RegionalCooperation**Council**

Western Balkans and Europe 2020

Towards Convergence and Growth – Draft Conclusions

Brussels, March 2011

Relevance of Europe 2020 for the Western Balkans reconfirmed

Strong potential to anchor reforms and facilitate EU accession:
-competitiveness, employment, education, research, innovations,
 meeting challenge of good governance - not additional criteria

Strategic thinking - strategic approach to policy development:
- identifying regional priorities and objectives in different areas, prioritization

Commitment to common goals helps to change national policies:
- strategic documents, action plans, common targets, policy learning

Methods of coordination:
- improving system of monitoring, peer reviews, benchmarking, collecting indicators,
 harmonised with EU structural indicators (EUROSTAT), adoption of best practices

Regional mirroring of Europe 2020 at national and regional level in the Western Balkans does not replace accession process, it:
- brings valuable new dimension to the enlargement process
- provides ground for candidates and potential candidates to take part in the overall
 European vision-building process
- widens the space for partial, functional and sectoral integration of candidate and
 potential candidate countries into the European structures even before full

Priority 1: Smart Growth

EU 2020 FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE (*"Areas most in need of attention"*)	CORRESPONDING REGIONAL PLATFORM (*"Setting the Strategy and Mapping Convergence"*)	REGIONAL INITIATIVES/GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS/TOOLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION (*"Monitoring and Supporting implementation"*)
1. Digital agenda for Europe	eSEE Agenda+	• eSEE/bSEE Working Group, • CeGD • SEE ICT Forum • Community Programmes (e.g. CIP, FP7) • Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA, TAIEX)
2. Innovation Union	Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation	• Steering Platform on • WBC-INCO.NET • SEE-ERA.Net, ERA-Net+ • Community Programmes (e.g. CIP, FP7)
3. Youth on the Move	Higher Education Reform in the Western Balkans	• ERISEE • TFBHC • Community Programmes (Youth in Action, ERASMUS Mundus) • Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA, TAIEX)

Priority 2: Sustainable Growth

EU 2020 FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE ("Areas most in need of attention")	CORRESPONDING REGIONAL PLATFORM ("Setting the Strategy and Mapping Convergence")	REGIONAL INITIATIVES/GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS/TOOLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION ("Monitoring and Supporting implementation")
1. Resource Efficient Europe	Integrated infrastructure development Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative	• ECT • RENA • SEETO/Transport Community • SEE PPP Network • Community Programmes (LIFE+ Financial Instrument for the Environment, FP7) • Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA, TAIEX)
2. An Industrial Policy for the Globalization Era	SEE Investment Committee	• SEE Investment Committee • CEFTA • ABC • BAC • OECD • Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA, TAIEX)

Priority 3: Inclusive Growth

EU 2020 FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE ("Areas most in need of attention")	CORRESPONDING REGIONAL PLATFORM ("Setting the Strategy and Mapping Convergence")	REGIONAL INITIATIVES/GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS/TOOLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION ("Monitoring and Supporting implementation")
1. An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs	Social Agenda for the Western Balkans 2020	• WB Social Agenda 2020 working groups • SEECEL • SEE Employment Network • GTF • ETF • Community Programmes (Integrated Action Programme in Lifelong Learning) • Higher Education Reform (Tempus) • Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA, TAIEX)
2. European Platform Against Poverty	Social Agenda for the Western Balkans 2020	• WB Social Agenda Working Groups • SEE Health Network • Community Programmes (PROGRESS) • Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA, TAIEX)

Priority 4: Governance for Growth

EU 2020 FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE ("Areas most in need of attention")	CORRESPONDING REGIONAL PLATFORM ("Setting the Strategy and Mapping Convergence")	REGIONAL INITIATIVES/GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS/TOOLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION ("Monitoring and Supporting implementation")
1. Good Governance Agenda	Regional Strategic Document for Justice and Home Affairs	• RESPA • CeGD • NALAS • RAI • SECI/SELEC • SEEPAG • PCC-SEE Secretariat • SEDM • Others

