balkan region.	Raising awareness of the WB Investment promotion agencies of importance of promoting the region as a unique investment destination in order to attract sustainable and quality investments.	Finalized
	A.3.1.6. Workshop on Arbitration in the Context of Investment Dispute, 25 April 2018, Bucharest	Synergies among international investment experts dealing with arbitrages and association of mediators network explored.	The main obstacles and key challenges when speaking of ISDS and possible means of cooperation within the region (inexistence of centralised ISDS office, avoidance of an ad hoc system, capacity of national ISDS team, exchange of experts, regional meetings etc.) identified.	
	A.3.1.7. SEE Investment Committee (SEEIC) meeting, 27 April 2018, Sarajevo	Regional Investment Reform Agenda (RIRA) reviewed and prepared for the Ministerial meeting for its adoption.	Proposal for RIRA endorsement put forward to the Ministers of Economy	Finalized
	A.3.1.8. Ministerial Meeting of the South East Europe Investment Committee, 11 May 2018, Tivat	Detailed RIRA endorsed which will be subject of approval of PM's during the next WB6 Summit.	Entry and establishment opportunities for investors enhanced; Business establishment policies and procedures improved; The legal frameworks for investment, including	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
			IIAs, with inter-national good practice and EU standards aligned; Investment retention mechanisms in the region strengthened; Regional investment promotion initiative developed; Incentives streamlined and their transparency and governance improved.	
A.3.2. Industrial Development	*Workshop on the Governance of Smart Specialization and Training on the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) in the Western Balkans, 11 – 12 April 2018, Ljubljana*	Draft Roadmaps prepared for the development of S3 platforms for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, while Serbia and Montenegro prepared the EDP plans	Activities of the Working Group on Industrial Development Joined with the Smart Specialization Platform	Finalized
	"Triple P" Tourism Project	Contract signed with the EC at the end of December 2017.	Project team hired and in place within the RCC Secretariat	Finalized
	National consultations on "Triple P" Tourism Project, 25 May – 1 June 2018, Tirana, Pristina, Podgorica, Skopje, Sarajevo, Belgrade	TEG coordinator and participants in each economy introduced to the project and planned course of action. TEG Coordinators and participants confirmed for each economy.	Preparation of a proposal for regional tourism product and other initiatives under the project	Finalized
	Tourism Focus Groups meeting, 12 June 2018, Skopje	Obtained information from the adventure and cultural tourism industry stakeholders on key industry needs, gaps and obstacles.	Industry assessment for culture and adventure tourism prepared	Finalized
	Tourism Expert Group meeting, 27 June 2018, Jahorina	Regional brand "Crossroads of Civilizations" selected, along with the joint regional routes for cultural and adventure tourism product development.	Joint regional tourism product development commenced	

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	Tourism Project Launch, 28 June 2018, Sarajevo	"Triple P" Tourism Project officially launched	Project activities officially commenced and wide public introduced to the priorities and upcoming activities	
	Info Sessions – 1st Call for Proposals Under the RCC Triple-P Tourism in SEE: Promotion, Policy, and Pilots Grants, 17-26 July 2018, Tirana, Pristina, Podgorica, Skopje, Sarajevo, Belgrade	Disseminated information on the Open Call for Applications for the 1st Call for Grant Proposals under the Triple P Tourism Project, via info sessions held in each economy.	Small Grants in tourism process commenced	Finalized
	Weekend Media Festival, 20-23 September, Rovinj	Presentation on the regional cooperation in tourism development and the actions and goals of the Triple T Tourism project; support to a group of six journalists/media from the WB6 economies	Presented Triple T Tourism project; established the core group of journalists/media in the region as the "project media pool" that will assist in communicating the goals and objectives to wider audiences; a push in upgrading media capacity to follow and report on tourism development	Finalized
	8th Annual Advisory Forum of the Council of Europe Cultural Routes, 26-28 September	Debate on priorities, progress review, experience sharing; focus on the theme of the Routes connecting values, heritage, sites and citizens	Gained deeper insight into the processes of cultural route development and in particular the certification process; established contact and open communication with those routes that are present within the Western Balkans to explore their interest and readiness to expand with new sites from the WB6.	Finalized

