

REPORT

**ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL SECRETARIAT**

For the period 1 January – 31 March 2016

**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, 28 April 2016

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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 from 1 January and 31 March 2016.

1. Summary of activities

The report presents the progress made by the RCC Secretariat in implementing the RCC Strategy and Work Programme (SWP) for 2014 - 2016, with an emphasis on its key pillars - the South East Europe (SEE) 2020 Strategy and Stability and Rule of Law. The report provides information on the participation of RCC at the events of the Bulgarian SEECF Chairmanship-in-Office and on key aspects of the dialogue of the RCC Secretary General with the RCC participants, as well as on the consultations held with European Union (EU) institutions, regional organizations and initiatives and other stakeholders actively engaged in the regional cooperation process in South East Europe (SEE).

The RCC Secretariat continued with its multifaceted activities in implementing the RCC Strategy and Work Programme (SWP) 2014 - 2016. Activities, under the SEE 2020 and Stability and Rule of Law pillars, have been rolled out in support of the implementation of the last phase (2016) of the current SWP.

In this regard, the 28th meeting of the RCC Board, held on 26 February 2016 in Sarajevo, provided operational guidance and supervision to the RCC. The RCC Secretary General informed the participants of the Board on the activities of the RCC Secretariat and, together with the Bulgarian SEECF C-i-O, summarized the outcomes of the Coordination Meeting between the SEECF Troika, the RCC Secretariat and the EU. In its conclusions, the RCC Board accepted the Report on the activities of the RCC Secretariat for the period 1 October - 31 December 2015 and on the implementation of the RCC SWP 2014 - 2016. The RCC Board took note of the presentation of RCC's draft SWP for 2017 - 2019, the Report on the activities of the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society and of the presentation of the Roma 2020 programme. Moreover, the RCC Board took note of the intention of the RCC Secretary General to send a proposal asking the RCC Board participants from SEE to confirm, through silent procedure, their commitments to the current levels of annual contributions to the RCC Secretariat for the period 2017 - 2019. Subsequently, the RCC Board participants from SEE have raised no objections in the course of the silent procedure, thereby confirming their commitments to the current levels of annual financial contributions. The latter shall apply for the three consecutive years 2017 - 2019.

Held back-to-back with the meeting of the RCC Board, on 25 February 2016 in Sarajevo, the Coordination meeting between the SEECF Troika¹, the RCC Secretariat and the EU, provided a framework for further harmonizing the priorities of the Bulgarian SEECF C-i-O and RCC's SWP 2014 - 2016. In the conclusions of the meeting, the participants have noted the excellent cooperation between the Bulgarian SEECF C-i-O and the RCC, and took note of the intention of the RCC Secretary General to propose to the RCC Board participants from SEE to consider maintaining the current levels of annual contributions to the RCC Secretariat for 2017 - 2019. The participants have also expressed support for the timeframe proposed by the RCC Secretary General regarding the finalization and adoption of RCC's SWP for 2017 - 2019.

¹ The SEECF Troika includes the former SEECF C-i-O Albania, the current SEECF C-i-O Bulgaria and the incoming SEECF C-i-O Croatia.

The RCC continued to provide assistance and support to the Bulgarian SEECP C-i-O in the implementation of its programme and calendar of events. In this context, the RCC Secretary General participated at the informal meeting of the SEECP MFAs, held on 2 February in Sofia, where migration was one of the key themes addressed. The meeting concluded with a Joint Statement on Migration Challenges in SEE in which the SEECP participants expressed political support for the efforts to alleviate the ongoing migration crisis. Furthermore, the RCC and the Diplomatic Institute of Bulgaria co-organized the Winter School for Young Diplomats on 14 - 18 March in Sandanski (Bulgaria). The RCC Secretary General spoke at the winter school about regional cooperation within the RCC framework and the role in the European and Euro-Atlantic integration process. The event provided for vibrant conversations with young diplomats from the region about these topics, thereby creating a context for a deeper understanding of RCC and its mission across the SEE region.

A better alignment of priorities and actions and continuous support for the RCC are the key outcomes of the dialogue of the RCC Secretary General with RCC participants, particularly with the EC. More specifically, the RCC Secretary General has held meetings with the DG NEAR and DG Employment of the EC.

An opportunity for maintaining and nurturing the visibility of the RCC was provided by the briefing to the Working Group on Western Balkans of the Council of the EU (COWEB) on January 14 in Brussels. The briefings for the COWEB, which are held on a regular basis, galvanize pertinent political support for the activities of the RCC. The RCC Secretary General presented the progress made in implementing the activities under the SEE 2020 Strategy and the Rule of Law and Stability components of the RCC SWP for 2014-2016.

Equally important was the high-level conference "*Balkan Partnership, strengthening the region's ties*", organized by the Friends of Europe, that served as a platform to continue rising the profile of the RCC and its mission. The event, which brought together the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, ministers from the Western Balkans and other notable guests as discussants, focused on the migration/refugee crisis and other key topics for the region.

Moreover, in the reporting period, the RCC Secretary General participated at a number of high-level events and international meetings with a regional dimension, the EBRD Western Balkans Investment Summit (22 February 2016, London); the Kopaonik Business Summit (8 March, Kopaonik); the kick-off conference "Regional support to protection-sensitive migration management in the Western Balkans and Turkey" (9 March, Belgrade) and the first High-level Ministerial Panel on Responding to Climate and Environmental Challenges in SEE (1 April 2016, Podgorica).

At the EBRD Western Balkans Investment Summit, high-level officials from the Western Balkans and leading entrepreneurs have discussed about potential avenues for promoting investment and business opportunities in the region.

In the same context, the Kopaonik Business Summit served as an opportunity for the RCC Secretary General to reflect on regional cooperation and competitiveness improvement. Preliminary findings of the second annual Balkan Barometer were presented as well, with an emphasis on results that show the perception that the general public and business community have about regional cooperation and its impact on economic development and business opportunities in the region.

RCC's cooperation with EU institutions and bodies, in particular the EC, EEAS and EP has been maintained and further strengthened following comprehensive exchanges of views with EU institutions and EU high-level representatives. As a result, the work of RCC and SEECF is recognized and fully supported in the EU Enlargement Strategy from November 2015.

The RCC was invited to participate at the meeting of the MFAs of the Western Balkans held in Durres on 30 – 31 March 2016. The high-level event provided a framework for exchanging views on the activities pertaining to the implementation of the Conclusions of the Vienna Summit, including the regional interconnection agenda, the soft measures in the areas of transport and energy, the issues of migration flow in the region, and the steps related to the forthcoming Paris Summit. The meeting has culminated with a Joint Statement of the MFAs of the Western Balkans.

On the **programming** side of the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy, the RCC concluded the programming cycle 2015. After reflecting the comments and proposals received during the consultation of the draft Programming Document 2016-2018, the RCC held on 22 March 2016 in Sarajevo the 3rd Meeting of the Programming Committee. The meeting discussed and approved the final draft Programming Document 2016-2018. The Programming Committee agreed that the latest comments and proposed amendments to the draft document would be dealt with and reflected in the next programming cycle by integrating them to the reviewed Programming Document 2017-2019. It also tasked the RCC to launch the SEE 2020 programming cycle 2016.

Aiming at sharing and discussing the approved programming document with the donor community and the regional cooperation mechanisms, the RCC held on 23 March 2016 in Sarajevo the Second Donor Coordination Meeting. The meeting served as a platform for exchange of information on the ongoing development programs and assistance to the region, on the priorities, policies and planning cycle of different donors, as well as the activities of different regional cooperation mechanism. Following on the commitment from the First Donor Coordination meeting in 2015, the RCC presented the beta version of the South East Europe Donor Assistance Database (SEEDAD) and asked the donors to provide the necessary information to be uploaded into this platform available through the RCC website.

