

National Convent on the European Union

Outlook on regional cooperation - Multilateral framework for bilateral relations -

Jelica Minić

Deputy Secretary General of the RCC

BELGRADE

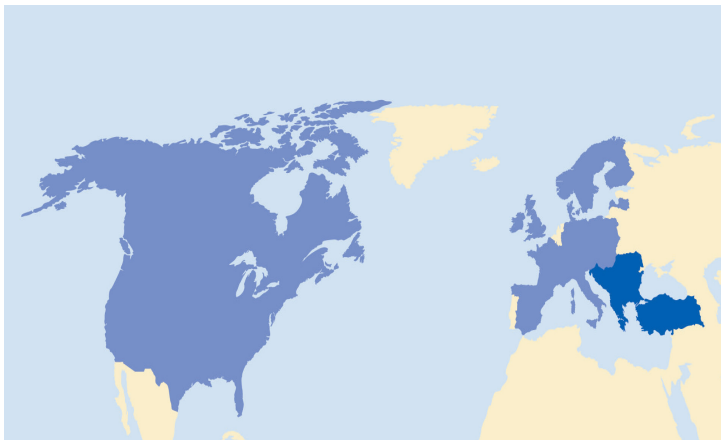
8 November, 2010

South East Europe is moving forward

- To durable stability through enhanced regional cooperation on the path towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration.
- Regional cooperation – from fulfilling EU accession criteria to a complementary segment of national European policy agenda - a value *per se*
- A new sense of responsibility, rapprochement and reconciliation-aimed dialogue.
- Laying ground for the resolution of remaining issues – developing a new image.
- Synergy of strategic vision, coming from both the EU and the region's ends - the greatest achievement over the recent period.
 - Intensive bilateral communications
 - Slovenian-Croatian Initiative – high-level Brdo conference
 - Greek-Austrian and Italian-Spanish initiatives (Vienna, Sarajevo)
 - Western Balkans - a foreign policy priority for Visegrad Group (in particular Hungary and Slovakia)
 - Turkish initiative - trilateral matrix Turkey/BiH/Serbia, Turkey/BiH/Croatia
 - Igman Initiative high-level Sarajevo meeting and other CSOs initiatives
 - EU-WB High-level Meeting, 2 June, Sarajevo
 - SEECP Summit, 23 June Istanbul