Component B. Governance, Rule of Law and Security Cooperation

B.1. Public Administration Reform

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
B.1.1. Public consultations on draft laws and public policy documents	*Implementation of the Western Balkans Recommendation on Public Participation. Conducting peer missions for WB Recommendation on Public Participation implementation*	Developed Methodology on peer review missions to implement the Western Balkans Recommendation on Public Participation, new draft Methodology was presented at the meeting of the Regional Working Group on Better Regulations, hosted by the RCC in April.	Raised awareness on the peer review missions to implement the Western Balkans Recommendation on Public Participation	Finalized
	Regional conference on unlocking the benefits of public participation in decision making	Regional conference was organised in partnership with ReSPA and supported by Centre of Public Administration Research KDZ form Austria on the topic of unlocking the benefits of public participation in decision making.	The conference had regional coverage and resulted in raised awareness on the need to effectively organize and conduct public participation.	Finalized
	TA on conducting Peer Missions in the region	RCC in cooperation with ReSPA engaged international expert to conduct Peer Missions in the region, with the purpose to enable learning exercise on public participation performance as well as to accommodate the existing best practices to certain gaps in a jurisdiction, thus implementing the regional standards on public participation on the most efficient way.	Improved knowledge and capacities on public participation performance, thus implementing the regional standards on public participation on the most efficient way.	On-going
B.2. Justice				
B.2.1. SEE networks, regional trainings and	*Consultative process with speakers at the SEE JTI Network*	DG JUST, EJTN, CoE, SEELS and GIZ expressed the interest to continue to participate in regular	Support from DG NEAR to the RCC-WGJ and other structures in the area of justice continued in a	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
Western Balkans Working Group on Justice	*Meeting to be held in November 2018*	conferences and meetings organized by RCC. Agreement on the topic and key note speakers is achieved and agenda and concept note with expected results confirmed	focused manner. The future regional activities are planned and organized based on discussions and conclusions/consensus among RCC, the stakeholders (WB WGJ, WB JTIs) and other partners, as well as with EC and EJTN.	
	The 3ʳᵈ Meeting of SEE Network of Associations of Mediators is organized by the RCC on 24-25 April 2018 as a platform for regular exchange of good practices and experiences among representatives of ministries of justice, different associations of mediators and judges and RCC	List of conclusions and recommendations to be implemented by the RCC with the support of stakeholders is agreed upon. The RCC is tasked to involve judicial training institutions in the process and to map the projects regarding alternative dispute resolution in the WB. To raise public awareness and promote ADR is one the RCC's most important tasks in order to reduce court backlog in the region.	The map of projects will be developed in order to achieve better coordination and use of results. The RCC will combine two SEE Networks depending on topics in order to compare different systems of qualifications and conditions mediators have to fulfill through trainings. The draft of promoting activities in the region will be produced in cooperation with WGJ and stakeholders.	Finalized
	WB6 judicial training institutions meeting "Judicial training in the Western Balkans: The role of judicial training in the appointment and career of judges and prosecutors" organized by RCC, 7-8 June 2018 with representatives of ministries of justice, judicial training institutions, councils for judiciaries, DG NEAR, EJTN (as RCC partner) and SEELS.	Based on the conclusions of the meeting RCC published open call for expert in order to identify common standards for regional judicial training activities that will be used in future drafting the regional judicial training programme 2019-2021 and regional statistics.	Conclusions of the meeting are streamlining RCC activities as regional hub in judicial training and support the planned creation and implementation of regional programme for judges and prosecutors in EU law in the next period. The RCC is accepted as focal point, organizer and evaluator of these activities in cooperation with regional training institutions and European and regional partners.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	9th and 10th meetings of WB Working Group on Justice, April and June 2018	Regular meetings to exchange experiences and good practices, inform about recent reforms in the area of justice and to agree upon the future RCC activities. One of the expectations expressed during both meetings from the RCC are organized seminars for the employees of ministries of justice in planning, strategies drafting and other skills needed to improve communication with EU.	RCC continued to organize meetings of WB WGJ that are evaluated by the representatives of the justice ministries as very important support at regional level to the WB ministries of justice on the EU path and in the process of fulfilling the benchmarks provided in Chapter 23.	Finalized
B.3. Anti-corruption				
B.3.1. Support in conducting sectoral corruption risk assessment/anti-corruption assessment of laws	*Corruption risk assessments in healthcare sector*	Published Checklist of Corruption Risks for Healthcare Sector	Corruption risk assessment in specific healthcare sectors is undertaken; high risks for corruption are revealed and recommendations to diminish their effects are developed; integrity level of related institutions is strengthened.	Finalized
B.4. Security cooperation				
B.4.1. Supporting the existing security cooperation mechanisms in SEE	*Regional preparatory Meeting and MoU drafting conference dedicated to the security agenda of the forthcoming Berlin Process London Summit, 16 May 2018, Struga*	Preparation/deliverables for the security component of the London Summit	Conclusions on declarations to be adopted at the Interior ministers meeting of the London Western Balkans Summit within the framework of the Berlin Process	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	High Level Conference – The results of the EU-UNDP Partnership on disarmament and arms control in SEE, 24 May 2018, Brussels	Debate on regional processes in SALW area	Results achieved in all SALW related aspects, ensuring more secure SEE and wider Europe	Finalized
	9th Regional Meeting of SALW Commissions, 28-29 May 2018, Tirana	Exchange of views on SALW Control activities; SAFTE Project; Arms control legislation and harmonization with EU legal framework; arms export control; Regional SALW Survey	The importance of the regional cooperation as the most effective approach in exchanging expertise and sharing information but also in further building cooperation among the institutions and experts in the region; the need for coordination, operational cooperation and systematic exchange of information in preventing firearms trafficking and in using regional and international relevant instruments.	Finalized
B.4.2. Addressing the emerging security challenges in the region (CVE-FTF Platform)	*5th Meeting of SEE NFP Group, 17 April 2018, Belgrade*	Exchange of views on P/CVE national coordination mechanisms, the legal and institutional framework and enhancing regional and international cooperation in VERLT	The way forward agreed: prevention, disengagement, rehabilitation, reintegration of former FTFs, raising awareness, especially among youth and the phenomena of local radicalization. Engagement of the civil society, local and religious communities, youth, as well as education emphasized as important for the success of P-CVE efforts	Finalized
	10th South East European Military Intelligence Chiefs Working Group Meeting (SEEMIC), 29 May 2018, Tirana	2018 Draft OSINT "Challenges to Critical Cybersecurity Infrastructure in SEE" discussed	2018 Draft OSINT "Challenges to Critical Cybersecurity Infrastructure in SEE" agreed and will be presented to Military Intelligence Chiefs at their annual gathering planned for November 2018	

