



Regional Cooperation Council

Regional cooperation in CCA

RCC`s role

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RCC Who We Are

- The SP SEE (1999) - reconciliation, stability and good neighbourly relations
- The RCC as the operational arm of the SEECF (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

RCC Membership (47)

- Members from SEE (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Kosovo*, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey) (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)

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

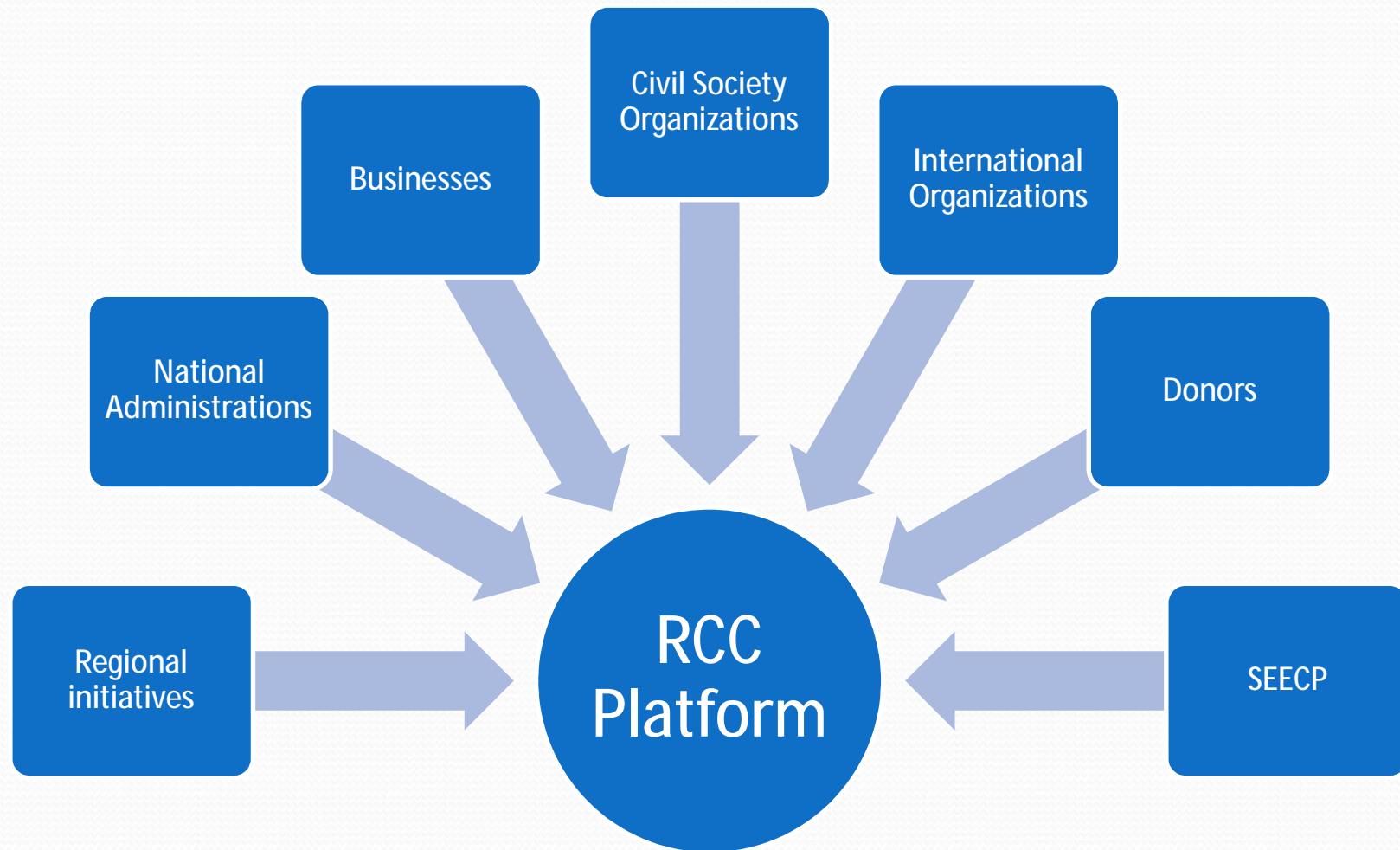


RCC Priority issues

- 5+1 priority areas: Economic and Social Development, Energy and Infrastructure, JHA, Security Cooperation, BHC and Parliamentary Cooperation
- EIU priorities: (‘‘bottom-up’’, integrated approach - IIDP) relevant for dealing with CC
- 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.



