

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction by the Secretary General	4
2. Foreword by the National Coordinator of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).....	6
3. Activities of the BiH CEI Presidency 2016.....	7
4. Activities of the CEI Secretariat.....	12
ANNEXES	
Annex 1: Priorities of the BiH CEI Presidency.....	30
Annex 2: Calendar of Events of the BiH CEI Presidency.....	31
Annex 3: Profit&Loss Statement of the CEI-Executive Secretariat.....	32
Annex 4: CEI Secretariat's Staff.....	33
Annex 5: EU-funded Projects.....	35
Annex 6: Technical Cooperation (TC) Projects.....	39
Annex 7: Know- how Exchange Programme (KEP) Projects.....	45
Annex 8: Cooperation Activities (CAs).....	48

1. INTRODUCTION BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

2016 was a year marked by new synergies for the Central European Initiative (CEI): under the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the CEI was able to strengthen its role as an important actor in the Region. Our organisation has widened its network through recent concrete cooperation activities with international and regional organisations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation Development (OSCE), with which we have launched three joint projects, and with the Council of Europe. Furthermore, the CEI has continued to adapt to the needs of its Member States in order to tackle current issues such as the ongoing migration phenomenon. Our manifold activities, combining multilateral diplomacy and project management, have allowed us to offer assistance in dealing with most urgent matters regarding the crisis. In this context, we have sealed promising cooperation agreements with key players in the field of migration through Memoranda of Understanding with the International Organization of Migration (IOM) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

Longstanding partnerships such as the one with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) have also been strengthened in successful joint activities. Indeed, in cooperation with the EBRD, we held an event on Supporting Local Enterprises and SMEs along China's Belt and Road Initiative in Trieste on 19 May. It aimed at improving infrastructure development dynamics in the CEI Region, in particular in the Western Balkans. This successful initiative attracted Chinese and other EU stakeholders and investors as well as non-EU investors with promising outcomes of networking and follow-up events.

Furthermore, I want to reiterate at this point that the CEI pays particular attention to the Eastern Dimension. Through our project-working method we provide a flexible basis for regional cooperation with our three Eastern Partnership States (Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine).

Our Organisation has also deepened and renovated existing partnerships. For example with the United Nations (UN), reaffirmed by the UN General Assembly in New York. On the occasion of the meeting with regional organisations it adopted the Resolution between the UN and the CEI on the political advancement in the Region.

In order to keep one of our main goals on track, our approach to the institutions of the European Union, i.e. the macro-regional approach in the European integration process, is one of the key elements of the CEI. Our expertise in project management allows us to promote high-quality, result oriented projects also through participation in EU-funded projects. During the year, we promoted 6 EU-funded projects.



Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri

We successfully managed to support a large number of projects and activities through the various CEI instruments: through the CEI Fund at the EBRD and the CEI Know-How Exchange Programme (KEP), both financed by the Italian government, we were able to finance 9 TC projects and 6 KEP projects. Through the CEI

Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri was appointed Secretary General in January 2013 after having held the post of Italian Ambassador to France from 2009 to 2012. He took over the position in March 2013.

Having graduated in Law in 1970 at the University of Rome "La Sapienza", he also received a French education at the Lycee Châteaubriand in Rome, where he obtained the Baccalauréat "avec mention". Caracciolo di Vietri enters the diplomatic service in 1971 and in 1976 he was First Secretary at the Embassy of Italy to Ethiopia. From 1980 – 1985 he worked as Counsellor at the Embassy of Italy to the United States of America and from 1985 – 1992 as Deputy Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the Republic of Italy. In 1992 he was nominated Consul General in Paris and in 1996 Deputy Director General for Emigration and Social Affairs, MFA, Rome. From 2000 – 2004 he served as Ambassador to Belgrade and from 2004 – 2006 he was nominated Director General for European Countries and Regional Cooperation at the MFA in Rome. From 2006 – 2009 he was Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva.

Cooperation Fund, the instrument to which all CEI Member States contribute, 71 projects were supported.

As previously mentioned, because of the current challenges in the Region, we have to make sure our work is adapting adequately. This was the main message of the MFA Meeting in Banja Luka in June and in New York in September. Therefore, we introduced a Group of Experts in order to examine necessary changes to make the CEI system even more effective and efficient. During the year, three meetings of the Expert Group took place. Naturally, all CEI Member States are invited to participate in this transparent process. With regard to the Plan of Action as a concise and ambitious instrument guiding and focusing the activities of our Organisation, the reforms, established through this Expert Group, will have a direct impact on its content. Therefore, I am convinced the next Plan of Action should not be introduced until the plan for reforms is finished. The extension of the expiring Plan of Action is the logical step for making sure that the upcoming changes will clear the way for a modern and effective CEI also in the future.

The visibility of the CEI has been further strengthened through the efforts made by the Secretariat to emphasise its network to the media. Again, longstanding partnerships with media institutions such as the South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO) and with the ANSA News Agency has enabled the CEI to improve its media relations. Several events, opportunities (e.g. open calls) and projects have been successfully distributed through the social media, especially Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. Our CEI newsletter is distributed on regular basis to all our partners and affiliates.

Again, our longstanding expertise in project management, as a donor and recipient, in combination with multilateral diplomacy in order to strengthen the political dialogue has proved successful in 2016.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude for the extraordinary efforts of the Bosnia and Herzegovinian Presidency, which made the year 2016 a success for the CEI. My gratitude also goes to all Member States for their deep commitment.

Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri

2. FOREWORD BY THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BiH)



Ambassador Miloš Prica

For the second time after nineteen years, Bosnia and Herzegovina took over the CEI Presidency in 2016. Since our last term in 1997, the challenges and needs of the CEI Region and subsequently the CEI itself have remarkably changed: many CEI Member States have successfully managed to access the European Union, meanwhile 10 — including Bosnia and Herzegovina, are still in the process of approaching the EU. Therefore, taking over the Presidency of the CEI was a challenging, but also honorable task for my country.

Several developments and events have brought about new challenges that we had to tackle through joint efforts: though the overall ongoing migration crisis and political instability in the Western Balkans marked the year of the Bosnia and Herzegovinian Presidency, we were eager to provide support and constructive ideas with regard to the whole CEI Region. This was confirmed on the occasion of the MFA Meetings in Banja Luka and New York, chaired by Bosnia and Herzegovina, when a CEI reform process was launched, through a Group of Experts, aimed at adapting the organisation to the current challenges. I was especially impressed by the participants of the Expert round for working with devotion on reforms for the Organisation in order to ensure the efficiency of the CEI's efforts. During our Presidency, the CEI Plan of Action 2014-2016 should have come to an end: in collaboration with the Secretariat, we had the difficult task to assess the implementation of the Plan and coordinate our Programme accordingly in order to achieve the best possible results of our Presidency term. However, with regard to the upcoming reforms, the Plan of Action will be extended for another year in order to align them. Though it is a truly difficult task to manage, I am convinced the Organisation will reiterate its leading role in the whole Region.

Despite the challenges, many activities and results have been achieved. During 2016 we focused on interconnectivity and sustainable development through several activities. In particular, the CEI/EBRD event on Supporting Local Enter-

prises and SMEs along China's Belt and Road Initiative in May in Trieste was a real success. Another important event regarding sustainable development took place at the end of our Presidency term: the Experts meeting on Sustainable Developments, in connection with the SDGs and MDGs. Important work was also carried out by the Business Dimension, through a meeting of the Heads of Chambers of Commerce in September in Vienna and a Business Forum in December in Sarajevo. On the occasion of the signing of Memorandum of Understanding for the CEI Music Network, we were able to enjoy several concerts of talented musicians of the CEI Region in the Music Conservatory Tartini in Trieste in October. Personally, I enjoyed the Concert performed by the Trieste Orchestra, which ideally complemented the fruitful CEI Business Forum in Sarajevo. In this context, I want to mention our participation in the Mittelfest activities on the occasion of its 20-year anniversary in July in Cividale del Friuli (Italy). This was a spectacular event proving the fertile results of intercultural activities. The CEI Parliamentary Dimension also did an excellent job, concentrating most of its work in particular on the current events of the migration crisis. Furthermore, our Presidency tried to emphasise the CEI-UN cooperation through a Resolution, adopted by the UN General Assembly in November.

I think I am not exaggerating when I say that the optimal results and implementation of the Presidency's priorities would not have been possible without the excellent work of the Secretariat. The extraordinary support of the Secretariat constitutes the basis for successfully achieving a stronger Presidency.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Member States for their contributions throughout the whole year. This Presidential year has shown that the challenges in the Region are to be addressed with joint efforts.

Ambassador Miloš Prica

3. ACTIVITIES OF THE BiH CEI PRESIDENCY 2016

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) took over the Presidency on 1 January. On top of the list of the priorities of the BiH CEI Presidency (Annex 1) were the follow-up initiatives of the previous Presidencies in particular with regard to the inter-connectivity as well as with the strengthening of the CEI international visibility. With the aim to achieve these goals, a rich programme of events and activities was implemented (Annex 2). These particular events took place under the logo of the BiH CEI Presidency:

CNC Meetings

The CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC) met six times this year, with an exceptional participation of the Member States and their active role in the deliberations: two of the CNC meetings were held in Trieste (8 March and 11 October), one in London (15 April), one in Vienna (30 May), one Banja Luka (16 June) and one in Sarajevo (13 December). The CNC was involved in the preparation of the high-level meetings and has approved a number of projects. It also launched a number of ideas and proposals, tackled by the Secretariat throughout the year.

Upon the proposal of Austria, on the occasion of the CNC meeting in Trieste in October, the CEI Medal of Honour was bestowed upon Amb. Andrea Orizio, NC of Italy, for providing numerous important inputs and ideas to the work of the organisation.



Participants at CNC Meeting , Vienna—May 2016

Briefing of BiH Foreign Minister Igor Crnadak with Ambassadors of CEI countries

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Igor Crnadak held a briefing with the Ambassadors of CEI Member States in East Sarajevo on 15 March. The gathering aimed at presenting the priorities of the CEI Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2016 as well as the main planned activities. Minister Crnadak also reported about the latest

developments regarding the European integration of BiH and on that occasion requested the support of the EU Member States for further progress of BiH.



BiH Foreign Minister Crnadak briefing CEI Ambassadors , Sarajevo—March 2016

Steering Committee Meeting

On 15 April, the Headquarters of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London hosted the annual CEI Steering Committee (SC) meeting, back to back with a CNC meeting. The SC meeting - gathering the CEI National Coordinators and representatives from the CEI countries at the EBRD Board of Directors - focused on the recent developments in CEI-EBRD cooperation mainly based on the CEI Fund at the EBRD, financed entirely by Italy with 43.5 million Euro.



Steering Committee Meeting , London—April 2016

The meeting was opened by Ambassador Miloš Prica, BiH CEI Presidency, followed by a review on the CEI-EBRD cooperation by Olivia Oddi, Senior Manager, Donor Co-financing, EBRD. The EBRD Deputy Director for Country Economics and Policy, Peter Sanfey, presented the recent economic developments and prospects in the CEI region; Gianpiero Nacci, EBRD Head of Industry and Business Energy Efficiency, introduced the Green Economy Transition Approach; and Deputy Director of the EBRD Technical Co-

operation, Andrea Baldan, illustrated the new EBRD Donor Funds System. In his intervention, Counsellor Andrea Orizio, CEI National Coordinator of Italy and Balkans Director at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, underlined that in 2015, Italy renewed, through a 2 million Euro funding, its strong commitment to further enhancing the activity of the Fund, as a consistent engagement with its longstanding support to CEI non-EU Countries along their path towards a common European house. Secretary General Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo Di Vietri, in his concluding remarks stated that the partnership with the EBRD represented one of the main pillars of the CEI, which had allowed the Organisation to develop a strong project-oriented dimension in the CEI core operations and brought about very concrete results in terms of investments in the CEI Member States. The 2015 Annual Report of the CEI Fund at the EBRD was also presented at the Steering Committee meeting, and the 2016 budget of the Fund was approved by the Committee.

Networking Meeting with International Organisations operating in CEI area

The Networking Meeting with International Organisations operating in the CEI area was held in Vienna on 30 May, back to back with a CNC meeting. Amb. Michael Linhart, Secretary-General of the Austrian Foreign Ministry opened the event, which started with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the CEI. The gathering - aimed at strengthening the CEI's relations with these Institutions - witnessed the participation of prominent representatives of international organisations covering topics such as Migration & Anti-Corruption as well as Energy & Connectivity, who had the chance to exchange views during two panels respectively.

The first panel concentrated on how to tackle the challenges in the field of migration and human rights and on identifying links to the topic of anti-corruption as well as possibilities for closer cooperation between regional and international organisations in these fields. The second panel focused on developments on the energy market in Central Europe and its potential. Equally, the concept of cross-border connectivity, such as infrastructure and subsequent business opportunities, as a way of improving links within the Western Balkans and with the European Union was also addressed in this panel.

CEI-PD Parliamentary Committee Meeting

The meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension on „How to improve infrastructure of CEI Member States with special focus on transport and energy“, took place in Sarajevo on 31 May.

The gathering was chaired by Monika Tomić, member of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A welcome speech was delivered by

Mladen Bosić, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly who emphasised the CEI's role in promoting the EU enlargement process as well as in providing valuable support to non-EU CEI Member States with aspirations of joining the EU. Participants were also addressed by Erik Csernovitz, CEI Deputy Secretary General, and by the representatives of the Ministry of Communications and Transport as well as of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

MFA Meeting

The BiH CEI Presidency organised this year's Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CEI Member States on 16 June in Banja Luka, back to back with the 4th CNC Meeting. The gathering was opened by H.E. Igor Crnadak, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in particular in the framework of the CEI, a long-standing intergovernmental forum fostering cohesion and integration among its Member States.

The Ministers were called upon to discuss various ways and means of facing the migratory crisis, including exchange of views on the lessons learnt and best practices with regard to respect for human rights while fighting against terrorism. They also discussed the strengthening of regional cooperation in sustainable development through better business links and stronger connectivity, in particular in the transportation and energy sectors. In this context, the Ministers talked about a possible follow-up to the CEI-EBRD Conference with Chinese officials "Supporting Local Enterprises and SMEs along China's Belt and Road Initiative in South Eastern Europe", held in Trieste on 19 May.

The macro regional approach in European integration processes and the role of the CEI were also touched upon. In this regard, EU Commissioner Hahn while recalling that the implementation of the EU Strategies was, and would always be, under the ownership and full responsibility of the participants with the European Commission acting as a facilitator of the entire process, he underlined that the Central European Initiative had played a significant role in promoting that ownership. He also pointed out that building and connecting transport and energy infrastructure was a key to reinforcing integration among the Western Balkans and with the EU,



thus driving forward their European perspective through concrete projects.

In his speech, Secretary General Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri underlined the need for more cooperation and synergies among the institutions involved in regional cooperation as they could accomplish their missions only in cooperation with others. Moreover, he pointed out that the European integration of the Western Balkans and the Eastern dimension were on the top of the Agenda of the CEI. He noted that the situation in Ukraine was closely followed and that there was an enthusiasm about the Belarusian Presidency in 2017. In that context, the Ministers adopted the Decisions on Belarus holding the CEI Presidency in 2017. They also adopted a decision on the Cooperation Fund budget for 2017 and a Communiqué.

Meeting of the Presidents of the Chambers of Commerce of the CEI Member States

The Meeting, jointly organised by the BiH CEI Presidency and the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, was held in Vienna on 13 September. Promoting cooperation between European chambers of commerce in order to promote the ideas of the Central European Initiative was the main topic of this gathering.



Meeting of Presidents of Chambers of Commerce, Vienna—September 2016

The participants expressed their willingness to contribute to better connecting the CEI Member States through intensifying chamber cooperation with a final aim of improving the economic development of CEI countries. Indeed, achieving economic growth and progress in the CEI Member States depends on the development of the business community, its adaptation to changes, which implies strong and well-organised chambers. Therefore, the presidents of chambers thought it was necessary to enhance cooperation through this form of collaboration as well. They also exchanged information on the current state of the economy of their countries, their activities within the chambers of commerce and presented new services and plans, in order to plan joint activities through best practices.

MFA Working Lunch in New York

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Igor Crnadak, hosted the gathering in New York on 22 September. He informed participants on the activities

planned for the rest of the year under the BiH CEI Presidency, and announced the CEI Summit taking place by the end of the year. Participants also received information regarding the UN resolution on cooperation between the CEI and the UN. Special attention was paid to the Migration Crisis and Brexit.

Meetings of CEI Parliamentary Dimension General Committees



Participants at CEI PD General Committees, Ljubljana — October 2016

The CEI - PD General Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Franc Trček (Slovenia), and the Meeting of the CEI - PD General Committee on Political and Home Affairs, chaired by Tamara Blažina (Italy), were both held in Ljubljana on 10 October. The former focused in particular on "Energy Union on the Way to Greater Self-Sufficiency: CEI Perspective", whereas the latter debated upon "The perspectives of European Union after Brexit, facing the migration crisis". The two gatherings were immediately followed by the CEI - PD General Committee on Cultural Affairs meeting in Palermo on 17 October, chaired by Luis Alberto Orellana (Italy).

CEI Music Higher Education Network Symposium

Representatives of music academies of CEI countries gathered in Trieste on 26-28 October to attend the CEI Music Higher Education Network symposium. Organised by the Trieste Conservatory "Giuseppe Tartini" in cooperation with the music academies of Sarajevo and Banja Luka, the event was co-funded by the CEI Cooperation Fund in the framework of the CEI Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina



CEI Music Higher Education Network Symposium, Trieste— October 2016

in 2016. Amb. Milos Prica, representing the BiH CEI Presidency, opened the meeting highlighting the role played by the CEI in promoting cultural cooperation.

At the three-day event, several strategies for establishing an international network among music institutions in the CEI area were examined in order to create a common academic platform and enhance international and regional cooperation. The agenda focused on the exchange of experiences on topics such as the strengthening of excellences, the development of quality education, the use of technology and e-learning (e.g. LOLA project, promoted by the Trieste Conservatory), accessibility to learning and mobility opportunities. A specific session included presentations by Stefan Gies, AEC Chief Executive, Leonella Grasso Caprioli, AEC - EPARM, Teresa Trevisan, Erasmus Coordinator, as well as by representatives of music higher education institutions from Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Vienna, Kiev, Poznan, Minsk, Plovdiv.

At the end of the meeting, the participating institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding, creating the Central European Music Academies Network (CEMAN) in order to implement joint initiatives and pursue common goals, such as: mobility of students, exchange of good educational and administrative practices, design of joint artistic productions, support to partner fundraising, development of distance learning and remote performing. The CEI contribution to the initiation of this network was highly recognised and appreciated by all participants.

