

REPORT

ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE

REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

For the period 15 October 2018 – 1 March 2019

**BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE REGIONAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL**

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

Sarajevo, March 2019

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The Report on the activities of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat is submitted by the RCC Secretary General to the RCC Board in line with Article 15 of the Statute of the RCC. It covers the period between 15 October 2018 and 1 March 2019.

1. Summary of activities

RCC Secretariat had in the reporting period continued with its mission to enhance regional cooperation and support Euro-Atlantic integration of South East Europe (SEE), through the implementation of its Strategy and Work Programme (SWP) 2017-2019 and of MAP REA – the Multi-annual Action Plan for establishing the Regional Economic Area. The period of October 2018-March 2019 was marked by building on the on-going progress in order to ensure that key deliverables will be reached in the coming year. The Secretariat has been working closely with regional economies, South East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) participants and European institutions to facilitate regional socio-economic development and support the delivery of the SEE2020 Strategy in real terms.

Following closely the strategic documents and work plans, progress was made across the pillars: in connectivity, mobility and competitiveness. In particular, the implementation of MAP REA has advanced toward the deliverables set to be achieved by the 2019 Poznan Summit of the Berlin Process. A draft Agreement is in the final stages of negotiations for the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Doctors of Medicine and Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers. Furthermore, steps forward have been taken in preparing the statement on Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications. Negotiations on the new Regional Roaming Agreement (RRA2) are equally in full swing, and should be concluded by Poznan, marking thus a crucial step toward the establishment of a Roam Like at Home regime in WB6. Finally, implementation of the Regional Investment Reform Agenda (RIRA) is progressing well with the development and adoption of individual Investment Reform Action Plans (IRAPs).

The closing of the reporting period likewise announced a new project, namely launching of the WE initiative, focused on the empowerment of women in the labour market. It has begun with the showcasing of the positive model of the first female cooperative in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The initiative, which will be built upon in the upcoming period, aims to ensure the inclusion of women in the labour market and to advance reconciliation through economic development.

In regard to the RCC's mandate to coordinate and oversee the overall implementation of MAP REA in fields of investment, mobility, and digital agenda, the positive momentum has been maintained. Regional dialogue has continued, as well as the discussion within MAP REA structures, facilitated by the RCC. Discussions with MAP REA Coordinators stressed that 2019 is a delivery year, therefore there is a need to further push forward the process. Moreover, milestones and targets for 2019 have been defined and a clear commitment from all MAP REA structures to demonstrate results and transform REA into a self-sustainable and fully regionally-owned area has been noted. The RCC continued the regular monitoring of MAP REA implementation and resumed communication with all interested parties within MAP REA structures and beyond (WB6 PM Sherpas' meeting, on 26 November 2018). In addition to the horizontal processes, the RCC actively contributed to the implementation of MAP within the skills and mobility, connectivity and competitiveness flagships.

The reporting period furthermore served to prepare the fifth SEE2020 Strategy monitoring cycle which was officially launched at the 7th meeting of the SEE2020 Monitoring Committee (18 December 2018, Vienna). The implementation of the present cycle of the Balkan Barometer 2019 was also effectively started with its data collection process. In the meantime, RCC held consultations with

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) beneficiaries and the relevant European Commission (EC) services to explore the benefits and the possibility of aligning SEE2020 Strategy programming process with IPA programming, with the aim to support IPA multi-country programming with coordinated contributions from the region.

In these and other activities, advancement of the regional agenda was ensured by maintaining regular communication and synergy between RCC, SEECP, various regional actors and regional initiatives. A prolific relationship and coordination with SEECP has been ensured through the upholding of RCC's statutory obligation of presenting to the Board a report of RCC's activities, as well as by working closely together with the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office.

Ms. Majlinda Bregu as the new Secretary General has begun the tour of political consultations with WB6 and other SEECP participants. The meetings serve to consolidate the RCC priorities in the run-up to Poznan Summit and provide an opportunity to outline the upcoming SWP 2020-2022, as well as to emphasise the crucial role of regional cooperation in reaching the common goal of socio-economic development and European integration. Moreover, by maintaining regular contact with the diplomatic corps and international and regional organisations, SG ensures that a close working relationship and coordination exist between RCC and all relevant stakeholders in the region.

2. Cooperation and coordination with partners and stakeholders

The activities of the RCC Secretariat for the period from 15 March to 15 October 2018 were presented to the Board at the 35th RCC Board meeting (18 October). The Board endorsed the Report and noted the progress made in the implementation of the SWP 2017-2019 and MAP REA, as well as the priorities and calendar of activities of the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office (C-i-O) of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It adopted the following decisions or reports: a) the Decision mandating the SEECP C-i-O to sign the Agreement on the Assumption of Duties with the new RCC Secretary General, Ms. Majlinda Bregu; b) the Decision on the dates of the RCC Board meetings in 2019; c) the Financial Report presented in the Audit Report for 2017; d) the Decision on the adoption of the RCC Secretariat budget for the year 2019; e) extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between RCC and GiZ.

The Board meeting was preceded by the 27th Coordination Meeting between SEECP Troika, RCC Secretariat and the EU (17 October), at which the SEECP C-i-O presented its priorities and planned activities. The focus which the SEECP C-i-O has placed on regional connectivity, summed in the motto Better Connectivity for a Better Life, aligns perfectly with RCC activities in relation to the implementation of the SWP 2017-2019 and MAP REA, namely with the integration of the region in terms of infrastructure, digitalisation, trade, investment, mobility, and security. The meeting reconfirmed the commitment of both the RCC and the C-i-O to work together closely and coordinate their activities.

Based on the decision of the 35th RCC Board meeting, Ms. Majlinda Bregu, incoming Secretary General, signed the contract on the assumption of duties with the Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Igor Crnadak, on behalf of SEECP C-i-O on 12 November 2018.

In the context of the SEECP Chairmanship, the Standing Committee of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly (PA) met in Sarajevo on 1 December 2018. The participants discussed the question of the Permanent Secretariat as well as the opportunities for a working synergy between the RCC and C-i-O of SEECP PA.

Political and sectoral activities of the RCC have been buttressed by active engagement with its partners and stakeholders. The Secretariat continued to maintain and enhance its close cooperation

with EU institutions, Brussels-based think tanks and foundations, as well as diplomatic missions abroad. These include European Commission (DG NEAR, DG JUST, DG CONNECT, DG GROW, DG TRADE, DG EMPL, DG RTD, JRC, EUROSTAT); European Parliament; Council of Europe; European Economic and Social Committee (EESC); European Policy Centre (EPC); Friends of Europe; European Foundation for Democracy; German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP); Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES); Konrad Adenauer Stiftung; Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI); Balkan Trafik; European Movement International; International Telecommunications Union (ITU); European Institute of Cultural Routes; World Bank Group; United States European Command; OECD; UNDP; UNICEF.

In line with established practice, RCC Secretary General briefed COWEB/COELA Capitals members on the situation in Western Balkans region and RCC activities on 22 November 2018.

The period was marked by very intensive consultations at expert level with DG NEAR and line DGs such as GROW, TRADE and others. Meetings with UNICEF representatives devoted to possible cooperation on youth matters and with EESC related to the co-organisation of the 7th Western Balkans Civil Society Forum were held. Active contacts to discuss future cooperation with a variety of think tanks – EPC, SWP, Friends of Europe, etc. – were continued.

In the context of its efforts to help maintain Brussels' interest in the Western Balkans, RCC co-organised together with Friends of Europe, European Commission, Konrad Adenauer, UNDP and United States European Command Western Balkans Summit 2018: Enlargement, integration and the challenge of transformation held in Brussels on 4 December 2018. Moreover, together with FES the RCC organised a Book presentation and Policy Debate: Towards Sustainable Economic Growth and Development in the Western Balkans on 30 January 2019, in Brussels. RCC Secretary General delivered a keynote speech at the event.

Following an invitation from the College of Europe, the Head of RCC LO took part in a panel debate: Regional cooperation, why does it matter and how to contribute to the process further?, held in Brussels on 20 February. The event was organised by the College in collaboration with the British Council in the framework of the EU-funded project EU Scheme for Young Professionals in the Western Balkans.

RCC Liaison Office (LO) in Brussels sustained its active role in this regard by holding meetings and organising events in order to regularly brief RCC's Brussels based partners and explore cooperation and coordination possibilities. The LO has thus met with representatives of FES, EESC and Balkan Trafik producers with a view of furthering cooperation and planning concrete joint events in the future. In regard to a wider-reaching audience, the Head of the Office presented the work of RCC at the EU Enlargement 2025 and Beyond event, jointly organised by the European Movement International and European Movement in Serbia in the European Parliament on 3 December 2018.

Finally, RCC LO representative participated in the CEFTA Steering Committee meeting and Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) 2018 Annual Conference and had regular meetings with NALAS representatives, continuing in this way to support the functioning of SEE2020 Regional Dimension Coordinators (RDCs) and to foster exchange and cooperation between actors involved in SEE2020 implementation.

Participation of the RCC Secretary General (SG) in the high-level events has likewise served to enhance visibility, raise awareness and support, and keep in the loop the key stakeholders regarding RCC activities. In the reporting period, the SG addressed the following such events: SEECF Troika Coordination meeting (17 October 2018, Sarajevo); RCC Board meeting (18 October 2018); World

Investment Forum (25 October 2018, Geneva); SEEMIC high-level meeting (7 November 2018, Tirana); CoE/EU Regional Conference (14 November 2018, Podgorica); Ministerial Meeting on Environment (21 November 2018, Skopje); COWEB Capitals meeting (22 November 2018, Brussels); Sherpas meeting (26 November 2018, Brussels); WB6 MFAs meeting (30 November 2018, Budva); 3rd Regional Coordination Conference for CT and P/CVE in SEE and 6th meeting of the RCC Group of NFPs for P/CVE in SEE (6-7 December 2018, Istanbul); 16th Vienna Conference: Shaping the Future (29 January 2019, Vienna); Social Enterprises – Toward an Inclusive Policy and Practice Conference (1 February 2019, Brussels); Munich Security Conference (15-17 February 2019, Munich); meeting with Commissioner Gabriel and WB6 ICT Ministers (18 February 2019, Skopje).

Ms. Majlinda Bregu assumed her role as the new Secretary General of the RCC on 1 January 2019. She has so far concluded a tour of consultative meetings in WB6, to be followed by meetings with SEECF participants in the upcoming period. Consultations were held in Pristina (18 January), Skopje (21-22 January), Tirana (25 and 28 January), Belgrade (4-5 February) and Podgorica (21-22 February), as well as in Sarajevo, with representatives of the institutions of Bosnia and Hercegovina and with the locally-based diplomatic corps. Moreover, Ms. Bregu met with representatives of European institutions (EC, EEAS), and representatives of regional and financial institutions – GiZ, Centre of Excellence in Finance (CEF), RAI and World Bank.

Implementing SEE 2020 Strategy through Flagship Approach

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

During the reporting period, the RCC activities were focused on three fronts: 1) resuming the process of facilitating recognition of academic qualifications; 2) preparing the ground work and starting the first round of negotiations on professional qualifications; and 3) supporting peer learning on mapping research infrastructure in the WB6 as one of the MAP REA measures within Mobility of researchers component.

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

On the topic of academic qualifications RCC organised the 4th meeting of the Working Group on Recognition of Academic Qualifications held on 13th December 2018 in Sarajevo. The meeting followed up on the exercise on selected cases for the joint academic recognition and agreed on the next steps/timeline of implementation; discussed further steps to be taken in 2019 regarding the preparation of the statement on academic recognition in Western Balkans for the next summit in Poland. Furthermore, the beta version of the Joint Information System was presented, which will facilitate the recognition of academic qualifications in the region and is expected to be up and running in 2019. The meeting was attended by representatives of ministries responsible for higher education, ENIC/NARIC offices and quality assurance bodies of WB6.

