#### **REPORT**

# ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE

# REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

For the period 1 November 2022 – 1 March 2023

# 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, February 2023

# **Table of Contents**

Executive Summary	3
Implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme	6
A. Support to implementation of regional programmes	6
A.1 South East Europe 2030 Strategy	6
A.2 Common Regional Market	6
A.3 Green Agenda	13
B. Political Cooperation, Good Governance and Security	14
B.1 Political Cooperation	15
B.2 Good Governance – Justice Reforms and Rule of Law	16
B.3 Security Cooperation	16
C. Horizontal activities	17
C.1 Programming, Monitoring, Coordination	17
C.2 Communication	17
List of Abbreviations	20

# **Executive Summary**

While the world and the region continue to struggle with the socio-economic repercussions of the ongoing war in Ukraine, which in the latest available Regional Economic Prospects report of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) lowered the expected GDP growth in South East Europe to 1% in 2023<sup>1</sup>, European perspective of the region has gained on traction.

Continued commitment by both the region and the EU Member States to maintain and strengthen the Berlin Process as the key platform of support to regional cooperation is warmly welcomed in the context of EU accession process of EU aspirants. In the same context, participants recognized and reconfirmed the role of the RCC to facilitate these commitments and aspirations.

Berlin Summit of the Berlin Process on 3 November 2022 served as a compelling demonstration of a renewed momentum in regional cooperation efforts, as Leaders of the Western Balkans signed the regional agreements on Freedom of Movement with Identity Cards, Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications and Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Doctors of Medicine, Dentists and Architects. The three agreements fall under the Common Regional Market's (CRM) mobility agenda, led by the RCC. Their implementation will facilitate mobility, but also expand the regional labour pool and approximate regional standards to those of the EU. Once the ratification of the agreements is finalized according to the internal procedures of participating economies, the region's citizens will be able to feel concrete and direct positive impact of regional cooperation on their day-to-day lives.

In a strong message of unity and enduring partnership between the EU and the region, the EU-Western Balkans Summit was for the first time hosted in the region, on 6 December 2022 in Tirana. Notably, the Tirana Summit witnessed the signing of a declaration between the telecom operators from the region and EU, a result of a joint endeavour of the RCC and the European Commission. The declaration, concluded on a voluntary basis, aims to enable significant lowering of the roaming costs between the EU and Western Balkans as of 1 October 2023, thus building upon the success of the Western Balkans Regional Roaming Agreement and providing valuable incentives for business and for tourism. There is a standing invitation for the remaining telecom operators to join this initiative, and since the signing of the declaration at the Tirana Summit, at least one additional telecom operators' group has done so.

At the Tirana Summit, moreover, the EU reiterated its full support of the EU perspective for the region, including the idea of gradual integration of those candidates already in the accession phase and announced the financial assistance of one billion euros to alleviate the energy crisis. This package is at the same time the recognition that the EU and the region face a common challenge that can only be resisted in tandem. In line with this commitment, December 2022 saw the granting by the EU Council of the candidate status to Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> EBRD. "Regional Economic Prospects in the EBRD Regions: A Cold Winter Ahead?" (September 2022)

as granting Kosovars visa free travel to the EU from the start date for the operation of the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) and in any case no later than 1 January 2024. Kosovo\* furthermore submitted its formal application to join the EU.

All of the latest achievements have been warmly welcomed by the South East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECP) and its Chairmanship in Office of Podgorica. SEECP Political Directors and Director Generals for EU Affairs hosted by Podgorica in December shared their congratulations and reiterated their commitment to supporting regional cooperation in view of its benefits for the region and its EU path.

SEECP remains the focal point of dialogue, development, security and stability for South East Europe, in an effort to jointly address the common regional challenges. In a display of solidarity and support, a number of SEECP participants have provided rescue teams and other forms of assistance to Türkiye, in the wake of the terrible tragedy of the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that faced this nation, resulting in an unimaginable death toll and destruction. Natural disasters remain a formidable challenge to the region, growing more pertinent under the strain of global climate change.

As the operative arm of SEECP, RCC continues to pursue all venues within its mandate to facilitate regional cooperation for the betterment of human life and region's prospects. As such, the preceding period was marked by continued efforts in the implementation of the South East Europe 2030 Strategy, Common Regional Market and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB).

The SEE 2030 Strategy in its second year of implementation focused on the visibility and outreaching activities, as well as the monitoring process. Furthermore, between November 2022 and March 2023, RCC facilitated the gatherings of SEE Participants for establishing multilateral stakeholder regional cooperation mechanisms, as foreseen by the Strategy.

In addition to the aforementioned deliverables, RCC has been facilitating the **implementation of the Common Regional Market** and the efforts toward the establishment of the regional investment area; regional digital area; and regional industrial and innovation area in the region, underpinned by the four EU freedoms.

In order to support the establishment of the **regional investment area**, RCC launched the process of creating regional guidelines and procedures for economies' Foreign Direct Investment screening mechanisms, which will support transparency and security in this area. Moreover, RCC assisted economies in making progress on investment policy reforms, by supporting development of Standard Operating Procedures in Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS).

<sup>\*</sup> 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

To further the economic competitiveness agenda, the work on industrial development continued to focus on supporting regional creative industries, as well as the green and circular economy.

The great accomplishment in the preceding period when it comes to supporting the **four EU freedoms** in the region was the conclusion of the aforementioned three mobility agreements. In addition to that, human capital development agenda was enriched by progress in creating a **regional innovation area**, including the operationalization of the *Western Balkans Innovation* & *Research Platform* and the organization of the second regional *Butterfly Innovation* & *Business Forum*.

Moreover, RCC continued to support the socio-economic empowerment of women through its regional networks for women in STEM and women entrepreneurs. As a result of these endeavours, the region as of January has available a thorough review of gender statistics, which will help to design evidence-based policy for labour markets' gender equality.

In helping the region establish a **regional digital area**, following signing of the Roaming Declaration between the EU and regional telecom operators, RCC is facilitating discussions to define methodology for determining price caps on data roaming charges in the period 2023-2028, as well as providing additional support, as necessary, to regional economies to undertake necessary policy reforms. Moreover, RCC continues to facilitate preparation on the Regulatory Dialogue EU-Western Balkans, collect data on and monitor the state of digital transformation and digital skills, and engage in other priorities identified by the region.

The progress on **Green Agenda** for the Western Balkans will soon be showcased in the Green Agenda Report of Implementation, as RCC prepares it for release during the first quarter of 2023. In the meantime, RCC is prioritizing greater inclusion of CSOs and local government (LSG) in GAWB implementation, including through the organisation of the NGO and LSG Forum(s).

In the efforts to underpin the implementation of regional programmes with sound **good governance and security cooperation**, the highlight of the preceding period can be found in the 7<sup>th</sup> Regional (Jumbo) Security Coordination Conference, co-organized by the RCC and the Italian government. The important insights of the security actors and practitioners on a range of security topics will be available as the RCC prepares a comprehensive post-Conference report.

In addition, the war in Ukraine and its repercussions through the lens of regional public opinion will be displayed in the special edition Balkan Barometer report. The report shows that two thirds of region's citizens consider the war in Ukraine to pose a risk to their economy, worrying most about the economic downturn (77%) and the food and gas security (63%). However, 83% of respondents expressed trust that regional cooperation can contribute to better economic resilience in the current context.