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



Membership

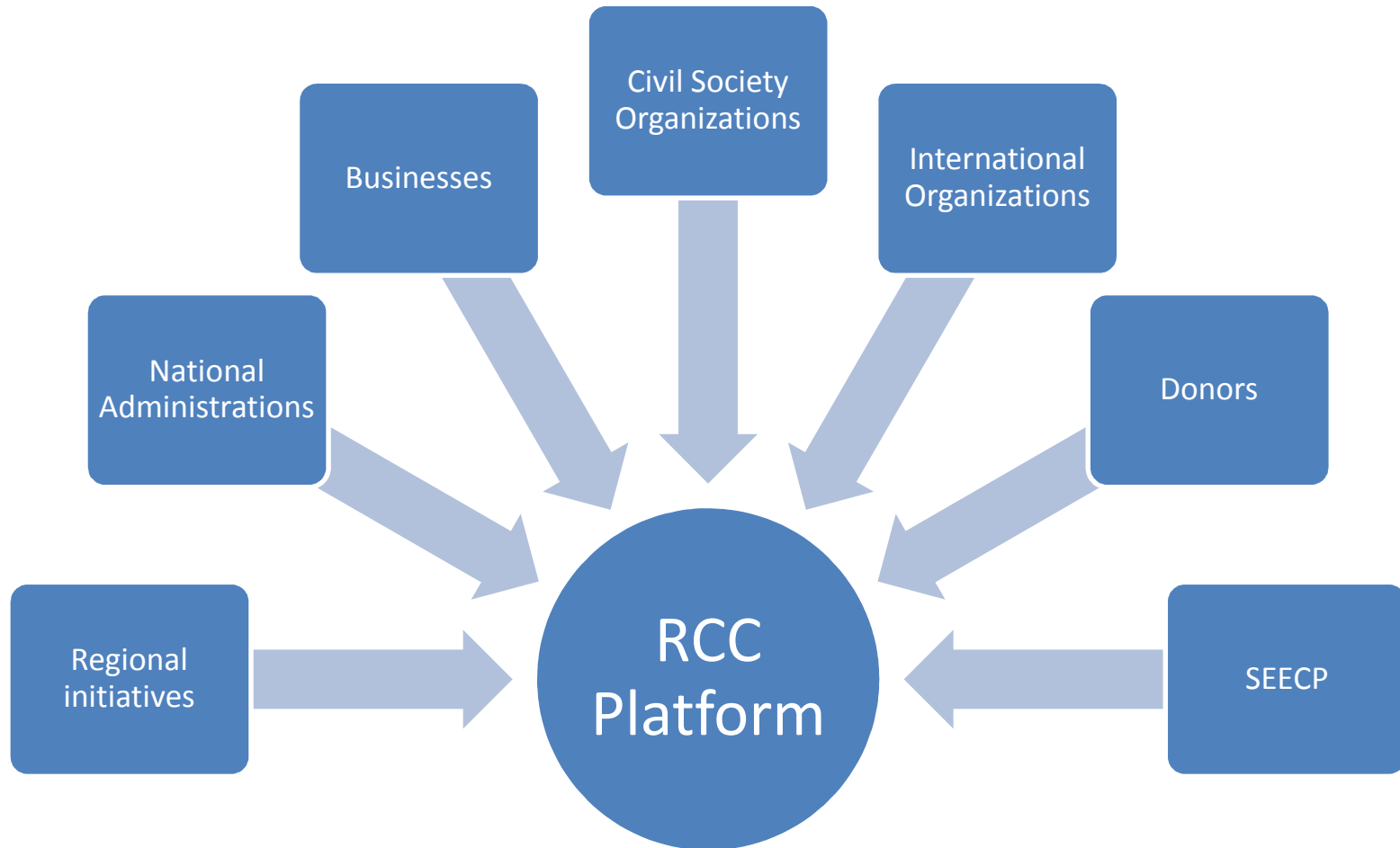
- **Members from the South East Europe** (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey) and UNMIK on behalf of Kosovo in accordance with the UNSC Resolution 1244
- **European Union**, represented by the Troika (European Commission, EU Presidency, Council Secretariat)
- **Donor countries** (Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States)
- **International organizations/institutions** (CoE, Council of Europe Development Bank, EBRD, EIB, European Parliament, OECD, OSCE, NATO, SECI, UN, UNDP, UN ECE, World Bank)

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 beneficiaries: EU members, 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.

RCC Platform

Result of a Broad Consultative Process



RCC role in donor coordination:

- to provide a regional perspective in donor assistance, notably in EU assistance under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA);
- to contribute to the programming of IPA Multi-beneficiary Programme (IPA MB) through participation of its experts in the IPA MB Strategic Working Groups:
Statistics, Justice, Freedom and Security, Public Administration Reform, Cultural Heritage and History, Human Rights and Minorities and Vulnerable Groups, Infrastructure, Environment and Risk Reduction, Private Sector Development and Investment Climate
- to ensure that IPA priorities correspond to regional priorities, and to focus attention on the need for beneficiaries to cooperate amongst themselves and liaise with other key stakeholders and the donor community;
- RCC Secretariat is also part of the donor coordination process through its participation in the International Financial Institutions Advisory Group (IFI AG) and the Steering Committee of the Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF);
- RCC is ready to play a similar role, as appropriate, regarding assistance to the region from other donors.

