

Regional Approaches to Development Challenges in SEE

Sarajevo, May 2010



Regional Cooperation Council

- Launched in February 2008, as successor of Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
- Contributes to the enhancement of stability, security, mutual respect and dialogue in Southeast Europe
- Acts as a key interlocutor and operational link between the EU and the SEECP with regard to project generation and prioritization particularly in the context of the European Commission's Multi-Beneficiary Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (MB-IPA)



- Coordinates international political, technical and financial support
- Presents a regional forum for dialogue among different countries, international organizations and other partners

RCC's Priority Areas

- **Economic and Social Development**

- Concerted regional effort to enhance the business and investment climate and boost competitiveness while promoting sustainable and responsive social policies

- **Energy and Infrastructure**

- Strengthening regional infrastructure cooperation and integration as the preceding steps towards wider EU integration;

- **Justice and Home Affairs**

- Strengthen regional cooperation mechanism between law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities

- **Security**

- Further stabilize and expand security cooperation in the region and offer full assistance for successful integration in Euro-Atlantic and European Structures

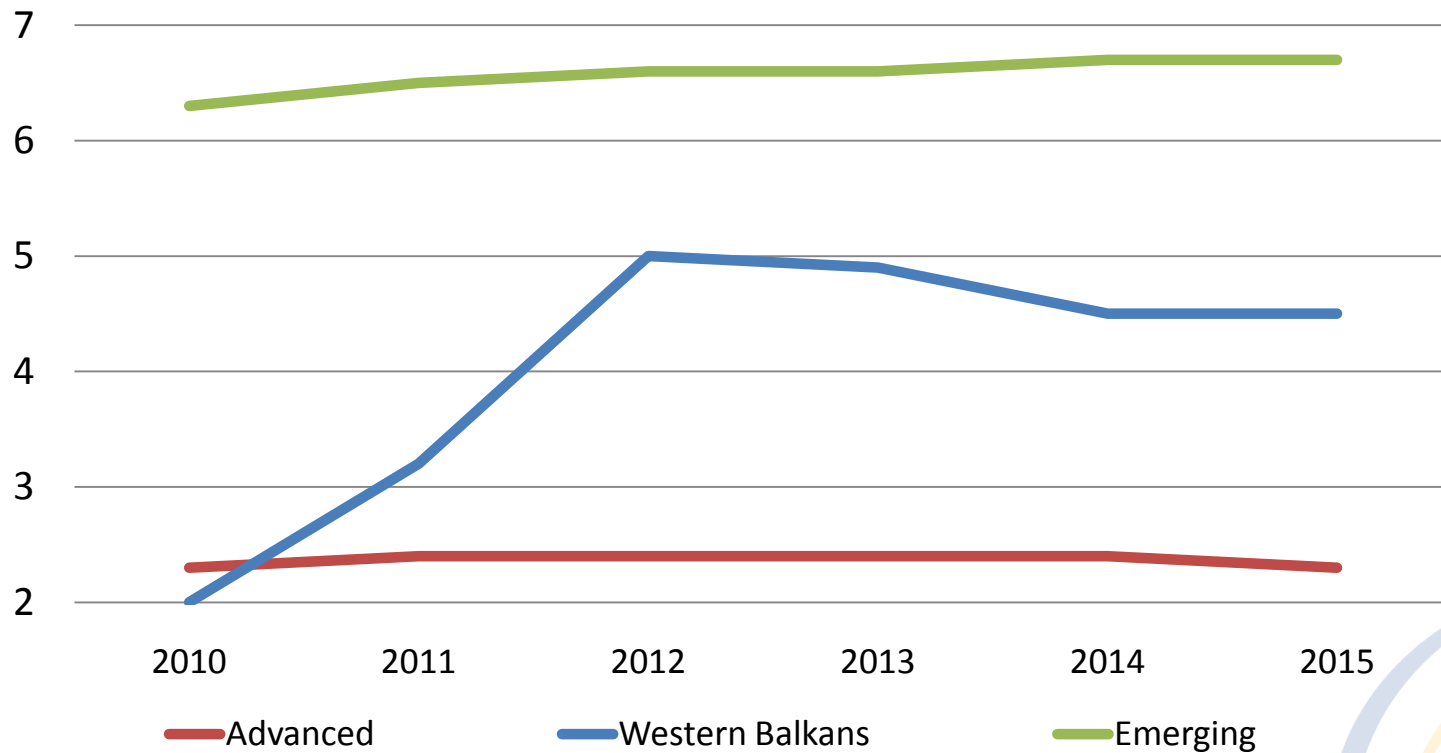
- **Building Human Capital**

- Support the development of the knowledge triangle in the region: education, research, innovation.