All accomplishments in regional cooperation continue to rely on the political will and commitment of regional participants, as well as the support of their partners. In that light, RCC

continues to foster deep and meaningful connections with all relevant stakeholders, both through bilateral and multilateral consultations and outreach activities, promoting and advocating for a continued proactive and constructive engagement in regional actions.

#### **Implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme**

# A. Support to implementation of regional programmes

# A.1 South East Europe 2030 Strategy

The implementation of the SEE 2030 Strategy will take a step forward at the third SEE 2030 Monitoring Committee meeting on 7 March 2023, when the Committee will evaluate the twelve project proposals received and decide which proposals could be prioritised for further fund raising activities. Moreover, the Committee will discuss RCC's proposal on constructing a SEE-specific regional index to measure inclusive growth perspectives of the SEE region based on the priorities of SEE 2030 Strategy. The Committee will review the financial and human resources constraints regarding the implementation of SEE 2030. During the reporting period, RCC had more than 20 meetings with international and regional organisations and bilateral meeting SEE Participants in the framework of its preparations to the third meeting of SEE2030 Committee.

Under the facilitation of RCC, all SEECP Participants' Chambers and Banking Associations along with the representatives of Eurochambres, European Banking Federation, EBRD, and World Bank held an online meeting on 16 November to discuss the role of private sector and commercial banks in the implementation of SDGs and green transformation. This meeting served as the first attempt to connect stakeholders from all SEE economies, their banking associations and chambers of commerce to discuss sustainable development goals. Participants highlighted the need for better planning, including discussions with various stakeholders such as EU (EBF, Eurochambers, European Commission) and international partners (IMF, World Bank, EBRD). Participants recognized the unique position of SEE 2030 to reach out to various stakeholders such as statistical offices, parliaments, networks of universities, think-tanks and others, whose activation in this context may extend the stakeholder dialogue. Ultimately, participants put forward the idea to organize a follow up meeting to share good practices with 13 economies including the presence of the EU partners. Moreover, it was suggested that insurance sector as well as non-banking part of financial sector should be put into more focused discussion. The Hellenic Banking Association made a proposal to establish regional SEE fund, having in mind the enormous potential of the region in this regard. It was agreed to organize one more meeting before SEECP Summit and to include not only banks and chamber but also insurance market stakeholders.

# A.2 Common Regional Market

# A.2.1 Economic Competitiveness

To advance the objectives set forth by the CRM *Regional Investment Area*, the RCC carried on its work in three areas: reforms in regional investment policy, reforms in ISDS, and investment promotion.

RCC began the process of creating regional guidelines and procedures for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) screening mechanisms, drawing from the evolving EU standards and policies, particularly the EU Regulation on Foreign Direct Investment Screening. The process is currently taking place at individual-economy level. The objective is to help regional economies ensure transparency of the FDI screening process and to support the development of their screening mechanisms where they do not yet exist. FDI screening mechanism will contribute to the liability of the region where the security sensitive areas and preserving of public order are at stake. This assignment will also propose establishment of a cooperation mechanism for FDI screening among the region's economies with the exclusive right to decide on which investments to screen, approve, condition, or block, depending on where the investment takes place.

Progress in ISDS matters is reflected through the support of the region's economies in development of the ISDS Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). The main aim is to further support the region in investment policy reform activities, by addressing the key issues identified in the process of ISDS structures mapping in the region. Development of SOP will further the implementation of actions under the CRM Regional Investment Area pillar and prevent losing precious time between the initial issue with the investor and the receipt of the notice of dispute.

RCC and WB6 Chamber Investment Forum (WB6 CIF) co-organized a "Western Balkans Investment Conference", which gathered investors with a view to present the opportunities and benefits of investing in the region, to disseminate information on the investment framework and doing business in the region, and to showcase examples of successful investments for the benefit of potential investors. Working together as a region can lead to better opportunities for foreign investments and quality investments, unlock information flow across the region and promote investments together as a region.

Within the *Free Movement of Capital*, the region has discussed further activities pertinent to existing experience on joining the SEPA and continuing the work on Non-Bank Payment Service Provider Harmonization. RCC facilitated these efforts with a meeting of the *Working Group on Financial Markets* (WGFM), organized back-to-back with CEFTA Subcommittee on Trade in Services.

As part of the efforts to promote *Sustainable Tourism*, RCC initiated the creation of a regional Joint Online Tourism Platform/portal. This platform will serve to promote and facilitate regional cultural and adventure tourism routes, as well as other attractions such as food, wine, events, and seasonal activities. The platform will be marketed under a unified regional brand, "We live it, You'll love it."

Under *Industrial Development*, RCC continued regional dialogue on creative industries through a dedicated technical assistance aimed at identifying sites (such as old and unused industrial sites) with potential for development of creative hubs in the region, together with the economies; and agreeing on joint actions for promotion, developing and exploring of funding opportunities to support establish and/or support existing creative hubs.

Further under industrial development, RCC commissioned a mapping of green and circular economy stakeholders in the region. The identified stakeholders were further approached to conduct a survey aiming to define needs, challenges and gaps towards greening the value chains. The survey brought to light interesting findings related to key challenges, such as lack of funding opportunities facilitating the green transition or lack of awareness on funding schemes; need for a strong legal and regulatory environment and lack of specialist skills for the green transition. These findings helped to shape and identify the needed focus of the future actions.

In order to further enhance dialogue and cooperation on green and circular economy value chains in the region and to discuss the creation of support platforms - a Regional Stakeholders Platform for Green and Circular Economy and a Regional Green Start-ups Network – RCC organized a "Regional Workshop on Green and Circular Economy value chains" with stakeholders from the region, representing private and public sectors, civil society and academia. The workshop was organized back-to-back with the Working Group on Industrial Development, in order to bring to the attention of policymakers what the stakeholders have recognized as challenges and necessary actions. Moreover, RCC joined the Energy, Construction and Green Economy Trade Fair in Tirana and organized the panel discussion focusing on "Opportunities, drivers and barriers for circular businesses in the region" bringing together experts from public and private sector of the region.

# A.2.2 Human Capital Development

Following the landmark achievement of signing the Agreement on Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Doctors of Medicine, Dentists and Architects and the Agreement on Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications at the Berlin Process Summit, the economies have started their ratification procedure.

The Agreement on Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications will enable mobility of students and academic staff in the region based on the Lisbon Convention for Recognition, Bologna Process and the relevant EU rules. The period of recognition will be shortened from several months to a maximum of fourteen days and existing fees associated with the process so far will be eliminated. Although the Agreement applies to public universities for now, it will gradually extend to private universities as well. In line with the jointly agreed workplan concluded at the meeting of the Working Group on Recognition of Academic Qualifications (WGRAQ) held in Sarajevo in mid-December 2022, RCC prepared the draft Rules of Procedure (RoP) for the Joint Commission on Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications – the body which will be established upon ratification of the Agreement on Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications. The RoP will be discussed by WGRAQ latest by April 2023. To support implementation of the agreement, a workshop of ENIC/NARIC offices on Regional

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>https://www.rcc.int/events/1521/working-group-on-industrial-development-meeting-on-green-and-circular-economy-value-chains-and-regional-workshop-on-green-and-circular-economy-value-chains</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.icebergexhibitions.com/event/sustainable-construction-energy-exhibition/

Recognition Database (RRD) took place at the end of January 2023 in Podgorica. The offices agreed on a list of deliverables was, and will continue the RRD testing.