Resolution on Cooperation between the UN and the CEI

The UN General Assembly adopted the Resolution on "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative" (A/RES/71/13) on 21 November. The document aims at strengthening cooperation between the UN system with the CEI, the latter enjoying observer status in the UN General Assembly since 2011. While appraising the continuous contribution of the CEI as a promoter of the political dialogue, the Resolution, endorsed by all 18 CEI Member States, invites the UN Secretary General to strengthen cooperation with the Initiative, and recommends that all relevant agencies, organisations and programmes of the UN system continue cooperation and joint activities with the CEI, aimed at achieving shared goals.

Expert Meeting "Achievements on MDGs, lessons learnt and best practices, plans for Sustainable Development Agenda in CEI region"

The Bosnia and Herzegovina CEI Presidency-in-Office organised an expert meeting on "Achievements on MDGs, lessons learned and best practices, plans for Sustainable Development Agenda in CEI region" in Sarajevo at the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 2 December.

This meeting of experts was a good opportunity for participants to present respective results, experiences and achievements made at national level and to highlight what is still to be done to fulfil set goals of the Millennium Agenda. They all stressed the importance of having a mutual approach and keeping cooperation between countries a priority since larger goals can only be achieved by working together. Although Millennium Development Goals have successfully made a difference in people's lives and their ways of thinking and living today and though Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have also brought about a significant improvement, there are issues that still need to be tackled. Thus, it can be said that development is not just about tackling the problem but most of all about working together, which is the core of all efforts. BiH National Coordinator Prica delivered a comprehensive presentation on the situation with SDGs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, tackling all issues of importance (poverty, vulnerable groups, climate change etc). As concluded at the end of the meeting, sharing experiences is crucial and all countries should continue working together in order for the CEI to contribute to the Sustainable Agenda.

CEI PD Parliamentary Assembly Meeting

The Meeting of the CEI-PD Parliamentary Assembly took place in Sarajevo on 5-7 December. Participants exchanged views on the different strategies for preventing and combating terrorism in the light of the migration crisis beyond the CEI constituency. During the gathering, the representatives of the General Committees were also elected: Nastimir Ananiev (MP from Bulgaria) was elected as the new Chair of the CEI – PD General Committee on Political Affairs, the Vice Chair of the said Committee will be elected at the next CEI PD Meeting; Franc Trcek (MP from Slovenia) and Lodovico Sonogo (MP from Italy) were respectively reconfirmed as Chair and Vice Chair of the CEI – PD General Committee on Economic Affairs; Luis Alberto Orellana (MP from Italy) and Susanne Kurz (MP from Austria) were respectively reconfirmed as Chair and Vice Chair of the CEI – PD General Committee on Cultural Affairs.

Meeting between CBSS and CEI Presidencies

A bilateral meeting between the CBSS Presidency and CEI Presidency as well as with staff from both Secretariats, took place on 8 December in Stockholm, back to back with the CEI - CBSS Conference on Unaccompanied Children. A useful survey of past and future strengthened cooperation between CEI and CBSS was displayed. Participants exchanged views on several issues of major common operational interest as well as on possible steps regarding CEI – CBSS cooperation. For example, to renew the current MoU signed in November 2014; to facilitate contacts between relevant staff by sector; to exchange information on work plans and gather experts; and to organise a visit from the CBSS SG and staff at CEI HQ in 2017.

CEI Summit

The Meeting of the Heads of Government of the 18 CEI Member States (CEI Summit) took place in Sarajevo on 13 December, back to back with the last CNC Meeting under the BiH CEI Presidency.

Participants exchanged views on the European integration process in the light of the migration crisis as well as on infrastructural connectivity of the CEI Region as a precondition for sustainable development. The Summit also witnessed the formal transfer of the CEI Presidency from Bosnia and Herzegovina (2016) to Belarus (2017). In this context, Secretary General, Amb. Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri, noted that the Belarusian CEI Presidency would give the CEI Eastern neighbourhood dimension special importance and boost as well as balance CEI activities both in the Western Balkans and in its Eastern Neighbourhood countries.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the CEI and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) - which has recently become a UN system organisation - was signed as a side event of the CEI Summit.

Funds, Programmes". In order to increase the growth and development in the sector, cooperation and involvement in projects at international level is essential.



CEI Business Forum, Sarajevo — December 2016



CEI Summit, Sarajevo — December 2016

CEI Business Forum

Under the title "Driving Forces and Perspectives for the Development of the CEI Wood Sector", the CEI Business Forum organised under the BiH CEI Presidency, took place in Sarajevo on 16 December. Representatives of several companies and institutions from CEI countries, including the President of the Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH and a representative of the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia, gathered in order to discuss issues and opportunities for the timber industry in the region. The CEI Deputy Secretary General and representative of the BiH CEI Presidency were also present.

The Forum offered the opportunity to exchange experience and information between companies and institutions as well as possible forms of future cooperation. It consisted of the following four panel sessions: "Infrastructure of Quality and Knowledge in Forestry and Wood Industry", "Application of Modern Technologies and Materials for a Better Competitiveness", "Creative Concepts to Accessing International Markets" and "Supporting the Wood Industry – Strategies,

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE CEI SECRETARIAT

The main role of the CEI-Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES) is to provide administrative and conceptual support to the CEI Structures and take appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting the realisation of the CEI mission. With the establishment of the Secretariat, the Organisation has assured a permanent structure necessary for a systematic approach to widespread CEI activities. The overall guidance and orientation for CEI activities in general and for the Secretariat in particular remains embodied in the long-term CEI strategy. A



CEI Headquarters in Trieste

strategy, which is reconfirmed both at political level and in the Plan of Action, reflecting the priority interests for cooperation among its Member States. The CEI-ES strongly supports the activities of the Presidency, not only by providing it and other decision-making and operational structures of the CEI with continuous administrative and conceptual support, but also by taking appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting the realisation of the CEI objectives. In this context, the CEI Secretariat's staff was actively involved in the implementation of the CEI Plan of Action 2014-2016 and other activities promoted by the BiH CEI Presidency.

The CEI-ES also manages a number of funds, programmes and instruments for cooperation in order to complement

The CEI-Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES) was established in Trieste under the Austrian CEI Presidency in 1996 and upon an offer of the Italian Government to host the seat in Trieste. It operates with the legal status of an International Organisation, based on a Headquarters Agreement concluded between the Italian Government and the CEI Presidency. The seat in Trieste, via Genova 9, was made available to the CEI by the Italian Government through the Friuli Venezia Giulia (FVG) Autonomous Region, free of charge and ties, under terms described in a Protocol concluded between the CEI – Executive Secretariat and the FVG Autonomous Region, signed in Trieste on 20 December 1999.

the institutional activities. These include the Cooperation Fund, supported by all Member States and the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP), supported by Italy and Austria. They aim at financing various cooperation projects in the CEI Member States, while the Secretariat takes care of their sound management and administration. Through this function, the CEI has developed an important aspect, i.e. programme management, and has gained an additional role in the trans-national and cross-border context. This represents an added value, in particular for the design, implementation and management of large projects, such as the EU-funded projects. To carry out this task, the CEI-ES has a special unit through which it actively participates in various EU programmes, both as Lead Partner and Partner - thus, enhancing the involvement of its countries in EU-funded projects.

The Office for the CEI Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), is managing the largest Fund at the disposal of the CEI, i.e. the CEI Fund at the EBRD. Since its establishment, the Fund has received from the Italian Government alone about 43.5 million EUR of which 2 million EUR in 2016. The Office for the CEI Fund is the operational structure, which ensures constant dialogue between the CEI, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EBRD for all questions related to the administration of the Fund.



EBRD Headquarters in London

In 1992, the Italian Government established the CEI Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Through this Agreement, the Italian Government acknowledged the great opportunity that the newly created development bank presented for the objectives that the CEI had embraced at its foundation in 1989. In this context, the CEI Fund was created "to assist the Bank's countries of operation in Central and Eastern Europe in their economic and social transformation process." Despite its bilateral nature, the Fund finances projects and the activities targeted at the entire CEI Region.

The Office is located at the CEI Headquarters in Trieste and in London within the Operational Policies Vice-Presidency of the EBRD. Through this Office - whose staff closely collaborates with EBRD banking teams - the CEI has managed to build a unique comparative advantage vis-à-vis other active funds within the Bank. This collaborative approach enables the CEI to better choose projects, thereby ensuring high-leverage ratios as well as greater effectiveness and efficiency. For the Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme, the Office for the CEI Fund regularly screens projects in the EBRD pipeline, and supports the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in its selection process. Following positive appraisal by the Ministry, the Office presents the prospective TC projects to the CNC for approval, it monitors their implementation and evaluates them after completion. The Office also manages the KEP supported by Italy through the Fund. The Office's role is not limited to the provision of grants, but follows the whole project cycle, from the initial screening of applications, throughout the monitoring of project implementation, to ex-post evaluation of results.

The activities of the CEI-ES and its staff are financed by the Italian Government (*the budget for the year 2016 is outlined in Annex 3*), while the activities and the staff of the Unit for EU-funded projects are financed out of the budget of the projects funded through EU Programmes. As to the staff structure of the CEI-ES, there have been no changes this year. The office staff with respective tasks are outlined in Annex 4

Within the Advanced Training Programme for Young Officials from CEI Member States, two young officials – Aleksandar Budisa (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Gundula Windtner (Austria), on secondment from their respective Governments, - carried out their traineeship at the CEI-ES in Trieste.

The Secretary General, his Alternate, Deputy Secretary General and other staff members actively participated in many CEI, CEI-sponsored or other international events. They have maintained regular contacts with other international and regional organisations. The executive level was also actively involved in a number of official visits and bilateral meetings:

Conference in Trieste with Franco Frattini

"A gradual enlargement, a long-lasting stabilisation: the European Union and the Balkans" was the topic of the conference with Franco Frattini, President of SIOI and former Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, held in Trieste on 26 January at the MIB School of Management.

The event was opened by Secretary General Amb. Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri and by the Director of MIB, Prof. Vladimir Nanut. Local authorities, representatives of the



Conference with Franco Frattini, Trieste—January 2016

economic and business community, academics and students attended the conference, which provided a comprehensive overview of the current geo-political, economic and social issues and their impact on the European enlargement. Special focus was put on the migration crisis and its effects on the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, which are reacting differently and taking diverse measures to face it.

Frattini also underlined the role of regional cooperation promoted at macro-regional level, in particular the Adriatic Ionian and the Alpine Regions. In that context, he also emphasised the role of the CEI whose added value results from the coexistence of a political dimension and an economic dimension, which provides the organisation with great potential.

In the afternoon, Frattini paid a visit to the CEI HQ and had a meeting with the Secretary General and his staff. He was informed about the latest developments of the Organisation and made suggestions on possible actions the CEI could pursue in the near future, in particular regarding the Eastern Partnership countries.

SG meets Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

A CEI delegation headed by Secretary General, Amb. Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri, met the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Igor Crnadak, and his team in Sarajevo on 8 February to discuss the programme of activities during the year.



Meeting with BiH Foreign Minister Crnadak, Sarajevo — March 2016

Minister Crnadak confirmed his country's commitment to the Organisation and its strategic objectives. He underlined the important role of the Initiative in the European integration process of the countries of the region, in the strengthening of their capacities, as well as its active cooperation with all the relevant players, international and regional organisations, necessary for a better output. He stressed that, in the framework of cooperation within the CEI, his country would maximise its efforts to promote the economic, social and cultural potential of the whole region and its interconnectivity. Amb. Caracciolo di Vietri assured the Minister that the CEI would have strongly supported the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its institutions in 2016 through available resources and platforms of cooperation.

SG at EBRD Western Balkans Investment Summit

Secretary General Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri attended the Western Balkans Investment Summit hosted by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) at its headquarters in London on 22 February. In particular, he actively participated in the panel on "Renewable energy and grid modernisation for a sustainable regional energy model" moderated by EBRD Managing Director for Energy and Natural Resources, Riccardo Puliti. Energy links, proposed interconnections, current obstacles to deeper energy market integration and sustainable energy goals as well as the potential for renewable sources for energy, especially hydropower generation, were discussed in the framework of this session. Ambassador Caracciolo provided valuable inputs from a "regional cooperation perspective". They were reflections originating from the special bond between the CEI and the EBRD.

While opening the Summit, EBRD President Sir Suma Chakrabarti underlined that the EBRD would continue working to improve the investment climate in the Western Balkans and urged investors worldwide to join the Bank in helping the region achieve its potential. He also addressed the audience by mentioning that there was the chance to discuss these challenges further at a conference on Supporting local enterprises and SMEs along China's Belt and Road Initiative in South Eastern Europe, organised jointly in Trieste in May with the EBRD's long-standing partner and pioneer of regional cooperation, the CEI.



Western Balkans Investment Summit, London—February 2016

The overall event - where Prime Ministers from the region joined entrepreneurs and other investors to discuss business opportunities in seven countries - aimed at highlighting investment and business opportunities in the region and at promoting the inflow of foreign direct investment and cross-border projects. Participants ranged from government officials, policy-makers, experts as well as leading domestic and international business representatives. The gathering focused in particular on: the development of transport links, the potential for renewable energy and the privatisation agenda in the region. It took place after the first Western Balkans Investment Forum at the EBRD in February 2014 which, for the first time, had brought together all the Prime Ministers from the region.

Alternate SG meets Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus

A CEI delegation headed by Alternate Secretary General, Amb. Margot Klestil-Löffler, met Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, H.E. Vladimir Makei in Minsk on 26 February. During their meeting, the parties exchanged views on possible ways of enhancing cooperation between Belarus and the CEI. Minister Makei confirmed his country's commitment to the Organisation and to its strategic objectives. During the meeting with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alena Kupchyna, she pointed out the important role the CEI had in the European integration process of its Member States.



Meeting with Belarus Foreign Minister Makei, Minsk—February 2016

The CEI delegation was also received at the Belarusian State Committee on Science and Technologies. Both sides agreed that enhancing cooperation with the CEI Science & Technology Network would bring about additional benefits both for Belarus and the CEI. During the meeting with representatives of the Belarusian Ministry of Economy, the CEI Business Dimension was presented paying specific attention to strengthening the entrepreneurship, especially of the SME element, in the CEI Member States.

CEI delegation pays visit to Ljubljana

CEI Alternate Secretary General, Ambassador Margot Klestil-Loeffler, and Deputy Secretary General, Erik Csernovitz, paid a visit to Ljubljana on 1 April. They met with the State Secretary at the MFA of the Republic of Slovenia, Ambassador Darja Bavdaž Kuret, the CEI National Coordinator of Slo-

venia, Ambassador Bojan Bertonec, and the Slovene National Coordinator for Macro-regional Strategies, Andreja Jerina. Possibilities for cooperation in the framework of the Positive Agenda for Youth in the Western Balkans (launched during the Brdo Summit in April 2015) and the three Macro-regional strategies - the Danube, the Alps and the Adriatic-Ionian – were explored by the interlocutors. Other possibilities for cooperation were discussed in the fields of culture, enterprise development, etc. Exchange of views on the new CEI Plan of Action 2017-2020 also took place.

CEI delegation pays visit to Sarajevo

CEI Alternate Secretary General, Ambassador Margot Klestil-Loeffler, and Deputy Secretary General, Counsellor Erik Csernovitz visited Sarajevo on 4 – 5 April, in the framework of BiH CEI Presidency. They had a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Igor Crnadak, and the CEI National Coordinator of BiH, Ambassador Miloš Prica, in order to discuss the priorities and upcoming events of the Presidency.

On that occasion, Amb. Klestil-Loeffler and Mr. Csernovitz also met with the Head of the EU Delegation to BiH and EU Special Representative, Ambassador Lars Gunnar Wigemark, the Head of the OSCE Mission to BiH, Ambassador Jonathan Moore, and the High Representative for BiH, Valentin Inzko, in order to discuss various possibilities for cooperation.

CEI SEEMO panel at the International Journalism Festival in Perugia

The panel “Who's fighting against corruption in SE Europe: the media or the police?” was jointly organised by the SEEMO and the CEI Secretariat during the International Journalism Festival in Perugia, Italy, on 10 April. Contributions were made by Aleksandra Bogdani, an investigative journalist and editor for the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network in Albania; Milorad Ivanovic, editor in chief of the Serbian edition of Newsweek magazine; Sasa Lekovic, president of the Croatian Journalists' Association; and Cristian Niculescu, journalist and trainer of the Romanian Centre for Investigative Journalism. Barbara Fabro, CEI Senior Executive Officer, presented the annual CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism. The panel was moderated by Oliver Vujovic, SEEMO Secretary General. This event provided a good visibility opportunity for the CEI also through the Festival's promotional material and communication tools.

Coordination Meeting between the Regional Organisations

Coordination Meeting between the Regional Organisations active in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe was held in Budapest on 19 April at the premises of the Danube Commission. The participants (BSEC, CBSS, the Danube Commission, RCC and the Union for the Mediterranean)

continued with the exchange of agendas of meetings and planned activities with the aim to harmonise the calendars; exchange ideas for joint projects and activities and elaborate possible conclusions of agreements for cooperation, etc. The CEI was represented by Deputy Secretary General, Erik Csernovitz.

Macedonian MFA representatives pay visit to CEI Secretariat

The Director of the Institute for Geo-strategic Research and Foreign Policy (IGRFP) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, Ambassador Abdulkadar Memedi, accompanied by Ambassador Jovan Tegovski, paid a visit to the CEI Secretariat in Trieste on 19-20 April. They met CEI Alternate Secretary General, Ambassador Margot Klestil-Loeffler, and the CEI Secretariat's staff in order to fine-tune the idea of creating new initiatives and synergies in line with the goals of the CEI Plan of Action. They also took stock of the outcomes of EU projects implemented by the CEI Secretariat, in particular in the field of transport and mobility and of renewable energy policies. During their stay in Trieste the Macedonian representatives also visited the Area Science Park in Trieste, where additional opportunities for delivering research and innovation models to the benefit of the CEI Member States committed to the EU accession process were considered.

IGRFP is an independent legal entity within the Ministry and pursues the identification and analysis of topics of strategic relevance for the Country at regional, European and global level. It organised two successful international conferences with the Macedonian CEI Presidency in 2015. One was on EU macro-regional strategies and the principle of all-inclusiveness in their Balkan implementation and one on security issues related to the transit of migrants and refugees along the Balkan Route.

BiH Minister of Foreign Affairs pays visit to CEI Secretariat

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Igor Crnadak paid a visit to the CEI Headquarters on 27 April. After a welcome speech by CEI Alternate Secretary General, Amb. Margot Klestil-Loeffler, the Minister shortly briefed the



BiH Foreign Minister Crnadak visits CEI, Trieste—April 2016

executives and the staff of the CEI Secretariat about the CEI Presidency activities, highlighting key priorities such as promotion of interconnectivity, sustainable development and intercultural cooperation. The Minister also reported on the organisation of the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CEI Member States in Banja Luka.

