



# Changing with the Region

RCC Strategy and Work  
Programme

2017-2019



Regional Cooperation Council



# Good. Better. Regional.

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# I. INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND AND STRATEGIC GOAL

Since it was established, the RCC has worked to develop and maintain a climate of dialogue, tolerance and openness towards cooperation throughout the SEE region and among its participants, promoting the European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations of its participants and supporting the reforms related to their preparation for EU accession.

In line with the statutory mandate and the evolving regional challenges, operating under the political umbrella of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEEC), the first and the second triennial strategies and work programmes have guided the work of RCC in developing and supporting the implementation of regional programmes to address the needs of South East European governments in the areas of economic and social development, energy and infrastructure, justice and home affairs, security cooperation, and in building institutional and human capital. Over the eight years of its operation, RCC has worked very closely with all the governments in the region and with the relevant regional cooperation mechanisms, achieving tangible results. In time, RCC's agenda has shifted considerably from networking and convening in a wide number of themes to more focused and result-oriented interventions in a restricted number of intervention areas. This shift was particularly evident in the previous three-year period covered by the RCC's Strategy and Work Programme 2014-2016, where a strong focus was put on supporting

economic cooperation and development in the region through the SEE 2020 Strategy and strengthening cooperation on Justice and Home Affairs issues.

The RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2019 (SWP 2017-2019 or Strategy) defines the principles of operation, the priority areas of interventions and the goals to be achieved in the coming three years. It is based on a thorough analysis of the realities and the present challenges in SEE, on the progress made so far in the European integration process of the RCC participants, the agreed regional priorities and on the common goal to advance these processes.

The SWP 2017-2019 has been developed in close consultation and cooperation with the governments in the region. RCC Secretariat consulted other stakeholders in the process, such as the private sector representatives, relevant regional cooperation mechanisms engaged in the implementation of the priority areas of this Strategy, along with the European Commission as one of the key contributors to the development efforts in the region.

**Over the next three years, RCC will work to reduce - and where possible remove - the obstacles to increased mobility, enhanced connectivity and improved competitiveness in SEE, while also contributing to better governance, improved functioning of the rule of law and enhanced security in the region.**

RCC will continue to engage with all participants from SEE, guided by the South

East Europe Cooperation Process, in order to ensure broad geographical scope of co-operation.

## THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SWP 2014-2016, SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The statutory practice of developing triennial strategies and work programmes has enabled the RCC to increase its capacity to influence policy through a coherent and holistic coordination, guidance and monitoring at the regional level. The implementation of RCC's previous SWP in particular marked a new phase. The new structure employed, combined with adequate resources to execute its mandate increased the capabilities of the RCC substantially making it more efficient and robust in carrying out its activities. The interventions were better calibrated, with more far-reaching and result-oriented actions backed up by a clear mandate. Through improved coordination, RCC was able to combine resources with other regional organisations and structures thus leveraging its interventions and amplifying impact. Above all, regional ownership, regional responsibility and all-inclusiveness have served as pillars for the RCC in its mission to develop regional cooperation into a process that promotes and supports reforms.

The overall implementation of the SWP 2014-2016 can be considered a success, but the performance across the priority areas has been uneven. In those priority areas that were well mandated and resourced, the pace of implementation was satisfactory and the targets have been successfully achieved. This was not always the case.

### Implementation of the SEE 2020

The SEE 2020 Strategy has advanced on most fronts. The implementation of this ambitious agenda, that has served as one of the main anchors of the previous SWP 2014-16, has continued to rely on the political commitments, socio-economic developments in the economies concerned (and in the EU), maturity of regional co-operation in different policy areas and the funding realities.

- ▶ **Trade and investment integration of the region is steadily increasing.** A full liberalisation of trade in goods and agricultural products has been achieved, and an agreement was reached on accompanying measures to open markets and remove barriers. Negotiations on liberalisation of trade in business and professional services have commenced during 2015, backed up by RCC-led process on enabling mobility of professionals. Furthermore, RCC's work on investment policy commenced during the previous period is expected to yield tangible results in coordinating investment policy in terms of investor entry, protections and transparency, with the expected support from the World Bank and the EU. If implemented in full, this trade and investment agenda will result in a significantly improved business climate and a more integrated regional market with stronger links with the EU - all an integral part of the Integrated Growth pillar of the SEE 2020 Strategy.
- ▶ **Efforts to add value through better education, innovation and increased productivity still fledgling.** Within the Smart Growth pillar, RCC continued to provide technical and administrative support in several dimensions to ensure that the momentum of designing and

implementing SEE 2020-related work programmes is maintained. Developments in this area include the formal establishment of the regional R&D centre for innovation (WISE) to coordinate the implementation of the regional R&D for innovation strategy<sup>1</sup> and the Education Reform Initiative for South East Europe (ERI SEE) that are expected to become operational by the time SWP 2017-2019 is under implementation. RCC also successfully completed the Ljubljana Process II project, a EUR 1.3 million EU-funded initiative, helping rehabilitate cultural heritage in the region, and, among other, developing management plans for 6 sites, 17 preliminary technical assessments, feasibility studies and business plans, establishing networks of experts and training more than 300 people in fundraising and business planning, application of integrated methodology and conservation.

- ▶ **Full political backing for infrastructure development has been coupled with initial resources.** Key elements of the Strategy relating to Sustainable Growth have secured support from the Prime Ministers of Western Balkans economies and several EU Member States in Berlin in August 2014. These include an agreement on a regional core transport network in line with the EU recommendations and connecting the Western Balkans to the existing EU transport corridors (Mediterranean, Orient-East and Rhine-Danube). Priority transport projects along these corridors were

identified, as were those in the energy sector facilitating integration of power systems, coupling these agreements with a funding commitment on the EU side. RCC's work on multi-modal transport<sup>2</sup> and strengthening links between the Western Balkans and its neighbours<sup>3</sup> is complementing the infrastructure connectivity agenda with an adequate policy response to be further developed by upgrading the existing transport corridors into economic corridors. Here, RCC sees strong potential for full involvement of all SEE participants.

- ▶ **...while a strong continued focus on employment and mobility generated new initiatives.** Extensive analysis developed by RCC in the area of employment<sup>4</sup>, under the Inclusive Growth pillar, resulted in the establishment of structures necessary to advance the agreed regional mobility agenda (such as the Joint Working Group on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications) over the next three years and has set the stage for RCC's implementation of the Employment and Social Affairs Platform, a three year EU-funded action focused on improving employment policies and enhancing capacities of the Public Employment Services to implement employment measures.
- ▶ **Regional governance and coordination architecture of SEE 2020 has been completed.** At the regional level, the establishment and operationalisation of the SEE 2020 Governing Board

<sup>1</sup> Western Balkans Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation, 2014

<sup>2</sup> Western Balkan Intermodal Study, December 2015 (<http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/eca/Western-Balkans-R%26D-Strategy-Innovation.pdf>)

<sup>3</sup> Strengthening Economic Cooperation between South East Europe and Turkey, December 2015 (<http://www.rcc.int/pubs/31/strengthening-economic-cooperation-between-south-east-europe-and-turkey>)

<sup>4</sup> Labour Mobility in the Western Balkans, 2014; Social Economy Study, 2014 (<http://www.rcc.int/download/pubs/Labour%20Mobility%20as%20a%20Factor%20of%20Development%20in%20South-East%20Europe-web-final.pdf/9905623b20c25e2becc6f2be8da49b94.pdf>)

(composed of Ministers in charge of EU Integration), and the Programming Committee (NIPAC offices and SEE 2020 Coordinators) and Monitoring Committees (Statistical offices and SEE 2020 National Coordinators) over the past three years are particularly noteworthy. All participants and other key stakeholders are represented on these structures and have committed to their “modus operandi”. This progress means that SEE 2020 is implemented as a well-managed, timely and goal-oriented process; aligned with the participating economies’ national and international commitments and priorities; that progress can be regularly measured; and policies adjusted by participants as required by the dynamic operating environment. Advances have also been made in terms of strengthening the coordination and cooperation mechanisms at pillar and dimension level. Virtually all Regional Dimension Coordinators have ensured that the SEE 2020 objectives are firmly embedded in their structures and work programmes. This allows for a seamless approach between the achieving the specific goals of individual agreements (such as CEFTA, Energy Community, SEE-TO, etc.) and the SEE 2020 objectives. In other cases such as Environment or Justice, the SEE 2020 is providing an impetus for both national administrations and relevant organisations to develop more comprehensive and integrated regional cooperation structures to address various cross-cutting policies that comprise those dimensions.

- ▶ **...but additional efforts will be needed to support intra-governmental coordination.** Information on activities and commitments taken within various regional structures are in some instanc-

es not communicated in a structured way through proper channels to enable full oversight by the SEE 2020 National Coordinators. RCC will be working with the SEE 2020 governments to identify possible areas of assistance and streamlining to strengthen this coordination. This could potentially be linked to other needs for intra-governmental coordination, such as the development of Economic Reform Programmes in areas relevant for SEE 2020.

- ▶ **Securing sufficient funding for the implementation of the SEE 2020 has proved challenging.** In some areas, the restructuring of existing regional structures and/or the creation of new regional structures has encountered a number of obstacles, including financial ones. In all cases, RCC has provided technical and administrative support to ensure that the momentum of designing and implementing SEE 2020-related work programmes is maintained. However, such interim support has limitations in terms of longer term sustainability and will need to be addressed through a more comprehensive approach. The SEE governments are also, in most cases, experiencing an extended period of fiscal consolidation, limiting the scope for their intervention. Development partners could partially alleviate some of these constraints and RCC has initiated a donor coordination process with the objective of establishing a structured dialogue with the donor community as part of the annual SEE 2020 programming exercise. The scope of this coordination is limited to regional donor interventions and is structured along the lines of SEE 2020 implementation. A donor coordination database has also been developed to assist in increasing

transparency and enhancing coordination of donor interventions<sup>5</sup>.

- ▶ **A wealth of research and analysis has become available to policy-makers and development partners and should be put to good use.** Innovative work has been carried out under the auspices of RCC to assess public opinion and business sentiments (citizens and business community) on SEE 2020-related issues resulting in the Balkan Barometer published in 2015 and 2016<sup>6</sup>. In addition, targeted studies on priority policy areas have been carried out in virtually every pillar. The up-to-date data and information include assessments of the national policy and legislative frameworks; the degree of alignment with EU and/or international standards; mapping of the main actors - national, regional and international involved in a sector; and stocktaking of the current active programmes and projects. Efforts have also been made to ensure that this data is widely available including an extensive series of in-country presentations and formal circulation of reports to national administrations. This has been complemented by the establishment of comprehensive databases and web-based tools now available in user-friendly formats on websites - good examples included RCC’s SEEDS platform<sup>7</sup>, CEFTA’s Transparency Pack<sup>8</sup> or ECS’s Monitoring Reports on Energy Soft Measures Implementation<sup>9</sup>. This Strategy also envisions increasing the capabilities of the RCC to collect and analyse data and provide necessary evidence for policy making in the priority areas.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.rcc.int/home/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.rcc.int/seeds/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.rcc.int/seeds/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ceftatransparency.com/>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC\\_HOME/AREAS\\_OF\\_WORK/WB6/Monitoring](https://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC_HOME/AREAS_OF_WORK/WB6/Monitoring)

- ▶ **Maturity of regional cooperation has been a strong determinant of implementation success.** In those dimensions where multilateral cooperation is based on a clear mandate coordinated by well-resourced regional mechanisms with adequate governance structures (those able to secure political commitments and track progress being made), the implementation of SEE 2020 actions has gone well. Learning from this experience, this SWP outlines several regional instruments in the three thematic areas of SEE 2020 implementation (mobility, connectivity and competitiveness) that should alleviate some of the shortcomings faced in the previous period, including setting of clear mandates with strong political support, in some cases backed up by a sound legal basis.

### *Governance, rule of law and security cooperation*

- ▶ **Governance for Growth interventions were limited to reforms impacting business environment.** On the governance side, RCC has engaged in three main areas of intervention - effective public service, anti-corruption and justice. The RCC has backed the public administration and decentralisation reform efforts of the relevant regional cooperation mechanisms (ReSPA and NALAS) through technical support and the baseline report on the regulatory framework that, when finalised and published, will help the interested economies to establish competitiveness proofing of legislation and boost

employment. It has also continued the process aimed at establishing the decentralisation observatory. In the fight against corruption, the RCC has joined efforts with RAI in producing the comparative studies and recommended methodologies on anti-corruption assessment of legislation<sup>10</sup>, on corruption risk assessment in public institutions<sup>11</sup>, and on the protection of whistle-blowers<sup>12</sup>, the latest as a contribution to increasing public awareness on corruption related issues, as well as closer involvement of the civil society and the wider public. Given the resource and capacity constraints, RCC limited the scope of these regional interventions to those that hold most potential to improve the environment for doing business.

- ▶ **...and structured cooperation on judicial matters has been put in place.** RCC has intervened to fill the absence of a regional cooperation mechanism between the judiciaries by setting-up, managing and supporting the operation of the regional Working Group on Justice. This working group has coordinated preparation of three studies on the efficiency of justice systems in the region<sup>13</sup>, it has established the SEE Network of the Judicial Training Institutions (to aid the institutional capacity devel-

opment efforts) and the SEE Network of the Associations of Mediators (to provide for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, complementing and sometimes replacing lengthy court procedures). In the final phase of development is also an assessment on the training needs of judiciaries in the region<sup>14</sup>.

- ▶ **On Home Affairs, RCC's efforts focused on identifying gaps and streamlining interventions.** With regard to Home Affairs, the RCC has revisited some of the objectives set out in the SWP 2014-2016 while continuing its support to the specialised regional cooperation mechanisms active in this area. The RCC has also prepared the gap analysis report on regional cooperation in the area of migration management and the fight against serious and organised crime to define future RCC's engagement in these matters, as well as to help streamline the work of all regional actors involved<sup>15</sup>.
- ▶ **Support to the existing security cooperation mechanisms has been extended.** RCC continued to support the existing regional cooperation mechanisms, in particular SEEMIC and SEENSA that have become self-sustainable and results-oriented regional cooperation

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.rcc.int/pubs/28/anti-corruption-assessment-of-laws-in-south-east-europe-corruption-proofing>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.rcc.int/pubs/30/corruption-risk-assessment-in-public-institutions-in-south-east-europe-comparative-research-and-methodology>

<sup>12</sup> [http://rai-see.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Whistleblower\\_Protection\\_in\\_SEE.pdf](http://rai-see.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Whistleblower_Protection_in_SEE.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Backlog Reduction Programmes and Weighted Caseload Methods for South East Europe, Two Comparative Inquiries (<http://www.rcc.int/pubs/32/backlog-reduction-programmes-and-weighted-caseload-methods-for-south-east-europe-two-comparative-inquiries>); Comparative overview and analysis of good practices with identification of elements of court-annexed mediation programme and comparative study on accreditation and certification systems (<http://www.rcc.int/docs/365/report-on-comparative-overview-and-analysis-of-good-practices-with-identification-of-elements-of-court-annexed-mediation-program-and-comparative-study-on-accreditation-and-certification-systems>)

<sup>14</sup> To be published on the RCC website when finalised and approved by the WGJ

<sup>15</sup> Report on Gap Analysis on Regional Cooperation in the Area of Migration Management and Fight against Serious and Organised Crime (<http://www.rcc.int/docs/366/report-on-gap-analysis-on-regional-cooperation-in-the-area-of-migration-management-and-fight-against-serious-and-organised-crime>)

platforms, thus contributing to building mutual confidence and practical cooperation in addressing the existing security challenges in SEE region.

- ▶ **...but emerging security challenges are being addressed as well.** A significant part of the RCC's work in security policy area was devoted to developing the Regional Platform for Countering Radicalisation and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Foreign Terrorist Fighters in SEE (SEE Regional CVE-FTF Platform) and the establishment of the relevant national focal points group. Under the political umbrella of the SEECF, the platform is aimed at strengthening coordination and cooperation on countering radicalisation and violent extremism in SEE at national and regional levels.

### *Political and other supporting activities*

- ▶ **All-inclusiveness remains the basic tenet of regional cooperation.** A greater openness towards all-inclusiveness and regional responsibility is making RCC's mission a lot easier to pursue. The all-inclusive character of RCC enabled the entire region to benefit from and contribute to the regional cooperation process. This has also created a positive regional context in which some of the other regional organisations and initiatives became all-inclusive.
- ▶ **RCC has become better positioned in its dialogue with the EU institutions to actively promote integration of the region into the EU.** The RCC has increasingly been recognised for its capacity to contribute to high-level political processes launched within the region. More specifically, the RCC was tasked by the RCC Board to engage in those themes

of the Berlin Process that are within its mandate.

- ▶ **Coordination with the SEECF Chairmanship-in-Office was greatly improved.** The RCC also capitalised on its role as the operational arm of the all-inclusive SEECF to ensure that its activities are aligned with the programmes of the SEECF participants holding the SEECF Chairmanship-in-Office (CiO) and serve the collective interests of all participants from SEE region. A strengthened cooperation within the parliamentary dimension of SEECF resulted in the establishment of the SEECF Parliamentary Assembly.
- ▶ **Media development and media freedom featured high on the SEE's agenda.** RCC has joined efforts with other international partners and has provided some support to media development in the region aiming to improve professional standards and also to help address issues related to the right to information, the independence of media and media freedom. There is a shared agreement by the European Commission and the OSCE Representative for Freedom of the Media on a worrying deterioration of media freedoms and professionalism throughout the region. Consequently, RCC has worked with the media and civil society organisations in SEE to draft recommendations as a basis for stepping-up its interventions and to propose the modalities of cooperation with other partners in helping address these challenges.
- ▶ **Civil society organisations have been partaking in RCC activities, but a more structured cooperation might be necessary.** While civil society organisations have participated in different areas of

RCC activities in the previous period (such as those relating to education, employment, culture, digital society, anti-corruption and others), there is a growing need to establish a more structured regional dialogue. First steps in this direction were made during 2015-2016 with the Western Balkans Summit in Vienna, where RCC had an important role in involving civil society organisations, and with the follow-up events organised by RCC in Brussels and Sarajevo to help define the agenda and present the CSOs to other stakeholders. During the next three years, RCC intends to set up a structured consultative process with the CSOs, especially in those areas where reform requires a wide-ranging buy-in not only of the governments and the private sector, but also of societies as a whole.

## THE CONTEXT FOR SWP 2017-2019

RCC's Strategy and Work Programme 2017-19 is being put forward in a significantly changed setting compared to the 2014-16 period. Several notable developments affecting the political and socio-economic environment have materialised, profoundly altering the context in which the Strategy takes place.

- ▶ **European Union integration remains a strategic goal for the SEE region, but the enlargement approach has changed.** The EU's enlargement package of October 2014 heralded a move away from a heavy focus on *acquis* transposition and a greater emphasis on fundamentals such as economic governance, rule of law and public administration reform. The approach to accession that has emerged since has placed a strong

focus on ensuring the economic viability and securing long-term socio-economic growth through the sustainable implementation of EU compliant policies and regulations. The 2015 enlargement package further reinforced this focus on fundamentals. This policy shift is fully in line with SEE 2020's holistic integrated approach across the 5 pillars as illustrated also in the clear link between the Economic Reform Programmes (ERPs) and the SEE 2020 measures and targets. Given the alignment of SEE 2020 with the economic governance priorities, at its meeting on 21 May 2015 the SEE 2020 Governing Board endorsed the proposal to substitute the SEE 2020 National Action Plans with the ERPs as the main tool for implementation of SEE 2020 priorities in the national context.