On the **monitoring** side, based on the decision of the Monitoring Committee, on 4 February 2016 the RCC launched the data collection process for 2016, for both the quantitative and the qualitative indicators from the administrations of the Western Balkan economies, from the regional dimension coordinators and from other international sources. The data are being processed in view of the preparations and drafting of the SEE 2020 Strategy Annual Report on Implementation. The launching of data collection was preceded by seminars and workshops in the capitals of the Western Balkan economies, to inform the representatives of those administrations on the modalities and procedures of data collection

In parallel, work has progressed in finalizing the analysis of the perception based data and the preparation of the publication of the Balkan Barometer 2016, the annual public and business survey on the situation in SEE that is expected to be published shortly.

Furthermore, the work on the launch of the second call for proposals related to the **small grants programme** has progressed normally.

In addition to the developments related to the programming and monitoring cycles, **the implementation of the RCC Annual Work Plan 2016 continued with normal pace**. The activities implemented during this reporting period are described in further detail in the next section and summarized as follows:

- Within the **Integrated Growth pillar**, RCC commenced preparatory work for the forthcoming implementation of the regional programme on investments (SEE Investment Committee in cooperation with CEFTA Secretariat, with financial support of the EC and technical support of the World Bank). Final draft of the programme has been prepared and agreed upon, along with the indicators for programme monitoring. The main scope of the programme has remained as initially planned, with focus on identifying the gaps and challenges and proposing reforms for those policies pertaining to investments under the three broad areas: (1) investment entry, (2) investment incentives and (3) investment protection. The novelty introduced and welcomed by the Working Group is the participation of the private sector (along with government representatives) and tackling investment policies on a vertical level (in the sectors of priorities) and in line with the development of the SEE 2020 economic corridors. The timeline set for commencement of the programme is that the EC officialises its approval in May 2016 and finalizes the contracting with the World Bank, expected by the end of 2016.

The Working Group on Investments, coordinated jointly by the SEEIC and CEFTA, approved the programme at its regular meeting on 31 March 2016 in Belgrade. During the meeting, the Working Group also intensively discussed prospective for forthcoming work on the investment agreement/protocols, which should result from the regional investment reform agenda, where the participants initially agreed with background work and analysis for such possibilities to be prepared by the RCC, but have explicitly requested for political commitment on the highest possible level (Paris Summit) before entering into negotiations process.

In resolution to the remaining challenge for the implementation of the regional Investment Policy Review in cooperation with UNCTAD, RCC started investigating other alternative solutions for conducting one such study, due to legal obstacles preventing the formalization of cooperation between the RCC and UNCTAD and the inability of UNCTAD to comply with the RCC's procurement rules are not resolved. Both parties have agreed to explore possibilities for executing such study in an open partnership, without entering into formal agreement. The proposal for an alternative solution is anticipated during 2nd quarter of 2016.

- In the area of **Smart growth**, a seminar on automatic recognition of qualifications organised jointly by the RCC, ERISSE and the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education finalised the concept and activities of the joint project proposal application for ERASMUS+ coordinated by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of Croatia and supported by the RCC.

Regional project proposal for ERASMUS+ has been finalised and submitted on February 9th 2016 on the topic of Quality Assured Automatic Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Qualifications – QUASAR. The development process included consultations with all Ministries

of education and ENIC/NARIC office as well as Universities in 7 Western Balkans economies plus Slovenia and Moldova.

On the **digital society dimension**, RCC Secretariat successfully organized the first meeting of the Regional Roaming Platform (Skopje, 19 February 2016), attended by the representatives from the line ministries in charge of information society and the regulatory agencies for electronic communications from the WB6 economies.

The meeting confirmed the need for a systematic analysis of the data on market impact of the existing Regional Agreement on reduction of the roaming prices (signed among 4 WB economies), as well as of the market data and institutional and legal frameworks underpinning the regulation of roaming policies in the entire WB6 region. To this end, RCC has commissioned a study on the roaming policies in the region and will support the structured regional policy exchange and dialogue frameworks (such as the Regional Roaming Platform and the Coordination body, established within the Regional Roaming Agreement). RCC's contribution in promoting regional cooperation in coordinating roaming policies in WB was welcomed both on the side of WB6 economies, as well as from EC's services.

Following the completion of the Study and its findings, RCC Secretariat and the WB6 governments will continue to jointly identify the scope for further collaboration in the area of roaming (e.g. facilitating a negotiation process for prospective market-based elimination of roaming fees in line with EU-level advancements; potential geographic extension of the Regional Roaming Agreement; raising the public awareness of the impact and benefits from the reduced roaming fees; exporting best practices of regional cooperation in roaming policies to the participants of the European neighborhood process, etc.).

A further important development in the digital society dimension in the reporting period concerns the organization of the first regional exchange meeting on broadband infrastructure development and prospects for enhanced regional collaboration (co-organized by RCC and the Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration of Albania, held in Tirana, 15 March 2016). The meeting enabled the participants to gain a systematic overview of the state of play, challenges, needs and future plans re. broadband in the WB6 region, to attentively hear the perspective of EC and IFIs' experiences and to structure a process so as to more precisely identify the common challenges and niches for collaboration and scope the prospective regional interventions. As a direct follow up of the meeting, RCC and DG NEAR are in the process of preparing a regional TAIEX event on the Broadband cost reduction Directive 2014/61.

- In **Sustainable growth, environment** dimension, the RCC continued supporting the Regional Working Group on Environment that initiated the organization of the 1st High-level Ministerial Panel on Responding to Climate and Environmental Challenges in SEE (held on 1 April 2016 in Podgorica). This Panel provided a framework for the consolidated dialogue on environmental priorities in SEE and resulted in the adopted Declaration of the "Podgorica Initiative" outlining priorities in this sector until 2020.

In the **energy dimension**, the RCC supported the initial meeting of the Balkan Bioenergy Task Force with support from the GIZ DKTI Program: "Development of a Sustainable Bioenergy Market in Serbia" on 2 March 2016 in Sarajevo.

Related to the **regional connectivity agenda**, RCC launched the preparation of a register of ancillary infrastructure and interoperability and signalization aspects on the Road Core Network, under the *transport dimension* of the SEE 2020 Strategy. RCC Secretariat participated at the second meeting of the Transport Facilitation Working Group (the key coordination and monitoring platform under the soft connectivity agenda), during which the findings of RCC-supported Inter-modal study for Western Balkans were presented.

Following the undertaken consultations with SEETO, CEFTA and EC, RCC commissioned the elaboration of a Study on developing *economic corridors*, which aim to aid the integration of infrastructure improvements with economic opportunities such as trade and investments. In the period leading up to the Western Balkans Paris Summit, based on a comprehensive economic assessment of the core corridors and their surroundings, RCC, in collaboration with SEETO and CEFTA will: outline the economic corridors concept and identify the required policy mix and policy instruments to address the bottlenecks and investigate the wider economic gains from the corridors' development. In line with the identified policy instruments, RCC will aim to put forwards concrete regional policy recommendations and set of actions/pilot actions, aimed at addressing the bottlenecks and exploiting the full economic gains from the regional connectivity agenda.

On the **competitiveness** side, the RCC started preparing a platform for development of the joint regional offer in tourism industry and for the regional supply chain in food and beverages processing industry. This platform will be proposed to the expert groups in both sectors in forthcoming meetings during 2nd quarter of 2016. Finally, the work on both sectors will be integrated into forthcoming work on the industrial policy development along with the economic corridors development, with planned proposals for selection of additional sector(s) of priorities).

- In the **Inclusive growth** pillar The RCC, ILO and DG Employment signed the contract on "Economic and Social Affairs Platform" project which aim is to jointly create a Western Balkans Platform on Employment and Social Affairs. This project will be jointly implemented by the ILO and the RCC in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo^{*}, Montenegro, Serbia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It will strengthen regional cooperation and institutional capacities of national administrations, employers' and workers' organizations enabling them to develop and effectively implement labour market and social policy reforms and thereby advancing their EU pre-accession process. The ESAP will last 36 months and its project team, which has been hired during the reporting period, is based in Sarajevo. The ESAP will establish structured dialogues on employment and social affairs between Western Balkans governments and social partners. The project will encompass face-to-face and virtual

^{*} 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

activities, such as sub-regional meetings, bilateral exchanges, and development of new tools and information material. A virtual platform will be set up to follow and complement the in-person activities.