After the meeting at the CEI HQ, Minister Crnadak paid a visit to the mayor of Trieste, Roberto Cosolini. The day before, Minister Crnadak had held a meeting in Rome with the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Paolo Gentiloni.

OSCE Secretary General pays visit to CEI Secretariat

OSCE Secretary General, Amb. Lamberto Zannier visited the CEI Secretariat in Trieste on 5 May. On that occasion both Amb. Zannier and Secretary General, Amb. Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri highlighted the usefulness of regular contacts and staff consultations between the two organisations and expressed their commitment to continuing with the solid and long-lasting OSCE-CEI cooperation. The aim of the visit was to explore opportunities for establishing a more practical and result-oriented cooperation focused on thematic areas of interest to Eastern and South Eastern Europe, i.e. good governance, youth exchange and connectivity with focus on energy. Indeed, cooperation on three joint projects in these areas was endorsed and will be tackled further by both organisations. Contacts will be pursued at expert level.

Enhancing its relations with the OSCE is of strategic importance to the CEI. Stepping up cooperation is also very timely in such difficult and important times for Europe and the Region the CEI is covering. The migration crisis in particular calls for more cooperation, synergies and interaction among the institutions. In this regard, it was noted that in the final declaration of the Vienna Western Balkans Summit in August 2015, in the framework of the “Berlin Process”, the participants pledged to make full use of the OSCE and the CEI with a view to promoting regional cooperation and integration.

Policy dialogue meeting with DG NEAR on “Migration and refugee flows through the Western Balkan region: implications for the enlargement process” in Trieste

Secretary General, Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri, opened this meeting in Trieste on 6 May, underlining the fact that in a

context of deteriorating expectations of the EU candidate countries towards the enlargement process, the refugee crisis in the Balkans had contributed to broadening the communication channels, reconnecting the WB leaders with the EU institutions at large. Indeed, the implications of the Balkan Route on the EU enlargement process were discussed in depth during the meeting. The event was organised by the Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso (OBC) in cooperation with the CEI and the European Commission - DG NEAR. It was attended by a number of representatives from the Public Administration, Local and Regional Authorities and CSOs.

Luisa Chiodi, Director of the OBC, affirmed that the refugee crisis brought the Balkans back to the centre of the EU policy after years of enlargement fatigue and marginalisation of the region's countries in the EU agenda. She highlighted that although the crisis had brought media attention back to the region, it had also been a devastating emergency from the humanitarian point of view, which obviously had not helped the ongoing programmes of economic renewal.

The answers of the institutions and civil society at European and regional levels, as well as its long-term effects were at the centre of the seminar. The need for the principle of solidarity to function was underlined by the representative of the DG NEAR, Giulio Venneri, who highlighted that Southeast Europe was connected with the EU not just through close economic ties but also from a political point of view.

Representatives of the Centre for Human Rights of Belgrade and of the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association reported on experience in their countries regarding the needs of humanitarian support, legal protection of the rights of asylum seekers, lack of awareness of the basic methodology to deal with massive inflows of migrants and the impact of the contradictory approaches of the bordering EU Member States on the Balkan transit countries.

CEI-EBRD Conference “Supporting Local Enterprises and SMEs along China’s Belt and Road Initiative in South Eastern Europe”

Connecting China via land and sea with the global economy through the Belt and Road Initiative will eventually encompass three continents, more than 65 countries and more than 4 billion people who produce 55 per cent of the



Policy Dialogue Meeting, Trieste—May 2016



Opening of the CEI-EBRD Conference, Trieste—May 2016



From left: Mayor of Trieste, Roberto Cosolini, President of the FVG Region, Debora Serracchiani, Italian Minister of Transport Graziano Delrio and CEI SG Giovanni Caracciolo

world's gross national product. In order to examine the impact of this programme on South Eastern Europe, the CEI and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) jointly hosted in Trieste on 19 May at the Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi, the International Conference "Supporting Local Enterprises and SMEs along China's Belt and Road Initiative in South Eastern Europe". The event was held under the patronage of the Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers and supported by the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia and the Municipality of Trieste, with a contribution from the Fondazione CRTrieste, Intesa Sanpaolo and Rizzani De Eccher.

The conference gathered more than 350 key stakeholders including the European Commission, Chinese official authorities and investors, high-level representatives of South Eastern European governments and the private sector, as well as the relevant International Financial Institutions. Among the distinguished participants were Wang Yanzhi, President of the Silk Road Fund; Graziano Delrio, Italy's Minister of Transport and Infrastructure; Igor Crnadak, BiH Foreign Minister; Alain Pilloux, EBRD Acting Vice President Policies and Partnerships and Vincenzo Amendola, Undersecretary of State, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The event offered a platform to discuss investment opportunities for local enterprises and SMEs and was divided into two parts. The morning plenary sessions focused on infrastructure plans in the SEE region and on examining the potential impact of the Belt and Road infrastructure corridor on domestic economies in the region. The afternoon was organised in two parallel business panels dedicated to supporting local enterprises and SMEs through boosting competitiveness and improving access to finance within the context of existing and future infrastructure investment plans in the SEE region.

CEI participation at Vienna Forum: Promoting EU-Investments in Belarus

Alternate Secretary General, Amb. Margot Klestil-Loeffler, participated in the Vienna Forum: Promoting EU-Investments

in Belarus, held on 24 May. The event was hosted by the Federal Economic Chamber of Austria and supported both by the EU and the Republic of Belarus. It witnessed very high-level participation such as Johannes Hahn, EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations; Vasily Matyushevsky, First Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus and Alain Pilloux, Vice-President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The Forum itself was intended to showcase the investment opportunities and advantages of the Republic of Belarus, the new conditions and the prospects of economic cooperation with the European business. The programme included a plenary with panel discussions in two major segments: presentation of investment opportunities of Belarus and presentation of European business success stories in Belarus. The Alternate Secretary General participated in the first session as a speaker and gave a presentation about the CEI.

MoU with ICMPD

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the CEI, was signed in Vienna on 30 May on the occasion of the Networking Meeting with other International and Regional Organisations. Since both institutions have their regional focus on the Western Balkans, the MoU will be used to strengthen their cooperation in this region and in particular on migration issues.



Signing Ceremony, Vienna—May 2016

CEI participation at Mittelfest Festival opening

The official opening of the Mittelfest Festival – held from 16 to 24 July - took place in Cividale del Friuli (Udine/Italy) on 16 July. In 2016, the Festival was celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. To mark this special edition, the Mittelfest Association, the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia and the CEI organised this event in order to exchange views on "Signals from the European Observatory. Between Concern and Hope: Culture as an Instrument for Dialogue and Integration".

The topic was introduced by a lectio magistralis from the journalist and author Paolo Rumiz. Welcome speeches were delivered by Federico Rossi, Mittelfest President, Franco Calabretto, the artistic director, and the Mayor of Cividale del

Friuli, Stefano Balloch. The participants were also addressed by the President of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Debora Serracchiani, and CEI Deputy Secretary General, Erik Csernovitz. Representatives of several CEI Member States contributed to the debate with their views on the changes occurred over the last 25 years and the current challenges. All participants pointed out the key role of culture in promoting dialogue and integration.

A sightseeing tour in Cividale del Friuli, an extraordinary UNESCO world heritage site, was organised for the CEI guests. In the evening, they attended the premiere of the chamber opera "Menocchio" in Piazza Duomo. The Mittelfest Festival was held for the first time in 1991 in the framework of the Pentagonal Initiative (today's CEI).

Ambassadors of the V4 countries in Rome pay visit to the CEI Secretariat

The Ambassadors of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia in Rome, representing the Visegrad Group (V4), visited the CEI Secretariat in Trieste on 5 October. The meeting, promoted by the Polish Presidency of V4, aimed at exchanging views on cooperation possibilities taking into account common interests and objectives, especially towards the Western Balkans.

A priority for both the CEI and the V4 Group is to contribute to the advancement of the EU enlargement of the Western Balkans, which is considered as a fundamental element for the stabilisation of the Region. Amb. Hana Hubackova (Czech Republic), Amb. Tomasz Orłowski (Poland), Amb. Jan Soth (Slovakia) and Amb. Peter Paczolay (Hungary) highlighted the key role the CEI had played since its establishment as a platform promoting political dialogue as well as economic and social development in the Region. They all expressed their wish for an enhanced cooperation and major involvement of their countries in the CEI activities. CEI Secretary General, Amb. Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri pointed out the challenges the CEI was currently facing and the possible synergies which could be promoted with the V4 Group.

The participants also discussed possibilities for cooperation at project level with the aim of finding opportunities to pull together resources and expertise, especially considering the



Meeting with V4 Ambassadors in Rome, Trieste—October 2016

experience achieved through the CEI Cooperation Fund and the Visegrad Fund. The meeting also included technical presentations on the CEI Fund at the EBRD, the CEI participation in EU projects, the CEI activities in the field of migration. Cooperation in the field of culture was also emphasised in the light of the common cultural heritage shared by the V4 countries and of possible activities to be promoted in the CEI framework.

CEI participation at XII International Forum of the Aquileia Euro-Region

Under the title "Europe: From the Atlantic to the Urals or between the Atlantic and the Urals?", the XII International Forum of the Aquileia Euro-Region in Udine on 20-21 October, provided a platform for peaceful politics and the promotion of a united and strong Europe within the global order. The presence of the Russian and the Ukrainian Ambassadors, together with the OSCE Secretary General at the same table, demonstrated the importance of the Forum organised by the Mitteleuropa Association. Among the prominent participants were also CEI Deputy Secretary General and several high-ranked representatives from political, social, economic and cultural institutions as well as from European macro-areas and regions, together with scholars and experts from universities from Central Eastern European countries and the Balkans.

Main topics of the forum were current issues Europe is facing today within the historical background of the developments since the fall of the iron curtain. In particular, strategies for civil empowerment and for boosting economic development were highly discussed. Special attention was also paid to non-EU countries where all CEI Member States were represented.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus meets CEI Secretary General

On 27 October, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, Vladimir Makei, met with a CEI Delegation headed by Secretary General, Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri. They exchanged views on the state and prospects for an enhanced cooperation between the CEI and other international organisations, financial institutions and regional integration processes. The two sides also discussed the key elements of



Meeting with Belarus Foreign Minister Makei, Minsk—October 2016

interaction with the CEI Secretariat in the context of preparations for the CEI Presidency of the Republic of Belarus in 2017. Further consultations on the mentioned matters continued on 28 October at the meeting of the top CEI Secretariat officials with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Alena Kupchyna.

The CEI delegation was on a visit to Minsk on 26-28 October, to attend the international conference “Laying foundation in the UNECE region for economic integration and sustainable development towards 2030” and “Minsk Dialogue”. Both events primarily focused on rethinking ways for an effective interaction between various integration platforms in Europe.

CEI Alternate SG pays visit to CoE

On 15 November, Alternate Secretary General, Amb. Margot Klestil-Loeffler met with a number of high-level officials in Strasbourg, i.e. the Deputy Secretary General, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Verena Taylor – Director of the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Amb. Markus Börlin - Chair of the CM Rapporteur Group on External Relations and Alexandre Guessel - Director of Political Affairs. The interlocutors discussed various ways of increasing cooperation between the two organisations. On that occasion, and given the upcoming Belarusian CEI Presidency in 2017, the CoE tabled a proposal for a CEI’s inclusion in a conference on “Death Penalty and Public Opinion”, scheduled in Minsk in December.

OSCE Training on labour migration and gender: contemporary trends in Central and Eastern Europe

A better understanding of the gender aspects of migration management was the aim of this train-the-trainers workshop held in Chisinau on 21-23 November. Migration can be an empowering experience for individuals: supporting entrepreneurship and employment of migrant women is an opportunity to contribute to their individual growth as well as to their family and community development. 17-high level officers from the public administrations of Belarus, Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Ukraine attended the training programme organised by the OSCE - Office of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities with the support of the CEI Cooperation Fund. It marked the beginning of the operational cooperation between the CEI and the OSCE. Experts from IOM, ILO, CEI and OSCE lectured the audience and led group exercises of the attendees who counted on a large participation from international offices seated in Chisinau and Moldovan NGOs.

MoU with IOM

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the CEI and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) - which has recently become a UN system organisation - was signed as a side event of the CEI Summit in Sarajevo on 13 December. This cooperation agreement between the two



organisations comes at a particularly critical moment for the region as the migration crisis represents a serious threat to societies. In this context, there is a need for more cooperation among all the stakeholders concerned in order to increase the confidence and rebuild trust. The MoU represents a good basis for joining forces and tackling common challenges.

CEI participation at CoE Conference “Death Penalty and Public Opinion”

The event organised by the Council of Europe was held in Minsk on 13 - 14 December. The participation was high-ranking (Andrea Rigoni, Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of CoE on Belarus, Deputy Foreign Minister Evgeny Shestakov, Alexandre Guessel, Director of Political Affairs of CoE, Members of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus etc.). Alternate Secretary General, Amb. Margot Klestil-Loeffler, had the chance to deliver a statement on behalf of the CEI. The presence of the CEI was very important. On that occasion the representatives of the CoE asked the CEI continue its role as a neutral platform and mediator on this very sensitive subject. The CoE in general is very interested in continuing its cooperation with the CEI.

Feature Events, Prizes and Awards

The CEI Secretariat continued the promotion of its Feature Events as well as Prizes and Awards - crucial elements in the role of the Organisation as a dialogue forum.

Trieste Film Festival

The CEI, through its Cooperation Fund, is one of the sponsors of the Trieste Film Festival, the Italian leading appointment with Central and Eastern European cinema, offering a unique retrospective of quality filmmaking production from the CEI region. In particular, the CEI is supporting the Eastweek” project, an international script-writing workshop involving film schools and academies from Central and Eastern Europe. Its main objective is to develop the selected projects from the delicate initial-idea-phase through a series of tutorials, masterclasses and case studies. In the framework of the Festival, CEI support is also given to the co-production forum When East Meets West, gathering funders, commissioning editors, sales agents, distributors and producers, in particular from

Eastern Europe, Italy and – in 2016 – from Spain, Portugal and Latin America. This year's edition of the Festival was held on 22-30 January.

CEI Award 2016 at Trieste Film Festival

Bulgarian director Igljika Trifonova is the winner of the CEI Award (3,000 EUR) assigned in the framework of the 27th edition of the Trieste Film Festival. Her film 'The prosecutor, the defender, the father and his son', inspired by a true story, is about a trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in Hague, against a man accused of committing war crimes in Bosnia. "Trifonova is a director of high civic engagement, capable of interpreting the contemporary European reality and the dialogue between cultures". It was stated in the motivation of the Award. The CEI Award was presented by Barbara Fabro, CEI officer in charge of culture, on the occasion of the awarding ceremony in Trieste on 30 January.

Vilenica International Literary Festival – CEI Round Table

The 31st Vilenica International Literary Festival, organised by the Slovene Writers' Association and the Vilenica Cultural Association from Sežana, took place on 6-11 September, in various locations (Ljubljana, Sežana, Lipica, Maribor, Celje, Koper, Trbojve, Štanjel, Bilje, Lokev, Trieste, and the Vilenica Cave). The Festival featured numerous literary and cultural events such as roundtable discussions, readings, a presentation of contemporary literature and symposia. Since its origins, the Festival has focused on gathering writers, mainly but not only, from Central European countries and promoting dialogue in an area with a common history but cultural diversity.

Recognised authors of Slovenian and Estonian contemporary literature, Aleš Berger and Ülar Ploom, were the guests of the Vilenica Pre-Opening Event in Trieste, held on 6 September at the CEI HQ. The event was organised by the Slovene Writers' Association in cooperation with the CEI and Group 85 – Skupina 85.



Vilenica Pre-opening Event, Trieste—September 2016

On 8 September, the CEI Roundtable "Literature and Ethics", supported by the CEI Cooperation Fund, was held in Lipica with the participation of the French writer and poet Alexandre Bergamini, the Hungarian poet, fiction writer and essayist Gábor Schein and the Slovenian author Suzana Tratnik, writer, translator, columnist and activist. The discussion was moderated by Carlos Pascual (Mexico/Slovenia).

CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence

On the occasion of the official opening of the Festival, on 7 September, CEI Deputy Secretary General, Erik Csernovitz bestowed the CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence for 2016 upon Tanja Bakić from Montenegro. The Fellowship (5,000 EUR) is granted with the aim to encourage cross-border cooperation and promotion in the field of literature. It is addressed to young writers from non-EU CEI Member States and is intended to be used for a three-month residence permit in any CEI Member State of the candidate's choice to work on the submitted project.



Awarding Ceremony, Sežana (Slovenia) —September 2016

CEI International Summer School

Altogether 29 students, including 27 participants from 8 CEI countries, benefitted from the interactive programme of lectures, round tables, seminars and workshops held by over 25 professors and guest lecturers during the 22nd CEI International Summer School on "Minorities, Kin-States and Territorial Cooperation", in Bertinoro, Italy on 12-16 September.

The event succeeded in emphasising the interdisciplinary approach towards human rights and democracy. Young and future professionals were provided with a better understanding of minority rights and intercultural dialogue as a prerequisite for building stable democracies in SEE. The participants explored new visions regarding regional cooperation and its importance for the EU accession process. They deepened their knowledge on the protection of minority rights in different SEE countries and international legal standards for human rights. In interactive workshops, the students enhanced their knowledge of good practices of multicultural cohesion and cooperation for a comprehension of the current migration flows. Therefore, this edition of the CEI Summer School has provided the participants with new ideas for a successful management of the ongoing migrant issue by offering different perspectives on democratic and humanitarian responses. Besides its high-quality lessons, the Summer School brought about a one week international forum of experts and young professionals in human rights and democratic development including important networking possibilities. It created a platform for dynamic discussions on the topic and contributed to intercultural cooperation in the region. The final part of the CEI International Summer School was complimented with the CEI International Conference on

“Breaking Down or Re-Building The Walls: Migration Crisis, Refugees and Security in Southeastern Europe”.

The CEI International Summer School represents a long-standing cooperation between the Institute for Central-Eastern and Balkan Europe (IECOB) and the CEI. This year’s edition was developed in collaboration with the Master’s Programme in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe (ERMA). It has contributed to stimulating the discussions on minority rights in our increasingly diversified societies and related territorial questions, while elaborating the CEI’s role in these contexts.

South East Europe Media Forum

More than 300 participants - editors-in-chief, leading journalists, business professionals, civil society and academia as well as policy makers - attended the South East Europe Media Forum (SEEMF) in Belgrade on 21-22 November.

Co-hosted by the South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO), the Media Program South East Europe of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the CEI, the Forum focused on “Media in Europe: Ready for crisis reporting?”. The agenda covered current affairs such as the media and politics in Serbia, the refugee crisis as a touch-stone for professional journalism and new trends in war reporting. A session was dedicated to journalism education in South East Europe. Outstanding speakers contributed to the panel discussions sharing their experiences and practices, which encouraged a lively and active participation of the audience.