Taskforces and Initiatives in SEE

Regional Initiative	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bulgaria	Croatia	Greece	Republic of Moldova	Montenegro	Romania	Serbia	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Turkey	UNMIK/ Kosovo	Slovenia and Others
SEE Investment Committee (SEEIC) - Paris	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x			
Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) - Brussels	x	x		x		x	x		x	x		x	
Business Advisory Council (BAC) - Thessaloniki	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Regional Network of National Investment Promotion Agencies in SEE (RNIPA) - Rotating	x	x		x			x		x	x			
Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) - Skopje	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x	
SEE Employment and Social Policy Network (SEESPN) - No headquarters	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	
Centre for Public Employment Services of SEE Countries (CPESSC) - Rotating		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x		Slovenia
SEE Trade Union Forum (SEETUF) - Zagreb/Sarajevo	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x	
Adriatic Region Employers' Centre (AREC) - Zagreb	x	x		x			x		x	x			
SEE Health Network - Skopje	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x			
Centre for eGovernance Development (CeGD) - Ljubljana													RCC/PPP
eSEE Initiative and bSEE Task Force - UNDP Sarajevo	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x		x	

Economic and Social Development

Taskforces and Initiatives in SEE

Regional Initiative \ Country	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bulgaria	Croatia	Greece	Republic of Moldova	Montene-gro	Roma-nia	Serbia	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Turkey	UNMIK/ Kosovo	Slovenia and Others
Energy and Infrastructure — Energy Community Secretariat (ECS) -Vienna	x	x		x		x	x		x	x		x	
South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO), expected future Transport Community - Belgrade	x	x		X			x		x	x		x	
ISIS Programme Secretariat -Brussels	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x	EC, RCC
International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) - Zagreb		x		x					x				Slovenia
Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) - Szentendre, Hungary	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x		19 more European countries and USA
Regional Environmental Network for Accession - Vienna	x	x		x			x		x	x	x	x	
Network of Associations of Local Authorities of SEE (NALAS) - Skopje	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Slove-nia

Taskforces and Initiatives in SEE

	Country / Regional Initiative	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bulgaria	Croatia	Greece	Republic of Moldova	Montene-gro	Romania	Serbia	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Turkey	UNMIK/ Kosovo	Slove-nia and Others
Justice and Home Affairs	Migration, Asylum and Refugee Regional Initiative (MARRI) - Skopje	x	x		x			x		x	x			
	Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI) - Sarajevo	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		Observer	
	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative – Regional Centre for Combating Transborder Crime (SECI Centre), future Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC) - Bucharest	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	Observer	Hungary, Slovenia
	Southeast European Prosecutors Advisory Group (SEEPAG) - Bucharest	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X		Slovenia
	Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA) - Sofia	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x			
	Women Police Officer Network (WPON) - No headquarters	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x			
	Secretariat of Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe (PCC-SEE Secretariat) - Ljubljana	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x				
	Western Balkans Prosecutor Network (PROSECO) - No headquarters	x	x		x			x		x	x			

Taskforces and Initiatives in SEE

Regional Initiative \ Country	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bulgaria	Croatia	Greece	Republic of Moldova	Montene-gro	Romania	Serbia	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Turkey	UNMIK/ Kosovo	Others
Security Cooperation — Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) -Zagreb	x	x		x	x		x		x	x	x		
Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI SEE) - Sarajevo	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		Slovenia
South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) - Belgrade													RCC, UNDP
South East Europe Defense Ministerial (SEDM) - Rotating	x	x	x	x	x	Observer	x	x	x	x	x		Italy, Ukraine, Slovenia, USA
The United States-Adriatic Charter - No headquarters	x	x		x			x			x			USA
South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse (SEEC) - No headquarters	x	x		x			x		x	x			Slovenia

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Taskforces and Initiatives in SEE
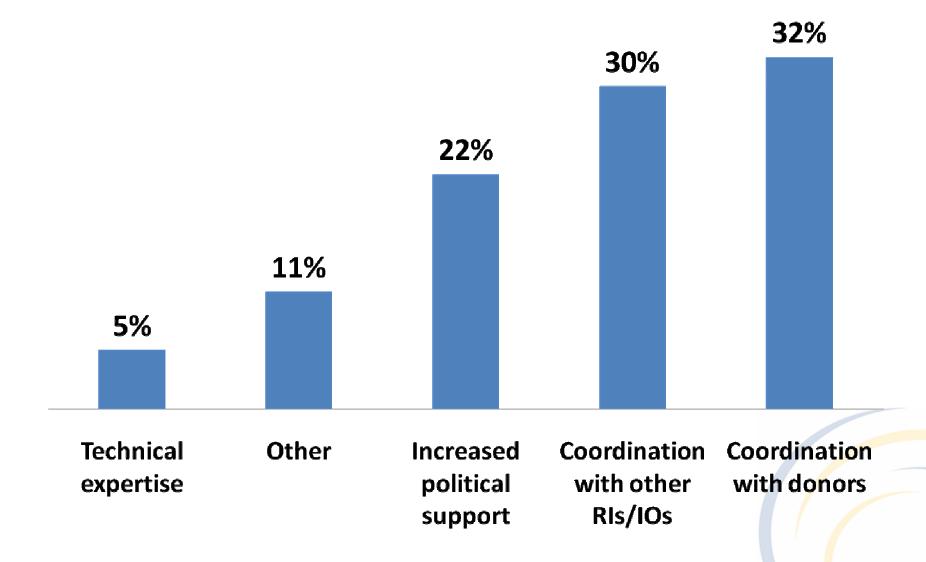
	Country / Regional Initiative	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bulgaria	Croatia	Greece	Republic of Moldova	Montenegro	Romania	Serbia	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Turkey	UNMIK/ Kosovo	Slovenia and Others
Building Human Capital and Cross-cutting Issues	RCC Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital (TF BHC) -Vienna	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	All members of RCC Board
	RCC Gender Task Force (GTF) - Zagreb	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	Slovenia
	Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) -Belgrade	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	TFFBHC
	Regional School of Public Administration (RESPA) -Danilovgrad	x	x		x			x		x	x		x	
	South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (SEECEL) -Zagreb	x	x		x			x		x	x	x	x	

