

# REGIONAL COOPERATION *FOR* EUROPEAN INTEGRATION



A BRIDGE *BETWEEN* MACROREGIONS



---

REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

*History*

*Mission*

*Structure*

*Cooperation Fund*

*CEI Fund at EBRD*

*Know-how Exchange Programme*

*EU-funded Projects*

*University Network*

*Science & Technology Network*

*Feature Events & Awards*

*Contacts*

[www.ceinet.org](http://www.ceinet.org)

## MEMBER STATES

- *Albania (1996)*
- *Austria (1989)*
- *Belarus (1996)*
- *Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992)*
- *Bulgaria (1996)*
- *Croatia (1992)*
- *Czech Republic (1993)*
- *Hungary (1989)*
- *Italy (1989)*
- *Macedonia (1993)*
- *Moldova (1996)*
- *Montenegro (2006)*
- *Poland (1991)*
- *Romania (1996)*
- *Serbia (2000)*
- *Slovakia (1993)*
- *Slovenia (1992)*
- *Ukraine (1996)*

The Central European Initiative (CEI), composed of 18 Member States, is the largest and oldest forum of regional cooperation in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

Its origin lies in the creation of the *Quadrangolare* on 11 November 1989 in Budapest by Italy, Austria, Hungary and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY).

In 1990, Czechoslovakia was admitted and the organisation was renamed *Pentagonale*. In 1991, with the admission of Poland, it became the *Hexagonale*.

In 1992, the organisation was named *Central European Initiative* when a number of countries, in particular those emerging on the territory of SFRY, were admitted as Member States. The CEI was further enlarged in 1993 and 1996.

The current membership derives from the adhesion of FRY (afterwards State Union of Serbia and Montenegro and later on Serbia) in 2000 and of Montenegro in 2006.

The CEI is regulated by its *Guidelines and Rules of Procedure*. This document was agreed upon by all its Member States, summarizing the organisation's mission and objectives, structures and areas of cooperation.

# Mission

## REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Oriented towards policy dialogue, the CEI also focuses on economic growth and human development. Special attention is paid to capacity building, sharing experience and know-how transfer in order to achieve cohesion in areas of mutual interest and assist its non-EU Member States in consolidating their economic and social development in view of further integration to the European Union. Today, the CEI is in a unique position to act as a bridge between macroregions, such as the Baltic, Danube, Adriatic-Ionian and Black Sea Regions.

This mission is pursued by:

- Promoting political, economic, cultural and scientific cooperation;
- Supporting non-EU CEI Member States in capacity building to bring them closer to the EU;
- Building a closer relationship with the EC in order to become a privileged partner for EU programmes;
- Identifying, designing, promoting and managing EU-funded projects.

### Areas of Activity according to CEI Plan of Action 2010-2012

- Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy
- Enterprise Development including Tourism
- Human Resource Development
- Information Society and Media
- Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
- Multimodal Transport
- Science and Technology
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Interregional and Cross-Border Cooperation

A number of CEI activities and projects are developed within programmes pursued by other international and regional organisations and in particular by the European Union and the EBRD.

*Over the years, in order to accomplish the priorities set by the CEI Plan of Action, various funds and instruments have been established:*

#### FUNDS

- CEI Cooperation Fund
- CEI Fund at the EBRD

#### INSTRUMENTS

- EU-funded projects
- CEI Technical Cooperation Programme
- CEI Know-how Exchange Programme (CEIKEP)
- CEI University Network (CEI UniNet)
- CEI Science and Technology Network (CEIS&TN)

**CEI PRESIDENCIES**

1989	<i>Hungary</i>
1990	<i>Italy</i>
1991	<i>SFR Yugoslavia</i>
1992	<i>Austria</i>
1993	<i>Hungary</i>
1994	<i>Italy</i>
1995	<i>Poland</i>
1996	<i>Austria</i>
1997	<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>
1998	<i>Croatia</i>
1999	<i>Czech Republic</i>
2000	<i>Hungary</i>
2001	<i>Italy</i>
2002	<i>Macedonia</i>
2003	<i>Poland</i>
2004	<i>Slovenia</i>
2005	<i>Slovakia</i>
2006	<i>Albania</i>
2007	<i>Bulgaria</i>
2008	<i>Moldova</i>
2009	<i>Romania</i>
2010	<i>Montenegro</i>
2011	<i>Serbia</i>
2012	<i>Ukraine</i>