Opening speeches were delivered by Oliver Vujović SEEMO Secretary General, Christian Spahr, Head of the KAS Media Program SEE, Philippe Guex, Ambassador of Switzerland to Serbia and to Montenegro, Andrea Orizio, Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia. In his welcome speech, Secretary General Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri underlined that this year’s Forum provided a significant opportunity for exchanging best practices



SEEMF Opening, Belgrade — November 2016

of professional reporting on migration issues, encouraging investigative journalism and high ethical standards in this field, promoting a debate at various levels tackling the relationship between media and politics. The Forum was also attended by Prime Minister of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, who participated

in a public interview. A keynote address was delivered by Franco Frattini, Former Italian Foreign Minister and EU Vice President/Commissioner, who pointed out that in the current international scenario the role of media was most important and difficult than ever. He emphasised that the right to truth and to knowledge should be guaranteed and that more education in geopolitical strategies for journalism students should be promoted.

CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism

The SEEMF programme also included the presentation of the CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism. The award is presented by the CEI and the South East Europe Media Organisation, in special partnership with the Media Program South East Europe of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. This year it went to Lindita Çela (BIRN Albania) in the section “Professional Journalists” (4,000 EUR) and Artsiom Harbatsevich (Intex-press; Nasha Niva, Minsk) in the section “Young Journalists” (1,000 EUR. A special mention was presented to Iurie Sănduță (RISE Moldova; OCCRP, Chișinău).



Activities in the field of Migration

The CEI Secretariat also continued with the promotion and an active participation in the activities in the framework of the Extraordinary Call on Migrations.

International Symposium on “Combating illegal migration and illicit human trafficking”

An International Symposium on “Combating illegal migration and illicit human trafficking” was held in Ivano Frankivsk, Ukraine, on 11-12 March. It was the first activity out of twelve projects funded by the CEI Cooperation Fund - Extraordinary Call covering migration.

The event, organised by the Ivano-Frankivsk Law University named after King Danylo Halycky aimed at analysing the state of combating illegal migration and human trafficking in the area. Experts in this field discussed the most effective ways of detecting and investigating the problems of illegal migration and human trafficking, as well as of developing

recommendations for improving the legal mechanism of counteraction of illegal migration and human trafficking. Members from Belarus, Croatia, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and Georgia participated in the symposium, including state migration service employees, representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Office of the Public Prosecutor, judges and representatives from NGOs among others.

During the gathering, Ukraine presented the measures, established in implementing the key international acts and protocols on combating human trafficking, e.g. the Protocol about warning and cancellation of human trafficking, (especially trafficking of women and children), based on the *UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child* on child trafficking, child prostitution and child pornography as well as the *OSCE plan of action against human trafficking*. In Ukraine, human trafficking is an increasing problem affecting a great percentage of the population. The issue, also related to problems with legal regulation of migrants, has an increasing impact within and outside Ukraine, i.e. in countries such as Russia, Moldova, Poland and other EU Member States.

Participants agreed to present a coordination plan to the authorised bodies in Ukraine and other CEI Member States, including special measures to intensify the coordination activity in the sphere of combating illegal migration and illicit human trafficking. This, in order to ensure regular trainings of experts in this field, and to improve coordination among institutions, including NGOs.

International Conference “Acting together in Migration Management - Enhancing Coordination among Local and Central Level”

The MARRI Regional Centre in Skopje hosted the International Conference “Acting together in Migration Management - Enhancing Coordination among Local and Central Level” on 17 March. The event was organised in cooperation with NALAS and witnessed the participation of 80 representatives of central and local authorities from 14 European countries, international organisations and NGOs who gathered to ex-



Opening of the Conference, Skopje—March 2016

change experiences and best practices in migration crisis management. This was a response to the massive flows of refugees and other migrants over the last years, challenging the capacities of national and local institutions in affected countries to assure stability, peace and well-being of both, the local populations and the refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants. Special attention was paid to obtaining stronger support from the international community in the European integration process of the Western Balkans, by strengthening capacities in managing the migration crisis in the Region.

Panellists from Austria, Croatia and Italy shared their experience with the participants, such as representatives from Interior Ministries, Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs and Mayors and representatives of associations of local authorities from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Kosovo*. The Italian model for the accommodation of asylum seekers and refugees - the SPRAR system - as a case study of sound collaboration between State Administration, Municipalities and NGOs - was illustrated and discussed. Participants also stressed the importance of establishing a regulatory framework with regard to the management of the migration crisis for better welcoming and integrating actions at local and national level.

The Conclusions highlighted the need for further upgrading regional coordination mechanisms aimed at supporting regional, central and local authorities, horizontal and vertical networking, permanent consultations of Local Authorities in defining national policies, needs-assessments and support to capacity-building schemes to local authorities by international donors.

International Workshop “Scattering Reception”

The two-day international workshop and final conference held in Trieste on 17-19 March was organised by the ICS, Consorzio Italiano di Solidarietà – Ufficio Rifugiati, Onlus (Italian Consortium for Solidarity – Refugees Office NGO). The gathering aimed at creating bonds and cooperation relations in order to spread a reception culture and methodology for promoting more effective integration programmes for refugees and asylum seekers.



International Workshop, Trieste—March 2016

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

NGO representatives from Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia had the chance to exchange opinions about the current situation as well as share their experiences on how the reception system worked in each country, including: procedures for claiming asylum; the process and measures put at the disposal of asylum seekers upon their arrival; applications of National and European laws, including the controversial Dublin regulation and specific issues such as the reception system of non-accompanied minors in the various countries. The event constituted a great opportunity for the NGO's to create an international network in the field of refugees and asylum seekers' protection and to develop and exchange abilities to protect their fundamental rights and carry out sound and safe local reception systems along the transnational area.

During the workshop, the challenges faced by each country were debated upon, bringing to light the differences between EU and non-EU countries. The need for a coordinated and coherent system with a human rights approach that would allow asylum seekers to exert their right to international protection was also highlighted. The pilot model of the Italian SPRAR Programme was presented. It is based in a decentralised system with an essential participation of municipalities and NGOs, very much appreciated by the participants. The advantages and disadvantages, as well as the possibilities and challenges of replicating the system in other countries of the Balkan route were discussed. The last session of the workshop witnessed the presence of the CEI Focal Point on Migration, Ugo Poli. He outlined the conclusions of the event celebrated in Skopje on 17 March organised by MARRI and NALAS - also co-financed by CEI Cooperation Fund and highlighted important synergies. A representative of the UNHCR - who participates in the Territorial Commission for the Recognition of International Protection - answered important questions regarding the Italian legal system.

Among the conclusions of the workshop, the need for coordination between decision makers and field-operators was highlighted, as well as for developing networks further and exchanging knowledge and experience among the affected countries, both EU and non-EU Member States.

First Annual Conference of Western Balkans Migration Network (WB-MIGNET)

The First Annual Conference of the Western Balkans Migration Network (WB-MIGNET) in Tirana on 15-16 April, marked the initiation of the Network activities. It was attended by a number of representatives from government institutions, international organisations, academia and students. It was hosted by the Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Albania, one of the Network's founders together with six other think tanks: Institute of Economics Zagreb, Croatia; Center for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research (CDESS), Bosnia and Herzegovina; Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognoses (ISSP), Montenegro; South East European University (SEEU), Macedonia; Group 484, Serbia; and a group of independent researchers from Kosovo*.



Conference, Tirana—April 2016

Welcome speeches were delivered by Prof. Anastas Angjeli, member of the Albanian Academy of Sciences and member of the Parliament of Albania, and Halil Hyseni, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania, who stressed that the creation and revitalisation of the Western Balkans Migration Network would bring a valuable contribution to addressing the challenge of migration in this beautiful part of Europe. The keynote speech was given by Prof. Russell King (University of Sussex, Sussex Centre for Migration Research) who is President of the WB-MIGNET's Academic Advisory Board. During the event, the latest migration research findings produced by researchers participating in the WB-MIGNET were presented.

The annual meeting of members of the WB-MIGNET Executive and Academic Advisory Board was held on the second day of the conference. The event was used as an opportunity to discuss progress achieved and finalise the plan for further activities of the Network. This is expected to contribute to producing high-quality evidence and other resources that should improve migration policies in the Western Balkan region and increase awareness on migration issues worldwide.

"WELCOMING" – International seminar on migration management

Around 50 participants from Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, the Macedonian Ministries of Local Self-Government and of Foreign Affairs and from the French Embassy took the floor



Participants at the seminar, Skopje—June 2016

at the two-day Seminar on 20-21 June, organised by the ALDA Office in Skopje, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies. The gathering was opened by Shiret Elezi - Faqja Zyrtare, Minister of Local Self-Government; Jon Jovanovski, CEI National Coordinator for Macedonia (from MFA); Ugo Poli, CEI focal point on migration; Sebastien Botreau-Bonnetterre, representative of the French Embassy in the Republic of Macedonia and ALDA Skopje General Secretary, Antonella Valmorbidia.

On top of the agenda was migration management at local level, both in emergency and reception conditions, comparing local policies and the role of Local Authorities in many CEI countries and beyond. Special attention was paid to how immigration could become an opportunity for local development by creating a socially inclusive environment and promoting effective intercultural communication and integration programmes. The presentations, Q&A and working group reports brought about a comprehensive picture of the state-of-the-art of the legal frameworks governing the recent migration flows at European and national level, of the actual situation on the field and case stories of considerable importance as well as exchange of good practices and in-depth examination of informative mismanagement of migration issues by the media. As a result, guidelines and recommendations were produced to improve both public and civil society interventions and pave the way to better quality information.

The seminar achieved a high multiplier effect by connecting relevant organisations from the countries involved. Vivid declarations from front-line NGOs were delivered, including those testifying the current troubles in certain EU Member States. The skills and experience of CSOs and the added value available from their collaboration with National and Local Authorities came to the forefront. The lessons learned from their case studies would substantially contribute to feeding the current evolutionary stage of the international debate for upgrading the regulatory and organisational framework of migration management. This is particularly relevant for checking regulatory loopholes and solving contradictory legal provisos; advocating the bottom-up inputs and quality contribution, not only in terms of operational assistance but of policy advice, of a permanent public – private partnership at all levels, i.e. with local and national authorities; networking of pivotal actors from the civil society for effective dialogue with international organisations and the design of transnational strategies, also in the macro-regional context.

MUNSC SALIENT 2016: “Deconstructing Contemporary Inequalities”

On 11-15 July, the MUN Slovenia Club (MUNSC), an NGO within the United Nations Association of Slovenia (www.unaslovenia.org), organised the MUNSC Salient 2016 edition, an annual five-day youth conference on global issues in the UN spotlight. Under the honourable patronage of the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Borut Pahor, the event took place at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Ljubljana.

More than 70 delegates worldwide met to elaborate on issues, migration flows, encompassed under the overarching theme of inequality in the 21st century. Under the title “Deconstructing Contemporary Inequalities”, MUNSC Salient 2016 explored the causes, symptoms and possible solutions for inequalities defining current societies and posing serious threats to peace and stability. The opening session was addressed by prof. Bojko Bučar, President of UNAS; Deputy Director-General of Multilateral Affairs, Development Cooperation and International Law of the Slovene MFA, Minister Veronika Boškovič Pohar; and CEI Focal Point on Migration, Ugo Poli.

The conference was divided into two parts. The first part shaped the traditional Model United Nations (MUN) methodology, in which the participants assume the role of state representatives within three simulated “Council meetings”: in the simulated UN Security Council, representatives addressed the issue of youth radicalisation and the importance of including young people in key decision-making processes; in the European Council “heads of states” players tackled the issue of multiculturalism and European order in the post-migration era; while in the simulated UN Human Rights Council the MUNSC, delegates drafted a Declaration on the Rights of Peoples and Individuals to International Solidarity for providing a viable foundation to more equitable international order. The second part consisted of workshops and roundtables focusing on specific topics of the overarching theme such as the relationship between humanitarian crises, development challenges and youth; the multicultural future of Europe; the contemporary forms of inequality to shift from despair to solidarity. On 13 July, the conference also hosted an exclusive public discussion with the Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Republic of Slovenia, H.E. Paolo Trichilo, on the topic of “Assisting the vulnerable populations – Italy’s experience with refugees”.

In addition to expanding participants’ understanding of contemporary global issues, MUNSC Salient offers its delegates a chance to cooperate with their peers from other countries and develop a variety of abilities and skills, which they can transfer back into their local environment. In doing so, the conference goal was also to fuel lasting networks of future decision-makers, who will be able to apply their intercultural experience.

Conference on “European values and security faced with the Migration and Refugee crisis – A Perspective from the Civil Society”

The European Movement in the Republic of Macedonia (EMRM), in cooperation with the Institute for Geostrategic Research and Foreign Policy – IGRFP of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, organised an international conference in Skopje, Macedonia on 20 September. The Conference, under the title “European values and security faced with the Migration and Refugee crisis – A Perspective from the Civil Society” analysed the main challenges

all European states, and especially the Western Balkans is currently facing in the context of migration and the refugee crisis.

Representatives from national councils of the European Movements and civil society organisations from CEI Member States participated in the event. Germany, Greece and Turkey, highly concerned with the migrant crisis, were also present. High-level panellists dealing with refugees presented the various discussions of the topic focussing on the perspective of human rights and the exchange of experiences, good practices, models and cooperation networks. Security issues were also at the centre of the debate. The lack of a single integrated system of defence and border protection, which had led during the past year to the installation of barriers in many European countries, was underlined. This was not efficient against illegal entry and caused a domino effect of insecurity and distrust among countries. Participants agreed on the need of improving and promoting cross-border cooperation to give a shared response in all segments of the management of migrant and refugee waves.



Opening of the Conference, Skopje—September 2016

Among the conclusions of the conference, the European Movement International pointed out that European migration policy should be built based on a shared agenda, not a unilateral action against to European values. The need for a European response to the crisis compliant with the essential European values such as democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, humanity and solidarity was emphasised. It was also highlighted that mass migration and refugee waves had economic, social, financial and political implications for which an adequate and single response had not been developed yet. Shared responsibility is to continuously raise awareness towards non-discrimination, anti-xenophobia, tolerance, and solidarity for people without a homeland, in accordance with the Convention on the Status of Refugees, the European Convention on Human Rights, and other international treaties for their protection.

The Conclusions adopted by the conference recalled how the migrant and refugee crisis was, by all indications, a long-term phenomenon, which implies continued cooperation and synergic action between the civil society and public authorities, both at national level and within the CEI, the EU, and the international community as a whole.

Workshop on "Sanitary implications of the mass-movement of people" in Novi Sad

International experts and representatives met on 24 November, at a workshop on sanitary implications of the mass-movement of people. The event was held as a preliminary activity for the 10th Conference of the International Society for Health & Human Rights (ISHHR) under the title "Mental health, mass people displacement & ethnic minorities", also taking place in Novi Sad in 2017.

The aim of the workshop was to create a forum for exchange on the current accommodation situation and the sanitary conditions of detention centres for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. The participants discussed challenges related to the impact of mass migration on general and mental health, and possible recommendations to governments, agencies and civil society organisations.

The first of the three sessions was opened by representatives of national and regional government, speakers from



Workshop, Novi Sad—November 2016

CEI Member States and the CEI Secretariat who shared their knowledge on sanitary conditions and public health implications within mass migration in the region of Central and South-East Europe. The second session focused on psychosocial support and mental health with examples from Croatia and Serbia, but also from Norway, Switzerland and even Australia, giving an encompassing overview of the issue at international level. Participants eventually had the chance to discuss the challenges and recommendations.

The conclusions of the workshop pointed out that enhanced intersectoral collaboration, coordinated activities and regular exchange of expertise at international level are required in order to tackle challenges. Improved coordinated action would allow governments, civil society and international agencies to use their resources more efficiently and respond accordingly to the complex needs of migrants and refugees, especially those particularly vulnerable.

5th Young Scholars Forum on Central and South Eastern Europe

Young scholars working on Central and South Eastern Europe in the fields of cultural studies, history, anthropology,



Participants at the Forum, Vienna—December 2016

media studies, political sciences, geography and sociology gathered from 17 different countries at the University for Applied Sciences in Vienna, on 1-2 December to attend the 5th Young Scholars Forum.

The event, organised by the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) under the title “Challenges and Opportunities of Migration in and from South East Europe”, aimed at encouraging young scholars to engage with Central and South Eastern Europe, present their research to a wider public, exchange experience on topics, methods, sources and results as well as promote mobility within the region.

The participants presented their research in four different panels moderated by Austrian experts. Participants addressed issues on brain drain, liquid migration - split households, return migration and remittances as well as emigration and expectation. The SEEMO Secretary General chaired a special panel on migrants who lost their lives along the Romanian border during communism.

Within the social programme of the Forum, the participants visited an exhibition about refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. The conclusions of the event will be announced by the end of 2017 in the IDM publication series “Der Donauraum”.

CEI - CBSS Conference on Unaccompanied children

Representatives from state administrations and NGOs of 26 countries in North, Central and South Eastern Europe met in Stockholm on 8 – 9 December to share their experiences and knowledge on the reception of unaccompanied children and



CEI-CBSS Conference, Stockholm—December 2016

related necessary assistance. The event under the title “Promoting Good Practices in Protecting Unaccompanied Children and Finding Solutions for the Children, Families, Societies and States”, was organised and co-financed by the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the CEI Secretariat.

The situation of unaccompanied children has been attracting growing attention at policy and research levels. The European Commission, the Council of Europe and the United Nations are strongly raising the issue of standard setting since 100,000 unaccompanied children sought asylum in the EU in 2015 and many more are liable to being unregistered. These numbers increase substantially when all migrant and refugee children moving through Europe are added. A number of CEI Member States are still countries of origin for minors migrating to other countries in pursuit of better living conditions and a special panel focused on this very topic.

The proceedings of the conference illustrated why and how children, including adolescents and youngsters, are moving away from their families and communities looking for better lives abroad. The specific services to be organised and the good practices to be strengthened for minors in order to treat their actual rights in line with the UN Convention on the Right of the Child. The OSCE-OCEEA, the Council of Europe, the Ministry for Social Policies of Sweden and its National Association of Unaccompanied Children contributed with opening statements.

The Icelandic Presidency of the CBSS (Ambassador Guðmundur Árni Stefánsson) and the Bosnia and Herzegovina CEI Presidency (Ambassador Milos Prica) attended the conference to provide a follow-up to its Conclusions. This final document will guide the CBSS and the CEI in 2017 and beyond in promoting international networking and dialogue as well as in implementing the Guidelines for promoting the best interests of the children in cross-border cases and a wiki online portal on transnational child protection, recently issued by the CBSS Children at Risk Unit.

Projects, Programmes and Instruments

The CEI Secretariat continued as well with the management its various project and programme activities.

