



Annual Report 2017
of the Secretary General

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1. INTRODUCTION BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

During 2017, in more challenging circumstances, the CEI remained an important player in regional politics with a unique mission to promote European integration and support CEI Member States to comply better with the EU standards.

The joint work of the Belarusian Presidency and the CEI-Executive Secretariat brought about the implementation of numerous activities with the aim of fostering regional cooperation. More precisely, with the Belarusian Presidency, the CEI has strengthened relations with the Eastern European neighborhood, thus boosting and balancing its activities between the Western Balkans and the Eastern European countries.

Throughout the year, our activities contributed to strengthening dialogue and political and economic stability and prosperity in the region and beyond. Thanks to our distinctive approach and adaptability to evolving environments, stemming from our working methodology combining multilateral diplomacy with project-oriented activities, we achieved remarkable results.

The strong commitment of the CEI towards regional policy was confirmed during the Western Balkans Summit, held in Trieste in July. On that occasion, participants highlighted the significant contribution of regional institutions, including the CEI, in strengthening regional cooperation and building a prosperous region.

We successfully managed to support a large number of projects and activities, in particular in our non-EU Member States, through various CEI instruments, such as the CEI Fund at the EBRD, the CEI Know-How Exchange Programme (KEP) and the CEI Cooperation Fund. We have also significantly increased our participation in EU-funded projects. With regard to the latter, it should be underlined that the overall volume of the budget of the EU-funded projects, exceeded the volume of the ordinary budget provided by the Italian Government.

In 2017, the CEI also faced a number of challenges. First and foremost, the migration phenomenon continued affecting the CEI region. Therefore, it was a central topic throughout the year. The MFA Meeting in Minsk in June and the CEI Summit in Minsk in December provided a great opportunity for exchanging views and identifying further steps for its better tackling.

Despite noteworthy outcomes, there is a clear need for further improvements. Indeed, during 2017 the process of self-examination to improve the importance and effectiveness of the CEI was carried out. In this context, the CEI-Executive Secretariat, in cooperation with the Member States through the National Coordinators, drafted a new Plan of Action 2018-2020 taking into consideration the needs and proposals expressed by the countries, based on the current challenges. We are

confident that this document will provide new dynamism and visibility to the organisation and will better align its capacities and activities with the fast-changing environment. Indeed, its adoption was accompanied by a number of measures proposed by the Heads of Government for its smooth implementation, which included: strengthening the



Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri

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.

structures of the Organisation, improving its financing and enhancing cooperation with other international and regional organisations.

With regard to this latter objective, the CEI has continued to reinforce relations with many international and regional organisations throughout the year. In particular, we agreed on reinforcing efforts in dealing with migratory issues with the OSCE and on enhancing cooperation with the UNESCO in the area of culture as well as with the CoE.

The CEI visibility 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 have 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 disseminated on regular basis to all our partners and affiliates.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude for the extraordinary efforts of the Belarusian Presidency 2017 throughout the year. My gratitude also goes to all Member States for their deep commitment.



Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri

2. BELARUSIAN CEI PRESIDENCY

For the first time since it has been a CEI Member State (joined in 1996), the Republic of Belarus took over the CEI Presidency in 2017. This year was marked by various challenges faced by the Region, such as the migration crisis and the need for a better connectivity.



Bearing in mind the importance of jointly addressing common challenges and issues of mutual interest, Belarus put regional cooperation on top of its foreign policy agenda. The significant value of regional cooperation and the need for a more comprehensive one was confirmed on the occasion of the high-level meetings organised by the Presidency, i.e. the MFA Meeting, the MFA Working lunch in New York, organised on the margins of the UN General Assembly, and the CEI Summit. Through the numerous activities carried out during the year, Belarus succeeded in vigorously promoting the CEI's mission and in supporting its main goals and objectives. Thus, it proved the commitment of Belarus towards responsibilities arising from the CEI Presidency and showed high competences of the Belarusian Government in terms of organisation and participation.

The Belarusian Presidency elaborated a rich agenda of priorities focused, in particular on topics such as migration, connectivity and interoperability among various integration processes in the CEI region. The Belarusian Presidency organised Ministerial Conference "Promoting Connectivity in the CEI Region: Bridging the Gap between Europe and Asia" which pointed out the importance of transport and logistics infrastructure modernisation. Another important event was organised in cooperation with the OSCE regarding the joint way forward on migration issues and represented an excellent example of enhanced cooperation on migration issues.

Under this Presidency, important activities were also carried out by the Parliamentary Dimension, through meetings of the Parliamentary Committee and Parliamentary Assembly. The first one emphasised the need for better cooperation between and among CEI Member States through innovative production and better management of human capital, while the Parliamentary Assembly focused on the role of digital technologies for ensuring security in the region.

During the Belarusian CEI Presidency, the Organisation continued adapting to the current challenges by reforming some of its organisational aspects and elaborating the new strategic document, i.e. the CEI Plan of Action. The new Plan of Action 2018-2020, adopted on the occasion of the CEI Summit in December, will shape the course of future actions focusing on specific areas with tangible results.

The Belarusian Presidency was supported by the CEI Executive Secretariat and by all the Member States. The joint actions significantly contributed to the overall success of activities. Throughout 2017, the Belarusian Presidency made significant efforts to improve dialogue among the CEI Member States in different regional cooperation fields and to better align the work of the CEI to the needs of the region.

By holding the 2017 CEI Presidency, Belarus has confirmed its constructive engagement in regional cooperation.

3. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2017, the CEI was commissioned with a number of tasks. In this context, numerous events, activities and projects were carried out. They are outlined in detail in the Chapters related to the Activities of the CEI Presidency and the CEI Secretariat. Nevertheless, the most salient activity involving all CEI Structures needs to be highlighted, that is the elaboration of the new Plan of Action 2018-2020.

CEI Plan of Action 2018-2020

The CEI Plan of Action (PoA) 2018-2020 was adopted by the CEI Summit of the Heads of Government in Minsk on 12 December. Elaborated by the CEI-Executive Secretariat and the Member States, the new PoA is conceived as a flexible and dynamic tool to enable the CEI to quickly adapt to the evolving European landscape. It represents a structured roadmap, setting out clear and agreed priorities of cooperation in the framework of the CEI. Special attention has been paid to the real needs and proposals expressed by the CEI Member States. Efforts have been made towards prioritisation and streamlining, aimed at avoiding dispersion of resources and at concentrating on actions where the CEI's expertise and working methodology represent a genuine added value.

The document, in force as of 1 January 2018, is composed of two parts: Part 1 highlights the CEI's mission, strategic objectives and working methodology. Part 2 comprehensively outlines its goals and objectives. The latter also includes a set of tangible actions elaborated by taking into account the results achieved in the recent past, thus ensuring coherence and follow-up.

1. Connectivity, focuses on strengthening the capacities of the Member States towards good governance, sustainable economic development, also through improved interconnected transport networks, and environmental sustainability as key prerequisites for democracy, stability, security and prosperity in the CEI region.

2. Diversity, focuses on promoting intercultural cooperation as a tool for stronger democratic participation and on the role of media in strengthening the awareness of common core values. Furthermore, it concentrates on international scientific cooperation, brain circulation and quality education & training to develop knowledge-based societies within innovative-intensive economies.

In drawing up its Goals and Objectives, taking into account the inputs forwarded by the Member States and the results achieved in the recent past, the CEI has identified two key medium-term priorities: Connectivity (mainly the economic and environmental aspect) and Diversity (mainly the socio-political aspect), which will underpin the CEI's core mission. The chapters dedicated to these two priorities address the core challenges and opportunities for CEI Member States and include goals and objectives reflecting a common vision of the economic, social and environmental prosperity of the region to be attained through joint actions.

The goals and objectives of the CEI Plan of Action are fully in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the EU Macro-Regional Strategies also affecting the CEI area. These goals are interlinked, interdependent and represent the main areas of interest of the CEI Member States, as outlined in the CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure.

Despite the different levels of development among the CEI Member States, the proposed goals and objectives are relevant to all of them and will be pursued through goal-oriented multilateral co-operation, going beyond a purely intergovernmental dynamics, and collaborative, multi-stakeholder partnerships. These will involve both governmental and non-governmental actors – including civil society, business actors, scientific communities, academia and media. Furthermore, partnerships with other organisations is considered a part of normal working practice.

In practical terms, the CEI's main goal is to bring its Member States closer together in joint initiatives and encourage further regional cooperation in a structured and result-oriented manner. It aims at making tangible contributions towards sustainable and inclusive economies and societies. In order to reach this ambitious goal, the Plan of Action offers the necessary framework to steer the CEI's future activities, while committing the Organisation to a continuous improvement of its performance. Indeed, its adoption was accompanied by a number of measures proposed by the Heads of Government for its smooth implementation, including strengthening the structures of the Organisation, improving its financing and enhancing the cooperation with other international and regional organisations.



The National Library of Belarus, venue of the CEI Summit

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE BELARUSIAN CEI PRESIDENCY 2017

Belarus took over the CEI Presidency on 1 January. On top of the list of the priorities of the Belarusian CEI Presidency were the follow-up initiatives of the previous Presidencies, in particular with regard to migration, interconnectivity as well as with the strengthening of the CEI international visibility. To achieve these goals, a rich programme of events and activities was implemented (Annex 1).

These particular events took place under the Belarusian CEI Presidency:

CNC Meetings

The CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC) met six times in 2017, with an exceptional participation of the Member States and their active role in the deliberations: three CNC meetings were held in Minsk (14 February, 22 June and 12 December), one in London (6 April), one in Trieste (16 May) and one in Salzburg (25 September). The CNC was involved, in particular, in the elaboration of the new CEI Plan of Action 2018-2020, as well as in the preparation of the high-level meetings. It also approved a number of projects and launched a number of ideas and proposals, tackled by the Secretariat throughout the year.



CNC Meeting, Minsk— February 2017

Steering Committee Meeting

On 6 April, the Headquarters of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London hosted the annual CEI Steering Committee (SC). The SC meeting was attended by the CEI National Coordinators and representatives from the CEI countries at the EBRD Board of Directors who discussed the recent developments in the CEI-EBRD cooperation. On that occasion, the 2016 Annual Report of the CEI Fund at the EBRD was presented and the Committee's members approved the 2016 budget of the Fund.



Steering Committee Meeting, London—April 2017

CEI Parliamentary Committee Meeting

The meeting of the CEI Parliamentary Committee under the title "Intellectualization of economy in the CEI region: innovative production, governance and human capital" was held in Minsk, on 29-31 May. The meeting was opened by Mikhail Myasnikov, the Chairman of the Council of the Republic of Belarus, who stressed the importance of joint beneficial cooperation among the CEI Member States in order to tackle challenges such as the fourth industrial revolution, ageing populations, and environmental security. In particular, he emphasised the role of the national parliaments



Participants at CEI Parliamentary Committee Meeting, Minsk— May 2017

strengthening integration and cooperation in a greater Europe, developing regional dialogue and partnership. The gathering was attended by Belarusian MPs, Heads of ministries as well as national delegations of CEI Member States.

Ministerial Conference "Promoting Connectivity in the CEI Region: Bridging the Gap between Europe and Asia"

A ministerial conference on "Promoting Connectivity in the CEI Region: Bridging the Gap between Europe and Asia" as well as a meeting of the Senior Management of the CEI Chambers of Commerce and Industry were held in Minsk on 8-9 June. The main topic of the conference was the mod-



ernisation of transport and logistics infrastructure in the context of EU strategies for the development of trans-European transport corridors involving the resources of international financial institutions, facilitation of trade through the harmonisation of customs, rules of origin and value appraisal procedures, tariff and non-tariff regulation, industrial, sanitary and phytosanitary standards. The participants also discussed the promotion of the concept of so-called digital transport corridors through the development of paperless trade systems, mutual recognition of electronic shipping documents, online sales platforms for small and medium-sized businesses and cross-border digital services.

On the occasion of the Meeting of the Senior Management of the CEI Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the agreement between the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Macedonia was signed.

OSCE-CEI Panel Discussion “Beyond the Emergency: Improving the International Response to Large Movements of People”

The OSCE-CEI High-level Panel Discussion “Beyond the Emergency: Improving the International Response to Large Movements of People” was organised by the Austrian Chairmanship of the OSCE and the Belarusian CEI Presidency in Vienna on 9 June. The event focused on the realities and needs of countries of Central, Eastern, and South-East Europe, which have a long history of dealing with cross-border movements and have been facing fast-evolving migratory pressures in recent years. It was attended by over fifty representatives of CEI and OSCE Member States’ con-



stituencies as well as by representatives of organisations such as the ICMPD, IOM and others. The discussions looked into key elements of response, starting with long-term aspects such as integration in the new social and economic environment, circular migration, voluntary return and reintegration. During the event, the Belarusian side made a number of tangible recommendations. They aimed at enhancing cooperation at the international level and at providing synergies in the activities of international organisations in the migration area, e.g. strengthening national capacities of states and exchanging experience and best practices in the field of migration.

MFA Meeting

The Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CEI Member States was held on 22 June in Minsk. Some of the major challenges the Ministers discussed were the ongoing migration crisis and the concomitant threats of radicalisation and social tension. They underlined the importance of regional cooperation in order to tackle the newest challenges and emphasised the role of the CEI in promoting connectivity and interoperability among various integration processes in a Wider Europe. In particular, the Ministers underlined the importance of the EU integration process. In that context, it was stated that the CEI would continue to support its non-EU partners in their European aspirations, as this process represents strategic investment in the peace, democracy, prosperity, security and stability in Europe. The Ministers established the basis for the new CEI Plan of Action 2018-2020 and approved the budget of the CEI Cooperation Fund for 2018.



CEI Classical Music Evenings

The CEI Classical Music concerts, held on 5 August at the Minsk City Hall Square in connection to the CEI Belarusian Presidency, featured a set of 2 evening concerts focused on showcasing performers from the CEI region. Namely, as part of cooperation between the Belarusian State Music Conservatory and the Trieste Music Conservatory, it included a performance of the renowned G.Tartini String Orchestra (Trieste). Likewise, the concert also included a performance of the International Culture Orchestra from Poland (consisting of outstanding young musicians from Poland and the Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, R. Moldova and Ukraine). The main objec-

tive of the event was to raise public awareness of the CEI in Belarus and beyond as an important European regional forum supporting broad cultural dialogue and cooperation.

International Round Table “Documentary Heritage in Central European Region: Conservation, Research and Promotion”

Within the International Congress “500 years of Belarusian book-printing”, the International Round Table “Documentary Heritage in Central European Region: Conservation, Research and Promotion” was held in Minsk on 14-16 September at the National Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve “Nesvizh”. The event aimed at creating synergies between scientists and librarians and at elaborating similar approaches with regard to conservation, research and promotion of book heritage as a constituent part of activities for strengthening cross-cultural relationships, preserving cultural diversity and stimulating professional contacts between and among academic, museum and librarian communities of CEI Member States.