- ▶ **Strong focus on regional cooperation has been maintained, with new high-level political initiatives emerging.** Following the conclusions and recommendations of the EU Enlargement Strategy over the years, the importance of regional cooperation as an EU membership precondition has remained unchanged. A key role in guiding and consolidating regional cooperation is played by a) the SEECP, as a regionally-owned and governed political forum in SEE; b) the RCC, as the operational arm of the SEECP and the main regional coordination mechanism; and c) regional organisations, initiatives and networks with specific expertise, to take the lead in different areas of common interests for the RCC participants. However, several high-level political initiatives focused on the Western Balkans have emerged and are increasing the dynamics of the regional cooperation process and boosting the EU integration process of the Western Balkans.

- ▶ **Expanding the scale and geographic scope of interventions is becoming fundamental.** The institutional relationship of the RCC participants from the SEE with the EU ranges from already EU Member States, candidates, potential candidates, and others whose European aspirations are pursued within a different EU institutional framework. The EU enlargement economies in SEE have largely been the focus of RCC interventions in the past, given the constraints put forward by funding sources, the strong focus on EU enlargement/accession, and limited opportunities for SEE participants (particularly EU Member States) to engage in those policy areas that are an integral part of the EU *acquis*. However, the size of this narrower region and the scope of interventions limited to only these economies will not be sufficient to achieve the overall development goals. Scaling-up of these interventions to include other SEE participants is necessary, and this SWP provides concrete openings for all participants to take an even greater part in the actions, by promoting better connectivity (particularly on economic corridors, via the EU TEN-T network that now extends into the Western Balkans), increased competitiveness and business opportunities (such as B2B events, clustering and joint private sector initiatives), and enhanced mobility (such as automatic recognition standards). Fight against corruption, fight against organised and serious crime, as well as the security area remain the core of joint activities. The widened geographical scope of regional cooperation is ensured also by those regional mechanism whose membership/participatory scheme covers RCC participants from the region (such as CEFTA, Energy Community, E-SEE, SEEIC, WISE, RAI,

SEEHN, ERI SEE, SEEMIC, SEENSA, SEDM, SEESAC, RACVIAC and others).

- ▶ **...and can be supported by the two EU macro-regional strategies that put South East Europe in their intersection.** The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) were endorsed with a differing geographical scope but with a common ambition - higher and more sustainable growth, prosperous societies, and greater integration - fully compliant with RCC's own mission and goals. The intersection of varied geographical scope and the converging objectives of EUSDR, EUSAIR and SEE 2020 with those of RCC provide an opportunity for coordination and better cooperation with the all-inclusive RCC. In light of the importance of the macro-regional approach for EU enlargement, RCC is developing some synergistic approaches to the EUSDR, EUSAIR and SEE 2020 implementation that promote full participation of the entire SEE.
- ▶ **Economic and fiscal conditions call for clear prioritisation to support fledgling growth.** Even though growth has been picking up in the region during 2015 (with expectations that the Western Balkans will see some 1.8 per cent GDP growth in 2015), the (compounded, weighted) average growth rate of the Western Balkans in the previous four years has been close to zero, with some notable differences among individual economies. The labour markets are the least functional with persistently high unemployment and low employment and activity rates predominantly among the young who, along with the vulnerable groups, seem to be particularly disadvantaged. The slow recovery

witnessed in recent period has barely affected this - only two economies have recorded employment rates at or above pre-crisis 2008 level. Corporate and banking sectors are still affected by high levels of non-performing loans, reflected in liquidity and solvency problems. All the Western Balkans economies face significant challenges in terms of economic governance and competitiveness, as confirmed in the assessment of the European Commission's Enlargement Strategy. Finally, fiscal deficit stands at approximately 4 per cent on average in the Western Balkans region. This setting requires a clear prioritisation of measures from the governments.

► **...and the introduction of economic governance providing a welcome tool for doing this.** Steps on prioritisation have already been taken with the development of Economic Reform Programmes in each of the economies, with prioritisation of measures in the medium term. For RCC's actions, the introduction of the economic governance pillar of the EU Enlargement Strategy and the ERP as its main instrument has enabled an enhanced overview and better understanding of national priorities and measures stemming from these priorities. With the decision of the SEE 2020 Governing Board to replace the National Action Plans for SEE 2020 implementation originally envisioned in the SEE 2020 with ERPs, the Economic Reform Programmes have become the main reference documents for SEE 2020 implementation. The ERPs, along with the ECOFIN Council conclusions outlining the priorities for the Western Balkans economies, are thus serving as a basis when checking the coherence of regional approaches with the needs and priorities identified at the national level.

► **Along with economic governance, the rule of law and public administration reform top the region's agenda.** All the enlargement economies of SEE region face major challenges with respect to the rule of law. Although the legal frameworks in these economies are generally adequate - thanks to the process of approximation of legislation over the years - shortcomings are evident in their enforcement. Judicial systems are not efficient enough, while crime and corruption present a serious challenge in all enlargement economies. On the other hand, public administration reforms implemented up to now have helped start building the necessary administrative capacity and reduced politicisation and lack of transparency in the public institutions. Still, there is general agreement that these reforms should be accelerated and deepened in order to achieve the desired results. Although there are a number of specialised instruments and institutions better positioned to address the key issues in these areas, RCC can still provide a welcome context and link the efforts being done in these fields with other priority areas of the region, such as increased competitiveness, better business environment, confidence building, etc. Coordinating role of the RCC here becomes instrumental in streamlining the interventions, identifying gaps and channelling actions to those areas that hold most potential in yielding lasting impact.

► **Last, but not the least: availability of funding is reduced and the allocation priorities have shifted.** The availability of adequate financial resources to prepare and implement the regional actions is a significant constraint on the implementation of the SWP and SEE

2020 as one of its main components. The funding gap identified in the SEE 2020 programming process for the period 2016-18 stands at roughly 50% of the entire indicated EUR 48 million needed for implementation<sup>16</sup>. The EU's IPA remains one of the most important sources of funding for policy development assistance and capacity building in all of the SEE economies. It is particularly relevant for SEE 2020 as it has the capacity to finance regional programmes as well as national ones. However, with the recent developments in the neighbourhood area and the migration crisis, the funding priorities have been changing rapidly throughout the past two years, leaving less available resources for the implementation of growth and competitiveness-related actions in the Western Balkans. One important exception to this has been the 'connectivity agenda' where sizeable allocations were made by the EU to contribute towards closer transport and energy integration of the Western Balkans, mostly through the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF)<sup>17</sup>. While a stronger focus on fewer sectors with sound political backing is bound to generate enhanced impact, the shift has also depleted potential resources for other parts of the SEE 2020 agenda. This is also evident at the national level as reflected in the ERPs produced during 2015, where a large majority of resources has been allocated to the sectors covered by the so-called 'connectivity agenda'. The availability and allocation of funding was one of the key considerations in developing this SWP.

<sup>16</sup> SEE 2020 Programming Document, December 2015

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.wbif.eu>



# II. RCC STRATEGY 2017 - 2019

The overarching goal of RCC's interventions over the next three years is greater economic integration through easier flow of capital, people, goods and services within the SEE and between the SEE and the EU. RCC also intends to contribute to better governance, improved functioning of the rule of law and enhanced security in South East Europe.

RCC will implement the SWP 2017-2019 through grouping its efforts along three axes, with the following specific objectives:

## A. Implementing SEE 2020 Strategy through flagship approach

The RCC will implement the SEE 2020 Strategy component of the SWP 2017-2019 through integrating the efforts of different stakeholders in three themes, or "flagship initiatives". This approach will enable interventions with a wider-ranging impact across several dimensions and policy areas, focused on reducing - and where possible removing - obstacles to mobility, connectivity and competitiveness in SEE.

**A.1.** The "Skills and Mobility" flagship aims to remove obstacles for mobility of professionals and facilitate liberalisation of services within the SEE region through mutual recognition agreements, increase mobility of people in the SEE region across the board by developing standards and procedures for automatic recognition, and build capacity to ad-

dress select labour markets shortcomings.

**A.2.** The "Connectivity" flagship will promote a better integrated, economically dynamic region through closer transport and trade integration in functioning economic corridors, increased interoperability of ICT services and reduced roaming charges across the region.

**A.3.** The "Competitiveness" flagship aims to improve industrial structures and business/investment environment through a more coordinated investment policy and promotion, with the intention of producing a regional instrument in the area of investment.

## B. Governance, rule of law and security cooperation

**B.1.** The specific objectives of the RCC in this area are to promote simpler and more business-friendly legislation, improve effectiveness and transparency of governmental services and judiciary, strengthen legal and practical protection of whistleblowers and introduce and reinforce a regional instrument on data exchange in asset disclosure and conflict of interest.

**B.2.** In the security area, the main expected result is improvement of coordination and cooperation at

national and regional level, identifying and addressing gaps and overlaps in regional actions to alleviate main security threats and challenges in the region, which are coming almost exclusively from non-state actors.

## C. Horizontal and supporting activities

**C.1.** Within this area of action, RCC's objective is to strengthen and deepen regional cooperation and partnership among all participants from SEE and other stakeholders, including the civil society, private sector, academia, media and others. Specific initiatives, such as the Roma Integration 2020, aiming to link Roma Strategies and National Action Plans on Roma to the socio-economic policies of individual governments in SEE, will be carried out within this area of RCC's work.

(such as mutual recognition of qualifications to boost mobility, or decreasing the roaming charges to promote connectivity). Partnerships with other regional organisations and development partners around these result areas have already been established and will be crucial in leveraging each other's resources. In addition to maximising the impact of its interventions, this approach also acknowledges the growing funding constraints in several areas of sectoral cooperation.

The approach laid out in this Strategy relies on **longer-term, structured political processes intended to result in binding multilateral - or networks of bilateral - agreements**. These instruments will be designed to introduce, foster and maintain political support for reform at the national level. This should relieve some of the risks identified in the previous period relating to shifting political priorities and wavering support when it comes to implementing regional agreements in the national context.

## APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION

The SWP 2017-2019 remains largely on the course set in the previous Strategy and Work Programme. It builds on the experience gathered during the SWP 2014-2016 implementation, the lessons learned and the current realities in South East Europe. However, the approach to implementation will undergo significant changes.

While the priorities are mainly the same as in the previous period, RCC will adopt a **more focused, better integrated and even more result-oriented approach to implementation**. RCC intends to intervene in a smaller number of fields to concentrate most resources around several key results expected at the end of the period

Narrowing the intervention scope to a handful of expected results opens up numerous possibilities to **scale up the geographical scope of activities**. The efforts to boost competitiveness and economic development of the region will likely fall short of their ambition unless all RCC participants are more directly involved. The size of the Western Balkans market, even fully integrated, does not offer the economies of scale necessary to make the development leap needed. However, the broader SEE region, with its 130 million citizens residing in both EU and non-EU members, represents a much more conducive environment for designing and implementing interventions in trade, investment, transport, energy, industrial development and other policy areas. With its strong focus on mobility, connectivity and competitive-

ness, the SWP 2017-19 offers clear interfaces between all RCC participants to join in the efforts. Shared challenges when it comes to governance, rule of law or security issues make the approach even more pertinent.

### A. IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 STRATEGY THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH

Based on the experiences from the first three years of implementation, the RCC is adjusting its approach towards implementation and coordination of the SEE 2020 Strategy. To avoid fragmentation of actions, address the constrained resources and manage the changing political priorities, RCC intends to continue implement-

ing the SEE 2020 Strategy by merging the efforts of different stakeholders towards a single set of objectives organised in themes - or “flagship initiatives”. These flagships represent joint endeavours by several regional organisations, implementing partners and beneficiaries, executing mutually reinforcing activities towards the same goals.

While maintaining the same objectives and areas of intervention, RCC is focusing on those fields where considerable progress can be made in the next three years. The flagship initiatives will enable and incentivise different regional structures and national institutions to design interventions that allow for a wider-ranging impact across several growth pillars and policy areas. This focused approach will address some of the main areas of constraint identified during the first phase of implementation of SEE 2020 (Figure 1).

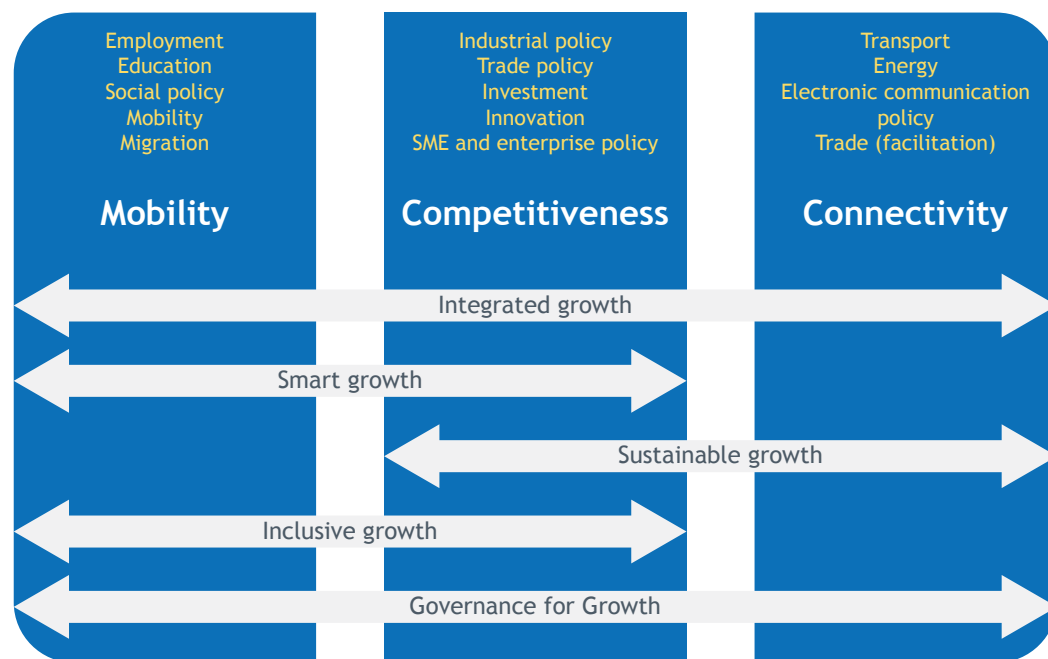


Figure 1: Integration of SEE 2020 policy dimensions along flagships

The actions under these flagships have been identified and will be implemented through the existing structured programming, coordinating and monitoring processes with the governments of the region and in close cooperation with the respective Regional Dimension Coordinators and other stakeholders, private sector in particular. From the conceptual stage throughout to their implementation and monitoring, these processes are run by the SEE 2020

Governing Board, the SEE 2020 Programming Committee, the SEE 2020 Monitoring Committee and the SEE 2020 Coordination Board, all consisting of appointed high-level officials from the governments and other institutions of SEE economies covered by the SEE 2020 Strategy, representatives of regional organisations coordinating different policy areas (Regional Dimension Coordinators) and of representatives of the RCC Secretariat (Figure 2).

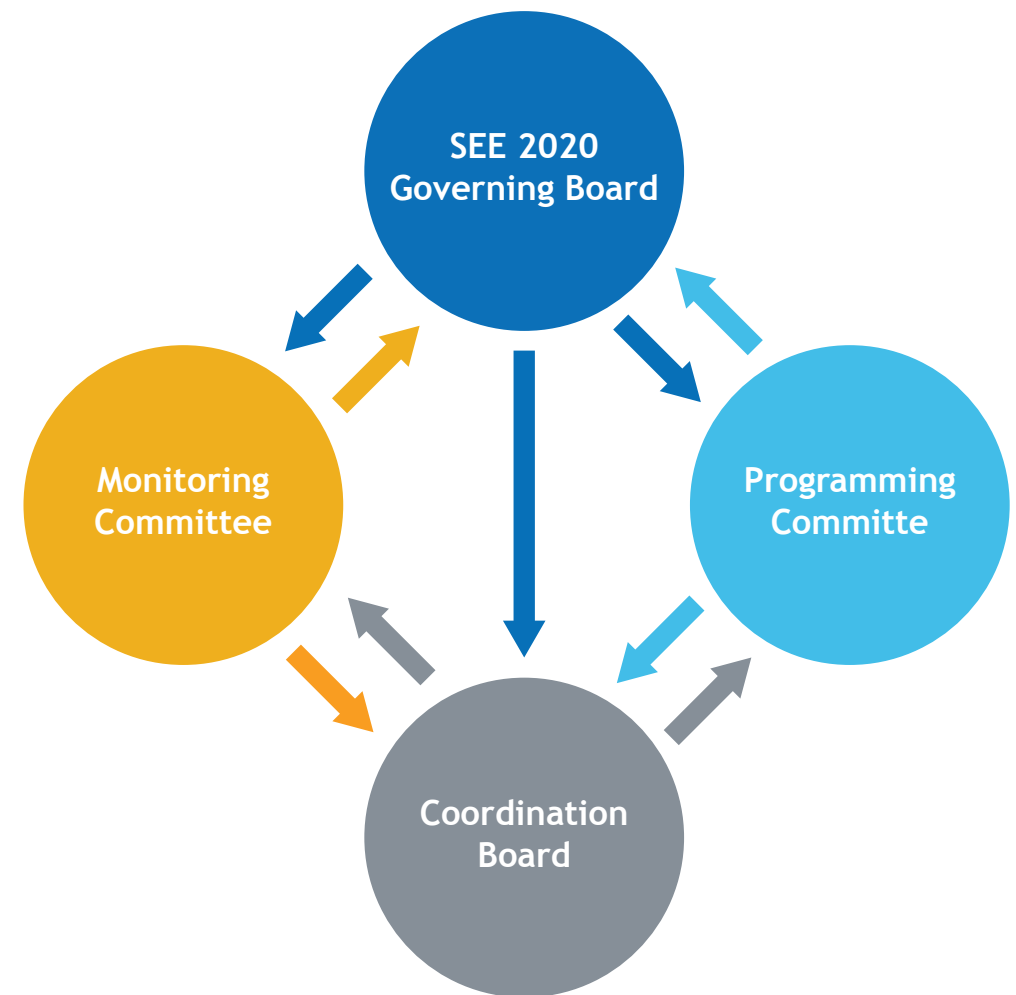


Figure 2: The architecture of SEE 2020 governance

▶ The **SEE 2020 Governing Board** is entrusted with the overall governance of SEE 2020 implementation reviewing progress being made through the adoption of the Annual Report on Implementation, and issuance of overall policy guidance to all actors involved. The Governing Board meets once each year and is composed of Ministers in charge of EU integration of the participating economies and the SEE 2020 National Coordinators, with the other RCC participants from the region as observers.

▶ The recommendations of the Governing Board are translated into yearly programming priorities by the **SEE 2020 Programming Committee** that also initiates the annual programming cycle and recommends the agreed regional programmes for funding and implementation. The Programming Committee brings together the representatives of NIPACs and SEE 2020 National Coordinators. In order to maximise the effects of available donor assistance to regional programmes as well as to find possible solutions to the shortcomings, part of the annual programming cycle is also the structured dialogue with the development partners contributing to the SEE through donor coordination, which RCC has already initiated during the SWP 2014-2016 implementation.

▶ The overall process of monitoring the SEE 2020 Strategy is overseen by the **SEE 2020 Monitoring Committee** that also helps optimise the process, modifies the scope of monitoring as necessary, and reports to the SEE 2020 Governing Board on issues pertaining to monitoring and implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

▶ As most of the regional interventions and actions related to the SEE 2020 Strategy are coordinated through the sectoral regional cooperation mechanisms - Regional Dimension Coordinators, or RDCs - the link for coordination between the governments in the region, the RCC and the RDCs is ensured by the **SEE 2020 Coordination Board** that brings together representatives of the aforementioned structures.

RCC supports and manages all of these governance mechanisms and the activities of these mechanisms are reported by the RCC Secretary General and approved by the RCC Board and the RCC Annual Meeting in the framework of the overall reporting of organisation's activities and of the implementation of the RCC's Strategy and Work Programme.