Agreement on Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Doctors of Medicine, Dentists and Architects will facilitate mobility of and enable provision of services by professionals across the region. For now, it applies to only three professions, but it sets the basis for the negotiations on the remaining four regulated professions (midwives, nurses, pharmacists and veterinary surgeons). RCC re-distributed the zero draft Agreement for Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Midwives, Nurses, Pharmacists and Veterinary Surgeons in mid-January 2023 and it is in the process of receiving nomination of lead negotiators. Upon nomination of lead negotiators by the region's economies, the expectation is to swiftly conclude the technical negotiations on the Agreement.

Within the agenda of the *Regional Innovation Area*, RCC focused on assisting the progress of a dynamic regional innovation ecosystem by promoting the potential of research and innovation infrastructure and human capital development. RCC operationalised the *Western Balkans Innovation & Research Platform* as a regional coordination mechanism between the region's key innovation and research players. The Platform helps synchronise their actions while keeping the regional partners informed about existing and forthcoming opportunities. Its online arm (<u>BalkanInnovation.com</u>) gained traction and became one of the key regional online sources in the field of innovation & research.

As part of its efforts to support regional research and innovation infrastructures, RCC introduced the follow-up support for the development for Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) in the region. This programme is the follow-up action to the RCC's Technology Transfer Support Programme implemented in 2021. Its main goal is to provide additional capacity building for the region's TTOs by building a pipeline of ambitious project proposals that tap into existing funding opportunities by involving teams from the region's economies and facilitating additional networking.

RCC organised the second regional *Butterfly Innovation & Business Forum* in Sarajevo on 6 and 7 December 2022. The Forum concentrated on promoting sustainable models of academic and business cooperation and the power of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs). It showcased success stories from the region, shared numerous funding opportunities to innovation practitioners and put into focus the region's untapped economic potential in twin green and digital transformations. Informal networking allowed participants to plan future cooperation and formalise consortia that started competing for larger European funds in the meantime.

Moreover, RCC has facilitated the participation of the region's economies in the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendations on Open Science<sup>4</sup> through working groups

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> UNESCO Recommendations, available at: <a href="https://balkaninnovation.com/unesco-recommendation-on-open-science/">https://balkaninnovation.com/unesco-recommendation-on-open-science/</a>

that focus on high-impact areas for open science, through capacity building, policies, financing and incentives, infrastructures and monitoring progress.

In supporting the participation of women economic empowerment and as part of the *Network of Women in STEM*, RCC launched a regional STEM role-models campaign #Choose STEM future via social media. The campaign is designed to attract high-school girls and young women to participate in STEM education and careers. It features successful women – one from each economy – representing from various STEM fields. By the end of February, the campaign reached over 5.707.000 people in the region. In close cooperation with the UNDP, the STEM Network focused its efforts on introducing the first regional mentorship programme to bring STEM education/careers closer to young women in the region.

Within the *Regional Network of Women in Entrepreneurship*, RCC commissioned a stocktaking on constraints and good practices of women entrepreneurship in the region, further complemented by a statistical overview of key women entrepreneurship data in the regional economies. Based on the available and preliminary findings, the economy factsheets<sup>5</sup> on women entrepreneurship in the region have been published in January. While data vary across economies, some similar trends can be observed. Gender disaggregated data remain an issue. Women-led enterprises constitute between 20 and 31% of total enterprises across the region. All over the region, women mostly run/own micro or small enterprises. The picture is less clear and difficult to measure when it comes to women in the agriculture sector, with women farmers representing about 5% to maximum 15% of total agriculture and farming enterprises (for those economies where data can be found). RCC conducted consultations in each economy (with representatives of public institutions, private sector and civil society) in the period between 27 January and 9 February 2023<sup>6</sup> in order to brainstorm and discuss the findings from the stocktaking and agree on roadmaps for action to address key challenges.

Furthermore, in the framework of promotional activities under the Regional Network, RCC has started the process<sup>7</sup> for the second edition of the "Western Balkans Women Entrepreneurs of the Year" initiative.

# **Employment and Social Affairs Platform (ESAP)**<sup>8</sup>

During the reporting period, the ESAP 2 project has entered the no-cost extension phase, as approved by the European Commission that is to run until 30 September 2023. For this period ESAP 2 activities are designed around undertaking the pending tasks and working towards the outstanding deliverables.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> <u>https://www.rcc.int/wwl/library;</u> <u>https://www.rcc.int/pubs/152/women-entrepreneurship-in-the-western-balkans--economy-factsheets</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Regional Cooperation Council | Western Balkans Women Entrepreneurship talks (rcc.int)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Regional Cooperation Council | Western Balkans Women Entrepreneurs of the Year (rcc.int)

 $<sup>^8</sup>$  This project has been financed by the European Union and implemented by the RCC, grant number VS/2016/0054 (March 2016 to February 2019), VS/2019/0094 (March 2019 to October 2019) and VS/2019/0348 (November 2019 – October 2022)

In the area of undeclared work (UW), ESAP 2 plans to follow up on the previous Mutual Assistance Projects (MAPs) conducted in 2021. The follow up sessions are aimed at sharing the results of the best practices in tackling undeclared work identified in the first MAP cycle as well as the priority areas for actions. The end result of both MAP cycles would be a set of recommendations for individual economies on how to enhance efficiency in tackling undeclared work towards increased transition into formality.

Furthermore, the plan of activities envisages two regional thematic seminars on the topic identified by the region's enforcement authorities and staff exchange/external visit to an economy with proven good practices in tackling UW. On the outreach and visibility front, ESAP 2 disseminated the awareness raising video campaign on the benefits of the declared work ("Say YES to Declared work") to the members of the regional Network Tackling Undeclared Work.

The ESAP 2 project has continued to provide individual-economy, demand-driven Technical Assistance (TA) to government partners. In the preceding period, the project provided its 18<sup>th</sup> and the last required demand-driven TA deliverable.

ESAP 2 TA facility, designed to address the stakeholders' needs on priority employment policies or measures, has so far assisted the partner economies across the region in many areas, including but not limited to the analysis of impact of COVID-19 pandemic and related measures on employment; enhancement of performance of the labour inspection platform; analysis of data on citizens' experiences and perceptions regarding employment; training of Public Employment Services (PES) on statistical data analysis; analysis and assessment of active labour market measures (ALMMs); support in the area of employment of foreign workers, tackling trends, need, procedures and quotas; development of digital solutions to improve PES capacities; development of advanced draft of employment strategy reflecting new legislation and EU requirements; and others.

In the component focused on alignment with the EU acquis, ESAP 2 project finalised the 2022 cycle of PES bench-learning (PES BL) through transferring, adapting and implementing the EU PES bench-learning model with PES partners. This exercise resulted in set of specific recommendations for enhancement of PESs performance summarised in the PES BL <u>individual</u> economy reports and the regional overview.