MFA Working Lunch in New York

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, Vladimir Makei, hosted a Working lunch for his counterparts of the CEI Member States in New York on 21 September, on the margins of the UN General Assembly. The gathering was an opportunity for Ministers to discuss about performed activities during the current year and to point out the priorities for the upcoming period. They emphasised the efforts of the CEI in assisting the political and socio-economic ad-



MFA Working Lunch, New York—September 2017

vancement of the region by offering a platform for dialogue and project support. In that context, they acknowledged the progress made in the elaboration of the CEI Plan of Action 2018-2020.

CEI Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology

The Ministerial Conference under the title “Biotechnology for Healthy and Active Life in CEI Region” was held in Minsk on 26 October. The meeting gathered ministers of the CEI Member States, officials in charge of science, technology, innovations, healthcare, agriculture, and food industry. R&D centres and non-governmental organisations developing biopharmaceuticals and biotechnologies for agriculture were also invited to attend, along with the European Commission that presented the forthcoming Horizon 2020 Work



Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology, Minsk—October 2017

Program 2018-2020 in the health sector. The participants discussed ongoing activities and future prospects of cooperation in the fields of science, technology, and innovations with a particular focus on biotechnology. The CEI Secretariat contributed to the agenda by providing the audience with a thorough presentation of its mechanisms supporting regional cooperation, with a specific focus on its funding tools and expertise in designing EU project proposals.

International Seminar on Compatibility and Complementarity of Various Integration Processes in Europe

The International Seminar on the Topic of “Compatibility and Complementarity of Various Integration Processes in Europe” took place on 1 November at the Belarusian State University in Minsk. The event was attended by the representatives of various universities and research institutions from the CEI countries, representatives of ministries and departments of the Republic of Belarus and representatives of the CEI leadership who had a constructive dialogue and cooperation. The seminar represented a good opportunity to consider various issues of different integration processes, e.g. European and Eurasian, such as opportunities and mechanisms of their interface, and of inter-university cooperation and its prospects in the framework of the CEI region.

Seminar on Promotion of Cinema in the CEI Region

The Seminar on Promotion of Cinema in the CEI Region was held on the sidelines of the International Film Festival “Listapad” in Minsk on 4-10 November. It intended to contribute to transmitting and sharing knowledge and best practices in cinematography production. It also aimed at fostering the development of a regional network of film professionals and at creating cooperation projects in movie production. In that context, the participants exchanged their experience concerning the development of the film industry in their countries.

CEI Parliamentary Assembly Meeting

The Meeting of the CEI Parliamentary Assembly under the topic “Digital Technologies in Terms of Ensuring Geopolitical Security” was held in Minsk, on 28 November. It was chaired by Irina Starovoitova, Chairperson of the CEI PD, and Head of the Parliamentary Delegation of Belarus and attended by national parliamentary delegations from CEI Member States. Taking into account the development of information society and its influence on the national security of the CEI



Participants at CEI Parliamentary Assembly Meeting, Minsk— November 2017



Eastern Partnership Reflection Forum, Minsk— December 2017

Member States, participants called upon all CEI Member States and their national parliaments to contribute to the creation of the necessary legal framework for enhancing data processing standards and the interaction of national regulatory authorities on digital market. They emphasised a need for further development of safe cross-border electronic services, electronic trading platforms, as well as closer cooperation with international financial institutions.

CEI Business Forum

Under the title “Energy Efficient and Ecological Technologies”, the CEI Business Forum took place in Minsk, on 4 December. About 200 representatives of state organisations, business community and academia from the CEI countries and international financial institutions (World Bank, EBRD) discussed the contribution of modern energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly technologies to achieve sustainable social and economic development in the CEI region. They exchanged views and experiences on different topics covering five thematic panel sessions: Energy Efficient Technologies, Economics and Finance, Science, Ecological Technologies, Energy Efficient Production and Products.



CEI Business Forum, Minsk— December 2017

Européenne. The gathering convened the pan-European community of 50 experts from 30 European states and most CEI countries as well as 20 representatives of national administrations and regional organisations. The Eastern Partnership Reflection Forum offered experts and policy advisers a unique platform of discussion along three topics: differentiation, resilience, and cooperation between regional orders. It mainly aimed at fostering an inclusive reflection on regional cooperation and pan-European rapprochement, while offering participants new opportunities for networking and cooperation.

CEI Summit

The Meeting of the Heads of Government of the 18 CEI Member States (CEI Summit) was held in Minsk on 12 December. The Summit focused on the role of the CEI Member States in promoting connectivity and interoperability among various integration processes in a Wider Europe. The participants discussed main challenges facing the CEI regions such as transport and infrastructure interconnections, ongoing migration crisis and terrorism with special attention to countering cyber-terrorism. In particular, the delegations highlighted the importance of the development of transport



CEI Summit, Minsk— December 2017

Eastern Partnership Reflection Forum

On the run up to the CEI Summit, the Reflection Forum on the Eastern Partnership took place in Minsk on 10-12 December. The Forum was organised by the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, the Minsk Dialogue Track-II Initiative and the Centre International de Formation

and infrastructure interconnections between the EU, Eastern Partnership countries and various European sub-regions. The migration issue was also debated from the viewpoint of good migration management and inclusive economic integration as a means to overcome tensions in society as well as the economic slowdown. The need for

joining efforts against terrorism, with special attention to countering cyber-terrorism, was also mentioned during the meeting. The CEI Summit was chaired by H.E. Andrei Kobaykov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, who highlighted the role of the CEI in promoting regional dialogue and cooperation. He stressed that the CEI Presidency represented an important and useful experience for the Republic of Belarus, which focused on promoting compatibility and complementarity in the CEI region. On the occasion of the CEI Summit, the new Plan of Action for period 2018-2020 was adopted. The gathering also witnessed the formal transfer of the CEI Presidency from Belarus to Croatia.



CEI Headquarters in Trieste

5. 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, 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 and other decision-making and operational structures of the CEI, not only by providing continuous administrative and conceptual support, but also by taking appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting the realisation of the CEI objectives. The CEI Secretariat's staff was actively involved in the implementation of the CEI Plan of Action 2014-2017, in the elaboration of the new CEI Plan of Action 2018-2020 and other activities promoted by the Belarusian CEI Presidency.

The CEI-ES also manages a number of funds: the Cooperation Fund, supported by all Member States, as well as programmes and instruments for cooperation complementing the institutional activities. 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 45.5 million EUR, of which 2 million EUR in 2017. The Office for the CEI Fund is the operational structure, which ensures constant dialogue between the CEI, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the EBRD for all questions related to the administration of the Fund.

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



EBRD Headquarters in London

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.

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.”

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 2017 is outlined in Annex 2), 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, no changes have been made. The office's staff with its respective tasks are outlined in Annex 3.

Within the Advanced Training Programme for Young Officials from CEI Member States, three young officials – Irina Ursu (Moldova), Andjela Darmanovic (Montenegro) and Ana Ali-grudic (Montenegro) were selected for traineeship at the CEI -ES in Trieste.

The Secretary General, the Alternate Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General and other staff members actively participated in many CEI, CEI-sponsored or other international events. They also 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 as follows:

Visit by UNESCO Venice Office to CEI

The Director of the UNESCO Office in Venice, Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, paid a visit to the CEI Headquarters on 1 February. The meeting offered the opportunity to discuss the enhancement of cooperation between the two organisations in the framework of specific projects in the areas of Culture and Science. It was agreed that focused joint actions and synergies could be established in view of increasing the impact and effectiveness of the respective activities. In particular, there was a shared interest in joining efforts to promote capacity building, know-how exchange, networking, advanced training and technology transfer in the countries of the region.

MoU with AREA Science Park

On 10 February, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the CEI and the AREA Science Park (the Science and Technology Park) at the premises of the CEI Secretariat. This three-year cooperation agreement aims at supporting the CEI Member States in developing strategies and actions to promote progress and competitiveness of the territories through innovation and research. More specifically, it intends to provide technical-scientific support to CEI Member States - especially to the Pre-Accession (IPA) countries as well as to those of Eastern Europe (Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine) - in the development and implementation of plans for the application of Smart Specialisation Strategies. MoU priority areas regard the transfer of knowledge and technologies, the exploitation of research results leading to repercussions on the market and innovation management and generation of start-ups. In particular, both AREA Science Park and the Central European Initiative will promote joint actions to encourage the creation of technology parks and innovation centres, to support training and capacity building as well as facilitate synergies between research and business.

CEI Delegation at Council of Europe

The CEI-ES delegation paid a visit to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 27 and 28 February. The delegation had fruitful discussions with the officials from various CoE departments and the Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the CoE. The meetings focused on the new CoE approach to the institutional building of democratic systems and the enforcement of the rule of law. The interlocutors identified several areas of cooperation of common interest such as migration management, fight against corruption, support for local and regional democracy as well as the causes of populism.

Coordination Meeting of Regional Organisations

The representatives of the Adriatic - Ionian Initiative (AII), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), the Central European Initiative (CEI), the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Danube Commission, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Union for the Mediterra-



Meeting with UNESCO Venice Office, Trieste — February 2017



Coordination Meeting of Regional Organisations, Trieste — March 2017

near Secretariat (UFM Secretariat) gathered in Trieste, at the premises of the CEI Executive Secretariat on 27-28 March, for the 14th Coordination Meeting of Regional Organisations. The representatives of Regional Organisations exchanged information on their main activities since the previous Coordination Meeting in Budapest in 2016. They also discussed about the institutional building of the macro-regional governance as a challenging goal, underlining, however, the strong role of macro-regional experience in the creation of initiatives that brings EU members and neighbouring countries together. Furthermore, they exchanged views on other topics such as blue economy, security at a time of migration flows and the future of transnational co-operation programmes in the Community Cohesion Policy. Finally, participants agreed on the date and venue for the next Coordination Meeting of regional organisations which will be hosted by the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat in Barcelona.

The meeting was concluded with the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding between the Central European Initiative and the Secretariat of the Danube Commission by the Secretaries General of both organisations.

CEI SEEMO Panel at International Journalism Festival 2017 in Perugia

In the framework of the International Journalism Festival (Perugia, Italy, 5-9 April 2017), the CEI and SEEMO jointly organised the panel “Press freedom in south-east Europe” on 5 April. Contributions were delivered by the Croatian



journalist Zrinka Vrabec Mojzes, editor of the weekly Nacional, and the investigative journalists Besar Likmeta from Albania, and Anna Babinets from Ukraine. They briefed the audience about the state of the media in their countries, highlighting their professional and personal experiences, including difficulties and challenges they have to face in their everyday work.

Maria Theresa’s 300th birthday: round table and reading in Trieste

On the occasion of Maria Theresa’s 300th birthday, the CEI in cooperation with the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia



Giulia, organised a roundtable discussion and a public reading on 13 May. The roundtable gathered more than 120 participants - representatives of public authorities, academic and research institutions, private companies and citizens who discussed the role of the Maria Theresa of Austria in the social, political and cultural development of the city of Trieste, her heritage and spirit as a model for further development. The event was followed by a public reading on Maria Theresa by Paolo Mieli, witnessing the presence of 1000 participants.

CEI partner with Silk Road Think Tank Network

On the occasion of the annual SiLKS conference in Beijing on 16 May, the CEI has become a member-partner of the Silk Road Think Tank Network (SiLKS), an informal international network initiated in 2015 by think tanks, relevant international organisations, and institutions jointly with the Development Research Center of the State Council of China. The SiLKS event was organised back to back with the summit of world leaders “Belt and Road Forum” hosted by President Xi Jinping in Beijing on May 14 and attended by 28 Heads of State as well as by most prominent international organisations and financial institutions.

The link between the CEI and the SiLKS was initiated in 2016, when the CEI and the EBRD, jointly hosted in Trieste the International Conference “Supporting Local Enterprises and SMEs along China’s Belt and Road Initiative in South Eastern Europe” in May 2016.

President of Austrian Chamber of Commerce pays a visit to the CEI Secretariat

The President of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, Christoph Leitl, accompanied by a delegation of about 60 prominent businesspersons from Austria, visited the CEI Headquarters on 23 May. The visit was an opportunity to emphasise a very active role of Austria within the activities of the CEI which together with Italy, Hungary and the former Yugoslavia is a founding member of the Organisation.

Reflection Forum on the run-up to the Trieste Summit on Western Balkans

A Reflection Forum under the title “The Western Balkans in the European Union: Perspectives of a region in Europe?” took place in Trieste on 26-27 June, in the run-up of the Western Balkans Summit. The Forum gathered experts working in national and European administrations and institutions, researchers affiliated with European think-tanks and universities from 25 EU and Western Balkan countries. It represented a platform for exchanging opinions on the challenges the European enlargement policy is facing and the importance of regional cooperation. The first day was devoted to the academic roundtable “The Western Balkans in the European Union: Perspectives of a region in Europe?” held at the MIB Trieste School of Management, following by the official opening of the event. The main event was organised on the second day and took place at the premises of the CEI. The main topics covered by the discussions were: regional tensions and bilateral conflicts in the Western Balkans; Internal & regional security and investments in infrastructures & knowledge. The participants reaffirmed and emphasised the need for a stronger impact of the civil society on the EU enlargement process.



Western Balkans Reflection Forum, Trieste — June 2017

Western Balkans Summit

The Western Balkans Summit, in the framework of the Western Balkans Process, took place in Trieste on 12 July. The Summit, hosted by Italy, gathered Heads of Government, Foreign Ministers, Ministers of Economy and Ministers of Transport of the Western Balkans together with their counterparts from several EU Member States and high-level representatives of the European Union and the International Financial Institution. They discussed key areas of regional cooperation and set out tangible measures to better connect the region's infrastructure, economies and people, emphasising the complementary contribution of regional institutions and mechanism, including the Central European Initiative.

On the occasion of the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, CEI Secretary General Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri underlined the importance of regional cooperation as it represented a decisive tool to ensure cooperative relations,

promote political dialogue and reduce dividing lines within the region.

Under the framework of the Western Balkans Summit, several parallel events were organised: the Civil Society Forum, the Business Forum and the Youth Forum. In particular, the CEI was actively involved in the organisation of the Civil Society Forum (CSF), which gathered representatives of over fifty civil society organisations, think-tanks, policy institutes and other associations from the countries of the Western Balkans and the European Union. The CEI Secretary General delivered the opening address to the Forum. In the context of the CSF, the workshop “Migrations – strengthening the role of civil society” was organised by the CEI Focal Point Migrations and hosted at the CEI Headquarters.

International Conference “Towards a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration – Perspectives from the Western Balkans and beyond”

This Conference was held in Vienna on 21 September. It was organised by the Austrian Foreign Ministry together with the IOM and the UNHCR. It witnessed a high-ranking participation from the Balkan countries and Greece. It was observed that those countries affected by migration had been still witnessing an increased flow of migration, especially Greece which was the hot spot, and that the Balkan route was not really closed. The focus was, thus, on orderly and safe readmission.

Annual Meeting 2017 of the Institute of the Regions of Europe - IRE

The IRE Forum: “The Next Generation of New EU Member States”, in the framework of the 13th Conference of European Regions and Cities, was held in Salzburg on 24-26 September. Commissioner Hahn also participated in this meeting as a keynote speaker. In his statement he reaffirmed the accession perspective of the Western Balkan countries. Furthermore, he underlined the importance of the economic cooperation among the enlargement countries, noting that legal and judiciary reforms were still needed in those countries wishing to become EU-members. He also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation mechanisms in the enlargement process.