The CEI operates through:

- Meetings of the Heads of Government (CEI Summit)
- Meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (MFA Meeting)
- Meetings of the Ministers competent for specific fields
- Meetings of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension
- Meetings of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC)
- Secretariat (Headquarters in Trieste)

Working bodies such as **Networks of Focal Points** – experts in specific sectors designated by the governments of the 18 CEI Member States – have the role to promote, evaluate and support the implementation of CEI activities and projects as well as to assist in the definition of strategies in the CEI areas of cooperation. Relations are also maintained with the **Chambers of Commerce of the Region**.

The **CEI Secretariat** was established in 1996, in order to provide administrative, conceptual and operational support to the other CEI bodies.

The **Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD** (Trieste and London) - established in 1991 - is responsible for a wide range of projects within the economic dimension of the Initiative's operations, with funding arrangements of different kinds stemming from the CEI Fund at the EBRD.

Financial support for the functioning of the Secretariat and of the Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD is fully provided by Italy.

As of 1 January 2010, Ambassador Gerhard Pfanzeltzer (Austria) has taken up his duties as **Secretary General**.

# Cooperation Fund

REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

The CEI Cooperation Fund was established by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs in 2001. The Fund facilitates the implementation of CEI Cooperation Activities, i.e. small-scale multilateral projects, usually taking the form of seminars, workshops, training courses and similar events in line with the priorities of the CEI Plan of Action.

The strategic relevance of this Fund is demonstrated by the aggregate results achieved over the years. In particular it facilitates and enhances the mobility of the people in the region.

## Funding Opportunities

Calls for applications are launched on a yearly basis. All public and private bodies in CEI Member States as well as international organisations and other regional bodies can apply. As a rule, at least half of CEI Member States are to be involved.

Preference is given to projects submitted by, and in favour of, non-EU CEI Member States.

## FACTS & FIGURES

- *Financed according to an established scale of contributions by all CEI Member States*
- *More than 600 CEI Cooperation Activities supported, in which more than 30.000 people took part*
- *More than € 6 million disbursed with a total mobilisation of about € 40million*

# CEI Fund at EBRD

REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

## FACTS & FIGURES

- €32.5 million contributed by Italy
- €19 million provided for funding TC projects
- €2.9 billion are the total investments linked to CEI grants (€1.4 billion invested by EBRD)
- €2.7 million provided for the Know-How Exchange Programme and Cooperation Activities

## MAIN AREAS OF COOPERATION

- Agriculture
- Transport
- Energy
- SME Development
- Municipal Infrastructure and Services
- Banking
- Insurance
- Institutional and Capacity Building

In 1992 Italy signed an Agreement with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) on the establishment of a CEI Trust Fund to assist the Bank's countries of operations in Central and Eastern Europe in their economic and social transformation process.

Since its inception and through the Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD, the Fund has been predominantly used for grant-type **Technical Cooperation (TC) projects** supporting EBRD activities in CEI non-EU member countries.

Operations include support to feasibility and pre-feasibility studies, management training, capacity building and pre-loan audits.

The CEI TC Programme is coherent with the framework and general objectives of the EBRD and other international financial institutions and has become a very relevant instrument to support the overall development of CEI countries.

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 loans and investments. The CEI has undertaken projects which yield high co-financing leverage. Since 1993 the total investments linked to CEI grants amounts to more than €2.9 billion (the EBRD alone having invested around €1.4 billion). This means that EBRD, IFIs, commercial banks and local partners invested €161 for each Euro spent by the CEI Fund on TC projects.

Through the Fund, the Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD also promotes and supervises development activities in partnership with other international financial institutions and international organisations.



# Know-how Exchange Programme

REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Launched in 2004, the Programme aims at supporting the transfer of know-how from EU CEI to non-EU CEI Member States. Special focus is put on areas where institutions in the CEI know-how donor countries have a long-standing experience and the beneficiary States have the strongest need for assistance.