Furthermore, third round of the annual regional reporting on performance of the region's economies regarding the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) that was initiated in October 2022, has proceeded as planned. Regional partners received the advanced draft reports for comments. The final set of products will include reports for each economy plus the regional comparative report and an updated online interactive regional Social Scoreboard. These reports serve as a reference for EU alignment in areas that include equal opportunities and access to the labour market, fair working conditions and social protection and inclusion. The presentation of the reports' findings is planned for April 2023, at a regional gathering of the line ministries and other partners dealing with employment and social issues in the region. Publication of the reports will be accompanied with already finalised, new awareness raising campaign featuring

citizens from the region. The 2023 campaign focuses on employment of persons with disabilities, highlighting the importance of social inclusion and job opportunities for persons with various forms of disabilities, and how policies from the Pillar affect their day-to-day lives.

ESAP 2 <u>online ESAP Observatory</u> on employment in the Western Balkans has been updated in this reporting period to reflect changes in the labour markets of the region, featuring the latest available regional labour market indicators and comparing them with the EU values. The data available for all economies for 2021 show that there was an increase in the size of the labour force in the region compared to 2020 of slightly over 137.000 people (15-64). However, although there is some progress evident in activity rate compared to 2020 (from average of 59.8% in 2020 to 60.5% in 2021), the region still lags behind the EU average for over 12%. Employment rate for 2021 stands at 51.2% (50.4% in 2020), while unemployment declined from 16.6% in 2020 to 15.9% in 2021. The changes in activity, employment and unemployment rate equally reflected on both male and female population. Still, youth employment marks minimum progress (20.1% in 2021 from 19.9% in 2020). There are significant variations in the rates across the region, and while some perform much worse that the region's average, others are performing much better in closing the gap with the EU. Besides macro and labour market data, the Observatory contains regularly updated monthly data on the registered unemployed (total stock and newly registered) from the region's PES.

# Youth Lab Project9

Following the success of the first Youth Policy Lab on Unemployment, Western Balkans Youth Lab (WBYL) project continued to ensure youth involvement in decision-making processes through the Second Youth Lab on Mental Health. As per the developed Methodology, co-chairs of Working Groups from each economy presented activities they are working on, based on <a href="mailto:thirteen">thirteen (13) regional recommendations</a> on youth mental health developed at Mid-Term Conference on Mental Health in Pristina in November.

Within the reporting period, Working Groups of four economies requested the use of Technical Assistance Instrument (to meet the needs of public administrations) and Capacity Building Instrument (to meet the needs of youth organisations) in order to address immediate needs of the beneficiaries. Some of the Working Groups have already finalized their work and presented it at the Final Conferences in their economies. At the Final Conference "Improving Youth Mental Health Services and Defying Stigma" in Tirana, Youth Component in National Action Plan of Mental Health 2023-2026 and Mental Health Toolkit have been presented to the stakeholders who are to further advocate for implementation. At the Final Conference in Belgrade, participants presented the Developed Mechanism for Coordination of Resources in the Field of Youth Mental Health for the Ministry, as well as the Coordination Body for Mental Health of Youth.

Through the youth participation component, WBYL supported organization and participation of young people at the "Western Balkans Youth Forum" of the Berlin Process 2022 in Berlin.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> This project is co-funded by the European Union, grant number IPA/2019/409-790

The Forum provided space for young people and youth workers from the region and the EU to discuss youth-related issues from different perspectives and develop a youth declaration directed to the political leaders of the region and the EU. Declaration was presented at the margins of the Berlin Summit and reflects active participation and youth's ownership over the topics of high interest to them. This was an opportunity to bring forward a more strategic approach by ensuring meaningful youth inclusion in the next stage of the Berlin Process while inviting young people themselves to shape the process by direct contributions.

# A.2.3 Digital Integration and implementation of the Digital Agenda

With the aim to permanently monitor of the implementation of the Regional Roaming Agreement, in particular after the introduction of Roam Like at Home regime in the region as of 1 July 2021, RCC initiated the preparations of the "Western Balkans Roaming Report 2022" a demanding process of data collection and analysis. The report has been validated by all economies and published in January 2023. The analysis is based on the roaming data from 2021. This report also serves to assess and analyse roaming users' patterns, traffic and costs of roaming services between regional and EU telecommunications operators.

According to the Report, after the introduction of RLAH model in the region from 1 July 2021, number of roaming users in the region almost doubled in the second half of 2021 compared to the first half, while the roaming traffic significantly increased for all services: number of minutes of outgoing calls up to 237%, number of minutes of incoming calls up to 173%, number of SMS sent up to 119%, while data consumption (in MB) increased up to 459%, depending of the economy.

After three meetings of the regional Working Group on Roaming Policy held during 2022, as well as intensive discussions and consultations with telecommunications operators from both the region and the EU, operators signed "EU/WB Roaming Declaration" during the EU-Western Balkans Summit in Tirana. As per the Declaration, data roaming charges will as of 1 October 2023 be lower for both the regional and the EU citizens travelling to the EU and the region, respectively. The price caps for data roaming charges for the period 2023-2028 will be agreed upon by telecommunications operators and announced by 1 May 2023 at the latest. Currently, RCC in close consultation with European Commission is facilitating discussions between the operators on defining the methodology for determining these price caps.

RCC is monitoring the implementation of the policy reforms from the Roadmap for lowering roaming charges between the EU and the region. As some of these reforms are very complex and the economies need further support for their implementation (including the ones related to permit granting procedures and fees for permits and rights of way), RCC collected and consolidated specific needs of each economy in this regard and will facilitate the thematic workshop to be organized through TAIEX in spring 2023.

RCC, EBRD and European Investment Bank (EIB) are preparing the joint event - "Investing in Digitalisation in the Western Balkans" followed by the Donor Coordination Meeting – "Common Regional Market in the Western Balkans - Regional Digital Area" to take place on

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://www.rcc.int/pubs/153/western-balkans-roaming-report-2022

28 March 2023 in Sarajevo. This event will provide an opportunity to discuss successful models, exchange knowledge and raise awareness on digital projects, but also identify gaps in public and private funding to support the successful digitalisation of the region.

RCC is continuing its work with the EC to organize the Second Regulatory Dialogue in June 2023, following the first edition of this dialogue between the EU and the region in June 2022. The first Regulatory Dialogue touched upon a broad range of reforms and policy developments, including in the field of 5G, broadband, use of data, etc. This year, the focus of the Regulatory Dialogue will be on free flow of data, interoperability and cybersecurity.

In the second half of 2022, RCC initiated the assessment of the level of digital skills of public administration employees at central and local level in the region by sharing the online Questionnaire. Due to the reluctance of the employees in some of the economies to fill in the Questionnaire, the results for the whole region are still not collected.

The six winners of the third regional competition event "Balkathon - Smarten up for the future" developed and marketed their digital solutions after the competition. Following the established good practise, the winners will present their solution at the 6<sup>th</sup> Digital Summit. The preparations for the 6<sup>th</sup> Summit, to be held in Sarajevo, are currently ongoing, with the first Steering Committee meeting planned for March 2023.

The regional Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) 2022 Report was developed under the RCC umbrella and for the first time prepared jointly with the respective institutions of the economies of the region. The Report is prepared in full compliance with EU DESI methodology, and helps to monitor digital developments on economy and regional level, in order to better track the progress of the digital transformation in the region and support evidence-based policies.

In the area of interoperability, cross-border/boundary use cases in the region have been identified, while follow-up preparations have started to launch a regional pilot project(s) to improve cross-boundary/boundary services level interoperability. Two follow-up tailor-made consultations in each economy were held, first in December 2022, and second in February 2023.