Danube Macro-region Business Forum

The Danube Macro-region Business Forum took place in the format of a Business Week (DMRBW 2017) in Vienna/Enns/Linz on 2-7 October. The event was organised by the South-East Cooperation Initiative (SECI), in cooperation with the Senate of the Economy (SDW), the Federal Austrian Economic Chamber (WKO), the European Commission in Austria (EC) and BIZ-UP in Linz. It gathered important stakeholders from the entire Danube area with the aim to further develop the strategic direction and discuss the Strategy's prospects and challenges in four main thematic sessions.

XIII Central European Forum of Aquileia EuroRegion

The XIII Central European Forum of Aquileia EuroRegion under the title “Migrations – Integrations – Revolutions” was organised by the Mitteleuropa Cultural Association, in cooperation with a consortium of public and private stakeholders in Udine on 5 October. The gathering witnessed the participation of prominent representatives of public institutions, diplomats, politicians and academics from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkan area. Discussions focused on five thematic panels: European security issues; Italy and Friuli Venezia Giulia in the EU; Migrations, integrations and influences; Post Brexit Euro Economy; Perspectives from Central and Eastern Europe. The Forum was organised by the Mitteleuropa Cultural Association under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the support of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia and the CEI.



Aquileia EuroRegion Forum, Udine—October 2017

Central European Music Academies Network: conference “The sound of talent”

The three-day event took place in Trieste on 16-18 October at the Music Conservatory “Giuseppe Tartini” and focused on the exchanges between representatives of institutions and music festivals of the Central European area, promoting active participation, and giving the possibility to lay the foundations of a system of cooperation among academic and professional institutes. The gathering’s main goal – among others – was setting music as a cornerstone in young people’s education and a key feature in the life of citizens of



Music Academies Conference, Trieste—October 2017

a modern, enriched Europe, when performer and audience are brought close together through concerts. High education and production of musical events are the major objectives of the cooperation launched a year ago with the establishment of the Central European Music Academies Network (CEMAN) in order to implement joint initiatives and pursue common goals.

ICMPD Vienna Migration Conference 2017

The Vienna Migration Conference, organised by the ICMPD with which the CEI has a MoU, took place for the second time on 23–24 October. It was attended by ministers, state and deputy state secretaries and other high-level representatives of numerous countries, the European Commission, the European External Action Service and the European Investment Bank and other international and regional organisations. It was also attended by political decision makers, government experts, as well as representatives of the academia, media and civil society. The main focus of the Conference was “partnership” – one of the “three Ps”, partnerships, protection and prosperity, identified on the occasion of the first edition the year before. Five partnership priorities were discussed in three panels. The participants discussed pressing migration issues both from a European perspective and from outside Europe. Areas where progress has been made were acknowledged, highlighting at the same time the necessity to identify areas where gaps persist and questions remain open.

International Expert Conference “Logistics and Transport – optimization of the distribution of goods in the regions”

The expert conference on “Transport & Logistics - Optimization of the distribution of goods in the regions” took place in Opatija, Croatia on 9 November. The event was organised by the Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE), in cooperation with the CEI, the Region of Primorje Gorski Kotar and the City of Opatija and the City of Rijeka. The conference aimed at exploring international trends and changes in modern logistics in three panel discussions: European challenges for cross-border transport and logistics chain in South-East Europe; Modern logistics solutions from the perspective of the transport industry; and The importance of intermodal termi-



Logistics and Transport Conference, Opatija—November 2017

nals in the regions of South-East Europe. Best practice examples from several CEI Member States were presented and discussed.

24th OSCE Ministerial Council

The 24th OSCE Ministerial Council took place in Vienna on 7-8 December. The annual meeting represents an opportunity for Ministers of the 57 OSCE Member States and other high-level representatives to discuss and review the functioning of the OSCE activities and improve dialogue on security issues in the OSCE region.

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 is one of the long-standing sponsors of the Trieste Film Festival, held on 20-29 January. This Festival, organised by the Alpe Adria Cinema Association, is 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 supported the "Eastweek" project, an international script-writing workshop involving film schools and academies from Central and Eastern Europe, whose main objective is to develop the selected projects from the delicate phase of the initial idea through a series of tutorials, masterclasses and case studies. In 2017, for the first time, two short films directed by two talented directors (former Eastweek participants) were screened during the Festival. The CEI support was also given to the co-production forum "When East Meets West", gathering over 350 producers, financiers, decision makers and film professionals from more than 30 countries.

CEI Award 2017 at Trieste Film Festival

The 2017 CEI Award (3.000 EUR) at the Trieste Film Festival was bestowed upon the Romanian film director and screenwriter Cristi Puiu. The award is traditionally assigned to an artist who best interprets the contemporary reality of Europe and dialogue among cultures. Considered the father of

"New Romanian Cinema", in his most recent film *Sieranevada*, which was successfully received at the last Festival de Cannes, Puiu depicted today's Romania, highlighting even the most controversial aspects.

CEI Venice Forum for contemporary art curators

The 8th CEI Venice Forum for contemporary art curators, organised by the Trieste Contemporanea Committee and held under the title "Harbour for cultures", was held at the premises of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe on 12 May. Drawing inspiration from the real case history of how to convert and reuse the area of the Old Harbour of Trieste, the Forum's research and discussions explored both the historical functions of port activities carried out for economic interests (exchange of goods, insurance issues and commercial profit) as well as the notion of "suspension" linked to idea of a port (of arriving, temporarily belonging and then leaving). Moreover, it offered a platform to initiate a long-term project focused on the social and cultural dimensions of these issues in view of shaping an image of a "new port" where people can freely exchange their own cultures, while assuring their core values.

A follow-up event of the CEI Venice Forum for Contemporary Art Curators was held in Trieste on 28 October. Art curators, artists, architects and relevant experts gathered to resume the topics and present the "Harbour for Cultures H/C" project to the citizens of Trieste. The event, organised by Trieste Contemporanea Committee, was held at Magazzino delle Idee, in the framework of the exhibition *Maria Theresa and Trieste*. History and cultures of the city and its port and was preceded by a poetic walk through the Old Harbour of Trieste. In this context, the H/C project was launched and will be developed further within two years with an open process method, between art and urban topics, with the organisation of workshops and meetings, studies, exhibitions and multidisciplinary events. During the Trieste event, some of the most interesting visions, desires and perspectives collected so far were discussed and presented to the audience. Moreover, a first H/C exhibition was opened based on a spatial setting with a scaled representation of



CEI Award at Trieste Film Festival, Trieste — January 2017

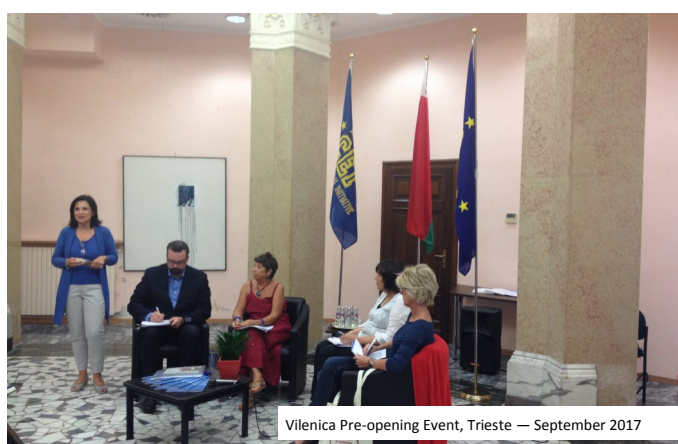


Follow-up Event of CEI Venice Forum, Trieste — October 2017

the warehouses of Porto Vecchio, documentary material and the H/C maps filled in by local and international contributors. The exhibition was open until 31 December 2017.

Vilenica International Literary Festival

The CEI was one of the long-standing sponsors also of the Vilenica International Literary Festival on 5-10 September. The event included a rich programme of meetings, poetry readings, panel discussions and debates with authors and writers from Europe and other countries worldwide. In particular, the CEI supported two segments of the Festival at its 32nd edition, i.e. a CEI Round Table – with the participation of authors and writers from the CEI region - held in Lipica on 8 September, under the title “Literature That Changes the World That Changes Literature”; and a CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence. On 5 September, the Vilenica pre-



Vilenica Pre-opening Event, Trieste — September 2017

opening event took place in Trieste, at the CEI HQ, with the participation of poets Antonella Bukovaz (Italy) and Maja Vidmar (Slovenia). This event is usually organised by the Slovene Writers' Association in cooperation with the CEI.

CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence

The CEI has been presenting the CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence in collaboration with the Slovene Writers' Association, as part of the Festival, since 2006. The Fellowship seeks to encourage cross-border cooperation and promo-



CEI Fellowship at Vilenica, Sezana — September 2017

tion in the field of literature for young writers from non-EU CEI Member States. The award of 5,000 EUR, is meant to be used for a three-month residency in any CEI Member State of the candidate's choice. During this period the author is expected to work on the project indicated in the application form. This 2017 Fellowship was granted to Andriy Lyubka from Ukraine. For his project, Lyubka selected Vilenica (Slovenia) as the place of his residence. The awarding ceremony was also held on 8 September in Sežana, Slovenia during the opening of the Festival.

CEI International Summer School

The 23rd CEI International Summer School under the title “Envisioning Moving Frontiers: Migration Management, Minority Protection and the Enhancement of Territorial Cooperation” was held in Bertinoro (Italy) on 11-15 Septem-



CEI International Summer School, Bertinoro — September 2017

ber. This event gathered more than 30 students from 11 countries. Lectures, round tables and workshops were offered to the students with a strong interdisciplinary approach towards topics such as migration, minority protection, cultural diversity and territorial cooperation. More precisely, the participants discussed main challenges concerning security and socio-political development of the region. Analyzing case-studies of the events from Albania, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine, participants focused in particular on new formulations (such as métissages, cultural nomadism, interculturality, diversity management and deliberation). In the framework of the Summer School, the CEI International Conference “Restructuring Identities vs. Managing Minorities. Fostering Intercultural Dialogue and Preserving Cultural Diversity in Southeastern Europe” was also held on 15 September and focused on identity and minority issues following both national and macro-regional perspectives.

South East Europe Media Forum

The XI South East Europe Media Forum under the topic “Public discourse in Europe: Can media help to save democracy?” was jointly organised by the CEI the South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO) and by the Media Program South East Europe of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung



(KAS) CEI in Sofia, Bulgaria on 27-28 November. The Forum focused on several topics concerning main issues and challenges facing media today, such as: securing media freedom; media business today in the context of fake news, populism, budget constraints, media responsibility and media literacy; new concepts and digital opportunities in times of economic and political pressure. The discussion involved more than 250 participants, including editors-in-chief, leading journalists, business professionals and representatives from civil society, academia, state institutions and international organisations from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and beyond.

CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigate Journalism

The Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism was presented by the CEI and South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO), in special partnership with the Media Program South East Europe of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), on the occasion of the South East Europe Media Forum in Sofia on 27 November. Victor Mosneag from Moldova received the award in the section “Professional Journalists” (4,000 EUR), while Yevheniia Motorevska from Ukraine was the winner in the section “Young Professional Journalists” (1,000 EUR). A special Mention was assigned to Marina Constantinoiu, well-known journalist from Romania.



Projects, Programmes and Instruments

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 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 2017, the CEI was involved in 10 EU-funded projects, both as Lead Partner and Partner (the full list and description of the EU-funded projects under implementation in 2017 is attached as Annex 4).

In the time-frame 2004 - 2017, the CEI participated in the successful implementation of 29 EU projects funded by several EU programmes, both as Partner and Lead Partner. The CEI contributed about €800.000,00 for the execution of these projects, with a total value of around €13,6 million.

Technical Cooperation Programme

The Technical Cooperation projects (TCs) 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 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 in-

Between 1993 and 2017, the Italian Government committed through this Fund more than €27 million for 166TC assignments. In the period 1993 to 2017 these TCs in the countries of operations are expected to mobilise about €6 billion of international investments. The EBRD alone is expected to contribute to those investments about €3.8 billion. A Total Investment Ratio (TIR) can be calculated to show how many euros the international community is expected to invest for each euro committed by the CEI Fund for TC projects. Between 1993 and 2017 the TIR is expected to be 1:229.

ternational 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 2017, the CEI Fund at the EBRD committed more than 1.35 million EUR for 12 Technical Cooperation assignments (the full list and description of the TC projects approved in 2017 is attached as Annex 5).

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 operates through calls for proposals.

Since its establishment in 2005, 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. From 2008 - 2016 the Austrian Government joined Italy as donor through the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), providing additional funds on an annual basis for projects managed by the CEI Secretariat (KEP AUSTRIA). In this period, 31 projects were financed with 900,000 EUR out of the Austrian contribution. In 2008 and 2011 the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs made two voluntary contributions of 25,000 EUR each to support KEP activities, while in 2017 an additional 40,000 EUR has been voluntarily contributed again by Poland

In 2017, the KEP ITALY co-financed 10 new projects with resources from the CEI Fund at EBRD with a contribution amounting to 305,089 EUR and an overall total cost of projects of about 647,013 EUR (the full list and description of the KEP projects approved through KEP ITALY in 2017 is attached as Annex 6).

As for KEP AUSTRIA, a project extension request was submitted to ADA, by the CEI Executive Secretariat, in order to be able to finalise a project belonging to the programming period 2014-2016, i.e. project n.1206.AF.015-15 entitled "Heroes and she-roes": Knowledge for analysis of and advocacy for equal pay for women and mothers in Macedonia (SHE-ROES). The KEP AUSTRIA Project for 2014-2016 was therefore officially closed in March 2017.

In the period 2004-2017, 96 projects have been financed by KEP ITALY supported by the CEI Fund at the EBRD, for a total contribution of about €2.7 million and with an overall project value amounting to more than €13.5 million. The projects targeted recipient institutions from almost all non-EU CEI Member States.

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 2017 amounted to 386,990 EUR.

In 2017, 44 Cooperation Activities were approved. The total CEI contribution for these activities amounts to 382,603 EUR or about 18% of the total cost of the projects representing a total value of around 2.1 million EUR. The full list of Cooperation Activities approved in 2017 is attached as Annex 7.

Since the start of its operations in 2002, the CEI Cooperation Fund has co-financed - with an amount of more than 9.9 million EUR - 1092 Cooperation Activities for a total value of about 62.5 million EUR. It is estimated that the annual mobility generated by the Cooperation Fund in its twelve years of activity is of about 5,000 people per year.