- In the **Governance for Growth and the Rule of Law**: the first quarter of 2016 was marked by the preparations for the establishment of the SEE Judicial Training Institutions Network and SEE Associations of Mediators network, to be established in April and June 2016. With regard to capacity building measures, RCC developed the study on the assessment of the training needs for judges and prosecutors. Study was discussed at the Working Group on Justice Workshop in February, approved by the stakeholders (WB Judicial Training Institutions) and will be presented at the kick-off event on 13 April 2016.

The RCC also actively participated in the coordination meeting of the IPA projects in the JHA area, organized by DG NEAR, as the first of the similar meetings to be held in 2016 in order to better coordinate regional activities in the area of the Rule of law.

- Under the **stability and rule of law** pillar, the RCC convened on 27 January 2016 in Sarajevo the first meeting of the Group of National Focal Points for countering radicalization and violent extremism leading to terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters in SEE. The participants had exchanged data, views, and good practices in this complex of issues. The Group adopted its Terms of Reference. The participants expressed their support to the RCC's Regional Platform for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Foreign Terrorist Fighters in SEE (Regional CVE-FTF Platform), and gave guidance for its implementation. The meeting's result is an increased shared understanding of the problem, which is to lead to more coordinated responses to it.

The RCC continued supporting, guiding and coordinating the activities of regional cooperation initiatives in the area of security cooperation. The contacts and cooperation with the international organizations and partners active in this area has been intensified, in particular with the DG NEAR, OSCE, UNODC, UNDP, and the U.S. The RCC continued its active and close cooperation with regional security organizations and initiatives, such as SEESAC, SEDM, RACVIAC, PCC SEE and DPPI SEE. The preparatory work continued for the SEEMIC Executive Working Group (EWG), to be held in Moldova in May. As a part of implementation of the Regional CVE-FTF Platform, the RCC Secretariat worked on: preparations for a workshop for law enforcement experts and state attorneys/prosecutors on legal and practical challenges in countering violent extremism leading to terrorism and dealing with current and former foreign terrorist fighters, to be held in Sarajevo in May; web-based platform for exchange of information on CVE and the expert workshop on root causes and incentives to radicalization and violent extremism leading to terrorism, to be held in Sarajevo in June.

- On the **cross-cutting side** and in regard to **gender related issues**, upon the finalization of the project Women Entrepreneurship – A Job Creation Engine in South East Europe, which lasted since 2011 until the end of 2015, the RCC commenced the activities pertaining to the project closure. In this respect, the timeline of activities regarding project audit and final reporting have been determined until the end of May, in order to officially close the project by the end

of June 2016, as per project agreements with the donor and implementing partners). Final project publication is also intended to be produced in the form of a leaflet, with the main project results, which include: recognition of the women entrepreneurship throughout SEE either by individual economy-level strategies or as a part of the competitiveness or SME strategies, contribution to the SBA implementation, implementation of education/training programmes for women entrepreneurs and strengthening of the association of women entrepreneurs throughout the region and including them in public-private sector dialogue.

- On the **Roma Integration 2020 programme**, the RCC undertook the appropriate measures to embed the initiative within the RCC Secretariat and, jointly with the representatives of EC and OSF, carried out the recruitment process for the Roma Integration Action Team. The Roma Action Team based in Belgrade will start work as of 1 April 2016.

2. Update on progress in implementing SWP 2014-16

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 1: Horizontal activities				
Cooperation between RCC and SEEC	<i>SEEC Political Directors meeting, 1 February 2016, Sofia</i>	Exchange of views on the latest developments in SEE, finalization of the draft SEEC Joint Statement on Migration Challenges in SEE.	Sound coordination and synergy between the SEEC and the RCC.	Finalized
	<i>Second Informal Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the SEEC participants, 2 February 2016, Sofia</i>	Assessment of regional developments in SEE and European/Euro-Atlantic integration process. Discussions on the need for progress on connectivity and infrastructure development in light of the forthcoming Summit of the Berlin Process to be held in Paris; the importance of coordinating and exchanging intelligence in the context of the migration crisis; the necessity for the SEEC to become more operational.	Reconfirmed commitment to regional cooperation in SEE and further support for the activities of the RCC. Adopted the SEEC Joint Statement on Migration Challenges in SEE, thereby mustering political support for the efforts to alleviate the ongoing migration crisis.	Finalized
	<i>SEEC Troika, RCC - EU meeting, 25 February 2016, Sarajevo</i>	Briefing and the coordination between the SEEC Troika, RCC and EU related to the implementation of the recent and planned activities of the SEEC C-i-O and RCC	Better synergy and cooperation between RCC and SEEC. Support for the timeframe on the finalization and adoption of the SWP 2017–2019.	Finalized
	<i>RCC Board Meeting, 26 February 2016, Sarajevo</i>	Acceptance by the RCC Board of the Report on the activities of the RCC Secretariat for the period 1 October-31 December 2015. Presentation of the draft RCC SWP 2017-2019. Presentation of the Roma Integration 2020 programme.	Political support for the activities implementing the RCC SWP for 2014 - 2016 and pertinent progress in the preparation of the RCC SWP for 2017–2019.	Finalized
	<i>OSCE Security Days: Refocusing Migration and Security - Bridging National and Regional Responses, 4 March 2016, Rome</i>	Discussion of evolving migration trends in and around the OSCE area and their complex security implications.	Increased awareness on the need for greater coherence of efforts and close cooperation among OSCE, international agencies, and regional organisations,	Finalized

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
			partners in the Mediterranean region and Asia, and the civil society.	
	<i>11th Winter School for Young Diplomats on "EU and NATO in South Eastern Europe and the Black Sea Region: Foreign, Security, and Energy Policies", 14 - 18 March 2016, Sandanski</i>	Discussions about the regional cooperation process in SEE and the role of the SEECP and RCC.	Augmented awareness among young diplomats from RCC participants from SEE about regional cooperation in SEE and RCC's role in promoting and facilitating the European and Euro-Atlantic integration process.	Finalized
Consultations of the Secretary General with SEECP and RCC participants	<i>Meeting with the Manager of the UNDP Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS, 20 January 2016, Sarajevo</i>	Exchange of views on priority areas of cooperation between RCC and UNDP.	Greater convergence between the activities of RCC and UNDP, particularly with regard to the targets of the SEE 2020 Strategy.	Finalized
Regular consultations of SG and senior RCC officials with European Union institutions and services; dialogue with the EU macro strategies	<i>RCC Secretary General's participation at the COWEB meeting, 14 January 2016, Brussels</i>	Briefing on the activities and initiatives planned for the period 2017-2019.	Increased visibility of the RCC at the EU level and forward-looking dialogue with Brussels-based EU bodies.	Finalized
	<i>Meeting of RCC Secretary General with Adviser for Coordination of Roma Policy in DG NEAR, 14 January 2016, Brussels</i>	Discussion on issues pertaining to the implementation process of the Roma Integration 2020 project.	Coordinated efforts in preparation for the official launch of the Roma Integration 2020, which is expected in early June 2016.	Finalized
	<i>Meeting of RCC Secretary General with Director General of DG NEAR, 15 January 2016, Brussels</i>	Presentation of the activities planned to be implemented in the period 2017-2019, and discussion about the upcoming Paris Summit.	Strengthened dialogue and exchange of information with EU institutions.	Finalized
	<i>Meeting of RCC Secretary General with Director of Directorate D - Labour Mobility in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, 15 January 2016, Brussels</i>	Briefing on the RCC activities planned for the period 2017-2019, including discussions on the Employment and Social Affairs Platform (ESAP) project to be implemented under the umbrella of the RCC.	Progress in paving the way for an effective implementation of the ESAP project.	Finalized
	<i>Participation of Head of RCC LO in the session of the Western Balkans Follow-up Committee of the</i>	Presentation of the RCC's mission and activities, as well as preview of the ESAP project.	Raising awareness regarding the pace of the implementation process of the SEE 2020 Strategy.	Finalized