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
Component C. Horizontal and supporting activities				
C.1. Programing, monitoring and coordination				
C.1.2. Monitoring activities	*Balkan Barometer 2018*	Balkan Barometer 2018 Survey Finalised and launched	The perception based monitoring of SEE implementation for the 2018 cycle completed	Finalized
	SEE2020 annual monitoring cycle for 2018	Annual Report on implementation of SEE2020 Strategy endorsed by the SEE0202 beneficiaries	Annual cycle successfully finalised	Finalized
C.1.3. Coordination activities, grants	*The 4th Call for proposals under the RCC Small Grant Facility*	Evaluation of the full application finalised	Projects (4rd Call) successfully started	Finalized
C.1.4. Horizontal activities related to MAP REA	*2nd meeting of the MAP Component Contact Points, 15 May 2018, Tirana*	Review the main developments of relevance to the MAP, discuss the first draft of the report on MAP REA implementation and agree on the next steps for its validation	Agreed next steps for validation of the Annual Report	Finalized
	Annual Report on MAP REA implementation	To take stock of the implementation of the MAP REA measures and recommend future actions at regional level	No official endorsement is foreseen but the draft is broadly accepted by all WB economies during the MAP CCPs meeting and validated further through electronic consultation	Finalized
	Highlights of the main achievements on MAP REA – preparation of the MAP Brochure	To present main achievements at regional levels and at each individual economy along the four components	Progress on the MAP REA implementation at regional and at each economy level updated	Finalized
C.2. Political Department activities				
C.2.1. Strengthening cooperation between the SEE governments and with the EU				

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
C.2.1.1. Assist SEECP and SEECP C-i-O	*Meeting of the SEECP Committee of Political Directors, 23 April 2018, Brdo pri Kranju*	Recommendation on the consecutive mandates on the position of the SG of the RCC for the period 2019-2021 and 2022-24; agreement on the next SEECP C-i-O's for 2018-19 and 2019-20; alignment of the SEECP Brdo Summit Declaration	Agreement on the next SG as well as on the next SEECP C-i-O's; draft SEECP Brdo Summit Declaration proposed	Finalized
	The 10th Annual Meeting of the RCC, 23 April 2018, Brdo pri Kranju	Presentation and endorsement of the Annual Report of the RCC for 2017-18; endorsement of the nomination proposal for the SG of the RCC	Endorsement of the Annual Report 2017/18 of the SG of the RCC; endorsement of the nominations for the next RCC SG's	Finalized
	Meeting of SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs, 23 April 2018, Brdo pri Kranju	Appointment of Majlinda Bregu and Igor Luksic as the next SG's of the RCC for 2019-21 and 2022-24 respectively; approval of the 2017/18 Annual Report of the RCC SG; endorsement of the SEECP Brdo Summit Declaration and the agreement on the next C-i-O's for 2018-19 and 2019-20	Appointment of the next SG's of the RCC; approval of the 2017/18 Annual Report of the SG of the RCC; endorsement of the SEECP Brdo Summit declaration and the agreement on the next C-i-O's	Finalized
	The SEECP Brdo Summit, 24 April 2018, Brdo pri Kranju	Adoption of SEECP Brdo Summit Declaration by all SEECP participants; approval of new SG's of RCC by SEECP MFA's; endorsement of the 2017/18 Annual Report of the SG of the RCC; agreement that Kosovo* will assume the SEECP C-i-O for the period 2019-20	SEECP Brdo Summit Declaration adopted; new SG's of the RCC approved; 2017/18 Annual Report of the SG of the RCC endorsed; Kosovo* agreed as the SEECP C-i-O for 2019-20	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
C.2.1.2. Consultations of the Secretary General with SEECP and RCC participants	*Consultations with senior officials from FCO*	Consultations on the Ministerial meeting of economy one week before the London summit somewhere in the WB region; deciding the topic of the meeting; latest version of the concept for the Ministerial meeting	Decision that the focus of the meeting will be placed on: the regional economic integration agenda (MAP REA); digital agenda; and access to finance. Decision that connectivity agenda aspects (transport and energy), the connectivity agenda will be addressed solely in London.	Finalized
C.2.1.3. Maintain the dialogue with the EU institutions	*RCC Secretary General and RCC Deputy Secretary General participation in the Conference on "The Western Balkans' European Perspective Through Growth, Good Governance and Enhanced Cooperation", 25 April 2018, Brussels*	Introductory remarks and the participation in the panel "Strengthening the European perspective through regional cooperation Presidency Communication with the Bulgarian Permanent Representation	Strengthening the presidency communication with the Bulgarian Permanent Representation; Raising awareness of RCC work in the context of regional cooperation	Finalized
	RCC SG presentation of RCC future objectives on the occasion of the Enlargement Days in the European Committee of the Regions, 3-4 May, 2018, Brussels	Providing brief overview on the Connectivity, Mobility and Investment facet and discussing a way forward	Contribution to the RCC's visibility among the participants of Enlargement Days and an opportunity for networking	
	RCC SG, Deputy RCC SG and SEE2020 Coordinator meeting with DG NEAR Director-General, Ms Ruiz Calavera, 23 May,	Consultations on the future operational grant to RCC for the period 2020-2022 from IPA MC 2019 and discussing additional funding for 2019	Support from DG NEAR to the RCC MAP REA initiatives continued in a focused manner; DG NEAR delivered key inputs on RCC projects implemented so far	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	RCC SG briefing to the Working party on Non-Proliferation (CONOP), 24 May 2018, Brussels	Presentation of the RCC's complementary work together with SEESAC; Gender-mainstreaming into SALW control policies	Regular exchange of views, better understanding of the RCC's work in the context of EU-UNDP partnership on disarmament & arms control in South East Europe	
	RCC Deputy SG, Head of RCC LO and SEE 2020 Coordinator meeting with DG NEAR representatives, 24 July, Brussels	Exchange of views and discussion on the financial support to the RCC for period 2020-2022, along with the alignment and linking of SEE 2020 and MCA IPA programming process	It was agreed to move forward with the ESAP II implementation and to submit updated one-pager regarding the financial support to the RCC for period 2020-2022	
	Head of RCC LO meeting with DG JUST and DG NEAR representatives, 27 April, Brussels	Discussion on possibilities for the RCC's exercise on anti-corruption in the Western Balkans	Exchange of ideas and views; learning about the methodology on assessing corruption in the EU Member States	
	Head of RCC LO meeting with Press Club representative, 12 June 2018, Brussels	Presentation of the RCC's work and discussing the possibility of further promoting RCC activities via press release services	Exchange of views on the possibility of cooperation in the context of setting up a Federation of Balkan Press Club; contributed to the RCC's visibility	
C.2.2. Broadening links and strengthening partnerships with other regional stakeholders				
C.2.2.1. Participation of SG to high-level events	*RCC SG participation in the 7th Ministerial meeting of the Western Balkans Platforms on Education and Training &*	Briefing on the MAP REA in the context of the automatic recognition of academic qualifications in the Western Balkans by 2020 and the creation of a joint information system to facilitate recognition of	A set of key principles on automatic recognition of academic qualifications in the region were endorsed	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	Research and Innovation, 26 June 2018, Brussels	academic qualification by 2019		
	RCC Secretary General in the Public roundtable "Why now enlargement in the Western Balkans is good – or bad – for the EU?" jointly organized by the RCC and German Institute for International and Security Affairs, SwP), 3 July 2018, Brussels	Providing introductory remarks by informing the audience about the RCC's work in facilitating the EU accession process of the Western Balkan partners	Better understanding of the RCC's work in the Western Balkan region; strengthening the RCC visibility; an opportunity to network with relevant stakeholders in Brussels	Finalized
	RCC SG presentation at the Balkan Barometer 2018 launch event, 6 July 2018, Brussels	Presentation and discussion of the main findings of surveys with the representatives of the EU, governments, NGOs, private sector, civil society, academia and regional media	Balkan Barometer 2018 was released in two volumes: Public Opinion Survey, detailing the citizens' attitudes, and Business Opinion Survey, summarizing the business sentiment to track dynamic progress over time	Finalized
C.2.2.2. Work with media/communications	*Support to the promotion of the First Western Balkans Digital Summit*	The RCC PR team supported and assisted with the promotion and communications of the first Western Balkans Digital Summit, held on 18-19 April in Skopje, promoting thus the vision and mission of the RCC	The RCC mission and vision promoted, though not only local and regional media, but also among close to 800 participants from region and wider, including 50 regional companies from IT sector, Prime Ministers and Ministers responsible for digital agenda from the Western Balkans (WB), EU Berlin Process participants, representatives of European Commission (EC), Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), IT industries and businesses,	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
		academia, youth, but also general public.		
	Promotion of the launch of RCC's Tourism Development & Promotion Project	The RCC promoted the initiation of its Tourism Development & Promotion Project on 28 June 2018 in Sarajevo, ensuring regional media coverage and introduction of the Project to its stakeholders, media and general public.	The new RCC activity promoted and introduced to the relevant stakeholders, media and general public, ensuring also awareness raising of RCC, its projects and activities.	Finalized
	RCC, through its Tourism development Project, was the International partner of the Sarajevo Film Festival (SFF) 2018's edition	For the second year in a row RCC, *through its Tourism development Project,* was an International partner of the 2018's Sarajevo Film Festival, the biggest and the most important film festival in the region. The Heart of Sarajevo for the Best Student Film has been under the patronage of the RCC. The SFF took place 10-17 August 2018.	Awareness raising and fostering regional cooperation in the area of tourism and culture by partnering with one of the most important cultural events in the region.	Finalized
	Support to the No Borders Orchestra	RCC supported the Western Balkans tour of No Borders Orchestra, held throughout the region, 19-22 August 2018. The NBO is a symphony orchestra made up of the best professional musicians from the Western Balkans, promoting diversity, spirit of friendship, tolerance and integration through classical music.	Awareness raising and fostering regional cooperation in the area of culture.	Finalized