In line with the regional needs, the existing measures and policy recommendations, as well as with the priorities noted under the national strategic frameworks, RCC will implement the SEE 2020-related actions of the Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2019 through:

### A.1 Skills and Mobility

This flagship initiative is designed to address some of the main constraints identified during the development of the SEE 2020 Strategy: the restricted mobility in the region; the underdeveloped skills base; the skills mismatch with the labour market needs; and the cumbersome recognition of professional qualifications. It is developed on the premise that the development of education and the improvement of labour force skills are key factors that will underpin future economic recovery, growth of

the SEE economies and the restructuring towards knowledge driven economies.

The specific objective of the flagship is to:

- A.1.1 remove obstacles to intra-regional mobility of professionals and liberalisation of services through mutual recognition agreements of professional qualifications between the participating economies;
- A.1.2. facilitate mobility of people by developing standards and procedures for automatic recognition of education qualifications in line with the commitment made within the Bologna Process by 2019; and
- A.1.3. support development of employment, social and education policies within the framework of Economic Reform Programmes and SEE 2020 and strengthening the coordination and exchange between the authorities in charge of employment and social affairs policies and Public Employment Services in the region and with the EU Member States.

#### A.1.1 Removing obstacles to mobility of professionals in SEE

This action will directly address the priorities stipulated by the SEE 2020 on reducing the restrictiveness of free trade in services and facilitating the free movement of experts, professionals and skilled labour. Measures for smooth recognition of professional qualifications supporting mobility in SEE will also help governments meet the commitments outlined in Articles 26-29 of the CEFTA 2006 Agreement, and in particular support achieving the progressive liberalisation in trade in services and gradual opening of services markets across the re-

gion by reducing the barriers to temporary movement of natural persons.

In light of the multi-dimensional approach required to remove obstacles to recognition of professional qualifications three SEE 2020 Dimension Coordinators - Central European Free Trade Agreement Structures (CEFTA), Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERISEE) and Social Agenda Working Group (SAWG) have formed a Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (JWGMRPQ) which operates under the auspices of RCC. The JWGMRPQ aims to create conditions for recognition of professional qualifications through facilitating conclusion of mutual recognition agreements (MRAs), works towards enhancing transparency of national and regional arrangements on recognition of professional qualifications, and aims to enhance regional data exchange on the mobility of professionals and future skills needs in selected professions.

In addition to establishing and managing the necessary structures, RCC has conducted preparatory work during 2016 to identify sectors and professions of mutual interest to the SEE 2020 economies where potential agreements on mutual recognition might be concluded. Between 2017 and 2019 negotiations on mutual recognition agreements in priority sectors and professions will be facilitated by RCC with the aim of **concluding at least one agreement by the end of SWP's implementation.**

#### A.1.2 Creating preconditions for automatic recognition in SEE

The activities in this area will facilitate the development of standards and procedures for automatic recognition of education qualifications in SEE in line with

the commitments made by the Ministers responsible for higher education at the Ministerial Meeting in Bucharest and the work of the European Higher Education Area Pathfinder Group on Automatic Recognition<sup>18</sup>. Furthermore, the activities will take into account the principles set out in The Revised Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications adopted by the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee in June 2010, ratified by all the SEE economies.

In cooperation with ERI SEE, working groups gathering the representatives of ministries responsible for higher education and ENIC/NARIC offices will be set up with an aim of developing a SEE network of ENIC/NARIC offices, shared information system on recognition of qualifications between SEE ENIC/NARIC offices, and standards and procedures for automatic recognition of qualifications in SEE to be confirmed by the Ministers responsible for higher education in SEE at a high-level conference in 2019.

#### A.1.3 Supporting development of employment, social and education policies and their streamlining into the economic governance process

In this area of work, RCC intends to contribute to the improvement of policy and institutional settings and outcomes in support of employment, human capital and social development. More specifically and in partnership with DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, RCC has established a structured regional Employment and Social Affairs Platform to support the processes for preparation, monitoring and follow-up of the employment and social component of the ERPs. Additionally, RCC is planning

a number of interventions enhancing the capacities of the relevant administrations for improved policy outcomes and policy reviews related to the employment, human capital and social policies as well as strengthening the capacities and the existing Public Employment Services (PES) Network with a view to facilitating the SEE 2020 labour mobility objective and preparations for future participation in EURES.

#### A.1.4. Coordination and supporting activities

In addition to the above actions, RCC will cooperate with SEEHN to coordinate activities related to facilitation of trade liberalisation in health sector and engage in the issue of mobility of health provision across borders.

Collaborations in the Skills and Mobility flagship, in a longer time frame, would potentially be sought with MARRI on issues touching upon the wider migration framework with regards to institutionalising migration profiles in all SEE, strengthening regional cooperation and networking among migrant service centres, databases on migrant labour, one-stop service approach on residence and work permits, etc.

In addition, close collaborations will be pursued with EU institutions acting in the region in the policy areas identified as relevant for this flagship. These include ETF, CEDEFOP, EUROSTAT, all relevant EC services (chiefly DG EMPL, DG EAC, DG GROWTH, and DG HOME), as well as the EU's regional platforms for policy dialogue - Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training, and Employment and Social Reform Programmes (ESRP). The flagship initiative

on skills and mobility aims to be the interface between these two platforms to initiate implementation of concrete measures.

Finally, the flagship's interventions will pursue synergies with the relevant activities of key international actors working in this area, including WB, ILO, UNDP, OECD, WTO, etc.

### A.2 Connectivity

This flagship initiative is designed to address the non-physical challenges and the poor connectivity of the region within itself and with the rest of the continent. Poor inter-connectedness of the region's economies by road, rail, water, air, energy, and ICT networks adversely affects the growth of markets. The region will need to make substantial upgrades in its connectivity so as to widen access to markets and make the SEE private sectors and societies at large better integrated regionally and with the EU. The development of physical infrastructure should be in line with the environmental sustainability priorities and commitments, as per those defined by the EU accession process and the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Connectivity flagship aims to contribute to making the SEE better connected, integrated and more competitive, and enhance production and distribution networks. The specific objective of the RCC's work under the flagship is to:

**A.2.1** help convert the existing and planned transport corridors into vibrant economic corridors through mapping industries along the corridor routes, promoting their integration through regional clusters, and promoting and facilitating FDI along these corridors, while ensuring

the environmental sustainability of actions as per the commitments made in the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development;

**A.2.2** address the limited interoperability of ICT systems in order to enable the deployment of region-wide and/or cross-border e-services, and reduce - and where possible eliminate - the roaming charges across the region.

#### A.2.1 Developing economic corridors in SEE

The work in this area will help put to optimal use the transport infrastructure and ensure greater returns from improved physical connectivity. Political support for the work has been extended and will be maintained throughout the next period, as confirmed also in Vienna Summit's Conclusions and by the RCC Board. RCC will implement the action in two main phases - diagnostic and operational.

During the diagnostic phase, RCC will produce an analysis on developing the economic corridor concept for SEE to investigate the prospects of a phased corridor development strategy, with initial emphasis on physical connectivity, followed by transport and trade facilitation, and eventual economic corridor development. In this respect, it will entail a situation analysis, i.e. a spatial, social and economic analysis of each corridor and its immediate surroundings (e.g. survey/inventory of economic agents and dynamics; overview of logistics and freight forwarding capacities and opportunities/hub potentials of key economic corridors; mapping of economic potentials, assets and industrial structures; trade and export composition; production, processing, market access, export capaci-

<sup>18</sup> In particular the recommendations endorsed by the higher education ministers at the 14-15 May 2015 Bologna Process Ministerial Conference in Yerevan: 'to develop more effective policies for the recognition of credits gained abroad, of qualifications for academic and professional purposes, and of prior learning.'

ties; assessment of agglomeration of industries, industrial inter-linkages; assessment of opportunities for enhanced cross border links in production, processing, marketing, etc.) all along the territory of the three core network corridors (Mediterranean, Orient-East and Rhine-Danube). Work in this area will build on the analysis already conducted during the previous SWP, such as the Western Balkans Inter-modal Assessment and the study on strengthening links between SEE and Turkey.

In the second phase, RCC will work with the participating governments to identify and develop policy instruments (e.g. cross-border economic zones, industrial parks, regional clusters, etc.) for operationalisation of the economic corridor concept. RCC will involve and utilise the institutional platforms/working groups on investments and industrial policy operating under the South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC), and will closely coordinate with SEETO and CEFTA structures, throughout the entire processes for developing and operationalising the economic corridors concept and embedding it in the national policy agendas.

#### A.2.2 Interoperability of ICT systems and reducing the roaming charges

In an effort to strengthen the legal basis and extend the geographic scope of the existing regional agreement on reduction of roaming charges, and in response to the mandate entrusted to RCC by the respective Ministers<sup>19</sup>, RCC will concentrate its efforts on improving the preconditions for long-term and viable implementation of the regional roaming agreement. In this respect, RCC's contribution will be focused on establishing conducive and inclusive

frameworks which will be involved in the process of furthering the current roaming agreement, improving the legislative frameworks that underpin the agreement and delivering analysis to contribute to informed policy making and definition of future steps. In particular, RCC will develop a market impact study on the effects and future scope and prospects of the regional roaming agreement (improving market data evidence base, examining the current legislative aspects and praxis of the agreement and outlining recommendations/amendments needed, investigating the potential geographic expansion and further reduction/scraping of the tariffs in line with EU-level advances). In addition, RCC will establish an inclusive Roaming Platform (including line ministries, regulators and operators) to steer the process, follow up the elaboration of the study and implement the agreed recommendations by 2019. In this area of work, RCC will be partnering with the Electronic South East Europe Initiative (e-SEE).

#### A.2.3. Coordination and supporting activities

In addition to direct interventions under this flagship detailed above and the partners involved (CEFTA, SEETO, e-SEE), RCC will continue its supporting and coordination role in other areas as well.

RCC will maintain its cooperation with the Energy Community and its Secretariat regarding enhanced connectivity in energy area leading to integration of power systems, improvement and diversification of gas supply, as well as to the creation of a regional energy market with increased energy security at more affordable prices.

A sustainable approach to connectivity takes into consideration the need to mitigate detrimental environmental impacts of infrastructural interventions and enhanced transport/energy movements. Introduction of climate proofing standards in legislation, planning, engineering and construction is seen as the principal disaster risk adaptation to climate change hazards in the SEE region. Crucial partners for the RCC in this area will be the Regional Working Group on Environment operating under the RCC auspices, Regional Environmental Center (REC), Global Water Partnership Mediterranean and Standing Working Group for Regional Rural Development, all working towards implementation of SEE 2020 goals in the Environmental dimension. Possible joint activities in the area of sector climate change and infrastructure have also been identified with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

### A.3 Competitiveness

Increasing competitiveness and supporting industrial development of the region is the direct underlying assumption of eight of the eleven targets of SEE 2020 Strategy. Most of the interventions under this flagship will therefore focus on strengthening the region's industrial base, encouraging creation and growth of enterprises, improving conditions for investment, enhancing the region's innovation performance and increasing its share of international trade. Other interventions will aim at establishing the conditions that maximise SEE's attractiveness as a destination for new investment, as well as raise productivity through greater openness to talent, capital and innovation.

More specifically, this flagship initiative aims to:

- A.3.1 improve the investment environment in the region by putting in place a regional investment reform agenda seeking to harmonise the rules for investment entry, treatment, and mutual protections across the region and complement the free trade agenda already in place; formalise this investment reform agenda in the best possible manner by establishing a regional investment instrument among the participating economies either by upgrading the existing legal base or establishing a new one, subject to decision of the participating economies;
- A.3.2 strengthen the industrial base through sectoral work (currently in the area of tourism and food and beverage processing) to facilitate development of regional value chains and their integration in European and global value chains, and horizontal approaches to help develop coordinated industrial development strategies in line with the EU's industrial development initiatives.

#### A.3.1 Improving the investment environment

In this area, the focus of the RCC's activities for the upcoming three-year period will be to further integrate and enhance the investment environment in the region, particularly in areas pertaining to investor entry, mutual protection and incentive schemes. RCC will work towards harmonising the approaches to investment through an agreed **regional investment instrument** among the economies. This activity will be conducted through a structured regional

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.rcc.int/press/269/towards-a-single-information-space>

dialogue of the involved economies, supported by the private sector and relevant regional and international partners. Joint Working Group on Investment has already been set up and the Ministers in charge of investment have already mandated the RCC to explore the possible legal basis for the regional instrument<sup>20</sup>.

To support these activities, the RCC and CEFTA intend to engage with the World Bank in this area to solicit support and technical assistance in investment policy-related activities that would back the overall process, and this assistance should become available through an EU-funded action during 2017. In addition to facilitating and managing the process, RCC will also be providing specific analysis and assistance to the process with a view of agreeing a regional investment instrument by 2019.

### A.3.2 Developing the industrial base

Furthermore, the RCC will focus on the improvement of the industrial base in the region, namely through support to the design and implementation of regional approaches to industrial development, and with direct support to the current priority sectors by promoting their internationalisation, FDI attraction through targeted investment promotion activities, and addressing main barriers hindering not only the development of these sectors per se but also creation of the regional value chains. These activities are included in the flagship with the objective of seeking relevant synergies and interdependencies in a coordinated process of programming and implementation among the involved stakeholders.

The efforts will focus on promoting regional dialogue among the SEE economies and information exchange on economic transformation and diversification as well as on effective industrial policy design. While an important objective is to improve existing and introduce new policy instruments to expand production base, the industrial policy is not limited only to manufacturing. Concepts will be developed in close coordination with the Connectivity flagship to upgrade the existing transport and develop the so-called economic corridors while exploring the possibilities of creating regional clusters, and promote establishment of special economic zones. Industrial policy structure will also address issues related to the priority sectors and those related to SME development and entrepreneurship.

### A.3.3 Coordinating and supporting activities

In addition to the RCC's South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC) which sits firmly at the centre of RCC's activities in this area, RCC cooperates closely with other SEE 2020 Regional Dimension Coordinators in order to ensure implementation of the specific SEE 2020 priorities, such as CEFTA (Trade Policy), SEECCEL (SME and Entrepreneurship), WISE (Innovation Policy), TFCS (Cultural Tourism) and SWG-RRD (Agriculture).

SEEIC is also supported through the cooperation with other international and regional partner organisations related to SEE 2020 such as with OECD, the World Bank (Investment Policy), the ETF (Entrepreneurship - related to skills) UNCTAD (investment) and others, as well as the business sector representatives which are present in its technical bodies.

## B. GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION

As core part of the European Commission's Enlargement Strategy "fundamentals first" approach, good governance and rule of law related reforms are sensitive issues for which SEE economies are working closely with the European Commission in bilateral formats; but their progress can be supported through regional cooperation.

The main objective of RCC's engagement in these areas is to support the SEE economies in implementing the related reforms to improve governance effectiveness and practices, establish consolidated public administrations, enhance the efficiency of judiciary, reduce corruption, enhance the fight against serious and organised crime, as well as facilitate practical regional and cross-border cooperation to these effects. Particularly the fight against serious and organised crime, the fight against corruption and the regional cooperation in security related matters are of critical importance and interest for governments and stakeholders from the wider SEE region and beyond. RCC will use this opportunity to broaden the geographical scope of regional cooperation with all interested governments and stakeholders.

The actions supporting the reforms in the areas of governance and judiciary will promote (i) simple and more effective legislation; (ii) more efficient and transparent public administration services; and (iii) will introduce and reinforce a regional in-

strument - or a network of bilateral instruments - on data exchange in asset disclosure and conflict of interest. In the area of the fight against serious and organised crime, RCC will draw on the Gap Analysis on Regional Cooperation in the Area of Migration Management and the Fight against Serious and Organised Crime<sup>21</sup> conducted during the previous SWP and assist cooperation between law enforcement agencies, also through the existing regional mechanisms.

The enhanced cooperation - particularly in the area of justice, anti-corruption, fight against serious and organised crime and security cooperation - will contribute to building mutual trust and improving cross-border cooperation. It will also enhance the capacities to confront the recent security challenges in the region and support the SEE enlargement economies to better prepare for the EU accession negotiation of Chapters 23 and 24.

### B.1 Public Administration Reform

The main objective of RCC's actions in this area is to support strengthening governance, improving administration's capacity, and increasing transparency at all stages of the policy cycle, from agenda setting, through policy design and formulation, to decision-making and evaluation.

The specific objectives in this area are to:

- B.1.1** improve the regulatory framework for competitiveness and growth;
- B.1.2** promote the development of e-services in public administration.

<sup>20</sup> SEEC Ministerial, December 2015, Budva, Montenegro (<http://www.rcc.int/docs/364/statement-from-the-ministerial-conference-of-the-south-east-europe-investment-committee-seeic-sustaining-growth-in-see-through-increased-competitiveness>)

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.rcc.int/docs/366/report-on-gap-analysis-on-regional-cooperation-in-the-area-of-migration-management-and-fight-against-serious-and-organised-crime>

### B.1.1 Improving the regulatory framework

The interventions planned and implemented jointly by RCC and ReSPA will specifically aim at a better regulation framework for competitiveness and growth through introduction and implementation of competitiveness proofing of legislation. It will also aim at strengthening the professional criteria for enrolment in public administration institutions, increasing transparency and information exchange.

To this aim, RCC will closely coordinate with the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) as the main regional interlocutor in this area on developing the assessment and methodologies, their dissemination and consultation with the governments, supporting the existing or establishing new public-private sector dialogues on regulatory reform and capacity building on competitiveness proofing of legislation and cutting red tape. EBRD and USAID could be possible partners for RCC in this area as both are working on separate initiatives to establish effective and efficient public-private sector dialogues in the Western Balkans economies.

Following the principle of subsidiarity, important parts of the aforementioned actions will be implemented at the local level. The coordination with the Network of Associations of Local Authorities (NALAS) will complement RCC's work with government authorities at central level.

### B.1.2 Promotion and development of e-services

Building on previous experiences also in the SEE region, RCC will work with governments in the region and with development partners on developing interoperable e-services to increase transparency and promote better exchange of information

in areas relevant for doing business (e-customs, e-procurement, one-stop-shops for mobility and migration, municipal e-permitting systems, etc.). Potential partner in this area is the GIZ Open Regional Funds (ORF) already engaged in developing municipal e-services (such as e-permitting systems for constructions) in some Western Balkans participants.

## B.2 Justice

The main objective in this area is to contribute and support the SEE economies implement reforms aiming to improve the efficiency, integrity, accountability and independence of judiciary, as well as to improve the legal framework for regional judicial cooperation.

The judicial reform is strictly an internal matter of the individual economies, dealt directly with the European Commission in the framework of the EU approximation process.

Nevertheless, the success of those reforms is helped by peer support, regional networking and capacity building through exchange of information and regionally organised trainings.

The specific objectives to be achieved in this area through a number of capacity building measures, peer support and networking at domestic and at regional level are:

- B.2.1 enhance mutual legal assistance between judiciaries in the region;
- B.2.2 create the platform/network of judicial training institutions in SEE to support capacity building measures of judges and prosecutors;
- B.2.3 reduce court backlogs in the region.

### B.2.1 Enhance mutual legal assistance

RCC will work with the governments in the region to establish a regional instrument - or a network of bilateral instruments - enabling and/or enhancing the legal assistance between the judiciaries in the region, as well as enabling cross-border enforcement of the decisions and contracts in civil and commercial law, in full respect of the principle of reciprocity. Cooperation in this area has already been initiated during the previous SWP in partnership with GIZ ORF and is intended to continue in the next period, with the conclusion of at least one regional agreement on legal assistance by 2019.

### B.2.2 Create the platform/network of the judicial training institutions

Under the already operational Regional Working Group on Justice, the RCC will establish the SEE Judicial Training Institutions Network (SEE JTI Network) as a platform for integrated legal education in the region. It will enable peer support in matters related to training of judges and prosecutors and generate a better understanding of the different judicial systems in the region, challenges they are facing and the way they are addressed.