EU Funded Projects

Since 2004, the CEI has been developing specific expertise in the design, management and implementation of projects co-financed by the European Union under its sectoral, structural and external programmes. EU co-financed projects represent a major tool for attaining the goals outlined in the CEI Plan of

In the time-frame 2004 - 2016, the CEI participated in the successful implementation of 28 EU projects funded by several EU programmes, both as Partner and Lead Partner. The CEI contributed about 768.000 EUR for the execution of these projects, with a total value of around 45 million EUR.

Action, as well as a unique capacity of the CEI, if compared to other regional organisations. Member States benefit from further progress and expansion of this field of work, which proves to be a strategic instrument to fulfil the CEI core mission of promoting “regional cooperation for European integration”.

In 2016, the CEI was involved in 6 EU-funded projects, both as Lead Partner and Partner (*the full list and description of the EU-funded projects under implementation in 2016 is attached as Annex 5*).

Technical Cooperation Programme

The TC projects constitute the largest part of the activity funded by the CEI Fund at the EBRD, entirely financed by Italy. TC is traditionally offered in the form of grant type assistance. Operations include support for feasibility and pre-feasibility studies, project implementation, management training, capacity building, and pre-loan audits. These activities target a number of priority areas, including agribusiness, business and finance, energy, institutional development, municipal infrastructure and services, SME support, and transport. The strategic focus of technical assistance has moved over time in the direction of the less advanced CEI member States, in order to help them to reach European Union (EU) standards. The projects have been coherent with the framework and general objectives of the EBRD and other international financial institutions (IFIs) and have represented a fundamental means of development for CEI countries of operations. One of the objectives of TC projects at the EBRD is to support the Bank’s investments and loans either at the EBRD project preparation or at the project implementation phase. As such, TCs are often related to international investments. It should be underlined that the CEI has undertaken projects which yield high co-financing ratios.

In 2016, the CEI Fund at the EBRD committed more than 1.5 million EUR for 9 Technical Cooperation assignments (*the full list and description of the TC projects approved in 2016 is attached as Annex 6*).

Between 1993 and 2016, the Italian Government committed through this Fund more than 25.5 EUR million for 153 TC assignments. In the period 1993 to 2016 these TCs in the countries of operations are expected to mobilise about 5.3 billion EUR of international investments. The EBRD alone has contributed to those investments about 3.3 billion EUR. A Total Investment Ratio (TIR) can be calculated to show how many euros the international community has invested for each euro committed by the CEI Fund for TC projects. Between 1993 and 2016 the TIR is expected to be 1:215.

Know-how Exchange Programme

Launched in 2004, the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP) is a development assistance instrument aimed at supporting transfer of experience from the EU to the non-EU countries

within the CEI region. The Programme originates from the belief that economic development in non-EU CEI Member States can be strengthened by transferring good practices and introducing benchmarks already tested and established in countries that have gone through the EU accession process. As such, the KEP offers grants to institutions from EU countries willing to share their experience with their partners in the non-EU CEI countries in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe. The Programme is financed from two sources: the CEI Fund at the EBRD, supported by Italy, and the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), through an agreement with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). In 2008 and 2011 the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs made two voluntary contributions of 25.000 EUR each to support KEP activities.

Since its establishment the KEP Projects have been financed by the CEI Fund at the EBRD, financed by Italy (KEP ITALY), and managed by the Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD. In 2008 the Austrian Government joined Italy as donor through the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), and since then has provided additional funds on an annual basis for projects managed by the CEI Secretariat (KEP AUSTRIA). The Programme operates through calls for proposals.

86 KEP projects were approved under the KEP ITALY in the period 2004-2016 for a CEI Fund committed CEI contribution of about 2.4 million EUR and a project total cost of more than €12.8 million. The projects targeted recipient institutions from all non-EU CEI Member States. The countries that have benefited the most from the KEP, since its establishment, are Albania, R. Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine, while the Western Balkans have mainly been addressed by region-oriented projects. The most active donor institutions were located in Italy and Poland, followed by Austria, Slovenia, and Hungary. Concerning the four areas of intervention: sustainable agriculture, capacity building, and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable energy and environment area, there is a rather balanced distribution among all of them.

31 KEP projects were approved under the KEP AUSTRIA in the period 2008-2016 for a CEI committed contribution of about € 900.000 EUR and the total value of projects amounting to about 1.903.000 million EUR. The projects target recipient institutions from most of the CEI non-EU Member States. The beneficiary countries that have benefited the most from the KEP AUSTRIA, since its establishment, are Bosnia and Herzegovina, R. Moldova and Serbia, together with Croatia, an eligible beneficiary country until 2012. The most active donor institutions were from Austria and Italy, followed by Slovenia, Slovakia and Romania. The projects cover in a balanced manner the three main areas of intervention, i.e. European Integration and related capacity building, Social and Economic Development, Inclusion and Equality and Agriculture, Environment and Climate Change.

In 2016, the KEP ITALY co-financed 6 new projects with resources from the CEI Fund at EBRD with a contribution amounting to 200,185 EUR and an overall total cost of projects of about 1 million EUR (*the full list and description of the KEP projects approved through KEP ITALY in 2016 is attached as Annex 7*).

Cooperation Activities

The CEI Cooperation Activities (CAs) are multilateral small-scale projects, in some cases linked to a larger project. They are entirely financed out of the CEI Cooperation Fund to which all Member States contribute annually, according to an agreed scale of contributions. The budget of the CEI Cooperation Fund for 2016 amounted to 386,990 EUR.

In 2016, 71 Cooperation Activities were approved. The total CEI contribution for these activities amounts to 511,932.20 EUR or 17 % of the total cost of the projects representing a total value of around 3 million EUR. In terms of areas, Intercultural Cooperation (19) has been the most tackled area, followed by Research and Innovation (11), Lifelong Education and Training (9) and Climate, Environment and Rural Development (8). As to the geographical context, the highest number of approved projects are organised by Serbia (14), followed by Italy (13), Austria (7) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (5). *The full list of Cooperation Activities approved in 2016 is attached as Annex 8.*

Since the start of its operations in 2002, the CEI Cooperation Fund has co-financed - with an amount of more than €9.2 million - 1018 Cooperation Activities for a total value of about €59 million. It is estimated that the annual mobility generated by the Cooperation Fund in its twelve years of activity is of about 5,000 people.

Advanced Training Programme for Young Officials

The third edition of the Advanced Training Programme for Young Officials was addressed to two young officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member States. The Programme aimed at assisting the Secretariat in its numerous institutional and promotional activities envisaged throughout the year. In this context, two grants of 1.500 EUR per month for a period of six months, extended to another six months, have been awarded to two officials:

- Aleksandar Budisa from Bosnia and Herzegovina started his training on 7 March;
- Gundula Windtner from Austria started her training on 4 April.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. PRIORITIES OF THE BiH CEI PRESIDENCY



PRIORITIES OF CEI PRESIDENCY 2016 OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BiH)

- Follow-up initiatives along the CEI priorities outlined in the Plan of Action 2014-2016, and preparation of the new CEI Plan of Action 2017-2020.
- Promotion of the advantages of the Region.
- Strengthened cooperation with the EU and its institutions.
- Strengthening the role of the CEI as an important actor in the Region, in particular with regard to the European integration, and increasing its visibility.
- Further promotion of the CEI as a bridge between and among macro-regions.
- Further promotion of interconnectivity, in particular with regard to energy and transport infrastructure.
- Focus on sustainable development, in particular on energy efficiency and environmental issues.
- Focus on intercultural cooperation, in particular involving the youth.
- Further coping with the migration crisis.
- Further strengthening of the CEI Parliamentary and Business Dimensions.
- Continue cooperation with other relevant international and regional organisations active in the Region, in particular with the UN including on the occasion of the biannual meeting between the UN and the Regional Organisations.

CEI MISSION

The Central European Initiative (CEI), a regional intergovernmental forum open to change, is committed to supporting European integration through cooperation between and among its Member States and with the European Union (EU), other interested public institutions or private and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), as well as international and regional organisations. In order to offer a solid contribution to European integration the CEI combines multilateral diplomacy and project management, both as donor and recipient, while also bridging European macro-regions.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- **Support CEI Member States on their path towards European integration;**
- **Promote the alignment of CEI Member States to EU standards;**
- **Implement small and medium-sized projects;**
- **Open to convert constructive ideas into innovative results.**

ANNEX 2. CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF THE BiH CEI PRESIDENCY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Event</i>
8 March	<i>Trieste</i>	First Meeting of CEI National Coordinators (CNC)
15 March	<i>Sarajevo</i>	Briefing of BiH Foreign Minister with Ambassadors of CEI countries
14-15 April	<i>Sarajevo</i>	"IRE International Seminar on Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union Membership" and "Café d'Europe Régional Sarajevo"
15 April	<i>London</i>	2 nd CNC Meeting and Steering Committee Meeting
30 May	<i>Vienna</i>	3 rd CNC Meeting and Networking Meeting with other International and Regional Organisations
31 May - 1 June	<i>Sarajevo</i>	CEI Parliamentary Committee
16 June	<i>Banja Luka</i>	4 th CNC Meeting and MFA Meeting
13 September	<i>Vienna</i>	Meeting of the Presidents of the Chambers of Commerce of the CEI Member States
22 September	<i>New York</i>	MFA Working Lunch
10 October	<i>Ljubljana</i>	CEI - PD General Committee on Economic Affairs CEI - PD General Committee on Political and Home Affairs
11 October	<i>Trieste</i>	5 th CNC Meeting
17 October	<i>Palermo</i>	CEI - PD General Committee on Cultural Affairs
26-28 October	<i>Trieste</i>	CEI Music Higher Education Network Symposium
21 November	<i>New York</i>	Presentation by the CEI Presidency of the Resolution on cooperation with the UN
2 December	<i>Sarajevo</i>	Expert Meeting "Achievements on MDGs, lessons learnt and best practices, plans for Sustainable Development Agenda in CEI region"
5-7 December	<i>Sarajevo</i>	CEI Parliamentary Assembly
13 December	<i>Sarajevo</i>	6 th CNC Meeting and CEI Summit
26 November	<i>Sarajevo</i>	CEI Business Forum

ANNEX 3. PROFIT&LOSS STATEMENT OF THE CEI-EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Profit

N°	Item	Law/Agreement/Reason	Amount
1.	Balance carried forward from 2015	N/A	1,154,230.35
2.	Contribution from Italian MFA	law 286/1997 and 142/2003	1,250,053.00
3.	Contribution from the Austrian Development Agency	GA 8180-02/2014	0.00
4.	EU Grants and Refunds	CB008 - ADRIA A	5,445.19
		IEE/11/951/SI2.615948 - SEEMORE	37,808.15
		SEE/C/0005/3.1/X - RAIL4SEE	14,104.13
		4CE433PS - EDITS	97,697.93
		SE/D/0093/3.3X - ACROSSEE	16,553.40
		1C-MED12-94 - WIDER	45,603.89
		608622 - S2-BIOM	68,010.00
		609497 - DANUBE-INCO.NET	67,000.00
	CE187- COME-IN	71,296.87	
5.	Contributions from Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region	LR 11/1996, LR 19/2000 and 18/2011	323,640.00
6.	Contribution from Member States to CEI Cooperation Fund	CEI MFA decision 22.06.2001	386,990.00
7.	Sponsorships and reimbursements	local fundraising/reimbursements on anticipated expenses	116,182.72
8.	Accrued interests on CEI bank accounts		38.08
Total A			3,654,653.71

Loss

N°	Item	Amount
1.	EU projects (including staff and travels)	431,078.80
2.	KEP-ADA projects	151,817.37
3.	Cooperation Fund projects	405,792.85
4.	Events, meetings, sponsorships	298,360.15
5.	Infrastructural costs (HQs)	49,840.36
6.	Salaries and allowances	916,744.86
7.	Consultants	25,791.66
8.	Travel expenditures	114,713.75
9.	Auditing, banking costs, insurances, miscellaneous	114,364.69
10.	Bank fees	0.00
Total B		2,508,504.49

Balance carried forward to 2017 (TOTAL A - TOTAL B)*

1,146,149.22

* out of which: 10.000 EUR from local donors to support the organisation of meetings and events in Trieste; 106.182,72 as reimbursements from EU Projects, CEI Trust Fund, KEP Austria, Telecom

ANNEX 4. CEI SECRETARIAT'S STAFF

CEI-Executive Secretariat

Executive Level

Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri <i>Secretary General</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities.
Ambassador Margot Klestil—Loeffler <i>Alternate Secretary General</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities.
Erik Csernovitz <i>Deputy Secretary General</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities. CEI Parliamentary and Business Dimensions.
Roberto Antonione <i>Special Advisor to SG</i>	Advisor to the Secretary General.

Professional Staff

Barbara Fabro <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Cooperation activities and feature events in the areas of Culture and Media. Communication and media relations. CEI Award for Outstanding Merits in Journalism and other CEI Awards/Prizes. Coordination of cultural events/conferences hosted at CEI HQ.
Paola Plancher <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Coordination of ministerial and other high-level meetings organised at CEI Headquarters; Liaison to local, regional and national authorities; Supervision of procedural requirements and administrative evaluation of CEI Cooperation Activities.
Slavena Radovanovic <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Cooperation Activities in the area of Climate, Environment and Rural Development; management of EU projects including related financial administration; coordination of Young Officials from CEI Member States seconded to CEI Secretariat; coordination of intern recruitment.
Lidija Arsova <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	External relations, in particular liaison to the CNC, CEI Presidency and other governmental bodies, regional and international organisations; Preparation of CNC meetings, MFA Meetings and CEI Summits; Coordination of Annual Report.
Izabela Gostisa Pasic <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	On leave of absence.
Tania Pibernik <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Cooperation Activities and Feature Events in the area of Life-long Education and Training; English reviser/copy-editor of website, publications and official documents; KEP AUSTRIA management.
Alessandro Lombardo <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Coordination of the Unit for EU Projects; management of EU projects including related financial administration; Coordination of CEI activities in the field of Research and Innovation, including Cooperation Activities in this area; CEI Executive Secretariat's financial management.

General Staff

Francesca Taliani de Marchio <i>Senior Secretary</i>	Personal assistance to SG; correspondence and travel desk.
Roberta Milano <i>Senior Accountant</i>	Administration and accounting.
Antonio Monteduro <i>Senior Archivist</i>	Archives, procurement, registry, mail, driver.
Loretta Brcic <i>Senior Secretary/Accountant</i>	Administration and accounting tasks; conference services.

Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD

Executive Level

Guido Paolucci
Programme Manager

Overall management of the activities of the CEI Fund at the EBRD.

Professional Staff

Elisabetta Dovier
Senior Executive Officer

Technical Cooperation project cycle and implementation of the strategies of the CEI Fund at the EBRD; CEI Fund projects evaluation/ reporting; CEI Fund publications/ visibility; budgeting / administration, Know-how Exchange Programme. Cooperation activities in the fields of Enterprise Development, Energy, Agriculture and Transport.

Daniela Biadene
Junior Executive Officer

Liaison Officer at Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for operations related to the CEI Fund at the EBRD; Assistance in the general management of the Fund; CEI Know-how Exchange Programme project cycle (including evaluation, reporting, publications and visibility); Cooperation Activities in the field of Information Society.

General Staff

Tea Larsson
Junior Secretary

Personal assistance to the Programme Manager, travel desk, general assistance to the staff, switchboard.

Unit for EU Projects

Anna Marconato
Project Manager

Overall financial supervision of the Unit, advice on project management, management of human resources; financial management of ADRIA A and TEN-T Napa Studies projects; design of new project proposals.

Ugo Poli
Project Manager

Design of new project proposals; Capacity Building – Regional and Macro-regional Policy – Entrepreneurial Development; Focal Point Migrations

Alberto Cozzi
Project Manager

Project and technical management of ADRIA A and TEN-T Napa Studies projects; design of new project proposals.

Peter Canciani
Project Manager

Project and technical management of EBTP-SABS and S2BIOM projects; design of new project proposals.

Ana Sinkovic
Project Officer

Reporting, day-to-day project management and communication activities.

ANNEX 5. EU-FUNDED PROJECTS

European Biofuels Technology Platform – Support for Advanced Biofuels Stakeholder (EBTP-SABS)

EU Programme: 7th Framework Programme

CEI role: Partner

Participating countries: Austria, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom

Area: Energy

Duration: 09/2013–08/2016

Total cost: €499,685.00

Budget administered by the CEI: €67,410.00

The European Biofuels Technology Platform (EBTP) supported the development of cost-competitive world-class biofuels value chains and the acceleration of their sustainable deployment in the EU. The objective of the EBTP-SABS project was to provide support to all activities of EBTP that are of interest to the biofuels community and consumers. This includes information about technological, market, political, regulatory and financial developments and deployment activities such as the set-up, commissioning and operation of pilot and demonstration facilities and surrounding research. EBTP-SABS motivated discussion and interaction between various groups of stakeholders and the working groups of EBTP. Information was provided at several levels of detail through website, factsheets, reports, newsletters and networking events. CEI contributed to both collecting information regarding its Member Countries, and improving the EBTP's visibility in Central, East and South-East Europe. The project has been successfully completed; a follow-up project has been awarded to the Consortium and is currently ongoing.

Highlights:

- Project started on 1 September 2013;
- Project completed on August 31, 2016;
- Information on bottlenecks to biofuels deployment as well as on most relevant ongoing research and commercial initiatives collected and disseminated.

For more information : www.biofuelstp.eu

Delivery of sustainable supply of non-food biomass to support a “resource-efficient” bioeconomy in Europe (S2BIOM)

EU Programme: 7th Framework Programme

CEI role: Partner

Participating countries: Austria, Croatia, Italy, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Spain, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom

Area: Energy

Duration: 09/2013 - 11/2016

Total cost: €5,151,300.00

Budget administered by the CEI: €267,600.00

The main aim of S2BIOM was to support the sustainable delivery of non-food biomass feedstock at local, regional and pan European level through developing strategies, roadmaps and a computerised toolset with updated harmonised datasets at local, regional, national and pan European level for EU28, western Balkans, Turkey and Ukraine.

The project contributed to achieving the goals of Europe 2020 strategy for the building of a bioeconomy, as well as the targets for deployment of renewable energies and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, the project contributed to strengthening the knowledge base and information flow along the biomass-to-energy value chains, with particular focus on countries of the Danube Region, thus bridging the gap towards more European bioeconomy forerunners.

The research work covered the whole biomass-to-end-use supply chain (energy and, to a more limited extent, materials), including logistics and pre-treatment. All these aspects have been elaborated to facilitate the integrated design and evaluation of optimal biomass delivery chains at European, national, regional and local scale in order to support the development of strategies. Robust assessment of relevant policies and bottlenecks have been performed as well.