## Funding Opportunities

The Programme is open to public and private sector bodies, international and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in the public interest and registered in a CEI Member State belonging to the European Union.

Projects supported under the KEP are to have an economic background covering economic transition or institution building and are to be carried out by using combinations of know-how transfer tools (e.g. study tours, secondment of staff, peer reviews, preparation of manuals, etc.) which guarantee effective transfer of knowledge.

## FACTS & FIGURES

- *Financed by Italy through CEI Fund at the EBRD (more than €1.1 million committed) and Austria through the Austrian Development Cooperation (€660.000 committed)*
- *More than 60 KEP assignments financed for a total fund mobilisation of € 4.4 million.*

## MAIN AREAS OF COOPERATION

- *European Integration*
- *Capacity Building and Market Economy*
- *Agriculture*
- *Energy and Environment*
- *Infrastructure Planning*

# EU-funded Projects

REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

## FACTS & FIGURES

- 5 projects currently under implementation (3 of which as Lead Partner)
- €12.5 million: total value of projects under implementation, of which €6.5 million administered by CEI Past Programming Periods
- 11 projects implemented as Partner
- €10 million: total value of implemented projects, of which €800.000 administered by CEI
- 10 projects in the pipeline

## EU PROGRAMMES

- South-East Europe Programme
- Cross-border Cooperation Programme Italy-Slovenia
- 7th Framework Programme for R&TD
- INTERREG IV C
- INTERREG CADSES
- Critical Infrastructure Protection 2007
- Culture 2000
- INTERACT
- Adriatic New Neighbourhood Programme
- Intelligent Energy Europe
- 6th Framework Programme for R&TD

Since 2004, the CEI Secretariat has been involved in EU-funded projects for transnational, cross-border and interregional cooperation.

The CEI Secretariat participates in EU-Funded Projects as Lead Partner or Partner. In this context, the CEI aims at enhancing the process of EU integration and contributes to the EU policy dialogue in various areas of interest. Special focus is put on regional development.

The CEI provides an added value by:

- Promoting horizontal institutional links with countries not directly involved in the project and vertical links with central governmental authorities
- Assuring know-how transfer and exchange of experience
- Contributing to the dissemination of project activities and results throughout the CEI region
- Supporting cooperation among CEI countries at institutional and technical levels.

## Main Areas of Cooperation

- Transport and Accessibility
- Information Society
- SMEs
- Civil Protection
- Culture
- Higher Education
- Science and Technology
- Innovation and Competitiveness
- Regional Development

# University Network

REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

The CEI University Network (CEI UniNet) became operational in 2004 and promotes cooperation among universities and other institutions of higher learning in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe through the mobility of students and teaching staff.

Mobility is promoted through the implementation of post-graduate level Joint Programmes such as PhD courses and Master's courses, Summer schools, Seminars and Workshops.

The Rector of the University of Trieste is the Chairman of the Network's Executive Board and General Assembly which is serviced by the CEI Secretariat.

## Funding Opportunities

Calls for Proposals are launched on a yearly basis for Joint Programmes, involving at least two Universities from different CEI Member States.

Priority is given to the participation of non-EU CEI Member States and to courses held at more than one university called Split Joint Programmes. Courses are to be held in English.

## Main Areas of Cooperation

- Economics
- Infrastructure and Logistics
- Advanced Biotechnology
- Regional Development and Public Administration
- ICT
- Environment and Sustainable Development

## FACTS & FIGURES

- *Financed by Italy*
- *68 Joint Programmes implemented*
- *800 Scholarship Awards and Teaching Grants offered*
- *More than € 1 million disbursed*

## COORDINATING UNIVERSITIES

- *Albania - University of Tirana*
- *Austria - University of Klagenfurt*
- *Belarus - Belarusian State University (Minsk)*
- *Bosnia and Herzegovina - University of East Sarajevo*
- *Bulgaria - University of National and World Economy (Sofia)*
- *Croatia - University of Zagreb*
- *Czech Republic - Masaryk University in Brno*
- *Hungary - Eotvos Lorand University of Budapest*
- *Italy - University of Trieste*
- *Macedonia - St. Cyril and Methodius University (Skopje)*
- *Moldova - Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (Chisinau)*
- *Montenegro - University of Montenegro*
- *Poland - Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznan)*
- *Romania - University of Bucharest*
- *Serbia - University of Kragujevac*
- *Slovakia - Comenius University in Bratislava*
- *Slovenia - University of Ljubljana*
- *Ukraine - Odessa National Maritime University*

