



Regional Cooperation Council

## Danube Strategy – An Impetus for Strengthening Regional Cooperation between Croatia, Hungary and Serbia

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## South East Europe is moving forward

- **The SP SEE (1999)** - reconciliation, stability and good neighbourly relations
- **The RCC as the operational arm of the SEECP** (major political framework for regional cooperation) - enhance regional cooperation on the path towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration
- Regional cooperation – key prerequisite of the EU enlargement policy and complementary segment of national European policy agenda
- Keeping the regional approach – benefits
- Laying ground for the resolution of remaining issues and developing a new image

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## 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 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. supports 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



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## Membership (47)

**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) (13)

**European Union**, represented by a representative of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and a representative of the European Commission

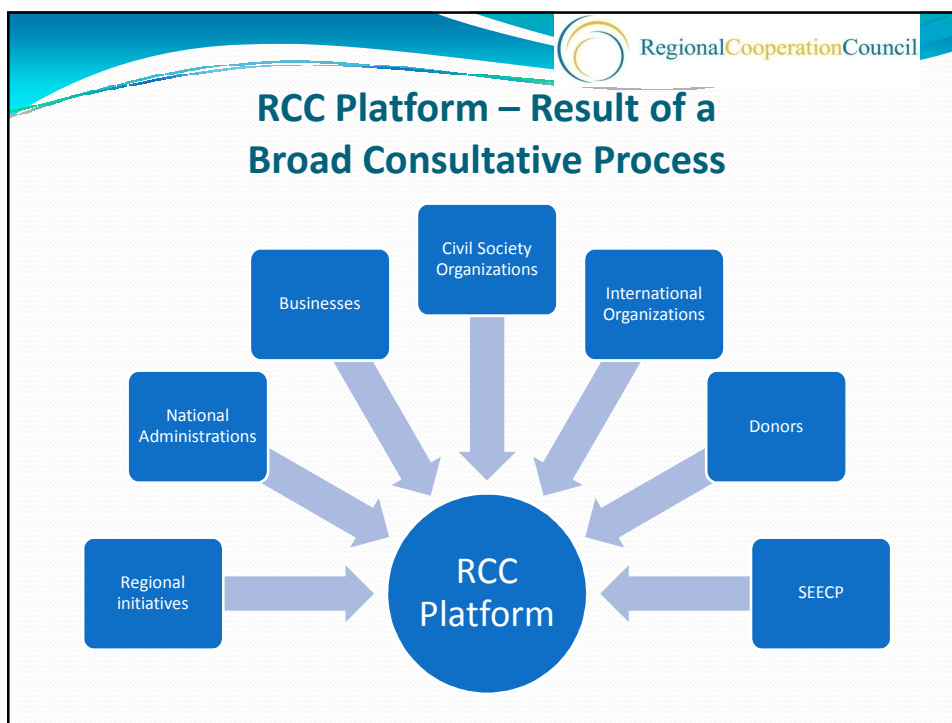
**Donor countries** (Austria, **Canada**, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, **Switzerland**, United Kingdom, **United States**) (20)

**International organizations/institutions** (CoE, Council of Europe Development Bank, EBRD, EIB, European Parliament, OECD, OSCE, NATO, SECI, UN, UNDP, UN ECE, World Bank) (13)

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## 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:** beneficiaries' institutions, regional initiatives, EU, IFIs, other international organizations, individual donor countries, CSOs, private foundations, business sector, local communities' networks etc.






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## EU Strategy for the Danube Region

- Stability and good neighbourly relations
- Making the cooperation more effective
- Better use of economic, environmental and social potentials
- Facilitate enlargement process and reaching the EU 2020 vision
- Creating a new model of development and growth
- Platform for establishing new forms of cooperation, also in the context of identifying new sources and modes of financing
- Addressing challenges of the less developed DR countries :
  - Poor physical, institutional and social infrastructure
  - Under-utilization of existing resources
  - Low innovation capacity
  - Slow reforms
  - Low administrative capacities including need for better coordination within national administrations
  - Synchronizing and focusing activities of regional cooperation networks