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>European Social and Economic Committee, 24 February 2016, Brussels</i>			
	<i>Meeting of Head of RCC LO with Head of the Council of Europe's Liaison Office in Brussels, 8 March 2016, Brussels</i>	Briefing on RCC's activities planned for the period 2017-2019 and discussions about possible areas of cooperation.	Support of the Council of Europe for regional cooperation in SEE and the RCC activities.	Finalized
	<i>Meeting of Head of RCC LO with Head of Unit B3 (CIVEX), Committee of the Regions, 18 March 2016, Brussels</i>	Briefing on RCC's activities planned for the period 2017-2019 and discussions about possible areas of cooperation.	Continuous dialogue and a strengthened cooperation in exchanging of information with EU institutions.	Finalized
Participation of SG to high-level events	<i>Third meeting of the Working Group for the establishment of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office for the Western Balkans (RYCO), 25-30 January 2016, Sarajevo</i>	Agreement on the establishment of headquarters of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office for the Western Balkans in Tirana.	Coordination of future steps of the Working Group for the establishment of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office for the Western Balkans.	Finalized
	<i>The Launch of the Open Regional Funds for South-East Europe – Biodiversity (ORF BD), 4 February 2016, Belgrade</i>	Introduction of the project to the relevant stakeholders in SEE. Discussion on potential sub-projects eligible for ORF BD funding within three areas: economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, transboundary ecosystem management and biodiversity reporting and information management.	Raising awareness about the importance of regional cooperation for better implementation of the EU's Biodiversity Strategy 2020.	Finalized
	<i>"Friends of Europe" event: Balkan Partnership, Strengthening the Region's Ties, 16 February 2016, Brussels</i>	Discussions (under the panel "the pressures delivering ever-closer regional cooperation) on enhancing regional cooperation among accession economies, and migrant/refugee crisis.	Improved visibility of RCC and its mission.	Finalized
	<i>Western Balkans Investment Summit, 22 February 2016, London</i>	Discussion on regional projects and opportunities for investment in energy and transport, as well as the privatization agenda in the Western Balkans.	Promotion of investment potential and business opportunities in the SEE region, as well as the inflow of foreign direct investment and cross-border projects.	Finalized

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>Kopaonik Business Forum 2016: Catching Up and Convergence with Leading Trends, 8-10 March 2016, Kopaonik</i>	Exchange of opinions on improving economic reform policies in SEE.	Raised the visibility of the RCC activities related to economic development of the SEE region.	Finalized
	<i>A kick-off conference of the programme "Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey", 9 March 2016, Belgrade</i>	The launch of the implementation of three-year programme, supported by the EU, that is offering assistance to support SEE to advance in developing comprehensive and holistic approaches to migration management.	Establishing effective migration management systems in SEE as part of the EU accession process.	on going
	<i>Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Western Balkans, 30-31 March 2016, Durres</i>	Evaluation of further steps that will enable new regional connection projects to be endorsed in the upcoming summit of the Berlin Process, which will be held in Paris.	Reaffirmed commitment to the Berlin Process and the agenda of regional interconnection, as a factor for economic growth in the Western Balkans.	Finalized
Communication	<i>Champion of regional cooperation</i>	The RCC has selected the European Fund for the Balkans (EFB) as the Champion of Regional Cooperation in the year 2015. The Award was presented by RCC Secretary General to the Executive Director of the EFB at a ceremony in Sarajevo on 25 February 2016.	Recognition and promotion of regional cooperation in SEE.	Finalized
	<i>"Romeo and Juliet" theatre show, 21 March 2016</i>	The RCC supported a guest theatre performance of "Romeo and Juliet" by theatre Radionica Integracije (Belgrade) and Qendra Multimedia (Pristina) at the Sarajevo National theatre.	Fostering and promotion of regional cooperation via arts and culture.	Finalized
	<i>Interviews with Secretary General</i>	Interviews for regional medias in Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.	Raising awareness about the RCC activities.	Finalized

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>Meetings with media representatives.</i>	Engagement of SEE press core throughout the region, which included meetings with around 20 Editor in Chiefs or Directors of the mainstream electronic and print media.	Maximizing the media coverage and creating and maintaining good relations with the media in SEE and SEE press core in Brussels.	Finalized
	Follow of the most relevant activities of the Secretary General, the Program and the Political departments of RCC Secretariat	Press coverage included following of RCC activities conducted by the Secretary General, Political and Program departments, resulting in 8 news items, 7 press releases, and 1 Personal angle stories, which is in total 16 items.	Raising public awareness about the RCC activities and the SEE 2020 Strategy and activities of the Secretary General.	Finalized
	<i>Social Media</i>	Facebook gained close to 2 thousand new people who liked the RCC page so now RCC has 3,666 likes; Reach was around 0,5 million; we had 72 posts. Twitter was also very active with 32 tweets by @rccint and 33 retweets from the RCC's partners/stakeholders/beneficiaries, 44 impressions/reactions, 49 retweets, 50 likes and 29 replies. 7 new videos were posted on YouTube with 4,140 views.	Raising public awareness about the RCC activities and SEE 2020 Strategy and activities of the Secretary General.	Finalized
SEE 2020 Horizontal Activities – Coordination, Programming and Monitoring of SEE 2020				
Coordination, Programming, Monitoring	<i>Finalisation of the Programming Document 2016-2018</i>	Communications and consultations with the SEE 2020 Strategy beneficiaries for the finalisation of the draft Programming Document 2016-2018	Final draft Programming Document 2016-2018 ready for approval by the Programming Committee	Finalized
	<i>Meeting of the 3rd SEE 2020 Programming Committee, 22 March 2016, in Sarajevo</i>	The final discussion and approval of the Programming Document 2016-2018,	The Programming Document 2016-2018 is approved	Finalized
	<i>Meeting of the Second Donor Coordination Meeting, 23 March 2016 in Sarajevo</i>	Sharing of information and coordination between the beneficiary economies, the regional dimension coordinators and the donor	Better understanding of the ongoing projects in SEE and future plans of all parties involved. Better coordination of	Finalized

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
		community	all parties involved	
	<i>The Balkan Barometer 2016</i>	Continuation of the analysis of the collected data, preparations for the publication of Balkan Barometer 2016	The Balkan Barometer is finalized and prepared for publication.	On-track
	<i>Training of the institutions of the WB economies, engaged on the data collection cycle 2016, January, February 2016</i>	Training of the experts involved in the data collection cycle 2016	Full understanding of the modalities and procedures of the data collection 2016 by those engaged in the process	Finalized
	<i>Launch of the data collection cycle 2016, 4 February 2016</i>	The set of indicators structured, methodology simplified, the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved agreed	Data collected successfully for the monitoring cycle 2016	Finalized
Component 2: Implementing the SEE 2020 and the Stability and Rule of Law priorities				
Integrated Growth: Free trade; Competitiveness; Integration into the global economy;	<i>Regional Benchmark Study: Regional Investment Policy Review</i>	RCC searching for alternative solutions with UNCTAD for official cooperation on this activity	No outcomes in the reporting period	Postponed
	<i>Regional Programme; Investment Policy and Regional Integration</i>	Programme finalization with comments received from the EC integrated in the final document	Programme endorsed by the SEEIC-CEFTA Investment Working Group	On-track
	<i>Meeting of the Joint Investment Working Group of SEE Investment Committee and CEFTA Meeting, 31 March 2016, Belgrade</i>	Regular meeting of SEE Ministries in charge of investment policies, Investment Promotion Agencies, and CEFTA contact points, to review the final draft of the regional investment programme and discuss the prospects for future negotiations on regional investment agreement and/or protocols to existing agreements.	Endorsed the final draft of the regional programme. Initially agreed that the RCC conducts analytical work for assessment of the legal base for potential regional investment agreement and/or protocols. Requested highest political approval from the SEE economies to enter into	Finalized

