

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS of the
REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL FOR THE YEARS 2015 - 2016**

1. Basic act and/or Financing source

Title of Work Programme: "Support of the promotion and enhancement of the SEE 2020 Strategy"

2. Objectives of the programme, priorities for 2015 - 2016 and expected results

This Work Programme for grants of the Regional Cooperation Council covers the period 2015-2016 and relates to the RCC's strategic documents such as Strategy and Work programme 2014 – 2016 and the SEE 2020 Strategy. Its implementation is based on the RCC's Financial Management Manual, setting down the procedures for the financial provisions which apply to the RCC Secretariat in Sarajevo and Liaison Office in Brussels.

RCC Strategy and Work programme 2014 – 2016 aims to set down the sectorial priorities identified by RCC and reflecting the national and regional priorities, while the scope of SEE 2020 reflects the determination of all the governments in South East Europe to embrace the bold policy approaches required to attain the levels of socioeconomic growth necessary to improve the prosperity of all its citizens and to facilitate eventual integration with the European Union. Given this, the focus of the RCC's Work Programme flows from the overall objectives of the RCC, such as: *Stimulate promotion and enhancement of regional cooperation in South East Europe (SEE)*.

These are closely interrelated with thematic objectives derived from the SEE 2020 Strategy, which were considered during the establishment of the main areas for the Programme's intervention.

The Programme concentrates on three thematic priorities deriving from the above mentioned documents. These are, namely:

A. Promote and disseminate results achieved under SEE 2020 Strategy;

Objective(s): Raise awareness of SEE 2020 Strategy in the Western Balkan six.

Indicative activities:

- A.1 Supporting and organizing regional events to raise awareness of the objectives of the SEE 2020 Strategy
- A.2 Designing, producing and disseminating information materials (print, web-based) related to the SEE 2020 implementation
- A.3 Conducting awareness raising campaigns on the SEE 2020 or specific issues related to its implementation

B. Support direct implementation of SEE 2020 objectives;

Objective(s): Address specific technical assistance needs of the Regional Dimension Coordinators, government and other stakeholders involved in the SEE 2020 Strategy.

Indicative activities:

- B.1 Strengthening the capabilities of the regional dimension coordinators and governments in monitoring SEE 2020

- B.2 Providing better quality of data and analysis on topics related to trade, investment, education, innovation, infrastructure development, employment, health, governance and other social issues
- B.3 Designing and conducting a peer review process in some of the 16 policy areas covered by SEE 2020
- B.4 Strengthening capacities of the national administrations to cooperate with the EU relevant agencies
- B.5 Improving the regional dimension coordinators access to expertise in related topics relevant for the SEE2020 strategy
- B.6 Designing cross-sectoral solutions to engage different policy areas (such as trade, energy, environment, R&D)
- B.7 Developing unique research and analysis contributing to implementation of measures in any of the 16 dimensions of SEE 2020 Strategy

C. Support engagement of civil society organizations in monitoring and implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy;

Objective: Civil society engaged in monitoring of the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

Indicative activities:

- C.1 Promoting development of independent monitoring tools by civil society organizations to track progress being made in the implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy
- C.2 Promoting cooperation of civil society organizations and networks from different economies of the region, working on sectoral or topical issues related to SEE 2020 implementation

3. Eligibility conditions

Eligible applicants shall:

- be legal persons **and**
- be established in a country which belongs to the SEE region, a Member State of the European Union, an official candidate country of the European Union or a Member State of The European Economic Area. This obligation does not apply to international organisations **and**
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.

4. Selection and award criteria

Activities envisaged under this Work Programme will be implemented through grant scheme modalities based on open and restricted call for proposals methodology and direct grant award procedures as defined by RCC Financial Management Manual (FMM). The tables given in section 7 and 8 below, outlines the proposed distribution of funds per each Priority.

The evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in the RCC's FMM. Additionally, the circumstances under which it is not necessary to organise a call for proposals before awarding grants are also given in details under the RCC's FMM (aligned with PRAG rules), sections dedicated to Direct Grants Award procedure. In the case of grants awarded without call for proposals, an evaluation committee, although useful, is not compulsory.

5. Maximum rate of the RCC financing

The RCC's contribution has been calculated in relation to the eligible expenditure, which is based on the total expenditure, as agreed by the RCC Board (RCC Participants) and laid down in the FMM. The RCC's contribution is at the level of 90% of the eligible expenditure. The co-financing under thematic priorities 1-3 will be provided by the final grant beneficiaries and it can be from public and private funds. Final grant beneficiaries should contribute a minimum of 10% of the total eligible cost of the project.

6. Indicative time-schedule of calls for proposals

The Work Programme for Grants of the RCC (WPG) shall be implemented in two annual cycles, 2015 and 2016. During 2015, RCC envisions implementing the WPG through an open procedure, while in 2016 both open and restricted procedures are possible. For 2015, the following time schedule is envisioned: With regards to the concept note the Call for Proposals (CfP), the indicative time-table is as following:

- Deadline for submission of Concept Notes and Full Application Form: Mid of July 2015;
- Start of implementation: Beginning of August 2015.

The duration of the project proposal under this Call for Proposals is estimated to 5 months.

With regards to the Direct Grant Awards, the indicative deadline for Start of implementation is envisaged for the August 2015.

For 2016, the following time schedule is envisioned:

With regards to the concept note the Call for Proposals (CfP), the indicative time-table is as following:

- Deadline for submission of Concept Notes: 16 May 2016
- Information to the applicants on the results from the concept note evaluation and invitations to the successful applicants to submit the full applications: 23 May 2016
- Deadline for submission of Full Application Form: 20 June 2016
- Information to applicants on the evaluation of the Full Application Form and notification on award and request for administrative documents: 27 June 2016
- Start of implementation: 08 July 2016

The duration of the project proposal under this Call for Proposals is estimated to 6 months.

7. Indicative amount of calls for proposals for 2015

For the 2015, the allocation is as following:

The Call for proposals will be in the total amount of 100.000 EUR.

The Direct Grant Award will be in total value of 70.000 EUR.

Priority	CfP (in % points)	Direct Grant Award (in % points)	Total Funding (in % points)	Rate of RCC's Contribution (%)
Priority 1 - Promote and disseminate results achieved under SEE 2020 Strategy;	20	0	15	90
Priority 2 - Support direct	60	100	70	90

implementation of SEE 2020				
Priority 3 - Support engagement of civil society organizations in monitoring and implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy.	20	0	15	90
TOTAL	100	100	100	90

8. Indicative amount of calls for proposals for 2016

For the 2016, the allocation is as following:

The Call for proposals will be in the total amount of 300.000 EUR.

Priority	CfP (in % points)	Direct Grant Award (in % points)¹	Total Funding (in % points)	Rate of RCC's Contribution (%)
Priority 1 - Promote and disseminate results achieved under SEE 2020 Strategy;	20	0	15	90
Priority 2 - Support direct implementation of SEE 2020	60	0	70	90
Priority 3 - Support engagement of civil society organizations in monitoring and implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy.	20	0	15	90
TOTAL	100	0	100	90

¹ RCC will not implement the direct grant award in the year 2016.