The SEE JTI Network will be developed in partnership with GIZ and SEELS. The RCC will also link the newly established Network to similar networks and institutions in Europe (EJTN, ERA, EIPA, CoE, OSCE, etc.) and will support the improvement of mutual communication and cooperation.

### B.2.3 Reduce the court backlog / establishment of the regional network of mediators

As a follow-up of the work done during the implementation of the previous SWP, RCC

will support the governments in the region to implement the agreed recommendations on reducing the outstanding court backlog in the region by using mediation as an alternative solution. In order to increase the efficiency of this solution, RCC will establish and support the operation of the network of mediators in SEE, as a platform to exchange information and support cross-border mediation. The establishment and operation of this network will be coordinated by the RCC's Regional Working Group on Justice.

## B.3 Anticorruption

Aiming to curb corruption in the region, the main objectives of RCC's activities in the area of anti-corruption will be to:

- B.3.1 increase transparency and public awareness of corruption and strengthen protections for whistleblowers; and
- B.3.2 set up a regional platform for assistance in asset disclosure and recovery, as well as on identification of conflict of interest.

### B.3.1 Increase transparency and awareness of corruption and strengthen whistleblowers protections

The interventions and activities targeting increased transparency will be coordinated with the Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI), as the region's leader in promoting transparency and fight against corruption, as part of a wider regional anticorruption agenda. The RCC/RAI coordinated interventions will contribute to more transparent administrative rules and moving away from discretion to rule-based political and decision-making through the implementation of recommendations contained in the

assessment of corruption proofing of legislation and corruption risk assessment in public administrations, already finalised during the implementation of the previous SWP.

Transparency of the public procurement rules and avoidance of conflict of interest will be another area of engagement of RCC in cooperation with ReSPA and GIZ ORF.

RCC's and RAI's work with the civil society and all other stakeholders against corruption and the protection of whistleblowers would contribute to a more efficient civil society organisations engagement in this area. RCC and RAI will jointly support their efforts to engage in public debate and influence policy and decision-making process in the area of anti-corruption and good governance.

### **B.3.2 Set up a regional platform for assistance in asset disclosure and recovery**

The RCC will establish a regional network of specialised agencies to support the identification and resolution of conflict of interest and asset disclosure/recovery. It would enable enhanced cooperation between specialised agencies for verification of asset declarations and conflict of interest not only for sharing the experience but also for exchanging information. This mechanism would be also useful for the successful fight against serious and organised crime.

The RCC will streamline and enhance cooperation among the existing networks in anticorruption and home affairs in the region so as to make the best possible use of this mechanism.

### **B.4 The fight against serious and organised crime**

The findings of the Gap Analysis on Regional Cooperation in the Area of Migration Management and the Fight against Serious and Organised Crime will constitute the grounds for addressing the issues related to this very sensitive area, also beyond the SEE region.

RCC will work to translate the identified cooperation deficiencies into tools and instruments that, if implemented, would contribute to better and more efficient bilateral, cross-border and regional cooperation, including - but not limited to - exchange of information, intelligence, judicial support and joint operations between the law enforcement agencies in the SEE region.

The challenges posed by the serious and organised criminality in the region call for better cooperation at all levels and for expanding the geographical scope of cooperation beyond the SEE. The existing regional cooperation platforms and mechanisms - such as SELEC, SEEPAG, SEPICA, and PCC SEE - have already provided for such broadened cooperation. The RCC will continue to support these regional cooperation mechanisms and to coordinate organisation's interventions with them, and it will explore other possibilities for enhanced regional cooperation in a broadened geographical scope. In this view, the RCC will continue to work also with UNODC, INTERPOL, EUROPOL, EUROJUST and the CoE.

### **B.5 Security cooperation**

RCC's interventions in the area of security cooperation will be twofold:

**B.5.1** maintaining support and strengthening coordination of the existing regional cooperation in the area of security, and

**B.5.2** addressing the emerging security challenges in the region.

#### **B.5.1 Supporting the existing security cooperation mechanisms in SEE**

The RCC will continue its direct engagement and coordination role in regional security cooperation, resulting in increased mutual trust and practical cooperation among the regional participants. In this context, the specialised RCC-led regional security cooperation formats, such as SEEMIC (South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs' Forum) and SEENSA (South East Europe National Authority Chiefs' Forum) will continue to be used as confidence building mechanisms and networking frameworks, but even more so as tools for effective and timely exchange of information relevant for national, regional, and European security. The advantage of these two cooperation formats is that they bring together participants from the wider SEE region.

Regional cooperation in natural and man-made disasters will be strengthened in the period 2017- 2019. In this respect the RCC will encourage cooperation of national authorities, effective use of European and wider disaster response mechanisms such as EADRCC (Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre), and strengthening the SEE DPPI (SEE Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative).

In a broader perspective, a timely identification of major security trends in the region will be necessary, particularly to en-

hance formulation and fulfilment of effective and coordinated regional and national responses to the traditional and emerging security challenges. RCC will work to identify and explore effective ways to address the gaps and unnecessary overlapping in regional security cooperation.

#### **B.5.2 Addressing the emerging security challenges in the region**

Development and implementation of effective and coordinated regional and national response to radicalisation and violent extremism leading to terrorism and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters will be one of the most important regional security priorities. The RCC will play a major role, both directly, through the actions it will organise and lead, and as a coordinator of efforts in the region, first and foremost through the functioning of the SEE Group of National Focal Points for countering violent extremism under the RCC auspices. This is also a cooperation platform that includes all RCC participants from SEE.

Illegal migration and trafficking in human beings have always been a security challenge. However, the massive migration crisis, with hundreds of thousands of refugees and illegal migrants flooding large parts of SEE in 2015 only, took the problem to a hitherto unprecedented level. The problem is common and requires common regional response. In the forthcoming period, in the coordination of the existing efforts, the RCC will provide support through political dialogue and practical cooperation.

Continuous engagement of the region in general and the RCC in particular in the broader European, Euro-Atlantic and global security context will be done through



consultations and cooperation with the UN and its specialised agencies, the EU, NATO, OSCE, and other relevant actors.

## C. HORIZONTAL AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

In the next period, along with the interventions in specific sectoral areas, RCC will continue to perform its general/horizontal functions within its mandate. The activities in this area will be grouped along the three main intervention areas:

- C.1 strengthening cooperation between the SEE governments and with the EU;
- C.2 supporting and streamlining regional cooperation structures;
- C.3 broadening links and strengthening partnerships with other regional stakeholders.

### *C.1 Strengthening cooperation between the SEE governments*

As the operational arm of SEECP, RCC will continue to closely cooperate with the SEECP CiO to translate political guidance into operational plans and execute a number of general functions in line with its mandate. The synergy between RCC and SEECP will continue to advance, in particular through the coordination meetings between the SEECP Troika, the RCC Secretariat and representatives of the European Union. The coordination meetings, co-chaired by the RCC Secretary General and the SEECP CiO, will continue to be convened, back-to-back to the RCC Board meetings, with the aim of reviewing regional developments in SEE, coordinating efforts around shared regional priorities

and exchanging views and discussing the most pressing challenges of the region. The RCC Secretariat will continue to provide expertise and technical support to political and sectorial events to be organised by the SEECP CiO; it will initiate and engage in actions that increase the visibility of RCC and SEECP and will actively contribute to the implementation of activities shared both by the SEECP CiOs' programmes and RCC SWP 2017-2019. The RCC Secretariat will assist the SEECP CiO in the preparation and implementation of decisions of the SEECP Summits and ministerial meetings.

RCC will continue its dialogue with the EU institutions, through regular consultations with high-level representatives of the European Union (EC, EEAS, EP), in order to associate the work of RCC more closely with the EU enlargement agenda. Regular consultations of the RCC Secretary General with the RCC participants from and outside the region will ensure support for the implementation of the SWP 2017-2019 and that regional cooperation remains on the mainstream political agenda in the RCC participants. The RCC will be actively engaged in representing the region at international and regional fora and promoting the European and Euro-Atlantic integration perspective of SEE, as well as it will work closely with the SEECP-CiO to increase the international profile of both RCC and SEECP.

RCC will contribute to the partnerships for implementation of the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs in SEE region building on the priorities of EU enlargement agenda.

RCC will contribute to those themes of the Berlin Process that are within its mandate and are included in the Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2019, as it will work to

build synergies and coordinate efforts in developing joint actions devoted to the region with the EUSDR and EUSAIR, as well as with regional organisations and initiatives.

The RCC will support and contribute to an effective functioning of the SEECP PA, including by keeping the SEECP PA abreast on the most important activities of the RCC and contributing to work of the General Committees of the SEECP PA.

The RCC will continue supporting the Conference of the European Integration Parliamentary Committees of States participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process (Western Balkans COSAP). The RCC will participate in the promotion and strengthening of cooperation between the committees of national parliaments dealing with European affairs, taking into consideration the role and activities of COSAP related to the EU enlargement process. Upholding and nurturing a close cooperation with the European Parliament will further be in focus of the RCC.

### *C.2 Supporting and streamlining regional cooperation structures*

The RCC will continue to provide political guidance, monitoring and support to the relevant regional initiatives, task forces and organisations active in specific areas of regional cooperation in SEE.

The SWP 2014-2016 and the SEE 2020 Strategy development and implementation have helped RCC to identify and establish working relationship with those regional cooperation mechanisms that are active in the areas relevant to the implementation of the RCC mission, that have a clear mandate, are properly resourced, have adequate governance structures, are able to secure political commitments and that have a

positive implementation track record. The RCC will further enhance its relations with individual regional mechanisms and organisations relevant for the implementation of the SWP 2017-2019, including by formalising the relationships within Memoranda of Understanding, where appropriate. Therefore this SWP should be also seen as a step towards further streamlining of regional cooperation in SEE.

### *C.3 Broadening links and strengthening partnerships with other regional stakeholders*

During the SWP implementation, RCC will need to ensure support for various regional instruments and national reforms beyond just the participating governments. This means that a more structured dialogue will be necessary with a number of stakeholders with clear interests in the process.

The **private sector** representatives have already been included in numerous RCC's activities, from its sectoral work to more general discussions on various policy areas, including trade, investment, industrial policy and others. However, this coordination will need to pick up speed over the next period and become more structured as the private sector will need to be consulted on a number of policy processes during the next three years. In this area of activity, RCC intends to set up a platform for the private sector and governments to come together regionally and consult on the main development challenges facing the region. RCC will involve private sector representatives from all RCC participants.

Similarly, a more structured dialogue with the **civil society** will be needed. While engaged in RCC's work on an ad-hoc basis, the CSOs will need to be consulted in a more structured manner. RCC intends to set up a

continuous dialogue with the CSO's involving the appropriate CSO representatives in most areas of its work to ensure a broad base of support for the reform initiatives put forward by this SWP.

Cooperation with the development partners and donors will continue in the next period as well. RCC will host both the donor coordination database and the annual donor coordination meetings to ensure that there is an adequate exchange of information on the regional donor interventions and the development needs and priorities of the region.

Finally, RCC's engagement with the region's media will also continue in the next period. There is a growing concern regarding deterioration of media freedoms and the position of media in the SEE societies and RCC intends to continue bringing together media representatives from SEE to raise awareness on the main challenges and help develop capacities of journalists and media organisations.

Specific initiatives, such as the **Roma Integration 2020**, will be implemented under this area of intervention. The Roma Integration 2020 initiative, a programme funded by the EU and the Open Society Foundations, is designed to assist the governments of seven IPA II beneficiaries to integrate Roma-specific policy measures into the mainstream socio-economic policies, national budget planning and public service delivery.

### CONSTRAINTS, RISKS AND CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION

Political commitment and support of national authorities will be a key factor

for the successful implementation of the Strategy. Therefore, the RCC will continue to work closely with all interested partners and stakeholders so as to enable participation in regional processes of government representatives with adequate level of participation, with the required expertise and proper mandate.

On the other hand, **insufficient institutional capacities and limited intragovernmental coordination** are factors that could adversely affect the successful implementation of the Strategy in several priority areas, particularly in those where the implementation is coordinated by regional cooperation mechanism that have not reached a proper maturity and/or suffer from lack of resources.

As with the implementation of the SWP 2014-2016, the **availability of adequate and timely disbursed financial resources will continue to be a significant constraint**. As bilateral donors have a significant role to play, the RCC will take a more proactive approach to the donor community and development partners active in the region to try to alleviate - at least partially - the scarcity of financial resources, as well as the difficulties arising from the varied donor approaches, their differing geographical scope and the different timing of programming and contracting cycles.

The EU programmes that are open to enlargement region are another possible source of funding. However, several of the EU programmes limit the amount of funding available for the enlargement region and in some cases the technical, managerial or financial capacity of SEE economies have been constrained to meet the eligibility criteria.

## III. RCC WORK PROGRAMME 2017-2019

A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH				
A.1. Skills and Mobility				
Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
A.1.1. Increased mobility of professionals in the region				
A.1.1.1. Removing obstacles to mobility of professionals in SEE	Facilitate the development and negotiations of mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) in several professions of interest to SEE economies.  In addition to facilitating mobility of professionals in SEE the activities under this action, RCC will contribute directly to the liberalisation of services negotiated under the CEFTA framework.	Mutual recognition agreement/s in selected profession/s of mutual interest agreed and signed.	Line Ministries of Education, Trade and Labour, CEFTA, ERI SEE	2017-2019

## A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH

### A.1. Skills and Mobility

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
A.1.2 Automatic recognition of education degrees				
A.1.2.1.	Facilitate the development of standards and procedures for automatic recognition of qualifications in SEE in line with the commitments made by the Ministers responsible for higher education within the Bologna Process.	Conditions for automatic recognition of degrees agreed and adopted.	Line Ministries of Education, ERI SEE	2017-2019
A.1.3. Supporting development of employment, social and education policies				
A.1.3.1.	Supporting development of employment, social and education policies and their streamlining into the economic governance process	Improvement of policy and institutional settings and outcomes in support of employment, human capital and social development. Enhancing capacities of the relevant admin	Line Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs, and Education, DG Employment and Social Affairs, ILO	2017-2019

## A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH

### A.1. Skills and Mobility

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	istrations for improved policy outcomes and policy reviews related to the employment, human capital and social policies as well as strengthening the capacities and the existing Public Employment Services (PES) Network through the establishment of the regional Employment and Social Affairs Platform (ESAP).	strengthened and functional.		
A.1.4. Coordinating and supporting activities				
A.1.4.1.	Strengthening regional cooperation in research and development	Increased cooperation in area of mobility of researchers, PhD candidates and academics.	Line Ministries of Research, WISE, DG Research and Innovation, Steering Platform on R&D for Western Balkans	2017-2019

## A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH

### A.1. Skills and Mobility

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	to mobility of researchers, PhD candidates and academics.			
A.1.4.2.	Strengthening regional cooperation in culture	Continue to support regional cooperation in the sphere of culture particularly through capacity building, peer-learning and support to the development of promotional materials.	RCC TFCS	2017-2019
A.1.4.3.	Strengthening regional cooperation in health	Facilitation of trade liberalisation in health sector through building public administration capacity to negotiate trade in health sector and engage in the issue of mobility of health provision across borders.	CEFTA, SEEHN	2017-2019

## A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH

### A.2. Connectivity

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
A.2.1. Developing economic corridors in SEE				
A.2.1.1.	Developing policy instruments on economic corridors	Build on the ongoing spatial study/analysis and assessment of industries, intra-regional trade and industrial linkages, services integration, etc. along the SEE corridor routes.	CEFTA, SEETO	2017
A.2.1.2.	Supporting regional policy dialogue on economic corridors	Organise and facilitate consultation processes with governments (including local government structures within individual economies), private businesses, civil society and development partners on operationalisation of economic corridors.  Facilitate and provide technical, expert and legal support for regional policy coordination and negotiation	SEEIC WG on Ind. Policy, SEEIC WG on Invest. Policy, OECD, CEFTA, Line Ministries, LSGU, Private sector, Donor community	2017-2019

**A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH**

**A.2. Connectivity**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
A.2.1.3	Designing pilot actions for economic corridors	Provision of TA to national administrations to design and pilot actions for implementation of economic corridors.	SEEIC WG on Ind. Policy, OECD, CEFTA, Line Ministries, Donor community	2018-2019
A.2.2	Interoperability of ICT systems and reducing the roaming charges			
A.2.2.1.	Promoting regional policy dialogue and coordination on ICT connectivity	Support for the continued operation of the regional ICT platform - e-SEE Initiative (including ministerial meetings). Targeted TA: analytical support for designing and implementing regional interventions in ICT. Targeted ICT-relat	e-SEE Initiative, UNDR, EC, IFIs, Line ministries, Regulators for elect. comm., Service prov., Operators	2017-2019

**A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH**

**A.2. Connectivity**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
A.2.2.2.	Supporting regional policy formulation and coordination on roaming policies and negotiations on Regional Roaming Agreement	Periodic legal and market impact updates to feed in the regional roaming policy coordination and negotiation process. Provision of technical, expert and legal support and facilitation of the regional policy coordination and negotiation process within the Roaming Regional Platform, based on the results of the ongoing legal and market impact study.	cross border services). Administrative capacities on ICT matters are enhanced. Supplied evidence-based impact data for defining subsequent policy options. Sustainable and market based policies on roaming services in the Western Balkans in place. Improved legal basis, sustainable market-based application and geographically extended RRA in place.	2017-2019
A.2.3.	Coordination and supporting activities			
A.2.3.1.	Support for enhanced trade facilitation, re-	Support to enabling progressive harmonisation	CEFTA	2017-2019

**A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH**

**A.2. Connectivity**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
gional integration and improved harmonisation of procedures	tion, transparency of procedures and simplified border crossing procedures, with positive effects on flows of goods and services in the region.  Support for the necessary management information systems, their upgrade and maintenance, as well as building an evidence base for data analysis and for design, coordination and monitoring of trade facilitation policies, nationally and regionally.	MIS and Regional Policy Observatory.		
A.2.3.2. Support regional coordination and cooperation in the sector of environment and climate change	Support the outline of regional environmental priorities and of main programmatic actions.  Support the functioning platform for bench	Better focus on environment-related issues of the development agendas at national and regional level.	REC, UNEP, GWP Med, SWG RRD	2017-2019

**A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH**

**A.2. Connectivity**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	marking progress in environmental cooperation in SEE.  Make good use of the opportunities to streamline environment issues into broader programming processes (IPA MB yearly planning).			
A.2.3.3. Climate proofing of planning and infrastructure development	Support to SEE economies/governments to respond to environmental challenges of enhanced infrastructural activities in the transportation sector.	Feasibility study on extensive climate proofing of planning and infrastructure development in SEE (based on results from 2016 and outcomes of Paris 2016 Summit) prepared and presented.	UNEP	2017
A.2.3.4. Mitigation of environmental and social effects of enhanced transport and energy production	Six communities along priority corridors in SEE economies selected to showcase benefits of enhanced sustainable connectivity and bridging development	Developed local sustainability action plans in six selected communities to enhance local participation in regional infrastructure initiatives and improve	REC	2017-2019

**A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH**

**A.2. Connectivity**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe	
A.2.3.5.	Building knowledge base on climate change resilience, biodiversity and sustainable agriculture in the context of development of economic corridors in SEE	Identifying and implementing local actions to enhance viability of economic corridors in SEE to enhance climate change resilience, ecosystem values and sustainable agriculture and forestry.	prospects for establishing viable economic corridors.	REC, SWG RRD	2017-2019
A.2.3.6.	Supporting the soft connectivity agenda in transport	Elaboration of targeted analytical studies related to accelerating the removal of non-infrastructure bottlenecks affecting the flows of transport in the region.	Improved resilience to climate change and enhanced sustainable natural resource utilisation of selected sections of economic corridors in SEE.	SEETO, Line Ministries for Transport	2017-2019
A.2.3.7.	Supporting the soft connectivity agenda in energy sector	Promotion of further development of the SEE regional energy market and energy efficiency.	Soft cross-cutting measures and enhanced energy efficiency in SEE supported.	ECS	2017-2019