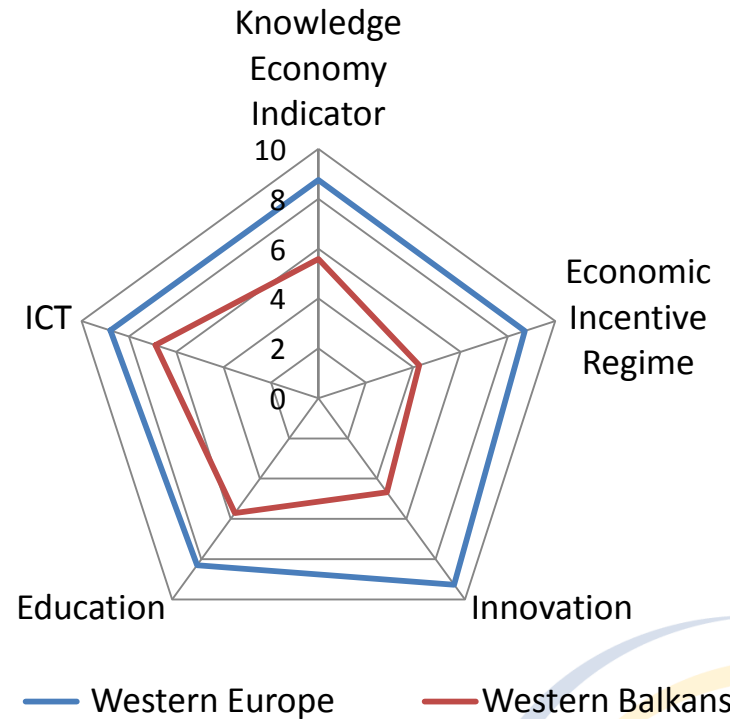
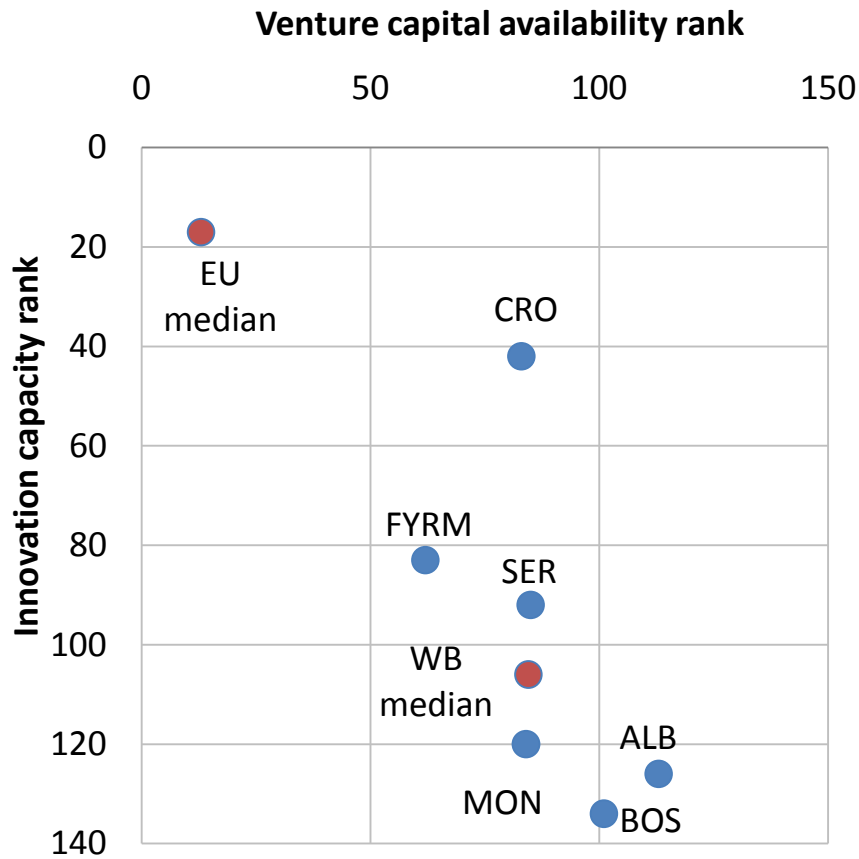
Growth Context – Stuck in the Middle

Real GDP Growth



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, April 2010

Low innovation capacity



RCC Strategy in Economic and Human Capital Development

- Creating environment conducive to business and investment
- Exploring ways and means for improving access to finance for private sector
- Mainstreaming the social agenda into economic reform deliberations
- Promoting information society development
- Improving regional R&D and innovation capacity
- Reforming higher education



Current Regional Instruments

- CEFTA 2006
- SEE Investment Committee
- PE/VC/Business Angel Networks
- Regional capital markets integration
- SEE Employment Network
- e-SEE Agenda+, SEE ICT Forum, CeGD
- Regional Strategy on R&D for Innovation
- Novi Sad Higher Education Reform Initiative
- Regional Competitiveness Initiative



Thank you for your attention

Sanjin Arifagić

Head of Economic and Social Development Unit

Regional Cooperation Council

e: sanjin.arifagic@rcc.int

www.rcc.int