The project activities were implemented in three individual but strongly interrelated Themes:

- Theme 1 focused on data collection on sustainable biomass potentials, resource efficient pathways and optimal logistical supply routes as well as the development of the computerised toolset [accessible through: <http://s2biom.alterra.wur.nl/>]
- Theme 2 developed vision documents, R&D roadmaps and country factsheets for the sustainable delivery of non-food biomass feedstock at local, regional and pan European level [accessible through: <http://www.s2biom.eu/en/publications-reports/s2biom.html>]
- Theme 3 validated the findings of Themes 1 and 2 and ensured the project outreach.

The CEI was responsible for the implementation of Theme 3, in collaboration with FNR, and in particular coordinated the delivery of case studies that performed in several CEI Member Countries [SI, HR, RS, RO, UA, DE-PL] to provide more detailed data and efficiently capture the different scales of applications for biomass supply chains in a sufficient number of regions across Europe. The CEI contribution was particularly appreciated by both the EC and stakeholders from CEI Member Countries, as it contributed to improving knowledge on the potentials of the region and to prioritising Bioeconomy in research agendas.

The experience accrued within this project complements other activities implemented for the strengthening of Bioeconomy and bioenergy in the CEI region and sets the grounds for a more central role of the CEI in the ongoing Bioeconomy debate.

Highlights:

- Project started on 1 September 2013.
 - Project completed on 30 November 2016
 - 7 case studies implemented in the CEI region
 - Bioeconomy potentials of the CEI region highlighted, as well as R&I capacities
- For more information : www.s2biom.eu

International Cooperation Network for the Danube Region (Danube-INCO.NET)

EU Programme: 7th Framework Programme

CEI role: Partner

Participating countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, R. Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Germany

Area: Research & Innovation

Duration: 01/2014 – 06/2017

Total cost: €1,996,467.00

Budget administered by the CEI: €176,955.43

Danube-INCO.NET is a strategic Coordination and Support Action strongly connected to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), and in particular to EUSDR Priority Areas on Knowledge Society (PA7) and on Competitiveness (PA8). Implemented by a consortium of 19 partners, the project promotes policy dialogue within the Danube Region through a combination of diverse activities aimed at enhancing transnational collaboration, networking and clustering, while contributing to the implementation of the 'Innovation Union' and the ERA Framework. This will help overcome obstacles hindering the social and economic development of the Danube Region. Moreover, Danube-INCO.NET addresses two societal challenges, i.e. sustainable energy and innovative/inclusive societies, with the ultimate goal to support more cohesion between leading, world-class innovative regions, upstream and less knowledge/innovative-intensive regions, downstream. The CEI plays an active role within the Danube-INCO.NET consortium and it leads Work Package (WP) 3 entitled "Tackling societal challenges: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in a Bio-based Economy". The tasks and activities included in WP3 aim at assessing the overall potential of the Danube Region in the field of sustainable energy and bioeconomy in order to promote the establishment of clusters and networks among stakeholders (both private and public), also through the implementation of pilot/demonstration actions.

Highlights:

- The CEI is responsible for mapping Danube Region-based institutions and stakeholders in the field of renewable energy, energy efficiency and bioeconomy (more than 700 institutions identified);
 - The CEI is responsible for the elaboration of a monthly newsletter focused on sustainable energy and bioeconomy, with tailored information for mapped institutions and stakeholders on funding opportunities, calls and events in the Danube Region;
 - The CEI drafted a thorough Stakeholders' Analysis aimed at facilitating the establishment of transnational partnerships for collaborative research in the tackled sectors sustainable energy and bioeconomy;
 - The CEI co-organised the "Triple-Helix Conference on Bio-Based economy", which gathered more than 100 participants in Budapest (July 2016), back-to-back with a Brokerage Event and a Clustering Workshop for the development of bioeconomy in the Danube Region;
 - The CEI co-organised the Brokerage Event "Networking4Innovation" in Bratislava (November 2016), back-to-back with a Clustering Workshop focused on biomass as an asset for the development of bioeconomy in the Danube Region;
 - The CEI supervised the implementation of two Pilot Activities, which envisaged the organisation of three Strategy Workshops, two Open Innovation Events, one survey and one online consultation;
 - The CEI co-drafted two Position Papers that represent the first attempt to develop a strategy on bioeconomy for the Danube Region.
- For more information: www.danube-inco.net

Sustainable Urban Logistics Planning to Enhance Regional freight transport (SULPiTER)

EU Programme: Interreg Central Europe

CEI role: Partner

Participating countries: Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovenia

Area: Transport

Duration: 06/2016—05/2019

Total cost: €2,445,290.90

Budget administered by the CEI: €179,550.00

The SULPiTER long-term objective is to reduce the carbon-footprint and improve the efficiency and competitiveness of freight transport in functional urban areas in CE, by shaping and improving urban freight policies of CE cities, metropolitan contexts and regions. SULPiTER has the main objective of improving the capacities of authorities to deliver policies concerning freight mobility planning in FUAs in a low-carbon

perspective. It will develop policies to match the vital need for freight transport in CE FUA, which is at the base of their territorial and economic competitiveness, with the need to reduce its negative externalities, energy and environmental consumption. It will act on freight transport planning and policies as means to improve the environment and economic situation of CE cities and make them better places to live and work in. SULPiTER will enrich the policy, legal and institutional framework of urban freight planning by:

- 1) Improving capacities of authorities in policy making via better knowledge, skills and tools, built in a transnational dialogue and local understanding of city logistics phenomena;
- 2) Building a permanent dialogue among authorities and between authorities and businesses to shape future urban freight policies in a low carbon perspective;
- 3) Defining the long-term vision and freight transport policy actions of Authorities with a territorial and cross-sectorial integrated perspective in the participating cities and in Central Europe.

CEI is responsible for the communication and dissemination at project level, as well as for drafting recommendations and holding a high-level conference with representatives of the four European Macro Regional Strategies.

Highlights:

- Project started on 1st June 2016;
- Kick-off meeting held in Bologna on 26-27 July 2016;
- Implementation on-going.

For more information : www.central2020.eu/Content.Node/SULPiTER.html

Cooperating for Open access to Museums – towards a widEr INclusion (COME-IN!)

EU Programme: Interreg Central Europe

CEI role: Lead Partner

Participating countries: Austria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovenia

Area: Culture

Duration: 07/2016—06/2019

Total cost: €2,727,487.50

Budget administered by the CEI: €381,980.00

The COME-IN! (Cooperating for Open access to Museums – towards a widEr INclusion) project is funded under the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme and aims at enhancing the CENTRAL EUROPE cultural heritage by increasing the capacities of small and medium-sized museums, making them accessible to a wider public with different kinds of disabilities. The Central European Initiative – Executive Secretariat, in its capacity as Lead Partner, coordinates a multifaceted network of 14 museums, disability associations, academic representatives, training institutions and policy makers from the Central Europe area who will contribute to defining transnational high-level standards and ensure know-how transfer to guarantee accessibility to museums involved in the project. More precisely, guidelines will be developed to help organise accessible collections and exhibitions and elaborate a training handbook for museum operators.

Last but not least, an innovative promotional tool, the COME-IN! label will be developed to award museums complying with the established accessibility standards. The label will be promoted at transnational, national and local level to ensure its sustainability and transferability.

Highlights:

- Project started on 1 July 2016;
- Kick off meeting held in Trieste on 5 and 6 July 2016;
- Public presentation in Udine on 19 September 2016;
- Working Groups met in Udine and Graz (5 and 6 December 2016);
- Ongoing analysis on accessibility to culture in Central Europe;
- COME-IN! Guidelines and Training Handbook drafted.

For more information : <http://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/COME-IN.html>

European Technology and Innovation Platform Bioenergy – Support for Advanced Biofuels Stakeholder (ETIP Bioenergy SABS)

EU Programme: H2020

CEI role: Partner

Participating countries: Austria, Germany, Italy

Area: Energy

Duration: 09/2016—08/2018

Total cost: €599,105.00

Budget administered by the CEI: €95,062.00

The ETIP Bioenergy SABS project is a follow up of the previous EBTP SABS project, successfully completed in August 2016, and reflects the recent evolution of the former European Biofuels Technology Platform into the European Technology and Innovation Platform Bioenergy.

This new definition reflects the broadening of the scope of action in both sectoral (bioenergy in this context encompasses biofuels and condensed energy carriers/intermediates) and operational (innovation) terms. Moreover, ETIP Bioenergy is now officially recognised by the EC as a main strategic interlocutor in the context of SET-Plan activities.

The project aims at supporting the contributions of biofuel and bioenergy stakeholders to the Energy Union and, more specifically, the Strategic Energy Technology (SET)-Plan. The project will assist the ETIP Bioenergy in: (a) contributing to the SET-Plan activities and strategy; (b) defining priorities, strategies, R&I investment decisions and programmes; (c) fostering collaboration between stakeholders in addressing energy-system-integration challenges; (d) identifying technical and non-technical barriers to the delivery of innovation to the energy market; (e) assisting the European Commission and Member States in defining the research programmes, financial instruments, and addressing the mentioned barriers for the areas of advanced biofuels and bioenergy. Building on a 10 year track of support to EBTP, the ETIP Bioenergy-SABS project will aim at an increased cohesion of bioenergy stakeholders by motivating discussion and interaction on hot topics related to advanced and innovative bioenergy. Key instruments to achieve this goal will be the ETIP Bioenergy website, factsheets, reports, newsletters and networking events at different scales. The CEI will contribute to both collecting information regarding its Member Countries, and improving the ETIP Bioenergy outreach to Central, East and South-Eastern Europe.

Highlights:

– Project started on 1 September 2016.

For more information : www.biofuelstp.eu

ANNEX 6. TECHNICAL COOPERATION (TC) PROJECTS

Independent System Operator of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Consultant for the Project Implementation Unit

Ref. No.: P201.001-16

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sector: Energy

Total cost: €400,000.00

Expected investment related: €8.5 million (EBRD)

The EBRD will provide financing to the Independent System Operator of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ISO -www.nosbih.ba). ISO is a public company owned by the governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS) and operates on the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Since 2005, ISO has been managing the power transmission system in BiH to ensure continuous supply of electricity.

The main objective of this technical cooperation assignment is to provide organisational and technical assistance to ISO to ensure the successful completion of the EBRD's investment project in accordance with the Project Implementation Plan and with all Bank's requirements stipulated in the Loan Agreement. Technical assistance will include:

Task 1 - Project Preparation Phase: (i) Development of Project Implementation Unit (PIU) operating procedures; (ii) Support during the procurement process; (iii) Support during the evaluation process; (iv) Support during contract finalisation;

Task 2 - Project Implementation Phase: (i) Assistance in supervision, monitoring and reporting; (ii) Testing, Commissioning and Operational Acceptance (iii) Knowledge transfer to Client.

The estimated EBRD investment amounts to €8.5 million for:

- Supply and installation of new state-of-the-art IT systems that will allow ISO to perform its full range of operations, reporting and management of the power system in the most reliable and efficient manner. It includes the Energy Management System (EMS) and the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, a back-up control system, tailor-made development and staff training in system use and maintenance as well as necessary additional measurement and communication systems;
- Construction of the ISO headquarters in Sarajevo, where the national dispatching centre will be housed together with the above systems.

This assignment in support of a planned ISO investment is crucial for a fully functional electricity system in BiH. The related investment will enable regional market integration and will lead to improvements in cross-border trade and allocation of capacity.

Climate Resilience in the Bosnian Road Network. Flood Repair and Upgrade

Ref. No.: P201.002-16

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sector: Transport

Total cost: €135,000.00

Expected investment related: €165 million (€65 million from the EBRD)

As the impacts of climate change become more apparent, climate change adaptation is emerging as an important part of the international climate change agenda. In the road sector, the recent floods that affected Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in May 2014 caused the collapse of several bridges and road sections. In order to increase climate resilience in the EBRD's countries of operation, the Bank is systematically integrating climate risk assessments and adaptation measures in its investment operations. The Bank aims to reduce long-term risks and increase resilience through improved practices and investments in measures and technologies that are better suited to a changing and more variable climate. In response to the aforementioned concerns in the road sector of Federation of BiH, the EBRD is seeking technical assistance support in assessing climate change risks, setting up appropriate institutional structures and formulating a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the sector.

Technical assistance will: (i) Support the Roads Agency in establishing an institutional framework for assessing, managing and communicating climate risks to the road network; (ii) Support the Roads Agency in assessing climate risks to the road network and in mapping specific vulnerabilities; (iii) Support the Roads Agency in developing an adaptation strategy to climate change; (iv) Support to the Roads Agency for the implementation of climate resilience measures under the associated investment project.

The EBRD is considering a sovereign loan for up to €57 million for on lending to the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBH) and further to the Public Company Roads of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH Roads) to finance the reparation and modernisation of selected road sections and structures in the FBiH. The proceeds of the loan will be used to repair and upgrade the primary road network in the Federation following the damage caused by the severe floods during the spring of 2014. In addition, the financing aims at improving the level of service and traffic safety on the FBiH primary road network. Works will include the reparation of damages caused by heavy floods in May 2014 (including 37 kilometres of the carriage way, two bridges and two tunnels), reconstruction of other bridges and tunnels in need of upgrading, and construction of bypass roads around four cities. The total Project cost is estimated at approximately €165 million. The project is expected to be co-financed by the European Investment Bank and the World Bank.

4th International Master in Public Procurement Management

Ref. No.: P201.003-16

Country: Regional

Sector: Institutional Development

Total cost: €100,000.00

Expected investment related: Not applicable

The EBRD Procurement Policy Department has stressed the capacity building as a primary goal for the enhancement of public governance and in particular procurement, in order to achieve transition objectives. Within capacity building, high-level professional education plays a major role in ensuring that key procurement management staff has appropriate skills, experiences and qualifications to lead and consolidate transition results as a sustainable basis of procurement professionalism and integrity. In order to achieve efficiency and integrity in procurement, best-practice guidance and high-level professional academic training have to be provided to the public sector procurement officials.

In order to support this goal, the joint work between the EBRD and the University of Rome Tor Vergata - whose Faculty of Economics is recognised worldwide as a centre of excellence for education in procurement - has produced the first, second and third editions of the International Master's in Public Procurement Management. It was a challenge both institutions faced successfully over the period 2013 - 2015. The first three-year experience has also been valuable to identify opportunities for improvement, based on feedback from students, professors and EBRD experts. Excellent results achieved with the three editions of the Master's has served as a basis for the subsequent continuation and consolidation of the Programme, aimed at enhancing public procurement professionalism in the EBRD's transition countries. In addition, good results from the previous editions have increased the demand for capacity building in public procurement within the EBRD client public entities, thanks to the fact that the acquired knowledge could immediately be applied to a better organisation and procurement strategy in implementing projects financed through EBRD loans.

The main objective of the Master's Programme is to raise the academic level and training of public procurement officials, from different backgrounds, to gain the capacity to design and administer procurement solutions, to resolve complex strategic, managerial and organisational problems. Special emphasis is placed on professional capacity, ethics, transparency and accountability. Training takes the form of traditional class units for a total length of four consecutive months including traditional lectures and seminars covering specific topics of the procurement function such as abnormally low tender prices, negotiations, IT, vendor rating, etc. The participants will learn more about good procurement practices: strategic tools for purchasing, international procurement law, PPP, ethical aspects involved in the procurement activities, economic analysis of markets. The course will also offer important insights on specific aspects of the procurement function, such as abnormally low tender prices, negotiations, e-procurement and vendor rating. The qualification programme is a full-time, advanced level, one-year postgraduate Master's Programme with classroom lectures running from March to July 2016 in Rome (Italy), followed by distance-learning and a mandatory professional internship in a company or institution, which can be in Italy, in the student's home country or elsewhere. The Programme is characterised by its interdisciplinary content and it is meant to attract purchasers with relevant experience in procurement as well as students interested in preparing for a career in procurement, whether in state or local government, publicly-owned enterprises or multilateral international organisations.

Investment in the Silk Road Infrastructure Corridor: the Western Balkans Route

Ref. No.: P201.004-16

Country: Regional

Sector: Transport

Total cost: €160,000.00

Expected investment related: Investments to be determined by the analysis

China has recently become the 67th member of the EBRD. In recent years China's role as an international investor has also been growing rapidly. The Government of China has recently focused on a comprehensive investment programme to strengthen the logistical infrastructure to move goods and services from China to Europe, the One Belt One Road programme. The plan is for a comprehensive, multimodal infrastructure corridor (the Silk Road) that will span from mainland China across Central Asia to Europe, including road, railway, and ports infrastructure. The purpose of the proposed corridor is to substantially increase the trade opportunities along the countries on its route. The investment plan also includes pipelines to transport gas and oil as well as ITC infrastructure to ensure connectivity across the infrastructure corridor. While plans are still preliminary, the Chinese government has estimated an investment of \$1 trillion in this large infrastructure scheme over the next 10 years.

It is envisioned that the Silk Road will be routed through the Western Balkans, both in its maritime as well as – eventually – in its terrestrial route. This branch of the logistical corridor will link the Asian part of the route to Europe. Chinese investment in the region has already started and, over the next few years, it has the potential to increase significantly in light of the Silk Road project. The EBRD and the World Bank, given their regional coverage, are the only international financial institutions that see the Western Balkans as a region relevant to their operations in the context of the Silk Road investment plans.

In this framework, the CEI and the EBRD have agreed to enter into a two-year collaboration, focusing on providing a framework for analysis, policy dialogue and investments in relation to the common CEI Member States and EBRD Countries of Operations and to the common CEI and EBRD priority areas. The first of a series of projects within this collaboration framework will be focused on the Western Balkans route of the new Silk Road. In the first instance, the framework project will produce several analytical and policy notes on this topic and help prepare the joint CEI-EBRD conference in 2016 where the issues from the analytical pieces have been presented. Such analysis will form the basis to engage in policy dialogue around key areas of reform in the region. The aim of this assignment is to achieve an improvement in the policy context and business environment in the Western Balkans region, which can enable stronger and more beneficial investments around the Silk Road infrastructure corridor. The assignment's outcome is expected to be the improvement in the policy context and business environment in the Western Balkans region, which can enable stronger and more beneficial investments around the Silk Road infrastructure corridor. In addition, the assignment will:

- Carry out primary research on selected topics related to the trade and investment opportunities created in the Western Balkans by the Silk Road infrastructure corridor;
- Identify what the policy areas that need to be prioritised are in order to facilitate investment and support domestic SMEs by helping understand the potential and to be ready to capture the opportunities available in the region in the framework of the investment in the Silk Road;
- Identify economic sectors in the Western Balkan countries with the most potential to benefit from infrastructure investment associated with the Silk Road;
- Gather detailed data on key variables related to these sectors, including added value, revenues from sales, proportion of sales going to exports, employment, and other variables over a period of at least five years;
- Analyse data, prepare detailed statistical summaries and, if necessary, carry out limited hypothesis testing using econometric methods;
- Carry out limited fieldwork in selected Western Balkan countries with a view to preparing 2-3 case studies of important enterprises and sectors in the region with high potential for future development.