**FACTS & FIGURES**

- *Financed by Italy*
- *130 projects supported*
- *More than €1 million disbursed*
- *More than 1800 scientists involved*

**LEAD INSTITUTIONS**

- *International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)*
- *International Centre for Science and High Technology of UNIDO (ICS-UNIDO)*
- *International Centre for Theoretical Physics "Abdus Salam" (ICTP) / (UNESCO – IAEA)*
- *International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA)*
- *ELETTRA Synchrotron Light Laboratory*
- *Consortium Area Science Park*
- *Cluster in Biomedicine (CBM)*

**MAIN AREAS OF COOPERATION**

- *Theoretical and Applied Physics*
- *Mathematics*
- *Neurosciences*
- *Bio-engineering*
- *Molecular Biology*
- *Genomics*
- *Nanosciences and Nanotechnology*
- *Bioinformatics*
- *Chemistry*

The CEI Science & Technology Network (S&TN), launched at the beginning of 2004, is composed of seven Trieste-based research centres of excellence and of their partners in the CEI region.

Financial support is provided for the organization of seminars, conferences, workshops and training courses. Young scientists from CEI countries, especially non-EU Member States, are offered the opportunity to carry out scientific research on various topics in one of the seven Lead Institutions (LIs).

The area of cooperation of each Lead Institution is separately defined in a three-year Protocol complemented by an annual Joint Work Programme.

**The CEI Research Fellowship Programme - CERES**

Co-funded by the European Commission through its Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7), CERES supports trans-national mobility of scientists and researchers across the CEI area, with the ultimate aim to contribute to the development of a knowledge-based society.

CERES foresees a total of 30 fellowships to be distributed in the time-frame 2009 – 2012 among experienced researchers (i.e. post-docs) from CEI countries in order to carry out an individual research at one of the centres participating in the Programme.

Calls for proposals are launched on an annual basis.

# Feature Events & Awards

---

REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

In order to enhance its identity, the CEI annually promotes a number of selected initiatives called Feature Events.

These activities, which carry the name of the CEI in their title or dedicate a special segment to the CEI, are mainly contributed by the CEI Cooperation Fund. In order to honour and encourage initiatives and activities of talented and often young people from the CEI Member States, the CEI offers awards often linked to CEI Feature Events.

## **Feature Events**

- CEI Literary Round Table at Vilenica
- CEI Venice Forum for Contemporary Art Curators (in the context of Venice Biennale)
- CEI Special Event within the Trieste Film Festival
- CEI Youth Forum
- CEI Dubrovnik Diplomatic Forum
- CEI Forum on Human Resources Development and Training
- CEI International Summer School “Beyond the Enlargement. The Wider Europe and the New Neighbourhood”
- CEI Journalists’ Forum

## **Awards**

- CEI Award at the Trieste Film Festival
- CEI Award within the International Design Contest “Trieste Contemporanea”
- CEI Award within the International Competition for Chamber Music Ensembles “Premio Trio di Trieste”
- CEI Award for Outstanding Merits in Journalism (in cooperation with the South East Europe Media Organisation – SEEMO)
- CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence (in cooperation with Vilenica International Literary Festival)

Detailed information on these events is available at [www.ceinet.org](http://www.ceinet.org)

## **CEI Secretariat**

### **Headquarters**

Via Genova, 9  
34121 Trieste, Italy  
Tel. + 39 040 7786 777  
Fax + 39 040 360 640  
[cei.secretariat@cei-es.org](mailto:cei.secretariat@cei-es.org)  
[www.ceinet.org](http://www.ceinet.org)

### **Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD**

One Exchange Square  
London, EC2A 2JN, UK  
Tel. + 44 207 338 6862  
Fax + 44 207 338 6538  
[cei.ebrd@cei-es.org](mailto:cei.ebrd@cei-es.org)  
[www.ebrd.com](http://www.ebrd.com)

# Notes

---

REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