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
			the process of further discussions and future negotiations on regional investment agreement.	
Smart growth: Education and competences; R&D and Innovation; Digital Society; Culture and creative sectors;	<i>Seminar on developing project proposal "Quality Assured Automatic Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Qualifications", 21 January, Zagreb</i>	22 participants present at this seminar to discuss and finalise the ERASMUS+ regional project proposal under the title "Quality Assured Automatic Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Qualifications – QUASAR". This included the participation of interested parties to join in the preparation of the proposal, which will be submitted in February 2016 for funding within the open call (Erasmus+ Capacity Building).	Agreement reached on concrete activities envisaged in the project proposal and many issues related to the proposal were fine tuned and finalised.	Finalized
	<i>Preparation of a regional project proposal on automatic recognition of qualifications for ERASMUS+ funding</i>	Professional services were acquired by the RCC to develop a regional project proposal for ERASMUS+ funding related to the topic of Quality Assured Automatic Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Qualifications – QUASAR. The development process included consultations with all Ministries of education and ENIC/NARIC office as well as Universities in 7 western Balkans economies plus Slovenia and Moldova for the preparation of the project proposal the deadline of which was February 10th 2016.	Project proposal Quality Assured Automatic Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Qualifications – QUASAR was successfully submitted on February 9 th 2016.	Finalized
	<i>Mapping and Assessment study aimed at identifying sectors and professions of mutual interest for</i>	RCC commissioned a study on "Mapping and Assessment Study aimed at identifying sectors and professions of mutual interest for mutual	Study on "Mapping and Assessment Study aimed at identifying sectors and professions of mutual interest for	Finalized

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>mutual recognition agreements of professional qualifications in SEE</i>	recognition agreements of professional qualifications in SEE". This study will feed into the work of the Joint WG on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications and serve as the basis for a decision in which profession/s mutual recognition agreements would be negotiated.	mutual recognition agreements of professional qualifications in SEE" was finalized and sent to the members of the JWGMRPQ for comments and as a preparation for the forthcoming 4th meeting of the JWGMRPQ to be held on April 14th 2016.	
	<i>1st meeting of the Regional Roaming Platform, 19 February 2016, Skopje</i>	Established regional platform on roaming. Endorsed ToR for the Legal and Market Impact study.	Launched Legal and MIS on roaming policies in WB.	Finalized
	<i>1st Regional exchange meeting on broadband infrastructure development and prospects for enhanced regional collaboration, 15 February 2016, Tirana</i>	Confirmed interest for regional collaboration for broadband development and for including broadband connectivity as part of the regional connectivity agenda. Generated detailed overview of the state of play, challenges, needs and future plans re. broadband in the WB6 region, EC and IFIs' experiences and available instruments	Preparation of a regional TAIEX workshop on Cost reduction Directive and inputs on broadband connectivity under the regional connectivity agenda for the Paris Summit.	Finalized
	<i>Legal and Market Impact Study on roaming policies in Western Balkans</i>	RCC commissioned a systematic analysis of the data on market impact of the existing Regional Agreement on reduction of the roaming prices (signed among 4 WB economies), as well as of the market data and institutional and legal frameworks underpinning the regulation of roaming policies in the entire WB6 region.	No outcomes in the reporting period. The expected recommendations are expected to relate to furthering the existing Regional Roaming Agreement and defining the scope for further collaboration in the area of roaming (e.g. facilitating a negotiation process for prospective market-based elimination of roaming fees in line with EU-level advancements; potential geographic extension of the Regional Roaming Agreement, improving the legal and	On-track

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
			regulatory frameworks, etc.)	
Sustainable Growth: Energy; Transport; Environment; Competitiveness.	<i>1st High-level Ministerial Panel on Responding to Climate and Environmental Challenges in SEE, 1 April 2016, Podgorica</i>	Adoption of a high-level Ministerial “Podgorica” Declaration.	Reconfirmed highest political commitment to implement the Environment dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy. Agreement to annually convene a high-level panel of Environment Ministers of SEE with the aim of providing guidance on programming and implementation of the Environment dimension of the SEE 2020. Concrete financial pledge from Austria for supporting monitoring and verification processes in environment in WB.	Finalized
	<i>1st meeting of the Balkan Bioenergy Task Force with support from the GIZ DKTI Program: “Development of a Sustainable Bioenergy Market in Serbia”, 2 March 2016, Sarajevo</i>	Regional donor and advocacy platform for the removal of regulatory barriers for bioenergy utilization established. BBTF aims to bring together private investors and decision makers and ensure guidance in networking between private and public actors in bioenergy field.	No outcomes in the reporting period. Planned adoption of a Manifesto on regional cooperation and networking in the field of bioenergy.	Finalized
	<i>Preparation of a register of ancillary infrastructure and interoperability and signalization aspects on the Road Core Network</i>	Launch of a consultancy to establish a register of ancillary infrastructure and interoperability and signalization aspects on the Road Core Network. The consultancy will examine the compliance of the Core Network in the Western Balkans against the TEN-T standards that form part of the EU acquis.	No outcomes in the reporting period, The expected findings of the analysis should enable: creation of a register of the existing ancillary infrastructure along the selected parts of the TEN-T Core extension in the SEE; analysis of the regulatory and legal framework for identifying the necessary institutional reforms and presentation of best practices for ancillary facilities’ planning and development, formulation of	On-track

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
			proposals of locations for ancillary infrastructure per WB economy and per Corridor/Axis, and preliminary cost-estimates of required investments.	
	<i>Study on Developing economic corridors in Western Balkans</i>	Launching of study to outline the economic corridors concept and identify the required policy mix and policy instruments to address the bottlenecks and investigate the wider economic gains from the corridors' development.	Based on the spatio-economic diagnostics along the TEN-T Corridors and as a response to the Vienna Summit Conclusions, RCC, in cooperation with CEFTA and SEETO plans to present inputs on the economic corridors concept for the Paris Summit Meeting.	On-track
	<i>SEE Industrial Policy Working Group Meeting</i>	No results during reporting period / working group recently established and meeting postponed for Fall 2015	No outcomes during reporting period / working group recently established and meeting postponed for Fall 2015.	Postponed for 2 nd quarter of 2016
	<i>SEEIC Tourism Expert Group meeting, 26 October 2015, Ohrid</i>	Regular regional meeting of relevant ministries in charge of tourism industry, national tourism boards and private sector representatives, in order to finalize the OECD Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative and the regional programme actions under the SEE 2020 Flagship on Competitiveness	SEE 2020 Flagship on Sector Competitiveness with activities pertaining to Tourism (addressing the sector barriers and developing the joint regional tourist offer).	Delayed for 2 nd quarter of 2016
Inclusive Growth: Employment; Health.	<i>Start of the IPA MC project on Employment and Social Affairs</i>	Agreement between RCC, DG Employment and ILO was signed in Brussels marking the start of the implementation of the project on	RCC has recruited two staff members for the implementation of the project and has held a coordination meeting with DG	Finalized