Advanced Training Programme for Young Officials

The Programme aimed at assisting the Secretariat in its numerous institutional and promotional activities envisaged throughout the year. The fourth edition of the Programme was addressed to three young professionals from the non-EU CEI Member States: Andjela Darmanovic from Montenegro; Irina Ursu, from the R. Moldova and Ana Aligrudic from Montenegro.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF THE BELARUSIAN CEI PRESIDENCY 2017

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Event</i>
14 February	<i>Minsk</i>	1st Meeting of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC)
6 April	<i>London</i>	2nd Meeting of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC) and Meeting of the Steering Committee of the CEI Fund at the EBRD
16 May	<i>Trieste</i>	3rd Meeting of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC)
29-31 May	<i>Minsk</i>	Meeting of the CEI Parliamentary Committee
8-9 June	<i>Minsk</i>	Ministerial Conference “Promoting Connectivity in the CEI Region: Building Bridges between Europe and Asia” and Meeting of the Senior Management of the CEI Chambers of Commerce and Industry
9 June	<i>Vienna</i>	OSCE-CEI Panel Discussion “Beyond the Emergency: Improving the International Response to Large Movements of People”
22 June	<i>Minsk</i>	4th Meeting of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC) and Meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the CEI Member States (MFA Meeting)
5 August	<i>Minsk</i>	CEI Classical Music Evenings
14-16 September	<i>Minsk</i>	International Conference “Documentary Heritage in Central European Region: Conservation, Research and Promotion”
21 September	<i>New York</i>	Working lunch of the CEI Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the side-lines of the UN General Assembly
25 September	<i>Salzburg</i>	5th Meeting of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC)
26 October	<i>Minsk</i>	CEI Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology
1 November	<i>Minsk</i>	International Seminar on Compatibility and Complementarity of Various Integration Processes in Europe
4-10 November	<i>Minsk</i>	Seminar on Promotion of Cinema in the CEI region
28 November	<i>Minsk</i>	Meeting of the CEI Parliamentary Assembly

4 December	<i>Minsk</i>	CEI Business Forum
10-12 December	<i>Minsk</i>	Eastern Partnership Reflection Forum
12 December	<i>Minsk</i>	6th Meeting of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC) and Meeting of the Heads of Government of the CEI Member States (CEI Summit)

ANNEX 2. PROFIT&LOSS STATEMENT OF THE CEI-EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Profit

N°	Item	Law/Agreement/Reason	Amount
1.	Balance carried forward from 2016	N/A	1,146,149.22
2.	Contribution from Italian MFA	law 286/1997 and 142/2003	1,250,053.00
3.	Contribution from the Austrian Development Agency	GA 8180-01/2011-12-LR2010 and 8180-02/2014	0.00
4.	EU Grants and Refunds		
		CB008—ADRIA A	204,351.43
		608322—S2-BIOM	35,095.64
		GA609607—EBTP-SABS	6,177.64
		2013-EU-21017-S TEN-T NAPA	20,145.44
		CE187—COME-IN	45,326.13
		CE222—SULPITER	7,105.24
		GA727509—ETIP Bioenergy-SABS	9,506.26
		CE886—CONNECT2CE	11,481.15
		PG102078 ITHACA	21,900.00
		Other projects	999,93
5.	Contribution from Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region	LR 11/1996 and 18/2011	239,310.62
6.	Contribution from Member States to CEI Cooperation Fund	CEI MFA decision 22.06.2001	388,790.00
7.	Sponsorships and reimbursements	local fundraising/reimbursements on anticipated expenses	87,223.17
8.	Accrued interests on CEI bank accounts	-	6.18
Total A			3,474,431.05

Loss

N°	Item	Amount
1.	EU projects (including staff and travels)	483,778.27
2.	KEP-ADA projects	17,986.38
3.	Cooperation Fund projects	434,225.35
4.	Events, meetings, sponsorships	403,547.03
5.	Infrastructural costs (HQs)	49,655.53
6.	Salaries and allowances	930,037.96
7.	Travel expenditures	101,894.99
8.	Auditing, banking costs, insurances, miscellaneous	105,313.43
9.	Internal loans/transfers	-
Total B		2,526,438.94

Balance carried forward to 2016 (TOTAL A - TOTAL B)

947,992.11

* out of which: 15.000 EUR from local donors to support the organisation of meetings and events in Trieste; 72.223,17 EUR as reimbursements from EU Projects, CEI Trust Fund, KEP Austria

ANNEX 3. 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

Lidija Arsova <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	External relations; Liaison to the CNC and the CEI Presidency; Preparation of CNC meetings, MFA Meetings and CEI Summit; Coordination of Annual Report and Plan of Action.
Barbara Fabro <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Cooperation Activities and Feature Events in the areas of Intercultural Cooperation and Media; communication and media relations, including CEI website's news and CEI newsletter; CEI Award for Outstanding Merits in Journalism and other CEI Prizes/Awards.
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.
Tania Pibernik <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Cooperation Activities in the area of Life-long Education and Training; English reviser/copy-editor of CEI website, publications and official documents; management of Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP AUSTRIA).
Paola Plancher <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Supervision of procedural requirements and administrative evaluation of CEI Cooperation Activities. Coordination of ministerial and other high-level meetings organised at CEI Headquarters.
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.

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.

Unit for EU Projects

Anna Marconato
Project Manager

Overall financial supervision, advice on project management, management of human resources of the Unit for EU projects; Management of EU projects including related financial administration (COME-IN!, CONNECT2CE, SECNET, SENTINEL, SULPiTER); Design of new project proposals; Management of activities financed by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (supervision of the technical experts in the Culture and Health sectors/ organization of events celebrating the 300 th anniversary of Maria Theresa of Austria); Cooperation Activities in the area of Civil Society.

Ugo Poli
Project Manager
Focal Point Migrations

Management of EU projects including related financial administration (tARTini); Design of new project proposals; Management of activities financed by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (MIGRALONA Project); Cooperation Activities in the area of Migrations.

Paolo Dileno
Project Manager (as of Junly 2017)

Management of EU projects including related financial administration (CONNECT2CE); Design of new project proposals; Management of activities financed by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (SILK2FVG Project).

Alberto Cozzi
Project Manager (until May 2017)

Management of EU projects including related financial administration (SULPiTER, SUMPORT); Design of new project proposals; Management of activities financed by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (EGTC, SILK2FVG Project).

Peter Canciani
Project Manager

Management of EU projects including related financial administration (DANUBE Inco NET, ETIP bioenergy SABS, SUMPORT); Design of new project proposals.

Ana Sinkovic
Project Officer

Management of communication activities, reporting, day-to-day project management.

Olga Izquierdo Sotorrío
Project Officer

Support on reporting, day-to-day project management and communication activities.

ANNEX 4. EU-FUNDED PROJECTS

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: Accessibility to Cultural Heritage

Duration: 07/2016-06/2019

Total cost: €2,727,737.50

Budget administered by the CEI: €381.980,00

The project COME-IN! (Cooperating for Open access to Museums – towards a widEr INclusion) is funded under the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme and aims at enhancing the CE cultural heritage, increasing the capacities of small and medium-sized museums, by making them accessible to a wider public of people with different kinds of disabilities.

The CEI-ES, 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 strive to define transnational high-level standards and ensure know-how transfer to guarantee accessibility to museums involved in the project. Guidelines will be developed to help organise accessible collections and exhibitions and a training handbook for museum operators will be made available.

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:

- The COME-IN! Guidelines for making a museum accessible and the Handbook for museum operators were elaborated and published on the web in July 2017.
- The first investment in the Archaeological museum of Udine was realised and launched in November 2017.

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

ETIP Bioenergy - SABS (ETIP BIO)

EU Programme: Horizon2020

CEI role: Partner

Participating countries: Austria, Germany, Italy

Area: Renewable Energy/Bioeconomy

Duration: 09/2016—08/2018

Total cost: €599,105.00

Budget administered by the CEI: €95,062.50

The ETIP Bioenergy SABS project is funded in the framework of the Horizon 2020 Programme and is jointly implemented by the German Agency for renewable resources (FNR), the Austrian research centre Bioenergy 2020+, the Italian consultancy ETA Florence Renewable Energy, and the CEI.

The project, launched in September 2016, capitalises upon the experience of the EBTP SABS Project, which was successfully finalised in August 2016, and reflects the evolution of the former European Biofuels Technology Platform into the European Technology and Innovation Platform Bioenergy that has been set forth in the framework of the new SET-Plan governance.

The new denomination 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. ETIP Bioenergy is officially recognised by the EC as a main strategic interlocutor in the context of SET-Plan activities.

The project supports 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.

The ETIP Bioenergy-SABS project fosters cohesion of bioenergy stakeholders by motivating discussion and interaction on topics related to advanced and innovative bioenergy. Key instruments are the ETIP Bioenergy website, factsheets, reports, newsletters and networking events at different scales. The CEI is involved in ETIP Bioenergy SABS mainly to foster the establishment of linkages between stakeholders from EU Member States active in relevant R&D with counterparts from CEI member countries. In line with the CEI Mission, particular attention is devoted to informing policymakers and other stakeholders from Central, East and South-East Europe on most recent developments in policy and research in the field of advanced biofuels and energy carriers.

Highlights:

- ETIP Bioenergy SABS contributed to SET-Plan activities by supporting the definition of targets for renewable energy in transport.
- ETIP Bioenergy SABS fostered the contribution of the advanced biofuels community to the RED II debate.
- ETIP Bioenergy SABS supported the Platform in electing its new governance.
- The ETIP Bioenergy SABS project will organize three workshops in 2018 in order to involve more stakeholders in the current bioenergy debate.

For more information : <http://www.etipbioenergy.eu/>

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

EU Programme: CENTRAL EUROPE

CEI role: Partner

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

Area: Mobility

Duration: 05/2017-04/2019

Total cost: €2,440,658.30

Budget administered by the CEI: €180,050.00

The project SULPiTER (Sustainable Urban Logistics Planning To Enhance Regional freight transport) has been developed to support policy makers in improving their understanding of the Functional Urban Area freight phenomena in an energy and environmental perspective, enhancing their capacity in urban freight mobility planning in order to develop and adopt Sustainable Urban Logistics Plans – SULPs. The project intends to reduce carbon-footprint and improve the efficiency and competitiveness of freight transport in functional urban areas in Central Europe by shaping and improving urban freight policies of Central Europe cities, metropolitan contexts and regions. This will be done by incorporating the business needs of involved FUAs into local policies, by integrating cross-sectorial perspectives into urban freight mobility planning and by developing policies that consider the FUAs complex economic and freight transport relations between inner urban centres and its surrounding territories. The Project will focus on several FUAs in Central Europe, namely Bologna, Budapest, Poznan, Brescia, Stuttgart, Maribor and Rijeka, whose authorities are involved in the project as fully-fledged partners. They will be assisted by local, regional and national non-partner authorities and technical partners to ensure improved and adopted policies for the future energy and environmental sustainability of freight transport.

The CEI participates in the project as project partner, dealing with rolling out of results for low-carbon freight in CE FUAs and dissemination activities.

Highlights:

- The testing phase of the Freight Quality Partnership (FQP) of the SULPiTER project (Sustainable Urban Logistics Planning To Enhance Regional freight transport) has officially started. Under the guidance of the Regional Union of the Chamber of Commerce of Veneto, these new joint coordination tools – designed to define policies for urban freight distribution – will initially be assessed in seven European cities (i.e., Bologna, Budapest, Maribor, Poznan, Prescia, Rijeka and Stuttgart).
- The Call for proposals of the SULPiTER Enlarged Transfer Programme (ETP) was launched. The programme aims to identify and develop a direct dialogue with at least 20 non-partner authorities mainly from the Central Europe Programme Area, competent for freight transport and logistics in Functional Urban Areas (FUAs) and train them to enhance their understanding and skills in policy making for urban energy efficient freight in a mutual learning process.

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

Improved rail connections and smart mobility in Central Europe (CONNECT2CE)

EU Programme: Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

CEI role: Lead Partner

Participating countries: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia

Area: Mobility

Duration: 06/2017-05/2020

Total cost: €2,703,435.20

Budget administered by the CEI: €314,029.60

CONNECT2CE aims at tackling the weak accessibility of regional, peripheral and cross-border areas of Central Europe to/from the main regional/national/EU transport networks and hubs, caused by the long-lasting phenomenon of urbanisation. A consequence of this has brought about a steady decreasing of the rural population, thus leading to lower density and sparsely populated rural and peripheral areas, where efficient public transport (PT) is challenging. CONNECT2CE will enhance the qualitative and quantitative understanding and the awareness of present and future regional public transport systems in CE and endow project partners, authorities and regional PT operators with tools and skills to shape their PT policies. Ultimately, this will improve the capacities of the public sector in CE to efficiently plan peripheral and cross-border public transport systems.

CONNECT2CE will do so by elaborating harmonised and coordinated transnational strategies, action plans and tools to be mainstreamed and implemented at regional and cross border level through pilot actions, in three areas all connected and intertwined with one another and all being essential elements that contribute to the enhancement of PT services of peripheral/cross-border regions:

- Connectivity (PSOs/PSCs, harmonisation of multimodal timetables, regional and cross-border rail services).
- Integrated ticketing and tariff schemes (integration of regional and cross border multimodal tickets will be tested and implemented for the first time).
- Implementation of the most efficient and innovative ICT tools on info-mobility.

These outputs will be developed at transnational level, as common solutions to common problems. This approach will be applied throughout the duration of the project, by the active participation of all project partners in all work packages applying the elaborated territorial strategies and action plans at local, regional and cross-border level, thereby combining transport and territorial development.

Highlights:

- The project was launched with its Kick off meeting held in Trieste on June 13-14 2017.
- Preliminary activities for the development of the pilot actions were performed in the second semester of 2017.

For more information: <http://www.central2020.eu/Content.Node/CONNECT2CE.html>

International Cooperation Network for the Danube Region (DANUBE INCO NET)

EU Programme: 7th Framework Programme

CEI role: Partner

Participating countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, Poland, Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Sweden

Area: Research & Innovation

Duration: 01/2014—06/2017

Total cost: €1,996,467.00

Budget administered by the CEI: €176,955.43

The project DANUBE-INCO.NET was a Coordination and Support Action funded under the EU 7th Framework Programme to address the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) in the field of research and innovation (R&I). The region is one of the most diverse in Europe and home to over 100 million residents. It includes both EU Member States (MS) and non-Member States, being very different in terms of economic strengths and research and innovation systems and profiles.

Whereas the EUSDR concerns a wide variety of priority areas, the project mainly focused on two of them: PA 7 “Knowledge Society” and PA 8 “Competitiveness”. In these fields of action, Danube-INCO.NET promoted policy dialogue and the integration of Danubian R&I systems into the European Research Area (ERA) through analytical work, networking among key stakeholders and overall support to R&I activities.

By joining forces from 19 project partners, under the coordination of the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Danube-INCO.NET sought to overcome obstacles hindering the social and economic development of the Danube Region. Between January 2014 and June 2017, the project put great efforts to ensure that events, publications and policy recommendations related to R&I cooperation in the Danube Region could reach a broad audience interested and engaged in the development of the Danube Region.