#### A.3 Green Agenda

RCC has progressed in preparing the first GAWB Report of Implementation (GARI) in close coordination with economies, regional partners, and EC. The first GARI will be finalised by spring and will include a qualitative progress report, and quantitative overview of the GAWB Action Plan indicators, as well as perspectives from key stakeholders.

Organisation of the first NGO and Local Self Government (LSG) Forum have been identified as priority activities for the upcoming months. These two events will mark the start of two processes which will accompany the implementation of the GAWB Action Plan. The NGO Forum will serve as a continuous space for discussions and information sharing with CSOs from the region to support and promote the GAWB. On the other hand, the LSG Forum is

planned to create a platform for sharing best practices and promoting the implementation of the GAWB Action Plan at the local level in the region.

Stakeholders' involvement has continued intensively in terms of updating the governance process on the GAWB, with the partner regional organisations, such as the Energy Community Secretariat (EnCS), Transport Community Secretariat (TCT), Sustainable Working Group on Regional Rural Development (SWG RRD), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In addition, the organisation of the NGO and LSG Forum has continued in close coordination with the EU4Green Project team and on the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS).

All technical aspects of the Regional Joint Statement on Prevention of plastic pollution, including Marine Litter have been finalised in agreement with all parties. RCC will continue engaging with parties toward a final agreement, in addition to developing its action plan for implementation.

RCC has concluded the stocktaking exercise on the current state of play of the implementation of the circular economy pillar of GAWB. Based on the results, a work plan has been developed with concrete steps of implementing actions foreseen by 2024. In addition, a regional awareness raising campaign on the circular economy pillar is to be developed.

# B. Political Cooperation, Good Governance and Security

# **B.1** Political Cooperation

RCC maintained a high level of cooperation and synergy with the SEECP Chairmanship in Office of Podgorica, ensuring alignment of strategies and work programmes. Political Directors of the SEECP format met for the first time under the current Chairmanship in November, and again in December, welcoming the deliveries of the region at the Berlin and Tirana Summit and reaffirming the steadfast support to regional cooperation and EU perspective of the region. Political, economic and security repercussions from the ongoing war in Ukraine remain in the limelight of challenges for the region.

In an expression of continuity of good practices and the relevance of SEECP Troika, Podgorica Chairmanship maintained the format of the Directors Generals for the EU Affairs of the SEECP Participants, introduced for the first time by Athens during their Chairmanship in 2021/2022. The meeting of EU DGs was held back-to-back to the Political Directors meeting in December.

SEECP Parliamentary Assembly (PA) Standing Committee, chaired by the Parliament of Montenegro, likewise met in December, strengthening the parliamentary dimension of the regional cooperation in South East Europe. It was also an opportunity to discuss the role of the SEECP PA in the implementation of the SEE 2030 Strategy goals and priorities.

RCC continues to stand ready to assist the Podgorica Chairmanship in Office and well as the SEECP Troika in the delivery of their calendars of activities and any other requirements for the successful realization of the regional cooperation agenda.

# B.2 Good Governance – Justice Reforms and Rule of Law

During the reporting period RCC in cooperation with GIZ Regional Project: "Legal Reform for Economic Development in the Western Balkans", prepared the "Regional assessment of the State of Play of Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters in the Western Balkans". This regional assessment aims to support the establishing of a strengthened judicial cooperation between regional authorities built on the principle of mutual recognition and mutual trust, and to create the necessary legal settings to build bridges between jurisdictions by overcoming the complexity of different systems in the region. Therefore, it provides a detailed overview of the existing legal framework of the regional jurisdictions relevant to judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters, as well as professional recommendations for adequate legal frameworks that enable stronger judicial cooperation and free circulation of judgments.

Following the study "Strengthening the Role of Parliaments of the Western Balkans Region in the Berlin Process" prepared by RCC in 2020, a new study "Assessing and strengthening the institutional capacities of Parliaments of the Western Balkans region related to Common Regional Market" was finalized in December 2022. The study provides a comprehensive mapping of parliamentary bodies in charge of every action envisaged by the CRM as well as the assessment of parliamentary institutional capacities in this regard. This analysis identifies the parliamentary capacities and awareness related to CRM, support better information sharing and eventually enable Parliaments to timely and efficiently contribute to this process. High level of support from Members of Parliament for all initiatives related to the CRM was noticed, but there is a great need to maintain effective communication with Parliaments through stronger communication campaign and awareness raising events in support of adequate understanding of CRM and its potential.

# **B.3** Security Cooperation

RCC held its 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the flagship Regional (Jumbo) Security Coordination Conference on 17-18 November 2022 in Rome. "Security Cooperation in the Western Balkans - Challenges and Lessons from Pandemics to War in Ukraine" was co-organised with the International Relations Service of the Office for the Coordination and Planning of Police Forces of the Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the government of Italy.

The main objective of the conference was to map out, assess, and explore prevalent security challenges facing both the region and the EU in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine. Particular attention was given to sharing good practices and taking stock of lessons learned from participating stakeholders in tackling common challenges. The ultimate goal of the conference was to streamline and strengthen security cooperation and coordination in the region at the political, strategic, and operational levels between all relevant stakeholders.

A comprehensive Jumbo Post-conference Report will be prepared and made available by March 2023, with the aim to enrich the overall analysis of the outcome of the Jumbo Conference, provide a summary and key points of the conference discussions, as well as some

observations and preliminary recommendations on how future iterations of the Conference could be fine-tuned to better respond to the needs and organizational goals of participating stakeholders.

South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs (SEEMIC) Forum, chaired in 2022 by Bosnia and Herzegovina, concluded its 14<sup>th</sup> year with a Chiefs' Conference that discussed the Open Source Intelligence Assessment (OSINT) on the threats of natural disasters to SEE region. In addition, Chiefs discussed the future of SEEMIC and the added value of OSINT reports, with some participants calling for a greater focus on the exchange of military intelligence within this forum, to the extent possible. In 2023, Chairmanship of Bulgaria initiated this process of SEEMIC evolution, to be supported by RCC in the upcoming period.

# Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG)<sup>11</sup>

Following the conclusions from the 6th IISG Board meeting, held on 20 June 2022, the Board members encouraged the IISG members to step up the open cooperation in the next processes, such as mapping the responses and mapping the support. Following these decisions, within the period November 2022 – February 2023, the IISG Secretariat implemented series of thematic consultations with all regional partners. The aim of the consultations was to expedite the work on mapping responses, mapping support and providing information to the IISG Database.

The consultations resulted in IISG structures agreeing on the proposed filters and templates for the response mapping, as well as agreeing to continue updating the IISG Database and the data collection process for all three pillars as to have completed inputs by the next IISG Board.

In the same period the regional partners have successfully submitted the inputs for the responses for year 1 (2021) and year 2 (2022), on the basis of which the IISG Secretariat developed the narrative reports for year 1 and started the process of developing the narrative response for year 2.

In addition to this, within the reporting period, the IISG secretariat held a number of meetings, including with the OSCE Missions in each regional capital, with all NIPAC offices in the region, and with members of the IISG structures.