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	Awareness raising on public participation in the Western Balkans	End of 2017 and beginning of 2018 the RCC, together with ReSpa, developed a whole set of multi-lingual public information and awareness raising materials (the <u>Recommendation leaflet</u>, <u>video</u> and <u>brochure</u>) on participation of public in policy-making in the Western Balkans, prepared by the RCC together with ReSPA, aimed at animating the public to get engaged in these processes.	The materials have been presented and distributed to the relevant stakeholders at a Regional Conference titled 'Unlocking Benefits of Public Participation in the Western Balkans', held on 11 June in Vienna. The materials, through ReSpa, have also been distributed to relevant ministries in the region for the purposes of further dissemination and awareness rising among the general public.	Finalized
	Interviews with Secretary General and other RCC staff members	The RCC Secretary General, as well as other RCC staff, gave numerous interviews and statements to the regional and international media during the reporting period.	Continuous work on achieving better understanding on what the RCC does and increased general awareness of the RCC activities.	Finalized
	Promotion of the most relevant activities of the Secretary General, the Program and the Political departments, as well as ESAP, Roma Integration 2020 and Tourism Promotion and Development projects and Grantees	RCC covered 70 different activities of the organization, in all our priority areas, through RCC website and social media channels, traditional media, direct contact with relevant stakeholders, etc. The RCC issued more than 65 news items and press releases, gathering close to 2400 media reports in April-August period.	Continuous work on achieving better understanding on what the RCC does and increased general awareness of the RCC activities.	Finalized
	Production of public information materials (video,	RCC has produced and promoted videos and brochures on RCC activities, featuring Tourism	Continuous work on achieving better understanding on what the RCC does and	