**A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH**

**A.3. Competitiveness**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe	
A.3.1. Improving the investment environment					
A.3.1.1.	Support to establish a legal base analysis for regional investment instrument	Preparation of the legal base for development of the regional investment instrument.	Proposal to the SEE economies on the type of instrument on investments drafted and presented.	SEEEIC, CEFTA, SEEEIC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments, WB, private sector	2017
A.3.1.2.	Support to the development and implementation of a regional investment policy reform agenda	Facilitation of the regional dialogue on investment reforms through a policy/sectoral approach.	Regional investment instrument in place.	SEEEIC, CEFTA, SEEEIC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments, WB, private sector	2017-2019
A.3.2 Developing the industrial base through sectoral work					
A.3.2.1.	Supporting regional policy dialogue on industrial policy instruments	Support for the operation of regional institutional platforms relevant for the industrial policy which coordinate, analyse and steer the regional industrial policy agenda.	Identified policy instruments are embedded in national and regional policy agendas.	SEEEIC Working Group on Industrial Policy, OECD, CEFTA, Private sector	2017-2019
A.3.2.2.	Supporting the policy coordination and nego-	Facilitation and technical, expert and	Regional agreement on selected industrial	SEEEIC Working Group on	2018-2019

## A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH

### A.3. Competitiveness

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	legal support for the regional/multilateral policy coordination and negotiation process on selected industrial policy instruments.	policy instrument is in place.	Industrial Policy, OECD, CEFTA, Private sector	
A.3.2.3.	Support to the SEE strategic sectors, tourism sector	Joint regional product/offer in tourism industry is prepared.	SEEIC, SEECCEL, CEFTA, TEPAV, OECD, private sector	2016-2017
A.3.2.4.	Support to the SEE strategic sectors, tourism sector	Revenues from tourism in the region are increased.	SEEIC, private sector	2017-2019
A.3.2.5.	Support to the SEE strategic sectors, food and beverages production	Regional supply chain in food and beverages processing industry is supported and the revenues are increased.	SEEIC, SWG, CEFTA, TEPAV, OECD, private sector	2016-2019
A.3.2.6.	Support to the SEE strategic sectors	Regional agreement on selected instruments for addressing skills	SEEIC, private sector	2017-2019

## A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH

### A.3. Competitiveness

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	struments for addressing the skills gap as one of the main barriers to strategic sectors development.	gap as sector barriers.		
A.3.3. Coordination and supporting activities				
A.3.3.1.	Support drafting of industrial and investment policies in view of the development of economic corridors, particularly by integrating the industrial policy developments into the economic corridors of the SEE (i.e. sectoral value chains, special investment/free economic zones).	Integrated investment and industrial policy priorities into and along the developed economic corridors system in the SEE (i.e. special economic/investment zones, regional value chains, supply chains in priority sectors, etc.).	SEEIC, Industrial Policy Working Group, CEFTA, SEETO, TEPAV, EC	2016-2019
A.3.3.2.	Support to the improvement of skills base in the SEE	Developed instruments for improving the skills base, skills mobility, and addressing the skills gap for development	SEEIC, Expert Group on Food and Beverages, Working Group on Tourism,	2016-2019



**A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH**

**A.3. Competitiveness**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	flagship in a two-way street cooperation where both flagships will rely on each other's findings, analysis, recommendations and regional platforms, particularly in the priority sectors where skills gap has been identified as the main sector development barrier (particularly in food and beverages processing and tourism industry).	ment of the priority sectors of SEE.	ERISEE, CEFTA, OECD	
A.3.3.3.	Support to the establishment of regional observatory on the state of industrial policy in the region	Regional observatory on the state of industrial policy in the region established.	SEEIC, Industrial Policy Working Group, OECD, CEFTA	2016-2019

**A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH**

**A.3. Competitiveness**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	regional dialogue on the related matters.			
A.3.3.4.	Support to preservation of cultural heritage in SEE	Cultural routes of SEE aligned with tourism routes and promoted to the international tourism community.	SEEIC, Expert Group on Tourism, TFCS, private sector representatives	2016-2017
A.3.3.5.	SME development	Improved SME base in the region.	SEEIC, Expert Groups on Tourism and Food & Beverages, Industrial Policy Working Group, OECD, SEECCL	2016-2019
A.3.3.6.	Gender economy	Increased participation of gender-based economic sectors in the overall competitiveness-improvement efforts.	SEEIC, Industrial Policy Working Group, SEECCL, ETF, private sector representatives	2016-2019

**A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH**

**A.3. Competitiveness**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	policy improvement, knowledge sharing increase, improvement of entrepreneurial education, enhancement of public-private sector dialogue, and boosting private sector associations throughout the region.			
A.3.3.7.	Trade facilitation and liberalisation of trade in services  Support to the liberalisation of trade in services by aligning the efforts of tourism industry.	Harmonisation of the trade and investment/industry development agenda through regional agreement/protocols; liberalised trade in services.	SEEIC, SEE-IC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments, Expert Working Groups on Tourism and Food and Beverages, Industrial Policy Working Group, CEFTA and its appropriate bodies, private sector representatives	2016-2019
A.3.3.8.	R&D and innovation	Aligning the regional R&D and innovation	SEEIC, Expert Working Groups	2016-2019

**A IMPLEMENTING SEE 2020 THROUGH FLAGSHIP APPROACH**

**A.3. Competitiveness**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	priorities with those of the industrial development and priority sectors.	the investment/industry development.	on Tourism and Food and Beverages, Industrial Policy Working Group, WISE, OECD, private sector representatives	
A.3.3.9.	Private sector cooperation  Integrate private sector into the work on implementation of the SEE 2020 flagships, with a particular focus on competitiveness (in particular industrial development and investment reforms), with a sectoral/policy approach to those areas/sectors/policies that are most relevant to industrial development and investment reforms.	Regional private sector platform with corresponding sub-platforms (i.e. sub-committees) on particular sectors/policy areas established and operational.	SEEIC, SEE-IC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments, Expert Working Groups on Tourism and Food and Beverages, Industrial Policy Working Group, CEFTA, private sector representatives	2016-2019

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.1. Public Administration Reform**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
B.1.1. Improve the regulatory framework for competitiveness and growth				
B.1.1.1.	Support to the specialised regional cooperation platforms in improving the regulatory framework for competitiveness and growth	Support the institution and capacity building at national and local levels in the region.  Coordinate existing actions in the PAR area in the region and promote the use of developed (and amended) modules and training materials in the areas of EU law, ethics, etc.  Support the use of modern technologies at the regional level.  Promote of public-private sector dialogues.	ReSPA, NALAS, EBRD, USAID	2017-2019
B.1.2. Promote the development of e-services in public administration				
B.1.2.1.	Developing interoperable public e-services at central and local level	Development (or extension to) at regional level	ReSPA, NALAS, GIZ-ORF	2017-2019

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.1. Public Administration Reform**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
B.2.1. Enhance mutual legal assistance				
B.2.1.1.	Support the enhancement of mutual legal assistance between the judiciaries in the region	level of interoperable e-services, contributing to enhancing the efficiency and transparency of these services, enabling better exchange of information and a more friendly business environment.		

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.2. Justice**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
B.2.1. Enhance mutual legal assistance				
B.2.1.1.	Support the enhancement of mutual legal assistance between the judiciaries in the region	As a continuation of the preparatory work during the implementation of SWP 2014-2016, support to the process of negotiation and agreement of a legal regional instrument(s), or a network(s) of	RCC participants, DG NEAR, GIZ	2017-2019

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.2. Justice**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	bilateral agreements, aimed at enabling cross-border enforcement of the decisions and contracts in civil and commercial law.			
<b>B.2.2</b> Confidence and capacity building through networking				
<b>B.2.2.1.</b> Support to the functioning of the platform/network of the judicial training institutions in SEE	Support the functioning, including through technical assistance (when needed) and co-financing of activities, of the newly created platform/network of the judicial training institutions in SEE to support the institution and capacity building of judges and prosecutors.  Coordinate the existing projects in judicial training area in the region and promote the use of developed	More efficient and effective judiciaries in the region.	GIZ, SEELS, ERA, EJTN, EJJ, CEPEJ	2017-2019

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.2. Justice**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	modules and training materials in the areas of EU law.  Set up a regional database of the EU law and of the regional legal systems.			
<b>B.2.3.</b> Reduce the court backlogs in the region				
<b>B.2.3.1.</b> Promotion of alternative dispute resolution	Support to the newly established network of mediators in SEE, to promote mediation as an effective tool for alternative dispute resolution.  Support the exchange of information and cross-border mediation processes.	More efficient and effective judiciaries in the region.	GIZ, DG JUSTICE	2017-2019

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.3. Anticorruption**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
B.3.1. Increase transparency and public awareness on corruption.				
B.3.1.1. Promote public awareness and engagement in the fight against corruption	Create a platform/network of the CS and governmental organisations and coordinate reforms of the legal framework aimed at protection of the whistleblowers in the region. Support regular meetings of agencies and organisations responsible and in charge of protection of whistleblowers.	Increased public awareness and better engagement in the fight against corruption.	RAI, CSO, media	2017-2019
B.3.1.2. Strengthen protection for whistleblowers	Support the functioning of the newly created Coalition for Protection of Whistleblowers. Support the cooperation of the CS with the governmental institutions to improve the legal framework on protection of whistle	Enhanced protection of whistleblowers so as to contribute to increased public awareness and better engagement in the fight against corruption.	RAI, CSO, media	2017-2019

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.3. Anticorruption**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
B.3.1.3. Support the efforts for transparent administrative rules	Support the legislative processes, advancement in reform related to the administrative law, trainings and capacity building of the related institutions.	Transparent and merit-based recruitment in public service, at national and at regional levels.	RAI, NALAS, ReSPA, SIGMA	2017-2019
B.3.1.4. Support efforts for transparent and efficient public procurement rules	Support the legislative processes, advancement in reform related to the public procurement rules, trainings and capacity building of the related institutions.	Efficient and transparent legislation in place. Effective implementation of the legislation.	RAI, ReSPA, NALAS	2017-2019
B.3.2. Setting up a regional platform for assistance on asset disclosure and recovery and identification of conflict of interests				
B.3.2.1. Support the networking and cooperation of anticorruption agencies	Support the functioning of the regional network of anticorruption bodies/institutions/agencies.	Increased efficiency of anticorruption agencies in reducing corruption, disclosure and recovery of assets and avoidance of conflict of interests.	RAI, ReSPA	2017-2019

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.3. Anticorruption**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	Enable regular reviews of anticorruption systems, exchange of best practices and experiences in prevention of conflict of interests.			

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.4. Fight against Serious and Organised Crime**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe	
B.4.1. Fight against serious and organised crime					
B.4.1.1.	Identifying tools and instruments for more efficient bilateral, cross-border and regional cooperation	Build on the findings of the Gap Analysis on Regional Cooperation in the Area of Migration Management and the Fight Against Serious and Organised Crime (2014). RCC will support regional efforts to identify and set up systemic exchange of information, intelligence, judicial support and joint operations at bilateral, cross-border and regional level.	Narrowed (or eliminated) gaps in regional cooperation in the fight against serious and organised crime.	RCC participants in the region, DG HOME, GIZ, UNODC, SELLEC, SIPAG, PCC, SEPCA	2017-2019

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.4. Fight against Serious and Organised Crime**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	Cooperate, coordinate and streamline the activities of the existing regional cooperation mechanism, including through technical support (when necessary) and co-financing of activities.	Enhanced cooperation, information sharing and operational cooperation through the existing channels.	RCC participants in the region, GIZ, SELEC, SEPCA, SEEPAGPCC, UNODC	2017-2019
B.4.1.2.	Support to operation of the existing regional cooperation mechanism and platforms	Developed communication among Western Balkans and EU MS law enforcement, prosecutors and judges.		
	Support networking, confidence building and strengthening of capacities of law enforcement agencies from the region (prosecutors, judges, customs offices, police, etc.).	Enable exchange of information, and support cross-border cooperation and development		

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.4. Fight against Serious and Organised Crime**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	of personal contacts among the stakeholders.			

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.5. Security Cooperation**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe	
B.5.1. Supporting the existing security cooperation mechanisms in SEE					
B.5.1.1.	Develop political support for security cooperation in SEE	Develop joint activities and other forms of pragmatic cooperation between regional security cooperation formats, enhance coordination of the regional security cooperation mechanisms to avoid duplication and overlapping, develop confidence building measures and pragmatic cooperation.	Increased trust and more developed practical security cooperation between the RCC participants from the region.	SEEC/RCC participants from the region, SEDM, RACVIAC, UNDP/SEESAC, PCC SEE, UNODC	2017-2019

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.5. Security Cooperation**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe	
B.5.1.2.	Continuation of support to the Southeast Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs' forum	Continue to co-chair, lead the cooperation, support and co-finance the activities of the Southeast Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs' forum (SEEMIC).  Facilitate the functioning of the forum as a systematic platform for cooperation between the military intelligence services in the region and as a confidence building measure.  Explore the potential for coordinated assessment of main security threats and challenges in South East Europe, possibilities to enable a better communication and possibly real time exchange of	Increased confidence and cooperation between the SEE military intelligence bodies leading to coordinated assessment of security threats and challenges, as well as enhanced cooperation among them.	SEEMIC	2017-2019

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.5. Security Cooperation**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
B.5.1.3.	Continuation of support to the Southeast Europe National Security Authorities forum	<p>information, as well as exchange of good practices on regional security-related topics.</p> <p>Continue to co-chair, lead the cooperation, support and co-finance the activities of the Southeast Europe National Security Authorities forum (SEENSA).</p> <p>Help the exchange between the national security bodies of relevant and timely information, analyses, and good practices on important regional and national security-related topics.</p> <p>Promote practical cooperation of SEE national security authorities, especially in the vetting procedures for</p>	SEENSA	2017-2019

**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.5. Security Cooperation**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
B.5.1.4	Support cooperation in disaster preparedness and prevention	<p>security certificates, education and training.</p> <p>Support the operation of SEE Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) to expand and deepen cooperation in SEE on disaster risk reduction, particularly in increasing public awareness and understanding of the relevant risks, education and training.</p>	DPPI	2017-2019
B.5.1.5	Monitoring of open sources on security-related developments and analysis of the trends.	<p>Enhanced security through increased public awareness and behaviour in matters related to disaster preparedness and prevention. Better regional response to prevention and reaction in case of natural disasters.</p> <p>Enhanced in-house capacities to better support confidence building and practical security cooperation in SEE.</p>	Relevant academia, national government services, CSO	2017-2019



**B GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**B.5. Security Cooperation**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
B.5.2 Addressing the emerging security challenges in the region				
B.5.2.1. Countering radicalisation and violent extremism leading to terrorism and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters (CVE-FTF Platform)	<p>Coordinate and lead the overall CVE-FTF activities in SEE, support the operation of the recommendations of the Group of SEE National Focal Points on CVE-FTF.</p> <p>Organise and implement joint activities with other international and regional organisations, national governments and NGOs, facilitate exchange of CVE-related information through a web-based regional platform and other forms.</p>	<p>Coordinated and more efficient CVE efforts in SEE, improved understanding of factors leading to radicalisation, identification of CVE methods that work best in SEE regional context.</p> <p>Better informed decision-making and implementation of activities by all stakeholders engaged in CVE efforts in the region.</p>	SEEC/RCC participants from the region, RACVIAC, UNDP/SEESAC, PCC SEE, UNODC, EU, USA, OSCE, NATO, IOM	

**C HORIZONTAL AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
C.1. Strengthening cooperation between the SEE governments and with the EU				
C.1.1. Assist the SEEC and SEEC-CiO	<p>Maintain strong coordination and synergy between the RCC and the SEEC. Organise/participate in coordination meetings of RCC, the SEEC Troika and representatives of the EU.</p> <p>Support the implementation of SEEC-CiO calendar of activities, including through organising joint events, provide operational and technical assistance and active participation in the drafting process of SEEC documents.</p>	<p>Continued political support for RCC's mission and activities related to the implementation of the RCC SWP for 2017-2019.</p> <p>Effective performance of RCC role as the operational arm of SEEC.</p> <p>Sound coordination of the regional cooperation process in SEE.</p> <p>Better alignment of priorities and action between the RCC and the SEEC in the context of EU enlargement agenda.</p>	SEEC participants, SEEC-CiO, EC, EEAS	2017 - 2019
C.1.2. Assist the SEEC Parliamentary Assembly	<p>Develop close and effective cooperation with the SEEC PA.</p> <p>Assist the national parliament holding the CiO of</p>	<p>Continued support of SEE parliaments for RCC's activities and enhanced parliamentary backing of regional cooperation in SEE.</p>	SEEC parliaments, SEEC PA Secretariat (upon establishment), SEEC CiO and	2017 - 2019

**C HORIZONTAL AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	<p>the SEEC PA and other national parliaments holding the chairmanships of the General Committees.</p> <p>Contribute to the projects of SEEC PA and of its General Committees upon invitation.</p> <p>Upon invitation, participate in and contribute to the meetings of SEEC PA and its General Committees.</p> <p>Support the establishment of SEEC PA Secretariat.</p>	<p>A more institutionalised partnership between national parliaments of the SEE region is established.</p> <p>Information, experience and best practices are exchanged between national parliaments of the SEE region at all levels.</p> <p>Fully functional SEEC PA Secretariat is established.</p>	<p>SEEC Troika, European Parliament, Civil society organisations</p>	
C.1.3.	<p>Support parliamentary activities related to the EU acquis and the SEE 2020 Strategy</p> <p>Support the efforts by parliaments of SEE towards harmonisation their legislation with the EU acquis and other EU and international standards.</p> <p>Organise and implement capacity building activities for MPs and parliamentary committees on issues</p>	<p>Better engagement of SEE national parliaments in the European integration process.</p> <p>Enhanced regional dialogue on the Stabilisation and Association Process and the related reforms.</p> <p>Best practices in adopting</p>	<p>SEE national parliaments European Parliament, including national parliaments of EU Member States, European Commission, COSAP Chairmanship</p>	<p>2017 - 2019</p>

**C HORIZONTAL AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	<p>related to the Stabilisation and Association Process, in cooperation with the European Parliament.</p> <p>Promote greater cooperation between SEE parliaments, European Parliament and those of the EU Member States.</p> <p>Support strengthening of cooperation within COSAP initiative.</p>	<p>and harmonising national legislation with the EU acquis are exchanged.</p> <p>Greater awareness of the legislative bodies on the implementation of SWP 2017-2019.</p> <p>Enhanced parliamentary communication between SEE parliaments, European Parliament and other parliamentary fora and institutions in Europe.</p>		
C.1.4.	<p>Maintain the dialogue with the EU institutions</p> <p>Continue the practice of regular consultations and structured dialogue at different levels, including the operational ones, with the European Union institutions to ensure close association of the RCC work with the EU enlargement agenda.</p> <p>Consult regularly with the EU Member States from</p>	<p>The work of RCC is aligned with the EU enlargement agenda and there is a better coordination of joint efforts.</p>	<p>EC, EEAS, EP</p>	<p>2017-2019</p>

**C HORIZONTAL AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	the region and with the EU Member States that participate/contribute directly to the regional programmes for development.			
<b>C.2. Supporting and streamlining the regional cooperation structures</b>				
<b>C.2.1.</b>	Exert strategic leadership in regional cooperation, streamlining the regional cooperation	Enhanced, more strategic and focused functional and sectoral cooperation in the SEE region.  More effective political and operational ties between RCC and relevant regional processes, mechanisms and networks.  Increased coherence and complementarities of the main regional organisations, initiatives and task forces.  Deepening of regional cooperation through stronger	Regional organisations, initiatives, task forces and other regional stakeholders, National authorities, EU, International partners	2017 - 2019