A.1.2. Removal of obstacles to mobility of professionals: mutual recognition of professional qualifications

With regards to removing obstacles to recognition of professional qualifications, a training of the Lead Negotiators was organised on 13-14 November in Tirana, where the negotiation teams were brought up to speed on the concept and system of recognition of professional qualifications and implications for the legal system as well as changes in curricula and the education system. After this second preparatory meeting (the first had taken place on 8 October in Brussels), the 1st negotiations

meeting ensued on 20-21 of December in Podgorica where the rules of procedure for conducting negotiations were presented and agreed, and the Draft Agreement on Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Doctors of Medicine and Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers was put for negotiations. In this regard the negotiation teams were given the opportunity to formally present their position and initial formal comments on all of the aspects of the Draft Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications between WB6. It is expected that by Poznan Summit in the summer of 2019 the negotiations would be finalised whereby formal signing of Mutual Recognition Agreement of Professional Qualifications for Doctors of Medicine and Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers will take place.

In line with the agreed negotiations dynamics, the 2nd and the 3rd negotiations meetings took place in January and February in Skopje and Brussels respectively. The negotiations are in a very sensitive stage where a number of technical issues needs to be thoroughly discussed and agreed. However, completion of negotiations is expected by the beginning of June 2019 in time to deliver the Agreement for signature by the Prime Ministers in early July in Poland.

A.1.3. Removal of obstacles to mobility of researchers

On the third component of mobility the RCC, jointly with DG Joint Research Centre (JRC) and EU4TECH project, organised a workshop on Research Infrastructures and Contract Research, which took place on 30 October 2018 in Sarajevo. The aim of the meeting was to support peer learning on mapping research infrastructure in the WB6 (methodology, analytics, outcomes); transfer emerging good practices from those economies which have undertaken this exercise; discuss potential WB6 mapping of Research Infrastructure (RI) and support exchange of experience on Open Access Policies and Protocols to Research Infrastructures. WB6 economies reported on the current state of affairs with regard to their RI mapping process with RCC offering modest support (expertise, peer learning) in this process. Mapping of existing research infrastructures in the region is one of the MAP REA measures which aims to ensure transparent and available information to researchers interested to cooperate with and in the Western Balkans and to identify existing gaps.

Open Science Working Group took place end of January in Brussels back-to-back with the Meeting of the EU Member States Expert Group on National Points of Reference on Access to and Preservation of Scientific Information to which the WB6 economies were invited for the fourth time. Progress in initiating Open Science policies in the WB6 was noted by the DG Research and Innovation (RTD) and the WB6 were invited to participate for the second time in the regular EU reporting on Open Science on an equal footing as the EU Member States.

The Employment and Social Affairs Platform (ESAP) - part of the Inclusive Growth pillar of the SEE2020 Strategy and integrated within the Skills and Mobility flagship – has been in implementation for three years since it commenced on 1 March 2016. The overall objective of ESAP is to support the WB6 economies in labour market, employment and social policy reforms aimed at increasing employment opportunities for all across the region. Given that the planned three-year duration of the project has concluded, and that the project is up for a renewal this year, this report will exceptionally cover the overall activities and achievements of ESAP.

Main results achieved by ESAP since its launch are:

- Implementation of an effective, gender-sensitive monitoring system which tracks key indicators on transition of unemployed into employment and enables Public Employment Services (PES) to design more effective, targeted services for unemployed;

- Implementation of 6 self-assessment exercises and 6 regional external assessment visits have provided a comprehensive and in-depth picture of 21 performance areas of PES work with a focus on the strengths, weaknesses, good practices and recommendations for further action. These assessments resulted in:
 - Targeted recommendations to each PES on how to enhance their performance, including in the area of development and provision of better targeted, socially inclusive and gender sensitive policies, measures and services;
 - Joint Regional Roadmap on Management by Objectives coupled with on-hands trainings aimed at the process of implementation of management by objectives principles and tools into the Western Balkan PES management practices;
 - Joint Guidelines for the development of local employment plans coupled with on-hands training aimed at supporting the development of targeted, socially inclusive and gender sensitive local employment plans.
- Due to the unique experience of implementing the EU PES bench-learning exercise outside of the EU, the WB PES Directors were officially invited for the first time to participate in the EU PES Directors meeting on 7-8 June 2018 under the Bulgarian Presidency of the European Union. The Western Balkan PES offices presented their experience with the implementation of the bench-learning initiative and discussed joint activities as a follow up to the recommendations stemming from the exercise.
- To support further the EU accession, regional EURES readiness analysis has been conducted in order to assess the current level of compatibility of Western Balkan PES offices with EURES requirements. The analysis resulted in a national roadmap detailing a step-by-step set of recommendations to ensure alignment with EURES requirements.

Ministries of Labour and Public Employment Services of the Western Balkans have engaged for the first time in a regional exchange of good practices on key employment programmes and measures through the implementation of a peer review process. The peer reviews focused on youth employment, employment of persons with disabilities, self-employment, local employment partnerships, internships and on-the-job training. The reviews resulted in:

- An analytical overview of the selected programmes in terms of strengths, good practices and areas for improvement in each economy.
- Increased openness and trust among officials of Ministries of Labour and Public Employment Services in the region to engage in a frank and direct exchange.
- Recommendations on improving the design, implementation and monitoring of the selected employment programmes and measures produced and their implementation to be supported through ESAP technical assistance and monitored through the ESAP platform.

The technical assistance instrument was largely deployed by WB6 participants (20 times) to provide demand driven, targeted national support and has been utilized by beneficiaries to assist national authorities in furthering their national employment and social reform agenda. These included support to public consultations on the Employment and Social Reform Programme and a learning exchange on sector budget support on employment in Skopje, the organization of a tripartite working group meeting on the labour code reform in Montenegro, supporting the establishment of an integrated information system in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, a legal analysis of vocational training centres and a measurement of the employment impact of their programmes in

Kosovo*, structural and functional review of the Vocational Training Centres and the development of a communication platform for the Public Employment Service of Albania, etc. Some of the deliverables of the projects are:

- A comparative report on performance management in public employment offices in the Western Balkans, 2016,
- A regional analysis of employment and social measures in the Western Balkans, 2017,
- An analysis of employment and social data sources in the Western Balkan region, 2017,
- Forecasting employment patterns in the Western Balkans, 2017,
- Western Balkans labour market analysis, 2010 – 2016, 2017,
- Regional analyses on undeclared work, 2018.

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

A.2.1 Digital integration agenda

The Western Balkan Leaders endorsed the Statement of Support for the Western Balkan Digital Agenda at the Sofia Summit and shaped the regional agenda in many areas, in particular those related to roaming, digital transformation of WB6 and e-Government. RCC activities in the reporting period were concentrated on formulating new tangible and concrete deliverables, transforming commitments under digital integration agenda into concrete activities and in close cooperation with the Western Balkan Governments and European Commission translate them into regional actions, in particular those related to roaming, e-government and trust and security.

In the reporting period the focus of RCC activities was on advancing the implementation of key deliverables for 2019 in the digital integration, namely concluding a new Regional Roaming Agreement (RRA2) for the benefit of all end-users in the WB6 and successful organisation of the Digital Summit (DS) 2019 in Belgrade. Various activities have been carried out to fulfil these objectives, mainly through regular regional meetings with defined scope and outcome.

To this end, negotiations on RRA2 have been launched and progress has been noted. RCC has facilitated the process through the organisation of four regional meetings (6 November 2018 and 13 December 2018, and 24 January and 8 February 2019, all in Brussels) and supported the technical discussions in close coordination and cooperation with DG CONNECT. Representatives of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Ministries and Telecommunications Regulators from the WB economies have reviewed the new draft of RRA2 with the ultimate goal of concluding it in time to allow signing during the DS 2019. Important advancement on the key principles and objectives set forth in the draft RRA2 have been widely agreed, aimed toward the introduction of the Roam Like At Home (RLAH) regime in the Western Balkan region within a defined transitional period. All technical details are agreed among ministries and regulatory authorities, while the successful implementation of this deliverable, being an integral part of MAP REA and the Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans, is fully in line with political commitment of the WB6 Leaders and the Statement of Support they endorsed in the context of Sofia Summit.

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

Preparations of the WB DS 2019 have progressed and concrete steps have been undertaken in close cooperation with the Host. The ultimate goal for WB6 is to maintain a permanent high-level dialogue on digital transformation of the region and to engage in concrete regional initiatives. To this end, three meetings of the DS Steering Committee (SC) have been organised (29 October and 14 December 2018 in Belgrade and Berlin, and 19 February 2019 in Belgrade) aimed at advancing with the preparations for the DS 2019. Coordinated by the RCC, WB Governments and other partners developed the full concept of the event and agreed on draft Agenda which has been published and circulated among all invited partners. The Digital Summit is planned to be held on 4 and 5 April 2019, at ministerial level reconfirming the commitment of WB6 to work on the digital transformation of the region and maintain a permanent regional dialogue at the highest level. RCC will continue to support the preparation of the WB DS 2019, facilitate the organisation of the Steering Committee, support the Host financially and ensure regional media coverage. In addition, RCC will prepare a short user-friendly report with key developments between the Summits covering the main achievements at regional and economy level.

RCC continued to facilitate regional cooperation in the area of cybersecurity, with two dedicated meetings of the WB6 Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) (10 October 2018, Skopje and 27 November 2018, Limassol) aimed at peer-to-peer learning, sharing information and knowledge and discussing the information exchange tools for cyber threats, gaining experience from EU MS CSIRTs invited to present best practices, etc. In addition, RCC continued to support the capacity building initiatives facilitating participation in cyber drills. RCC partnered with ITU and Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) to enable the participation of WB6 CSIRTs in the ITU Cyber Drill (26-30 November 2018, Limassol, Cyprus). RCC intends to continue engaging in activities that aim at increasing the capacities of WB6 CSIRTs and also expose them to the activities and work of other organisations, in particular the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA).

RCC Grant Work Programme 2017-2019 was dedicated to activities and initiatives related to MAP REA implementation. In this context, a regional study on Improving Digital Skills in WB6 was developed and finalised in December. The report provides an analysis of digital skills in the WB6 focusing on three target groups: citizens, labour force and ICT professionals. It also offers regional recommendations and potential regional initiatives that may be of added value for future work related to digital skills.

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

Activities designed to support implementation of actions stemming from Bonn Ministerial Declaration continued in the reporting period. Series of consultations and common activities with partners in the environment have continued in the last quarter of the year focusing on coordinated implementation of projects of regional importance as well as networking with numerous partners active in the area.

As foreseen by Bonn Ministerial Declaration, WB ministers in charge of environment met in Skopje under the framework of the Regional Working Group on Environment (RWG Env) to discuss main achievements in the implementation of regional activities and environmental challenges for the future. During this ministerial meeting ministers agreed to continue mutual efforts in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and welcomed the two upcoming regional projects financed by the EC. In the adopted Declaration WB ministers committed themselves to meet in one year to assess progress on cooperation. The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of

North Macedonia handed over the co-chairmanship to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania which will, in cooperation with RCC, host the meetings planned for 2019.

In October 2018 the Biodiversity Task Force (BD TF) and partners organised a preparatory meeting to discuss and verify data related to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and formulate recommendations for the high-level segment of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CoP14). As a result of a long process of preparation and in cooperation with GiZ Open Regional Fund (GiZ ORF) for Biodiversity and IUCN ECARO¹ which acts as BD TF Secretariat, the Western Balkans participated at BD CoP for the first time. During the Conference held in November 2018 in Egypt, the delegation of the BD TF representatives held the official presentation of Aichi target poster. In cooperation with the South African Development Community (SADC), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Commission also hosted a side event at the margins of the CoP14. In the reporting period RCC prepared a new Terms of Reference for the BD TF which was endorsed by the RWG Env extending the mandate of the BD TF by the end of 2020. BD TF continued to work on the implementation of the Biodiversity Work Plan which identifies priorities in the area of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In February 2019 the BD TF Secretariat officially approached the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Secretariat requesting accreditation of the BD TF which will enable its participation at future meetings and contribution to IPBES activities.