#### C. Horizontal activities

C.1 Programming, Monitoring, Coordination

RCC has advanced in the preparation for the 2023 edition of the Balkan Barometer Public and Business Opinion Surveys. The release of the publication itself is expected in mid-June 2023. Balkan Barometer remains a crucial and reliable source providing regional data, which is being regularly used by media, academia, business and civil society and decision makers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> This project is co-funded by the European Union, grant number IPA 2019/414-918

Taking into account the wide-ranging humanitarian, socio-economic and political consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on both the population and the business environment in the region, RCC published a call for small-scale data collection and analysis for Balkan Barometer special edition on Ukraine. In this regard, regional cooperation remains fundamental for the region given its determining efforts in the implementation of regional programmes. It is within context that RCC's assessment of the security situation across a wide range of policy areas could not only contribute to the future better shaping of the agendas, but also create joint resilience to socio-economic and security shocks that might come as a direct effect of the war in Ukraine. Balkan Barometer special edition on Ukraine aims to provide public and business sentiment related to the uncertainties in the realms of: disinformation, cyber threats, migration trajectory, energy and food security, investment confidence of businesses, etc.

Regarding the implementation of the CRM and GAWB Action Plan, RCC had organized the 7<sup>th</sup> Prime Ministers' Sherpas meeting on 5 December in Tirana. The aim of the meeting was mainly centered on the discussion on the next key milestones for 2023, while also reaffirming and strengthening the existing consultations with key partners in defining 2023 priority actions. Guided by the importance of cooperation with regional partners, the focus of the meeting was on regional coordination maintenance as well as discussion on the upcoming deliverables for 2023 within the CRM Agenda 2021-2024. The meeting was organised on the eve of the *EU-Western Balkan Summit*, which served as a strong confirmation of the European perspective of the region. The next, 8<sup>th</sup> Prime Ministers' Sherpas meeting is scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2023 with an objective of endorsing the deliverables for 2023 in line with CRM and GAWB activities.

The CRM report on implementation for 2022 is to be published in March, informing on key achievements and developments along CRM policy areas. The RCC and its partners, namely CEFTA, WB6 CIF and TCT, jointly prepared the regional overview of the report whereas respective line ministries in each WB economy provided their contributions for the economy-part of the report.

#### C.2 Communication

Communications aspect in the reporting period has been marked with the promotion of the three mobility agreements signed during the Berlin Process Summit and the signing of the Roaming declaration by the EU and Western Balkans telecom operators enabling the beginning of the reduction of roaming charges between the EU and the region. Promotion has been conducted through various communication channels, including press releases, interviews, direct communication, social media, digital content, photo and video stories, etc. The main communication goal was to inform the citizens about the benefits of all signed agreements, at the same time emphasizing the role and power of regional cooperation and EU's support in the processes and its dedication to the uplifting the region.

In addition to the mobility and roaming agreements' centre-stage, special attention has been given to the promotion of the regional Women Empowerment agenda. In December 2022, the RCC, in cooperation with UNDP, launched a campaign dubbed "Choose STEM future" aimed

at encouraging young women and girls to pursue careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) by bringing forth inspiring role models of successful women in STEM profession from the Western Balkans. The campaign will run until end of June 2023. Besides this, the promotion of the Western Balkans Women Entrepreneurs of the Year has begun, and will run until the main event set in March 2023.

In general, RCC communication efforts have been engaged in promoting Common Regional Market Action Plan, GAWB and South East Europe 2030 Strategy agendas, security cooperation, benefits of regional cooperation as well as EU's dedication to the region and its EU integration. In order to reach wider range of audience, the RCC continues to use different communication channels, creating diverse, interesting and easy to understand content and messages.

RCC keeps the public, both external and internal, regularly informed about organisation's activities, events, publications, etc. and overall situation in the region through website, news, social media, Daily News Overview and all other suitable means of communication.

RCC is maintaining and developing good relations with the media from the region and the EU resulting in ongoing interest of media for RCC's activities.

#### List of Abbreviations

**BL** Bench Learning

CRM Common Regional Market
CSO Civil Society Organisation

**DESI** Digital Economy and Society Index

**DIH** Digital Innovation Hub

**EBF** European Banking Federation

**EBRD** European Bank of Reconstruction and Development

EC European Commission
EIB European Investment Bank

**ENIC/NARIC** European Network of Information Centres/ National Academic

**Recognition Information Centres** 

**ESAP** Employment and Social Affairs Platform

**EU** European Union

**FDI** Foreign Direct Investment

**GARI** Green Agenda for Western Balkans Report on Implementation

**GAWB** Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

**IISG** Integrated Internal Security Governance

IMF International Monetary FundISDS Investor-State Dispute Settlement

LSG Local Self-government MAP Mutual Assistance Project

NGO Non-governmental Organisation
PES Public Employment Service
RCC Regional Cooperation Council
RRD Regional Recognition Database
SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

**SEE** South East Europe

**SEECP** South-East European Cooperation Process **SEEMIC** South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs

**SEPA** Single Euro Payment Area

**STEM** Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

**TA** Technical Assistance

**TAIEX** Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument

**ToR** Terms of Reference

**TTO** Technology Transfer Office

**UN** United Nations

**UNDP** United Nations Development Programme

UW Undeclared WorkWB Western Balkans

WBYL Western Balkans Youth Lab project

WB6 CIF Western Balkans Chamber Investment Forum

**WGFM** Working Group on Financial Markets

#### **Annex I - Communications**

# Regional cooperation and Common Regional Market

- Interview: RCC Secretary General for TRT World, <a href="https://www.rcc.int/docs/648/rcc-secretary-general-for-trt-world">https://www.rcc.int/docs/648/rcc-secretary-general-for-trt-world</a>
- <a href="https://www.rcc.int/news/787/rcc-board-participants-praise-the-organisation-congratulate-its-secretary-general-on-the-excellent-for-our-region-extremely-important-job-done">https://www.rcc.int/news/787/rcc-board-participants-praise-the-organisation-congratulate-its-secretary-general-on-the-excellent-for-our-region-extremely-important-job-done</a>
- Updated CRM subpage: <a href="https://www.rcc.int/pages/143/common-regional-market">https://www.rcc.int/pages/143/common-regional-market</a>
- https://www.instagram.com/p/Cn4bRPuvxiR/
- https://www.instagram.com/p/Ckva0wHtsX6/
- <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/ClB46kINGM3/">https://www.instagram.com/p/ClB46kINGM3/</a>
- https://www.instagram.com/p/CmG\_Y7Gt886/
- https://www.instagram.com/p/Cm1Bf9\_NqN9/
- https://twitter.com/MajlindaBregu/status/1589976857633779718
- https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1590361330196054017
- https://twitter.com/MajlindaBregu/status/1592898940437172224
- https://twitter.com/MajlindaBregu/status/1592899247204347906
- https://twitter.com/MajlindaBregu/status/1592899981878657024
- https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1595704285500678145
- https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1597933858884050944
- https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1599721976888979457
- https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1599801117805641737
- https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1600204809981657089
- https://twitter.com/MajlindaBregu/status/1600487253985329152
- https://twitter.com/MajlindaBregu/status/1601608758307991552
- https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1602652131546243074
- https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1609130843456569344
- https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1618617431609733121
- https://twitter.com/MajlindaBregu/status/1619041707676569601
- https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7169698834107337990?lang=en
- https://fb.watch/iBKy05F2ki/
- https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7014896974382395392
- https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7008420121522106368
- https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7007389775410151424
- https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6996100993490812928