Taskforces and Initiatives in SEE

Regional Initiative / Country	Albania	Bosnia and Herzego-vina	Bulgaria	Croatia	Greece	Republic of Moldova	Montene-gro	Romania	Serbia	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Turkey	UNMIK/ Kosovo	Slovenia and Others
Parliamentary Cooperation — Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South Eastern Europe (RSPC SEE) - Sofia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Conference of the European Integration Parliamentary Committees of States participating to the Stabilization and Association Process (COSAP) - Rotating	x	x		x			x		x	x			
CETINJE Parliamentary Forum - Cetinje	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x			

Regional Cooperation Council	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Total: 42	**38**	**40**	**24**	**39**	**9**	**20**	**39**	**25**	**39**	**39**	**13**	**17**	**12** Sloven.

| Headquarters South East Europe: 26+ 4 rotating | Per country: | **0** | **4** | **2** | **6** | **1** | **0** | **2** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **0** | **0** | **2** Slov. **7** others |

Mandate of the RCC

- RCC was given clear mandate from its members at the highest political level of the South East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECP) to streamline regional activities in the context of its Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013

- Call of the European Commission to enlargement countries to align the reform agenda with Europe 2020 policy objectives and RCC to assist in developing regional platforms accordingly

- In the questionnaires received from 30 regional initiatives and networks RCC was expected to intensify networking and coordination at the regional level including Europe 2020 agenda

Figure 6. Expected role of RCC going forward

Expected role of the RCC going forward

Additional Suggestions

1. **Networking and information exchange** – a number of RIs indicated that there is a need for regular periodic meetings, both between the RIs and with donors in order to exchange information and network with others;

2. **Increasing awareness** on regional cooperation initiatives and structures – awareness raising activities to target not just a narrow circle of practitioners, but also the general public in the countries of the region;

3. **Better streamlining of existing RIs –** avoiding and eliminating duplication, while further strengthening successful structures and cooperation programmes;

4. **Involvement of regional civil society initiatives and networks** in the work of RCC and other sectoral organizations.

Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2010-2011

"The enlargement process contributes to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy by extending the area of the EU's regulatory framework and creating new trading opportunities. The Commission welcomes the intention of many enlargement countries to reflect the Europe 2020 strategy in their national reform priorities. The Commission will associate enlargement countries with initiatives taken at EU level to meet the goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion...

The Commission will propose to the Regional Cooperation Council that it sets up platforms for dialogue and peer review in ...areas in line with Europe 2020 priorities. When programming IPA assistance, the Commission will take into account the priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy".

9 November, 2010

Further steps

Regional Cooperation Council:

- *Provide political commitment, networking and coordination, streamlining, strengthening bottom-up approach and regional ownership.*

- *Obtain political support from SEECP.*

- *Develop a roadmap for further coordination between RIs, national administrations, IFIs, European Union institutions, and other donors*

Regional initiatives / activities - asset for supporting reforms:

- *Coordinated efforts and strengthening focus on Europe 2020 related policy goals*

- *Take an immediate role in sectoral platform building on regional issues related to Europe 2020*

Support of European Commission - facilitating implementation:

- *Deepening policy dialogue with EU, strengthening institutional capacities, support from pre-accession funds (IPA; IPA Multi-Beneficiary)*