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	print, online)	Promotion and Development project and Balkan Barometer 2018. Infographics featuring the most important findings on Balkan Barometer 2018, MAP Implementation results for 2018 and SEE 2020 Strategy Implementation Results for 2018 have also been produced.	increased general awareness of the RCC activities.	Finalized

3. Management and operations

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

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

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

4. Key challenges in the reporting period

The situation with regard to risks and challenges to the implementation of regional cooperation is expected to remain basically the same also for the foreseeable future. RCC will work to obtain adequate government representation and/or timely action from the beneficiaries' side. As previously, representatives from the economies sometime join the activities with unclear mandate, as well as with inadequate capacities and expertise to take part in various RCC-facilitated processes. The multifaceted challenges the economies of the region are facing domestically tend to move away their attention from cooperation at regional level.

5. State of financial contributions to the RCC Secretariat's budget for 2018

Contribution	Commitments	Contributions	Date Received
Contributors (Donors)			
Austria	50,000.00	50,000.00	2-May-18
Czech Republic	50,000.00	50,000.00	19-Sep-18
Federal Republic of Germany	50,000.00	50,000.00	23-Mar-18
Hungary	50,000.00	50,000.00	12-Mar-18
Italy	50,000.00	50,000.00	25-Sep-18
Ireland	50,000.00		
Latvia	50,000.00	50,000.00	19-Feb-18
Norway	50,000.00	50,859.93	26-Jun-18
Sweden	50,000.00	48,741.26	22-May-18
Switzerland	50,000.00	49,963.00	11-May-18
United States of America	60,000.00	81,678.30	3-May-17
Total contributing countries donors:	**560,000.00**	**531,242.49**	
European Commission	**2,500,000.00**	**2,500,000.00**	11-Jun-18
South East Europe Contributors			
Albania	60,000.00		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	60,000.00		
Bulgaria	140,000.00	140,000.00	8-Feb-18
Croatia	80,000.00	80,000.00	3-May-18
Greece	140,000.00	140,000.00	9-Jul-18
Kosovo*	40,000.00		
Moldova	40,000.00		
Montenegro	40,000.00	40,000.00	7-Mar-18
Romania	140,000.00		
Serbia	80,000.00	80,000.00	30-May-18
Slovenia	80,000.00	80,000.00	15-Mar-18
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	60,000.00	60,000.00	8-Jun-18
Turkey	140,000.00	140,000.00	22-Mar-18
Total South East Europe Contributors:	**1,100,000.00**	**760,000.00**	
Total Committed Funds	**4,160,000.00**	**3,791,242.49**	

*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.

6. Annex: RCC Annual Work Plan for 2018

Component A. Implementing the SEE 2020 through the flagship approach						
(General strategic objective to be achieved with the component proposed - desired impact)						
Greater economic integration through easier flow of capital, people, goods and services within the SEE and between the SEE and the EU						

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Skills and Mobility						
1. Increased (Labour) Mobility in the WB						
1.1. Removal of obstacles to (short-term) mobility of professionals in the region (MAP III.2.1.)						
1.1.1. Meetings of the Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications	X			X	Events/ conferences	*Negotiations on mutual recognition agreements on professional qualifications in health and construction sector opened.*
1.1.2. Meetings of the negotiating group - Health		X		X	Events/ conferences	
1.1.3. Meetings of the negotiating group - Construction		X		X	Events/ conferences	
1.1.4. Technical Assistance Independent mediator and legal consultant for the removal of obstacles to professional and academic recognition	X			X	Professional services	
1.2. Creating preconditions for automatic recognition of qualifications (MAP III.3.1)						

1.2.1. Meetings of the International Expert Group on Automatic Recognition of Qualifications back to back with an ENIC/NARIC network meeting	X	X		X	Events/ conferences	*Opened dialogue on preconditions for automatic recognition of qualifications.*
1.2.2. Technical Assistance on Automatic Recognition				X	Professional services	
1.3 Mobility of high-skilled labour (PhD, researchers, academics) in SEE (MAP III.1.1.)						
1.3.1. Meeting on mobility of PhD, researchers and academics in SEE back to back with training of EURAXES contact points		X			Events/ conferences	*Improved policy and regulatory frameworks for mobility of students, PhD, researchers and academics in SEE and between SEE and EU.* *Improved institutional capacity of EURAXES offices in the region.*
1.3.2. Technical Assistance on mobility of PhD, researchers and academics in SEE				X	Professional services	
2. WB Open and Connected Science						
2.1. Meeting of the Working Group on Open Science			X		Events/ conferences	*Improved policy and regulatory frameworks on Open Science.* *Open access to scientific journals and data by 2020.* *Increased interoperability of Open Science infrastructure in the SEE and between the SEE and EU.*
2.2. Seminar on Open Science back to back with a Training of the National Contact Points on Open Science		X			Events/ conferences	
2.3. Technical Assistance on Open Science (Mapping research infrastructure and e-infrastructure in the WB)				X	Professional services	
3. Smart Growth - (MAP II.1.6.)						
3.1. Meetings of the Smart Growth Platform (Industrial WG, Research Ministries)	X	X		X	Events/ conferences	*Established regional dialogue and knowledge exchange on developing Smart Growth strategies based on EU experience and support to the development of smart specialisation research and innovation strategies in WB 6 to ensure strategic structural investments and to build competitive advantage.*
3.2. Technical Assistance to the Smart Growth Platform				X	Professional services	
Connectivity						
1. Digital integration						
1.1 Meetings of MAP Digital Integration working groups					Events/ conferences	
1.2 Meeting of the 2018 Digital Summit Steering Committee					Events/ conferences	