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>Platform -ESAP</i>	<i>Employment and Social Affairs Platform -ESAP</i>	Employment, ILO, DG NEAR and ETF on setting the ground for the coordination of activities during the project implementation.	
	<i>There are no activities reported for this period in the health dimension</i>			
Governance for Growth: Effective public services	<i>No activities in the reporting period</i>	No outputs in the reporting period	No outcomes in the reporting period	
Justice dimension	<i>Workshop to discuss and approve Study/Report on best practices in training of judiciaries in the EU MS, assessment of the training needs, and evaluation of results</i>	The report discussed, finalized, approved and shared with the stakeholders	Recommendations ready for implementation. Further analysis of the impact in September 2016	Finalised
	2nd Rule of Law Forum	Networking. Exchange of information and experience on the new developments related to the European Court on Human Rights case law in relation to national cases	Regular functioning of the cooperation platform with CSOs for the WB supreme and constitutional court judges, directors of training institutions and ECtHR judges	Finalized
Anticorruption	<i>No activities in the reporting period</i>	<i>No outputs in the reporting period</i>	<i>No outcomes in the reporting period</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
Promoting Stability and Rule of Law - JHA and Security Cooperation				
Justice and Home Affairs	<i>No activities in the reporting period</i>	No outputs in the reporting period	No outcomes in the reporting period	
Security cooperation: Facilitate and support the development of effective regional mechanisms in the security area	<i>Meeting of the Points of contact (PoC) of the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation; 19 January 2016; Rakitje, Croatia</i>	Review of RACVIAC's activities and operation.	Support for RACVIAC's activities.	Finalized
	<i>First meeting of the RCC Group of National Focal Points for Countering Violent Extremism in Southeast Europe; 27 January 2016, Sarajevo</i>	Establishment of the Group, adoption of its Terms of Reference, stock-taking of the current situation regarding CVE efforts in SEE, exchange of views on the topic, endorsement of the RCC Regional CVE-FTF Platform and guidance for its implementation.	Coordination of national efforts and increased regional cooperation in addressing security challenges in SEE.	Finalized
	<i>Annual Gernia Hill Conference, 2-3 February 2016, Prishtina</i>	Exchange of views on important security policy topics, such as: roles of NATO and the EU in the Western Balkans, implications of conflicts in Syria and Ukraine for European security, impact of migration on European unity, counter-narratives to violent extremism, energy security, and the future of the Euro-Atlantic community.	Enhanced understanding of their respective views among the decision-makers and foreign and security policy experts from SEE. Deeper understanding of issues at hand.	Finalized
	<i>Working visit to Moldova as a part of preparations for SEEMIC Executive working group and (EWG) and SEEMIC main conference to be held in Moldova; 10-12 February 2016, Chisinau</i>	Intensive consultations with Moldovan hosts as regards the content, form, and logistics of the 8 th Southeast Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs' forum and Export Working Group meeting.	Precise agreement on the agenda/ programme of the two forthcoming SEEMIC events to be held in 2016 in Moldova.	Finalized
	<i>34th meeting of the Southeast Europe Defence Ministerial Coordination Committee (SEDM CC) and the 35th meeting of the SEDM</i>	Update on SEDM activities and discussion on the future of the SEDM cooperation, including the operation of the South East Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG). Preparation of the 20 th anniversary of	Agreement on the establishment of a Working Group to work on the revision of the MPFSEE Agreement and on the SEDM Strategic Review.	Finalized

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>Politico -Military Steering Committee (PMSC), 30 - 31 March 2016, Istanbul</i>	SEDM.		
<i>Extending Participation, Widening Partnerships – Cross-cutting Issues</i>				
Gender Mainstreaming	<i>Project “Women Entrepreneurship – A Job Creation Engine in SEE” closing</i>	Agreeing with the donor, implementing partners and auditors on final project reporting and auditing, for the purpose of its closure.	Timeline of activities set until June 2016 for project closure	On Track

3. 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 Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Governments of the other SEECP Participating States, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo on behalf of Kosovo^{*} in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, on the Host Country Arrangements for the Secretariat of the RCC (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).

^{*} 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.

During the reporting period, two new staff members have joined the RCC Secretariat: Mr. Veselin Valkanov as the Head of the RCC Liaison Office in Brussels, and Ms. Valentina Ivanic as Monitoring Expert in the Programme Department of the RCC Secretariat.

Moreover, the RCC Secretariat has recruited the staff constituting the Action Team of the Roma Integration 2020 Project, and the staff for the Employment and Social Affairs Platform project. The posts fall in the category of project staff.

4. Key Challenges in the Reporting Period

The key challenges that we have noted before still persist, among them the following could be highlighted as critical:

- In relation to the commencement of the Regional Investment Policy Review, the RCC Secretariat has been facing a challenge in setting legal grounds for cooperation with UNCTAD, given the existing rules of the UN in terms of signing legal agreements, which are not subject to the rules stipulated by the RCC Rules and Procedures.

Nevertheless, a solution is being discussed through a different working modality, without entering a legal agreement with UNCTAD.

- The hiring process for the expert on Public Administration Reform and on Anticorruption. This has caused difficulties the within the RCC Secretariat to follow normally the ongoing processed and regional cooperation related to these two important reform areas.

5. State of financial contributions to the RCC Secretariat's budget for 2016

Contribution	Commitments	Roll Over	Contributions	Contributions net of bank charges, including roll over	Date Received	Percent
Contributing Countries (Donors)						
Austria	50.000,00					0,00%
Czech Republic	50.000,00		50.000,00	50.000,00	18-Mar-16	100,00%
Federal Republic of Germany	50.000,00			-		0,00%
Hungary	50.000,00			-		0,00%
Italy	50.000,00			-		0,00%
Ireland	50.000,00			-		0,00%
Latvia	50.000,00		50.000,00	50.000,00	4-Mar-16	100,00%
Norway	50.000,00			-		0,00%
Sweden	50.000,00			-		0,00%
Switzerland	50.000,00			-		0,00%
United States of America	60.000,00			-		0,00%
Total contributing countries donors:	560.000,00	-	100.000,00	100.000,00		17,86%
European Commission contract	3.575.000,00		3.196.301,27	3.196.301,27	9-Dec-14	89,41%
South East Europe Contributors						
Albania	60.000,00			-		0,00%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	60.000,00		60.000,00	60.000,00	17-Mar-16	100,00%
Bulgaria	140.000,00		140.000,00	140.000,00	19-Feb-16	100,00%
Croatia	80.000,00			-		0,00%
Greece	140.000,00			-		0,00%
Kosovo*	40.000,00			-		0,00%
Moldova	40.000,00			-		0,00%
Montenegro	40.000,00			-		0,00%
Romania	140.000,00			-		0,00%
Serbia	80.000,00			-		0,00%
Slovenia	80.000,00		80.000,00	80.000,00	14-Mar-16	100,00%
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	60.000,00			-		0,00%
Turkey	140.000,00			-		0,00%
South East Europe Contributors set aside funding**	386.000,00		386.000,00	386.000,00		100,00%
Total South East Europe Contributors:	1.486.000,00	-	666.000,00	666.000,00		44,82%
Total Committed Funds	5.621.000,00	-	3.962.301,27	3.962.301,27		70,49%

*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.

** balance of set aside funds is EUR275,923

Annex: RCC Annual Work Plan for 2016
COMPONENT 1. Horizontal activities, including coordination, monitoring and programming

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

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES	EXPECTED OUTCOME	
Coordination, monitoring, programming and granting							
1. Programming activities							
1.1. PROG 3rd SEE 2020 Programming Committee	x				Meeting	<i>Establish or maintain functioning coordination mechanisms with the governments, private sector, business community and civil society for the successful implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy</i>	
1.2. PROG 4th SEE2020 Programming Committee				x	Meeting		
1.3. PROG 2nd Meeting on Donor Coordination in the Western Balkans	x				Conference		
1.4 PROG RCC Grant Facility		x			Grant		
2. Monitoring activities							
2.1. MONIT SEE 2020 Monitoring Committee		x	x		Meeting		
2.2. MONIT Balkan Barometer for 2016				x	Report		
3. Coordination activities							
3.1. COORD 3rd SEE 2020 Governing Board		x			Meeting		
3.2. COORD SEE 2020 Coordination Meeting		x			Meeting		
3.3. COORD Support to horizontal activities (short term TA)	x	x	x	x	Other		
3.4. COORD Following EU accession-related processes (Liaison Office)	x	x	x	x	Conference		
3.5. COORD Support to national coordination activities/national workshops	x	x	x	x	Other		
Political department and public relations activities							
1. Political coordination and support to SG's activities							
1.1. POLIT Meetings of the RCC Board (three meetings)	x	x		x	Meeting	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	