Two projects developed under the SEE2020 Strategy (water-food-energy Nexus and ClimaProof) continued with the successful implementation in the reporting period. Coordination and regional ownership of these projects is ensured through Bonn Ministerial Declaration, while coordination role is played by the RWG Env. Second Regional Roundtable on The path towards Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems Nexus in South East Europe took place on 24 October in Skopje. In the reporting period Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP Med) developed Nexus Regional Mapping Study and six Nexus Economies Reports. Following the conclusions from the 7th RWG Env meeting, its participants selected Albania as an economy where Nexus Policy Dialog will be piloted. ClimaProof project continued its activities related to optimisation and bias correction of the high-resolution climate change projections software. The project also finalised the gap assessment on the inclusion of climate change related risks for road infrastructure in adaptation policies and Energy Information Administration (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) regulations in the WB economies. UN Environment also prepared training modules based on climate proofing measures on effective response to climate change related risks, including those in green infrastructure.

In the reporting period RCC also joined forces with the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) and became a member of the Consultation Group which will be in charge of steering SPIDERWEB project. The Project which will last until the end of 2019 is designed to support WB region in the implementation and enforcement of environmental law focusing on nature protection and waste management.

A.3. The Competitiveness flagship activities in the reporting period were focused on development and adoption of individual economies' Investment Reform Action Plans (IRAPs) within the context of implementation of the Regional Investment Reform Agenda (RIRA) and development of the regional platform for financial markets. Both activities are defined within the Investment component of the MAP REA and Integrated Growth and Sustainable Growth pillars of the SEE 2020 Strategy, respectively. Sectoral activities were focused on further implementation of the Triple P Tourism project.

¹ International Union for Conservation of Nature, Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

A.3.1. Investment integration

The RCC, in cooperation with the World Bank Group, focused its activities on development of IRAPs where the concrete policy areas for reforms for each participating economy were defined, so as to ensure that national priorities are properly addressed within the investment agenda implementation plan. During two rounds of national consultations on IRAPs that the RCC organised jointly with Investment Component Contact Points in each economy, all relevant stakeholders from the government institutions involved in implementation of Regional Investment Reform Agenda were invited and consulted on IRAPs, including the representatives from the private/civil sector and academia. The WB6 economies have finalised IRAPs during the reporting period, with most of them entering IRAPs into government procedures for official adoption before the New Year holiday season, which was confirmed at the meeting of the South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC)-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments (JWGI). JWGI has also set the timeline and next steps in implementation and future monitoring/impact assessment of planned reforms under IRAPs. As of 2019, the following economies have officially endorsed IRAPs: the Republic of North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania; in Kosovo* IRAPs has passed public and intra-governmental consultations and is being sent to the Government for final adoption, while in Serbia and Montenegro, IRAPs adoption is still pending.

Furthermore, the proposal for the joint regional programme in investment promotion has been prepared, including the tailor-made programme for regional investor outreach and capacity building for participating investment promotion agencies (IPAs). Given that reform of International Investment Agreements (IIAs) has progressed in terms of regional coordination, and showed to be the most advanced policy of RIRA, the JWGI has reviewed the practice of Bosnia and Herzegovina in preparing the recommendations for reform of the Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) in line with the intra-EU BITs, and discussed the possibilities of developing and applying similar recommendations for the rest of the region, with an intention to elaborate more on this topic during dedicated workshops in 2019. Continuing with its usual practice of involving all relevant stakeholders responsible for investment agenda, particularly the private sector, RCC gathered the regional network of Foreign Investor Council's (FIC) CEOs and took their experiences and obstacles identified within the FIC White Books. The rationale for this is that since MAP actions are designed to help the private sector reap the economies of scale, WB market and private sector must be voiced in it. Besides recommendations already stipulated under RIRA, private sector voiced that more decisive reforms are needed in terms of fighting shadow economy in the Western Balkans. The civil society was involved in the process as well, namely through the implementation of Invigorating Civil Society–Government Policy Dialogue on RIRA project, supported by the RCC Small Grants Facility and implemented by the Center for Research and Policy Making from Skopje. This project contributed to a more inclusive approach in the implementation of RIRA by engaging civil society, national authorities and the business community in the investment policy dialogue in the Western Balkans.

In further support to financial sector of the region, the RCC continued building on the achievements of the newly established Working Group (WG) on Financial Markets and proposed regional multiannual action programme with a focus on development and implementation of the regional strategy on capital markets development. The RCC proposed to further coordinate holistic approach towards unlocking the benefits of broader financial sector diversification for boosting growth, jobs and economic convergence, including other players in this field in addition to the capital markets, such as insurance funds, investment funds, pension funds, venture capital, and others. This idea was supported by the WG on Capital Markets, along with the decision to transform this regional platform into WG on Financial Markets and involve other relevant stakeholders from this sector, both in terms of authorities (lawmakers) and regulators, and operators. The platform agreed to further work on

diagnostics of main challenges to financial sector development, preparing adequate measures for addressing those challenges, and implementation of agreed measures through the RCC's coordinating mechanism (WG on Financial Markets) including the region's relevant authorities and other stakeholders and partners (such as World Bank). In order to hold the momentum of the progress made on capital markets, the platform started considering proposing concrete reforms to the capital markets legislation and introduction of Markets in Financial Instruments Directive of the EU (MiFID) and to include these reform proposals as one of deliverables for the Poznan Summit, along with a programme on overall regional financial markets deepening.

A.3.2. Industrial Development

Industrial development efforts were mostly focused on sectoral support, whereas the work on linking industrial development with smart specialisation and industrial reforms in general has been moved to 2019, due to budgetary constraints and most of the funds being dedicated to the investment agenda. In support to the strategic sectors, the RCC continued with the implementation of the Triple P Tourism project, financed by the EU. The project actions are designed and implemented in line with the endorsements of the Tourism Expert Group (TEG) comprising of nominated representatives from all WB6 economies.

The product development efforts are ongoing for all 4 selected regional routes/themes. For regional cultural tourism routes three themes are pursued. The archaeological heritage of the Roman period is addressed in cooperation with the certified European Cultural Route of Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route with the goal of expanding the route in the region and developing sub-routes that will include archaeological sites in the Western Balkans economies. For this purpose, in coordination with the TEG and relevant cultural heritage institutions, the List of Candidate Archaeological Sites has been established that will undergo detailed review and assessment of their readiness to be included in the route itself. For the joint regional identity under the Crossroads of Civilizations the framework concept was developed that included the analysis and development of historical and civilizational justification and linking sites and locations across the region under the main storytelling themes. The Art and Design of the World War II Monuments route's concept has been fully developed including the main route itineraries that connect the total of 38 sites and locations across the WB6. The sites were selected against the criteria that assessed their artistic value, accessibility for visitors, existence of management responsibilities, and closeness to other existing tourist paths and facilities. The 8th TEG meeting held on 6-7 December provided full endorsement for the developed concepts and initiated regional coordination for development of Via Dinarica coordination and management structures.

The promotional efforts for the regional adventure travel routes of Via Dinarica (hiking) and Trans Dinarica (mountain biking) were launched through the Western Balkans Powered by RCC participation and presentation at the Adventure Travel World Summit (ATWS) the leading event of adventure travel calendar that was held in Montecatini Terme in Italy (15-18 October 2018). This included the joint regional stand, as well as full utilisation of the Destination Showcase platform and promotion of the Western Balkans as the adventure travel destination through the Adventure in Motion partnership. The promotional efforts were further supported through publication of a specialised regional Via Dinarica feature in the Travel Trends magazine, as well as assistance provided for publication of: i) article on Lukomir village (Bosnia and Herzegovina) in National Geographic Traveler (US edition); ii) a story on Novi Sad (Serbia) and inclusion of Novi Sad in the Lonely Planet Best in Europe destinations; iii) inclusion of Montenegro and the Republic of North Macedonia in the National Geographic Traveler Trips for 2019; and iv) Via Dinarica inclusion in the Make Change business magazine.

The first Call for Proposals: Support to the implementation of the RCC Triple-P Tourism in SEE: Promotion, Policy, and Pilots Grants Work Programme was completed. Following the receipt of the total of 221 concept note applications, out of which 97 applications had met the deadline and administrative requirements, and 37 applicants had been invited to submit their full applications, the Triple P tourism project received the total for 33 full applications and awarded grants to 12 of them in the total amount of 548,173 EUR. The award ceremony was held on 9 November 2018 and the implementation of the awarded grants started immediately. The 12 grants are distributed across the region from the perspective of the grant implementing agents and from the aspect of the actions and activities implemented.

RCC Triple P tourism project partnered up with OECD for an analysis of the current tourism policy needs for the WB6. Combining the findings from the project administered policy survey and the focus group inputs with the key OECD studies (Fostering Tourism Competitiveness in South East Europe – Policy Handbook, Competitiveness in South East Europe – Policy Outlook 2018, and OECD Tourism Trends and Policies 2018) key needs were identified, from which the 8th TEG meeting selected three policy areas to focus the regional effort on, those being: ease of border crossing to include but not be limited to improvements of visa regime; statistics, including data collection and analysis; and workforce skills and mobility.

To facilitate that the products developed under the RCC Triple P tourism project meet the latest trends and practices in cultural and natural heritage valorisation and are developed in a form that would allow their effective entry to European markets once ready, the Triple P tourism project has established close cooperation with the European Institute of Cultural Routes (Council of Europe) and its Routes4U project. The Triple P tourism project was successfully presented at the Routes4U event of the Danube Regional Meeting (6 November 2018, Bucharest, Romania), European Cultural Tourism Network's (ECTN) 11th International Conference of ECTN (25-27 October 2018, Pafos, Cyprus) as well as through active participation at EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) and EU Strategy for the Danubian Region (EUSDR) meetings.

Special note: The agenda of the South East Europe Investment Committee, regional platform comprised of Ministers of Economy of the WB6 in charge of the competitiveness flagship, has become heterogeneous, including investments, finance, industry and particular industrial sectors. Therefore, this regional platform initiated discussion on its transformation so as to ensure active participation on high-level of the line ministers of the WB6 region in charge of all these components, in addition to the ministers of economies, and committed to form a concrete proposal for its re-designed format during 2019.

B. Governance, Rule of Law and Security Cooperation

B.1 Public Administration Reform

As a follow-up to previous activities, in October 2018 ReSPA and RCC jointly organised a Peer-Mission on Public Participation in Pristina. The aim was to raise awareness on the Western Balkans Recommendation on Public Participation study, jointly prepared by RCC and ReSPA in 2017. This regional event brought together public servants in charge of co-ordinating public consultations in various ministries in Pristina to discuss with peers from the Republic of North Macedonia, Albania,

Montenegro and with external experts on how to improve public participation in policy making and legislative processes.

The Report was discussed by the participants of the event, and key challenges for improving public participation were addressed. The discussion was followed by three workshops led by the RCC Consultant. Participants showed interest in continuation of this process in cooperation with RCC and ReSPA.

B.2. Rule of Law / Justice Reforms

The measures undertaken in the field of Justice during the period from January to September 2018 opened the way for the activities implemented during the reporting period.

