

2nd Meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR)

The role of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) in promoting regional cooperation in South East Europe (SEE) and its activities in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction

Jovan TEGOVSKI

Chief of Staff

10 October 2011, Skopje

Evolving role of the Regional Cooperation Council

- As a new, **regionally owned organisation**, the RCC represents the region, supports and initiates regional cooperation - 13 SEE beneficiaries
- The RCC operates **under the political umbrella of the South East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECP)**. Its objectives, working methods and priority areas for action are defined by the Statute and other documents adopted at Annual Meetings and endorsed by SEECP Summits.
- As the **main focal point for regional cooperation**, the RCC:
 - a. has a key role in supporting economic and social development and related reforms;
 - b. promotes the region's European and Euro-Atlantic integration of which regional cooperation is an essential part;
 - c. links the region with donor community in areas with a regional dimension



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

RCC Programming Role – complex inputs

- 5+1 priority areas: Economic and Social Development, Energy and Infrastructure, JHA, Security Cooperation, BHC and Parliamentary Cooperation
- 4 categories of beneficiary countries: EU members, IPA countries (candidates, potential candidates) and a country covered by EU Neighbourhood Policy
- Diversified players: beneficiary countries' institutions, regional initiatives, EU, IFIs, other international organizations, individual donor countries, private foundations, business sector, local communities' networks etc.

New RCC Strategy for 2011-2013:

Horizontal Priorities

- Represent the region – participation in regional and international events
- Assist the SEECF – prepare or co-organize thematic events
- Monitor regional activities – Survey, Annual Report
- Exert strategic leadership in regional cooperation
- Provide a regional perspective in donor assistance
- Support increased involvement of civil society in regional activities

Challenges

- Proliferation of different support programs and regional initiatives.
- Institutional competition.
- Insufficient donor coordination.
- Greater coherence of assistance mechanisms and sequencing is needed.
- Discrepancy between regional ownership, leadership and regional program and project implementation capacity.
- Moving beyond dialogue to greater result orientation.

Risks

- Effects of the global economic crisis in the region.
- Slowing down of the European integration process (as the major driving reform force) in the Western Balkans.
- Deterioration of bilateral political relations in the region.
- Fragility of the established regional structures .

RCC activities in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction

- RCC ↔ European Commission: active cooperation within IPA Multibeneficiary Programme
- RCC ↔ UNDP ↔ WMO: project on Regional Programme on Disaster Risk Reduction in South East Europe
- RCC → World Bank: RCC supports World Bank's initiative regarding the projects to develop the capacities of the governments of the region to reduce the fiscal liability for natural disasters through the establishment of the SECI CRIF
- RCC ↔ DPPI: active cooperation and RCC's support for the DPPI Chairmanship-in-Office
- SEECF C-i-O ↔ RCC ↔ DPPI: Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (18 November 2011, Belgrade)

Further steps

Regional Cooperation Council:

- *Provide political commitment, networking and coordination, streamlining, strengthening bottom-up approach and regional ownership.*
- *Obtain political support from SEECF.*
- *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 sectorial 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 Multi-Beneficiary)*

**And the most important message for this
conference today:**

**RCC supports
the European Forum for Disaster Risk
Reduction and its activities**

Thank you!