RCC Platform – Result of a Broad Consultative Process





Approach to CCA

- Science based, innovative and integrated
 - historical observations and forecasted data and the best available scientific knowledge
- National, regional and supra regional
 - shared ecosystems (water bodies, mountainous systems)
- All inclusive
 - different stakeholders
- Pro-active
 - delays in actions are costly (Stern Report)
 - to supply the SEE region with experience already acquired in the other regions as well as decision making tools
- Adaptation as security matter
 - climate and weather induced extreme events get more frequent and severe
 - SEE region has a number of “climate hot spots” – reason for special focus on disaster-risk management



SEE CCFAP/A

- Prepared by interested countries, REC and RHMSS (SEEVCCC) (BI-EfE)
- Adopted through JS by Ministers under the framework of RCC
- Rationale behind RCC support: 4th IPCC Assessment Report (multiple stresses, low adaptive capacity), legal obligations, democracy of process
- Countries` coordination: Al (hydropower), BH (energy and agriculture), FYRoM (water management and agriculture), Mn (tourism and coastal zones), Ser (water management, forestry, agriculture, public health, land use, biodiversity and buildings)
- Montenegro - interest for establishing BRCCF for political and policy dialogue to facilitate the coordination of the activities on adaptation/mitigation in the region both nationally and regionally
- CCFAP - living document, to respond to the changing needs and circumstances in the region, to be further developed and implemented
- CCFAP - comprehensive process within the RCC framework which offers a unique opportunity to integrate environmental and human health concerns into the economic sectors, thus contributing to the implementation of the concept of sustainable development.
- RENA



REC activities

- Methodology for Effective Decision Making on Adaptation (2010-2013) - MEDIATION (FP 7 project)
 - Objective: create a methodology for adaptation-related decision making considering the difference in political, administrative and economic conditions in the EU-27 and SEE/ENP countries
 - SEE case study: Velika Morava Region (Serbia) - droughts and their impact on agriculture (especially small land owners) as adaptation issue (c. 2013)
- ENVSEC framework: Adaptation and security process
 - launched in 2011 to identify climate “hot spots” through multi-stakeholder consultations
 - CHS - ecosystem or geographical locus where the accumulated or sudden impacts of CC can cause irreversible high-cost damage with high probability in 20 years time horizon



REC activities

- Adaptation and Agriculture (Japan Special Fund)
- Agriculture – important economic sector in all the SEE countries (10% of GDP and 30% of employment) extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and current climate variability (which is also partly result of climate change)
- Adaptation challenges: decreasing precipitation; changing regime of the rivers run-offs (both floods and droughts); changing regime of cryo-sphere (snow cover, glacials) in the mountains
- Adaptation measures: measures beyond traditional means and instruments of dealing with climate variability due to the already existing or forecasted changes
- Objective: raise awareness of the stakeholders, enhance cooperation among countries, and acquire experience from other countries (Finland, Poland, Spain)



ISRBC activities

- Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the SRB (WB financed)
 - Objective: to assess impacts of CC and provide guidelines for different water sub-sectors (navigation, hydropower, irrigation, water supply, flood protection, groundwater,...) in order to develop adaptation including potential investments (c. 2012)
- Building the link between the FRM planning and CC Assessment in the SRB
 - One of the main objectives: Preparation of a detailed programme for development of the FRMP in the SRB (c. 2012)



South East European Forum on Climate Change Adaptation (SEEFCCA)

- EU IPA-funded project to strengthen capacities of civil society in SEE in the area of climate change adaptation, awareness raising and policy dialogue
 - Four national CSO networks established in Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia
 - National climate vulnerability assessments (CVAs) prepared by experts supported by CSO networks, findings compiled into regional synthesis report
 - Establishment of regional SEE Forum on Climate Change Adaptation to link national activities on regional level and to foster multi-stakeholder partnerships across the region



Civil society and CCA in SEE

- Civil society begins to engage in CCA
- There is growing knowledge and capacity in this area
- So far only limited engagement in policy dialogue but considerable potential for engaging in developing legislation and monitoring implementation
- CSOs as service-delivery organizations: they are in a good position to identify and legitimately speak for vulnerable groups and bring climate related concerns to decision-makers
- Ability of CSOs to provide a link between government services and end-users
- Significant role to play in awareness-raising: government, public, business/industry, universities, schools, industries, other vulnerable groups



The role of SEEFCCA in developing civil society in SEE

- Empowering CSOs to speak for vulnerable groups most severely affected by CC
- Building capacity of CSOs in policy dialogue so they can give input to the legislation development process
- Increasing the knowledge of CSOs about CCA and assistance in building partnerships to facilitate development
- Encouraging awareness-raising at all levels and implementing concrete activities
- Developing partnerships with other CSOs and state bodies to share expertise
- Encouraging CSOs input into development of national adaptation strategies and national communications to UNFCCC



Other activities

- Ministerial meeting ``CC Research for Environmental Protection, Adaptation and Risk Reduction`` (2011) (Env Min of Ser, WMO, SEEVCCC, REC, RCC)
- JS supported long term ``SEE Research and Development Programme of Regional Climate Modelling for 2012-2017`` to develop predictive capability and improve assessment of the impacts, vulnerabilities and risks from CC, build adaptive response capacities and foster adaptation action



Conclusions

- Need for CB in CCA and more involvement of scientific community to address its scarce, sporadic and fragmented activities and improve its interactions with governments so far realized on a more immediate ``need-to-know`` basis
- Problem of CC is not adequately integrated in the sectoral strategies
- Strengthen climate observing networks and investments in infrastructure of NHMSs in the region
- Improve data on adaptation options and mechanisms for information sharing and management
- Increase awareness of stakeholders and population on climate change adaptation
- Strengthen role of civil society in policy dialogue and awareness-raising
- Address insufficient funding for adaptation activities (national and external)
- Immediate formulation of the National Adaptation Strategies
- Regional cooperation to support national endeavors and EU accession process



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Thank you



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