RCC was engaged in consultations with CoE Commission for efficiency of justice (CEPEJ) and Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) regarding future cooperation and preparing the agenda for the Rule of Law at the Heart of Enlargement Process Conference and the 3rd Meeting of SEE Judicial Training Institutions platform (created by the RCC) held on 21-22 November 2018 in Zagreb. The Conference was attended by the Secretary General of European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), representatives of CoE, South East European Law Schools (SEELS), law professors and GiZ ORF LG who provided information about cooperation with RCC and proposed activities to improve it in the area of justice.

RCC's consultant presented the first draft of the study and recommendations on developing common standards in the area of judicial training in WB. The project results and training materials would improve the quality of study visits and exchange of experiences of judges and prosecutors. This document will also serve as a basis for improved cross-border cooperation and for building confidence and mutual trust among the judiciaries.

The 11th Meeting of WB6 Working Group on Justice was organised by the RCC on 22 November back-to-back with the Conference. The participants discussed and evaluated past activities and agreed on the future activities in the area of justice. WB Working Group on Justice (WGJ) perceived regional cooperation initiated and supported by the RCC to be very important in fulfilling benchmarks related to Chapter 23 and 24 of accession negotiations. WB WGJ asked and authorised the RCC to present the proposals and conclusions agreed at its meetings at the meetings with EC representatives.

GiZ Open Regional Fund – Legal Reforms (GiZ ORF-LR) in cooperation with the RCC in the sub-project 'Improving the Regional Cooperation between Western Balkans' Judicial Training Institutions', developed a regional database of legal experts in European law to be finalised and hosted by the RCC in January 2019.

Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the EC (TAIEX) organised a regional workshop for judges and prosecutors on judicial ethics based on RCC's proposal and concept note, hosted by Judicial Training Centre in Podgorica in January 2019.

RCC initiated preparation of a regional seminar for judges and prosecutors on gender equality which will be organised by Council of Europe - HELP in April 2019.

B.3 Anti-corruption

The RCC, in cooperation with Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) and Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption (APIK), organised the 2nd Training on Corruption Risk Assessment in health care institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 19 October 2018 in Mostar. The aim of the training was to strengthen capacities of health care institutions and to identify healthcare-related corruption risks in order to carry out self-assessment effectively and develop their integrity plans.

B.4. Security cooperation

The RCC Secretariat has continued with the implementation of the Regional CVE-FTF Platform and support to existing specialised regional security cooperation formats in SEE.

The 10th South East European Military Intelligence Chiefs forum (SEEMIC) at the Directors' level took place on 7 November 2018 in Tirana. The Open-source Intelligence Assessment (OSINT) dedicated to Challenges to critical infrastructure cyber security in South East Europe was adopted. The OSINT report addresses the issues of cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure, public-private partnership in cybersecurity infrastructure, regional and international nature of cybersecurity, and even more importantly, cybersecurity challenges to military infrastructure as well as the human factor in cybersecurity. It has been agreed that Slovenia will host the SEEMIC in 2019 and Turkey in 2020.

The Third Regional Coordination Conference for Counter-Terrorism (CT) and Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) in South East Europe was organised by the RCC in cooperation with the Government and the Ministry of Interior of Turkey, together with the Integrative Internal Security Governance Initiative (IISG), on 6 December 2018 in Istanbul. The conference was a follow-up of the second Regional CT and P/CVE Coordination Conference, held in Slovenia last year, and gathered representatives of national governments, international and regional organisations and initiatives active in the area of counterterrorism, prevention and countering violent extremism in South East Europe, discussing enhancement of cooperation and coordination of CT and P/CVE programmes and activities in this region.

The Conference focused on regional coherence in addressing prevailing challenges in P/CVE area, cybersecurity and online radicalization and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) control. The RCC has presented a recently commissioned study on cyber security and online radicalization in the Western Balkans. The Study, titled *A New Virtual Battlefield - How to prevent online radicalization in the cyber security realm of the Western Balkans?*, provided a comprehensive overview and analysis of the situation regarding cyber security and online radicalization in WB6 and offered recommendations for enhancement in this field. The participants also discussed sustainable solutions to prevent the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW in the context of the overall CT resilience.

The 6th Meeting of the National Focal Point Group for Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism was held back-to-back with the Conference. The meeting was focused on the most pressing issues in P/CVE area: prevention of local (including online) radicalization; development and implementation of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and challenges in the process of implementation of a whole-of-society approach and cooperation with stakeholders outside law enforcement area. Overall, both the Conference and the 6th meeting of the NFP Group were effective, result-oriented and represented an important step closer in ensuring coherent CT and P/CVE action in the region.

RCC activities in the area of security cooperation were presented by the Head of RCC LO to Brussels audience at the event *Key Drivers of Radicalization – Perspectives from the Balkans, the Arabian Gulf*

and Belgium, organised in the European Parliament by the European Foundation for Democracy and TRENDS Research & Advisory.

C. Horizontal and supporting activities

C.1. Coordination, monitoring, programming

C.1.1 Programming activities

During the reporting period, RCC started discussions with the EC on the proposal for the RCC to provide support to the IPA multi-country (MC) programming process. After initial consultations with DG NEAR, the RCC drafted the initial concept note and presented it at the IPA MC Coordination meeting in Brussels. The concept note presents a proposal on how to align the SEE2020 Programming process with the IPA MC programming so as to enable that the regionally agreed measures in support of the implementation of EU priorities, as laid out in the Enlargement Strategy, may be taken into consideration by the EC during IPA MC programming. The proposal included the following: organisation of broad national and regional consultations to gather inputs for the potential concepts for the SEE2020 annual programming process; advisory and expert assistance in developing the proposals (PPF-type of assistance); preparation of mature and viable concepts; preparation of a list of mature and regionally endorsed and validated proposals to be considered by the EC as potential inputs to IPA MC 2020, or post-2020 programme. The cycle would conclude with inputs for the annual Donor Coordination meeting. The first cycle would serve as a test, the results of which would serve to take informed decisions on possible follow-up in the coming years. To this purpose, the RCC held in-depth consultations with the EC in December. At present, the concept note is being discussed with the IPA beneficiaries. Next possible steps would be the finalisation of the concept and possibly agreement on the potential time to kick-start the programming process.

C.1.2. Monitoring activities

The reporting period marked the official launch of the 2019 monitoring cycle. As in previous years, the 2019 monitoring cycle includes collection, analysis and reporting of statistical data, gathering inputs and reporting on activities from the active regional actors working in different fields, as well as measuring the business and public perceptions through the Balkan Barometer Survey.

With regard to Balkan Barometer, the contractor agreed with RCC on the list of questions and other aspects of the survey, and started field work by conducting interviews for both the public and the business barometer parts of the survey. The results of the study are expected to be finalised in May 2019.

In the meantime, RCC kick started the fifth SEE2020 Strategy monitoring cycle, with the 7th meeting of the SEE2020 Monitoring Committee held in Vienna on 19 December 2018. The meeting was preceded by thorough analysis within RCC, with conclusions and lessons learned from the previous monitoring cycle. The results of this analysis were fed into the Monitoring Committee meeting and helped to take informed decision on the upcoming monitoring cycle. The main outcome of the December SEE2020 Strategy Monitoring Committee meeting was the agreement of all beneficiaries on the scope and timeframe of the new cycle, including clarification on definition of certain indicators, data collection methodologies, roles and responsibilities of the several actors involved in data collection, etc.

The SEE2020 Strategy Monitoring Committee was attended also by representatives of EUROSTAT and OECD, who contributed to the discussions and the decision making. This meeting was held back-to-back with the 2nd workshop on supporting the SEE2020 Strategy process of data collection, organised by EUROSTAT, on 18-19 December 2018.

C.1.3. Coordination activities, grants

The RCC finalised the last (4th) Call for Proposals (CfP) from the RCC grant facility in the total amount of (approx.) 80,000 EUR. The specific objective of the 4th CfP was to support the implementation of MAP REA. The 4th CfP financed three projects on supporting the following: enhancing public-private dialogue (PPD) for reducing trade barriers between CEFTA parties; invigorating Civil Society–Government Policy Dialogue on RIRA; and supporting the Regional Approach for Improving Digital Skills in WB6.

C.1.4. Horizontal activities related to the MAP REA

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

On 26 November, PM Sherpas' meeting was held, which further validated the identification and formulation of the 2019 key deliverables, introduced and agreed at the third MAP REA Coordinators meeting (9 October, Brussels). The RCC has facilitated and coordinated the process of identification and formulation of the 2019 key deliverables: concluding and signing the Regional Roaming Agreement covering all end-users in WB6 by the upcoming Digital Summit; concluding negotiations on MRA on professional qualifications in time to allow signing at Poznan Summit; and concluding negotiations on the model for recognition of academic qualifications in time to allow signing at Poznan Summit.

Tasked with the overall coordination and monitoring of the MAP REA, the RCC finalised the Abridged Report on MAP REA implementation, presenting key developments during July–December 2018, capturing progress and highlighting the most important milestones. The report has been validated by the WB6 and published end of December 2018.

RCC has continued to maintain regular reporting to MAP structures and WB Prime Ministers' representatives. On this note, at the Sherpa's meeting held on 26 November 2018, RCC presented progress made at the regional level, steps and challenges connected with the implementation of the key deliverables for 2019, in particular those due by the next WB6 Prime Ministers Summit. Moreover, progress at each economy level based on the letters of Commissioner Hahn sent to WB6 on priority measures relevant to MAP REA were presented.

On the **Roma Integration 2020 project**, under the RCC framework, the Roma Integration 2020 Action Team organised two regional conferences. The first one on the topic of *Economic (In)Dependence of Romani Women: Challenges and Early Causes* on 31 October and 1 November 2018 was co-organised with the Government of Serbia, and gathered around 100 participants. Guests and panellists included the enlargement region governments' representatives who work on gender related issues and relevant actors from international and civil society organisations. Actual data about Romani women employment situation, together with practices, factors and obstacles influencing their employment prospects were presented and discussed. These included public employment, relevance of active labour market measures, Roma health mediators, early marriages and early pregnancies, child labour and begging, multiple discrimination and others.

The second regional conference on the topic of *Innovative Approaches to Employment of Roma* was organised on 09-10 December 2018, together with the RCC's Employment and Social Affairs Platform project and the Roma Education Fund. The Conference examined the low labour force participation of Roma, combined with predominant exclusion of Roma youth from employment, education or

training. In order to seek opportunities to reverse such negative trends, the conference focused on current employment practices in the enlargement region and possibilities to increase their effectiveness, inferring whether employment policies targeting other vulnerable groups could be successfully applied to the case of Roma, how can transfer from education to employment be advanced, presenting lessons learned from Roma Education Fund's youth employment projects, and other relevant topics.

The Roma Integration 2020 Action Team also organised the third meeting of its Task Force on 04 December 2018. At the meeting, the achievements of the project in 2018 were presented and reviewed. The Task Force endorsed the Guidelines for Roma Responsive Budgeting and agreed to pilot Roma responsive budgeting from 2019 onwards. The Task Force further adopted the monitoring and reporting template for the 2019 monitoring cycle and amended its Rules of Procedure to comply with the changes that Phase II of the project will introduce. The Phase II of the project was presented and the calendar of activities adopted, while governments' representatives submitted their requests for technical assistance.

Roma Integration 2020 project started with its Phase II implementation as of 1 January 2019. The project initiated developing economy-specific roadmaps on Roma Integration for the next three years, which will contain concrete measures and targets to be supported through the project. Attention will be paid to housing and employment as these are the areas where most of the support is needed. For this purpose, the Action Team has conducted consultation meetings with relevant government officials from various line ministries to discuss and finalise the roadmaps. The roadmaps are expected to be finalised by the end of March 2019.

