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## **REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL'S GRANTS WORK PROGRAMME 2017-2019**

### **1. Title**

“Support of the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2019”

### **2. Objectives of the programme, priorities for 2017 - 2019 and expected results**

The Regional Cooperation Council's Grants Work Programme 2017-2019 (RCC GWP) covers the period 2017-2019 and relates to the RCC's Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2019. Its implementation is based on the RCC's Financial Management Manual (RCC-FMM), setting down the procedures for the financial provisions which apply to the RCC Secretariat in Sarajevo and Liaison Office in Brussels.

RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2019 aims to set down the sectorial priorities identified by RCC reflecting the national and regional priorities of all the governments in South East Europe to embrace the bold policy approaches required to attain the levels of socioeconomic growth necessary for improving the prosperity of all its citizens and to facilitate the European Union integration process.

The Programme concentrates on three thematic priorities deriving from the RCC SWP 2017 -2019. :

#### **Priority 1 - Support to implementing SEE 2020 Strategy through flagship approach;**

Objective(s): To enable interventions with a wider-ranging impact across several dimensions and policy areas, focused on reducing – and where possible removing – obstacles to mobility, connectivity and competitiveness in SEE.

1.1. Support to the “Skills and Mobility” flagship which aims to remove obstacles for mobility of professionals and facilitate liberalisation of services within the SEE region through mutual recognition agreements, increase mobility of people in the SEE region across the board by developing standards and procedures for automatic recognition, and build capacity to address select labour markets shortcomings.

1.2. Support to the “Connectivity” flagship which aims to promote a better integrated, economically dynamic region through closer transport and trade integration in functioning economic corridors, increased interoperability of ICT services and reduced roaming charges across the region.

1.3. Support to the “Competitiveness” flagship, which aims to improve industrial structures and business/investment environment through a more coordinated investment policy and promotion, with the intention of producing a regional instrument in the area of investment.

Indicative activities:

- Providing better quality of data and analysis on topics related to trade, investment, education, innovation, infrastructure development, employment, health, governance and other social issues;

- Designing and conducting a peer review process in measures envisaged under the SEE 2020;
- Strengthening capacities of national administrations to cooperate with the relevant EU agencies;
- Improving the regional dimension coordinators access to expertise in related topics relevant for the SEE2020 Strategy;
- Designing cross-sectoral solutions to engage different policy areas;
- Developing unique research and analysis contributing to implementation of measures in any of the 16 dimensions of SEE 2020 Strategy;
- Strengthening the capabilities of regional dimension coordinators and governments in monitoring SEE 2020;
- Conducting awareness raising campaigns on the SEE 2020 or specific issues related to its implementation.

## **Priority 2 - Support to governance, rule of law and security cooperation;**

Objective(s): To support the SEE economies in implementing the related reforms to improve governance effectiveness and practices, establish consolidated public administrations, enhance the efficiency of judiciary, reduce corruption, enhance the fight against serious and organised crime, as well as facilitate practical regional and cross-border cooperation to these effects.

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

B.2. In the security area, the main expected result is improvement of coordination and cooperation at national and regional level, identifying and addressing gaps and overlaps in regional actions to alleviate main security threats and challenges in the region, which are coming almost exclusively from non-state actors.

Indicative activities:

- Conducting promotion activities regarding simpler and more business-friendly legislation;
- Technical assistance/conferences and other activities to improve effectiveness and transparency of government services and judiciary;
- Supporting activities to strengthen legal and practical protection of whistle-blowers;
- Supporting activities for introduction and reinforcement of regional instrument(s) on data exchange in asset disclosure and conflict of interest;
- Supporting activities to raise awareness on violent extremism and radicalization at the level of local communities, including exchange of experiences and good practices in preventing violent extremism (P-CVE);
- Supporting specific (regional, national, local, or tailor-made) programmes in PVE and in disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration of former foreign terrorist fighters and other terrorists and violent extremists.

## **Priority 3 - Horizontal and supporting activities;**

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

Indicative activities:

- Promoting development of independent monitoring tools by civil society organisations to track progress being made in the implementation of various cooperation processes in the SEE region;
- Promoting cooperation of civil society organisations and networks from different economies of the region, working on sectoral or topical issues related to SWP 2017-2019 implementation.

### 3. Eligibility criteria

The applicant has to be:

- a legal person;
- established in a territory of the RCC board participant <http://www.rcc.int/pages/14/structure>
- directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.

### 4. Selection and award criteria

Activities envisaged under this Work Programme will be implemented through grant scheme modalities based on procedures defined by RCC-FMM. The table in section 7 below outlines the proposed distribution of funds per each priority. The evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in the RCC-FMM.

### 5. Maximum rate of the RCC financing

The RCC's contribution is in relation to the eligible expenditure, which is based on provisions laid down in the RCC-FMM. The RCC's contribution is up to 90% of the eligible expenditure. The co-financing under thematic priorities 1-3 will be provided by the end grant beneficiaries and it can be from public or private funds. End beneficiaries of grants should contribute a minimum of 10% of the total eligible cost of the project.

### 6. Indicative time-schedule of calls for proposals

The RCC Grant Work Programme (RCC GWP) will be implemented in three annual cycles, 2017, 2018 and 2019. For all three calls for proposals both open and restricted procedures are possible.

For 2017, the following time schedule is envisioned:

The indicative timetable of the 2017 Call for Proposals (CfP) is as following:

- Publication of Call for Proposals: **23/12/2016**;
- Deadline for submission of concept notes: **15/02/2017**;
- Information to the applicants on the results of the concept note evaluation and invitations to the successful applicants to submit full applications: **01/03/2017**;
- Deadline for submission of full application forms: **31/03/2017**;
- Information to applicants on the evaluation of full application forms and notification on award and request for administrative documents: **14/04/2017**;
- Complaints period: **14-24/04/2017**;
- Contract signature: **01/05/2017**.

The duration of the project proposal under this Call for Proposals is estimated to up to 7 months.

The time schedule and allocation of CfP for 2018 and 2019 will be determined upon the approval of RCC's 2018 and 2019 operational budget.

### 7. Indicative amount of calls for proposals for 2017-2019

For 2017, the allocation is as following:

The Call for Proposals will be in the total amount of 150.000 EUR.

For 2018, the allocation is as following:

The Call for Proposals will be in the total amount of 150.000 EUR.

For 2019, the allocation is as following:

The Call for Proposals will be in the total amount of 150.000 EUR.

<b>Priority</b>	<b>CfP (in % points)</b>	<b>Rate of RCC's Contribution up to (%)</b>
<b>Priority 1 - Support to implementing SEE 2020 Strategy through flagship approach;</b>	60	90
<b>Priority 2 - Support to governance, rule of law and security cooperation</b>	20	90
<b>Priority 3 - Support to horizontal and supporting activities</b>	20	90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>90</b>