

## **REGIONAL COOPERATION DAY**

**"End of a tough year, what will 2016 be like?"**

**Civil Society Forum**

**Sarajevo, 17-19<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Regional Cooperation Day was a successful and constructive meeting of the Regional Cooperation Council and representatives of the regional Civil Society Organisations, who mainly came from think-tanks that have a prevailing expertise on EU integration issues.

The organisations represented at the meeting already had a considerable impact on the EU integration process on the national but also regional level. They all support regional cooperation and networking.

The event considerably contributed to improving networking among the participants and they expressed a clear interest to play a part in establishing a database of CS organizations at the regional level, relevant for supporting RCC activities.

The structure of participants present at this meeting can be helpful to the RCC in different areas, for example by involving CSOs in the sectoral operations of the RCC. It can also contribute to effective preparatory work ahead of the next Western Balkan Summit to be held in Paris in June, 2016.

Representatives from different CSO's have exchanged views on contemporary global challenges, like the migration flow, and discussed about their recommendations to tackle with those challenges.

Given that in the mid-term enlargement strategy of the EU the EC has placed a strong emphasis on economic and social development and competitiveness to be facilitated by addressing "the fundamentals first", the civil society organizations express their willingness to contribute to these efforts in their full capacity.

Participants agreed that their role and impact needs to be communicated to inter-governmental structure of the RCC and to the public at large in a better way.



A special emphasis was given to the media in the region, their status, better networking and mutual support on a regional level. They were invited to give a greater focus on regional and EU affairs addressing the issues which affect the everyday life of citizens. The conclusions and recommendations of the working group on media are presented in an Annex to this document.

The Civil Society Organisations express their appreciation for RCC's invitation to continue the established consultative process.