Implementation of the Corporate Governance Action Plan (CGAP) for KESH (Korporata Elektroenergjitike Shqiptare)

Ref. No.: P201.005-16

Country: Albania

Sector: Energy

Total cost: €300,000.00

Expected investment related: €218 million

The EBRD is providing a €218 million loan to KESH to refinance KESH's overdrafts from commercial banks. The loan is structured in two instalments of €118 million and €100 million respectively. The loan agreement for the first instalment of €118 million was signed on the 30 June 2016. The loan is accompanied by a programme of measures that will be implemented for the purpose of: i) improving KESH's financial and operational sustainability, ii) establishing corporate governance and climate resilience best practices, iii) advancing sector reform to achieve further market liberalisation and integration.

Albania's ongoing power sector reform, further enhanced EU Third Energy Package application - which will affect the structure of KESH - and the country's commitments to the Energy Community are expected to bring significant operational and financial improvements in the company. Transparent and clear governance, where the roles and responsibilities of corporate bodies in the decision-making process are clearly defined, needs to be established to ensure effective running of KESH, especially after the unbundling of the wholesale function. KESH's information system needs to be centralised in order to allow KESH management to set operational benchmarks and monitor performance on a consistent basis. Furthermore, since it is organised in the form of a public enterprise, the company operates under legal and regulatory framework, which is not suitable for entities that should operate under market/commercial principles. Effectively, KESH's day-to-day operations are influenced by political considerations from its owner, which leads KESH to operating as a policy tool to ensure low energy prices and secure employment. There are no adequate oversight mechanisms over its activities.

The EBRD, through technical cooperation funds, has already financed a corporate governance and legal review of KESH with the aim of identifying gaps with best practices and standards and preparing an action plan for the implementation of recommendations to close the identified gaps. The Corporate Governance Action Plan (CGAP) will be discussed and agreed upon with the stakeholders, as a pre-condition for disbursement. The main objective of this technical cooperation assignment is to assist the Government of Albania and KESH in duly implementing the CGAP.

Albania Secretariat to the Investment Council

Ref. No.: P201.006-16

Country: Albania

Sector: Institutional Development

Total cost: €175,000.00

Expected investment related: Not applicable

The first strategic priority of the EBRD's Country Strategy for Albania is "support private sector competitiveness by enhancing value creation, facilitating SME access to finance and fostering an enabling business environment." In February 2014, Albania and the EBRD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Investment Climate and Governance Initiative for Albania aimed at re-energising the country's economic reform process. Under the MoU, the Government and the EBRD jointly committed to improving policy dialogue between the private sector and the government, strengthening the investment climate and promoting good governance. The establishment and support of the Investment Council is one of the key deliverables under that MoU. The Investment Council (<https://www.investment.com.al/>) was officially launched in April 2015. The Council is chaired by the Minister of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship and meets six times a year. It is a platform for public-private dialogue bringing together a select group of representatives of businesses (i.e., heads of business associations and chambers of commerce), policymakers (i.e., relevant ministers and heads of government agencies), and senior representatives of the EU, the EBRD and the World Bank Group, to discuss and tackle challenges to the business environment in a systematic and results-oriented fashion. The work of the Council is coordinated by an EBRD-supported Secretariat, an independent body of experts selected and contracted by the EBRD to facilitate the work of the Investment Council by engaging with the business community and providing well-founded policy reform recommendations for the Council. The Secretariat began its operations in January 2015 and provides organisational, analytical and professional support to the IC members. The Investment Council is not meant to replace the activity of any government ministry, agency or institution. Instead, it is designed to provide a platform for dialogue between the private sector and the authorities, with the ultimate aim of leveraging the private sector's experience to enhance the content and prioritisation of policy reforms. The Investment Council also strengthens the private sector's and civil society's role in monitoring the effectiveness of the Government's activity in the area of governance reform. The Investment Council promotes good public and corporate governance, it improves the quality of the advice the government receives from the private sector, and it promotes more evidence-based advocacy.

The objective of this assignment is to provide continued funding for the Secretariat of the Investment Council in Albania to equip it with professional staff and other resources required to ensure the effective functioning of the Investment Council. The main task of the Secretariat is to support the activities of the Council. The objective of the Council is the improvement of the investment climate and business environment. The Secretariat is currently composed of a Head of Secretariat, an Economic Expert, a Legal Expert, and an Office Assistant. The presence of a highly professional and ethical Secretariat with experts who are independent from the Government is crucial to enhance the prospect of success in the facilitation of public-private policy dialogue. This Secretariat aims to support activities focused on business climate reform by helping to identify the main impediments to investment in key sectors, reviewing and evaluating draft relevant legislation, and disseminating best practices in the prevention of and fight against corruption and informality. Consultation with the private sector in the elaboration of the national and sector plans is a prerequisite to ensuring inclusive growth, and expanding economic opportunities for all segments of the population.

Project Preparation along the Silk Road in CSEE: Assessing and Tackling Policy Obstacles to Infrastructure Investment in the Region

Ref. No.: P201.007-16

Country: Regional

Sector: Transport

Total cost: €90,000.00

Expected investment related: Investments to be determined by the analysis

This assignment is proposed as a second stage of the existing assignment "Investment in the Silk Road Infrastructure Corridor: the Western Balkans Route" financed by the CEI Fund with €160,000. It builds on the preliminary results of the work undertaken in the context of phase one, particularly in relation to the potential for investment in Central and South Eastern Europe (CSEE). The proposed assignment will analyse key policy impediments to Chinese infrastructure investments in CSEE within the context of China's new Silk Road project – the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This assignment will complement project preparation efforts carried out by the EBRD and, in the future, by Chinese partners with necessary assessment of policy impediments. The purpose of the analysis will, therefore, be to: (i) assess and identify the key policy impediments to Chinese and IFI infrastructure investment opportunities in CSEE, and (ii) prioritise a set of policy actions for the EBRD to implement in order to unlock the existing impediments to investment. This project will, therefore, contribute to comprehensive project preparation and eventually to the unlocking and leveraging of substantial infrastructure investment by the EBRD, Chinese investors and other interested partners in the region. This assignment will provide an important component of project preparation, identifying and eliminating policy obstacles that would prevent investment flows to key infrastructure projects, in particular cross-border ones. The final aim of this work is a set of bankable projects that have been pre-prepared to be feasible, have potential for impact,

compatibility with strategic priorities of relevant countries in the region, of the EU, the EBRD and Chinese counterparts involved in the Belt and Road Initiative. In order to assess the strength of a potential infrastructure investment in CSEE and to identify which actions need to be taken to prepare the project for potential co-financing from the Silk Road Fund, an assessment of potential projects against the priorities of the Belt and Road Initiative as set out in the BRI Action Plan will be carried out. Serbia has been selected to be the starting point country for the assessment based on the strength of existing Chinese interests and activities on a variety of key BRI points in this country. The estimated size of the EBRD investment is yet unknown and will depend on the outcome of the preparatory work carried out through this TC. The EBRD investment is envisioned to be in a transport infrastructure project that aligns with the EBRD, the European Union, and the Belt and Road Initiative criteria. It will take place in one or more CEI Member States in Central and South-Eastern Europe.

5th International Master in Public Procurement Management

Ref. No.: P201.008-16

Country: Regional

Sector: Institutional Development

Total cost: €125,000.00

Expected investment related: Not applicable

During 2013 – 2016, the joint work between the EBRD and the University of Rome Tor Vergata (Italy) - whose Faculty of Economics is recognised worldwide as a centre of excellence for education in procurement - has produced four editions of the International Master in Public Procurement Management (IMPPM). It was a challenge that both institutions together have developed successfully.

The main objective of the Master's Programme is to raise the academic and training level of public procurement officials, from different backgrounds, to have the capacity to design and administer procurement solutions, to resolve complex strategic, managerial and organisational problems. Special emphasis is placed on professional capacity, ethics, transparency and accountability. Training takes the form of traditional class units for a total length of four consecutive months including traditional lectures and seminars covering specific topics of the procurement function such as abnormally low tender prices, negotiations, IT, vendor rating, etc. The participants will learn more about good procurement practices: strategic tools for purchasing, international procurement law, PPP, ethical aspects involved in the procurement activities, economic analysis of markets. The course will also offer important insights on specific aspects of the procurement function, such as abnormally low tender prices, negotiations, e-procurement and vendor rating. The qualification programme is a full-time, advanced level, one-year postgraduate Master's programme with classroom lectures running from March to July in Rome, Italy, followed by distance-learning and a mandatory professional internship in a company or institution, which can be in Italy, in the student's home country or elsewhere. The programme is characterised by its interdisciplinary content and it is meant to attract purchasers with relevant experience in procurement as well as students interested in preparing for a career in procurement, whether in state or local government, publicly-owned enterprises or multilateral international organisations. The experience of the first four years of IMPPM has been valuable to identify opportunities for improvement, based on feedback from students, professors and EBRD experts. Excellent results achieved with the four editions of the Master's served as basis for the subsequent continuation and consolidation of the Master's Programme aimed at enhancing public procurement professionalism in the EBRD's transition countries.

Assessment of environmental hotspots and review of remediation investment opportunities in the low Adriatic

Ref. No.: P201.009-16

Country: Regional (Albania and Montenegro)

Sector: Environment

Total cost: €65,000.00

Expected investment related: €25 million

In September 2015, the EBRD approved its Green Economy Transition (GET) Approach, a new strategy aiming at supporting the EBRD region in developing low carbon and environmentally-sustainable-economic-development patterns. GET builds on the over 10-year-long experience of the Bank in energy efficiency and climate finance formulated through the SEI – Sustainable Energy Initiative and SRI- Sustainable Resource Initiative, which cumulatively have mobilised over €19 billion of EBRD finance and resulted in annual savings of over 75 million tonCO₂ and over 30 million m³ of water. Through the GET and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, the EBRD intends to scale up the level of investments in green projects to reach 40% of its annual business activity by 2020. The Mediterranean Sea region, including the low Adriatic areas, has been identified as one of the two main climate change global hotspots (i.e., the areas most responsive to climate change). The recent Fifth Assessment Report (2013-2014) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, considers the region as “highly vulnerable to climate change”, also mentioning that it “will suffer multiple stresses and systemic failures due to climate changes”. Physical changes in the Mediterranean climate have been widely observed and such trends are envisaged to continue in the future. Climate change hazards are coupled with existing socio-economic processes associated with growing bio-geographical vulnerability and exposure in coastal areas of the Mediterranean region. One of the primary climate change impacts is on water resources and availability for the main economic sectors and dependent ecosystems. Water shortage in combination with expected climate change-related

phenomena will lead to reduced rainfall and groundwater recharge and consequently to diminished water quality and quantity in some countries. Lower precipitation and increasing temperatures in the southern and eastern Mediterranean will exacerbate aridness, land degradation and desertification. Rising sea-levels and storm-related floods will make low-lying zones and coastal activities increasingly vulnerable to submersion and beaches vulnerable to erosion. Mediterranean coasts are highly urbanised, and due to the high predominance of summer tourism, most of the touristic facilities tend to locate as close to the sea as possible. Rising sea levels may endanger high portions of the coastal facilities including adjacent infrastructure. Loss of coastal and marine habitats and ecosystems are also largely implied. Economic loss due to lower tourism will significantly impact the region and especially women as their traditional and cultural gender roles heavily rely on steady water access. This might be exacerbated by the impact of climate change that will also affect education, traditional gender roles, sanitation, etc. In addition, the growing economic activities in the region, including tourism put a strain on the use of natural resources including: (i) Drinking water – an extremely scarce resource in many coastal areas; (ii) Food – sometimes causing pressure on local production, especially of seafood, and leading to over-fishing; (iii) Electric power and cooling/heating facilities. The extensive work carried out by various institutions has allowed the drawing of a number of general conclusions valid for all countries involved. The importance of coastal aquifers within the context of the coastal zone including the shallow marine environment has been fully confirmed. Consistent with the objectives and operational approach formulated in the GET, the EBRD intends to review environmental hotspots in the marine and coastal areas in the low Adriatic, in particular in relation to water pollution and coastal sites affected by environmental degradation. The main objectives of the assignment are to identify the level of environmental degradation, assess remediation activities required and identify alternative financial and implementation strategies with the aim of developing specific projects suitable for EBRD financing. The study will cover the marine and coastal areas of Albania and Montenegro

The EBRD is interested in promoting the adoption of best environmental practices and in supporting economic development in Montenegro and Albania. As a result of the assignment, the Bank will work with specific stakeholders (e.g., municipal companies, shipping operators, state owned agencies) to finance the implementation of the projects identified. It is estimated that this technical cooperation activity will leverage approximately €25 million of EBRD finance through 2-3 operations during the period 2017-2020.

ANNEX 7. KNOW-HOW EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (KEP)

KEP ITALY

Support anti-corruption capacity building in Albania

Ref. No.: 1206.001-16

Know-how provider institution: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) - Governance in Economic and Environmental Issues Department (GEEID) International Academy of Anti-Corruption (IACA)

Know-how recipient institutions: Albanian public administration representatives

Implementation date: January 2017 – December 2017

Project total cost: : €70,172

CEI co-financing: €34,920

The fight against corruption remains a complex issue in Albania with implications for the country's economic, political and social development. Therefore, the government declared fight the against it a priority, appointing the Minister of State for Local Issues as the National Coordinator against Corruption (NCAC). Following this action, the government adopted a National Strategy against Corruption 2015 – 2020 and an Action Plan 2015 – 2017, drafted with the support of the OSCE Presence in Albania. Nevertheless, more efforts and support is needed by the government to succeed in countering corruption. Greater awareness and cooperation from the public in denouncing corruption is also required. The project assignment builds on results achieved by the OSCE Presence in Albania in supporting anti-corruption measures in Albania, aimed at enhancing public officials' capacities in preventing and monitoring anti-corruption practices. Therefore, the project's objective is to support the fight against corrupt practices by increasing capacities of main anti-corruption institutions.

The project will enable knowledge transfer and sharing of best practices from a successful anti-corruption model to Albanian anti-corruption institutions: a study tour, organised for national technical level public officials at main Austrian anti-corruption institutions, which will also include a workshop organised by the Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA). Moreover, the translation, publication, dissemination and promotion of the OSCE Handbook on Anti-corruption, a guide focusing on a range of issues, such as anti-corruption strategies and best practices, will be supported by OSCE funds in the framework of this project.

Dams safety: a new approach for the monitoring of the dams with the use of remote sensing

Ref. No.: 1206.002-16

Know-how provider institution: University of Padua - Interdepartmental Research Center of Geomatics (CIRGEO), ITALY

Know-how recipient institutions: : Polytechnic University of Tirana - Institute of GeoSciences, Energy, Water and Environment (IGEWE), ALBANIA

Implementation date: January 2017 – June 2018

Project total cost: €79,710

CEI co-financing: €39,855

The project aims at transferring know-how and European standards in the field of dam monitoring (EU Water Framework Directive), and at strengthening the skills of the Albanian decision makers. In particular, the project will introduce a new approach that exploits recently developed remote sensing techniques, the highly accurate Terrestrial Laser Scanning (TLS), drones equipped with imaging tools, in order to allow frequent and accurate dam status monitoring. For this purpose, hydroelectric power generated by dams play an important role among the renewable energies and in order to guarantee a safe energy production, a frequent and accurate monitoring of the dams status is crucial. The project expects to transfer know-how on dam monitoring by means of TLS and drone surveying from the Italian TLS daily monitoring evaluation in selected Albanian case studies. Furthermore, an analysis will be carried out on the drones' performance in order to obtain low-cost monitoring of fissuring and structural failures. Therefore, the main outcome of the project will be the development of a system that will allow to appropriately monitor dam status in generic operating conditions by transmitting best practices already in place in Italy. The developed system will be based on a semi-automatic procedure that will ease the activity and allow frequent monitoring. Information acquired and processed will be available to the beneficiary through trainings and workshops in Albania. The project also aims at developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) including all the information acquired and processed. Lastly, the use of the camera based monitoring status will be evaluated.

Know how exchange - GIs for non-wine food products: Exchange of know-how and boost for partnerships' based rural development in Moldova

Ref. No.: 1206.003-16

Know-how provider institution: Development Policy Foundation, POLAND

Know-how recipient institutions: Ecological Movement of Moldova, MOLDOVA

Implementation date: February 2017 – July 2017

Project total cost: €24,000

CEI co-financing: €11,960

The project aims to establish a sustainable network of NGOs with tailored institutions from Poland, Italy, Austria and Moldova, in order to exchange experiences and stories about aspects of regional non-wine product registration. It will setup marketing and distribution channels of regional or local products and present success stories of local producers of EU CEI Member States, disclosing the practical side of business activities connected with local specialities. The focus will mainly be on expending knowledge of other organisations and entrepreneurs from Moldova about Geographic Indications (GIs) for non-wine food products. The project will focus on a marketing plan, management plan and on a new sales model (on-line job sharing, e-version only) and on expanding knowledge of entrepreneurs and organisations about registration, sale, management and marketing as well on focusing on the promotion of the application of EU standards and regulations on GIs for non-wine food products in Moldova. Among others, two meetings are envisaged at the beginning and at the end of the project in the Călârași region. The first meeting will be organised as a study visit with project partners. It will focus on mapping the main problems and on exchange of experience. The second meeting will focus on refining the final version of documents and their presentation. During the meeting the registration procedures for non-wine products will also be presented. It will be a good chance for the project partners to exchange good practices as well as learn how to simplify the requirements for EU sanitary and food safety regulations for local and regional products.

Development and regulation of the University of Belgrade laser-laboratory infrastructure for education and research

Ref. No.: 1206.004-16

Know-how provider institution: European Laboratory for Non-linear Spectroscopy (LENS), ITALY

Know-how recipient institutions: University of Belgrade, SERBIA

Implementation date: January 2017 – December 2018

Project total cost: €584,978

CEI co-financing: €39,900

The project focuses on the transfer of know-how and technical assistance, needed for the development of high-tech higher education, research and start-up facilities at the University of Belgrade. In particular, the top Italian and Romanian research institutions, the European Laboratory for Non-linear Spectroscopy and the Centre for Advanced Laser Technologies, respectively, will provide consultancy, direct expertise as to how to improve UB laser-laboratory building infrastructure. Particular attention will be paid to specific conditions required for lasers and optics, upgrading the laboratory equipment both with regard to performance and health&safety. Moreover, clear procedures for safe work in laser laboratories will be established. The project will train the personnel in the laboratory on health and safety policy and procedures to improve their safety and ease their international mobility. The knowledge transferred and other actions taken during this project will fuel a number of positive actions at the photonics community of Serbia and other educational and R&D based organisations. Indeed, many of the standards to be adopted and applied in the University of Belgrade labs are applicable to other R&D laboratories, hence the knowledge can be easily translated across the University research facilities, institutions and companies. Under the project's framework, the identification of outdated workplace regulations and standards will be performed and updates suggested.