1.3 High level WB Digital Summit 2018 (MAP IV.4.1)		X			Events/ conferences	*Regional cooperative dialogue on digital transformation challenges and prospects in WB6 established. Assessed state of play of the business environment and the multi-faceted benefits an accelerated and regional Digital Transformation would create EB. Annual regional WB6 Digital Summit organized so as to contribute to a continuous dialogue among WB6 authorities, nongovernmental organizations, companies, chambers, and academia.*
1.4 Regional dialogue and information exchange platform among CSIRTs and authorities in charge of Network and Information Security (NIS) Directive (MAP IV.2.1)	X			X	Events/ conferences	*Enhanced Cyber Security, trust services and data protection. Established regional dialogue and information exchange platform among WB6 CSIRTs (Computer Security Incident Response Teams), advanced CSIRTs' capacities and strengthened institutional links with EU CSIRTs.*
1.5 Meeting of the Digital Summit 2019 Steering Committee					Events/ conferences	*Supported open data region and data economy. Strengthen regional coordination on use, exchange and safe and reliable flow, access and transfer of data and integration within the European data ecosystem and economy*
1.6 Technical assistance on digital skills (MAP IV.3.1)	X				Professional services	
1.7 Technical assistance on digital agemda					Professional services	
2. Sectoral support in environment, energy and sustainable development						
2.1 Meetings of the Regional Working Group on Environment and its structures (Experts' and Ministerial)		X		X	Events/ conferences	*Strengthened institutional capacities and cooperation among WB economies in the area of environment and climate change and coordinated regional approach in implementation of three regional projects (Nexus, Climaproof and Biodiversity).*

Activity					Type	Outcome
2.2 Technical assistance on environment dimension				X	Professional services	*Report and campaign on impact of clean energy sector on environment, creating green jobs and economic development*
Competitiveness						
Investment Integration						
1.1. South East Europe Investment Committee's Working Group on Investments meetings (technical meeting on the matters of investment policies and promotion) MAP II.1.1, II.1.2, II.1.3 II.1.4		X		X	Events/ conferences	
1.2. WGI focus groups meetings (i.e. on tax policy, incentives, promotion, IIAs workshops, etc) MAP II.1.3	X				Events/ conferences	
1.3. E-permitting Working Group Session (technical meeting on implementation and maintenance of electronic systems for construction permits and spatial planning) Related and contributes to MAP II.1.3	X				Events/ conferences	
1.4. Business Friendliness Working Group Session (technical meeting on setting and implementing the standards for business friendliness and improving municipal services to business) Related and contributes to MAP II.1.3			X		Events/ conferences	*Regional investment policy reform agenda developed and implementation commenced; business enabling environment improved; financial markets coordination improved; region promoted as a unique investment destination to the global business community, followed by increased inflow of investments in the region.*
1.5. South East Europe Investment Committee plenary session (plenary meeting of the SEE's economic teams, represented by the officials from the ministries of economies, endorsing the findings and recommendations of technical working groups for further implementation MAP II.1.1, II.1.2, II.1.3 II.1.4		X		X	Events/ conferences	
1.6. South East Europe Investment Committee ministerial (high-level) meeting (annual meeting of the ministers of SEE economies, providing political support in the form of joint statement for the regular annual recommendations of the SEE Investment Committee's work in the areas of investments, industry, and sectors of priority) MAP II.1.1, II.1.2, II.1.3 II.1.4		X			Events/ conferences	
1.7. Support to investment conference (support to one big regional business/investment conference aimed at investment promotion of SEE) Related and contributes to MAP II.1.4	X	X			Events/ conferences	

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES	EXPECTED OUTCOME
1.8. Capital market regional platform kick off and meetings MAP II.1.5		X		X	Events/ conferences	
1.9. Studies and analytics on regional capital markets and proposals for their integration MAP II.1.5	X	X			Professional services	
Industrial Development						
2.1. Meetings of the tourism expert group (technical meeting on the matters hindering development of the sector, developing proposals for their mitigation, and developing a regional joint offer/product in the sector)		X		X	Events/ conferences	*Regional joint tourism product prepared and promoted to the global visitors, followed by higher inflow of foreign tourists and flow of domestic tourists in the region; small scale infrastructure projects in tourism developed; industrial policy reform undertaken so as to introduce smart specialization and enable harmonization with the EU standards.*
2.2. Meetings of the industrial policy expert group (expert meeting on improvement and harmonization of industrial policies in SEE)		X	X		Events/ conferences	
2.3. Studies and analytics in support to the industrial policy working group	X	X			Professional services	
Total Component A:						

Component B. Governance, Rule of Law and Security Cooperation

(General strategic objective to be achieved with the component proposed - desired impact)

Better governance, improved functioning of the rule of law and enhanced security in South East Europe

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Public Administration Reform						
1. Public consultations on draft laws and public policy documents						
1.1 Regional Workshop to present the Methodology on conducting peer review missions for WB Recommendation on	x				Events/ conferences	*Improved participatory policy making; Implemented Recommendation on*

Public Participation implementation						*Public Participation in Western Balkan; Strengthened the capacities on applying public consultations in policy making.*
1.2 Two regional hub events to raise awareness on the WB Recommendation on Public Participation and its review		x	x		Events/ conferences	
1.3 Expert assistance for awareness raising and peer review missions (three economies)				x	Professional services	
1.4 Peer review missions in three economies				x	Events/ conferences	