**C HORIZONTAL AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	harmonise and structure the activities of numerous regional initiatives and organisations.  Develop new regional platforms and/or strategies in priority areas in which needs are identified but mechanisms of cooperation do not exist.	partnerships with all stakeholders concerned.		
<b>C.3. Broadening links and strengthening partnerships with other regional stakeholders</b>				
<b>C.3.1.</b>	Build synergies with EU macro-regional strategies	Sectoral policies of the SEE economies are integrated into the EU development plans.  Better use of experience of EU Member States by SEE.  Effective use of existing resources and structures.	EUSDR (Especially PA 10 and PA 11), EUSAIR, EC	2017 - 2019

**C HORIZONTAL AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
C.3.2.	<p>Support and initiate joint meetings with EUSDR and/or EUSAIR.</p> <p>Represent the SEE region in different regional and international forums and organisations.</p> <p>Effectively communicate the SEE regional priorities, promote regional cooperation to the national administrations and other target groups.</p>	<p>Contribution to enhanced visibility of the region and its strategic targets.</p> <p>Regional cooperation remains in the focus and in the agendas of national authorities.</p> <p>Stronger participation of international actors in supporting regional cooperation in SEE.</p>	RCC participants	2017 - 2019
C.3.3	<p>Work with media and civil society</p> <p>Establish a structured communication with the media and civil society, with a twofold objective: (1) mobilise as much support as possible through dissemination of information on the performance and contribution of RCC to the benefit of the region and the people, and (2) support media develop</p>	<p>The media and civil society playing a bolder role in SEE.</p> <p>Increased public and institutional awareness and support to the implementation of SWP 2017-2019 and to the RCC.</p>	Media, CSO, national institutions in SEE	2017-2019

**C HORIZONTAL AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
C.3.4.	<p>Implement Roma Initiative 2020</p> <p>Support national institutions to mainstream Roma policies and national strategies into the national development strategies and budgets.</p> <p>Measure implementation impact using EU developed and domestically-owned monitoring indicators.</p> <p>Strengthen national public dialogue on policy responses to the situation of Roma.</p> <p>Enhance regional cooperation and coordination on Roma integration.</p> <p>Support public officials with enhanced knowledge on Roma priorities</p>	<p>Roma specific policy measures are integrated into the national development strategies and national budgets.</p> <p>Actions addressing the specific problems faced by Roma communities are better supported.</p>	European Commission, EU Delegations, Open Society Foundations, National authorities, Roma National Contact Points, Relevant line ministries and other agencies, Civil society organisations	2017 - 2019

**C HORIZONTAL AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES**

Area of intervention / Actions	Description of actions	Expected results	Partners	Timeframe
	<p>relevant policies; promote exchange of experiences and promising practices, including from EU Member States.</p> <p>Provide continuous policy guidance in monitoring and measuring the impact of government actions.</p> <p>Streamline with the over-all RCC work through the Programming and Monitoring Committees and the Balkan Barometer.</p>			

# ANNEX 1: OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>Social Agenda 2020 Regional Working Group (SAWG)</b></p> <p><i>Headquarters: No (RCC provides technical support)</i></p> <p><i>Date of establishment: 2013</i></p> <p><i>Legal entity: No</i></p> <p><i>Web page: No</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Regional meetings</b> (High-level representatives of relevant ministries in charge of employment and social affairs meet at least twice a year)</li> <li>◆ <b>RCC Secretariat</b> (RCC serves as the secretariat of the Working Group and coordinates meetings, activities and preparation/dissemination of all outputs)</li> </ul>	<p>SAWG is the main regional platform for social development and identifying, elaborating as well as implementing regional actions aimed at furthering the regional labour mobility and labour market governance in SEE.</p> <p>SAWG objectives are as follows: a) develop Social Agenda 2020 as a strategic document composed of a set of regionally coordinated social development priorities; b) map current interventions against the priorities and assess the extent to which these priorities are appropriately addressed; c) identify actions to address challenges, advising on regional and sub-regional cooperation to advance the implementation; d) develop key</p>	<p>Contributing to Skills and Mobility flagship in the policy areas related to furthering the regional labour mobility and labour market governance.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>The Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE)</b></p> <p><i>Headquarters: Belgrade</i></p> <p><i>Date of establishment: 2004</i></p> <p><i>Legal entity: Yes</i></p> <p><i>Web page: <a href="http://www.erisee.org">http://www.erisee.org</a></i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Governing Board</b> (Consists of one representative from each signatory party of the Brdo MoU, one representative of the RCC as well as one representative of donors and institutions. Meets twice a year)</li> <li>◆ <b>Consultative Body</b> (Supports the Governing Board with an advisory role where the partner institutions of ERI SEE hold a seat, as well as the donors of the Initiative)</li> <li>◆ <b>ERI SEE Secretariat/Agency</b> (Currently the Centre for Education Policy (CEP) is the institution that hosts ERI SEE</li> </ul>	<p>performance indicators; e) advise on the monitoring and evaluation of actions that contribute to the implementation of Social Agenda 2020; f) identify means of improving data collection and the ongoing measurement and evaluation; g) meet annually to review the implementation of strategies, gauge success and recommend adjustments to the strategies or goals.</p> <p>The Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) supports sustainable education reforms through regional cooperation. It aims at fostering shared European standards in education and training for a rapid integration of its participants into a wider European area of education, thus contributing to the success and sustainability of the EU integration process.</p> <p>ERI SEE objectives are: a) to continue the support of national education reform efforts in SEE in the perspective of the process of EU integration and the more</p>	<p>Contributing to Skills and Mobility flagship in the policy areas related to education, i.e. recognition of qualifications and development of national qualification frameworks.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p>South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (SEECEL)</p> <p><i>Headquarters: Zagreb</i></p> <p><i>Date of establishment: 2009</i></p> <p><i>Legal entity: Yes</i></p>	<p>Agency in the interim period, prior to the opening of the new ERI SEE Secretariat in Belgrade)</p> <p>◆ <b>International Steering Committee</b> (Each participant has one vote and two representatives, one from the ministry of economy and one from the ministry of education. The final, ninth vote, is jointly given to the European Commission representatives from DG NEAR and DG Enterprise and Industry. Committee is also composed of observers from the</p>	<p>global developments in education and training; b) to actively promote regional cooperation at system, expert and civil society level through capacity building and know-how transfer; c) to facilitate information exchange and cooperation between the education and the research sector in SEE; d) to support national activities of its participants related to the priorities of the “Detailed Work Programme on the Follow-up of the Objectives of Education and Training Systems in Europe” (Education &amp; Training 2010) and follow-ups, the Copenhagen process and the Bologna process.</p> <p>SEECEL works on systematic development of lifelong entrepreneurial learning, in line with the EU policy essentials.</p> <p>The overall goal of SEECEL is to further work on systematic approach to development of the entrepreneurially literate societies across the SEE region and to support alignment of national policies with EU recommendations and</p>	<p>Contributing to Skills and Mobility flagship in the policy areas related to supporting the development of entrepreneurial skills.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><i>Web page: www.seecel.hr</i></p>	<p>European Training Foundation - ETF, the OECD and the RCC. The Committee meets twice a year)</p> <p>◆ <b>Management Support Team</b> (Provides advice and support to the SEECEL Director. It is composed of three national coordinators of the Small Business Act for Europe. The Croatian coordinator acts as permanent Management Support Team member and two other on a six-month rotation principle)</p> <p>◆ <b>Joint Committee</b> (The governing body of CEFTA. It is composed of the Committee of Trade Facilitation and the Committee of CEFTA Contact Points, with the representatives of each Party to the Agreement - deputy ministers responsible for trade. Its main function is to supervise and administer the implementation of the Agreement. The Joint Committee meets at least once a year and makes decisions by</p>	<p>policy essentials related to lifelong entrepreneurial learning.</p> <p>Main objectives of CEFTA 2006 are, inter alia, to expand trade in goods and services and foster investment by means of fair, stable and predictable rules, eliminate barriers to trade between its participants, provide appropriate protection of intellectual property rights in accordance with international standards and harmonise provisions on modern trade policy issues such as competition rules and state aid. It also includes clear and effective procedures for</p>	<p>Contributing to Skills and Mobility flagship in particular through CEFTA Sub-committee on Trade in Services, which works towards progressive liberalisation and mutual opening of trade in services and touches upon one of the key issues related to facilitated service provision and facilitated region</p>
<p><i>Central European Free Trade Agreement - CEFTA 2006</i></p> <p><i>Headquarters: Brussels</i></p> <p><i>Date of establishment: 2006 (entered into force in 2007)</i></p> <p><i>Legal entity: Yes</i></p> <p><i>Web page: www.cefta.int</i></p>	<p>◆ <b>Joint Committee</b> (The governing body of CEFTA. It is composed of the Committee of Trade Facilitation and the Committee of CEFTA Contact Points, with the representatives of each Party to the Agreement - deputy ministers responsible for trade. Its main function is to supervise and administer the implementation of the Agreement. The Joint Committee meets at least once a year and makes decisions by</p>	<p>Main objectives of CEFTA 2006 are, inter alia, to expand trade in goods and services and foster investment by means of fair, stable and predictable rules, eliminate barriers to trade between its participants, provide appropriate protection of intellectual property rights in accordance with international standards and harmonise provisions on modern trade policy issues such as competition rules and state aid. It also includes clear and effective procedures for</p>	<p>Contributing to Skills and Mobility flagship in particular through CEFTA Sub-committee on Trade in Services, which works towards progressive liberalisation and mutual opening of trade in services and touches upon one of the key issues related to facilitated service provision and facilitated region</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ consensus. The Joint Committee is chaired by one of the participants and this function revolves on an annual basis)</li> <li>◆ <b>Sub-committees</b> (Members of the sub-committees are officials from the relevant ministries and agencies and are formally appointed by governments. In general, the sub-committees meet at least once a year and can also meet on an ad hoc basis if deemed necessary. The Chair of each sub-committee rotates among the participants alphabetically on a yearly basis. CEFTA sub-committees are as follows: a) Sub-committee on NTMs; b) Sub-committee on Agriculture; c) Sub-committee on Customs and Rules of Origin; and d) Sub-committee on Trade in Services)</li> <li>◆ CEFTA Secretariat</li> <li>◆ <b>Other working bodies</b></li> <li>◆ Working Group on Technical Measures</li> </ul>	<p>dispute settlement and facilitates the gradual establishment of the EU-Western Balkans zone of diagonal cumulation of origin.</p>	<p>al labour mobility of skilled professionals and service providers.</p> <p>Contributing to Connectivity flagship through providing the frame for signing and implementation of a framework agreement on trade facilitation aiming to achieve a progressive liberalisation and mutual opening of services markets in the context of EU integration.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (JWGMRPQ)</b></p> <p><i>Headquarters: No</i></p> <p><i>Date of establishment: 2015</i></p> <p><i>Legal entity: No (RCC Secretariat provides technical support)</i></p> <p><i>Web page: <a href="http://www.rcc.int">www.rcc.int</a></i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Working Group on Risk Management</li> <li>◆ Working Group on Information Exchange</li> <li>◆ Working Group on Trade in Services Statistics</li> <li>◆ Negotiating Group on Services</li> <li>◆ Joint Working Group on Investment Policy and Promotion</li> <li>◆ <b>JWGMRPQ Plenary Forum</b> (Meets at least twice a year. Participants include representatives from SEE economies, which have adopted the SEE 2020 Strategy. Other participants, such as ERI SEE and CEFTA participants that are not encompassed by the SEE 2020 Strategy, are also being invited as full participants. EC, ETF, donors, experts from professional groups, civil society representatives, and other relevant stakeholders may be invited as deemed appropriate by the participants of the JWGMRPQ)</li> <li>◆ <b>Chair: RCC Secretariat</b></li> </ul>	<p>The JWGMRPQ is expected to broaden and deepen the cooperation between CEFTA Sub-committee on Trade in Services, ERI SEE and SAWG in the area of labour mobility, building on the mandates and previous activities of each structure.</p> <p>The JWGMRPQ activities aims to coordinate relevant aspects of labour mobility in order to: a) enhance the intraregional trade in services by reducing and eliminating the barriers on free movement of experts and professionals across the region; b) facilitate recognition of professional qualifications in CEFTA Parties in the priority sectors defined by the JWGMRPQ;</p>	<p>Contributing to Skills and Mobility flagship by facilitating increased labour mobility of professionals in the SEE region through broadened cooperation between CEFTA Sub-committee on Trade in Services, ERI SEE and SAWG.</p>



Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>Centre of Public Employment Services of Southeast European Countries (CPESSEC)</b> <i>Headquarters: Rotating</i> <i>Date of establishment: 2007</i> <i>Legal entity: Yes</i> <i>Web page: www.cpessec.org</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>The Council of CPESSEC</b> (Consists of Public Employment Services directors from each participant or persons appointed by the directors)</li> <li>◆ <b>Central Office of CPESSEC</b> (Every year it is relocated to different participants, which take the responsibility of providing the premises, specialist-technical staff and financial resources/conditions for operation of the Centre)</li> </ul>	<p>c) encourage overall labour mobility as one of the priorities of the SEE 2020 Strategy and contribute to job creation, better matching of skills with labour market needs and increased productivity.</p> <p>CPESSEC aims to deepen and strengthen the relations among the public employment services for exchange of experiences in employment policy implementation.</p> <p>Cooperation within the CPESSEC is realised through exchange of information and experiences in three principal spheres related to providing services to employers, job seekers and improvement of capacities of public employment services.</p> <p>The principles of cooperation are based on the EU employment policy guidelines, with the aim of:</p> <p>a) achieving full employment; b) increasing the quality of work and productivity; c) strengthening the social and territorial cohesion; d) promoting equal access to jobs</p>	<p>Contributing to Skills and Mobility flagship through exchange of information and experiences in all activities related to providing services to employers and job seekers and by improving the capacities of public employment services in SEE.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>The Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI)</b> <i>Headquarters: Skopje</i> <i>Date of establishment: 2004</i> <i>Legal entity: Yes</i> <i>Web page: www.marri-rc.org</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Chairmanship</b> (The initiative is led by a presidency held by one of the participants on a rotating basis)</li> <li>◆ <b>MARRI Regional Forum</b> (It is the steering body of the initiative which is composed of the ministers of interior from the participants. Representatives from international partner organisations and donor countries are also invited to attend. The Forum meets twice a year)</li> <li>◆ <b>MARRI Regional Centre</b> (Supports the implementation of the decisions taken by the MARRI Regional Forum by carrying out practical cooperation and activities)</li> <li>◆ <b>Presidency</b> (It is held by the ministry of health of one of the participants. It rotates</li> </ul>	<p>and inclusion of less employable and inactive persons in the labour market; e) strengthening the labour market institutions and encouragement of territorial and vocational labour force mobility.</p> <p>MARRI aims to strengthen regional cooperation and pursue coherent approaches to migration management in SEE within the overarching objective of achieving gradual harmonisation with the EU and international standards.</p> <p>The objective of MARRI and its Centre is to contribute to the orderly and free movement of people in the interest of security and prosperity, covering the following areas: migration, asylum, integrated border management, visa policy and consular cooperation, return/settlement of refugees/displaced persons.</p> <p>SEEHN is a political and institutional forum which aims to sustain and strengthen regional cooperation</p>	<p>Contributing to Skills and Mobility flagship on issues touching upon the wider migration framework with regards to institutionalising migration profiles in SEE, strengthening regional cooperation and networking among migrant service centres, databases on migrant labour, offices of supporting services regarding residence and work permits, etc.</p> <p>Contributing to Skills and Mobility flagship in the domain related to</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>Headquarters:</b> Skopje</p> <p><b>Date of establishment:</b> 2001</p> <p><b>Legal entity:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Web page:</b> <a href="http://www.seehn.org">www.seehn.org</a></p>	<p>once every six months and operates on the “troika” principle)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Regional Meetings</b> (Consists of one high-level representative - the National Health Coordinator, and one alternate nominated by the ministry of health of SEEHN participants, as well as other partner countries and partner organisations)</li> <li>◆ <b>Executive Committee</b> (It is composed of five members: three representing the SEEHN participants, one representing the other partner countries and one member jointly nominated by interested international organisations and regional governmental and nongovernmental organisations)</li> <li>◆ SEEHN Secretariat</li> </ul> <p><u>Other working bodies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ad hoc Working Groups</li> <li>◆ Regional Health Development Centres</li> </ul>	<p>ation in public health in SEE in order to further the reforms of the health systems of its participants.</p> <p>SEEHN mission is to promote the sustainable development of SEEHN members by improving the health of their populations through better and more intense cooperation, integration, capacity building and coordination in public health at regional level. This includes supporting reform of their national health systems and contributing to economic and social development.</p>	<p>facilitation of trade liberalisation and mobility in health sector.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO)</b></p> <p><b>Headquarters:</b> Belgrade</p> <p><b>Date of establishment:</b> 2004</p> <p><b>Legal entity:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Web page:</b> <a href="http://www.seeto.int.org">www.seeto.int.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Annual Meeting of Ministers</li> <li>◆ <b>Steering Committee</b> (Two high-level representatives of each participant and the EC, meets four times a year)</li> <li>◆ <b>National Coordinators</b> (One civil servant of each participant)</li> <li>◆ SEETO Secretariat</li> </ul> <p><u>Other working bodies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Railway and Intermodal Working Group</li> <li>◆ Road Safety Working Group</li> <li>◆ Transport Facilitation Working Group</li> </ul>	<p>The aim of the SEETO is to promote cooperation on the development of the main and ancillary infrastructure on the multimodal Indicative Extension of TEN-T Comprehensive Network to the Western Balkans and to enhance local capacity for the implementation of investment programmes as well as data collection and analysis on the Indicative Extension of TEN-T Comprehensive Network to the Western Balkans.</p> <p>The main objectives of the SEETO cooperation are to: a) develop the Indicative Extension of TEN-T Comprehensive Network to the Western Balkans; b) improve and harmonise regional transport policies and technical standards for the Indicative Extension of TEN-T Comprehensive Network to the Western Balkans; c) maintain an effective coordination and communication network; d) integrate the Indicative Extension of TEN-T Comprehensive Network to the Western Balkans in the framework of the wider Trans European Network.</p>	<p>Contributing to Connectivity flagship in the transport policy areas related to the opening of the transport market; establishment of competitive, reliable and safe transport system; and effective border crossing procedures, as well as contributing to converting the existing and planned transport corridors into vibrant economic corridors.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>Energy Community</b>  <b>Headquarters: Vienna</b>  <b>Date of establishment: 2005</b>  <b>Legal entity: Yes</b>  <b>Web page: <a href="http://www.energy-community.org">www.energy-community.org</a></b></p>	<p><b>Institutional set-up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Ministerial Council</b> (Meets at least once every year to establish key priorities and steer the implementation of the Treaty. The Ministerial Council consists of one representative of each Contracting Party and two representatives of the EU. One non-voting representative of each Participant may participate in its meetings. The Presidency is being held in turn by each Contracting Party for a term of one year)</li> <li>◆ <b>Permanent High Level Group</b> (Prepares the work of the Ministerial Council, gives assent to technical assistance requests made by donor community, reports to the Ministerial Council on progress made. Meets every three months and consist of one representative of each Contracting Party and two representatives of the EU. One non-voting representative of each Participant may participate in its meetings)</li> </ul>	<p>The Energy Community is an international organisation dealing with energy policy. The key aim of the organisation is to extend the EU internal energy market to SEE and beyond on the basis of a legally binding framework.</p> <p>The mission of the Energy Community Treaty is to: a) establish a stable regulatory and market framework capable of attracting investment in power generation and networks; b) create an integrated energy market allowing for cross-border energy trade and integration with the EU market; c) enhance the security of supply to ensure stable and continuous energy supply that is essential for economic development and social stability; d) improve the environmental situation in relation to energy supply in the region and foster the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency; e) develop and energy efficiency; e) develop competition at regional level and exploit economies of scale.</p>	<p>Contributing to Connectivity flagship in the policy areas related to developing the regional energy market and helping in implementation of “soft measures” which are centred at spot market development, cross-border balancing and regional capacity allocation.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
	<p><b>Institutional set-up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>The Energy Community Regulatory Board</b> (Advises the Ministerial Council or the Permanent High Level Group on the details of statutory, technical and regulatory rules, and issues recommendations on cross-border disputes involving two or more Regulators, upon request of any of them. It is composed of one representative of the energy regulator of each Contracting Party, pursuant to the relevant parts of the EU acquis on energy. The EU is represented by the EC, assisted by one regulator of each Participant, and one representative of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators)</li> </ul> <p><u>Other working bodies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Fora - Electricity, Gas, Oil</b> (Three advisory Fora, composed of representatives of all interested stakeholders, including industry, regulators,</li> </ul>		