Highlights:

In 2017, the CEI-ES dedicated specific attention to the development of bio-economy in the Danube Region. This topic was addressed through a combination of networking events and pilot actions, implemented in the previous years. Danube region stakeholders were involved in an international “Triple-Helix Conference” on Bio-based Economy, two Clustering Workshop and two Brokerage Events. Moreover, two pilot actions, selected through a call for proposals, were implemented, namely “Towards a Danube bioeconomy RTI strategy for appropriate regional added value Chains” and “Building a Bioeconomy Research and Advocacy Network in the Danube Region (DANUBIONET)”. Altogether, they allowed for organising three Strategy Workshops and two Open Innovation Events, while carrying out one online consultation and one survey. The achievements of the pilot actions were discussed in a final workshop held at the premises of the CEI-ES in May 2017, whose final outcome was the agreement on ten recommendations “Towards a Danube Region Bioeconomy Concept”. Recommendations cover a broad spectrum of aspects, stemming from governance to finance, from research to innovation and civil society engagement. In particular, they highlight the importance of promoting a comprehensive, inter-disciplinary approach as a precondition to make full use of the widely acknowledged biomass potential existing in the Danube Region. They represent a starting point for developing new projects and initiatives aimed at contributing to the transition of the Danube Region to bioeconomy.

For more information: <https://danube-inco.net/>

Sustainable Urban Mobility in MED port cities (SUMPORT)

EU Programme: Interreg MED

CEI role: Lead Partner

Participating countries: Italy, Spain, Slovenia, Albania, Montenegro, Greece, Cyprus

Area: Low Carbon Economy

Duration: 02/2017-07/2019

Total cost: €2,358,759.20

Budget administered by the CEI: €392,562.11

The project SUMPORT – Sustainable Urban Mobility in MED port cities – is co-financed by the Interreg MED Programme and aims at supporting the uptake of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) in six port cities of the Mediterranean Basin, and at implementing them at local level through pilot actions.

Led by the CEI and participated by partners from Slovenia, Montenegro, Albania, as well as Spain, Greece, Italy and Cyprus, SUMPORT focuses on increasing the planning capacities on sustainable mobility in port cities through training activities and exchange of experiences. As a result, the partners from Koper, Kotor, Durres, Igoumenitsa, Limassol and Valencia will draft or update their own Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs).

During its first year of implementation, the project set consistent methodological grounds for assessing local needs in terms of sustainable mobility and GHG reduction, as well as for the implementation of pilot actions for testing sustainable mobility options, such as bicycle lanes and a bike sharing system, carpooling, ICT applications for public transport, etc. Moreover, the foreseen training activities were launched and will be completed in 2018; in order to facilitate capacity enhancing and ensure sustainability. In the framework of the project activities, the CEI will set up an e-learning platform that will consolidate and make accessible the knowledge accrued by all projects of the Urban Transport Community of the MED Programme. Dedicated dissemination events will be organised in all port cities participating in SUMPORT, while the project will be represented at main sectoral events throughout the upcoming 18 months.

Highlights:

- The 3rd Project Steering Committee meeting was held in Koper in December 2016.
- A comprehensive methodological framework has been designed for the implementation of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans and pilot actions.
- Two training seminars were organised.
- SUMPORT is actively involved in activities organised by the MED Programme.

For more information <https://sumport.interreg-med.eu/>

Innovation in Health And Care for All (ITHACA)

EU Programme: Interreg EUROPE

CEI role: Partner

Participating countries: Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, UK

Area: Health

Duration: 01/2017-12/2021

Total cost: €2,263,152.61

Budget administered by the CEI: €298,300.00

The primary goal of ITHACA (InnovaTion in Health And Care for All) financed under the Interreg EUROPE Programme, is to refine regional policies in order to support innovative businesses, create growth and scale up the deployment of innovative health and care solutions. ITHACA aims at enhancing efficient regional ecosystems by supporting the development of effective and innovative health-related solutions for an active and healthy ageing.

ITHACA will incorporate interregional collaboration, involving a wide range of expert stakeholders that comprises exchange of good practices, mutual learning, peer assessment, knowledge transfer, targeted coaching and collective, co-designed policy development. The results will be: smarter healthcare policies and stronger regional and interregional ecosystems for the benefit of European citizens.

The CEI is dealing with the overall management and implementation of the Project on behalf of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.

Through ITHACA the partner regions will:

- Improve their regional development and smart specialisation policies and make them more effective.
- Improve learning cultures and knowledge for all stakeholders in the smart health and care ecosystems - bringing about real change to policy, practice and impact.
- Develop regional action plans for innovating and scaling up smart health and care solutions.
- Communicate ITHACA's learning directly to other EU regions, and relevant European networks.
- Strengthen corporation between public authorities, research institutions, private innovators and civil society to build the European market in smart health and care solutions for active and healthy ageing

Highlights:

- The CEI actively participated in the Expert task Force that set up the methodological guidelines for the self-assessment of regional smart health systems and for the participation of the regional stakeholders in the process of drafting new regional strategies and policies. A CEI expert was involved in the expert group that drafted the questionnaire for the survey on regional self-assessment and the methodological framework of the regional stakeholders' workshops.
- The CEI supported the FVG Region in the organisation and implementation of the first Regional Stakeholders' Workshop in Trieste on 10 July at the FVG Region premises (Sala Tessitori) with the participation of around 40 regional stakeholders, both public and private organisations. The CEI senior expert coordinated the meeting and participated as speaker presenting the contents of the project and carrying out the methodological coordination with the participants.
- The CEI expert participated in the Peer Review Meeting and Expert Task Force meetings in Liverpool (April 2017) and Eindhoven (October 2017), giving an evaluation contribution on strategies and services promoted by participant regions through the Ithaca Project.
- The Kick off meeting was held in Eindhoven on 24-26 October, 2017.
- CEI expert Gian Matteo Apuzzo presented ITHACA Project during the Conference on Policy for Health Innovation. It was organised by Euro Bio High Tech in Trieste on 22 September 2017, and more specifically during the round table about Experiences and Innovation in Health Systems.

For more information : <https://www.interregeurope.eu/ithaca/>

Advancing the role of social enterprises in the economic and social sector of Central European countries (SENTINEL)**EU Programme:** Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE**CEI role:** Partner**Participating countries:** Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovenia**Area:** Social Innovation**Duration:** 05/2017-04/2020**Total cost:** €2,110,521.20**Budget administered by the CEI:** €250,537.50

The overall objective is to strengthen the capacities and management competencies of social enterprises to better exploit their role in economic development, labour market inclusion and social inclusion in Central European regions.

The specific objectives of the project are to:

- Advance the organisational structure and operational processes of social enterprises by adapting business models and approaches from innovation-driven sectors and actors.
- Improve skills and competencies as well as entrepreneurial mind sets of employees of social enterprises in order to foster their transition to the primary labour market.
- Set up cooperation models involving business and public actors in order to provide a continuously supportive environment for social enterprise development.

Highlights:

- The Kick off meeting was held in Budapest on 15-16 June 2017,
- The CEI is responsible for developing the pilot actions in Carnia and Cadore, focusing on social enterprises in mountain areas,
- The CEI contributed to the Italian country report by analysing Italian case studies and best practices in social innovation.

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

Cross-border institutional cooperation for Port Security Enhancement (SECNET)**EU Programme:** Interreg ITALY-SLOVENIA**CEI role:** Partner**Participating countries:** Italy, Slovenia**Area:** Port security and governance**Duration:** 10/2017-09/2019**Total cost:** €1,299,675.00**Budget administered by the CEI:** €133,650.00

SECNET (Crossborder institutional cooperation for Port Security Enhancement) is a project funded under the cross-border Interreg Programme Italy-Slovenia 2014-2020. It aims at strengthening institutional capacity and cross-border governance of port security. Due to the strong geopolitical instability and to the risk of terrorist attacks, additional security measures have been put into place, often causing slow movement of goods and minor interest in ports. SECNET will enhance the security of ports in Trieste, Koper and Venice, by introducing an innovative ICT system, providing technical expertise and joint cross-border know-how. The acquired knowledge will be tested through two pilot actions: enhancement of cyber-security and perimeter security.

A cross-border institutional network will be established, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding to provide a cross-border port security strategy, which will turn project results into long-term policies. The latter document will include cooperation with other ports in the region: Monfalcone, Porto di Nogaro and Chioggia.

Highlights:

- The CEI is mainly responsible for the project communication and dissemination activities, as well as for the involvement of specific stakeholders in the implementation of cross-border port security.
- The Kick off meeting was held in Trieste on 12 October 2017.

For more information : <http://www.cei.int/content/secnet-crossborder-institutional-cooperation-port-security-enhancement>

Turismo culturale all'insegna di Giuseppe Tartini - Kulturni turizem v znamenju Giuseppeja Tartinija (tARTini)**EU Programme:** Interreg ITALY-SLOVENIA**CEI role:** Partner**Participating countries:** Italy, Slovenia**Area:** Cultural Heritage**Duration:** 10/2017-09/2019**Total cost:** €1,286,926.00**Budget administered by the CEI:** €212,059.00

The project "tARTini: Turismo culturale all'insegna di Giuseppe Tartini - Kulturni turizem v znamenju Giuseppeja Tartinija" is co-funded under the Interreg Programme Italy-Slovenia 2014-2020 and aims at promoting the cultural heritage of the great musician from Piran, Giuseppe Tartini, in the area by increasing the value of his artistic, didactic and philosophical legacy.

tARTini aims at creating a new cross-border itinerary of sustainable cultural tourism by stimulating the research, conservation and promotion of the heritage of Giuseppe Tartini.

The Municipality of Piran is leading the partnership that includes the participation of the Comunità degli Italiani Pirano, the Lubiana Festival, il Conservatorio Giuseppe Tartini of Trieste, the University of Padova and the Central European Initiative Secretariat.

The main results will be the increasing number of visitors in the area, the requalification of the house-museum Tartini in Pirano and the introduction of technological tools to access and enjoy Tartini's legacy. This will set a model of valorisation of a shared cultural heritage between Italy and Slovenia that could be replicated in other transnational realities within the CEI's constituency.

Highlights:

- The Kick Off meeting was held in Piran on 25 October 2017.
- The CEI Secretariat will have a key role in the project, dealing with the communication activities for the integration of results of the four project dimensions (scientific, social, communicative, multimedia) and improving accessibility to and promotion of Tartini's heritage. These activities include the creation of a thorough communication plan, the organisation of a study visit to Salzburg for experts and of dissemination and training events.

For more information: <http://www.cei.int/content/tartini-turismo-culturale-allinsegna-di-giuseppe-tartini-kulturni-turizem-v-znamenju-giusepp>

ANNEX 5. TECHNICAL COOPERATION (TC) PROJECTS

Albanian Railways - Asset Management Plan and Track Access Charges Methodology (Value: €350,000)

Albanian Railways - Development of Accounting and Reporting Systems for Full International Financial Reporting Compliance (Value: €150,000)

Albanian Railways - Assistance with Civil Society Engagement (Value: €120,000)

Country: Albania

Sector: Transport

Total cost: €620,000.00

Expected investment related: €92.03 million (€36.87 million from EBRD)

Background and investment links:

The EBRD is providing a sovereign loan of up to €36.87 million to the Government of Albania to be channelled to the Albanian Railways (Hekurudha Shqiptare – HSH, the Company). The loan will finance: i) the rehabilitation of the existing railway line between the cities of Tirana and Durres with an approximate length of 34.17 km; and ii) the construction of a new railway link approximately 7.4 km in length to connect the existing Tirana-Durres rail line with the Tirana International Airport (TIA) and the interchange with the existing line. The proceeds of the Bank's loan will be used to co-finance the construction works related to this Project.

The Project is expected to be co-financed with grants provided through the Western Balkans Investment Framework for construction works, works supervision and project implementation support. The total Project cost is estimated to be up to €92.03 million. The Project is part of Route 2 of the Western Balkans Core Network connecting the cities of Podgorica in Montenegro and Vlore in Albania and has been established as an indicative extension to the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) to the Western Balkans core railway network.

The Project is part of the Connectivity Agenda of the European Union, which promotes transport connectivity in the Western Balkans as an important factor for economic development, regional cooperation and EU integration.

It will support Albania's national economic development and contribute to its regional integration by improving the connectivity of its main cities to the Port of Durres and TIA. The Project will include sector reform and institutional strengthening measures in the following areas:

- **Asset Management Plan and Track Access Charges:** developing an Asset Management Plan, which will include a survey of the condition of the Company's assets, as well as an assessment of the full cost of operating and maintaining the network. This will enable an efficient allocation of maintenance resources and provide a transparent basis for the calculation of track access charges in line with the EU rail sector guidelines, which will enable open and transparent third-party access to the network.
- **International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Accounting:** improving the Company's accounting and reporting systems to enable the Company to prepare financial statements that are fully compliant with IFRS.
- **Green Economy:** the provision of high-quality rail services which is fundamental for the development of sustainable transport systems, which reduce CO2 emissions in line with national and EU transport policy targets.

A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will oversee the implementation of the Project and will comprise members of the Company, the Albanian Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure (MTI), and other relevant stakeholders. The Project will be supported by the CEI through the financing of three technical cooperation assignments.

The Project will be supported by the CEI through the financing of three technical cooperation assignments:

Albanian Railways - Asset Management Plan and Track Access Charges Methodology

Objectives:

MTI is responsible for the overall management and development of sector policies. A new Rail Code based on EU directives is being drafted with the assistance of the European Commission. Upon adoption, the new Rail Code should pave the way for restructuring HSH and separating train operations from infrastructure management in line with the *acquis communautaire*, and for setting up an independent regulatory authority and safety authority. In preparation for this separation, technical assistance is required to assist MTI with the following tasks:

- Development of an Asset Management Plan, including an assessment of the full cost and direct cost of maintaining and operating the infrastructure.
- Assistance with the implementation and application of the Track Access Charges methodology.

Albanian Railways - Development of accounting and reporting systems for full IFRS compliance

Objectives:

Currently the Company's accounting policies and procedures are not compliant with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Technical assistance is required to provide advice on amendments needed and support the Company in preparing financial records and reporting fully compliant with IFRS.

Technical assistance will ensure the transfer of skills to the relevant HSH staff for developing in-house capacities for the preparation of financial statements as well as other relevant management financial information fully compliant with IFRS. Training workshops will be provided, as well as on-the-job trainings to the Chief Financial Officer and its team and other relevant HSH staff for the implementation of the newly developed policies, procedures and other business information processes developed under the Project.

Albanian Railways - Assistance with Civil Society Engagement

Objectives:

The EBRD's investment Project will also include the introduction of measures to increase security. In addition to physical measures such as fencing and barriers at level crossings, behavioural changes are needed in order to optimise the movement of pedestrians, livestock and vehicles restricting crossings only to authorised points where safety can be monitored and improved.

Technical assistance is required to raise public awareness about the benefits of rail transportation and to promote safe rail crossing

practices in Albania. In particular, the technical assistance will focus on transferring skills (technical knowledge, communication, and outreach skills) to the Albanian civil society sector to enable local civil society organisations (CSOs) to effectively reach out to target citizen groups in order to promote behavioural changes for a greater and safer use of public transport. However, the capacity of local civil society organisations to implement the necessary awareness raising and communication activities is limited.

This technical assistance will help increase civil society capacity and public awareness about environmental, social, and economic benefits of rail transport, the safety risks and consequent improvements associated with the changes to the line and the altered movement of trains as well as legal provisions regarding railway trespassing.

FBIH Roads: Flood Repair and Upgrade - Introduction of Quality Management Systems and obtaining the ISO 9001 standard

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sector: Transport

Total cost: €35,000.00

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

Background and investment links:

The EBRD is providing a €65 million loan to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to be on lent to the Roads of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Company (FBIH Roads – the Company). The sovereign loan will be composed of two instalments:

- Instalment 1 (€32 million) will be used for civil works related to the repair of damages caused by heavy floods during May 2014, for the reconstruction of bridges and tunnels, the construction of a part of the Mostar bypass and the reconstruction of parts of the existing Kaonik – Gromiljak road section.
- Instalment 2 (€33 million) will be used to finance civil works for the construction of road sections and bypass road sections (in Mostar, Bihac, Bugojno, Donji Vakuf, Grude and Novi Travnik, and a part of the road section Bihac - Bosanska Krupa) and will be disbursed only after completion of the land acquisition process.

The loan is meant to enable FBIH Roads to repair the road infrastructure in the areas damaged by the severe floods that have affected the country in recent years and to upgrade important primary road sections in the FBIH (the Project).

The total estimated cost of the Project is €165 million. It is part of the investment programme of the FBIH Roads for the repair and upgrade of the primary road network in the FBIH. The European Investment Bank and the World Bank are expected to provide parallel financing for other road sections under this investment programme amounting to €50 million each.

The EBRD funds will not only support road improvements but also measures to strengthen the company's management, enhance procurement procedures, upgrade road traffic safety systems and procedures, introduce measures to increase climate change resilience and improve the company's economic performance.

The CEI Fund is currently financing another technical assistance assignment related to this investment Project with €135,000 entitled Climate Resilience in the Bosnian Road Network. FBIH Roads – Flood Repair and Upgrade

Objectives:

The objective of this assignment is to help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Company's existing Quality Management System and to help FBIH Roads obtain ISO 9001 certification for the first phase of ISO 9001 implementation.

Supporting Public-Private Partnerships in the Transport Sector in Belarus: Road Sector Reform

Country: Belarus

Sector: Transport

Total cost: €100,000.00

Expected investment related: €250 million (from EBRD)

Background and investment links:

According to the National Infrastructure Plan for 2016-2030 for Belarus, the need for transport sector investments is estimated at USD 5.6 billion by 2020. However, only USD 1.6 billion are expected to be allocated from the state and local budgets for transport infrastructure development. Therefore, the difference is expected to be covered by private investments. A significant amount of reforms to the transport sector is needed to attract investors and facilitate the necessary financing.

In the road sector, the Government of Belarus is working closely with international organisations, including the EBRD, to finance roads and carry out needed sector reforms. For example, the Belarusian authorities have recently established a public private partnership (PPP) centre in order to facilitate the development of concessions and PPPs in various infrastructure sectors. The EBRD is also working with the Belarusian authorities on developing the first road PPP project (the M-10) in the country.

The current estimate of the EBRD planned investment in the Belarus' transport sector over the next three years amounts to €250 million. The final figures are subject to project planning developments. This assignment will support the development of the investments concerning both PPP projects and sovereign lending projects in the sector. This TC will be linked to the PPP pipeline in the transport sector in Belarus, specifically in the road sector. It is envisioned that the eventual EBRD investment will support connectivity within Belarus and beyond. The Bank will also consider sovereign lending to the road sector in addition to promoting private sector participation. There is a pipeline under consideration and based on the outcome and recommendations of this assignment, the Bank would be able to include relevant sector specific covenants for subsequent implementation.

Objectives:

In order to facilitate private investments in the road infrastructure development, the regulatory framework has to be improved and there are a number of issues that have to be addressed in the road construction and maintenance.

The aim of this technical assistance is to analyse and identify key shortcomings in the current management of the sector, funding and financing schemes and to provide policy advice on improving the road sector regulatory framework in line with international best practices. Based on the findings, this assignment will provide recommendations on the following: improvement of the efficiency of public road management; sector financing schemes and possible financing sources for the road works (excise taxes, road user charges, etc.); implementation of periodical and routine maintenance; and attraction of the private sector in maintenance works.

Green Economy Transition Project Preparation and Implementation Framework

Country: Regional (non-EU CEI countries)

Sector: Energy

Total cost: €97,500.00

Expected investment related: €22 million (from EBRD)

Background and investment links:

Over the years, the importance awarded to aspects of the green economy in the EBRD's activities has significantly increased, reflecting both the priorities of the Bank's countries of operation, as well as the growing attention paid to environmental sustainability at international level. The Green Economy Transition (GET) was launched in 2015 to address the challenges of energy efficiency and climate change in its countries of operation, one of the most energy intensive regions in the world.

Because of the financial and economic crisis, energy efficiency and environmental projects are at risk of being delayed and cancelled. There is an opportunity for the EBRD to provide for the needs of public and private clients in the current market context, thereby fulfilling its transition mandate through the promotion of market innovation and the introduction of best practices in the broader energy and environmental aspect.

The GET Project Preparation and Implementation Framework (the "Programme") will have an initial value of €5 million comprising 70-90 sub-activities. The amount requested from the CEI to support the preparation of GET projects in the non-EU CEI Member States would support at least two activities under the Programme. The EBRD's estimated investment linked to this assignment amounts to €22 million.

Through the GET Programme, the Bank will be able to help its clients identify and realise energy and resource efficiency, climate change adaptation and environmental protection opportunities in their own operations. It will also be able to provide targeted training and assist in better prioritising and implementing the associated investments.

By providing the GET Programme, the Bank will be able to help its clients identify and realise energy and resource efficiency, climate change adaptation and environmental protection opportunities in their own operations as well as provide targeted training and assist in better prioritising and implementing the associated investments.

Objectives:

The overall objective of the Programme is to assist both the Bank and its clients in the preparation and implementation of the most appropriate Investment Programmes or projects that will strengthen energy security with the highest possible resource efficiency and reduced environmental impacts. The Programme will mainly target the general industry, agribusiness, power, property, tourism, transport, natural resource and municipal sector projects, but it will be available to support any project in the public, and corporate sectors that may potentially have GET components in them. The main objectives of the Programme are to raise the priority of GET projects and ensure that viable projects are incorporated into a client's long-term investment plan.

This is a sector-driven approach, whereby the sustainability of the investment projects will be reviewed against minimum performance criteria applicable to the specific industrial sub-sector. These will be adapted to a specific country, thereby ensuring that only appropriate equipment and technologies with Best Available Techniques (BAT) characteristics are used.

This may be reinforced by policy dialogue elements (e.g. review of applicable standardisation in the specific country) and by establishing links to other initiatives of the Bank aimed at increasing market penetration of advanced sustainable technologies such as vendor finance schemes with technology providers. As an integral part of the services provided to existing and prospective EBRD clients, the Programme also includes the review and assessment of the components and technical measures that can generate carbon credits.

Corridor Vc in Republika Srpska – Introduction of a Quality Management System and support in obtaining ISO standards (Value: €70,000)

Corridor Vc in Republika Srpska – Procurement Certification Support (Value: €70,000)

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sector: Transport

Total cost: €140,000.00

Expected investment related: €170 million (€70 million from EBRD)

Background and investment links:

The EBRD is considering providing a sovereign-guaranteed loan up to €70 million to Republika Srpska Motorways (RSM) to construct a key section of Corridor Vc between Johovac and Rudanka in the Republika Srpska (RS) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), including the interchanges at each end of the section. BiH will guarantee the loan with a back-to-back warranty from RS. Parallel financing up to €100 million will be provided by a sovereign loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The development of Corridor Vc is a strategic priority for BiH. The investment project will support BiH's national economic development and contribute to the regional integration of BiH by improving the connectivity of its main cities to the capital city of Sarajevo and to the neighbouring countries.

The Bank's country strategy also notes that the EBRD will consider financing upgrades of key infrastructure networks, including Corridor Vc and other parts of strategic transport networks in line with the indicative network definition set up for this region in the new EU TEN-T regulation, in parallel with the reform of relevant institutions and infrastructure companies.

The investment project is the first operation for the development of Corridor Vc in RS and follows the previous projects of the Bank for the construction of key sections of Corridor Vc in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in BiH, with a total length of approximately 50 km.

The investment project is the first operation for the development of Corridor Vc in RS and follows the previous projects of the Bank for the construction of key sections of Corridor Vc in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a total length of approximately 50 km.

The investment project will be supported by technical assistance covering the following issues:

- Post-signing technical assistance for the introduction of quality-management systems and support for obtaining ISO standards.
- Post-signing technical assistance for adopting internationally recognised procurement standards and obtaining the certification from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS).

The Project will be supported by the CEI through the financing of two technical cooperation assignments:

Corridor Vc in Republika Srpska – Introduction of a Quality Management System and support in obtaining ISO standards

Objectives:

The overall objective of the proposed technical cooperation assignment is to assist RSM in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its Quality Management System and obtaining ISO 9001 certification for the first phase of ISO 9001 implementation. The TC will:

- Perform a gap analysis against the ISO requirements and produce a gap analysis report.
- Outline ways to address the gaps in order to develop the necessary documentation for ISO certification.
- Develop all mandatory procedures and guide the Project team on implementing them.
- Develop and conduct a customised training course that will include: (i) top/senior management briefing, (ii) planning, documentation and implementation workshop for ISO project team; and, (iii) awareness programme for all employees.
- Provide training to internal auditors and guide the internal auditor team in conducting required numbers of internal audits.
- Assist in the evaluation of an implemented quality management system through internal audits including closure actions.
- Provide support in the preparation and review of final documents prior to certification.

Corridor Vc in Republika Srpska – Procurement Certification Support

Objectives:

The overall objective of the proposed technical cooperation assignment is to assist RSM in benchmarking their current procurement practices and in preparing for certification by the CIPS, including:

- Benchmarking of the client's procurement staff and systems by a recognised professional international procurement certification assessment body to international best practice in procurement. Emphasis will be placed on sustainable procurement with pre-defined and verifiable targets for improvement and outcomes.
- Preparing and implementing an action plan for certification leading to achievement of certification by CIPS, covering measures to improve sustainable procurement practices.

The assignment will be undertaken by the CIPS, a respected international organisation acknowledged as leader in procurement accreditation and certification. It has specialised skills required to both benchmark the Client's current procurement processes and prepare an action plan for procurement certification.

Preparation of the Study on improvement of public transportation and preparation of tender for a multi-year public lines distribution

Country: Montenegro

Sector: Transport

Total cost: €150,000.00

Expected investment related: €40 million (from EBRD)

Background and investment links:

The EBRD is considering providing a loan to Montenegro of up to €40 million to finance its rehabilitation, upgrading and supervision of three sections of the country's main road network with a total length of approximately 51.5 km.

The investment has been identified as a key priority by the Government of Montenegro and is part of its Transport Development Strategy. It will support economic development and contribute to cross-border integration by improving connectivity between its main cities and between Montenegro and neighbouring Serbia.

The works will improve the road infrastructure and services between the Tivat airport and the country's main tourist destinations near the city of Budva in the Adriatic, facilitating the flow of goods, domestic and international tourists as well as reducing transportation costs.

The investment will thus focus on:

- Rehabilitation and construction of a road section approximately 20 km in length, including the reconstruction of bridges and tunnels, of the M-2 road between Rožaje and Špiljani near the border with Serbia.
- Rehabilitation and widening of a road section from two to four lanes, approximately 16 km in length between the coastal town of Tivat and Jaz beach, near the city of Budva.
- Rehabilitation and widening of a road section from two to four lanes approximately 15.5 km in length between the capital city Podgorica and Danilovgrad.

The works comprise road-widening, replacement of structural layers and drainage structures and asphalt resurfacing, strengthening of bridges and tunnels and construction of retaining walls.

Objectives:

The overall objective of this TC assignment is to assist in the preparation of a study on the improvement of public transportation and the preparation of a tender for a multi- year public line distribution.

6th International Master's Programme in Public Procurement Management, Class 2018/2019

Country: Regional

Sector: Capacity Building

Total cost: €62,500.00

Expected investment related: not applicable

Background:

The Procurement Policy Department (PPD) of the EBRD has stressed capacity building as a primary goal for the enhancement of public governance and in particular procurement to achieve transition objectives and policy dialogue goals. Professional higher education plays a major role in ensuring that key procurement management staff has appropriate skills, experience and qualifications to lead and consolidate transition results as a sustainable basis for procurement professionalism and integrity. In order to achieve efficiency and integrity in procurement, public sector procurement officials require best practice guidance and higher education.

To support this goal, the EBRD, together with the University of Rome Tor Vergata (UTV) in Rome (Italy), has developed the International Master's Programme in Public Procurement Management (IMPPM) specifically designed for procurement officials from the Bank's countries of operation. The IMPPM is designed to enable officials to have the capacity to design and administer procurement solutions to resolve complex, strategic, managerial and organisational challenges in addition to contemporary issues on the job. Special emphasis is placed on professional capacity, ethics, transparency and accountability.

The IMPPM in English, in association with the EBRD, was launched in 2013 as a joint pilot programme to respond to the transition development needs in procurement of EBRD member countries. Excellent results achieved with the first (pilot) generation, as well as, the second, third, fourth and fifth generation, serve as basis for the subsequent continuation and consolidation of the IMPPM programme aimed at enhancing public procurement professionalism of countries in transition.

The IMPPM is organised by the Department of Business Government Philosophy Studies, together with the Departments of Law and Industrial Engineering of the UTV, where courses are held in Rome.

Objectives:

The main objective of the IMPPM is to build capacity in procurement through a comprehensive and structured English language Master's Programme, designed to address the training needs of senior managers of public procurement authorities and other major public entities in the EBRD countries of operation while enhancing public procurement professionalism. Graduates from the IMPPM are recognised as future leaders in policy dialogue with the EBRD and champions of the procurement reform process in their corresponding home countries. Securing and availability of scholarships for EBRD countries of operation, especially from non-EU CEI countries, has so far proved to be critical for public sector professionals, to participate and to achieve a meaningful penetration.

The IMPPM responds to the ever-increasing demand created by the evolution of procurement professionals responsible for meeting the changes and challenges of public procurement as a strategic function critical to good governance.

1st Regional Western Balkans Master's Programme in Public Procurement Management, Class 2017/2018

Country: Regional

Sector: Capacity Building

Total cost: €20,000.00

Expected investment related: not applicable

Background:

Procurement is an essential element of economic governance as it links increasing value for public money, public service delivery, and for creating an enabling environment for private sector-led growth. While efficient public procurement is a prerequisite for economic growth and effective public investment, poor governance of public procurement systems can turn public investments into major economic liabilities and result into additional costs and waste of public funds. Indeed, deficient regulation and low capacity for procurement resource management has a substantial economic cost. Despite the potential for supporting the development of the private sector and industry through public procurement, in fact, many local and international firms do not participate in public procurement processes because of a perception that governments are slow payers, difficult to work with, or have their own suppliers for contract awards.