1. SEE networks, regional trainings and Western Balkans working group on justice						
1.1 SEE Judicial Training Institutions (JTI) Network/Platform, 1 meeting	x				Events/ conferences	
1.2 WB6 JTI meeting, 2 meetings	x			X	Events/ conferences	*Exchanged of experiences in judicial training and mediation field; Reduced court backlogs; Improved competence and effectiveness of judges in prosecutors; Improved functioning of Judicial Training Institutes (JTI) and AM networks in SEE; Improved coordination of activities in the area of training and mediation, developed data base of regional legal experts/trainers, Created Regional programme for WB judges and prosecutors.*
1.3 Working Group on Justice, 2 meetings	X			X	Events/ conferences	
1.4 SEE Associations of Mediators (AM) Network/Platform, 1 meeting		X			Events/ conferences	
1.5 Technical support in the area of judicial training		X	X		Professional services	
1.6. Regional trainings for judges and prosecutors in common topics, regional training for JTIs and MoJ staff	X	X		X	Events/conferenc es	
1.7.. Development of Regional Data Base of Legal experts - Judges and professors (GIZ ORF LR in partnership with RCC)				X	Professional services	

Anti-corruption

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

1.1 Corruption Risk Assessment in Healtcare sector		May-18			Professional services	*Integrity in Healthcare Sector improved through corruption risk assessment / corruption proofing. Enhanced capacities on prosecutors and law enforcement officers on Liability of Legal Persons for Corruption Related Offences*
1.2 Building capacities of prosecutors and judges on Liability of Legal Persons for Corruption Related Offences / Financial Investigations in Corruption related Offences				X	Professional services	
Security cooperation						
1. Traditional RCC's regional security cooperation formats						
1.1 SEENSA working group meeting	X				Events/ conferences	*A specific topic from the area of national securirty discussed, recommendations agreed*
1.2 SEEMIC Expert working group meeting		X			Events/ conferences	*Draft OSINT Assessment discussed and agreed, exchange of information on specific intelligence-related topics done*
1.3 SEENSA meeting - directors' level			X		Events/ conferences	*Conclusions on the current state of affairs in the cooperation of NSAs in the region, recommendations for further development*
1.4 SEEMIC - main conference				X	Events/ conferences	*OSINT Ass. adopted, topic and host for the next year agreed; after discussion, conclusions and recommendations for further Military Intelligence cooperation in the region agreed*
2. Prevention and countering of violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism						
2.1 Meeting of the SEE National Focal Points' Group for P/CVE	X				Events/ conferences	*Stock-taking of the current state of affairs in P/CVE in the region, exchange of good practices, guidance for further work and cooperation*

2.2 Regional expert workshop on prevention and countering of online radicalization		X			Events/ conferences	*Recommendations for the governments, media, and private sector (ICT services providers) how to recognize and suppress online violent extremist propaganda and other forms of hate speech*
2.3 Regional conference of law enforcement experts and state attorneys (prosecutors) on dealing with terrorist, violent extremist and connected crimes			X		Events/ conferences	*Exchange of good practices, discussion on challenges, recommendations for enhanced cooperation and coordination*
2.4 "Train the trainers" regional P/CVE seminar			X		Events/ conferences	*Equipping the core group of experts and activists from all participating jurisdictions with a practical module of knowledge, enabling them to serve as P/CVE trainers on the ground*
2.5 National "train the trainers" P/CVE seminar(s) in targeted jurisdictions				X	Events/ conferences	*Equipping the core group of experts and activists from targeted jurisdiction(s) with a practical module of knowledge, enabling them to serve as P/CVE trainers on the ground*
2.6 Meeting of the SEE National Focal Points' Group for P/CVE				X	Events/ conferences	*Stock-taking of the current state of affairs in P/CVE in the region, exchange of good practices, guidance for further work and cooperation*
2.7 Regional P/CVE coordination conference (co-organized with partner organizations, back-to-back with the NFP Group meeting)				X	Events/ conferences	*Exchange of experience and views, with recommendations to enhance the cooperation and coordination between the organizations and governments in P/CVE area in SEE*

X

Component 3. Horizontal and other cross-cutting issues

(General strategic objective to be achieved with the component proposed - desired impact)

Position RCC as the main focal point for regional cooperation and the preeminent resource for governments, private sector, donors and the civil sector

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Coordination, monitoring, programming						
1. Programming activities						
1.1. 7th SEE 2020 Programming Committee	X				Events/ conferences	*Functional programming process for the successful implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy maintained.*
1.2 3rd Meeting on Donor Coordination in the Western Balkans	X				Events/ conferences	
2. Monitoring activities						
2.1. 6th and 7th SEE 2020 Monitoring Committee		X		X	Events/ conferences	*Evidence-based policy making and completed shift from activity based to result oriented monitoring.*
2.2. Balkan Barometer for 2018		X			Professional services	
2.3. Presentation of BB 2018 findings			X		Events/ conferences	
2.4. Balkan Barometer for 2019 (first instalment)				X	Professional services	
2.5 Technical assistance on the SEE2020 monitoring framework		X			Professional services	
2.6. WIIW data base - membership fee			X		Professional services	
3. Coordination activities, grants						

