



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

SEE 2030 Strategy – A Regional Attempt in Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in South East Europe

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and rationale

South East Europe (SEE) today faces many sustainability challenges ranging from youth unemployment, brain drain, depopulation (due to high level of emigration and natural causes), to income inequalities, poverty, climate change, pollution, sustainable energy supply, and limited development financing. Many of these long-lasting challenges worsened socio-economic situation in the region during COVID-19 pandemic – almost all parameters related to quality of life perceived by SEE citizens have been affected.

Triggered by these crosscutting challenges relevant to all thirteen SEE economies, the SEE 2030 Strategy was adopted in June 2021 as a regional call to action. The goals set in the Strategy aim to reduce poverty and inequality, empower women, improve social inclusion, decelerate depopulation of the region through enhancing the quality of life for its citizens and speed up the green and digital transition through a genuinely regionally owned political process.

The SEE 2030 Strategy is a joint call to action by all SEE economies. The priorities of this Strategy are built upon domestic priorities identified by all SEE economies and clustered into three dimensions. The core principle of action in this Strategy is to support designing regional policies for the whole of society and to prioritise actions to leave no one behind. The key element of the SEE 2030 Strategy is its full and total regional ownership. The priority thematic areas of intervention of the Strategy were selected on the basis of National Voluntary Reviews of SDG implementation of SEECF participants.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

The SEE 2030 STRATEGY – IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE GOALS IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE will provide comprehensive information about the SEE2030 as a regional attempt to mitigate the crosscutting socio-economic challenges the region is facing. Having in mind that the SEE2030 is a regionally-led process, and that SEE economies are at the heterogeneous development levels, the rotating chairs of South East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECp), together with the other SEE economies, will have the opportunity to express the level of their political commitment in SEE2030 implementation. The SEE2030 will be a unique case to display how SDGs and Agenda 2030 may constitute a common ground for the SEE economies to synergise their efforts to reach sustainable development collectively at the regional level.

Organizers

Lead organizers: Regional Cooperation Council

Contributors: Thirteen economies of SEE

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Agenda and Structure

SEE 2030 STRATEGY

A REGIONAL ATTEMPT IN IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE

13:15 – 13:30 Opening Remarks by Moderator

Romania

13:30 – 14:15 Panel Discussion on SEE 2030 Strategy and its objectives to reach regional sustainable development in SEE

Presentation of “SEE 2030 Strategy – its objectives and priorities for regional cooperation on sustainable development”

RCC Secretariat

Panellists:

Turkey – (SEECP Chair-in-Office 2020-21) – Neighbours SEE together - Chairmanship programme and activities in the context of SDGs and needs to have a regional strategy based on SDGs in SEE

Greece – (SEECP Chair-in-Office 2021-22) – Strengthening SEE Synergies - Synergy between SEECP and SEE2030 Strategy

Montenegro – (SEECP Chair-in-Office 2022-23) - What to expect from SEE2030 for regional sustainability and development in SEE

North Macedonia – Main implementation priorities of UN SDGs and Agenda 2030 in North Macedonia - how to optimise regional-economy level interaction for sustainable development

14:15 – 14:30 Questions and Answers

14:30 – 14:45 Conclusions and Wrap-up

By Romania

List of Panellists

Moderator

László Borbély, State Counsellor and Coordinator of the Department of Sustainable Development, Government of Romania

Panellists:

Umut Ergezer (SEE 2030 Coordinator) and Amer Kapetanovic (Head of Political Department), RCC Secretariat

Kutluhan Taskin, Vice President of the Presidency of Strategy and Budget, SEE2030 National Coordinator, Presidency of Republic of Türkiye

Demetrios Skoutas, First Counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece

Jelena Jankovic, Director General, Directorate for Trade Cooperation and Foreign Relations Economic Relations, SEE2030 National Coordinator, Ministry of Economy, Montenegro

Filip Nikoloski, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance North Macedonia North Macedonia