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

RCC continues developing and utilizing various promoting tools for user-friendly dissemination of information on RCC's role in the region, gaining better understanding and interest from different target audiences regarding RCC's focus and activities. This is resulting with a major increase in media interest and media coverage of RCC's events and projects, and also with general support to the RCC and its activities. As an example of the heightened interest and understanding of the RCC by its major stakeholders, including media, the organisation's website had over 20% more visits and 50% more page views. Social media followers and their engagement either achieved the set target or overpassed it from 30% to 70%.

We continue maintaining partnership relations with relevant regional initiatives and organisations in promoting activities of common interest.

Since the beginning of 2019 the RCC embarked on widening the area of communication activities with additional efforts in promotion of RCC activities, in the region and Brussels, its projects and the entire region as well. It also extended the scope of its target audiences to include general public more with topics affecting every-day life of the citizens.

The widened communications scope is involving additional enhancing of the relevance of the RCC at local, regional and international level, advanced dissemination of RCC messages, creative approach on disseminating RCC success stories, creating/formulating messages to accommodate general public

and the end recipient and developing targeted messages aimed at both improving the image of the region presented to the citizens of the EU and simultaneously raising awareness on the EU values and benefits for the region's citizens.

3. Update on progress in implementing SWP 2017-2019

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
Component A. Implementing the SEE 2020 Strategy through the flagship approach				
A.1. Skills and Mobility				
A.1.1. Removal of obstacles to mobility of students and highly skilled workers in the region	<i>4th meeting of the Joint ERI SEE – RCC Working Group on Recognition of Academic Qualifications, 13 December 2018, Sarajevo</i>	Follow-up of the joint exercise on the selected cases for the joint academic recognition exercise ensued; beta version of the Joint Information System was presented and discussed, facilitating the recognition of academic qualifications in the region, expected to be up and running beginning of 2019.	Participants agreed on the steps to be taken in 2019 regarding the preparation of the statement on academic recognition in Western Balkans for the next summit in Poland, as well as on the recognition exercise to be completed by each ENIC/NARIC office by the end of January and the results to be summarised in a joint report. The report is to be distributed in the next meeting in March 2019.	Finalised
A.1.2. Removal of obstacles to mobility of professional qualifications	<i>Training of the negotiation teams, 13-14 November 2018, Tirana</i>	Training of the negotiation teams was focused on preparing the negotiation teams for the start of negotiations (i.e. procedures of recognition of professional qualifications, experiences from EUMS on transposition of the directive on professional qualification, etc.).	Lead Negotiators clarified conceptual questions of the Draft MRA and opened conceptual questions which need agreement prior to negotiating the text article by article. These questions are the basis for the discussion at the first negotiation session. Method of negotiations was agreed which will feed into the Rules of Procedure to be approved by the Lead Negotiators at their first meeting.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>1st Negotiation meeting, 20-21 December 2018, Podgorica</i>	The negotiation teams formally presented their position and initial formal comments on all of the aspects of the Draft Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications between WB 6 on four selected professions.	Lead Negotiators endorsed the Rules of Procedure and agreed on the timeframe and topics of negotiations for the subsequent meeting in January and February 2019.	Finalised
A.1.3. Removal of obstacles to mobility of researchers	<i>Research Infrastructures and Contract Research Workshop Joint RCC, DG JRC and EU4TECH Meeting, 30 October 2018, Sarajevo</i>	WB6 participants discussed the current state of affairs with regards to their RI mapping process and shared good practices between those responsible for this action and those from responsible line DGs.	Participants agreed that they would need support (expertise, peer learning) in order to complete the mapping process (i.e. the roadmap for Serbia / the revision for Montenegro).	Finalised
A.2. Connectivity				
A.2.2. Digital integration	<i>Digital Summit 2019 Steering Committee meeting, 29 October 2018, Belgrade</i>	Discussion on the preparations for the 2019 Digital Summit; discussion on the steps needed based on lessons learnt from 2018 Digital Summit; presentation of the concept note and discussion thereof.	Concept note presented and agreed in principle; next steps discussed and agreed.	Finalised
	<i>Western Balkans Roaming Policy Meeting, 6 November 2018, Brussels</i>	Facilitation of the preparatory process for a new Regional Roaming Agreement (RRA); discussion with representatives from WB ministries responsible for ICT, RCC and experts from EC on the draft agreement; get acquainted with the main provisions of the new draft agreement and have an informed discussion among ICT ministries and Regulators.	First draft of the Regional Roaming Agreement presented and reviewed; next steps related to legal and administrative requirements discussed and agreed.	Finalised
	<i>Western Balkans Roaming Policy Meeting, 13 December 2018, Brussels</i>	Review and discuss the upgraded draft of the new Regional Roaming Agreement with representatives from WB ministries responsible for ICT, RCC and experts from EC; advance in the finalisation of the draft and have an agreed text of RRA by February	New draft Regional Roaming Agreement discussed; next steps discussed and agreed; timing for the next WB6 Roaming Policy meeting agreed.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
		2019.		
	<i>Digital Summit 2019 Steering Committee meeting, 14 December 2018, Berlin</i>	Advance with the preparations of the Digital Summit 2019; discussion on the panel focus and objectives; elaborate on side event.	Topics and focus of each panel discussed and agreed in principle; next steps presented and agreed.	Finalised
	<i>WB6 CSIRTs meeting, 27 November 2018, Limassol</i>	Discussion on development at each CSIRTs, enabling peer to peer learning, sharing information and knowledge; discussion on the information exchange tools for cyber threats; sharing experience with EU MS CSIRTs invited to the meetings.	Increased information sharing among WB6 CSIRTs; tools for information exchanges related to cyber threats discussed.	Finalised
	<i>Cyber Drill, 26-30 November 2018, Limassol</i>	Enable the participation of WB6 CSIRTs in the ITU Cyber Drill	Extended capacity building to WB6 CSIRTs	Finalised
	<i>2nd Western Balkans Roaming Policy Meeting, 24 January 2019, Brussels</i>	Discussion on the state of play in telecommunications market, glide paths, and modalities for reduction of prices for roaming services in WB region.	The new Regional Roaming Agreement (RRA2) drafted and concept for gradual reduction of roaming prices in WB defined.	Finalised
	<i>3rd Western Balkans Roaming Policy Meeting, 8 February 2019, Brussels</i>	Further discussion on technical details, prices and models for reduction of prices, implementation periods, and details about new roaming regimes in WB.	Technical details and price levels for telecommunication roaming services in transitional period (by July 2021) and for RLAH regime agreed among WB economies.	Finalised
	<i>3rd Meeting of the Western Balkans Digital Summit 2019 Steering Committee 19 February 2019, Belgrade</i>	Finalisation of the programme for the Digital Summit as well as discussion on logistical aspects of the Summit (i.e. list of speakers, submission of invitations, side events, etc.).	Programme completed and logistics agreed	Finalised
	<i>Training and awareness raising workshops on WBIF support for the digital sector, 28 January 2019 - 1 February 2019,</i>	Raise awareness on the possibilities and promote applications for digital projects (broadband connectivity) under WBIF digital window.	Encouraged submission of project proposals under this WBIF call (deadline 1 March 2019). Anticipated submission of 4 project proposals from some economies in WB6.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>Belgrade, Skopje, Pristina, Tirana, Podgorica</i>			
	<i>Development of a study on telecommunications market and domestic and roaming prices for telecommunication services (calls, SMS and data transfer). Consultants engaged in the open call 026-018</i>	Contract terminated as the Consultant failed to comply with contractual requirements	Contract terminated as the Consultant failed to comply with contractual requirements	Canceled
A.2.3. Sectoral support in environment, energy and sustainable development	<i>3rd Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Action in the Western Balkans, 21 November 2018, Skopje</i>	Skopje Ministerial Declaration adopted. BD TF mandate extended by the end of 2020. Albania, selected as an economy for Nexus Policy Dialogue to be piloted in 2019. For the first time ever WB represented at the Conference of the Parties under the Convention on Biodiversity.	Continuing coordination of the Regional Working Group on Environment and paved the way for coordinated implementation of additional regional projects financed by the EC.	Finalised
A.3. Competitiveness				
A.3.1. Investment Integration	<i>Two rounds of National Consultations on Investment Reform Action Plans (IRAPs), 25 September - 11 November 2018; 5-13 November 2018 Tirana, Pristina, Podgorica, Skopje, Sarajevo, Belgrade</i>	IRAP's structure and format discussed and developed as well as the priorities for reforms per each economy.	National priorities properly addressed within the investment agenda implementation plan.	Finalised
	<i>Coordination meeting of Foreign Investor Councils on RIRA development, 29 October 2018, Sarajevo</i>	Experiences shared and obstacles identified within the FIC's White Books discussed.	Private sector involved in implementation of RIRA.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>17th International Conference of the Belgrade Stock Exchange – Upgrade in Belgrade, 15 November 2018, Belgrade</i>	Regional and global capital market ongoing issues presented and discussed.	The future of regional capital markets anticipated	Finalised
	<i>Third meeting of the WB 6 Capital (Financial) Markets, 11 December 2018, Podgorica</i>	The programme proposal developed entailing diagnostics of the main challenges to financial sector development.	Adequate measures for addressing challenges identified in the programme prepared and implemented. Working Group on Capital Markets transformed into Working Group on Financial Markets.	Finalised
	<i>SEEIC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investments, 12 December 2018, Podgorica</i>	Proposed Investment Reform Action Plans (IRAPs) on national level reviewed. Monitoring and impact assessment system presented, as well as the joint regional programme on investment promotion, including the tailor-made programme for regional investor outreach and capacity building for participating investment promotion agencies (IPAs). ToRs for Policy paper on WB6 priority investment policy needs and Regional legal review on BIT/IAs discussed.	Final drafts of IRAPs agreed and put for SEEICs endorsement. Immediate address to the most urgent reforms through the activities proposed within the Policy paper on WB6 priority investment policy needs. The legal base for investment in the WB6 analysed, focusing on International Investment Agreements (IIAs) and domestic legal frameworks for investment protection to help guide future policy dialogue and reform efforts as part of IRAP activities.	Finalised
	<i>SEE Investment Committee (SEEIC) meeting, 13 December 2018, Podgorica</i>	Progress on the agendas on investments, finance, and industry reviewed; SEEIC transformation discussion initiated.	IRAPs endorsed for its respective national government's adoption. Implementation of reforms stipulated by RIRA and corresponding IRAPs. Monitoring and impact assessment in place.	Finalised
A.3.2. Industrial Development	<i>8th Tourism Expert Group Meeting, 6-7 December 2018, Vienna</i>	Regional tourism routes concepts discussed, and regional coordination for development of Via Dinarica coordination and management structures initiated.	Regional tourism routes concepts endorsed	Finalised
	<i>Adventure Travel World Summit, 15-18 October 2018,</i>	Joint regional stand, as well as full utilisation of the Destination Showcase platform and promotion of	Western Balkans adventure routes presented through Via Dinarica concept and promotional	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>Montecatini</i>	the Western Balkans as the adventure travel destination through the Adventure in Motion partnership.	materials presented (videos included) with RCC and EU visibility.	
	<i>Danube Regional Meeting, 6 November 2018, Bucharest</i>	Presenting the Triple P tourism project with an intention of including its cultural tourism routes (Roman archaeological sites) into Danube routes.	The Triple P tourism project was successfully presented and included in European/international endeavours.	Finalised
	<i>11th International Conference of European Cultural Tourism Network, 25-27 October 2018, Pafos</i>	Presenting the Triple P tourism project with an intention of including its tourism routes into European/international routes.	The Triple P tourism project was successfully presented and included in European/international endeavours.	Finalised
Component B. Governance, Rule of Law and Security Cooperation				
B.1. Public Administration Reform				
B.1.1. Public consultations on draft laws and public policy documents	<i>Peer-Mission on Public Participation organised by RCC and ReSPA, 16-17 October 2018, Pristina</i>	Event brought together public servants in charge of coordinating public consultations in different ministries to discuss with peers and external experts the way to improve public participation.	The process would result in improved public participation in policy making and legislative process.	Finalised
B.2. Justice				
B.2.1. SEE networks, regional trainings and Western Balkans Working Group on Justice	<i>Rule of Law at the Heart of Enlargement Process Conference, 3rd Meeting of SEE JTI Network organised by RCC, 21-22 November 2018, Zagreb</i>	Participants representing Council of Europe (Commission for the Efficiency of Justice – CEPEJ and Human Rights Programme for Legal Professionals – HELP), SEELS, EJTN and GIZ ORF LR expressed the will to cooperate with RCC in rule of law proposing topics and fields for further consultations.	Conclusions of the meeting streamlined RCC activities as regional hub in justice, coordinating project activities and creating regional programme for legal professionals in EU law in the next period. The RCC got support to act as a link between the region and EC presenting and defending the needs expressed by the stakeholders. The process of	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
		List of conclusions and recommendations to be implemented by the RCC with the support of stakeholders agreed upon. RCC asked to start to function as e-learning platform and repository of different materials and programmes in justice.	improving cross-border cooperation in justice supported by the RCC has continued. The future regional activities will be organised based on the RCC strategy documents/programmes and conclusions approved by all the participants.	
	<i>Database of regional legal experts in EU Law developed in cooperation with GIZ ORF LR in December 2018</i>	As the GIZ ORF LR partner in the sub-project 'Improving the Regional Cooperation between Western Balkans' Judicial Training Institutions' RCC will host the database of regional legal experts beginning of 2019. The database will be maintained and updated by GIZ in the next period due to the prolongation of the project.	The RCC will host the database of regional legal experts in the EU law to be maintained and broaden as it was concluded at the SEE JTI Meeting and agreed in consultations with GIZ representatives.	Finalised
	<i>Draft Document towards creating regional justice E-environment and objective platform for better quality of regional judicial trainings and cross-border cooperation is finalised and presented to the stakeholders</i>	As the GIZ ORF LR partner in the sub-project 'Improving the Regional Cooperation between Western Balkans' Judicial Training Institutions' RCC will host the database of regional legal experts beginning of 2019. The database will be maintained and updated by GIZ in the next period due to the prolongation of the project.	The RCC will host the database of regional legal experts in the EU law to be maintained and broaden as it was concluded at the SEE JTI Meeting and agreed in consultations with GIZ representatives.	On-going
	<i>11th Meeting of WB Working Group on Justice, 21-22 November 2018, Zagreb</i>	Regular meeting to exchange experiences, inform about the recent reforms in the area of justice and agree on the future RCC activities. One of the expectations expressed during the meeting is stronger role of WB WGJ and RCC was asked to promote and present the needs of WB MoJ to the EC.	RCC continues to organise meetings of WB WGJ perceived by the representatives of the justice ministries as important support at regional level on the EU path in fulfilling the benchmarks in Chapter 23 and 24.	Finalised