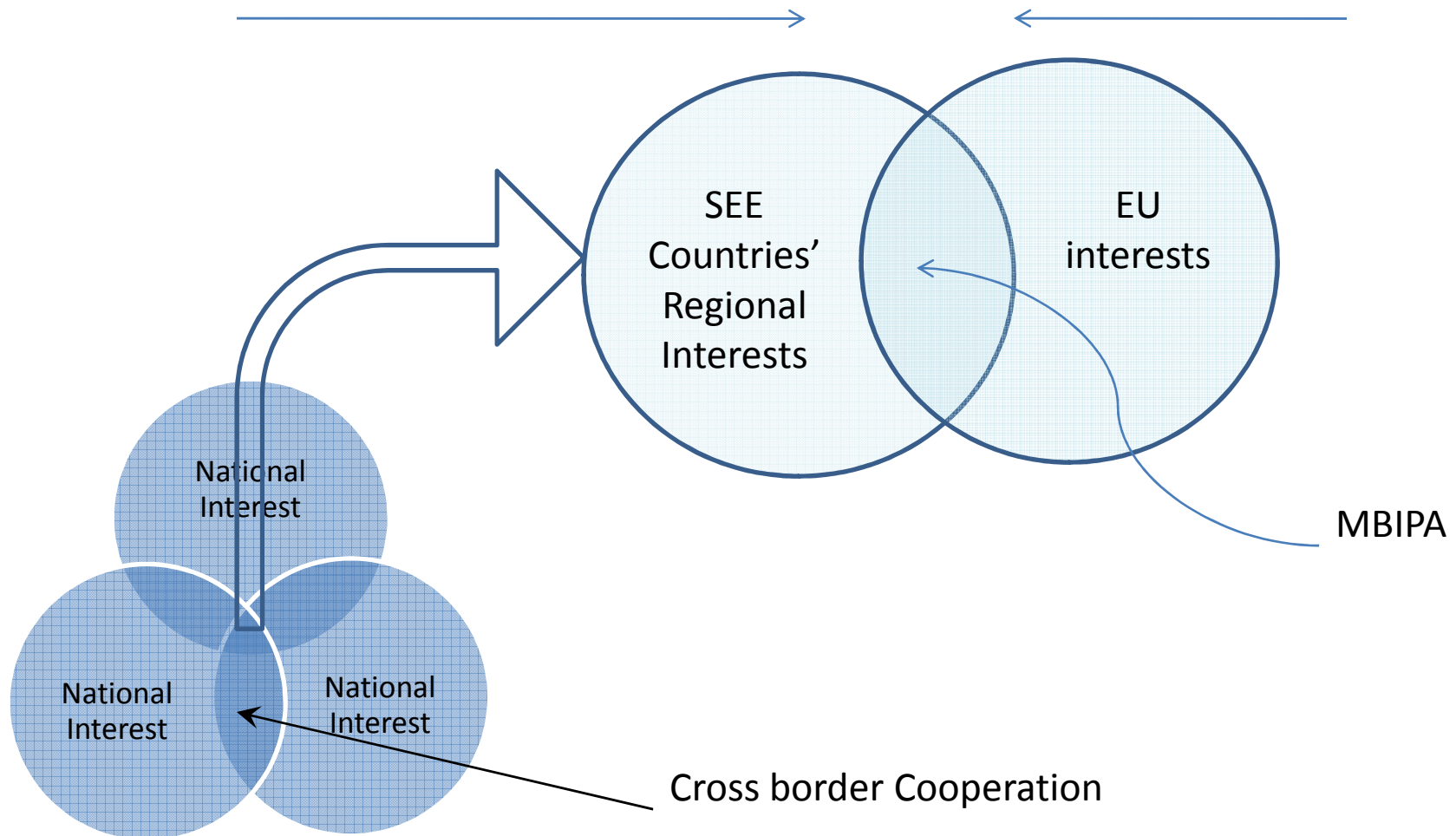
RCC-EC MBIPA Programming Process

SEE efforts to achieve:

- Regional development priorities
- EU standards

EU Assistance for IPA Beneficiaries:

- Achievement of the EU standards



RCC Achievements 2008- 2010

- Mapping of national priorities regarding regional cooperation in SEE.
- Mapping, coordination and streamlining of SEE regional initiatives and structures.
- Improved exchange of information, data and expert knowledge – strengthened regional cooperation.
- Bringing together all relevant stakeholders when addressing specific issues, increasing cooperation efficiency and decreasing related costs.
- Initiated networking process among RCC Secretariat, members from SEE, EC and IFIs (including Multi-Beneficiary IPA and IFIAG).
- Launching projects of regional relevance - RSRDI, PPP, Women Entrepreneurs, WB 2020, SEDRI, Climate Change Initiative, SEE Aviation Cooperation , Regional Strategy in JHA, Defence Establishments Cooperation, SEEFREC, SECE CRIF, Higher Education Reform, Pipeline of Parliamentary events, Expert Networks).
- Cooperation with other regional organizations and initiatives (CEI, BSEC, AII, Danube Cooperation Process, Sava Commission).
- RCC Strategy 2011-2013 with high involvement of the RCC Board .