The first EBRD Public Procurement Assessment - Review of Laws and Practice in the EBRD Region, highlighted real and perceived deficiencies in most countries in the EBRD region. The need to develop improved methods of procurement management and purchasing and to maintain high standards of skills and integrity remain a key priority. Given that public procurement represents a key element of the functioning of the internal market, a cornerstone of the EU, the development of efficient public procurement systems in line with EU requirements represents a significant challenge for the accession process of several Western Balkan countries.

The more efficient the management of public procurement is, the better a country can take advantage of its purchasing power to promote economic activity. An efficient and productive management of public procurement depends on the level of procurement professionalism within the government. According to numerous studies, the lack of professionalisation in the procurement administration remains the greatest weakness in many countries. Procurement, in fact, is still not recognised as a specific profession in a third of OECD countries.

In this framework, the Procurement Policy Department of the EBRD, together with the University of Rome Tor Vergata (UTV), has developed the IMPPM specifically designed for procurement officials from the Bank's countries of operation. In recent years, the high number of applicants from the Western Balkans has highlighted the need to fulfil the high demand for training and knowledge on procurement policy from the region.

Given the major opportunity to mitigate weaknesses currently affecting public procurement processes in most of the Western Balkans, and in order to address the chronic scarcity of qualified public procurement experts needed by state bodies and state-owned entities in the region, the EBRD will support the establishment of an international level "Western Balkans Centre of Procurement". The Centre will be housed at the University of Belgrade (UoB), Faculty of Law, and its objective will be to offer a joint Master's Programme with the UTV in Belgrade.

Objectives:

The programme for the academic year 2017/18 will enable students from the region to have the capacity to design and administer procurement solutions to resolve complex, strategic, managerial and organisational challenges in addition to contemporary issues on the job. Special emphasis is placed on professional capacity, ethics, transparency and accountability. The learning activities and training modules cover relevant topics for good procurement such as strategic tools for purchasing procedure, economic analysis of markets, international procurement law, contract complaints and disputes, quality management & green procurement, PPP, integrity & anticorruption in public procurement.

The Master's Programme welcomed the first group of up to 30 students in September 2017. The Centre offers full scholarships to half of the admitted students in order to cover the tuition fees as well as the living expenses in Belgrade for the duration of the Master's course. The diverse and multinational composition of the student group will be one of the main strengths of the course, allowing a variety of perspectives to be shared by the students to complement the in-presence lectures and fostering cross-fertilisation of ideas and innovative procurement solutions.

CEI Support to Small Business Initiative: Expansion of Origination and Execution Capacity Program for SME Direct Finance and Risk Sharing in Belarus

Country: Belarus

Sector: SME Development

Total cost: €90,000.00

Expected investment related: €12 million (from EBRD)

Background and investment links:

Access to finance remains a key impediment to SME growth in Belarus, in particular for local currency financing and more generally longer-term financing. Bank financing continues to be the prevailing source of funding for SMEs in the country, but banks generally do not offer specific SME products or lending practices tailored to the needs of small businesses. The EBRD's ability to support MSME development in Belarus via its traditional instrument of commercial bank credit lines has become constrained by the suspension of cooperation with subsidiaries of Russian state-owned banks in July 2014.

Due to the above constraints to finance MSMEs the usual way, i.e. via commercial bank credit lines, it is important for the EBRD to interfere in the SME finance sector directly, by focusing on smaller companies and lower loan/investment amounts, as well as by expanding its origination and execution capacity.

The EBRD plans to build on its experience of SME direct finance in Belarus so far and step up its direct finance of SMEs (debt and equity) in Belarus, as well as accelerate its risk-sharing programme with the remaining partner banks, to increase the outreach of its indirect finance. Financing will be provided by the EBRD directly through its two main lending instruments, the Direct Finance Framework (DFF) and the Risk Sharing Framework (RSF).

Through DFF, the Bank provides direct financing (debt, equity or quasi-equity) to local SMEs. Through RSF the Bank finances local enterprises (majority of which are SMEs) together with a Partner Financial Institution, sharing the risk.

Small deals with local SMEs can prove challenging, especially considering the material gap between accepted local business standards (e.g. on corporate governance, financial reporting, and environmental protection) and the international standards that the EBRD wishes to promote. Therefore, small deals require extra resources including a much closer involvement at enterprise level to bridge the difference in transaction costs between the EBRD's high standards and the prevailing local standards, and to support post-investment activities. In particular, technical assistance resources are essential for those project implementation activities required during the project preparation and execution phase. In view of the above, TC funds are required to launch and expand the SME financing activity of the EBRD in Belarus, guaranteeing adequate execution capacity on the ground.

The CEI resources will be used to implement 5-6 direct and risk sharing financing transactions with SMEs, with a total financing volume up to €12 million.

Objectives:

The programme's main goal is to facilitate access to finance and promote the sustainable growth of the SME sector, which remains a key source of employment in Belarus. The majority of SMEs benefiting from this programme are expected to introduce new technologies and/or processes that help improve working conditions, organisational and environmental standards, making them more competitive. Their increased competitiveness will generate a good demonstration effect, leading more small and medium-sized businesses to improve operations, hence providing an impact at a sector level.

In order to provide origination, execution and monitoring capacity for the planned increased number of SME transactions, funding is requested for one Analyst position (for 24 months) within SME Finance and Development, to be located in the Minsk Resident Office of the EBRD and to be responsible for SME transactions (both direct and under risk sharing frameworks with remaining partner banks) in Belarus.

ANNEX 6. KNOW-HOW EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (KEP)

KEP ITALY

Innovation Vouchers scheme for resource efficiency technologies and services in Serbia - Support to the implementation and marketing of the innovation vouchers scheme in the country

Ref. No.: 1206.001-17

Know-how provider institution: Department of Management Engineering, Politecnico of Milan, ITALY

Know-how recipient institutions: University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, SERBIA

Area: Enterprise Development

Implementation date: September 2017 - September 2018

Project total cost: €80,000.00

CEI co-financing: €40,000.00

The EBRD is currently working on the implementation of an innovation voucher scheme to be run in Serbia. Innovation Vouchers are an established mechanism for supporting businesses to innovate – especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The purpose of this project to support Serbian SMEs in adopting resource efficient (energy, water and material efficiency) technologies by providing vouchers for Research and Development (R&D) services to be purchased in the country from accredited R&D suppliers. Projects partners, together with the EBRD's Energy Efficiency and Climate Change team, will carry out the following tasks:

1. Organise and conduct the launching event/workshop to deploy the innovation voucher scheme in Serbia.
2. Design the website for the innovation voucher scheme, to ensure the necessary visibility of the initiative and prepare the key application forms.

Through the DRIVE fund, about 450kEUR are available for the innovation vouchers. The expected size of the vouchers will vary from 5 to 15 EUR. Therefore about 30-40 vouchers are expected to be issued.

Strengthening governance through public procurement in the Western Balkans - "Regional Western Balkans Master Programme in Public Procurement Management"

Ref. No.: 1206.002-17

Know-how provider institution: Department of Economics and Finance, University of Rome Tor Vergata, ITALY

Know-how recipient institutions: Western Balkans Centre of Public Procurement Management, Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, SERBIA

Area: Capacity Building

Implementation date: September 2017 - June 2018

Project total cost: €83,500.00

CEI co-financing: €40,000.00

This Project is a pilot assignment for the academic year 2017-18 with the University of Belgrade. The programme would enable students from the region to study and build the capacity needed to design and administer procurement solutions to resolve complex, strategic, managerial and organisational challenges in addition to contemporary issues on the job. Special emphasis is placed on professional capacity, ethics, transparency and accountability. The learning activities and training modules cover relevant topics for good procurement such as strategic tools for purchasing procedure, economic analysis of markets, international procurement law, contract complaints and disputes, quality management & green procurement, PPP, integrity & anticorruption in public procurement. The Master's will be delivered at the campus of the University of Belgrade through 4 days of intensive lectures and seminars taking place each month throughout 12 consecutive calendar months. The Master Programme will welcome the first group of 34 students in September 2017. The Joint Academic Committee, comprising a selected number of professors from the University of Belgrade and the University of Tor Vergata, as well as a representative of the EBRD, will be in charge of evaluating the applications against predetermined admission criteria and will award the scholarships.

HERITAGE FIRST AID: cultural tourism in support of Heritage Conservation

Ref. No.: 1206.003-17

Know-how provider institution: SACIARKEO-Archaeological Service of Central Italy-s.r.l.; University of Urbino - Conservation and Restoration's School, ITALY

Know-how recipient institutions: The Institute of Archaeology, National archaeological museum, ALBANIA

Area: Enterprise Development

Implementation date: February 2018 - February 2019

Project total cost: €84,000.00

CEI co-financing: €37,429.00

The main goal the HEFA project is to provide to the National Archaeological Museum of Albania the cognitive instruments to increase its financial autonomy and preserve its artworks. To enhance the expertise of the local staff and the financial autonomy of the National Archaeological Museum of Tirana, the HEFA project aims at:

- a) transmitting to the personnel of the museum the best techniques to preserve the findings of the museum, and
- b) teaching their team how to develop new touristic management models.

Another specific objective of the HEFA project is to satisfy the European and international standards and to obtain the ISO 9001 certificate. Thanks to the proficiency the Museum personnel will achieve, several findings could be restored and exhibited, the touristic offer could be better managed, and visitors flow will most probably increase. The outcome will be the creation of a virtuous cycle, where parts of the funds earned through tourism will be used for the restoration and management of the museum and the sustainability of the museum will thus be achieved. Therefore, tourism and conservation would support each other.

WASTEOILFREE: Integrated Waste-Oils Management System - Transfer of Best Practices for Safe, Sustainable and Eco-friendly Transport in Serbia

Ref. No.: 1206.004-17

Know-how provider institution: University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague; The Czech Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry CZECH REPUBLIC

Know-how recipient institutions: National Petroleum Committee of Serbia – World Petroleum Council; University of Belgrade - Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, SERBIA

Area: Enterprise Development

Implementation date: February 2018 - December 2018

Project total cost: €41,330.00

CEI co-financing: €17,560.00

The overall project objective is the development of an effective management system, including legal, administrative and technical aspects of waste lubricating oils. Particular attention will be paid to ship borne waste oils, to reduce pollution and improve the environmental protection level through inappropriate management of waste oil reduction, as well as to contribute to the development of a sustainable and an environmentally-friendly transport system in Serbia. Know-how transfer shall be implemented through the organisation of a screening study visit of Czech experts to Serbia and the analysis of the current state of the waste oil management system and existing legal framework in Serbia, the implementation of 2 capacity building trainings in Belgrade for representatives of know-how beneficiary institutions and competent Serbian public authorities. Moreover, a study visit to the Czech Republic will be organised for members of the project Working Group in order to visit relevant authorities and operator(s) in charge of waste oil management (including ship borne waste oils). The main expected project outcomes are: the identification of shortcomings in existing legislative and policy framework related to the waste oil management system (with main focus on ship borne waste oils) in Serbia; the provision of recommendations for best-practice model that could be implemented in Serbia and further improvement of Serbian public authorities' capacities dealing with waste oil management (including ship borne waste oils).

SAFEMEAT

Ref. No.: 1206.005-17

Know-how provider institution: National Research Council - Institute of Photonics and Nanotechnologies, ITALY

Know-how recipient institutions: Faculty of Technology in Leskovac, University of Niš, SERBIA

Area: Enterprise Development

Implementation date: February 2018 - December 2019

Project total cost: €80,000.00

CEI co-financing: €37,000.00

SAFEMEAT aims at developing a system for easy and accurate monitoring of gas in meat products during storage and distribution. There is a need for transdisciplinary collaboration of different research activities linked to safety during production, storage and distribution of meat products and supporting staff to improve quality inspection methodologies. In particular, the project will develop a new spectroscopic device to inspect ammonia content released by meat during microbial contamination. Indeed, ammonia leaks often lead to meat contamination in meat plants and can cause illness among consumers who accidentally consume the contaminated meat products with high levels of ammonia. Project partners will also correlate the ammonia contamination with spoilage and pathogenic bacteria content in meat products. They will analyse how ammonia can contaminate meat during the whole production, storage and distribution chain. Thanks to these activities, the project will enhance know-out related to meat quality and safety control in research institutions. This can also be applied to Serbian SMEs operating in the meat industry. Lastly, project beneficiaries will benefit from a set of training modules related to the meat supply chain as well as to the use of innovative spectroscopic devices oriented at assessing support needs and at enhancing technical capabilities.

SMART RIVER GOVERNANCE 2.0

Ref. No.: 1206.006-17

Know-how provider institution: Alta Scuola, ECOAZIONI ITALY

Know-how recipient institutions: Water Agentie Apele Moldovei; Technical University of Moldova; NGO Caroma Nord; State Enterprise Basin Water Management Authority of MOLDOVA

Area: Sustainable Energy

Implementation date: January 2018 - March 2019

Project total cost: €80,000.00

CEI co-financing: €37,000.00

The project's main objective is the dissemination and sharing of good practices and innovative technologies for water resource management in small river basins in Moldova, in order to improve water management among the partners and to spread the European Innovation Partnership on Water within the Action Group "Participatory European network on Water Governance Smart Rivers Network". This will be done through the implementation of a River Contract in a prototype river basin to demonstrate the feasibility and usefulness of this new governance tool. Specific project objectives are:

- Train experts from Moldova for developing and implementing the River Contract in the identified river basin;
- Develop the capacity of local public and non-governmental bodies involved in water governance through technical assistance and technological and methodological transfers from Italy to Moldova;
- Strengthen the capabilities the Working Group of Beneficiaries and Associated Institutions to enable them to implement and complete the "river contract" with a participatory approach;
- Assist beneficiaries Working Group to complete the path of River Contract with a final "Action Plan" that includes integrated and shared structural and non-structural measures and the local development of these areas.

Improving Disaster Risk Reduction skills and Resilience-building Practices in the Western Balkans: EMS Web

Ref. No.: 1206.007-17

Know-how provider institution: Istituto Superiore di Sanità, ITALY

Know-how recipient institutions: Institutes of Public Health of ALBANIA, MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO, SERBIA

Area: Capacity Building

Implementation date: January 2018 - December 2018

Project total cost: €60,200.00

CEI co-financing: €27,100.00

This proposal aims at improving Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) skills of professionals operating in selected Balkan Countries through the transfer of specific know-how and skills, and to offer technical assistance for resilience-building practices. The project is expected to achieve the following outputs:

- An effective Region-wide harmonised participatory mechanism regulated by an educational platform to support the institutions and the communities in DRR, together with a real time simulation scenario (drill) providing a unique learning opportunity on DRR, public health effects and cross-border implications.
- An increased level of knowledge and technical capacity of selected experts operating in DRR, including direct and indirect public health consequences. This will also bring about an increased level of awareness and knowledge among the communities on the impact of natural disasters.
- A set of education and promotional materials to be shared among the beneficiaries and other stakeholders involved for further project development, dissemination and exploitation of results. For wider accessibility, efficiency and sustainability, the new material will be published on the dedicated Educational Interactive Platform (www.eduiss.it) that will support a Region-wide harmonised cooperation bridging the alignment with EU directives and standards thanks to the partnerships with ISS.
- A Final scientific report for dissemination among the scientific community and the dedicated social media

Sustainable Approach to Managing Construction and Demolition Waste (SAMCODE)

Ref. No.: 1206.008-17

Know-how provider institution: Department of Physics And Earth Sciences, University of Ferrara, ITALY

Know-how recipient institutions: Institute for Research in Environment, Civil Engineering and Energy; Gaya CER, Skopje, MACEDONIA

Area: Capacity Building

Implementation date: January 2018 - August 2019

Project total cost: €61,960.00

CEI co-financing: €30,870.00

The project aims at mapping to determine all Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste sites in the Skopje planning region, GPS coordinates, area (m²) amounts (m³), risk categorisation and associated costs for closure/sanitation. Moreover, project partners will determine the most appropriate locations for new landfills and scheme for the collection and safe disposal of C&D waste. They will also carry out the analysis of chemical compounds in C&D waste, separation of waste according to relevant treatment option (re-use, recycle, incinerate or disposal). Methodology for sampling and measuring will be provided by scientists from the University of Ferrara, Italy. IEGE Skopje shall be the research centre responsible for conducting on-site surveys at all 57 identified dump-sites and sites for C&D waste as well as for the quantification of C&D wastes. It will eventually come up with the best approach to develop an integrated management of this waste in the City of Skopje, provide a "know-how" on analysis of compounds and possibilities for minimisation, transport and safe disposal of C&D waste, as well as estimate associated GHG emissions. Lastly, the project also aims at transferring information to the beneficiaries through trainings and workshops in Ferrara, Italy, and in Skopje, Macedonia.