#### - Digital agenda

- News/Press release: <a href="https://www.rcc.int/news/792/significant-reduction-of-data-roaming-prices-between-western-balkans-and-eu-to-start-as-of-1-october-2023">https://www.rcc.int/news/797/united-group-joins-the-eu-western-balkans-roaming-declaration</a>
- ➤ Website subpage STAY CONNECTED! https://www.rcc.int/campaigns/13/stay-connected

#### > Interviews:

RCC Secretary General Majlinda Bregu for Politicki.ba

https://www.rcc.int/docs/649/rcc-secretary-general-majlinda-bregu-for-politickiba

RCC Secretary General Majlinda Bregu for FENA

https://www.rcc.int/docs/650/rcc-secretary-general-majlinda-bregu-for-fena

#### > Social media content:

https://www.instagram.com/p/Cli2BJ9PIac/

https://www.instagram.com/p/ClrAjvQvQ9G/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CltLWWLtwug/

https://www.instagram.com/p/ClvvYQxgu0X/

https://www.instagram.com/p/ClyKoNaNcbu/

https://www.instagram.com/p/Clyra-zNz4s/

https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl0oA9EvBAr/

https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl1hpBOg2Rb/

https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl3jdXvOZAC/

https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl4HxFtN7V4/

https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl80LLKPql9/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CnokCQDt54h/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CoXRf2tsMcc/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aupkmtFZGs0

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1599033775551262721

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1599379046923583489

https://twitter.com/amer\_kap/status/1600050043913785344

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1600070696607961088

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1600055009088983042

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1600148658367778816

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1600152718051487744

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1601219897631330304

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1616383007916544000

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1622957080175955969

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7171410874056396038?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7172187650328218886?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7172591146344992006?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7172916409574395141?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7173267426191133958?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7174107123029183749?lang=en

https://fb.watch/iBKoZNOTv7/

https://fb.watch/iBK\_1tCWfa/

https://fb.watch/iBK-4G1Myi/

https://fb.watch/iBK-B8BoUG/

https://fb.watch/iBL057Rxqj/

https://fb.watch/iBL4UuVXd2/

https://fb.watch/iBL5LP4fzo/

https://fb.watch/iBL7OiUZms/

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7028723929364017152 https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7006320912396349440 https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7006318955485130752

#### - Mobility agreements:

- News/press release: <a href="https://www.rcc.int/news/786/bregu-its-done--the-three-rcc-coordinated-centrepiece-mobility-agreements-finally-see-the-light-of-day-to-reach-those-intended-for--our-citizens">https://www.rcc.int/news/786/bregu-its-done--the-three-rcc-coordinated-centrepiece-mobility-agreements-finally-see-the-light-of-day-to-reach-those-intended-for--our-citizens</a>
- News/video: <a href="https://www.rcc.int/news/795/bregu-hundreds-of-stories-of-citizens-being-unable-to-meet-relatives-due-to-visas-are-soon-to-be-in-the-past">https://www.rcc.int/news/795/bregu-hundreds-of-stories-of-citizens-being-unable-to-meet-relatives-due-to-visas-are-soon-to-be-in-the-past</a>
- ➤ Fact sheet: Agreements on Freedom of Movement with Identity Cards, Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications, Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Doctors of Medicine, Dentists and Architects <a href="https://www.rcc.int/docs/635/fact-sheet-agreements-on-freedom-of-movement-with-identity-cards-recognition-of-higher-education-qualifications-recognition-of-professional-qualifications-for-doctors-of-medicine-dentists-and-architects">https://www.rcc.int/docs/635/fact-sheet-agreements-on-freedom-of-movement-with-identity-cards-recognition-of-higher-education-qualifications-recognition-of-professional-qualifications-for-doctors-of-medicine-dentists-and-architects</a>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4URlTbwCQ8
- > Social media content

https://www.instagram.com/p/Ckdq-6MMM1o/

https://www.instagram.com/p/Ckfc4obghBe/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CkfrP6kNZZp/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CkgOdRJtUgm/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CkguhhqszL-/

https://www.instagram.com/p/Ckk\_HMOL1nG/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CnwfLKcqcKa/

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1588079612667600896

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1588082436088516611

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1588142740243681280

https://twitter.com/MajlindaBregu/status/1588191463216660480

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1588229053299019776

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1597564656406921216

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1598405802724917281

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1617500265006907395

https://twitter.com/MajlindaBregu/status/1621159734941487106

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7161443286077508870?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7161699092588973317?lang=

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7161840794255527173?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7161884330615246086?lang=

en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7191832657137814790?lang=

<u>en</u>

https://fb.watch/iBKAsD5ZDm/

https://fb.watch/iBL1r8v8\_9/

https://fb.watch/iBL6iWX9xq/

https://fb.watch/iBLs8OKJOt/

https://fb.watch/iBL-EvYfTU/

https://fb.watch/iBLZwYSVYO/

https://fb.watch/iBM2AthfBd/

 $\underline{https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:70232726138628}$ 

79235

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:69939562979853

80352

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:69935964723236

70016

# - Investment agenda

https://www.rcc.int/news/790/rcc-wb6cif-gather-european-investors-present-

opportunities-and-advantages-of-doing-business-in-the-western-balkans

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZbem2uXcjI

https://www.instagram.com/p/ClOONiprNaT/

https://www.instagram.com/p/ClRXN3SIy7I/

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1594662474581671936

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1594978322622173185

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1595104840459423744

https://fb.watch/iBLbiMgoJf/

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7000871568885075968

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7000429443680727040

#### - Innovation & Research

https://www.instagram.com/p/CmecAT2KqOJ/

https://fb.watch/iBKSU9s\_U1/

### Second Butterfly Innovation & Business Forum

https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl6A8-us2lB/

https://www.instagram.com/p/ClwZ4o8J5Ic/

https://www.rcc.int/news/793/rcc-hosts-the-second-butterfly-innovation-and-

business-forum-in-sarajevo

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1599474564253118465

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1600824963145302017

https://twitter.com/SinMar2021/status/1600805050263433217

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7174892596353928454?lang=en

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1594698008951767041

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1605951830994952193

https://fb.watch/iBL0E6CCXS/

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7006593857744179200 https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7005242424281182208

# - Environment Agenda

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ht9tld7T3j4

https://www.instagram.com/p/Ckz46EcL-NZ/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CmWvy0Bs5EE/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CnPL2pIKvOL/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CnekLnAKzFn/

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1604870863781736450

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1612816393312903171

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1614976894381789187

https://twitter.com/SinMar2021/status/1622962491759140865

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7178894673824550149?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7189239933796699397?lang=en

https://fb.watch/iBKLvHRhPL/

https://fb.watch/iBKMZiTjLG/

https://fb.watch/iBKOlp4zai/

https://fb.watch/iBKOUJHd5u/

https://fb.watch/iBLkxqZjjK/

#### - Women Empowerment agenda (WE)

> Choose STEM future campaign (ongoing) - Promotion of Women in STEM

https://www.rcc.int/news/794/bregu-to-have-wider-choices-earn-more-and-

live-better--choose-stem-future

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGOsaUNzJzA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zoKVyZP2auo

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZ056nJqLhg

https://www.instagram.com/p/CmofL98qFFv/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CnR4A48goo /

https://www.instagram.com/p/CnjjR7Zqc7A/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CnmYOK0Ket8/

https://www.instagram.com/p/Cny66-Upy6F/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CoCngsyvRVF/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CoIBZL1DKzd/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CoMvnKyrtHw/