Taskforces and Initiatives in SEE

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

Taskforces and Initiatives in SEE

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

Justice and Home Affairs

Taskforces and Initiatives in SEE

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

Taskforces and Initiatives in SEE

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

Total: 41	Per country	37	39	23	38	8	19	38	24	38	38	12	15	
Headquarters in South East Europe: 24 + 4 rotating	Per country	0	3	2	7	1	0	2	2	3	4	0	0	8

Some of the key current regional instruments

- CEFTA 2006
- SEE Investment Committee (SEEIC)
- Energy Community Treaty (ECT)
- SEETO/Transport Community Treaty (TCT)
- Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA)
- Regional School for Public Administration (RESPA)
- SEE Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (SEECEL)
- e-SEE Agenda+, SEE ICT Forum, Centre for eGovernance Development (CeGD)
- Regional Competitiveness Initiative (RCI)
- Regional Strategy on R&D for Innovation for the WB
- Regional Project on Higher Education Reforms
- Western Balkans in 2020

Key challenges in the Western Balkans

- Necessity for a new model of development and growth.
- Re-positioning in European and global constellations.
- Poor physical, institutional and social infrastructure.
- Under-utilization of existing resources.
- Low innovation capacity.
- Slow reforms – strengthening the EU Accession leverage.
- Better synchronizing and focusing activities of regional cooperation networks.
- Better coordination inside national administrations.
- Better coordination of donors.

Rationale for a New RCC Mid-term Strategy

- Strong need for RCC to assume a more strategic role in SEE
- Opportunity to increase efficiency by focusing on result oriented activities
- **Need to streamline regional cooperation efforts**
- **Link the region with the donor community in areas with a regional dimension**

Horizontal activities of the RCC

- Representing the region;
- Assisting the SEECP;
- Supporting, incubating and monitoring regional activities;
- Exerting strategic leadership in regional cooperation
- Providing a regional perspective in donor assistance, notably in EU assistance under IPA;
- Supporting increased involvement of civil society in regional activities.

New RCC Strategy for 2011-2013 - Sectoral Priorities

- **Economic and Social Development**

(i) Transfer and management of the SEEIC, (ii) Identify ways and means for improving private sector access to finance, (iii) Mainstream employment and social agenda, (iv) Promote information society development

- **Energy and Infrastructure**

(i) Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative (SEDRI) implementation, (ii) Cooperation with the Energy Community Secretariat, (iii) Contribute to the Danube Region Strategy, (iv) Explore air services potential within the region, (v) Contribute to the promotion of road safety;

- **Justice and Home Affairs**

(i) Coordinate drafting and adoption of a Regional Strategy and Action Plan on Justice and Home Affairs 2011-2014, and monitor its implementation, (ii) Strengthen judicial and prosecutorial cooperation in criminal matters, (iii) Support existing initiatives in the area of the fight against corruption, (iv) Support MARRI in strengthening its capacity , (v) Initiate regional cooperation in private and civil law matters and in protection of fundamental rights

- **Security**

(i) Enhance regional dialogue and cooperation mechanisms on security and defence issues, (ii) Develop a regional approach to disaster risk reduction

- **Building Human Capital**

(i) Take over coordination of Ljubljana Process, (ii) Support higher education reform, (iii) Assist development of a Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation

List of RCC events in September-October 2010

- 1. First Forum for South East European Women Entrepreneurs**
21.09.2010 - 22.09.2010, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2. International Forum on Higher Education Reform Foresight 2020**
27.09.2010 - 29.09.2010, Dubrovnik, Croatia
- 3. Regional Workshop on Democratic Policing: Organizational and Managerial Issues in the Police**
30.09.2010 – 01.10.2010, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 4. First Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative Task Force meeting**
07.10.2010 - 08.10.2010, Trieste, Italy
- 5. Regional conference on role of parliaments in fight against poverty and social exclusion in EU integration context**
11.10.2010 - 13.10.2010, Belgrade, Serbia

- 6. International conference on digitalization and sustainability of public service media in South East Europe**
14.10.2010 - 15.10.2010, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 7. Regional Conference: Role of Inspectors in Education Quality Assurance**
20.10.2010 – 21.10.2010, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 8. Workshop – Reducing Emissions from the Energy Sectors in the Energy Community**
25.10.2010 - 26.10.2010, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 9. South East Europe regional workshop on national coordination and regional cooperation in counter-terrorism**
27.10.2010 – 28.10.2010, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Regional Cooperation in the SEE 1999 – 2009