B.3. Anti-corruption

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
B.3.1. Support in conducting sectoral corruption risk assessment/anti-corruption assessment of laws	<i>2nd Training on Corruption Risk Assessment for health care institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 19 October 2018, Mostar</i>	In cooperation with RAI and APIK, RCC organised training in order to improve capacities of health care institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.	Enhanced capacities of local health care institution, the process will continue based on the developed plans and documents.	Finalised
B.4. Security cooperation				
B.4.1. Supporting the existing security cooperation mechanisms in SEE	<i>The 10th South East European Military Intelligence Chiefs forum (SEEMIC) at Director's level, 7 November 2018, Tirana</i>	Draft OSINT Report <i>Challenges to critical infrastructure cyber security in South East Europe</i> discussed	OSINT Report <i>Challenges to critical infrastructure cyber security in South East Europe</i> adopted	Finalised
	<i>The SEESAC Project Board Meeting, 21 December 2018, Belgrade</i>	Review of the project implementation process; guidance and direction in successful delivery of outputs and their contribution to outcomes under the programme.	Approved annual work and annual review	Finalised
B.4.2. Addressing the emerging security challenges in the region (CVE-FTF Platform)	<i>Key Drivers of radicalizations – perspectives from the Balkans, the Arabian Gulf and Belgium, 27 November 2018, Brussels</i>	Presentation of the RCC's work in the field of security, particularly of CVE/FTF efforts in the region.	Exchange of information and good practices, better understanding of security challenges in the EU and beyond.	Finalised
	<i>Third Regional Coordination Conference for CT and P/CVE in SEE, 6 December 2018, Istanbul</i>	Situation, trends and challenges in P/CVE discussed. The state of play of the RCC SEE Regional P/CVE Platform and the IISG Initiative presented and discussed. Key findings of the RCC commissioned <i>Cybersecurity and online</i>		

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
		<i>radicalization</i> study presented.		
	<i>6th Meeting of SEE NFP Group, 7 December 2018, Istanbul</i>	Exchange of views on P/CVE prevailing challenges and ways to ensure coherent and efficient regional action.	The way forward agreed on prevention of local (including online) radicalization; development and implementation of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and challenges in the process of implementation of a whole-of-society approach.	Finalised
Component C. Horizontal and supporting activities				
C.1. Programming, monitoring and coordination				
C.1.1. Programming activities	<i>SEE2020 Strategy programming cycle October – December 2018</i>	Concept note on RCC's proposal for the upcoming SEE 2020 Strategy programming cycle, including the proposal to possibly support/contribute to the 2020 programming process of IPA Multi Country (IPA MC) prepared and shared with DG NEAR and IPA beneficiaries; concept note presented to the IPA 2020 Multi Country coordination meeting; consultations held with DG NEAR in Brussels.	All interested parties duly consulted and informed on the 2019 SEE 2020 programming cycle concept note, and on the proposal to align and possibly support IPA 2020 MC programming through SEE 2020 programming.	Finalised
	<i>SEE2020 Strategy programming cycle, January-February 2019</i>	Consultations with DG NEAR ongoing on RCC's proposal for the upcoming SEE 2020 Strategy programming cycle, including the proposal to possibly support/contribute to the 2020 programming process of IPA MC.	All interested parties duly consulted and informed on the 2019 SEE 2020 programming cycle concept note, and on the proposal to align and possibly support IPA 2020 MC programming through SEE 2020 programming.	On-going
C.1.2. Monitoring activities	<i>Balkan Barometer 2019 October – November 2018</i>	In-depth consultations with the Consultant were held; list of questions discussed, amended and agreed.	Balkan Barometer 2019 project launched and the preparations for data collection finalised, thus paving the way for field work (interviews).	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>Balkan barometer 2019 November – December 2018</i>	Consultant starts the field work (interviews)	Public and business perception data collected	Finalised
	<i>Balkan barometer 2019 January - February 2019</i>	Field work (interviews) finalised	Public and business perception data collected	Finalised
	<i>Balkan barometer 2019 January - February 2019</i>	Outline for the BB Public and Business Opinion reports prepared	Development of Balkan Barometer reports started	On-going
	<i>SEE2020 monitoring cycle 2019, preparatory work November – December 2018</i>	Preparatory work (analysis of previous cycle, identification of possible weaknesses and lessons learned, proposals for discussion with the SEE 2020 Strategy Monitoring Committee drafted); Preparatory work for collection of RDCs' activity reports concluded with the note distributed to all of them.	Preparatory work to launch SEE 2020 monitoring cycle concluded; clarity on expected contributions of RDCs for the SEE 2020 Strategy Annual Report on Implementation (ARI); communication with RDCs in this respect started.	Finalised
	<i>SEE2020 monitoring cycle 2019, data collection January - February 2019</i>	Draft outline for the Annual Report on Implementation for 2019 prepared.	Data collection process started	On-going
	<i>7th meeting of the SEE 2020 Monitoring Committee 19 December 2018, Vienna</i>	Representatives from all SEE 2020 Strategy beneficiaries (statistical offices and representatives from other institutions), and RCC, EUROSTAT and OECD representatives meet to discuss the 2019 monitoring cycle, including the concept note, roles and responsibilities of all actors involved, definitions of certain indicators and methodologies for data collection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concept of SEE 2020 Strategy 2019 monitoring cycle agreed - Definitions of indicators and methodologies for data collection refined and agreed SEE 2020 Strategy monitoring cycle officially launched	Finalised
C.1.3. Coordination activities, grants	<i>The 4th Call for Proposals under the RCC Small Grants Facility</i>	Final reports on implementation of the three projects (Reducing Trade Barriers between CEFTA Parties, Invigorating Civil Society–Government Policy Dialogue on RIRA, and Supporting the Regional Approach for Improving Digital Skills in WB6) were successfully delivered by the grantees.	The fourth cycle of Calls for Proposals under RCC's Small Grants Facility successfully concluded.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
C.1.4. Horizontal activities related to MAP REA	<i>Abridged Report on MAP REA implementation</i>	To take stock of the implementation of the MAP REA measures for the period from July to December 2018 and recommend future actions at regional level.	No official endorsement is foreseen; validation of data will be reached through electronic communication.	Finalised
C.2. Political Department activities				
C.2.1. Strengthening cooperation between the SEE governments and with the EU				
C.2.1.1. Assist SEECP and SEECP C-i-O	<i>27th Coordination meeting between the SEECP Troika, RCC Secretariat and EU, 17 October 2018, Sarajevo</i>	Information on the most important activities related to the priorities of the SEECP C-i-O of Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2018-2019 and of the RCC Secretariat, in particular those related to the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2019.	Enhanced synergy and cooperation between the SEECP Troika, the RCC and the EU; confirmed support to SEECP C-i-O and the RCC.	Finalised
	<i>35th Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Board, 18 October 2018, Sarajevo</i>	Acceptance of the Report of the Secretary General on the activities of the RCC Secretariat for the period from 15 March to 15 October 2018; information on the priorities and calendar of activities of the SEECP C-i-O of Bosnia and Herzegovina; adoption of the Decision to mandate the SEECP C-i-O to sign the Agreement on the Assumption of Duties with the new RCC SG, Ms. Majlinda Bregu; adoption of the Decision on the dates of the RCC Board meetings in 2019; adoption of the Financial Report presented in the Audit	RCC Board informed on the activities and progress of RCC work; RCC Board adopted the Decisions on: a) mandating the SEECP C-i-O to sign the Agreement on the Assumption of Duties with the new SG Ms. Bregu; b) the dates of the RCC Board meetings in 2019; c) the Financial Report presented in the Audit Report for 2017. The Board adopted the RCC Secretariat Budget for 2019. The Board consented to the RCC to extend the MoU with GiZ.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
		Report for 2017; adoption of the Budget of the RCC Secretariat for 2019; consent to extend the MoU between RCC and GIZ.		
	<i>Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of SEECP (SC PA SEECP), 1 December 2018, Sarajevo</i>	Presentation of priorities under C-i-O of the SEECP PA; presentation by RCC on 'The role of the RCC in supporting regional economic, political and social interaction in the context of Chairmanship's priorities of the SEECP'; exchange of views on the issue of the Permanent Secretariat.	Raised awareness of possible synergies and cooperation between SEECP PA and RCC.	Finalised
C.2.1.2. Consultations of the Secretary General with SEECP and RCC participants	<i>High-level political consultations of RCC SG with national authorities in WB6 capitals, January-February 2019</i>	Introduction of the new SG, Ms. Majlinda Bregu, to high-level officials of WB6; presenting the main outlines of the new SWP 2020-2022; discussion of current regional issues and developments.	Maintaining the continuity of close cooperation between the RCC SG and regional governments; consulting with governments on the upcoming period in RCC's work; affirmed commitment to regional cooperation.	Finalised
C.2.1.3. Maintain the dialogue with the EU institutions	<i>RCC SG's briefing of COWEB/COELA Capitals members, 22 November 2018, Brussels</i>	Presentation of the RCC's work and activities for the upcoming period.	Regular exchange of views, better understanding of the RCC's work and coordination of activities with the Council.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>Western Balkans Summit 2018: Enlargement, integration and the challenge of transformation (incoming RCC SG), 22 November 2018, Brussels</i>	Presentation of the RCC's work and activities for the upcoming period.	Awareness raising about RCC's activities in Brussels	Finalised
	<i>EU Enlargement 2025 and Beyond, 3 December 2018, Brussels</i>	Presentation of the RCC's work and activities for the upcoming period.	Awareness raising about RCC's activities in Brussels	Finalised
	<i>Meeting of RCC team with DG NEAR Head of D.5. Unit and his team, 12 December 2018, Brussels</i>	Exchange of views regarding possible alignment of RCC's and IPA MC programming processes.	Regular exchange and coordination of activities between RCC and DG NEAR	Finalised
C.2.1.4. Support to parliamentary activities related to the EU acquis and the SEE2020 Strategy	<i>No activities held in the reporting period.</i>			
C.2.2. Broadening links and strengthening partnerships with other regional stakeholders				
C.2.2.1. Participation of SG in high-level events	<i>World Investment Forum 2018, 23-26 October 2018, Geneva</i>	Facilitation of dialogue and action on the world's investment development challenges in the era of globalisation and industrialisation; RCC presentation of developments with the MAP REA and FDI inflow in the region.	Shared experiences and better understanding of regional investment integration challenges.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>ERI SEE Launching and Thematic Conference – Vision of Regional Cooperation for Quality Education and Training, 26 October 2018, Belgrade</i>	Presentation of the draft version of the Statement on Common Understanding of Regional Cooperation for Quality Education and Training; discussion of the main challenges in the region.	Regional cooperation confirmed as a relevant factor for enhancement of education and training reforms.	Finalised
	<i>Sherpas' meeting, 26 November 2018, Brussels</i>	Review of the progress made in the implementation of key priority actions defined in the letters of Commissioner Hahn sent to WB in October as well as steps taken toward the completion of the MAP REA deliverables in preparation for the upcoming WB Summit in Poznan.	Re-affirmed the necessity to continue with the implementation of the reform agenda related to REA and show constructive approach in resolving bilateral disputes.	Finalised
C.2.2.2. Work with media/communications	<i>Social media workshop: What is Twitter & How It Works</i>	RCC PR team organised an internal workshop on social media: What is Twitter & How It Works for RCC staff, in Sarajevo on 30 November 2018	Including and instructing all RCC staff in spreading the word about the RCC and becoming RCC ambassadors through up-to-date communication channels, such as the Twitter.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>Interviews with Secretary General(s) and other RCC staff members</i>	The RCC Secretary General(s), both Goran Svilanovic until the end of his mandate and Majlinda Bregu since 1 January 2019, as well as other RCC staff, gave numerous interviews and statements to the regional and international media during the reporting period.	Achieving better understanding on what the RCC does and increased general awareness of the RCC activities.	Finalised
	<i>Promotion of the most relevant activities of the Secretary General, the Programme and the Political Departments, as well as ESAP, Roma Integration 2020 and Tourism Promotion and Development projects and Grantees</i>	RCC covered a number of different activities of the organisation, in all our priority areas, through RCC website and social media channels, traditional media, direct contact with relevant stakeholders, etc. The RCC issued more than 70 news items and press releases, gathering close to 4,500 media reports in September-December period.	Achieving better understanding on what the RCC does and increased general awareness of the RCC activities.	Finalised
	<i>Promotional activities on the assumption of duties of the new Secretary General</i>	The new Secretary General of the RCC, Majlinda Bregu assumed her duties on 1 January 2019. The RCC promoted the new face of the organization through various channels as of beginning of 2019, including website, social media, regional interviews, etc	Achieving better understanding on what the RCC does and increased general awareness of the RCC activities.	Finalised