Preserving Kotor Bay as natural and historical heritage - Analysing sea pollution sources and raising ecological awareness

Ref. No.: 1206.005-16

Know-how provider institution: Iefluids s.r.l., ITALY

Know-how recipient institutions: Ocean Montenegro, MONTENEGRO; Target Consulting, MONTENEGRO

Implementation date: January 2017 – January 2018

Project total cost: €81,000

CEI co-financing: €35,000

The project's aim is to strengthen the protection of the threatened area of Kotor Bay and to improve cooperation between Italy and Montenegro. With the growing touristic sector and the growing number of boats and ships entering the Kotor Bay area, pollution is also increasing. Every year this industry consumes millions of tons of fuel and produces almost a billion tons of sewage. The sewage and exhaust in the

Kotor Bay area is insufficiently treated. It has become one of the main causes of air and water pollution – factors causing negative environmental and health effects, which undermine the very natural beauty of the region. The project intends to perform a detailed study on water pollution, considering various types of marine vessels entering the bay, in order to provide effective solutions that could help change the environmental and ecological aspect of the Kotor Bay area in the future. The study will focus on the definition, modelling and simulation of critical issues, in terms of possible pollution sources, in order to identify the main problems. Moreover, the project would provide local authorities with guidelines for the creation of solutions, emergency plans and activities aimed at reducing the risks of accidents. It would also contribute to the conservation of the Montenegro coast. Lastly, the project activities will also directly include the population and main stakeholders, thus contributing to raising awareness on possible harmful impacts on the area.

Professional intergovernmental know-how exchange on the implementation of large scale Secondary School Scholarship and Mentoring Program for Roma Students

Ref. No.: 1206.006-16

Know-how provider institution: Roma Education Fund (REF), HUNGARY

Know-how recipient institutions: Ministry of Education and Sports, ALBANIA; Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, ALBANIA; Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Tuzla Canton, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA; Ministry of Education and Science, MACEDONIA; Bureau for Education Services, MONTENEGRO; Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, SERBIA

Implementation date: January 2017 – June 2018

Project total cost: €77,700

CEI co-financing: €38,550

The project will transfer the monitoring and evaluation knowledge of the Roma Education Fund (REF) to the Ministries and project staff, ensuring the exchange of practices among the governmental institutions on the secondary scholarship and mentorship programmes. The specific focus of the project will be the development of the unified monitoring and evaluating tools in order to measure and monitor the outcomes of the programmes and the development of the uniform guidelines on tutoring/mentoring activities. In the project's framework, the emphasis will be on the development of a gender perspective to be included in the programme, in order to ensure a higher rate of Roma girls completing secondary school. The project will develop capacity-building activities for 24 staff members from Ministries and secondary scholarship and mentoring programmes. The project will also facilitate the exchange of experiences among the Ministries and governmental institutions from all project participating countries. The cross-country, capacity building measures proposed for this project are crucial for developing efficient measures, which can have an impact on policy making, and on making the most of best practices to overcome the challenges young Roma are facing to complete secondary school successfully. At the end of the project, during the closing event, a workshop on the sustainability of the project will be organised and the evaluation of the developed and applied tools will be performed, focusing on monitoring tools and methodological guidelines for the secondary school scholarship programme.

ANNEX 8. COOPERATION ACTIVITIES (CAs)

<i>Ref. Nr.</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Implementation date</i>	<i>Estimated cost</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Sector</i>
1202.011-16	Food standards and safety in the traditional distribution channel	Poland	CEI Wholesale Markets Foundation	2-5 October, 2016, Shkoder, Albania	31,240.00	7,000.00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.012-16	Intelligence in the Knowledge Society 2016 (IKS 2016)	Romania	The "Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence Academy	20-21 October 2016 Odai 20-22, Bucharest	30,000.00	7,500.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.022-16	Collaborate to innovate – fostering open innovation motives for collaboration	Macedonia	YES - Youth Entrepreneurial Service (YES) Foundation	17-18 November 2016, Skopje	31,745.00	7,500.00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.024-16	XVII International feed technology symposium "Feed to Food Tech"	Serbia	Institute of Food Technology (FINS), University of Novi Sad	October, 25-27, 2016, Novi Sad	43,820.00	8,000.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.027-16	XII International Forum of the Aquileia Euro-Region "From the Atlantic to the Urals or between the Atlantic and the Urals?"	Italy	Mitteuropa Association	20-22 October 2016, Udine	36,820.00	6,500.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.034-16	CEI Round-Table Discussions at Vilenica	Slovenia	Slovene Writers' Association	8 September 2016, Lipica	80,020.00	10,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.046-16	Straniak Academy for Democracy and Human Rights	Austria	Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Vienna	4-17 September 2016, Ulcinj/ Montenegro	60,050.03	8,000.00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.051-16	22th International CEI International Summer School "Minorities, Kin-States, and Territorial Cooperation"	Italy	IECOB Institute for Central Eastern Europe and the Balkans (Istituto per l'Europa Centro-Orientale e Balcanica)	5-10 September 2016, Bertinoro or Forli	47,707.26	8,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.055-16	Prepared as civil society for the challenges of the EU membership / PREPARED	Czech Republic	Justice and environment	15 September 2016, Vienna	31,620.00	5,000.00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.064-16	Diversity is Super-City! – DISC!	Serbia	Regional Endeavour for Art, Culture and Health - REACH	23 September, 2016, Kanjiza, Vojvodina,	33,140.00	7,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.068-16	Regional Innovation Forum (RIF) - Cooperation, Competitiveness & Convergence in Southeast Europe	Bulgaria	ARC Consulting EOOD	December 2016	29,745.00	7,300.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.069-16	FEST ANCA GAME DAYS 2016 – game developers and event organizers conference	Slovakia	ANČA, o. z.	24-25.6.2016 – Zilina, Slovak Republic	26,360.00	6,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.081-16	Media Forum SEEMF	other	SEEMO	3-5 November 2016	79,250.00	14,500.00	3.2. Media

1202.088-16	FESTIVAL IDENTITY 2016 – workshop for festival organizers from across Europe	Czech Republic	DOC.DREAM	October 25–30 2016 in Jihlava	34,684.25	6,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.001-17	IRE International Seminar on Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union Membership and "Café d'Europe Régional Sarajevo"	Austria - CEI Presidency	IRE - Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE) Head Office in SALZBURG	14-15 April 2016, Sarajevo	28,080.00	12,080.00	CEI Presidency
1202.102-16	Gender sensitive labour migration policies: awareness raising in the Mediterranean region and Eastern Europe	other	OSCE/OCEEA	21-23 November 2016, Chisinau	41,831.00	15,000.00	Migrations
1202.103-16	Regional inter-municipal cooperation for promotion of self-employment of women and youth	other	OSCE Presence in Albania	Spring 2017	32,015.00	15,000.00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.080-17	CEI Music Higher Education Network	Italy/Bosnia and Herzegovina	Music Conservatory "Giuseppe Tartini", Trieste, Banja Luka – Academy of arts, Sarajevo – Academy of Music	second half of October 2016, Trieste	28,040.00	11,260.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.018-17	Logistics and transport - intermodality and cross-border facilitation	Austria	Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE), Salzburg	26-27 April 2017, Croatia, primorje Gor-	35,000.00	7,000.00	2.1. Transport, Logistics and Accessibility
1202.020-17	SMEs - Business development and regional cooperation	Serbia	Business Info Group (BIG)	16 February 2017, Belgrade	30,210.00	4,800.00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.023-17	The autonomy paths: Mutual Learning Seminar on accompaniment for social and work integration of disadvantaged people, in particular people with mental, physical and psychosocial disabilities in CEI countries	Italy	ARCA Cooperativa Sociale a.r.l Firenze	22-24 March 2017, Florence	29,941.00	8,000.00	3.3. Civil Society
1202.026-17	WHEN EAST MEETS WEST Trieste Co-production Forum - WEMW	Italy	FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA AUDIOVISUAL FUND	22–24 January, 2017 Trieste	138,360.00	8,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.031-17	Italy-Balkans: the ways of contemporary dramaturgy and cultural cooperation among theatres and producers of the CEI area	Italy	Associazione TINA-OS, Trieste	20-21 January 2017, Trieste and Muggia	29,991.00	5,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.035-17	Festival of Science 'Nauk nije bauk (Science is not a bugaboo) 9'	Serbia	Grammar School "Svetozar Marković"	31 March – 1 April 2017, Niš, Serbia	33,260.00	5,500.00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.036-17	Integrated production of raspberries in Serbia - a step towards the EU standards	Serbia	Association of raspberry growers "Backopoljski malinari"	March 10th, 2017, Vrbas	13,760.00	5,000.00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.041-17	TRIESTE FILM FESTIVAL - TSFF	Italy	Association Alpe Adria Cinema	January 20 – 29, 2017, Trieste	440,000.00	12,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation

1202.042-17	Media Literacy	Serbia	Creative Youth of Novi Sad	April 15-19, 2017, Novi Sad	45,300.00	5,000.00	3.2. Media
1202.046-17	Youth Forum: Refugees and Migrants in the New Media in Central-East Europe	Macedonia	Mladiinfo Skopje	9-10 March 2017, Skopje	19,360.00	7,000.00	3.2. Media
1202.050-17	Green your (hydro)power!	Croatia	Croatia, WWF Adria	April 2017	22,132.00	8,000.00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.051-17	Social entrepreneurship- a solution for unemployment of disadvantaged groups in the CEI region	Montenegro	NGO Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CRNVO) from Podgorica	17 March 2017, Podgorica	20,954.00	5,000.00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.069-17	Reversing the brain drain through the Scientific Diaspora	Albania	Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Tirana	last week of January 2017, Tirana	24,840.00	6,500.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.093-17	KineDok First Screens (Conference and Workshop on DIY Distribution)	Czech Republic	Institute of Documentary Film (IDF)	12-13 March 2017, Prague	42,260.00	7,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.094-17	Entrepreneurship in Sport – Knowledge Transfer through New Digital Technologies, EIS	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Faculty of Sport and Physical Education, Sarajevo	8-9 April 2017, Sarajevo	13,920.00	5,000.00	1.3. Information society
1202.102-17	SIMPLE migration practice. Sharing best knowledge and EU practice on integration of migrants and existing challenges in Balkan countries through Italian and Austrian models and best practices.	Serbia	Asylum Protection Center (APC/CZA)	16-17 February 2017, Belgrade	21,110.00	6,000.00	Migrations
1202.107-17	Second Annual Meeting of the Western Balkans Migration Network (WB-MIGNET)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Center for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research (CDESS)	Mid-April 2017, Sarajevo	24,250.00	7,000.00	Migrations
1202.108-17	RomArchive - Roma Film Archive - Workshop & Filmfestival	Hungary	Romedia Foundation	19-20 January 2017, Budapest	35,180.00	5,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.109-17	CineLink Drama workshop	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Obala Art Centar Sarajevo	22-26 March 2017, Sarajevo	29,105.00	7,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.117-17	Achievements on MDGs, lessons learnt and best practices, plans for Sustainable Development Agenda in CEI region	Bosnia and Herzegovina	CEI Presidency - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	December 2017	6,500.00	3,250.00	CEI Presidency
1202.002-17	Water Footprint - Transferring Knowledge into Action (WF in ACT)	Serbia	Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad	25-27 May 2017, Novi Sad	28,670.00	7,000.00	2.2. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

1202.006-17	Women entrepreneurs and crafts association network will contribute to open new jobs, including for migrant	Moldova	Association of Professional Women from Moldova	24-27 May 2017, Chisinau	32,244.00	5,000.00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.007-17	Straniak Academy for Democracy and Human Rights	Austria	Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Vienna	3-16 September 2017, Ulcinj	58,675.37	7,500.00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.011-17	Documentary Heritage in Central European Region: Conservation, Research and Promotion	Belarus	National Library of Belarus (NLB)	14-16 September 2017, Minsk	28,861.50	7,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.012-17	14th DRC Summer School on Regional Co-operation: New Borders Between Old Neighbours – Return Of History In The Danube Region? (14th DRC SuSc)	Austria	Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)	2-9 July 2017 at the University of Pécs	34,130.00	5,700.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.017-17	7th Central European Symposium on Plasma Chemistry (7th CESPC)	Croatia	Plasma physics group at Institute of Physics in Zagreb, Croatia	3-7 September 2017, Terme Sveti Martin na Muri	45,570.00	6,000.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.019-17	Joined European CEI-JRC-ICGEB Workshop on “Smart specialization strategy in the field of industrial and medicinal biotechnologies in Europe with the focus on CEE region”	Slovakia	University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Slovakia (UCM)	24-26 May 2017, Bratislava	41,100.00	8,000.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.025-17	Bridge Building Summer School in Social Welfare	Austria	European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research	10-14 July 2017, Vienna	29,548.50	5,000.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.027-17	VII Spring School on “ICT, economical and organizational issues for e-health integration in the enlarged Europe” in the frame of the Higher Education in Clinical Engineering (SSIC-HECE) Masters’ Program	Italy	SSIC-HECE (Higher Education in Clinical Engineering) of the University of Trieste	17-19 May 2017, Koper	23,730.00	5,000.00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.028-17	Life-long Education and Training in Health Care Sector for Harmonization with EU Recommended Standards: Musculoskeletal Radiology (LERAD)	Serbia	Radiological Society of Serbia - RSS	15-18 May 2017, Belgrade	35,080.50	5,000.00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.029-17	Fifth International Conference on Radiation and Applications in Various Fields of Research (RAD 2017)	Serbia	RAD Association, Niš	June 12-16, 2017, Budva	36,542.00	5,000.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.030-17	Central European Women Farmers Gathering (CEWFG) 2017	Serbia	Amma – Center for the Care of People and Nature	July, 09 – 11 2017, Visočka Ržana – Dojkin-ci, Pirot	15,120.00	4,880.00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development

1202.032-17	Training course “We are Green Media”	Slovenia	Mladiinfo (M!) Ljubljana	10-15 July 2017, Ljubljana	17,220.00	6,000.00	3.2. Media
1202.034-17	CEI Round-Table Discussions at Vilenica	Slovenia	Slovene Writers' Association	7 September 2017, Lipica	73,320.00	10,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.037-17	2017 Danube:Future Interdisciplinary School - Cultural and social implications of global change on the Danube River Basin	Austria	Austria, Danube University Krems	14-22 July 2017, Krems	58,008.00	8,000.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.040-17	23rd International CEI International Summer School “Envisioning Moving Frontiers: Migration Management, Minority Protection and the Enhancement of Territorial Cooperation”	Italy	IECOB Institute for Central Eastern Europe and the Balkans (Istituto per l'Europa Centro-Orientale e Balcanica)	4-10 September 2017 Bertinoro (Forli)	45,418.88	8,000.00	Migrations
1202.044-17	Problem Based Learning as innovative methodology for enhancing cooperation and transferring knowledge in emergency management on public health issues. A policy stakeholders conference	Italy	Istituto Superiore di Sanità (organ of the Italian National Health System for the Ministry of Health)	June 2017, Rome	26,000.00	7,000.00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.045-17	Brno 2017 – 85th International Session of the European Youth Parliament (IS17 Brno)	Czech Republic	European Youth Parliament Czech Republic	26th July – 6th August 2017, Brno	145,147.26	8,000.00	3.3. Civil Society
1202.052-17	8th CEI Venice Forum for Contemporary Art Curators	Italy	Trieste Contemporanea Committee	May 2017	43,590.00	9,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.055-17	Hands-on Training on the use of the NMMB Atmospheric Model for Weather Prediction in the South Eastern Europe; Acronym: SEEWEATHER	Serbia	Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia – RHMSS	19-24 September 2017, Belgrade	29,893.00	9,000.00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.058-17	The European Union and Legal Reform Summer School	Italy	Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development (CCSDD) - SAIS - Johns Hopkins University	9 – 15 July 2017, Igalo	43,062.00	6,000.00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.060-17	DisCo 2017: Open education as the way to knowledge society	Czech Republic	Center for Higher Education Studies (CHES), Czech Republic	26-27 June 2017, Prague	23,747.00	5,000.00	1.3. Information society
1202.062-17	Developing and understanding our professional ID	Croatia	Adult Education Institution Dante	7-10 June 2017, Rijeka	30,490.00	5,500.00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training

1202.079-17	TEACHBACK - Teaching the teachers , developing the methods of education and learning in field of contemporary performing arts (dance)	Macedonia	Lokomotiva- Centre for New Initiatives in Arts and Culture	May 2017	24,025.00	7,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.085-17	Two Open Weeks of Plavo Theatre 2017	Serbia	Plavo pozoriste Theatre Laboratory	16-29 July 2017	21,470.00	6,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.099-17	23rd International Festival of Local Televisions (IFoLT Golden Beggar 2017), Košice, Slovakia	Slovakia	City TV Foundation, Košice	8-11 June 2017, Košice	86,197.00	7,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.100-17	2017 Sustainability Training Event: how can climate changes impact to tourism?	Italy	KIRECO' Social Enterprise, Ravenna	19-23 June 2017, Ravenna	17,070.00	6,000.00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.101-17	"Production of Organic and Bio - food - a Key Factor for the Development of Rural Areas in Central and South-eastern Europe" - PrOBio	Bulgaria	Regional Cluster "North-East" – Varna, Bulgaria	21-23 June 2017, Varna	29,281.00	5,500.00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.103-17	XVIII Summer Seminar for Young Public Policy Professionals	Bulgaria	Economic Policy Institute (EPI)	first half of June 2017, Varna	56,260.00	8,000.00	3.3. Civil Society
1202.110-17	International forum of water transport development - IFWTD	Serbia	Maritime river agency "AGENT PLUS" Ltd	19 May 2017, Belgrade	20,009.00	6,500.00	2.1. Transport, Logistics and Accessibility
1202.114-17	CONTACT - CERIC-CEI Open ACces Training	other	Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium (CERIC)	May 2017, Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste	26,327.88	9,000.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.115-17	Diplomacy and Diplomatic Training: Global Challenges for 21st Century'	Croatia	Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia	17-20 May, 2017, Dubrovnik	40,760.00	7,500.00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.118-17	CEI Business Forum Driving forces and perspectives for the development of the CEI wood sector	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina FTC B&H	Autumn 2016, Sarajevo	16,707.20	8,162.20	CEI Presidency
					2,366,748.09	511,932.20	

CEI Secretariat / Headquarters

Via Genova, 9 - 34121 Trieste, Italy
Tel. +39 040 7786 777
Fax +39 040 3606 40
cei@cei.int / www.cei.int

Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD

One Exchange Square - London, EC2A 2JN, UK
cei.ebrd@cei.int / www.ebrd.com

Follow us on:  