Activity					Type	Expected results
3.1. 4th SEE 2020 Governing Board		X			Events/ conferences	*Established and functional coordination, governance and monitoring mechanisms with the governments, private sector, business community and civil society for the successful implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.*
3.2. SEE 2020 Coordination Meeting				X	Events/ conferences	
3.3. Support to horizontal activities, including implementation and monitoring of MAP	X	X	X	X	Professional services	*Support to horizontal activities related to MAP and ARI provided.*
3.4. RCC Grant Facility (support to MAP)		X		X	Grants	*Successful launch and completion of the 4th call on MAP related activities.*
3.5. Support to national and regional SEE2020 coordination process and MAP	X	X	X	X	Events/ conferences	*Consultation process of the SEE2020 Programing Document completed.*
3.6. Meeting of the MAP coordinators (2 meetings)	X		X		Events/ conferences	*Progress of the implementation of MAP reviewed and guidance for future activities provided.*
3.7. Meetings of the MAP component contact points (including RCC and CEFTA)	X		X		Events/ conferences	*Need assessment of the policy objectives per component adjusted. Deliverables and potential amendments for MAP agreed.*
Political dept activities						
1.1 Meetings of the RCC Board (three meetings)	X	X		X	Events/ conferences	Operational guidance and supervision of the RCC; acceptance of the regular reports of the Secretary General; decisions pertinent to the activities of the RCC Secretariat and overseeing their implementation.
1.2 Coordination meetings between SEECP Troika, RCC Secretariat and EU (three meetings)	X	X		X	Events/ conferences	Review of the developments pertaining to regional cooperation in SEE and provision of recommendations; harmonization of the priorities of the SEECP CiO with the Strategy and Work Programme of the

						RCC.
1.3 RCC Annual Meeting (one meeting)		X			Events/ conferences	Strategic coordination and further development of the regional cooperation process; endorsement of the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General for 2017 - 2018.
1.4 Informal meeting of the MFAs from the Western Balkans with the EU Commissioner			X		Events/ conferences	Support towards the EU accession goals of the Western Balkans region.
1.5 Connecting Business Initiative (CBI) - human crisis management.					Events/ conferences	Presentation of the initiative to establish a regional CBI platform.
1.6 Consultations with RCC stakeholders					Events/ conferences	Maintaining political support for the activities advancing the implementation of the RCC SWP 2017-2019.
1.7 SEECP support: Diplomatic Training Seminar (Co-organized with the Slovenian SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office)					Events/ conferences	Improving diplomatic skills of young diplomats from SEE.
1.8 Joint event with the Bulgaria presidency		X			Events/ conferences	Support towards the EU accession goals of the Western Balkans region
1.9 Balkan Summit in partnership with Friends of Europe				X	Events/ conferences	Promotion of RCC`s work in Brussels

7. List of Abbreviations

ACA	Academic Cooperation Association
ARI	Annual Report on Implementation
BB	Balkan Barometer
BDTF	Biodiversity Task Force
BIT	Bilateral Investment Treaties
CCP	Component Contact Points
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
CEI	Central European Initiative
CEPEJ	Commission on the Efficiency of Justice, Council of Europe
CfP	Call for Proposals
C-i-O	Chairmanship-in-Office
CONOP	Working Party on Non-Proliferation
CoP	Conference of Parties
CSIRT	Cyber Security Incident Response Teams
CT	Counter- terrorism
CVE	Countering of Violent Extremism
CVE-FTF Platform	South East Europe Regional Platform for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters
DG	Directorate-General
DG CONNECT	Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology
DG EMPL	Directorate – General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
DG JRC	Directorate-General Joint Research Centre
DG JUST	Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers
DG NEAR	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
DS	Digital Summit
EC	European Commission
ECHR	European Court on Human Rights
ECARO	Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
EDP	Entrepreneurial Discovery Process
EJTN	European Judicial Training Network
ENIC	European Network of Information Centers
EP	European Parliament
ERI SEE	Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe
ESAP	Employment and Social Affairs Platform
EU	European Union
EUMS	European Union Member States
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FTF	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GIZ ORF	GIZ Open Regional Fund
GIZ ORF-LR	GIZ Open Regional Fund for Legal Reform
HE	Higher Education
HELP	The European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IISG	Integrated Internal Security Governance
IIA's	International Investment Agreements
IT	Information Technology
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JIPI	Joint Investment Promotion Initiative

JRC	Joint Research Centre
JTI	Judicial Training Institutions
JWGI	Joint Working Group on Investments
LO	Liaison Office
MAP REA	Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans 6
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRA	Mutual Recognition Agreement
NARIC	National Academic Recognition Information Centres
NFP CVE-FTF Group	RCC Group of National Focal Points for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Foreign Terrorist Fighters in Southeast Europe
NIS	Network and Information Systems
NRCP's	National Roma Contact Points
NSA	National Security Authority
ORF	Open Regional Funds for South East Europe
ORF LR	Open Regional Fund for South East Europe – Legal Reform
OS	Open Science
OSINT	Open Sources Intelligence Assessment
PA	Parliamentary Assembly
P-CVE	Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism
RAI	Regional Anticorruption Initiative
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
R&D	Research and Development
RDC	Regional Dimension Coordinator
ReSPA	Regional School of Public Administration
RIRA	Regional Investment Reform Agenda
RWG Env	Regional Working Group on Environment
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SC	Standing Committee
SG	Secretary-General
SEE	South East Europe
SEE 2020	South East Europe 2020 Strategy: Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective
SEECP	South-East European Cooperation Process
SEECP PA	South-East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly
SEEIC	South East Europe Investment Committee
SEELS	South East European Schools of Law Network
SEEMIC	South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs
SEENSA	South East European National Security Authorities
SEESAC	SEE and EE Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SWP	Strategy and Work Programme
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the EC
TEG	Tourism Experts Group
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	Western Balkans
WBCTi	Western Balkans Counter-Terrorism Initiative
WGCM	Working Group on Capital Markets
WGJ	Working Group on Justice
WIIW	The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies
WRC	World Radio-communication Conferences