Objective	Description of main activities planned in the reporting period	Main OUTPUTS/deliverables/results in the reporting period	Main OUTCOMES of the achieved results	Status of completion
	<i>Launching new communication channel</i>	In the light of widening and shifting communication activities, the RCC has introduced new social media channel, Instagram and shifted the approach when it comes to communicating its messages through various communication channels with the goal of reaching wider audience groups with the focus on the general public i.e. citizens of the region.	Achieving better understanding on what the RCC does and increased general awareness of the RCC activities.	On-going
	<i>Promoting South East Europe</i>	As of January 2019, the RCC has been and will continue, intensively promoting the region, both Western Balkans and South East Europe by weekly/daily presentations of SEE economies through existing communication channels, by sharing promotional videos, photographs, etc. In parallel we will be promoting the EU values and benefits to the life of ordinary citizens that the RCC is advocating for	Awareness raising and image building– promoting the best the region is offering	On-going

4. Management and operations

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

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

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

5. Key challenges in the reporting period

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

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

Contribution		Commitments	Contributions	Date Received
Contributors (Donors)				
	Austria	50,000.00	50,000.00	2-May-18
	Czech Republic	50,000.00	50,000.00	19-Sep-18
	Federal Republic of Germany	50,000.00	50,000.00	23-Mar-18
	Hungary	50,000.00	50,000.00	12-Mar-18
	Italy	50,000.00	50,000.00	25-Sep-18
	Ireland	50,000.00	50,000.00	14-Nov-18
	Latvia	50,000.00	50,000.00	19-Feb-18
	Norway	50,000.00	50,859.93	26-Jun-18
	Sweden	50,000.00	48,741.26	22-May-18
	Switzerland	50,000.00	49,963.00	11-May-18
	United States of America	60,000.00	94,081.66	May-'17 & Nov-'18
	Total contributing countries donors:	560,000.00	593,645.85	
	European Commission	2,500,000.00	2,211,507.21	11-Jun-18
South East Europe Contributors				
	Albania	60,000.00	60,000.00	14-Nov-18
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	60,000.00	60,000.00	22-Oct-18
	Bulgaria	140,000.00	140,000.00	8-Feb-18
	Croatia	80,000.00	80,000.00	3-May-18
	Greece	140,000.00	140,000.00	9-Jul-18
	Kosovo*	40,000.00	39,918.00	2-Nov-18
	Moldova	40,000.00		
	Montenegro	40,000.00	40,000.00	7-Mar-18
	North Macedonia	60,000.00	60,000.00	8-Jun-18
	Romania	140,000.00	140,000.00	17-Dec-18
	Serbia	80,000.00	80,000.00	30-May-18
	Slovenia	80,000.00	80,000.00	15-Mar-18
	Turkey	140,000.00	140,000.00	22-Mar-18
	Set aside funds		270,509.78	
	Total South East Europe Contributors:	1,100,000.00	1,330,427.78	
	Total Committed Funds	4,160,000.00	4,135,580.84	

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

7. Annex: RCC Annual Work Plan for 2018

Component A. Implementing the SEE 2020 through the flagship approach						
(General strategic objective to be achieved with the component proposed - desired impact)						
<i>Greater economic integration through easier flow of capital, people, goods and services within the SEE and between the SEE and the EU</i>						
PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Skills and Mobility						
1. Increased (Labour) Mobility in the WB						
1.1. Removal of obstacles to (short-term) mobility of professionals in the region (MAP III.2.1.)						
1.1.1. Meetings of the Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications	X			X	Events/ conferences	<i>Negotiations on mutual recognition agreements on professional qualifications in health and construction sector opened.</i>
1.1.2. Meetings of the negotiating group - Health		X		X	Events/ conferences	
1.1.3. Meetings of the negotiating group - Construction		X		X	Events/ conferences	
1.1.4. Technical Assistance: Independent mediator and legal consultant for the removal of obstacles to professional and academic recognition	X			X	Professional services	
1.2. Creating preconditions for automatic recognition of qualifications (MAP III.3.1)						
1.2.1. Meetings of the International Expert Group on Automatic Recognition of Qualifications back-to-back with an ENIC/NARIC network meeting	X	X		X	Events/ conferences	<i>Opened dialogue on preconditions for automatic recognition of qualifications.</i>
1.2.2. Technical Assistance on Automatic Recognition				X	Professional services	
1.3 Mobility of high-skilled labour (PhD, researchers, academics) in SEE (MAP III.1.1.)						

1.3.1. Meeting on mobility of PhD, researchers and academics in SEE back-to-back with training of EURAXES contact points		X			Events/ conferences	<i>Improved policy and regulatory frameworks for mobility of students, PhD, researchers and academics in SEE and between SEE and EU. Improved institutional capacity of EURAXES offices in the region.</i>
1.3.2. Technical Assistance on mobility of PhD, researchers and academics in SEE				X	Professional services	
2. WB Open and Connected Science						
2.1. Meeting of the Working Group on Open Science			X		Events/ conferences	<i>Improved policy and regulatory frameworks on Open Science. Open access to scientific journals and data by 2020. Increased interoperability of Open Science infrastructure in the SEE and between the SEE and EU.</i>
2.2. Seminar on Open Science back-to-back with a Training of the National Contact Points on Open Science		X			Events/ conferences	
2.3. Technical Assistance on Open Science (Mapping research infrastructure and e-infrastructure in the WB)				X	Professional services	
3. Smart Growth - (MAP II.1.6.)						
3.1. Meetings of the Smart Growth Platform (Industrial WG, Research Ministries)	X	X			X	<i>Established regional dialogue and knowledge exchange on developing Smart Growth strategies based on EU experience and support to the development of smart specialisation research and innovation strategies in WB6 to ensure strategic structural investments and to build competitive advantage.</i>
3.2. Technical Assistance to the Smart Growth Platform					X	
Connectivity						
1. Digital integration						
1.1 Meetings of MAP Digital Integration working groups					Events/ conferences	
1.2 Meeting of the 2018 Digital Summit Steering Committee					Events/ conferences	
1.3 High-level WB Digital Summit 2018 (MAP IV.4.1)		X			Events/ conferences	<i>Regional cooperative dialogue on digital transformation challenges and prospects in WB6 established. Assessed state of play of the business environment and the multi-faceted benefits an accelerated and regional Digital Transformation would create WB. Annual regional WB6 Digital Summit organised so as to contribute to a continuous dialogue among WB6 authorities, non-governmental organisations, companies, chambers, and</i>

						<i>academia.</i>
1.4 Regional dialogue and information exchange platform among CSIRTs and authorities in charge of Network and Information Security (NIS) Directive (MAP IV.2.1)	X			X	Events/ conferences	<i>Enhanced cyber security, trust services and data protection. Established regional dialogue and information exchange platform among WB6 CSIRTs (Computer Security Incident Response Teams); advanced CSIRTs' capacities and strengthened institutional links with EU CSIRTs.</i>
1.5 Meeting of the Digital Summit 2019 Steering Committee					Events/ conferences	<i>Supported open data region and data economy. Strengthen regional coordination on the use, exchange and safe and reliable flow, access and transfer of data and integration within the European data ecosystem and economy.</i>
1.6 Technical assistance on digital skills (MAP IV.3.1)	X				Professional services	
1.7 Technical assistance on digital agenda					Professional services	
2. Sectoral support in environment, energy and sustainable development						
2.1 Meetings of the Regional Working Group on Environment and its structures (Experts' and Ministerial)		X		X	Events/ conferences	<i>Strengthened institutional capacities and cooperation among WB economies in the area of environment and climate change and coordinated regional approach in implementation of three regional projects (Nexus, Climaproof and Biodiversity).</i>
2.2 Technical assistance on environment dimension				X	Professional services	<i>Report and campaign on impact of clean energy sector on environment, creating green jobs and economic development.</i>
Competitiveness						
Investment Integration						