CEI support to strengthening Energy Regulatory Authorities in the Western Balkans

Ref. No.: 1206.009-17

Know-how provider institution: Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity, Gas and Water (AEEGSI), Gestore dei mercati energetici (GME), Terna, ITALY

Know-how recipient institutions: Energy Agency of Serbia (AERS) SERBIA; Albanian Energy Regulatory Entity (ERE), ALBANIA; Energy Regulatory Agency of Montenegro (REGAGEN), MONTENEGRO

Area: Sustainable Energy

Implementation date: November 2017 - October 2018

Project total cost: €63,143.00

CEI co-financing: €31,580.00

The European Union (EU) Multi-Regional Market Coupling (MRC), currently linking the majority of EU power markets, consists in allocating cross-border transmission capacity in the most efficient way. As a result, electricity flows from the lower price zone to the higher price zone, maximising the social welfare. This is regulated by the EC Regulation 2015/1222, where the European Commission has set down detailed rules for organising a single day ahead market and a single-intraday market across Europe. Indeed, the EU has chosen market coupling as the target model for cross-border capacity allocation among Member States. The market-coupling project between EU MRC and the Balkans via Italy is part of a wider project of electricity market integration, the so-called Day Ahead Market Integration (DAMI) Programme, promoted within the Western Balkans Process. EC Regulation 2015/1222 will become part of the *acquis communautaire* that the Contracting Parties of the Energy Community are bound to implement. However, for the time being, Regulation 2015/1222 has not yet been transposed in the legal framework of Balkan Countries. In order to expand the EU MRC also to the Western Balkans Region, AEEGSI proposed to the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) of Albania, Montenegro and Serbia to launch a joint project of electricity market coupling. The project aims at transferring, to the beneficiary Authorities, knowledge on the process of market integration and on operational functioning of an integrated electricity market. The final goal consists in enabling beneficiary NRAs to properly assess the market integration design proposal that will be submitted by the Transmission System Operators and Power Exchanges (PXs) of each involved country. Four capacity-building workshops will be realised, one in each country involved in the Project (tentative locations: Rome, Belgrade, Podgorica, Tirana). The agenda of each workshop will be based on two main sources of topics:

- Terms and conditions and methodologies implemented in the EU (with specific reference to EU Regulation 2015/1222)
- Procedures already in place in the operational activities of market coupling in the northern Italian borders.

Capacity building on PPPs (Public Private Partnerships) for road construction and exploitation for Albanian authorities with the participation of Serbia and other Western Balkan countries

Ref. No.: 1206.010-17

Know-how provider institution: Anas S.p.a., ITALY; ANAS International Enterprise S.p.A., ITALY; AIPCR Italy World Road Association

Know-how recipient institutions: Albanian Road Authority, ALBANIA

Area: Enterprise Development

Implementation date: December 2017 - March 2018

Project total cost: €74,840.00

CEI co-financing: €37,420.00

The working paper of the Regional School of Public Administration (RESPA) “Comparative Analysis of Lessons learned from recent development in implementation of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) projects in the WB Regions” outlines that the PPP model is considered an attractive way to leverage the resources available from European Union funds including the Western Balkans Investment Framework (EBIF) and respective international financial institutions and bilateral donors. The rationale for using a PPP arrangement instead of conventional public procurement rests on the proposition that optimal risk sharing with the private partner delivers better “value for money” for the public sector and ultimately the end user. The objective of the project is to foster PPP market development in Albania, as well as other Western Balkan countries wishing to participate in the workshop, to encourage development of common PPP practices in the Western Balkan region. The objective of the workshop is to allow participants to gain a knowledge of PPPs in line with the European Union standards and best practices. The 3-day of training course will be performed by highly-qualified Italian experts, providing guidelines and know-how to representatives/institutions for the realisation of PPPs. It will be composed of 4 modules (Project identification, detailed preparation, procurement, project implementation) with training given by keynote experts. Each module will analyse in detail the specific steps needed for the completion of each phase.

ANNEX 7. COOPERATION ACTIVITIES (CAs)

Ref. Nr.	Activity	Country	Applicant	Implementation date	Estimated cost	Approved	Sector
1202.004-17	Unleashing the SMEs potential for research and innovation "SME Vision2020"	Macedonia	YES - Youth Entrepreneurial Service (YES) Foundation	14-15 November 2017, Skopje	€ 37,010.00	€ 5,000.00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.005-17	8th CEI Regional Forum for Health, Wellness & Spa Industry	Serbia	Cluster of Health, Wellness and SPA Tourism Serbia (WELLNESS SERBIA)	19 October 2017	€ 18,292.90	€ 6,500.00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.008-17	Promoting partnerships among film professionals in CEI region	Belarus	Private theatrical entertainment culture institution "Visual and performing arts center "ART Corporation" (NGO)	3-12 November 2017, Minsk	€ 29,882.92	€ 8,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.009-17	FESTIVAL IDENTITY 2017 – workshop for festival organizers from across Europe	Czech Republic	DOC.DREAM - Association for the Support of Documentary Cinema	24-29 October 2017, Jihlava	€ 35,371.25	€ 6,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.014-17	XIII Central European Forum of Aquileia EuroRegion "Migrations – Integrations – Revolutions EUROPE TREMBLES"	Italy	Mitteleuropa Association	5 October 2017 Udine	€ 38,420.00	€ 7,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.022-17	SEE Mosaics Meeting IV "Presentation of detached mosaics on movable supports"	Croatia	Croatian Conservation Institute	3-6 October 2017, Pula	€ 35,900.00	€ 7,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.070-17	EYA YOUTH FOR INNOVATION (PEER-2-PEER KNOWLEDGE SHARING) [YFDI]	Austria	International Center for New Media (ICNM)	November 29-December 2, 2017 in Graz	€ 53,520.00	€ 5,000.00	1.3. Information society
1202.072-17	nEXTYU at City of Women festival	Slovenia	Association for the Promotion of Women in Culture	12th and 13th October 2017	€ 30,697.00	€ 5,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.076-17	Assessment of hydro power plants construction in the Central and Eastern Europe on ecological status of small and medium rivers	Belarus	Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources (CRICUWR)	11-12 October 2017 Minsk	€ 4,910.00	€ 2,060.00	2.2. energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
1202.082-17	The sound of talent: a new music network for young musicians	Italy	Music Conservatory "Giuseppe Tartini", Trieste	October 2017	€ 28,210.00	€ 6,500.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.084-17	IIAS 27th International Archival Day and IIAS 10th Autumn Archival School	other	-	24-29 October 2017	€ 40,000.00	€ 5,000.00	1.3. Information society
1202.086-17	Participatory Governance in Culture: Exploring Practices, Theories and Policies	Croatia	Kultura Nova Foundation	22-24 November 2017, Rijeka	€ 70,330.00	€ 6,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.095-17	Professional Standards in Media – Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.	Serbia	International Academy NGO	8-10 December 2017, Novi Sad	€ 45,975.00	€ 5,000.00	3.2. Media
1202.096-17	Regional Youth Forum for Local Democracy "Inclusive Society- Intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity"	Macedonia	Association of the Local Democracy Agencies in Skopje – ALDA Skopje	19-20 October 2017, Skopje JULY	€ 30,075.00	€ 7,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.098-17	FNE - CEI AV INNOVATION FORUM	Poland	FILM NEW EUROPE Sp. z o.o (POLAND)	19-20 October 2017, Katowice	€ 27,150.00	€ 8,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation

1202.111-17	CEEweb Academy: Building more sustainable and green cities in Central Europe	Hungary	CEEweb for Biodiversity	8-9 November 2017, Budapest	€ 65,090.00	€ 5,000.00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.116-17	Media Forum SEEMF	other	seemo	autumn 2017	€ 117,810.00	€ 12,000.00	3.2. Media
1202.126-18	Concert Tartini Orchestra in Minsk	Presidency	Presidency	5 August 2017	€ 34,150.00	€ 11,000.00	Presidency
1202.128-18	The European Union and its Eastern Partners: Current approaches to regional cooperation. Reflection Forum in the context of the Belarussian Presidency of the CEI	Austria	Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe – Vienna	11-12 December 2017, Minsk	€ 56,510.00	€ 10,620.00	Presidency
1202.119-17	Call for Applications for advanced on-the-job training for young professionals from non-EU CEI Member States (YOP)	Secretariat	Secretariat	Second semester 2017	€ 21,600.00	€ 21,600.00	Secretariat
1202.120-17	CEI direct contribution to the Energy Community	Secretariat	Secretariat	August 2017	€ 2,000.00	€ 2,000.00	CEI
1202.119-17 bis	Extension of the Call for Applications for advanced on-the-job training for young professionals from non-EU CEI Member States (YOP)	Secretariat	Secretariat	First semester 2018	€ 23,400.00	€ 23,400.00	Secretariat
1202.121-17	CEI contribution to OSCE	Secretariat	OSCE	n/a	€ 30,000.00	€ 30,000.00	CEI
1202.042-18	Trieste Film Festival	Italy	Alpe Adria Cinema	19-28 January 2018, Trieste	€ 445,000.00	€ 15,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.005-18	Third Annual Meeting of the Western Balkans Migration Network (WB-MIGNET)	Croatia	The Institute of Economics, Zagreb	April/May 2018 in Zagreb	€ 24,250.00	€ 7,000.00	Migrations
1202.061-18	Combating of illegal migration and illicit human trafficking	Ukraine	Ivano-Frankivsk Law University	20-21 April 2018, Ivano-Frankivsk	€ 18,877.50	€ 7,130.00	Migrations
1202.085-18	Vienna Pre-Presidency Conference (PPC)	other / Austria	Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA), Belgium Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS), Austria	14-15 June 2018, Vienna	€ 49,251.42	€ 9,800.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.124-18	Capacity building and investments planning in SEE: taking stock of Danube, Adriatic – Ionian and SEE 2020 strategies overlapping in the region	Macedonia	Institute for Geostrategic Research and Foreign Policy (IGRFP)	17-18 May, 2018	€ 43,900.00	€ 9,800.00	horizontal

1202.013-18	The Sixth International Conference on Radiation and Applications in Various Fields of Research (RAD 2018)	Serbia	RAD Association, Niš	June 18-22, 2018 Ohrid	€ 31,998.00	€ 5,000.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.037-18	WHEN EAST MEETS WEST Coproduction Forum - WEMW	Italy	ITALY – Friuli Venezia Giulia Audiovisual Fund	January 21-23, 2018 Trieste	€ 144,150.00	€ 9,500.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.019-18	International Conference DisCo 2018: Overcoming the Challenges and the Barriers in Open Education	Czech Republic	Center for Higher Education Studies (CHES), Czech Republic	Microsoft, Prague (Czech Republic), 25. – 26.6. 2018	€ 24,005.00	€ 7,500.00	1.3. Information society
1202.046-18	European and Cultural Heritage - a sustainable way" / best practice within CEI	Austria	Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE)	4th and 5th April 2018Novi Sad	€ 37,000.00	€ 9,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.083-18	SEENET-MTP Balkan School and Workshop, BSW2018	Serbia	SEENET-MTP - Southeastern European Network in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics - Nis	3 – 14 June, 2018, Herceg Novi, Montenegro/ Niš region, Serbia	€ 55,590.00	€ 9,200.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.020-18	VIII Spring School on "IoT, economic and management challenges 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	May 7th to May 10th, 2018; Science and Research Centre of Koper, Slovenia	€ 25,615.00	€ 8,200.00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.059-18	WIN 2018: International Conference Women In eNergy 2018 - Initiative to promote gender balance	Macedonia	Association of Engineering Societies-Engineering institution of Macedonia	May 2018, Skopje	€ 29,960.00	€ 9,500.00	2.2. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
1202.104-18	XIX Summer Seminar for Young Public Policy Professionals	Bulgaria	Economic Policy Institute (EPI)	last week of May 2018/the first week of June 2018, Varna	€ 61,245.00	€ 6,500.00	3.3. Civil Society
1202.029-18	CEI PIANO FORUM 2018 > A MUSIC ROAD MAP	Italy	Piano FVG	Sacile (Italy): March 1st > August 30th, 2018	€ 24,614.00	€ 7,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.038-18	The 3rd Zeldovich meeting	Italy	International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network (ICRANet), Pescara	23–27 April 2018, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Minsk	€ 36,730.00	€ 9,000.00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.077-18	Strengthening the cooperation between business partners by enhancing arbitral resolution of disputes - Modern times for Arbitration: Initiatives and perspectives	Macedonia	Economic Chamber of Macedonia - Permanent Court of Arbitration attached to the Economic Chamber of Macedonia	19-20 April 2018, Skopje	€ 28,165.00	€ 8,300.00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.078-18	Social inclusion for Roma families - Strengthening the Toy Library Network	Hungary	Roma Education Fund	Mid-May 2018	€ 33,920.00	€ 9,000.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation

1202.040-18	How to use the maximum of cultural and historic potentials and the diversity of the region in order to increase and develop tourism?	Serbia	Municipality of Stari Grad, Serbia	19 May 2018, Stari Grad	€ 29,488.00	€ 8,500.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.103-18	Establishment and first workshop of the Eastern European Migration Network under the CEI aegis	Poland	The Eurasian States in Transition Research Centre (EAST-Center)	March 15-16, 2018 Warsaw	€ 11,150.00	€ 5,520.00	Migrations
1202.049-18	EX ORIENTE FILM WORKSHOP 2018	Czech Republic	Institute of Documentary Film (IDF)	March 3-9, 2018, Prague	€ 76,342.00	€ 8,500.00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.007-18	Promoting Big Data Solutions in the CEI Region	Belarus	Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR)	3 May 2018, Minsk	€ 36,317.70	€ 9,000.00	1.3. Information society



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