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1607365659863748608

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1615685494733475840

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1616077271449714689

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1617851423231979521

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1620053084943810560

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1620813209379938305

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1623689629248495618

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7189968394588818694?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7190368305293593862?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7192179480700505350?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7194437077289798917?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7195223495289179398?lang=en

https://fb.watch/iBKmGVHU2U/

https://fb.watch/iBKvLddWnr/

https://www.facebook.com/reel/751921172671729

https://fb.watch/iBKzv-JVGP/

https://fb.watch/iBKILZ9LbQ/

https://fb.watch/iBKJqV-SME/

https://fb.watch/iBKSfc6GFb/

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7026619403140018176

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7023609256348106752

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7021843575508283392

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7021450829505212416

# ➤ Women in Entrepreneurship

- Website subpage <a href="https://www.rcc.int/pages/165/western-balkans-women-entrepreneurs-of-the-year-2022">https://www.rcc.int/pages/165/western-balkans-women-entrepreneurs-of-the-year-2022</a>
- <u>https://www.rcc.int/news/796/rcc-nominations-for-western-balkans-women-entrepreneurs-of-the-year-2022-open</u>
- Social media content

https://www.instagram.com/p/CoMvnKyrtHw/

https://twitter.com/evisikopliku/status/1619043889826140160

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1621479776195059714

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7187436882928667909?lang=

en

https://fb.watch/iBKu-ZtxSU/

https://fb.watch/iBKNyVniFO/

Factsheet: Women Entrepreneurship in the Western Balkans - economy factsheets <a href="https://www.rcc.int/pubs/152/women-entrepreneurship-in-the-western-balkans--economy-factsheets">https://www.rcc.int/pubs/152/women-entrepreneurship-in-the-western-balkans--economy-factsheets</a>, <a href="https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1613193524245155840">https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1613193524245155840</a>

# - Tourism

Campaign: Winterland Western Balkans - Discover your Perfect Spot

https://www.rcc.int/campaigns/11/winterland-western-balkans

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gg9XXiIz\_1s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4fTJdPMXYk

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asJ2PsM6PxI

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNGOrWNcdvs

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sd4Mzn1Gs7k

https://www.instagram.com/p/CmY8wDgPnv6/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CnMsFtsKYzZ/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CnW3Wm9q0Em/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CnrnFNGq8X-/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CoPOKi0uchT/

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1605180194272481280

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1612462264749273088

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1613893886589517824

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1616895304355258368

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1621827830999928833

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7179209590804958469?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7186665866501623045?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7191122989490949382?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7196257560222223622?lang=en

https://fb.watch/iBKu0lvAxy/

https://fb.watch/iBKE-mXKoQ/

https://fb.watch/iBKU3eczUd/

https://fb.watch/iBKWIgbO6p/

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7018227488258441216

# **Security Cooperation**

Promotion of Regional Jumbo Security Conference

https://www.rcc.int/news/789/bregu-829-of-western-balkan-citizens-agree-

that-regional-cooperation-can-help-in-improving-economic-resilience

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJ2Xb2\_sWBg

https://www.instagram.com/p/Ckyts7IvKoP/

https://www.instagram.com/p/ClEZVGOPOA-/

https://www.instagram.com/p/ClGm8fDtGBe/

https://www.instagram.com/p/Ckyts7IvKoP/

https://www.instagram.com/p/ClDeWCzpYnd/

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1590790613108416512

https://twitter.com/MajlindaBregu/status/1591845299835772937

https://twitter.com/AnerZukovic/status/1592124820958973952

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1593153759211048961

https://twitter.com/AnerZukovic/status/1593227436636131328

https://twitter.com/AnerZukovic/status/1593255090609324039

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1593279060167335937

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1593618722748506114

https://twitter.com/AnerZukovic/status/1593621699471331333

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7164474828844584198?lang=en

https://fb.watch/iBLdeGJA\_w/

https://fb.watch/iBLhZeOGSN/

https://fb.watch/iBLmdv7DDe/

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6999358012096155649 https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6998920986846736384

#### **SEE2030**

https://www.instagram.com/p/Ck8st7zu-nq/

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1592206774542688257

https://twitter.com/rccint/status/1593180247700443136

https://fb.watch/iBLj3Ys2Hj/

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6997975944581812224

# **Western Balkans Youth Lab:**

https://www.rcc.int/news/788/wb-youth-lab-youth-working-on-mental-health-

policies-to-build-the-region-as-an-environment-of-care

https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cka41y2MNR2/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y %3D

https://www.instagram.com/p/CkqY6CaugMf/

https://www.instagram.com/p/Ck\_sl9-juE0/

 $\frac{https://www.instagram.com/p/Cmb0NXftHjN/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y\%3}{D}$ 

https://www.instagram.com/p/CnEsLj7qh8q/

 $\underline{https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7165062707576704261?lang{=}en}$ 

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7166348096362827014?lang=en

https://www.tiktok.com/@rcc.int/video/7185521028691397893?lang=en

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1587462669010886657

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1588229053299019776

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1589622913376071686

 $\underline{https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1591373236717207553}$ 

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1592128630473502722

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1592619495314821120

https://twitter.com/OgiMarkovic7/status/1592842448975298561

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1597974098499731456

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1600145206342553603

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1600845813261139968

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1605584223305453572

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1603027471729061888

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1603028231308939264

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1603028445268779008

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1603028635253882880

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1603029299493314562

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1603029682160820224

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1603031666922065921

https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1605931717834862594 https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1607715152023130112 https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1611334482207903745 https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1616379726834139136 https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1617890452426100740 https://twitter.com/rccWBYL/status/1623326606918909956

#### ESAP2

- Equal opportunities for people with disabilities (marking European Day of Persons with Disabilities)
   <a href="https://www.rcc.int/news/791/looking-at-social-ability-to-provide-equal-opportunities-for-persons-with-disabilities">https://www.instagram.com/p/ClWP246g6PU/</a>
- 2022 Cycle of PES Bench-Learning Activities Study Visit Croatia <a href="https://www.esap.online/news/173/rcc-esap-2-final-event-of-2022-pes-bench-learning-cycle">https://www.esap.online/news/173/rcc-esap-2-final-event-of-2022-pes-bench-learning-cycle</a>
  - https://twitter.com/rccESAP/status/1588480486879662080
- o Implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in words and numbers <a href="https://twitter.com/rccESAP/status/1593538686527934465">https://twitter.com/rccESAP/status/1593538686527934465</a>
- ESAP Observatory registered unemployment https://twitter.com/rccESAP/status/1597536515001061376
- "Say Yes to Declared work" campaign https://www.esap.online/campaigns/3/say-yes-to-declared-work
- Benefits of declared work
   https://twitter.com/rccESAP/status/1605931871539453952
- Social Scoreboard Adult Learning https://twitter.com/rccESAP/status/1618263199043944450
- Visit to Brcko District, Bosnia and Herzegovina PES team https://twitter.com/rccESAP/status/1620344387959136256
- Coordination of activities for 2023 with European Training Foundation (ETF) <a href="https://twitter.com/rccESAP/status/1622926072021909505">https://twitter.com/rccESAP/status/1622926072021909505</a>