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## RCC role in EU SDR

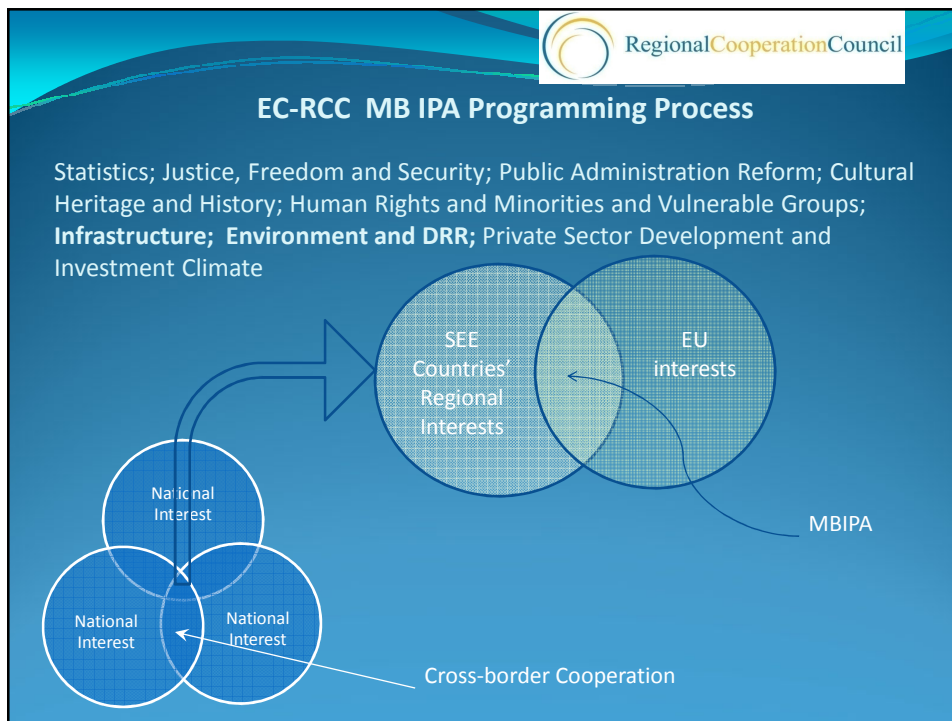
- EU SDR – best platform to promote complex integrated approach (territorial, multi-sector, multi-stakeholder, multi-level)
- Multipurpose use of Danube
- Promoting integrated and “bottom-up” approaches - RCC SWP 2011-2013
- Participate in DRS relevant events bringing a regional SEE perspective
- Mobilize and ensure participation of LAs and CSOs
- Co-organize and host workshops and discussions
- Support media in raising public awareness on Danube potentials, its` role and increasing challenges including global ones
- Assist to institutions relevant for the EU SDR implementation

## RCC role in EU SDR

- SEDRI (RCC&CEI) – EU SDR AP (example of project) (Cr&Sr)→2. To encourage more sustainable energy
- ICAM-RBM process launched by the ICPE and ECPD
- Strengthening the public dialogue on sustainable use of energy in SEE – network led by BFPE
- SEE Energy Dialogue - IENE
- Sequence of annual regional events promoting EE, RES, waste management and recycling - Via-Expo
- WS UP-Regularization of informal settlements – NALAS, GIZ and RCC
- DAMEN – Sodalitas (FfMC) and RTV Vojvodina
- Cooperation with IOs (UNECE WCS, ISRBC, ICPDR, GWP-M, SECI (PIDIN), SEEA, NALAS,...)

## Prospects for strengthened cooperation Hu, Cr&Sr

- Great importance for the stability of the region
- Support of Hungary and Croatia is of great importance for Serbia's European integration
- Croatian experience in negotiating Chapter 15
- Modernisation of the railway and road traffic on Corridors 5 and 10
- Strengthening energy interconnections & UGSs
- increased cooperation to address the effects of climate change and sustainable use and management of natural resources
- Recognized gaps – increased involvement of CSOs, LAs, private sector and media
- RCC ready to cooperate and support fundraising activities (MB IPA, IFIAGs, WBIF)





**Thank you**

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