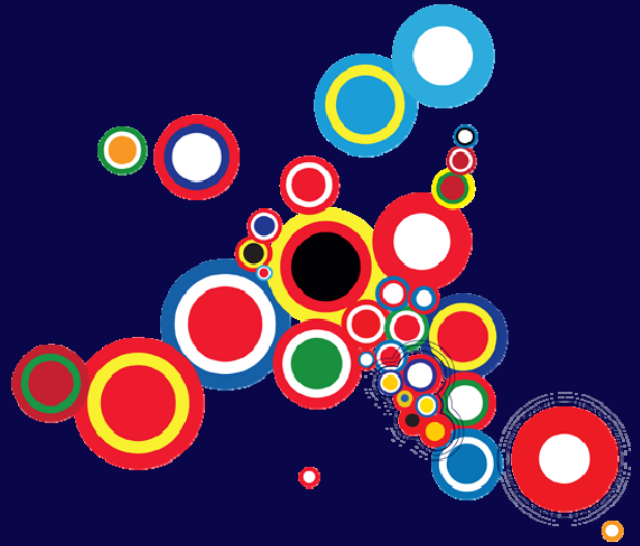




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

MULTI-COUNTRY

Enhancing mobility,
connectivity and
competitiveness in South
East Europe – Support to
RCC



Action summary

The action will support the RCC Secretariat in the implementation of its Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2019. The objective of the action is to support regional cooperation and help remove obstacles to increased intra-regional mobility, enhanced connectivity and improved competitiveness in South East Europe as well as to build confidence through regional instruments and interventions by 2019.

Action Identification			
Action Programme Title	IPA II Annual Multi-country Action Programme 2016		
Action Title	Enhancing mobility, connectivity and competitiveness in South East Europe – Support to RCC		
Action ID	IPA 2016/037-900.06/MC/Support to RCC		
Sector Information			
IPA II Sector	9. Regional and territorial cooperation		
DAC Sector	43010 – Multisector aid		
Budget			
Total cost	EUR 12 405 000		
EU contribution	EUR 7 500 000		
Budget line(s)	22.020401- Multi-country programmes, regional integration and territorial cooperation		
Management and Implementation			
Management mode	Direct management		
<i>Direct management:</i> European Commission	DG NEAR – Unit D.5 Regional Cooperation and Programmes		
Implementation responsibilities	Morten Jung, Head of Unit		
Location			
Zone benefiting from the action	Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo*, Serbia) and Turkey		
Specific implementation area(s)	N/A		
Timeline			
Final date for contracting including the conclusion of delegation agreements	31 December 2017		
Final date for operational implementation	31 December 2020		
Policy objectives / Markers (DAC form)			
General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

* 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.

Aid to environment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender equality (including Women In Development)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Biological diversity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combat desertification	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change mitigation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. RATIONALE

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Regional cooperation in SEE has long been one of the key priorities in the EU accession process. The SAAs signed with the IPA II beneficiaries feature regional cooperation as one of the political criteria, with progress being monitored each year in the Enlargement strategy and report.

Regional cooperation has evolved considerably over the past period as the agenda became more concrete and focused on regional economic integration, with sectoral cooperation in several key areas leading the way. The adoption of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy has introduced further coherence into the regional cooperation framework, linking national priorities with regional platforms and identifying the most important gaps to be addressed over the long term. The quantitative strategic targets adopted by the region's economies in the areas of economic growth, trade, investment, education, employment and governance have mostly been translated into policy objectives, with plans for action at both national and regional level being developed.

Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat (RCC), a regionally owned cooperation structure located in Sarajevo, has been instrumental in this process. The RCC has been functioning since 2008 as the regionally-owned successor of the Stability Pact operating under the political umbrella of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECF). The RCC has now completed seven years of operation during which its agenda has shifted considerably from networking and convening in wide number of themes, to more focused and result-oriented interventions in a restricted number of intervention areas.

This shift was particularly evident in the previous three-year period covered by the RCC's Strategy and Work Programme 2014-16, where a strong focus was put on the SEE 2020 Strategy and, to some extent, to Justice and Home Affairs issues. As a result of this altered approach, RCC has set up a broad coordination mechanism (with the national and regional stakeholders), a comprehensive monitoring system and a clear governance structure for the implementation of SEE 2020. In addition to working together with the governments, RCC has provided targeted support to the activities of established and recognised regional structures and other partners in a particular field and undertook additional activities to address gaps identified.

Key elements of the SEE 2020 Strategy such as transport, energy and trade facilitation have secured support from the Prime Ministers of Western Balkan economies and several EU Member States through the Berlin Process launched in August 2014 and the subsequent follow-up by Ministers under the Western Balkan 6 initiative. The Vienna Summit held during August 2015 provided a further boost with an agreement on a regional core transport network in line with EU recommendations and extending the EU transport corridors to the Western Balkans. Agreement on priority transport projects along these corridors as well as those in the energy sector facilitating integration of power systems were coupled with a funding commitment on the EU side. Furthermore, an agreement was also reached on accompanying measures to open markets and remove barriers. If implemented in full, this enhanced connectivity agenda will result in improved infrastructure, a better business climate and a more integrated regional market with stronger links with the EU – all part of the SEE 2020 agenda.

The EU's enlargement package of October 2014 heralded a move away from a heavy focus on *acquis* transposition and a greater emphasis on fundamentals such as rule of law, economic governance, and public administration reform. The approach to accession that has emerged since has placed a strong focus on ensuring the economic viability and securing long-term socio-economic growth through the sustainable implementation of EU compliant policies and regulations. The 2015 enlargement package further reinforced this focus on fundamentals. This policy shift is fully in line with SEE 2020's holistic integrated approach across the 5 pillars as illustrated also in the clear link between the Economic Reform Programmes (ERPs) and the SEE 2020 measures and targets. These programmes are envisioned to systemise and prioritize reforms, ensuring policy coherence and allocation of adequate resources towards the implementation of needed reforms. Given the alignment of SEE 2020 with the economic governance priorities, the SEE 2020

Governing Board endorsed the proposal to substitute the SEE 2020 National Action Plans with the ERPs as the main tool for implementation of SEE 2020 priorities in the national context.

With its new Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2019, RCC is further focusing its SEE 2020 interventions around three broad themes to help merge the implementation efforts of different stakeholders towards a single set of objectives. These themes – or flagship initiatives – represent joint endeavours by several regional organizations and/or implementers as partners executing mutually reinforcing activities towards the same SEE 2020 goal. The flagship initiatives should enable and incentivise different regional structures and national institutions to design interventions that will allow for a wider-ranging impact across several dimensions and policy areas.