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES	EXPECTED OUTCOME
1.2. POLIT Coordination meetings between SEECF Troika, RCC Secretariat and EU (four meetings)	x	x		x	Meeting	Review of the developments within regional cooperation in SEE and provision of recommendations; harmonization of the priorities of the SEECF CIO with the Strategy and Work Programme of the RCC.
1.3. POLIT RCC Annual meeting (one meeting)		x			Meeting	Strategic coordination and further development of the regional cooperation processes; revision and endorsement of the Annual Report on Regional Cooperation in SEE, as well as of the triennial Strategy and Work Programme of the RCC.
1.4. POLIT SEECF support: political consultations with SEECF participants (six events)				x	Meeting	Better alignment of priorities and actions; political support for the activities of the RCC.
1.5. POLIT Regional Cooperation Day in Brussels/High-level Conference		x			Conference	Maintain and enhance cooperation with EU institutions and Euro-Atlantic structures and other Brussels - based stakeholders; Promote European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the SEE region; Increase visibility of RCC and SEECF .
1.6. POLIT Participation of the Secretary General in the high-level conference on the Western Balkans - Friends of Europe				x	Conference	Promote European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the SEE region; Increase visibility of RCC and SEECF .
1.7. POLIT Meeting of the Steering Group of PA 10 of EUSDR		x			Conference	strengthening coordination; exploring possibility for joint projects; possible synergies with flagship initiatives
1.8. POLIT Meeting of the Ad-hoc Working Group of the RCC Board participants from SEE on the level of financial contributions to the RCC Budget for the period 2017 – 2019		x			Meeting	recommitment to the existing level of financial contributions
1.9. POLIT Training for young diplomats from SEECF participants	x				Workshop	An increased visibility and knowledge about the RCC and its mission within the Foreign Ministries in the region. Contribution to capacity development on regional cooperation.
2. Communications						
2.1. COMMS PR Public relations activities	x	x	x	x	Other	Strengthen RCC communications with regional audiences
COMPONENT 2. Implementing the SEE 2020 and the Stability and Rule of Law priorities						
Objective: Enhance mobility, connectivity and competitiveness and build mutual confidence between SEE governments and peoples						

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES	EXPECTED OUTCOME
Skills and Mobility						
1. Increased (labour) mobility in the region						
1.1. Removal of obstacles to (short-term) mobility of professionals in the region						
1.1.1. MOBI Mapping and Assessment Study aimed at identifying sectors and professions of mutual interest for mutual recognition agreements of professional qualifications in SEE	x				Study/ Assessment	<i>Agreed sectors and professions of mutual interest for mutual recognition agreements on recognition of professional qualifications in SEE. Roadmap for development of mutual recognition agreements in professions of mutual interest in SEE agreed and adopted.</i>
1.1.2. MOBI 3rd Meeting of the JWGMRPQ		x			Meeting	
1.1.3. MOBI Mapping of existing legislative and institutional framework on the recognition of professional qualifications in selected professions of mutual interest			x		Study/ Assessment	
1.1.4. MOBI 4th Meeting of the JWGMRPQ				x	Meeting	
1.2. Creating preconditions for automatic recognition of qualifications						
1.2.1. MOBI Regional meeting for preparation of ERASMUS+ project	x				Meeting	<i>Created preconditions for automatic recognition of qualifications in the SEE. Created preconditions for a functional network of ENIC/NARIC centres in SEE.</i>
1.2.2. MOBI Mapping study on recognition legislation in the region			x		Study/ Assessment	
1.2.3. MOBI Seminar on automatic recognition of qualifications back to back with the ERI SEE Governing Board meeting				x	Meeting	
1.2.4. MOBI Preparation of a regional project proposal on automatic recognition of qualifications for EU funding	x				Study/ Assessment	
1.3. Mobility of high skilled labour (PhD, researchers and academics) in SEE						
1.3.1. MOBI Mapping Study on Mobility of Researchers in SEE			x		Study/ Assessment	<i>Identified issues for enhanced mobility of high skilled labour (PhD, researchers and academics) in SEE. A mechanism for cooperation to removing issues for enhanced mobility of high skilled labour in SEE established.</i>
1.3.2. MOBI Working Group meeting to discuss the recommendations from the study) preparation for the SEECP Ministerial)			x		Meeting	
1.3.3. MOBI SEECP Ministerial summit on Mobility of Researchers				x	Meeting	
2. Building a competitive skills base in the region						
2.1. SKIL Coordination platform of regional actors in Education (RCC, ETF, ERI SEE, DG EAC, DG EMPL, DG NEAR)		x			Study/ Assessment	<i>Increased coordination between actors active in the field of education and skills development in SEE.</i>
3. Building an evidence base for development and coordination of education, labour and social affairs policies						
3.1. OBSE Regional Observatory on Education, Labour and Social Affairs Policies				x	Tool/toolkit	<i>Increased capacity to collect and analyse data on education, labour and social affairs policies. Conditions created for developing a sustainable, open, publically available and comparable regional depository of data and analysis on education, labour and social affairs policies in SEE.</i>
3.2. OBSE Meeting of the Advisory Group on Regional Observatory on Education, Labour and Social Affairs Policies				x	Meeting	
3.3. OBSE 2nd Working Meeting of the Steering Committee on Establishment of the Regional Observatory on Education, Labour and Social Affairs Policies				x	Meeting	
4. Support to sectoral activities under the Skills and Mobility Flagship						
4.1. Supporting health cooperation in SEE						

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES	EXPECTED OUTCOME
4.1.1. HEAL Study on cross border legislation on health				x	Study/ Assessment	<i>Adopt a regional information exchange mechanism for sharing experiences and good practices in cross-border public health, health care and mobility of health workforce. Continued dialogue on underlying health sector related issues to skills and mobility flagship</i>
4.1.2 HEAL Working Group meeting of the SEEHN				x	Meeting	
4.2. Research and Development for Innovation						
4.2.1. INNO WISE Steering Committee Meeting				x	Meeting	<i>Established membership role in the Supervisory Board of WISE and coordinate activities related to flagships</i>
4.2.2. INNO Western Balkan Steering Platform (Spring meeting)		x			Meeting	<i>Established coordination mechanism and a platform for policy dialogue for coordination of EU policies in Research and those of SEE economies.</i>
4.3. Support to cooperation in culture						
4.3.1. CULT 13th TFCS Coordination Meeting	x				Meeting	<i>Created preconditions for structured cooperation in the field of culture in SEE.</i>
4.3.2. CULT Technical Assistance for Project Writing				x	Tool/toolkit	
4.3.3. CULT Projects Design Workshops (3 workshops)				x	Meeting	
4.3.4. CULT 2nd Regional Summer School on Innovative On-Site Learning			x		Meeting	
4.3.5. CULT 14th TFCS Coordination Meeting			x		Meeting	
4.3.6. CULT TA to support the activities in culture	x		x		TA support	
Connectivity						
1. Adding Value to Core Transport network						
1.1. CORRIDOR Study on developing economic corridors in SEE	x				Study/ Assessment	<i>Developing economic corridors; Attracting international transport flows, improving connectivity and increasing the mobility in the region through further development of the SEE Core Transport Network; Optimization of individual transport modes and promotion of green & energy efficient transport; Contributing to the elimination of transport non-physical barriers; Encouraging public sector participation in the financing of transport infrastructure and promote the PPP model; Exploring and identifying airspace utilization possibilities; Further</i>
1.2. CORRIDOR Meetings of Task Force (RCC, SEETO, CEFTA, DG NEAR) on economic corridors	x	x	x	x	Meeting	
1.3. CORRIDOR Study on policy instruments, sectors and value chains identified in the Study on economic corridors			x		Study/ Assessment	
1.4. TRAN Introducing border crossing management best practices a) ToR for queue management service b) BCP waiting times measuring	x				Study/ Assessment	
1.5. TRAN Creation of a register of ancillary infrastructure along the Core Corridors in the Western Balkans and the other sections of the Core Network	x				Study/ Assessment	
1.6. TRAN Meeting of the Directors of the Air Transport Directorates at the Ministries of the JSPAI members and observers		x			Conference	

