Developing Kosovo’s Intergovernmental System for Improving Regional Cooperation

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February, 2013
Presentation Outline

- Regional Cooperation - Role & Importance
- Regional Cooperation Council - RCC
- Kosovo's Regional Cooperation - current situation
- Research methodology & Survey results
- Senior Governmental Managers' Questionnaire
- Regional Cooperation in the Regional Country - case studies
- Main Recommendations
- Further Recommendations
Regional cooperation & good neighborly relations - essential elements of the SAP

Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) - EU’s policy towards the WB countries – eventual membership

Thessaloniki Summit (June 2003) - contractual relationship, trade relations, financial assistance & regional cooperation and good neighborly relations
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Appropriate methods & techniques

Analysis & Collection of all current documents

Standardized questionnaire &

Face to face interview

30 Senior Governmental Officials

Case Study – regional countries
MAIN DIFFICULTIES OF PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Three difficulties of participation in regional initiatives

- Political
- Visa Issue
- Financial
- Administrative
- No Experts
LEVEL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Level of Intergovernmental Coordination
(28 Respondents)

- Weak: 25.0%
- Not Satisfactory: 57.1%
- Good: 14.3%
- Excellent: 3.6%

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THE REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE GOVERNMENT’S AGENDA

The Regional Cooperation in the Government's Agenda

- Medium: 67.9%
- Very High: 25.0%
- Low: 7.1%
MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Creation of the National Council for Regional Cooperation (NCRC)**

2. **Strengthening the role of Office for Regional Cooperation Council (RCCO/OPM)**

3. **Improvement of the performance of existing intergovernmental structure**
REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL

- Launched - February 27, 2008
- Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) in Sofia
- Successor - Stability Pact for SEE (1999)
- SEECP – (July 1996 in Sofia)
- Secretariat - Sarajevo, B & H
REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL

- **Tasks:**

- **sustain focused regional co-operation** in SEE through a regionally owned and led framework

- **provide political guidance** to and receive substantive input from relevant task forces and initiatives

- **promote European and Euro-Atlantic integration**

- **provide guidance to the Secretariat** of the RCC and its Secretary General
REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL

- Structure
- RCC MEMBERS 46 countries, organizations & international financial institutions
- BOARD-RCC members contributing to the budget of the Secretariat

Meeting Format
- Annual Meeting
- Board Meeting
PRIORITÉS DE L'RCC

PRIORITY AREAS OF THE RCC

RCC
PRIORITY AREAS

- ECONOMY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE
- JUSTICE & HOME AFFAIRS
- SECURITY COOPERATION
- BUILDING HUMAN CAPITAL & PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION
REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND TASK FORCES BY PRIORITY AREAS OF RCC

- Economy & Social Cohesion → 17
- Energy and Infrastructure → 8
- Justice & Home Affairs → 8
- Security Cooperation → 6
- Building HC → 7
- Parliamentary Cooperation → 3
REGIONAL COOPERATION IN KOSOVO

- Office of the Prime Minister
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Office of the Regional Cooperation Council

![Diagram showing the relationships between OPM, MFA, and ORCC]
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL/OPM

- RCC Member – since its establishment
- Office of the Stability Pact (June 2002)
- Office of the RCC (Nov. 2008)-PM decision
- After February 17, 2008 → no participation
  UNMIK/Kosovo
- ORCC → under the OPM - positive effects
- New Agreement (Feb. 2012)-Pristina&Belgrade
- RCC Board Meeting (Oct. 2012)→ new Statute
- Kosovo represented effectively within the RCC
SURVEY FINDINGS - MOST ADEQUATE INSTITUTION FOR REGIONAL LEVEL

Most adequate Institutional Level for Regional Cooperation
(28 respondents)

- MFA: 64.3%
- MEI: 17.9%
- OPM: 14.3%
- MRC: 3.6%
SURVEY FINDINGS - IS THERE A NEED FOR NEW LEGISLATION

Is there a need for new legislation in regional cooperation field
(28 respondents)

- YES: 78.6%
- NO: 21.4%
SURVEY FINDINGS - THREE MOST IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS

Three most important requirements for increasing benefits from regional initiatives
(28 respondents)

- a. Human Capacity Building
- b. Better intergovernmental coordination
- c. Budget increasing
- d. Development of strategies on regional cooperation
- e. Other
REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES

- Croatia – EU Acceding Country (July 1, 2013)
- Albania – EU Potential Candidate
- Macedonia – EU Candidate country
Recommendation 1

- Creation – NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (NCRC)
  - Central coordinating body
  - PM (MFA, MEI, MED, MF, MJ, MIA)
  - Operational advice & guidance
  - Two regular meetings - year
Recommendation 2

- Strengthening - ROLE OF OFFICE FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL
  - Coordinate & monitor
  - Consider most appropriate institution
  - Effective intergovernmental system for regional cooperation
  - RCCO → MFA
Recommendation 3

- Improvement of the performance of existing intergovernmental structure

- Professional experts - RCC five priorities
- Effective administrative capacities
- Effective intergovernmental system for regional cooperation
- Increase benefits
FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Design - Web site for planning and monitoring all regional cooperation activities.

- Identify - Priorities to benefit from regional cooperation, based on the five priority areas of the RCC.

- Draft - Strategy on the membership and participation in the regional initiatives.
FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Draft - Strategic document on the significance and financial implications for the Kosovo membership in regional initiatives.

- Employ - Experts for the regional initiatives headquarters - greater opportunities to the national experts and experiences exchange within the all-regional initiatives in SEE.
“The situation in SEE is very good. The RCC, which replaced the Stability Pact in 2008, is in place but I think the EU should give more push to the countries ... If the countries of the region are left alone, the decision-making is more difficult”.

Erhard BUSEK
Former Special Coordinator of the SP for SEE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you!

Questions?
Comments & Suggestions

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