Based on the measures and policy recommendations contained in the SEE 2020 Strategy, as well as the priorities noted under the national strategic frameworks, RCC has put forward the following flagship initiatives, endorsed by the SEE 2020 Governing Board, as main areas of intervention under the SEE 2020 framework:

- Skills and Mobility – This flagship initiative will be directed at addressing some of the main constraints identified during the development of the SEE 2020 Strategy – namely underdeveloped skills base and severely restricted mobility in the region. The flagship will directly contribute to the SEE 2020 headline target of increasing the number of highly qualified persons by 300,000 by 2020. The actions under this flagship will contribute to development of a competitive skills base in the region through facilitating synergies between the worlds of education and work, enhanced capacities to anticipate future skill needs and match skills and competences with the labour market needs. Furthermore, the actions will aim at creating conditions for automatic recognition of qualifications and improve mobility of workers, students, researchers and citizens in the region. Finally, the interventions under this flagship initiative should help optimize economic and social benefits of mobility across South East Europe.
- Connectivity - Well developed, interconnected and intermodal transport, energy and ICT infrastructure networks are vital to regional economic integration, competitiveness, sustainable and inclusive growth and attracting new investments. Improving connectivity within the SEE, as well as between the SEE and the EU will help integrate and entrench the economies of the region into the European and global economies and strengthen their mutual ties. To widen access to markets and make the private sectors and societies at large in SEE better integrated regionally and with the EU, the region will need to make substantial upgrades in its connectivity. Poor inter-connectedness of the region's economies by road, rail, water, air and energy networks affects adversely the growth of markets. Moving goods, services, capital and people across the region depends not only on good infrastructure but also on affordable services. Connectivity is a challenge beyond just physical infrastructure – some of the highest telecoms roaming charges in Europe, for instance, hinders working across borders/boundaries as well. Limited interoperability of our ICT systems presents a substantial obstacle to deploying common services. Environmental and social effects of increased connectivity need to be addressed. The interventions developed under this Flagship should address some of these problems and offer practical and cost-effective solutions. This Flagship intends to provide results in institutional connectivity, while thematically focusing on the interlinked areas of transport, energy, ICT, trade and investment and environment/climate change, so as to complement and capitalize on the ongoing infrastructure development and transport and trade facilitation processes leading to enhanced competitiveness in the region.
- Competitiveness – Increasing competitiveness and supporting industrial development of the region is the underlying assumption of at least 8 out of 11 headline targets of the SEE 2020 Strategy. Reaching these targets will to a certain degree rely on the right trade and investment policies and industrial development strategies and measures to stimulate emergence of regional value chains and their integration into European and global value chains. However, the success will be heavily dependent on the quality of institutions, general business environment, availability of skilled workers, quality of infrastructure, etc. Interventions designed under this flagship initiative should have the regional economic integration in SEE as their main objective. This flagship should also provide a platform for the development of interventions strengthening regional approaches to trade, investment, industrial and innovation policy, coordination of policies, and enhancing the business environment.

Defined in this way, the flagships would convert a static coordination structure for SEE 2020 implementation into a dynamic platform that combines different policy mixes for attaining the SEE 2020 goals

In addition to the SEE 2020 agenda, the second component of the action will address issues relating to the Rule of Law and Security. Rule of Law is cross-cutting component and precondition for the economic development and the achievement of the SEE 2020 Strategy's objectives. Rule of law is based on the functioning competent administration and judiciary as the best tools to combat corruption, to serve citizens and to build solid basis for the economic development and investments. Effectiveness and predictability of administrative and judicial decisions are the results of the crucial reforms that are under way in the region and will be supported by RCC. The prerequisite for the functioning public services and judicial systems is building capacity and developing skills of judges/prosecutors and administration at the regional level aiming at fighting corruption and achieving European standards in rule of law. As the problems and practices are similar in the region, this is to be achieved through improved cross-border cooperation, establishment of networks/platforms of the independent institutions in the justice and administration sector, improved competence by regional trainings and enhanced institutional capacity in the area of justice and administration. One of the RCC activities that will support governments in the reforming processes and improve citizens' perception of administration and judiciary is the public awareness raising at the regional level. In the area of the Rule of Law there are several key challenges, which are similar. There is institutional undercapacity in IPA II beneficiaries therefore reforms are slow and challenging and quite often there is a lack of political will for reforms. There are numerous projects going on in the region in these areas which very often overlapping with one another. The coordination among regional cooperation efforts has been left entirely to IPA II beneficiaries, whose absorption capacities are limited and so are resources, except some attempts of donors to achieve greater coordination and address security issues in a comprehensive manner, in synergy.

Security cooperation in the South East Europe is a multi-stakeholder exercise. National governments of the region are major stakeholders and actors, but there are many others as well: the EU with its bodies, institutions, and initiatives; international organizations (global, Eurasian, and Euro-Atlantic) active in the field (such as OSCE, NATO, UNDP); (sub)regional organizations and initiatives (such as SEDM and RACVIAC); involved national governments from out of the region (such as U.S.); academia and civil society. The main challenges are twofold, although closely connected: 1) how to, building upon the mutual trust, built by years of successfully implemented confidence-building measures, transit to the next phase of security cooperation in the region, marked by practical, results-oriented projects, and 2) how to enhance coordination and cooperation at national and regional level, identifying and addressing gaps and unnecessary overlapping. The RCC has a key role in addressing both challenges, especially through the implementation of its SEE Regional Platform for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (SEE Regional CVE-FTF Platform) and continuing activities, and through its continued leadership in specialized regional security cooperation formats, such as SEEMIC (South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs' Forum) and SEENSA (South East Europe National Security Authority Chiefs' Forum).

OUTLINE OF IPA II ASSISTANCE

The action is expected to yield the following results in the four main areas of intervention, linked directly to the SEE 2020 implementation:

- In the skills and mobility area, the action intends to (i) increase mobility of professionals and facilitate liberalisation of services within the SEE region through mutual recognition agreements; (ii) increase mobility of people in the SEE region by developing standards and procedures for automatic recognition in line with the commitments made within the Bologna process by 2019. Both of these results will be achieved through involvement of the relevant line ministries (education, employment, trade, etc.) in the working groups set up to support these processes (Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications, Working Group on Automatic Recognition) or regional organizations, such as ERI SEE and SEECCEL, with the analytical input generated to inform the work of the groups and the subsequent negotiations.