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES	EXPECTED OUTCOME	
1.7. TRAN Meeting of the "NSA Pool of Experts" Working Group			x		Meeting	<i>implementing the Single European Sky (SES); Improving ICT connectivity and extending the single digital market to SEE</i>	
2. Regional energy market in SEE							
2.1. ENERG Meeting of EP-ECS Parliamentary Forum				x	Conference	<i>Supporting energy market reforms in SEE</i>	
2.2. ENERG Awareness raising/capacity building training		x			Workshop		
3. Regional cooperation in environment							
3.1. ENV Meetings of Reg WGEnv	x			x	Meeting	<i>Setting up and maintaining a regional platform on environmental reforms to enable coordination and cooperation on joint actions in biodiversity, Nexus and climate change adaptation and mitigation</i>	
3.2. ENV Ministerial meeting		x			Conference		
4. Single digital market in SEE							
4.1. ICT Study on roaming in WB	x				Study/ Assessment	<i>Strengthened ICT connectivity in the region through reduced costs of communication</i>	
4.2. ICT Roaming Platform meetings (review ToR of study and discuss recommendations)	x		x		Meeting		
4.3. ICT e-SEE Initiative meetings		x	x		Meeting		
Competitiveness							
1. Investment Integration							
1.1. INVEST Regional Investment Policy Review (joint work with UNCTAD)				x	Study/ Assessment	<i>Improved investment integration and industrial policy coordination for a more business-friendly environment in the SEE</i>	
1.2. INVEST Support in analysing the legal base and drafting the investment agreement/protocols (consultancy)				x	Study/ Assessment		
1.3. INVEST Study visits to best practice MITs		x			Seminar		
1.4. INVEST Support to Investment Conferences		x		x	Conference		
1.5. INVEST Development of SEE Investment Promotion Publication					Promotional material		
2. Strengthening the industrial base							
2.1. INDUST SEE Investment Committee and CEFTA Investment Working Group (21 +3ppl) x2 meetings		x		x	Workshop		
2.2. INDUST SEE Investment Committee plenary session (21ppl) x2 meetings		x		x	Meeting		
2.3. INDUST SEE Investment Committee ministerial (high-level) meeting (30ppl)				x	Conference		
2.4. INDUST Support to business– trade in priority sectors					Conference		
2.7. INDUST Meetings of the food and beverages expert group (21 ppl + 3)		x		x	Workshop		
2.8. INDUST Meetings of the tourism expert group (21 ppl + 3)		x		x	Workshop		
2.9. INDUST Meetings of the industrial policy expert group (14 ppl + 3)		x		x	Workshop		
2.10. INDUST Mapping Tourism Routes (Cultural Heritage, Adventure)				x	Study/ Assessment	<i>Improved tourist offer and visibility of the SEE and increased visits to cultural sites</i>	
Rule of Law and Security Cooperation							

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES	EXPECTED OUTCOME
1. Governance and public administration reform						
1.1. PAR Follow-up to RIA Study: Workshop on Process of planning at governmental level	x				Workshop	<i>Increased efficiency and effectiveness of public service provision at the national and sub-national level</i>
1.2. PAR Follow-up to RIA Study: Workshop on Quality Checks for RIA and Coordination of Public Policies		x			Workshop	
1.3. PAR Trends in Reforms of Administrative Courts - RCC/ReSPA joint event		x			Seminar	
1.4. PAR Conference "Zentrum fuer Verwaltung Forschung" KDZ/RCC joint event		x			Conference	
1.5. PAR Decentralization Observatory: feasibility study		x			Study/ Assessment	
1.6. PAR Follow-up to Decentralization Observatory Study: Implementation of the methodology developed in the study (questionnaire, screening of data, analysis of data, report) - cooperation with NALAS			x		Report	
1.7. PAR Follow-up to Decentralization Observatory Study: Awareness raising event - cooperation with NALAS				x	Conference	
2. Anticorruption						
2.1. CORRUP Whistle-blowers - awareness raising events (regional and national) + observation report (at the end of the awareness raising events - issues, recommendations)		x			Report	<i>Developed regional methodologies and instruments for fight against corruption</i>
2.2. CORRUP Whistle-blowers - 2nd meeting of the coalition for the protection of whistle-blowers				x	Meeting	
2.3. CORRUP Workshop for Civil servants who deal with whistle-blowers (co-financing)		x			Workshop	
2.4. CORRUP Summer School: Asset Recovery			x		Training package	
3. Support to networks and CSOs in the area of justice						
3.1. JUS Regional Rule of law Forum - cooperation with NGO AIRE (co-financing and co-organizing)	x				Conference	<i>Further enhancing regional cooperation in the Rule of Law and coordinating existing initiatives in the region aiming at cross-border cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs. Signed Letters of intent or MoU aiming at strengthening the independent institutions, such as Judicial Training Institutions and independent bodies such as Councils for judiciary as a prerequisite for the efficient, competent and accountable judiciaries. Improved cooperation with the civil society organisations and already existing networks, support the cross-border cooperation in civil and criminal law, in the rule of law in the region.</i>
3.2. JUS Kick-off event "Establishing the network of the Judicial Training Institutions", SEE, 30 participants, followed by Workshop (WB)		x			Conference	
3.3. JUS SEEPAG meeting (co-ordination and co-financing)'Joint Investigation Teams - cooperation of police, prosecutors and judges in combating organised crime"		x			Seminar	
3.4. JUS Developed modules 'Functioning of EU' and 'Ethics' (regional trainings in 2017, target groups: judiciaries and public administration)			x		Report	
3.5. JUS Ministerial meeting SEE (joint statement supporting regional cooperation in judicial training and court related mediation)				x	Meeting	
3.6. JUS Coordination Conference 'Regional Initiatives in rule of law'				x	Workshop	
3.7. JUS Kick-off event "Network of the SEE Associations of mediators"		x			Conference	
3.8. HOME Meeting of the Chiefs of the Police and Chiefs of the State Prosecutor's Office (follow-up of the UNODC activities and RCC's cooperation with the UNODC in the field of CVE)		x			Conference	

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES	EXPECTED OUTCOME
3.9. HOME Meeting of the Law Enforcement and Prosecutors in CVE				x	Workshop	
4. Security cooperation						
4.1. SEC Meetings of established RCC-led specialised regional security sector formats, such as SEENSA and SEEMIC (including the working groups - 4 meetings)				x	Meeting	<i>Security policy issues: to contribute to the overall stability and security efforts in SEE; further building of mutual trust and confidence between the RCC participants from the region (in particular the Western Balkans); strengthening security sector cooperation in the region; to contribute significantly to the overall efforts in the area of countering radicalization and violent extremism leading to terrorism and the outflow of foreign fighters; to facilitate security sector reforms aimed at joining NATO and EU: to contribute to better coordination of national, regional and international efforts in the security sector; to closely cooperate with the EU, NATO and RCC stakeholders.</i>
4.2. SEC Commissioning or obtaining the relevant research in CVE area			x		Study / Assessment	
4.3. SEC Regional workshop on the root causes of radicalization and violent extremism leading to terrorism		x			Workshop	
4.4. SEC To establish and maintain a regional radicalization awareness network (SEE RAN) and a regional network of NGOs active in the field of CVE			x		Meeting	
4.5. SEC Regional workshop on the prevention of radicalization (online and offline)			x		Workshop	
4.6. SEC Establish and maintain a regional web-based platform for the countering violent extremism and terrorism		x			Web site	
4.7. SEC Regional conference on the coordination of the efforts in SEE in the area of countering violent extremism, terrorism and foreign fighters				x	Conference	
4.8. SEC 2 meetings of the forum of national focal points for countering violent extremism and foreign fighters		x		x	Meeting	
4.9. SEC Regular consultations with the EU, SEECF C-i-O, NATO, national authorities of participants and other relevant actors				x	Meeting	