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>Electronic South Eastern Europe Initiative (e-SEE)</b>  <i>Headquarters: Sarajevo (UNDP Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina)</i>  <i>Date of establishment: 2000</i>  <i>Legal entity: Yes</i>  <i>Web page: www.eeee-initiative.org</i></p>	<p>industry representative groups and consumers, adopts the conclusions by consensus and forwards them to the Permanent High Level Group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Annual Meeting</b> (ministerial level)</li> <li>◆ <b>Electronic South Eastern Europe Initiative Working Group</b> (Facilitates the implementation of the e-SEE Agenda Plus priority areas. The participants are represented by e-Envoys and Appointed Senior Policy Officials nominated by the respective authorities. Overall direction and leadership is provided by a Chairperson chosen among the participants. The Working Group meets quarterly and organises annual meeting at ministerial level)</li> <li>◆ e-SEE Secretariat</li> </ul> <p><u>Other working bodies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ e-SEE Broadband Taskforce</li> </ul>	<p>The aim of e-SEE Initiative is to better integrate SEE economies into the global, knowledge-based economy by regionally supporting the development of Information Society. Actions undertaken by e-SEE Initiative are complementary to the effort of drawing SEE closer to EU action plans for Information Society development expressed in the current Digital Agenda for Europe.</p> <p>e-SEE Initiative continues to work in meeting the goals outlined in e-SEE Agenda Plus, the strategic document for Information Society development signed at a Ministerial Conference in Sarajevo on 29 October 2007.</p>	<p>Contributing to Connectivity flagship in the electronic communications policy area, with the focus on addressing the limited interoperability of ICT systems in order to enable the deployment of region-wide and/or cross-border e-services, and reducing - and possibly eliminating - the roaming charges across the region.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)</b>  <i>Headquarters: Szentendre</i>  <i>Date of establishment: 1990</i>  <i>Legal entity: Yes</i>  <i>Web page: www.rec.org</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Board of Directors</b> (The governing and decision-making body of REC. It consists of not less than seven and not more than eleven members. Membership may include environmental experts, government officials, business leaders and representatives of environmental and other nongovernmental organisations. The Board of Directors meets at least twice a year)</li> <li>◆ <b>General Assembly</b> (The advisory body to the Board of Directors. Supports the REC through activities such as fundraising, public relations, strategic planning, technical assistance and policy recommendations. Each participant designates an authorised representative to serve on the General Assembly, which meets at least once a year)</li> <li>◆ <b>REC Head Office</b> (The REC has an office network in 17 countries with the Head Office in Szentendre, Hungary)</li> </ul>	<p>REC is an international organisation with a mission to assist in addressing environmental issues. The REC fulfils this mission by promoting cooperation among governments, nongovernmental organisations, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision-making.</p> <p>The REC continues to: a) follow the development of global environmental problems; b) regularly assess strategic environmental needs in Central and Eastern Europe and serve as a resource in identifying solutions; c) promote public participation in environmental decision-making; d) promote cooperation for improving the environment between governments, academic, and nongovernmental organisations and members of the business community; e) gather and distribute environmental data on the countries of the region as well as pertaining to the</p>	<p>Contributing to Connectivity flagship through implementing the SEE Strategy 2020 goals in the Environmental dimension.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP - Med)</b>  <i>Headquarters: Athens</i>  <i>Date of establishment: 2002</i>  <i>Legal entity: Yes</i>  <i>Web page: <a href="http://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-Mediterranean">www.gwp.org/en/GWP-Mediterranean</a></i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>The Partnership Council (The decision-making body of GWP-Med)</b></li> <li>◆ <b>The Membership Platform</b> (It consists of ten major Med networks of different disciplines - government, river basins, local authorities, professionals, NGOs, research institutes, irrigators, etc. - and over eighty other organisations, institutions and companies working on water issues in the Mediterranean Region)</li> <li>◆ <b>The Advisory Board</b> (It is</li> </ul>	<p>region as a whole; f) offer opportunities for mutual exchange of experiences for interested countries, organisations and individuals; g) offer in-kind as well as financial support to promote the solution of certain environmental issues; and h) award fellowships and organise educational, training and scientific programmes in the field of environmental protection, management as well as nature conservation in the region.</p> <p>The Global Water Partnership Mediterranean envisions a water secure world. Its mission is to promote action and exchange knowledge on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) with the aim to help Mediterranean countries to connect water resources planning and operations at different scales (regional, trans-boundary, national, basin and local), in order to achieve coherence and bring about solutions that contribute to the sustainable use of water resources as means towards sustainable growth.</p>	<p>Contributing to Connectivity flagship through implementing the SEE Strategy 2020 goals in the Environmental dimension, with the focus on the sustainable use of water resources.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe (SWG)</b>  <i>Headquarters: Skopje</i>  <i>Date of establishment: 2005</i>  <i>Legal entity: Yes</i>  <i>Web page: <a href="http://seerural.org">seerural.org</a></i></p>	<p>foreseen to function as a think-tank and provide advice on specific themes relating to GWP Med's range of activities. Currently, this body is not active)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ GWP-Med Secretariat</li> <li>◆ <b>Annual Meetings of the Ministers of Agriculture from SEE</b></li> <li>◆ <b>SWG Assembly Sessions</b> (Discuss about internal SWG procedures, realisation of SWG activities, exchange of experiences about the EU accession process and the benefits of it, as well as decide on future initiatives, projects and cooperation)</li> <li>◆ SWG Head Office/Secretariat</li> <li>◆ <b>Agricultural Policy Forum</b> (Platform for international dialogue on policy settings and perspectives of common interest to agricultural policy makers and stakeholders)</li> </ul>	<p>The SWG is working to empower and promote sustainable principles on rural development, through networking and permanent cooperation between all stakeholders of rural development in the SEE region.</p> <p>The objectives of SWG RRD are to:</p> <p>a) enhance the regional cooperation among the Ministries of Agriculture in SEE; b) facilitate information sharing on rural issues and rural development topics; c) support participating institutions in identifying mutual needs and interests; d) create opportunities to share experiences and know-how among the participating institutions with various international organisations and institutions; e) provide new ideas and tools</p>	<p>Contributing to Connectivity flagship through implementing the SEE Strategy 2020 goals in the Environmental dimension, with the focus on the sustainable rural development.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p>South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC)</p> <p><i>Headquarters: Sarajevo</i></p> <p><i>Date of establishment: 2007</i></p> <p><i>Legal entity: Yes</i></p> <p><i>Web page: www.seeic.rcc.int</i></p>	<p>Institutional set-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ministerial Forum (Meets at least once per year. All of the decisions of SEEIC are subject to endorsement of the Ministerial Forum)</li> <li>◆ Deputy Minister/State Secretary Meetings (It consists of the appointed high-level officials at the level of Deputy Minister or State Secretary from the respective ministries from SEE and a representative of the RCC Secretariat. The representatives of the private sector from SEE, international organisations and donor community are also invited to the meeting and act as Observers, providing input and advice to the SEEIC. Meets at least twice per year)</li> <li>◆ Co-Chairs: The meetings of the SEEIC are chaired by the Co-chairs of the SEEIC, i.e. RCC (permanent co-chair)</li> </ul>	<p>relevant to agricultural and rural development policies; f) share and generate initiatives to further the rural agenda.</p> <p>The SEEIC promotes and facilitates regional cooperation in the sphere of investment-related reform and competitiveness in SEE.</p> <p>SEEIC currently has three main objectives: a) implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy; b) increasing competitiveness of the region through joint targeted action and enhancing regional value chains; c) promoting the SEE region as an attractive business and investment destination.</p>	<p>Contributing to Competitiveness flagship in the areas related to industrial and investment policy.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p>Western Balkans Research and Innovation Centre (WISE)</p> <p><i>Headquarters: Split</i></p> <p><i>Date of establishment: 2015</i></p> <p><i>Legal entity: Yes</i></p> <p><i>Web page: Under construction</i></p>	<p>Institutional set-up</p> <p>and SEE participant (rotating annually, with the possibility of extension for an additional year).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ SEEIC Secretariat (RCC serves as a secretariat of the SEEIC)</li> </ul> <p><u>Other working bodies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ SEEIC/CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments</li> <li>◆ SEEIC Working Group on Industrial Policy</li> <li>◆ SEEIC Tourism Expert Group</li> <li>◆ SEEIC Food and Beverages Expert Group</li> <li>◆ The Supervisory Board (The sole strategic decision-making body responsible for overseeing and guiding the operations of WISE. It is composed of one representative and his or her alternate designated by each participant. The Board meets at least twice a year and has a Chair and Co-Chair. The mandate of the Chair and Co-Chair is two years which can be extended by the Board for additional two years)</li> </ul>	<p>The main objective of WISE is to strengthen regional research, innovation and technology systems by providing support, advice, information and recommendations to governments, public and private institutions, nongovernmental organisations and all other relevant stakeholders. WISE aims to facilitate cooperation on the regional, EU and international levels, as well as contribute to improving the Western Balkans research and innovation climate.</p>	<p>Contributing to Competitiveness flagship as a regional platform for innovation policy.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
	<p>◆ <b>WISE Secretariat</b></p>	<p>WISE primarily works on promoting collaboration of local researchers and researchers abroad with special emphasis on the scientific diaspora in order to facilitate shared use of large research facilities and promote the scientific centres of excellence. In addition WISE promotes mobility of young researchers and PhD candidates within the Western Balkans region and between the region and other countries. WISE works on strengthening the collaboration and coordination among research organisations for more strategic investment in research infrastructure as well as on promoting collaboration between research organisations and industry.</p>	
<p><b>Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA)</b> <i>Headquarters: Danilovgrad</i> <i>Date of establishment: 2008</i></p>	<p>◆ <b>The Governing Board</b> (The highest decision-making body of ReSPA. It is composed of representatives of each participant of ReSPA, who come from ministries or equivalent authorities responsible for public administration, human resources development or European integration. In addition</p>	<p>ReSPA is an international organisation which has been entrusted with the mission of boosting regional cooperation in the field of public administration in the SEE region.  ReSPA seeks to achieve its mission through the organisation and delivery of training activities, high-level</p>	<p>Contributing to cross-cutting issues related to public administration reform.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><i>Legal entity: Yes</i> <i>Web page: www.respaweb.eu</i></p>	<p>the EC may send a representative and the Director of ReSPA may decide to attend meetings. Representatives from other countries and organisations as well as individual experts may also be invited to attend the meetings. The Governing Board meets at least five times per year; it should meet at Ministerial level at least once a year and at the level of Senior Officials at least four times per year</p> <p>◆ Advisory Board ◆ Budget Committee ◆ ReSPA Secretariat</p>	<p>el conferences, networking events and publications, the overall objectives of which are to transfer new knowledge and skills as well as to facilitate the exchange of experiences both within the region and between the region and the EU Member States.</p>	
<p><b>Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)</b> <i>Headquarters: Skopje</i> <i>Date of establishment: 2004</i> <i>Legal entity: Yes</i></p>	<p>◆ <b>General Assembly</b> (It meets in ordinary session once a year and whenever the interests of the association require so. Participants are represented with a maximum of two associations and four delegates. The associate members have consultative status) ◆ <b>Committee of Liaison Officers</b> (It is composed of the President, the three Vice-Presidents,</p>	<p>NALAS aims to provide services to local governments for the benefit of the citizens in the SEE region and wishes to develop itself as the knowledge centre for local government development in SEE. It brings together 16 Associations which represent roughly 9000 local authorities.  NALAS stimulates exchange of information and experiences among</p>	<p>Contributing to cross-cutting issues by engaging local governments in implementation of the RCC SWP 2017-2019.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>Web page:</b> <a href="http://www.nalaseu">www.nalaseu</a></p>	<p>the Liaison Officers appointed by participants, two liaison officers appointed by the associate participants, the President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Executive Director and the Treasurer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Executive Bureau</b> (Assist the Committee of Liaison Officers in performing more intense and profound governing functions, such as formulation of internal policies, ensuring checks and balances and other control functions)</li> <li>◆ <b>President and Vice-Presidents</b> (President is selected for one year based on a rotation system. NALAS has three Vice-Presidents)</li> <li>◆ NALAS Secretariat</li> <li><u>Other working bodies</u></li> <li>◆ Task Force on Association Development</li> <li>◆ Task Force on Fiscal Decentralisation</li> </ul>	<p>its members. Its Task Forces have a key role in knowledge production and dissemination.</p>	

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI)</b></p> <p><b>Headquarters:</b> Sarajevo</p> <p><b>Date of establishment:</b> 2007</p> <p><b>Legal entity:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Web page:</b> <a href="http://www.raisee.org">www.raisee.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Task Force on Urban Planning</li> <li>◆ Task Force on Energy Efficiency</li> <li>◆ Task Force on Solid Waste and Water Management</li> <li>◆ Task Force on Sustainable Tourism</li> <li>◆ <b>Steering Group</b> (The decision-making body of RAI. It is composed of high-level representatives of SEE participants and it meets at least once per year and whenever necessary)</li> <li>◆ <b>Chairperson</b> (Oversees the enforcement of the decisions taken by the Steering Group of RAI)</li> <li>◆ RAI Secretariat</li> </ul>	<p>The RAI acts as a regional process through which governments of SEE region combine their efforts to help curb corruption. It intends to give an impetus to the fight against corruption in SEE by building upon existing actions through better coordination of all efforts and by relying on high-level political commitment.</p> <p>With the understanding of the European perspective of SEE region's future, RAI seeks to foster closer integrative links and common European values in regard of good governance.</p>	<p>Contributing to cross-cutting issues related to promoting transparency and fight against corruption.</p>
<p><b>South East European Law School Network (SEELS)</b></p> <p><b>Headquarters:</b> Skopje</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Management Board</b> (The decision-making body of SEELS. It is composed of one representative of each regular SEELS member faculty and meets twice a year)</li> </ul>	<p>SEELS is an academic network that brings together 13 distinct Law Schools from SEE. Its mission is to foster excellence and European integration.</p>	<p>Contributing to cross-cutting issues related to developing regional cooperation in the area of justice,</p>



Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><i>Centre for SEELS Network is hosted by Ss. Cyril and Methodius University/Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law</i></p> <p><b>Date of establishment:</b> 2011</p> <p><b>Legal entity:</b> No</p> <p><b>Web page:</b> <a href="http://www.seels-awschool.org">www.seels-awschool.org</a></p>	<p><b>Institutional set-up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Advisory Board</b> (It brings together universities, relevant government representatives and representatives of the legal professions, other important donors and strategic international partners. Its main task is advising the SEELS Management Board in scientific, strategic and political matters)</li> </ul>	<p>SEELS is conceiving and implementing a wide range of activities, such as summer academies, graduate schools, research projects and conferences in legal science and education through regional collaboration.</p>	<p>enhancing mutual trust based on knowledge about the legal systems in the SEE region.</p>
<p><b>Regional Working Group on Justice (WGJ)</b></p> <p><b>Headquarters:</b> No</p> <p><b>Date of establishment:</b> 2014</p> <p><b>Legal entity:</b> No</p> <p><b>Web page:</b> No</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Regional Meetings</b> (High-level meetings which bring together assistant ministers and/or directors - representatives of ministries of justice. Meetings are taking place twice a year)</li> <li>◆ <b>RCC Secretariat</b> (RCC serves as a secretariat of the WGJ)</li> <li>◆ <b>Council</b> (It is composed of high-level representatives of SELEC participants, having the authority to act on behalf of them. It has its Chairperson</li> </ul>	<p>WGJ was established by RCC with aim to: a) enhance regional cooperation and mutual trust in the field of justice; b) identify areas and tools to address challenges in judiciaries; c) serve as a platform for exchanging good practices and experiences; d) develop the regional activities in the area of efficiency and integrity of judiciary; e) map current activities in the area of justice in the region.</p>	<p>Contributing to cross-cutting issues in the area of the rule of law related reforms. It is expected to support the SEE enlargement economies to better prepare for the EU accession negotiation of Chapters 23 and 24.</p>
<p><b>Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Council</b> (It is composed of high-level representatives of SELEC participants, having the authority to act on behalf of them. It has its Chairperson</li> </ul>	<p>SELEC is operational organisation which facilitates the rapid exchange of information between law enforcement agencies regarding trans-border criminal cases.</p>	<p>Support to participants to enhance coordination in preventing and combating crime where such crime involves or</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>Headquarters:</b> Bucharest</p> <p><b>Date of establishment:</b> 2011 (Successor of SECI Center - 1996)</p> <p><b>Legal entity:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Web page:</b> <a href="http://www.selec.org">www.selec.org</a></p>	<p>and Vice Chairperson, assigned for a term of one year. Meets at least once a year)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ SELEC Secretariat</li> <li>◆ <b>National Units</b> (Established by the participants for the purpose of implementing the objectives of SELEC. They consist of Liaison Officers and National Focal Points)</li> </ul> <p>Other working bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Task Forces</b> (SELEC operational activities are conducted within the frames of eight Task Forces addressing issues of drugs and human beings trafficking, stolen vehicles, smuggling and customs fraud, financial and computer crime, terrorism, container security and environmental and nature related crimes)</li> </ul>	<p>The objective of SELEC - a successor of SECI Center - is to provide support to its participants and enhance coordination in preventing and combating crime, including serious and organised crime, where such crime involves or appears to involve an element of trans-border activity.</p>	<p>appears to involve an element of trans-border activity.</p>
<p><b>Southeast European Prosecutors Advisory Group (SEEPAG)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Chairmanship</b> (Rotating)</li> <li>◆ <b>Prosecutorial Contact Points</b> (Designated by each participant)</li> </ul>	<p>SEEPAG is an international mechanism of judicial cooperation, formed by the representatives of the judicial authorities from the</p>	<p>Support to participants at the prosecutorial level to enhance coordination in preventing</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>Headquarters:</b> Bucharest</p> <p><b>Date of establishment:</b> 2003</p> <p><b>Legal entity:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Web page:</b> <a href="http://www.seep-ag.info">www.seep-ag.info</a></p>	<p>parent, with the task of facilitating judicial cooperation within SEEPAG, as well as providing assistance to its operations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ SEEPAG Secretariat</li> </ul>	<p>SEE region with an express intention of facilitating cooperation in significant trans-border crime investigations and cases. SEEPAG functions under the auspices of SELEC.</p> <p>SEEPAG seeks to significantly increase the capacity of individual participants to suppress, investigate and prosecute serious trans-border crimes.</p>	<p>and combating crime, including serious and organised crime, where such crime involves or appears to involve an element of trans-border activity.</p>
<p><b>Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA)</b></p> <p><b>Headquarters:</b> Sofia</p> <p><b>Date of establishment:</b> 2002</p> <p><b>Legal entity:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Web page:</b> <a href="http://www.sep-ca-see.eu">www.sep-ca-see.eu</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>General Assembly</b> (Coordinates, controls SEPCA projects and adopts final reports. Meets twice a year - Annual Meeting and Annual Coordination Meeting)</li> <li>◆ <b>Executive Board</b> (Invites and presides over General Assembly meetings. In addition to General Assembly meetings, gets together on a need-basis during the year)</li> <li>◆ <b>Executive Director</b> (Responsible for establishing and carrying out projects as well as for supervision of the projects budget)</li> <li>◆ SEPCA Secretariat</li> </ul>	<p>SEPCA is an association of police directors that supports its participants in their efforts regarding police reform. The mission is to provide a secure and safe environment for the citizens in the SEE region, enhance effective and democratic police services in SEPCA participants and prevent and fight all forms of serious crime and terrorism in the region.</p>	<p>Contributing to regional cooperation in security area by promoting police reforms aimed at providing safe environment for the people in SEE region.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>The Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe (PCC SEE)</b></p> <p><b>Headquarters:</b> Ljubljana</p> <p><b>Date of establishment:</b> 2006 (entered into force in 2007)</p> <p><b>Legal entity:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Web page:</b> <a href="http://www.pccseesecretariat.si">www.pccseesecretariat.si</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Chairmanship</b> (Strategic and practical priorities for the full implementation of the SEEPAG are defined by the rotating trio chairmanship for the period of 18 months)</li> <li>◆ <b>Committee of Ministers</b> (Decides unanimously on the interpretation, implementation and application of the Convention)</li> <li>◆ <b>Expert Working Group</b> (Observes the application and implementation of the PCC SEE and makes recommendations to the Committee of Ministers. To date, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Data Protection; and the Thematic Working Groups on Police Education and Training, on the Exchange of Information Regarding Fake and Forged Travel Documents, on the Surveillance Expert Network for Southeast Europe, on JIT Expert Network for Southeast Europe and on Harmonisation and Improvement of Telecommunications)</li> </ul>	<p>The aim of the PCC SEE is to adopt Schengen standards through the conclusion of a multilateral convention for the improvement of strategic police collaboration in the SEE region.</p> <p>The Convention envisages modern forms of cooperation among the Contracting Parties, such as joint threat analysis, liaison officers, hot pursuit, witness protection, cross-border surveillance, controlled delivery, undercover investigations to investigate crimes and to prevent criminal offences, transmission and comparison of DNA profiles and other identification material, technical measures for facilitating trans-border cooperation, border search operations, mixed analysis working groups, joint investigation teams, mixed patrols along the state border and cooperation in common centres.</p>	<p>Contributing to closer practical cooperation of national law enforcement agencies in SEE, especially in countering corruption, organised crime, radicalisation and violent extremism leading to terrorism.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p>Southeast European Defence Ministerial Process (SEDM)</p> <p><i>Headquarters: Rotating</i></p> <p><i>Date of establishment: 1996</i></p> <p><i>Legal entity: No</i></p> <p><i>Web page: <a href="http://www.sedm-process.org">www.sedm-process.org</a></i></p>	<p>among the Contracting Parties, as well as the Network on Countering Terrorism have been established and meet periodically to facilitate the implementation of specific provisions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ PCC SEE Secretariat</li> <li>◆ <b>Political-Military High Level Meetings</b> (Ministers of Defence - MOD and Deputy Chiefs of Defence Meetings - DCHOD)</li> <li>◆ <b>SEDM Coordination Committee SEDM-CC</b> (Its function is to coordinate, manage, propose, endorse, supervise and implement all SEDM initiatives and activities beyond the scope of the Politico-Military Steering Committee-PMSC, whose duties and responsibilities are described by MPFSEE Agreement. SEDM-CC is constituted as a body with equal participation. Each participant nominates a delegation, headed by a senior representative)</li> <li>◆ <b>SEDM-CC Chairperson</b> (Appointed by the Chairing</li> </ul>	<p>SEDM represents a process of cooperation among the Ministries of Defence from SEE. The activities undertaken within SEDM are developed with the idea to strengthen the politico-military cooperation and to enhance the stability and security in SEE by: promoting regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations, strengthening regional defence capabilities as well as cooperation through collective efforts and establishing links facilitating integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions.</p> <p>Among the SEDM initiatives, one that carries the most prominence is the Multinational Peace Force South-Eastern Europe (MPFSEE), established with the MPFSEE</p>	<p>Fostering closer cooperation between the ministries of defence and armed forces in SEE, thus building mutual confidence and interoperability, and defence reforms as part of European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p>The Southeastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons</p>	<p>Nation, Chairperson presides over all meetings and submits SEDM-CC documents to MOD or DCHOD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SEDM-CC Secretariat</b> (The participant holding the Chairmanship takes over the responsibility of the SEDM-CC Secretariat)</li> <li>◆ <b>Regional Steering Group for Small Arms and Light Weapons - RSG</b> (It is composed of representatives of the governments of the participants, the</li> </ul>	<p>Agreement and also known as the South-Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG).</p> <p>SEDM objectives are: a) promotion of mutual understanding, confidence and cooperation among participants; b) contribution of SEDM and Multinational Peace Force of the SEE (MPFSEE) / South-Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG) to regional and worldwide security and stability; c) enhancement of the SEEBRIG interoperability and capability to deploy in peace support missions; d) facilitation of SEEBRIG employment in peace support operations; e) promotion of Euro-Atlantic integration processes of SEDM participants; f) implementation and development of the SEDM projects; g) enlargement of the SEDM process with new participants; h) cooperation with international organisations.</p> <p>SEESAC works to strengthen the capacities of national and regional stakeholders to control and reduce the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons,</p>	<p>With their efforts regarding legally regulating small arms and light weapons legal possession and curbing</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p>(SEESAC)  <i>Headquarters: Belgrade</i>  <i>Date of establishment: 2002</i>  <i>Legal entity: Yes</i>  <i>Web page: www.seesac.org</i></p>	<p>RCC, UNDP and observers from institutions such as the EU, NATO, OSCE and civil society. RSG meets twice a year and provides political and strategic guidance to the work of SEESAC)                      ♦ SEESAC Office</p>	<p>and thus contribute to enhanced stability, security and development in South East and East Europe. SEESAC functions under the mandate given to it by the UNDP and the RCC.                      SEESAC administers the Women Police Officers Network in South East Europe (WPON) and supports efforts to integrate the gender perspective in defence policy.</p>	<p>the illegal one, SEESAC contributes to security and stability of the SEE region and its people.</p>
<p>RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation  <i>Headquarters: Zagreb</i>  <i>Date of establishment: 2000</i>  <i>Legal entity: Yes</i>  <i>Web page: www.racviac.org</i></p>	<p>♦ <b>Multinational Advisory Group</b>                      - MAG (It is composed of representatives from participants, associate participants and observers and it provides direction to ensure the operation and development of RACVIAC).                      ♦ RACVIAC Secretariat</p>	<p>RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation is an international, independent, non-profit, regionally owned, academic organisation, with the mission to foster dialogue and cooperation on security matters in SEE.                      RACVIAC was established in 2000 as the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre. By the signing of a new Agreement on RACVIAC in 2010, the Centre was renamed the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.</p>	<p>Through its arms control and defence and security cooperation activities, especially in a subfield of defence management education and training, RACVIAC continually makes a contribution to the RCC's objective of enhancing security and stability in SEE.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p>U. S. - Adriatic Charter (A-5)  <i>Headquarters: No</i>  <i>Date of establishment: 2003</i>  <i>Legal entity: No</i>  <i>Web page: No</i></p>	<p>♦ <b>Chairmanship</b> (Rotating annually)                      ♦ <b>Partnership Commission</b> (The Commission meets twice a year at the ministerial level, with the main aim to consider the completion of activities and plan future ones)</p>	<p>RACVIAC focuses its activities on three overarching fields: a) the Cooperative Security Environment with a focus on Arms Control; b) Security Sector Reform; c) International and Regional Cooperation with a focus on Euro-Atlantic integration.                      The creation of A-5 Charter is part of the vision to integrate its participants into NATO Alliance, following the fulfilment of all the required conditions. In this context, the A-5 Charter has two objectives: to secure an open-door NATO policy and provide a framework for cooperation and mutual support to NATO candidate countries.                      The cooperation within A-5 Charter promotes the regional security cooperation, but also increases interoperability and adaptation of NATO standards through joint exercises and cooperative activities of respective units.                      The USA as a strategic partner, as well as other NATO member coun</p>	<p>Contributing to closer cooperation of its participants in defence and security sector, primarily as a part of Euro-Atlantic integration process.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE)</b></p> <p><i>Headquarters: Sarajevo</i></p> <p><i>Date of establishment: 2000</i></p> <p><i>Legal entity: Yes</i></p> <p><i>Web page: www.dppi.info</i></p>	<p><b>Institutional set-up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Regional Meeting</b> (A governing and decision-making body that acts in many ways like a forum. It is composed of Heads/Directors General of the Civil Protection and Disaster Management Agencies from DPPI SEE participants. The Chairmanship of the DPPI SEE Regional Meeting rotates on an annual basis. Regional meetings take place twice a year)</li> <li>◆ <b>Trio Mechanism</b> (It is comprised of the present DPPI SEE Chair-in-Office and representatives of the previous and incoming DPPI SEE Chair-in-Office. The role of the Trio is to ensure the strategic coordination and planning of the DPPI SEE activities)</li> <li>◆ <b>Advisory Board</b> (It is composed of experts with functional expertise, representing international partners of the DPPI SEE being invited by the DPPI SEE Chair-in-Office)</li> </ul>	<p>tries as special advisors, offers important support to promote this form of cooperation.</p> <p>DPPI SEE is a regional initiative that seeks to provide a framework for SEE region to develop programmes and projects leading to strengthened capabilities to prevent and respond to natural and man-made, i.e. technological disasters.</p> <p>The principle objectives of the Initiative are to contribute to the institutional capacity building of disaster management organisations to enhance disaster prevention and preparedness in the economies of the SEE region.</p>	<p>Contributing to the security cooperation through developing programmes and projects for disaster preparedness and prevention.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>South East European Military Intelligence Chiefs (SEEMIC)</b></p> <p><i>Headquarters: No</i></p> <p><i>Date of establishment: 2009</i></p> <p><i>Legal entity: No</i></p> <p><i>Web page: No</i></p>	<p><b>Institutional set-up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>DPPI SEE Secretariat</b></li> <li><u>Other working bodies</u></li> <li>◆ <b>Working Groups</b> (The DPPI SEE Regional Meeting may establish DPPI SEE Working Groups as technical bodies to develop and support specific DPPI SEE projects. Working Groups are chaired on an informal basis by one participant)</li> <li>◆ <b>Chairmanship</b> (Rotating annually)</li> <li>◆ <b>Annual meeting</b> (Heads or chiefs of national military intelligence services)</li> </ul>	<p>SEEMIC is a forum for cooperation of national military intelligence services from the region that allows for networking, building relationships and strengthening trust as a basis for furthering cooperation in the security area.</p> <p>The process of cooperation of the SEE military intelligence chiefs has been realised at the initiative of the RCC, which continues to financially and organisationally support the process.</p> <p>SEEMIC aims to establish and develop practical cooperation in</p>	<p>Contributing to the security and defence cooperation through mutual confidence building and practical cooperation of national military intelligence services in SEE, thus helping further stabilisation and security of the SEE region.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p>South East European National Security Authorities (SEENSA)</p> <p><i>Headquarters:</i> No</p> <p><i>Date of establishment:</i> 2011</p> <p><i>Legal entity:</i> No</p> <p><i>Web page:</i> Under construction</p>	<p>Institutional set-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Chairmanship (Rotating annually)</li> <li>◆ Annual Meeting (High-level national security authorities forum)</li> </ul> <p><u>Other working bodies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Thematic Working Groups</li> </ul>	<p>facing common security threats and challenges, and join efforts in improving intelligence sharing at the regional level.</p> <p>SEENSA is an initiative that creates conditions for exchange of experiences and practices aimed at providing for effective interaction between its participants in the field of the protection of classified information.</p> <p>Strengthening mutual confidence, exchange of information and views on national security matters; practical cooperation, especially in the education and training and issuance of security certificates are main priorities of SEENSA.</p>	<p>Contributing to the security and stability of the SEE region through cooperation of national security authorities, helping them build mutual confidence, exchange best practices, and better fulfil their main tasks.</p>
<p>SEEEP Parliamentary Assembly (SEEEP PA)</p> <p><i>Headquarters:</i> No</p> <p><i>Date of establishment:</i> 2014</p> <p><i>Legal entity:</i> No</p> <p><i>Web page:</i> No</p>	<p>◆ Chairmanship (Rotating annually. With assistance of the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe, serves as an ad hoc Secretariat for the Plenary Session, the Standing Committee, the President and the Bureau of the Assembly while the national parliament holding the Chairmanship of</p>	<p>SEEEP PA contributes to the enhancement of inter-parliamentary regional cooperation in SEE and promotion of effective cooperation with other regional initiatives.</p> <p>It promotes the democratic principles of the rule of law and human rights, as prerequisites for stability, economic development and social cohesion.</p>	<p>Contributing to the parliamentary dimension of regional cooperation in SEE.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p>Conference of the European Integration Parliamentary Committees of States Participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process (COSAP)</p> <p><i>Headquarters:</i> No</p> <p><i>Date of establishment:</i> 2005</p> <p><i>Legal entity:</i> No</p> <p><i>Web page:</i> No</p>	<p>a General Committee or of an Ad hoc Working Group also fulfils the tasks of an ad hoc Secretariat for the respective body of the Assembly)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ General Committees (Dealing with specific issues, namely on: 1) Economy, Infrastructure and Energy; 2) Justice, Home Affairs and Security Cooperation; and 3) Social Development, Education, Research and Science.</li> </ul> <p>◆ Chairmanship (Rotating annually and held in alphabetical order by the Chairman of the Committee for European Affairs of the presiding country. Meets at least twice a year to discuss issues related to the Stabilisation and Association Process and to EU enlargement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Troika (Composed by the Chairs of Committees for European Affairs/integration of the previous, current and future presidency ensures coordination of activities)</li> </ul>	<p>SEEEP PA plays a key role in assisting the national Parliaments of the SEEEP participants to harmonise their own legislative framework with the EU acquis by developing a comprehensive exchange of best practices, knowledge and experience with the Parliaments of EU Member States.</p>	<p>Contributing to the parliamentary dimension of regional cooperation in SEE through bringing together the Committees of National Parliaments dealing with European Affairs.</p>
<p>Conference of the European Integration Parliamentary Committees of States Participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process (COSAP)</p> <p><i>Headquarters:</i> No</p> <p><i>Date of establishment:</i> 2005</p> <p><i>Legal entity:</i> No</p> <p><i>Web page:</i> No</p>	<p>◆ Chairmanship (Rotating annually and held in alphabetical order by the Chairman of the Committee for European Affairs of the presiding country. Meets at least twice a year to discuss issues related to the Stabilisation and Association Process and to EU enlargement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Troika (Composed by the Chairs of Committees for European Affairs/integration of the previous, current and future presidency ensures coordination of activities)</li> </ul>	<p>The COSAP has a clear agenda and perspective; it aims at strengthening cooperation between the Committees of National Parliaments dealing with European Affairs.</p> <p>The mission of COSAP is to contribute to inter-parliamentary cooperation in SEE through the exchange of experiences between the candidate countries and EU Member States, for the purpose of preparing its participants to respond to the challenges that membership negotiations carry.</p>	<p>Contributing to the parliamentary dimension of regional cooperation in SEE through bringing together the Committees of National Parliaments dealing with European Affairs.</p>

Name	Institutional set-up	Mission / Main objectives	Link with RCC SWP 2017-2019
<p><b>RCC Task Force on Culture and Society (RCC TFCS)</b></p> <p><i>Headquarters: No</i></p> <p><i>Date of establishment: 2010</i></p> <p><i>Legal entity: No</i></p> <p><i>Web page: <a href="http://www.tfcs.rcc.int">www.tfcs.rcc.int</a></i></p>	<p><b>Regional meetings</b> (High-level representatives of relevant ministries in charge of culture meet at least once a year)</p> <p><b>RCC Secretariat</b> (RCC serves as the secretariat of the TFCS)</p>	<p>The RCC TFCS was established by the Decision of the Board of the RCC. The aim of the RCC TFCS is to promote regional cooperation in the sphere of culture by creating a platform for dialogue of relevant stakeholders. The subsequent goal is to maximise the benefits of investment in culture through its contribution to sustainable economic and social development by ensuring the coherency with other actions promoted at regional and national level.</p>	<p>The RCC TFCS closely cooperates with the RCC Secretariat in the framework of promoting regional cooperation in the sphere of culture.</p>

# ANNEX 2: LIST OF ACRONYMS

BEREC	Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications	EEAS	European External Action Service	EUROSTAT	European Statistical Office	NIPAC	National IPA Coordinator
CEDEFOP	European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training	EIPA	European Institute of Public Administration	EUSAIR	European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region	OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement	EJTN	European Judicial Training Network	EUSDR	European Union Strategy for the Danube Region	OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
CiO	Chairmanship-in-Office	ENIC	European Network of Information Centres in the European Region	FDI	Foreign Direct Investment	PCC SEE	Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe
CoE	Council of Europe	EP	European Parliament	GDP	Gross Domestic Product	PES	Public Employment Services
COSAP	Conference of the European Integration Parliamentary Committees of States participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process	ERA	Europäische Rechtsakademie (Academy for European Law)	GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	ERI SEE	Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe	GIZ ORF	GIZ Open Regional Funds	RACVIAC	RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation
DG	Directorate-General	ERP	Economic Reform Program	ICT	Information and Communication Technologies	RAI	Regional Anticorruption Initiative
DPPI SEE	Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for Southeastern Europe	e-SEE	Electronic South Eastern Europe Initiative	ILO	International Labour Organization	RDC	Regional Dimension Coordinator
EADRCC	Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre	ESRP	Employment and Social Reform Program	INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization	REC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	ETF	European Training Foundation	IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance	ReSPA	Regional School of Public Administration
EC	European Commission	EU	European Union	JWGMRPQ	Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications	SAWG	Social Agenda 2020 Regional Working Group
ECOFIN	Economic and Financial Affairs Council	EURES	European Employment Services	MARRI	Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative	SEDM	Southeast European Defence Ministerial Process
ECS	Energy Community Secretariat	EUROJUST	European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit	MRA	Mutual Recognition Agreement	SEE	South East Europe
		EUROPOL	European Police Office	NALAS	Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe	SEE 2020	South East Europe 2020 Strategy: Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective
				NARIC	National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union	SEECCEL	South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning
				NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization	SEECPC	South-East European Cooperation Process



SEEC PA	South East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly	TEN-T	Trans-European Transport network
SEEDS	South East Europe Development Scoreboard	TFCS	RCC Task Force on Culture and Society
SEEHN	South-Eastern Europe Health Network	UN	United Nations
SEEIC	South East Europe Investment Committee	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
SEEJTN	South East Europe Judicial Training Network	UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
SEELS	South East European Law School Network	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
SEEMIC	South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
SEENSA	South East European National Security Authorities	WB	World Bank
SEEPAG	Southeast European Prosecutors Advisory Group	WBIF	Western Balkans Investment Framework
SEESAC	Southeastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons	WISE	Western Balkans Research and Innovation Centre
SEETO	South East Europe Transport Observatory	WTO	World Trade Organization
SELEC	Southeast European Law Enforcement Center		
SEPCA	Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association		
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise		
SWG RRD	Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe		
SWP	Strategic Work Program		



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