



Regional Cooperation Council

REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN SEE

Goran Svilanovic
Secretary General

May 2017

REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN SEE

May 2017

Goran Svilanovic
Secretary General

**Good.
Better.
Regional.**

Strategic goal 2017-2019

Greater economic integration through easier flow of capital, people, goods and services within the SEE and between the SEE and the EU, with better governance, improved functioning of the rule of law and enhanced security in South East Europe.

Road to Trieste Summit

- WB6 leaders meeting in Sarajevo, 16 March
"We propose that our representatives together with RCC and supported by EC, start working on a proposal for a joint approach to furthering economic cooperation in WB through different initiatives in order to present them at the Trieste Summit, which could include for example on circulation of goods, services and capital, free flow of skilled workforce, a common digital approach and a dynamic investment space".
- Rationale of AP: scale up the market available to potential investors in the region; boost economic attractiveness through access to almost 20 million consumers from a single base; assist in meeting Copenhagen economic criteria
- Final draft of an itemized AP on regional economic integration by mid-June 2017
- Endorsement of a Multi-Annual AP on regional economic integration by WB6 PM at Trieste Summit, 12 July

RCC: open link for initiating and developing potential regional actions in all areas of economic integration

Consolidated trade agenda (led by CEFTA)

- Strengthen dispute settlement (resolution and enforcement)
- Further trade facilitation and elimination of non tariff barriers
- Liberalisation of trade in services (in particular key infrastructural services such as finance, insurance, and transport)
 - Regional arrangements on cooperation between regulatory authorities in charge of services sectors
 - Removal of unnecessary barriers to trade in services and establishment of contact points for services
- Maximise utilisation of preferential origin arrangements

Implementing SEE 2020 through flagships



Skills & Mobility

Mutual recognition of professional qualifications

Facilitating automatic recognition of academic diplomas

WB Young Researchers Mobility Scheme

Open access to scientific publications and research by 2020

Capacity building for PES and labour ministries through ESAP



Connectivity

Reduced cost of communication through reducing roaming charges

Mapping out Pan-Balkans broadband backbone

Regional policy dialogue in environment issues

Energy management platform setup



Competitiveness

Institutionalization of the regional investment reform agenda and setting grounds for regional investment promotion strategy

Implementation of 'Triple P Tourism' programme



Skills and mobility

- Remove obstacles to mobility of professionals through opening negotiations on mutual recognition agreements of professional qualifications of Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers
- Remove obstacles to recognition of academic qualifications by developing joint automatic recognition procedures and networking the ENIC/NARIC centers
- Development of a joint action plan on mobility of students, PhD candidates and researchers within the region and between the region and the EU which would address both outgoing and incoming mobility in the region

Skills and Mobility



Skills & Mobility

Mutual recognition of professional qualifications

Facilitating automatic recognition of academic diplomas

WB Young Researchers Mobility Scheme

Open access to scientific publications and research by 2020

Capacity building for PES and labour ministries through ESAP

Problem:

Professionals unable to practice freely across the region

Intervention:

Putting in place Mutual Recognition Agreements to enable mobility of professionals

Results so far:

Two sectors (health & construction) and 4 professions (MDs, dentists, architects civil engineers) prioritized by gov'ts

Next steps:

Negotiations during 2017, MRAs by 2020



Connectivity

- Continue reduction of **roaming prices** and extending the geographic scope of Regional Roaming Agreement
- Ensure wide **broadband** access through regulation and investment strategies, including through regional infrastructure-sharing initiatives
- Increase online sales and cross-border **e-Commerce**
- Implement **harmonized electronic identification measures** (recognized mutual recognition of qualified electronic signatures)
- Creation of regional **digital innovation hubs**

Connectivity



Connectivity

Reduced cost of communication through reducing roaming charges

Study on economic impact of digitization in WB and High level WB ICT Summit

Regional policy dialogue in environment issues

Energy management platform setup

Problem:

Up to 8x higher roaming costs than in the EU;
55% of businesses complain about roaming charges

Intervention:

Regional roaming agreement

Results so far:

30%-80% lower costs for consumers

Next steps:

Ensure implementation beyond 2017, expand geographic scope



Competitiveness

- Operationalization of a regional investment agenda so as to **harmonise policies** pertinent to investor entry, protection, and incentives
- Set-up targeted **investment promotion** efforts to jointly promote Western Balkans as a coherent investment space and single investment destination
- Set up a comprehensive **reporting system** on FDI

Competitiveness



Competitiveness

Establishment and implementation of the regional investment reform agenda and regional investment promotion strategy

Ground work for the implementation of '3 P Tourism' programme

Problem:

Differing rules on establishment, protections, dispute resolution prevent free flow of investment in the region and FDI

Intervention:

Regional investment reform agenda

Results so far:

Regional Investment Agenda currently in preparation

Next steps:

Establish and implement regional investment reform agenda; develop targeted regional investment promotion programme



Thank you!

Regional Cooperation Secretariat
Trg Bosne i Hercegovine 1/V
71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel: +387 33 561 700
Fax: +387 33 561 701
Mob: +387 61 190 601

www.rcc.int
Twitter: @rccint
Facebook: RegionalCooperationCouncil
YouTube: RCCSec