- Under the connectivity theme, the action will 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. In particular, the action will seek to complement and capitalize on the optimal use of physical infrastructure and the trade and transport facilitation advances by investigating their wider cumulative economic potentials and gains, developing the concepts of economic corridors and integrated economic networks and following up their concrete operationalization. In addition, the action will support further reforms in the field of roaming, in an effort to extend the single digital market to the SEE. The results will be achieved through close coordination with the regional structures and initiatives involved in these areas (SEEIC, SEETO, CEFTA, ECS, eSEE Initiative) and their operating structures that bring together line ministries in the areas of economy, trade, transport, energy, and communications.
- Under the competitiveness flagship, the action will aim 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. The work will be carried out through the SEE Investment Committee (SEEIC) and its relevant structures (Joint Working Group on Investment, Working Group on Industrial Policy) bringing together the ministries in charge of economy and investment.
- Within the rule of law and security area, the action will upgrade the competence, capacity and efficiency of public administration and judiciary, and improve cross-border cooperation and exchange of information between relevant national stakeholders. The action will promote more simple and effective legislation, more effective and transparent governmental services and judiciary, cooperation with civil society in strengthening legal and practical protection of whistle-blowers as well as introduce and reinforce a regional instrument on data exchange in asset disclosure and conflict of interest. The results will be achieved through close cooperation and coordination with relevant regional structures, operating in these areas, such as ReSPA, NALAS and RAI as well as the regional Working Group on Justice.

In the security area, the main expected result is enhancement of coordination and cooperation at national and regional level, identifying and addressing gaps and overlaps in regional actions dealing with security issues. Better coordination is to bring greatly enhanced practical results in addressing main security threats and challenges in the region, which are coming almost exclusively from non-state actors.

The activities of the action will be grouped around several components:

1. Facilitate preparations, negotiations and conclusion of several multilateral agreements to secure political commitments and create a legal basis for regional cooperation in several areas (such as MRAs, investment, roaming, etc.).
2. Create and maintain platforms for peer learning and policy coordination in several policy areas including employment, education, industrial policy, investment, etc. Platforms to include relevant national authorities and international and regional organisations.
3. Build and sustain capacity for evidence based design, coordination and monitoring of different policies in the region, broadening the evidence base through data collection and ability to provide comparative thematic analysis needed by the SEE economies by 2019;
4. Continue activities in (i) monitoring of SEE 2020 Strategy through annual data collection, analysis and reporting; and (ii) programming activities on SEE 2020 through annual programming cycles identifying the needs and gaps in implementation.

RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II MULTI-COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES

The action is fully aligned and seeks to implement the priorities noted in the IPA II Multi-Country indicative Strategy Paper 2014-2020¹, particularly in reference to the continued, and more focused implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy. As noted in the MCSP, a “particular emphasis will be put on the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) to ensure an efficient implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy with a view to strengthen the economic and job creation potential of the region”.

The European Commission Enlargement strategy 2014-2015, the IPA II Multi-Country indicative Strategy Paper 2014-2020 and the Commission staff’s assessment of the Economic Reform Programs for 2015-2017 have all identified and expressed concern over unemployment rates, prevalence of youth and long-term unemployment and have called for addressing these issues through increased labour market flexibility, education reform which reduces the skills gap and the mismatch between labour demand and supply, competitiveness-related reforms targeting improved business environment and enhanced connectivity in transport, energy and communications. The new Enlargement Strategy likewise stresses the centrality of the regional connectivity agenda within the Commission’s efforts to promote integration among the individual economies and between them and the EU and confirms that improved connectivity within the Western Balkans and with the EU is a key factor for growth and jobs, as it strengthens the economies’ backbone of competitiveness. Furthermore, the ECOFIN Council conclusions from May 2015 called upon all Western Balkans economies to speed-up competitiveness-related reforms, remove rigidities in the product markets and upgrade the educational systems to better align with the needs of the private sector. The actions will directly support the governments in implementing some of these conclusions.

The action’s focus is likewise embedded in the EU’s introduced focus on improving economic governance and competitiveness in IPA II beneficiaries, which is key to addressing concerns of citizens in a persistently difficult economic environment, with high unemployment and low investment. The strengthened economic and the initiated employment and social reform dialogues, which are being fully integrated in the Economic Reform Programmes, aspire to help IPA II beneficiaries develop their institutional and analytical capacities and prepare for participation in the EU’s multilateral surveillance and economic, competitiveness, employment and social policy coordination procedures upon accession.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The action seeks to continue the ongoing support to the implementation of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy. SEE 2020 relies on five main growth pillars – integrated, smart, sustainable, inclusive growth, underpinned by good governance - and 16 policy dimensions as areas of intervention grouped under these pillars. Integrating activities of various actors has been one of the main challenges of effective coordination of the SEE 2020 process so far. The implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy requires a focused effort by a number of different stakeholders at the national and regional level. To ensure a coordinated approach, the action puts forth several broad themes to help merge the implementation efforts of different stakeholders towards a single set of objectives. These themes – or flagship initiatives – represent joint endeavours by several regional organizations and/or implementers as partners executing mutually reinforcing activities towards the same SEE 2020 goal. The flagship initiatives should enable and incentivise different regional structures and national institutions to design interventions that will allow for a wider-ranging impact across several dimensions and policy areas.

Furthermore, the flagship initiatives should address some of the main areas of constraint identified during the preparation and first two years of implementation of SEE 2020 (e.g. limited capacity in the public and

¹ C(2014)4293, 30.06.2014.

private sector), or attempt to put forward regional engines to boost growth and create jobs (e.g. increased FDI).

Finally, the flagship initiatives will enable the SEE governments and the RCC to engage in effective and meaningful coordination of the SEE 2020 process, beyond simply convening different groups of stakeholders and channelling information between and within regional and national levels. The actions to be developed under these flagships would require close coordination between the Regional Dimension Coordinators - RDCs (regional structures coordinating different policy dimensions of SEE 2020) at every step of the way – from the conceptual stage through to their implementation and monitoring. A structured process set-up with the National IPA Coordinators (NIPACs) and National SEE 2020 Coordinators to enable programming where national representatives would be invited to review and agree on the actions proposed under the flagships, both at the conceptual as well as mature stage of development.

These changes in the approach to SEE 2020 implementation should provide for a more efficient and effective method in reaching SEE 2020 objectives during the implementation of the action.

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	
To strengthen regional cooperation and economic integration of South East Europe through sustained implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy and the Rule of law and security agenda.		Annual Report on Implementation of SEE 2020	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>SO.1. To facilitate intra-regional mobility of professionals and liberalisation of services through mutual recognition agreements and of people by developing standards and procedures for automatic recognition in line with the commitment made within the Bologna process by 2019;</p> <p>SO.2. To achieve better connected, integrated and economically dynamic SEE region through closer transport, energy, ICT and trade integration.</p> <p>SO.3. To boost SEE's competitiveness and growth and contribute to the making of SEE industry and business more competitive</p> <p>SO.4. To raise awareness and develop skills of judges/prosecutors and public administration at fighting corruption and achieving standards in rule of law and strengthening the cross-border cooperation and improving the institutional capacity.</p> <p>SO.5. To enhance coordination and cooperation at national and regional level which will address identified gaps and overlapping and lead to much more efficient responses to major security threats and challenges coming from non-state actors.</p>	<p>SOI.1.1. Qualitative assessment of efficiency of procedures for decisions on recognition of professional qualifications from SEE economies by relevant national authorities.</p> <p>SOI.1.2. Qualitative and quantitative assessment of efficiency of procedures for decisions on recognition of qualifications in ENIC/NARIC offices for qualifications from SEE economies.</p> <p>SOI.2. Increased volume of regional trade due to improved transport and energy infrastructure and trade and transport facilitation measures for opening markets, removing barriers to integration and creating a transparent regulatory environment</p> <p>SOI.3. Regional agenda on improvement of investment environment and industrial policy harmonization</p> <p>SOI.4. Number of participants at workshops, trainings and network meetings</p> <p>SOI.5. Matrix of relevant activities produced, with identified gaps and overlaps. Existing and new specialized regional security cooperation formats engaged in practical, results-oriented activities.</p>	<p>SOI.1.1. Reports of the RCC – CEFTA – ERI SEE Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications.</p> <p>SOI.1.2. Reports from ENIC/NARIC offices of SEE economies.</p> <p>SOI.2. SEETO, CEFTA, ECS, e-SEE, SEEIC reports and proceedings.</p> <p>SOI.3. Verification through ReSPA, RAI and RCC activities.</p> <p>SOI.4. SEE Investment Committee Ministerial Platform, plenary fora and relevant technical working groups analysis, reports, conclusions, and statements</p> <p>South East Europe Development Scorecard (SEEDS) collecting data on quantitative, qualitative and perception-based indicators</p>	<p>Political commitments to initiate and sustain multilateral processes and reforms aiming enhanced mobility, connectivity and competitiveness</p> <p>Availability of funding for the implementation of SEE 2020 at the national and regional level</p>
RESULTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>R.1.1. At least one signed regional Agreements on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications in selected professions of mutual interest to the SEE region.</p> <p>R.1.2. Established standards and procedures for automatic recognition in line with the commitments made within the Bologna process by 2019.</p> <p>R.2.1. Viable economic corridors developed in SEE, with climate-proofed infrastructure, ensuring optimal use of the ongoing transport, energy and ICT infrastructure development and trade and transport facilitation advances.</p> <p>R.2.2. Long term, sustainable and viable implementation of a regional agreement on reduction of roaming charges and improved consultative and inclusive policy frameworks on roaming.</p> <p>R.3.1. A regional agreement/additional protocol agreed in the area of investment.</p> <p>R.3.2. Improving the SEE industrial base through regional dialogue on development of new/improvement of the existing industrial policies and targeted efforts in development of regional value chains.</p>	<p>I.R.1.1. Number of signed regional Agreements on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications in selected professions of mutual interest to the SEE region.</p> <p>I.R.1.2. Number of qualifications from SEE economies submitted for recognition to ENIC/NARIC offices in one year. Number of qualifications recognised by ENIC/NARIC offices from SEE economies in one year.</p> <p>I.R.2.1 Percentage of reduced end-user costs for voice calls, SMS and mobile internet in roaming in one year</p> <p>I.R.2.2. Concluded Regional Roaming agreement with extended number of parties from the WB region</p> <p>I.R.2.3. Number of policy instruments adopted and pilot actions designed and implemented that contribute towards</p>	<p>I.R.1.1. Reports of the RCC – CEFTA – ERI SEE Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications.</p> <p>I.R.1.2. Report of the high level conference on automatic recognition in SEE.</p> <p>I.R.2.1. National competitiveness and industrial policy strategies/agendas, Regional Study on Economic Corridors, International and regional assessments and studies on transport, energy, trade, competitiveness, industrial policies (OECD, WB, SEETO, CEFTA, ECS, etc.)</p>	<p>Continued political commitment to liberalisation of services within the SEE region.</p> <p>Political commitment to development of standards and procedures for automatic recognition in the SEE region.</p> <p>Political commitment/adequate and well mandated representation by the governments in the regional platforms</p> <p>Political commitment maintained for 'Berlin process' and the WB Six format and progress in meeting the agreed timeline for the „soft agenda“</p>

<p>R.4.1. Competitiveness proofing of legislation implemented in at least 3 RCC participants and deployment of e-services, such as e-Procurement, to support increased transparency and better services to the citizens and business</p> <p>R.4.2. Methodologies for risk assessment and corruption proofing of legislation implemented in at least 3 RCC participants and regional instrument for data exchange in asset disclosure established, including awareness raising and development of follow the money strategies</p> <p>R.4.3. Trainers in place, capable to implement judicial training activities in EU law at the regional level, network of Judicial training institutions (JTI)</p> <p>R.5.1. Harmonization of national legislation in specific areas of security cooperation, such as dealing with foreign terrorist fighters.</p> <p>R.5.2. Improved national responses to non-state security threats and challenges through greatly improved exchange of information, with coordination of practice and joint action where applicable.</p>	<p>enhanced economic activity along the core corridors</p> <p>I.R.3.1. Overall FDI inflows - EUR million (SEE 2020 target)</p> <p>I.R.3.2. Increase in industrial productivity (processing industries)</p> <p>I.R.3.3. Intra-regional trade in intermediate goods</p> <p>I.R.4.1. Number of laws adopted through the process of competitiveness proofing of legislation</p> <p>I.R.4.2. Number of RCC participants where methodologies are implemented and regional instrument for data exchange on asset disclosure applied, supported by number of public awareness events organised.</p> <p>I.R.4.3. number of trainers in the EU law field; number of JTI meeting</p> <p>I.R.5.1. Number of laws and by-laws adopted in the field.</p> <p>I.R.5.2. Number of newly radicalized individuals. Number of successful joint (cross-border) operations. Number of thematic meetings (workshops, conferences etc.) held, and the number of participants in them. Number of counter-radicalization trainers trained.</p>	<p>I.R.2.2. Regional Roaming Agreement, Legal framework on electronic communications, Reports of the Regional Roaming Platform.</p> <p>I.R.2.3. Administrative Decisions of National Regulators, Market Impact Studies, Work Programmes/Strategies of national regulators and line ministries, Operators' business plans</p> <p>I.R.3. RCC/SEE Investment Committee ministerial platform and its plenary fora (deputy ministers) and technical bodies (expert groups in priority areas)</p> <p>I.R.4. RCC/ReSPA/RAI documents and reports</p> <p>South East Europe Development Scorecard (SEEDS) collecting data on quantitative, qualitative and perception-based indicators</p>	<p>Conclusion of CEFTA Trade Facilitation Agreement</p> <p>Available funding for infrastructure investments (funding and co-financing including through WBIF)</p> <p>Efficient coordination with IFIs maintained</p> <p>Fully functional national planning and prioritisation mechanisms (NICs, single project pipelines)</p>
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(*) All indicators should be formulated as measurement, without specifying targets in the Logical Framework Matrix. The targets should be included in the performance measurement table in section 4. More detailed guidance on indicators is provided in Section 4 on performance measurement.

(**) Relevant activities have to be included only in the following sub-section.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

The action is expected to achieve the below results in the four main areas of intervention, linked directly to the SEE 2020 implementation and the implementation of the RCC's Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2019:

1. Skills and mobility

- **R.1 Removing Obstacles to Mobility of Professionals in SEE.** In accordance with the goals and priorities stipulated by the SEE 2020: reducing the restrictiveness of free trade in services and facilitating the free movement of experts, professionals and skilled labour aligned with measures or a smooth recognition of qualifications supporting mobility in SEE and the commitments spelled out in Articles 26-29 of the CEFTA 2006 Agreement, and in particular on achieving the progressive liberalisation in trade in services and gradual opening of services markets across the CEFTA region by reducing the barriers in temporary movement of natural persons the action aims to remove obstacles to free movement of experts and professionals across the region and therefore facilitate intra-regional labour mobility. In light of the multi-dimensional approach required to remove obstacles to recognition of professional qualifications three SEE 2020 Dimension Coordinators – Central European Free Trade Agreement Structures (CEFTA), Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERISEE) and the Social Agenda Working Group (SAWG) have formed a Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (JWGMRPQ) which operates under the auspices of RCC. The JWGMRPQ aims at creating conditions for recognition of professional qualifications through facilitating conclusion of mutual recognition agreements (MRAs), works towards enhancing transparency of national and regional arrangements on recognition of professional qualifications and aims to enhance regional data exchange on the mobility of professionals and future skills needs in selected professions. Based on the preparatory work carried out in 2016 sectors and professions of mutual interest to the SEE 2020 economies where potential agreements on mutual recognition might be concluded will be identified. Between 2017 and 2019 negotiations on mutual recognition agreements in priority sectors and professions will be facilitated by RCC with the aim of concluding at least one agreement by the end of 2019.
- **R.2 Creating preconditions for automatic recognition in SEE.** The activities under this action will facilitate the development of standards and procedures for automatic recognition of qualifications in SEE in line with the commitments made by the Ministers responsible for higher education at the Ministerial summit in Bucharest and the work of the European Higher Education Area Pathfinder Group on Automatic Recognition, in particular its recommendations endorsed by the higher education ministers of the Bologna countries at the ministerial conference in Yerevan: 'to develop more effective policies for the recognition of credits gained abroad, of qualifications for academic and professional purposes, and of prior learning.' Furthermore, the activities will take into account the principles set out in *The Revised Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications* adopted by the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee in June 2010, ratified by all the SEE economies. In cooperation with ERI SEE, working groups gathering the representatives of Ministries responsible for higher education and ENIC/NARIC offices will be set up with an aim of developing a SEE network of ENIC/NARIC offices, shared information system on recognition of qualifications between SEE ENIC/NARIC offices and development of standards and procedures for automatic recognition of qualifications in SEE to be confirmed by the Ministers responsible for higher education in SEE at a high level conference in 2019.

2. Connectivity

In the area of connectivity, the focus of the action will be predominantly placed on developing viable economic corridors in SEE and facilitating the process of reducing the roaming charges.

- **R.3 Development of economic corridors in SEE.** As the development of viable economic corridors in SEE carries the potential of ensuring optimal use of the transport infrastructure and greater returns from

improved physical connectivity and in response to Vienna Summit's Conclusions², the action will firstly produce an analysis on developing the economic corridor concept for SEE. This analysis will investigate the prospects of a phased corridor development strategy, with initial emphasis on physical connectivity, followed by transport and trade facilitation, and eventual economic corridor development. In this respect, it will entail a situation analysis, i.e., a spatial social and economic analysis of each corridor and its immediate surroundings (e.g. survey/inventory of economic agents and dynamics; overview of logistics and freight forwarding capacities and opportunities/hub potentials of key economic corridors; mapping of economic potentials, assets and industrial structures; trade and export composition; production, processing, market access, export capacities; assessment of agglomeration of industries, industrial inter-linkages; assessment of opportunities for enhanced cross border links in production, processing, marketing, etc.) all along the territory of the three core network corridors. The findings of the study will also identify policy instruments (e.g. cross-border economic zones, industrial parks, regional clusters, etc.) for operationalization of the economic corridor concept. RCC will involve and utilize the institutional platforms/working groups on investments and industrial policy, and will closely coordinate with SEETO and CEFTA structures, throughout the entire processes for developing and operationalizing the economic corridors concept and embedding it in the national policy agendas.

- **R.4 Reduction of roaming charges in the Western Balkans.** In an effort to further and extend the existing regional agreement on reduction of roaming charges, and in response to the mandate entrusted to RCC to commission a market impact study in the framework of e-SEE Initiative Ministerial Conference³, RCC will concentrate its efforts on improving the pre-conditions for the long term and viable implementation of the regional roaming agreement. In this respect, RCC's contribution will be focused on enabling conducive and inclusive frameworks which will be involved in the process of furthering the current roaming agreement, improving the legislative frameworks that underpin the agreement and delivering a market impact study to contribute to informed policy making and definition of future steps. In particular, RCC will deliver a market impact study on the effects and future scope and prospects of the regional roaming agreement (improving market data evidence base, examining the current legislative aspects and praxis of the agreement and outlining recommendations/amendments needed, investigating the potential geographic expansion and further reduction/scraping of the tariffs in line with EU-level advances). The Market Impact Study will be informed on the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) reports on the state of roaming market, containing the advice on the functioning and possible extension of regulation of international mobile roaming services and the entailed methodological overview of how roaming specific costs are estimated and Commission's Impact Assessment Report in the lead-up to the adoption of the 2012 Roaming Regulation. In addition, RCC will establish an inclusive Roaming Platform (as an inclusive interface between line ministries, regulators, operators) to steer the process, follow up the elaboration of the study and implement the derived recommendations.

3. Competitiveness

- **R.5 Improvement of investment policies.** Focus of the RCC's activities for the upcoming three year period will be on the support to the improvement of the investment policies in the region, namely those pertaining to investor entry, protection and investment incentives schemes, anticipating to become a subject of a prospective articulate investment agreement/protocol among the economies of the region.

² Conclusion No 28: "Growth: The Western Balkans will work to complement the trade and transport facilitation with other instruments such as special economic zones - cross border economic zones, export processing zones, and industrial parks. This will foster further development of regional value chains called for in the Berlin Conference. The Western Balkans task the RCC to coordinate development of the economic corridors concept together with CEFTA, SEETO and participating governments, and prepare inputs for the next Summit in France".

³ 30.09.2015, Pržno, Montenegro

This activity will be conducted through a regional dialogue of the involved economies and relevant international partners, backed by drafting of substantial investment reform agenda and horizontal implementation. Alongside the reforms on the macro-level, the RCC will support the investment reform activities on the micro level in the involved economies, namely on municipal level. Finally, the region will be presented to the global business community as a single investment destination, in a joint and coordinated manner of the involved economies, with particular focus on the priority sectors of the SEE 2020.

- **R.6 Developing the industrial base.** Furthermore, the RCC will focus on the improvement of the industrial base in the region, namely through support to the development of new and/or redesigning of existing industrial policies, and with direct support to the SEE 2020 sectors by supporting their internationalization, FDI attraction through targeted investment promotion activities, and addressing main barriers that are hindering not only the development of these sectors per se, but also creation of the regional value chains. Activities that are not in the “jurisdiction” of the RCC will be implemented by relevant SEE 2020 Regional Dimension Coordinators and/or international partner organizations. These activities are included in the flagship with the objective of seeking for relevant synergies and interdependencies in a coordinated process of programming and implementation among the involved stakeholders.
4. Rule of law and security
- **R.7 Competitiveness proofing of legislation and deploying e-services.** In an effort to develop a quality legal and regulatory framework, what was recognised as one of the most important prerequisites for attracting foreign capital into the region, RCC will concentrate its efforts on supporting strategic approach to better regulation, including public and inter-ministerial consultations. RCC will in close cooperation with ReSPA encourage sharing the experience through peer-learning and networking activities. The focus will be put on designing the methodology for measuring those efforts to use better regulation for enhancing competitiveness and employment. RCC will also focus on e-procurement, which requires thorough rethinking of the public procurement process with procurement digitalisation. This goes beyond simply moving to electronic tools; it rethinks various pre-award and post-award phases with the aim to make them simpler for businesses to participate in and for the public sector to manage. It also allows for the integration of data-based approaches at various stages of the procurement process. The use of electronic tools in public procurement offers a range of important benefits such as significant savings for all parties; simplified and shortened processes; reductions in red-tape and administrative burdens; increased transparency; greater innovation; new business opportunities by improving the access of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to public procurement markets.
 - **R.8 Implementing methodologies for risk assessment and corruption proofing of legislation and regional instrument for data exchange in asset disclosure established, including awareness raising and development of follow the money strategies.** In order to provide national authorities with the framework and capacity to identify the roots of corruption and address them more effectively at national and regional level, RCC developed in close cooperation with RA a methodology on corruption proofing of legislation and methodology on Corruption Risk Assessment. Therefore RCC will focus on building the capacity for development of national methodologies and use of IT tools. RCC will also support the introduction and reinforcement of the regional instrument on data exchange in asset disclosure and conflict of interest, with the aim of streamlining the communication between all stakeholders in the region. RCC will also actively promote awareness raising events, supported by survey results in the area of whistle-blowers protection, as whistle-blowing is one of the most effective ways to expose fraud. The other efficient tool for fighting corruption is asset recovery. Linguistic and cultural similarities in the region make easy for people to move assets outside national jurisdictions. RCC will strongly support cross-border cooperation in that area with feasibility study and establishment of network, which will enable faster exchange of information.
 - **R.9 Trainers capable to implement judicial training activities in EU law at the regional level, network of Judicial training institutions (JTI).** The result is aiming at building trust in justice in the region and creating of a common judicial culture in line with EU standards. As EU is built on the rule of law combining Union law and national legal systems and traditions, the creation of European judicial

culture in the region is to be achieved through the judicial training as a crucial element of this process, thus enhancing mutual confidence between the IPA II beneficiaries and preparing the judicial systems to fit in the EU-wide justice. Reaching this goal requires the commitment and full co-operation of stakeholders at all levels and it is essential that judiciary, judicial schools and legal professions boost their judicial training activities and to make sure that Union law is integrated in the trainings as the preparation of judiciaries to become the part of EU area of justice. At the same time, the good understanding of the different national legal systems is necessary to ensure recognition of judicial decisions, cooperation between judicial authorities and execution of decisions and it is crucial to building mutual confidence and trust. The RCC reached the agreement with the ministries of justice and stakeholders upon the need to have structured regular meetings of the judicial training institutions and will establish the network of the judicial training institutions as a platform for the regional trainings and exchange of experiences and good practices. Through the broad consultation of the stakeholders (Judicial training institutions, Councils for judiciary and Ministries of justice) RCC will define core activities and priorities and establish the link to the adequate European institutions and networks, initiate and support regional trainings in EU law and trainings of trainers, with priority given to judges and prosecutors. The information about national systems will be included in the programmes, thus increasing mutual trust and understanding. To train judges and prosecutors in EU law will be best tackled by building on the strengths and experiences of existing structures, actors and by creating the network of judicial training institutions at regional level. In this process the RCC has a close cooperation with the GIZ.

- **R10 Harmonization of the national legislation dealing with the issues of foreign terrorist fighters, vetting procedures and other relevant sub-fields.** This is to be achieved through a continued process of political and security discussions and decision-making inside the SEE (in SEECF and RCC framework, including the specialized security cooperation formats) and between the IPA II beneficiaries and the European Commission, at least partly as a part of the EU accession negotiations process. The outcome is to help achieve better results in facing security threats and challenges, and at the same time to support the process of European integration of the IPA II beneficiaries.

The actual exchange of information (mostly sensitive, often classified) is to go through the existing or yet to be established secure communication channels. More strategic debates and decision-making will mostly be done through the specialized regional security cooperation formats, such as SEEMIC, SEENSA, and new Group of National CVE-FTF Focal Points.

RISKS

The main risks and constraints identified can be grouped in the following main categories:

Availability of funding

- The action, although mainly directed at the implementation of SEE 2020, supports only part of the activities needed for the implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy. Availability of funding presents a considerable constraint in the implementation of SEE 2020 agenda, both at the national and regional level. The funding gap identified in the programming process for the period 2016-18 stands at roughly 50% of the entire indicated EUR 48 million needed for implementation. This needs to be mitigated, at least in part, by a more proactive approach to the donor community and development partners active in the region as well as better targeting within national budgets. The action should seek to: (i) integrate the donor community closer into the programming process, and intensify the activities related to donor coordination and fundraising at the regional level in preparation for the action, and (ii) fully align the regional priorities to those identified in the ERPs and other relevant national strategic frameworks (such as PAR strategies, etc.)

Furthermore, different donor partners have varied approaches in terms of both the geographic scope of their interventions and the timing of programming and contracting cycles, thus requiring additional flexibility in blending various sources of funding. This is particularly important in those areas where

funding is secured, but will not become available in the short-term, leaving considerable gaps to be bridged by short term preparatory interventions financed either through the RCC's budget, budgets of partner RDCs, or those donors able to mobilize in a shorter time-frame.

Commitment of the governments

- As the implementation of SEE 2020 moves to development and deployment of joint regional instruments such as binding agreements in many of the areas of intervention, the importance of strong political commitment to the process cannot be overstated. The implementing organizations will need to demonstrate clearly the benefits of putting different instruments in place to the participating governments in order to secure and maintain support throughout the implementation. Other political processes, such as the SEECP (South East Europe Cooperation Process), the Berlin process and the Western Balkans Six should be leveraged as well to secure the necessary commitments at the highest political level.
- Securing adequate and well mandated participation of national administrations in regional structures will be crucial, as the success of planned interventions will largely rely on this. National representatives able to engage fully, with a clear mandate, decision making capacity and expertise will be needed in order to prepare, initiate, conduct and finalize regional instruments planned during the programming period and beyond.

Coordination and consultation

- Regionally, maintaining effective and efficient coordination and oversight remains a priority for the successful implementation of SEE 2020. The regional coordination architecture set up through the deployment of programming, monitoring and oversight processes during 2015 should be further streamlined to allow for structured flow of information between the Programming committee, Monitoring committee and the Governing Board. Relationships between the RCC and RDCs should be further revised during 2016 to clearly define the roles and responsibilities in various processes set up for SEE 2020 implementation in order to avoid duplication of work and overlapping in planning and implementing activities in the flagships identified.
- Nationally, intra-governmental coordination on SEE 2020 in several SEE economies could benefit from further strengthening as well. Information on activities and commitments taken within various regional structures are in some instances not communicated in a structured way through proper channels to enable full oversight by the SEE 2020 National Coordinators. RCC will be working with the National Coordinators during 2016 to identify possible areas of assistance to strengthen this coordination. This could potentially be linked to other needs for intra-governmental coordination, such as the development of ERPs in areas relevant for the SEE 2020 (as is already the case in employment and social policy with the planned Employment Platform).

CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The environment conducive to the implementation of the action will depend on several key factors, including (i) political commitments, (ii) setting up and strengthening the necessary structures for implementation and (iii) developing the capacity of involved stakeholders at the national and regional level.

In terms of garnering the political will, the RCC will work with its participants during 2016 to ensure that all the necessary commitments are made within the upcoming RCC's Strategy and Work Programme 2017-19 that should be adopted by mid-2016. Moreover, RCC intends to cooperate with the stakeholders engaged in the Berlin process to ensure that necessary commitments are being made during 2016 to define the clear

mandate and enable the implementation of the action, specifically in the areas of improved intra-regional mobility, economic corridors, roaming and investment.

Most of the structures necessary to implement and coordinate activities are in place, with the exception of the Industrial Policy Working Group which RCC intends to set up together with the Governments during the first half of 2016. Further strengthening of capacities will be needed, especially in the area of investment, and RCC plans on strengthening the capacity of national stakeholders through the involvement of the World Bank and other international organizations capable of such knowledge transfer (e.g. UNCTAD, OECD) starting in 2016 and continuing throughout the implementation of the action. With the support of the EC, a joint programme on investment is being structured together with the World Bank, also to assist with capacity development.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The RCC Secretariat will have the main responsibility in the process of implementation of the action. Furthermore, in order to implement the action in the most effective way, the following institutional set-up overseeing the implementation of the action will be used:

- *Annual Meeting of the RCC* - The Annual meeting ensures the strategic coordination and development of the regional cooperation processes, reviews and endorses the Secretary General's Annual Report on regional cooperation in SEE as well as the triennial Strategy and Work Programme of the RCC. The annual meeting meets at the level of senior civil servants or above from the Ministries of the Foreign Affairs of the RCC participants;
- *RCC Board* – The Board provides operational guidance to and supervision of the RCC, as well as adopts decisions pertinent to the activities of the Secretariat of the RCC and oversees their implementation. The Board adopts the triennial Strategy and Work Programme of the RCC and supports the Secretary General in its implementation and reviews progress. The Board holds three meetings per year and decisions are taken by consensus. The Board consists of those participants of the RCC contributing to the budget of the Secretariat of the RCC;
- *SEE2020 Governing Board* - the Board meets annually back-to-back with the Annual Meeting of the RCC. It brings together the highest political representatives of the SEE 2020 participating economies to review progress of SEE2020 implementation on annual basis. The Board also issues horizontal policy guidance and annual priorities, which will constitute an integral part of monitoring reports.

In addition to the more horizontal structures outlined above, the institutional stakeholders and coordination mechanisms at the programme level will differ depending on the flagship/sector.

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD(S) AND TYPE(S) OF FINANCING

The action will be implemented by means of a direct grant to the RCC Secretariat for an amount of EUR 7 500 000 to be signed in Q4 2016. The grant is awarded directly to RCC based on Article 190 (1) (c) of the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union on account of its de facto monopoly.

The RCC is thus a unique institution for regional cooperation, and no other organisation can perform this function. By supporting the action of the RCC Secretariat, which is the main partner for regional cooperation in South East Europe, the EU will also strengthen regional cooperation per se. The EU has made a political commitment to support it as a forum for such cooperation.

- a) The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for this action is 60.4 % of the eligible cost of the action.

4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)

Given the role of the RCC Secretariat, it will act as a platform for the monitoring of this action. As described above, the main bodies for the monitoring of the RCC activities are the Annual Meeting of the RCC, the RCC Board, as well as the SEE2020 Governing Board. However, the RCC Board will serve as the final instance to report the implementation of the action, according to the RCC statute⁴.

RCC Secretariat will perform effective and regular monitoring of the action in order to assess interim progress at a programme level, identify areas of failure and their reasons, and any immediate action to be taken to improve programme performance further.

RCC Secretariat will provide annual substantive reports of the action on progress achieved, based on results envisaged in the action plans, covering project outputs and outcomes.

RCC Secretariat will regularly transmit the Commission relevant information of its activities to assist in ensuring the appropriate visibility and co-ordination of the action. RCC Secretariat will ensure that the relevant Commission services are kept informed of all developments.

The European Commission will evaluate progress in the achievement of expected results on the basis of indicators outlined in the action. The European Commission may carry out a mid-term, a final or an ex-post evaluation for this action or its components via independent consultants, through a joint mission or via an implementing partner. In case a mid-term or final evaluation is not foreseen, the European Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner. The evaluations will be carried out as prescribed by the DG NEAR guidelines for evaluations. In addition, the action might be subject to external monitoring in line with the European Commission rules and procedures.

⁴ Statute of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), article 15, paragraph (b)

INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Baseline (value + year) (2)	Target 2020 (3)	Final Target (2020) (4)	Source of information
MCSP indicator (impact/outcome)...(1)				
Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on Professional Qualifications signed	No MRAs in 2010	At least one signed MRA	At least one signed MRA	Reports of the RCC – CEFTA – ERI SEE Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications.
Standards and procedures in place for automatic recognition in line with the commitments made within the Bologna process by 2019.	No standards and procedures for automatic recognition	Standards and procedures for automatic recognition agreed by participating institutions	Standards and procedures for automatic recognition agreed by participating institutions	Reports from ENIC/NARIC offices of SEE economies.
Regional instrument agreed in the area of investment.	No regional instrument on investment in SEE	Regional instrument in place	Regional instrument in place	Reports from SEEIC structures
Increase of intra-regional Trade in goods, EUR billion (SEE 2020) ⁵	12.4	30.5	30.5	SEE 2020 Annual Report on Implementation; South East Europe Development Scorecard (SEEDS) collecting data on quantitative, qualitative and perception-based indicators
Overall foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, EUR billion (SEE 2020)	3.4	8.8	8.8	SEE 2020 Annual Report on Implementation; South East Europe Development Scorecard (SEEDS) collecting

⁵ Pursuant to the conclusions of the SEE 2020 Monitoring Committee from its meeting held on 17 December 2015, the SEE 2020 targets will undergo a revision in accordance with Eurostat recommendations. Due to this, some of the SEE 2020 indicators specified herein might be modified in either scope or the target value.

				data on quantitative, qualitative and perception-based indicators
Competitiveness proofing of legislation and methodologies for risk assessment and corruption proofing of legislation implemented	No implementation of competitiveness proofing of legislation	Competitiveness and corruption proofing of legislation implemented in at least 3 RCC participants	Competitiveness and corruption proofing of legislation implemented in at least 3 RCC participants	Verification through ReSPA, RAI and RCC activities.
Government effectiveness improved, WBI index (SEE 2020)	2.3	2.9	2.9	SEE 2020 Annual Report on Implementation; South East Europe Development Scorecard (SEEDS) collecting data on quantitative, qualitative and perception-based indicators
Regional instrument for data exchange in asset disclosure established	No regional instrument on data exchange in asset disclosure	Regional instrument on data exchange in asset disclosure in place, including awareness raising and development of follow the money strategies	Regional instrument on data exchange in asset disclosure in place	RCC/ RAI reports

(1) This is the related indicator as included in the Indicative Strategy Paper (for reference only)

(2) The agreed baseline year is 2010 (to be inserted in brackets in the top row). If for the chosen indicator, there are no available data for 2010, it is advisable to refer to the following years – 2011, 2012. The year of reference may not be the same either for all indicators selected due to a lack of data availability; in this case, the year should then be inserted in each cell in brackets. The baseline value may be "0" (i.e. no reference values are available as the action represents a novelty for the beneficiary) but cannot be left empty or include references such as "N/A" or "will be determined later".

(3) The target year CANNOT be modified.

(4) This will be a useful reference to continue measuring the outcome of IPA II support beyond the 2014-2020 multi-annual financial period. If the action is completed before 2020 (year for the performance reward), this value and that in the 2020 target column must be the same.

5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Gender mainstreaming is an important horizontal issue that will be addressed throughout the action, all its activities and platforms. The RCC Secretariat will promote the participation of both women and men in the meetings/conferences/platforms as well as in the selection of the staff to the Secretariat.

One important area of action is also the programming and monitoring of the SEE 2020 implementation where activities supporting greater participation of women in the workforce and women entrepreneurship in particular are given specific emphasis. Furthermore, during the monitoring process, data on qualitative, quantitative and perception-based indicators will be disaggregated based on gender, wherever possible, to enable evidence-based policy design promoting greater participation of women in the workforce and in entrepreneurship.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The RCC is an equal opportunity institution which agrees not to discriminate against in any contract they may conclude with any person because of his/her race, colour, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or age.

MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

According to its Statute, RCC maintains close working relations with all actors of relevance in its priority areas, including civil society, other regional organizations and initiatives. Through its efforts on economic and social development, RCC is working on improving conditions for the everyday life of the people of the region, regardless of their ethnic or social background.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY (AND IF RELEVANT OTHER NON-STATE STAKEHOLDERS)

According to its Statute, RCC maintains close working relations with all actors of relevance in its priority areas, including civil society, other regional organizations and initiatives. Through its efforts on economic and social development, RCC is working on improving conditions for the everyday life of the people of the region, regardless of their ethnic or social background.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)

Implementation of proposed programmatic approach itself renders a limited environmental effect and therefore it is also proposed to include small scale environmental impact assessments, where applicable. It is proposed to carry out these assessments during the first year of program implementation. These assessments should consider, at least following main points description of the intended intervention, alternatives of proposed work including 0-alternative, description of the environment obviously affected by proposed actions, description of the significant effects on the environment, mitigation of harmful impacts if any, non-technical summary for public and assessment of missing know-how and other technical difficulties. Results of these environmental impact assessments can be also used as indicators when developing follow-up criteria for the proposed program. A number of actions to be carried out within the scope of this programme by partners external to RCC, are expected to have tremendous environmental impacts. These will be addressed through environmental impact and other relevant assessments in the course of implementation of such actions and are sole responsibility of implementing partners.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

Each of the envisaged actions is closely tied to ongoing political processes in the SEE region where political commitments regarding the aims identified under each action have already been made. In addition, the actions are firmly anchored in the priorities and measures defined in the SEE 2020 Strategy. To ensure further ownership over the actions, the actions presented in the document have been consulted within the appropriate structures of regional organizations and initiatives, as well as national authorities, participating in SEE 2020 implementation.

Furthermore, the actions have been integrated into the RCC's Strategy and Work Programme for the period of 2017-19 ensuring further political support, commitment and a sustainable regional mechanism for ensuring sustainability of actions after 2019. Integrations of actions into the RCC's Strategy and Work Programme enables that the implementation structures are institutionalised within RCC's structure through its programme, political and administrative departments, thus ensuring that no ad-hoc, project implementation structures are needed.

Finally, the scope of planned actions is limited to those actions which should be implemented at the regional level thus complementing the national efforts. Therefore, the scope of planned actions corresponds clearly to the mandate of RCC and the existing management capacity of RCC and avoids overlap with national initiatives.

7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility will be given high importance during the implementation of the action. The implementation of the communication activities shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the action.

All necessary measures will be taken to publicise the fact that the action has received funding from the EU in line with the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions. Additional Visibility Guidelines developed by the European Commission (DG NEAR) will have to be followed.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives and the accession process. Actions shall be aimed at strengthening general public awareness and support of interventions financed and the objectives pursued. The actions shall aim at highlighting to the relevant target audiences the added value and impact of the EU's interventions and will promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds.