



SEE 2020 STRATEGY “JOBS AND PROSPERITY IN A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE”



Ljubljana, Slovenia, 11th December 2015

About the Regional Environmental Center



- The REC was **established in 1990** by **USA, Hungary and the European Commission** to enhance cooperation among the key stakeholders and address environmental issues in the region
- The **REC has 25 years of experience** in supporting the stakeholders in CEE in:
 - transition to democracy and market economy;
 - EU enlargement process;
 - moving towards sustainable development and green growth
- The REC has **implemented over 2.000 projects** with total budget of over 200 MEUR through multi-stakeholder partnerships



The REC today...



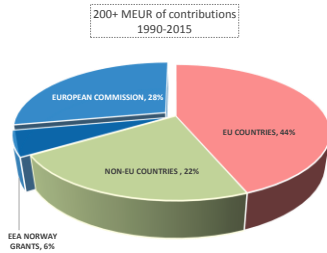
- is an **international organisation** with head office located in Szentendre, Hungary
- is legally based on a **charter signed by 32 countries and the European Commission**
- has a **Board of Directors with international members**;
- has a **regional presence and offices in CEE with an international staff** of approx. 160 employees;
- **runs projects** in EU Member States (in CEE and EU-28); EU Enlargement Countries; Eastern Partnership Countries and beyond



Funding sources



REC is 100% project-financed with annual turnover 10-12 MEUR



Strategy of the REC for 2016-2020



In its work, the REC focuses on achieving the following results:

Strengthened
environmental
governance

Strengthened low-
emission
development

Improved
natural resources
management

with relevant stakeholders in its partner countries
and regions

REC's specialization



Declaration on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the REC



Renewed mandates for the work of the REC:

SEE 2020 Strategy

Eastern Partnership

EU Policies

Circular and Low-Carbon Economy

Post-2015 Development Agenda

SOUTH EAST EUROPE 2020: jobs and prosperity in a European perspective



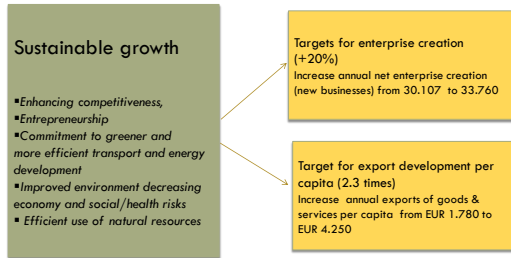
- SEE 2020 was inspired by the EU's own initiative, the **Europe 2020 strategy**
- The SEE 2020 Strategy sets out a **vision for a new development pathway for South East Europe** that should **boost prosperity and job creation** in the region, and at the same time **underscores the European perspective** of the region's future

Five pillars of SEE 2020



SOUTH EAST EUROPE 2020

Sustainable growth pillar targets



SOUTH EAST EUROPE 2020

Sustainable Growth Pillar

- Sustainable growth requires **sustainable and accessible transport and energy infrastructure**, a **competitive economic base** and a **resource efficient economy**
- The Sustainable Growth pillar aims to **boost growth and jobs** by maintaining and supporting:
 - **strong,**
 - **diversified and**
 - **competitive economic base,**
 while becoming more resource efficient.

Dimension H: Energy

Objectives

- Minimum **9% energy saving by 2018**
- **RE share in GFEC by 2020** in line with EnC
- **Empower consumers**
- Stimulate **energy infra-structure development**
- Create a **well- functioning SEE energy market**

Dimension I: Transport

Objectives

- ☐ **Decrease the cost of transport for 20%**
- ☐ **Improve transport infrastructure utilization rates to over 40%**
- ☐ **Decreasing energy consumption** per unit of transport service for 20%
- ☐ **Increase the share of railway and waterborne transport**
- ☐ **Facilitate air transport**

Dimension J: Environment

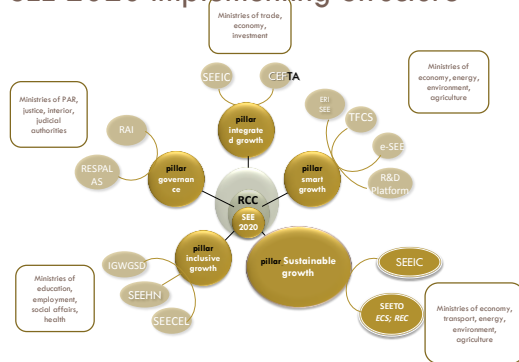
Objectives

- ☐ Increase **adaptive capacity**
- ☐ Twofold **increase of share of irrigated agriculture** land by 2020
- ☐ Increase volume of **annual forestation**
- ☐ Advance water, energy and food nexus
- ☐ Enhance **private sector involvement in water** infrastructure development
- ☐ Start implementation of RIWMFA

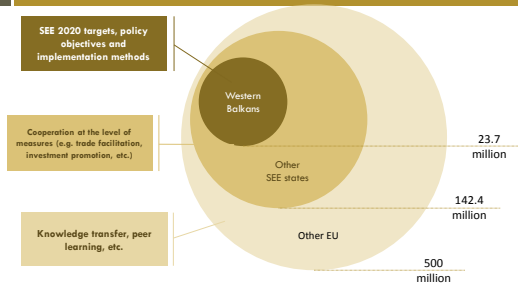
Delivering the Strategy commitments implementation & governance

- ☐ Implementation plan:
 - ☐ The Strategy envisages a well-defined implementation plan with concrete actions to be taken in the years to 2020.
 - ☐ The Strategy has a **clear focus on future practical steps** to be taken by SEE countries on the set of coordinated Strategy actions. These are the **policy instruments** that SEE countries will apply to steer their economies towards the desired new state.

SEE 2020 Implementing Structure



Layers of SEE 2020 Implementation



Coordination Mechanism, Dimension Environment

- Overall coordination
 - ▣ Regional Council for Cooperation (RCC)
- Dimension Coordinator
 - ▣ Regional Environmental Center (REC)
- In partnership with:
 - ▣ Global Water Partnership Mediterranean
 - ▣ Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe



REC in SEE 2020 Strategy

- Cooperation based on signed **MoU between REC and RCC**
- REC contributed to SEE 2020 Strategy development, part environment;
- Appointed as **Coordinator of Dimension Environment**
- Other partner organizations are: **GWP-Med** and Standing Working group for Rural Development (SEE SWG)
- **Regional Programme for Environment** addressing the SEE challenges in the fields of: Climate Change, Water-Food-Energy NEXUS and Rural Development developed end of 2014
- **RCC established WG Environment**
 - First meeting - May 2015
 - Second Meeting - October 2015

Environment programme under the SEE 2020

- To **strengthen the integrated management of natural resources and cooperation for a more innovative and sustainable development of SEE region**
- Defined based on the key environmental challenges and opportunities in the SEE and following three selected cooperation themes:
 - I Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP)
 - II Water, energy, food and ecosystem nexus (WEFEN)
 - III Rural Development for Sustainability (RDS)

Implementing the SEE 2020 Strategy through Flagship Initiatives

- 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 (Figure 1)
- **Programming document** – sets out the priority actions for the SEE 2020 implementation **2016-2018**
- Covers the three-year period of **Intended updates on a rolling basis** over the next five years of implementation
- The actions described **transpose the political priorities and measures put forth by the SEE 2020**

What are flagships ?

- longer-term coordination and integration between different policy areas along several policy axis – **flagships** – that will enable a more dynamic and cross-sectoral approach in implementation
- RCC has put forward the following flagship initiatives, endorsed by the Governing Board:
 - Skills and mobility
 - **Connectivity**
 - Competitiveness

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 European Union **will help integrate and entrench the economies of the region into the European and global economies and strengthen their mutual ties.**

Connectivity flagship Objective

- Contribute to making **the SEE region better connected, integrated and competitive**
- Contribute to **stronger production and distribution networks, well-being and improved livelihood**
- Thematically interventions in the inter-linked areas of
 - transport,
 - energy,
 - trade and investment and
 - environment/climate change,

Flagship relevant policies

CORE policies

- ☐ Transport policy
- ☐ Energy policy
- ☐ Electronic Communications Policy

Related Policies

- ☐ Trade
- ☐ Investment and industrial policies
- ☐ Environment and Climate Change

RCC will focus its concentrated efforts on **defining the concept of viable economic corridors in SEE** and ensuring optimal use of the transport infrastructure, transport and trade liberalization and greater returns from improved physical connectivity

Areas of interventions

Adding value to the Core Transport Network

- ☐ Opening of the transport market
- ☐ Establishment of competitive, reliable and safe transport system
- ☐ Promoting trade facilitation
- ☐ Increasing the effectiveness of Border Crossing Procedures
- ☐ Developing viable economic corridors in SEE
- ☐ Climate-proofing of infrastructural investments in SEE

Areas of interventions

Promoting further development of the SEE regional energy market

- ☐ Spot Market Development
- ☐ Cross-border Balancing
- ☐ Regional Capacity Allocation

Bringing the single electronic space to SEE

- ☐ Encouraging a seamless single market for electronic communications in SEE
- ☐ Promoting enabling environment for enhanced ICT connectivity, harmonized and interoperable ICT infrastructures, systems and services
- ☐ Supporting further reforms in the field of roaming

A way forward

- The **Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)**, apart from embarking, together with SEETO and CEFTA, on the process of developing the economic corridors concept, works towards mobilizing resources to address connectivity-related issues such as ***mitigating social and environmental effects of enhanced transport and energy production, incorporating environmental concerns into the regional trade agenda***, furthering the regional agreement on reduced roaming charges. The activities within the Connectivity flagship will likewise be embedded in the work of the established Working Group on Investments and Industrial Policy Working Group.