1.1. South East Europe Investment Committee's Working Group on Investments meetings (technical meeting on the matters of investment policies and promotion) MAP II.1.1, II.1.2, II.1.3, II.1.4		X		X	Events/ conferences	<i>Regional investment policy reform agenda developed and implementation commenced; business enabling environment improved; financial markets coordination improved; region promoted as a unique investment destination to the global business community, followed by increased inflow of investments in the region.</i>
1.2. WGI focus groups meetings (i.e. on tax policy, incentives, promotion, IIAs workshops, etc.) MAP II.1.3	X				Events/ conferences	
1.3. E-permitting Working Group Session (technical meeting on implementation and maintenance of electronic systems for construction permits and spatial planning) related and contributing to MAP II.1.3	X				Events/ conferences	
1.4. Business Friendliness Working Group Session (technical meeting on setting and implementing the standards for business friendliness and improving municipal services to business) related and contributing to MAP II.1.3			X		Events/ conferences	
1.5. South East Europe Investment Committee plenary session (plenary meeting of the SEE's economic teams, represented by the officials from the ministries of economies, endorsing the findings and recommendations of technical working groups for further implementation of MAP II.1.1, II.1.2, II.1.3, II.1.4		X		X	Events/ conferences	
1.6. South East Europe Investment Committee ministerial (high-level) meeting (annual meeting of the ministers of SEE economies, providing political support in the form of joint statement for the regular annual recommendations of the SEE Investment Committee in the areas of investments, industry, and sectors of priority) MAP II.1.1, II.1.2, II.1.3, II.1.4		X			Events/ conferences	
1.7. Support to investment conference (support to one big regional business/investment conference aimed at investment promotion of SEE) related and contributing to MAP II.1.4	X	X			Events/ conferences	
1.8. Capital market regional platform kick off and meetings MAP II.1.5		X		X	Events/ conferences	
1.9. Studies and analytics on regional capital markets and proposals for their integration MAP II.1.5	X	X			Professional services	
Industrial Development						
2.1. Meetings of the Tourism Expert Group (technical meeting on the matters hindering development of the sector, developing proposals for their mitigation, and developing a regional joint offer/product in the sector)		X		X	Events/ conferences	<i>Regional joint tourism product prepared and promoted to the global visitors, followed by higher inflow of foreign tourists and flow of domestic tourists in the region;</i>

2.2. Meetings of the Industrial Policy Expert Group (expert meeting on improvement and harmonisation of industrial policies in SEE)		X	X		Events/ conferences	<i>small scale infrastructure projects in tourism developed; industrial policy reform undertaken so as to introduce smart specialisation and enable harmonisation with the EU standards.</i>
2.3. Studies and analytics in support to the industrial policy working group	X	X			Professional services	

Total Component A:

Component B. Governance, Rule of Law and Security Cooperation

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

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

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES	EXPECTED OUTCOME
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Public Administration Reform						
<i>1. Public consultations on draft laws and public policy documents</i>						
1.1 Regional Workshop to present the Methodology on conducting peer review missions for WB Recommendation on Public Participation implementation	x				Events/ conferences	<i>Improved participatory policy making; implemented Recommendation on Public Participation in Western Balkan; strengthened the capacities on applying public consultations in policy making.</i>
1.2 Two regional hub events to raise awareness on the WB Recommendation on Public Participation and its review		x	x		Events/ conferences	
1.3 Expert assistance for awareness raising and peer review missions (three economies)				x	Professional services	
1.4 Peer review missions in three economies				x	Events/ conferences	
Justice						
<i>1. SEE networks, regional trainings and Western Balkans Working Group on Justice</i>						
1.1 SEE Judicial Training Institutions (JTI) Network/Platform, 1 meeting	x				Events/ conferences	<i>Exchanged of experiences in judicial training and mediation field; reduced court backlogs; improved competence and</i>
1.2 WB6 JTI meeting, 2 meetings	x			X	Events/	

					conferences	<i>effectiveness of judges in prosecutors; improved functioning of Judicial Training Institutes (JTI) and AM networks in SEE; improved coordination of activities in the area of training and mediation, developed database of regional legal experts/trainers, created regional programme for WB judges and prosecutors.</i>
1.3 Working Group on Justice, 2 meetings	X			X	Events/ conferences	
1.4 SEE Associations of Mediators (AM) Network/Platform, 1 meeting		X			Events/ conferences	
1.5 Technical support in the area of judicial training		X	X		Professional services	
1.6. Regional trainings for judges and prosecutors in common topics, regional training for JTIs and MoJ staff	X	X		X	Events/conferences	
1.7.. Development of regional database of legal experts - judges and professors (GIZ ORF LR in partnership with RCC)				X	Professional services	
Anti-corruption						
1. Support in conducting sectoral corruption risk assessment / anti-corruption assessment of laws						
1.1 Corruption Risk Assessment in healthcare sector		May-18			Professional services	<i>Integrity in healthcaresSector improved through corruption risk assessment / corruption proofing. Enhanced capacities of prosecutors and law enforcement officers on Liability of Legal Persons for Corruption Related Offences.</i>
1.2 Building capacities of prosecutors and judges on Liability of Legal Persons for Corruption Related Offences / Financial Investigations in Corruption Related Offences				X	Professional services	
Security cooperation						
1. Traditional RCC's regional security cooperation formats						
1.1 SEENSA working group meeting	X				Events/ conferences	<i>A specific topic from the area of national security discussed, recommendations agreed.</i>
1.2 SEEMIC Expert working group meeting		X			Events/ conferences	<i>Draft OSINT Assessment discussed and agreed, exchange of information on specific intelligence-related topics done.</i>
1.3 SEENSA meeting - directors' level			X		Events/ conferences	<i>Conclusions on the current state of affairs in the cooperation of NSAs in the region, recommendations for further development.</i>

1.4 SEEMIC - main conference				X	Events/ conferences	<i>OSINT Ass. adopted, topic and host for the next year agreed; conclusions and recommendations for further Military Intelligence cooperation in the region agreed.</i>
2. Prevention and countering of violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism						
2.1 Meeting of the SEE National Focal Points' Group for P/CVE	X				Events/ conferences	<i>Stock-taking of the current state of affairs in P/CVE in the region, exchange of good practices, guidance for further work and cooperation.</i>
2.2 Regional expert workshop on prevention and countering of online radicalization		X			Events/ conferences	<i>Recommendations for the governments, media, and private sector (ICT services providers) on how to recognise and suppress online violent extremist propaganda and other forms of hate speech.</i>
2.3 Regional conference of law enforcement experts and state attorneys (prosecutors) on dealing with terrorist, violent extremist and connected crimes			X		Events/ conferences	<i>Exchange of good practices, discussion on challenges, recommendations for enhanced cooperation and coordination.</i>
2.4 Train-the-trainers regional P/CVE seminar			X		Events/ conferences	<i>Equipping the core group of experts and activists from all participating jurisdictions with a practical module of knowledge, enabling them to serve as P/CVE trainers on the ground.</i>
2.5 National train-the-trainers P/CVE seminar(s) in targeted jurisdictions				X	Events/ conferences	<i>Equipping the core group of experts and activists from target jurisdiction(s) with a practical module of knowledge, enabling them to serve as P/CVE trainers on the ground.</i>
2.6 Meeting of the SEE National Focal Points' Group for P/CVE				X	Events/ conferences	<i>Stock-taking of the current state of affairs in P/CVE in the region, exchange of good practices, guidance for further work and cooperation.</i>
2.7 Regional P/CVE coordination conference (co-organised with partner organisations, back-to-back with the NFP Group meeting)				X	Events/ conferences	<i>Exchange of experience and views, with recommendations to enhance the cooperation and coordination between the organisations and governments in P/CVE area in SEE.</i>

Component 3. Horizontal and other cross-cutting issues

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

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

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

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

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

8. List of Abbreviations

APIK	Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight Against Corruption
ARI	Annual Report on Implementation
ATWS	Adventure Travel World Summit
BB	Balkan Barometer
BD TF	Biodiversity Task Force
BIT	Bilateral Investment Treaties
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
CEPEJ	Commission on the Efficiency of Justice, Council of Europe
CfP	Call for Proposals
C-i-O	Chairmanship-in-Office
CoE	Council of Europe
COELA	Working Party on Enlargement and Countries Negotiating Accession to the EU
CONOP	Working Party on Non-Proliferation
CoP	Conference of Parties
COWEB	Working Party on the Western Balkans Region
CSIRT	Cyber Security Incident Response Teams
CT	Counter- terrorism
CVE	Countering of Violent Extremism
CVE-FTF Platform	South East Europe Regional Platform for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters
DCAF	Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces
DG	Directorate-General
DG CONNECT	Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology
DG EMPL	Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
DG GROW	Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry Entrepreneurship and SMEs
DG JRC	Directorate-General Joint Research Centre
DG JUST	Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers
DG NEAR	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
DG RTD	Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
DS	Digital Summit
EC	European Commission
ECARO	Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
ECTN	European Cultural Tourism Network
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
EIA	Energy Information Administration
EJTN	European Judicial Training Network
ENIC	European Network of Information Centres
ENISA	European Union Agency for Network and Information Security
EP	European Parliament
ERI SEE	Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe
ESAP	Employment and Social Affairs Platform
EU	European Union
EU MS	European Union Member States
EURES	The European job mobility portal
EUSAIR	The EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region
EUSDR	The EU Strategy for the Danube Region
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
FIC	Foreign Investors Council
FTF	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GIZ ORF	GIZ Open Regional Fund

GIZ ORF-LR	GIZ Open Regional Fund for Legal Reform
GWP	Global Warming Potential
HELP	The European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IISG	Integrated Internal Security Governance
IIA's	International Investment Agreements
IMPEL	European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IRAP	Investment Reform Action Plans
IT	Information Technology
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JRC	Joint Research Centre
JTI	Judicial Training Institutions
JWGI	Joint Working Group on Investments
LO	Liaison Office
MAP REA	Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans 6
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MiFID	Markets in Financial Instruments Directive of the EU
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRA	Mutual Recognition Agreement
NALAS	Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe
NARIC	National Academic Recognition Information Centres
NFP CVE-FTF Group	RCC Group of National Focal Points for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Foreign Terrorist Fighters in Southeast Europe
NIS	Network and Information Systems
NSA	National Security Authority
ORF	Open Regional Funds for South East Europe
ORF LR	Open Regional Fund for South East Europe – Legal Reform
OS	Open Science
OSINT	Open Sources Intelligence Assessment
PA	Parliamentary Assembly
PES	Public Employment Services
P-CVE	Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism
PPD	Public-Private Dialogue
PSC	Personal Security Certificate
RAI	Regional Anti-corruption Initiative
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
R&D	Research and Development
RDC	Regional Dimension Coordinator
ReSPA	Regional School of Public Administration
RLAH	Roam Like At Home
RI	Research Infrastructure
RIRA	Regional Investment Reform Agenda
RRA	Regional Roaming Agreement
RWG Env	Regional Working Group on Environment
SADC	South African Development Community
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SC	Standing Committee
SG	Secretary General
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEE	South East Europe
SEE 2020	South East Europe 2020 Strategy: Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective
SEECP	South-East European Cooperation Process

SEEC PA	South-East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly
SEEIC	South East Europe Investment Committee
SEELS	South East European Schools of Law Network
SEEMIC	South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs
SEENSA	South East European National Security Authorities
SEESAC	SEE and EE Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons
SWP	Strategy and Work Programme
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the EC
TEG	Tourism Expert Group
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WB	Western Balkans
WBIF	Western Balkans Investment Forum
WGJ	Working Group on Justice
WIIW	The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies