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1. INTRODUCTION BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

2015 has been a year of important developments in the CEI Region. The Macedonian Presidency has taken significant steps towards the advancement of regional cooperation, reinforcing the CEI's commitment to integrating its non-EU Member States. The development of cultural links as well as improving the connectivity infrastructure, tourism and agriculture in the region have been among the priorities under the Macedonian mandate. Through the different activities developed during the year, we have consolidated our position in the EU macro-regional strategies and the Eastern Partnership.

This year, the CEI has also faced key challenges. The migration phenomenon has been a central topic during the last months, when identifying areas of cooperation for a proactive response to possible new developments has become imperative. The MFA Meetings in Ohrid in June and in New York in October provided a great opportunity for intensifying actions in this regard. The Ministers agreed upon the importance of paying particular attention to the Western Balkans, a primary transit route of mixed irregular migratory flows from the Eastern Mediterranean, and upon the need of developing joint actions with other regional European organisations for improving border management and asylum systems in some countries. It is clear that the CEI has had a role to play in this matter given its distinctive methodology both of acting as a platform for political dialogue and in project management.

Our 20-plus-year-old partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is a real success story in this regard. We owe deep appreciation to the Italian Government for upholding its outstanding financial commitment even in difficult times. The CEI Fund at the EBRD, fully financed by Italy, and our partnership with the Bank in London have strengthened our project-oriented dimension. In the period 1992-2015, the CEI Technical Cooperation projects supported by the CEI Fund were linked to 4.9 billion EUR of international investments. For 1 Euro spent on CEI Technical Cooperation over 215 EUR were invested by the EBRD, other IFIs and clients.

Another project-oriented activity of ours is the CEI Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP), which supports small and medium-sized projects and activities. KEP offers grants to institutions from EU countries willing to share their experience in the EU accession process with their partners in the

non-EU CEI countries. Up to now, 111 projects have been co-financed from these sources with about 3.1 million EUR. KEP is financed from two sources: the Italian CEI Fund at the EBRD and the Austrian Development Cooperation through an agreement with the Austrian Development Agency.

The list of instruments for fostering political and socio-economic development is also enriched with our support to small projects such as seminars, workshops, conferences, trainings, etc. through the CEI Cooperation Fund, to which all Member States contribute. 947 activities covering various areas have been co-financed so far with more than 8.7 million EUR.



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.

The CEI also promotes high-quality, result oriented projects through the participation in EU-funded projects. We are proud of our record: 29 EU-funded projects. We are acting as Lead Partner in important sectors such as transport, cross-border cooperation and science and technology. We will intensify our efforts to participate in EU-funded projects and to strengthen our ties with the European Commission as mandated by our Foreign Ministers. Our expertise in the implementation of projects gives us an added value, particularly in view of the EU Macro-regional strategies and the Eastern Partnership, where many of our countries are included. We are actively involved in the EU Strategies for the Danube and Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Regions and are following the development of the strategy for the Alpine Region. Through our project-oriented working method we provide a flexible basis for regional cooperation of our three Eastern countries encompassed by the Eastern Partnership. The final aim is to become a key-actor in the implementation of the strategies and a bridge between macro-regions, connecting the Baltic, the Danube, the Adriatic-Ionian, Black Sea and Alpine regions. Ensuring synergies and complementarities through specific projects directly managed by the CEI is also an objective of ours.

As previously mentioned, this year's developments have been affected by one of the greatest challenges of the Region, i.e. the migration crisis. In this context, we have taken a concrete action by launching an Extraordinary Call through our Cooperation Fund. The Call received numerous applications, confirming the importance of adequately tackling the issue. 11 projects were approved with a CEI contribution of about 100,000 EUR.

As to the strengthening of the CEI visibility, the Secretariat has made further efforts to enhance its relations with the media. Appropriate actions - in particular in connection to the high-level meetings - have been developed, i.e. dissemination of press releases, organisation of press conferences, involvement of specialised journalists in specific CEI events and other initiatives. The valuable cooperation with the South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO) and with the ANSA News Agency has also provided the necessary framework for

enhancing media relations in the CEI region. Moreover, the engagement in the web-based social media, in particular Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, has allowed the Secretariat to target broader networks and stakeholders in the CEI region and widely circulate information on CEI events, projects and opportunities (e.g. open calls). On a regular basis, a newsletter including the major news published on the CEI website is disseminated to CEI structures and relevant partners.

The CEI's observer status in the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) has also opened a global perspective to our work. We have intensified our efforts in enhancing cooperation with various UN agencies and international organizations, as well as with other European initiatives for the advancement of the region and in support to the CEI's core values of peace, security and democracy. Our effective intergovernmental mechanisms with the combination of multilateral diplomacy in addition to our strong project oriented approach will serve best to increase competitiveness and the overall performance of our Region. The CEI will continue enhancing political dialogue and cooperation and engaging in facing future challenges, reinforcing its commitment to providing support to its Member States.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude for the extraordinary efforts of the Macedonian CEI Presidency in making the year 2015 a real success for our Organisation. My gratitude also goes to all Member States for their deep commitment.



Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri

2. FOREWORD BY THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF MACEDONIA



Ambassador Jon Ivanovski

Macedonia has taken over the CEI Presidency for the second time after thirteen years. During all these years we have witnessed tremendous developments in the region, good and bad. Taking up this year's Presidency was no easy task, but Macedonia has embarked on this challenge voluntarily with a lot of cooperative spirit and vigorous enthusiasm.

The Macedonian CEI Presidency has been constantly investing efforts in the implementation of

the strategic goals of the Organisation and its established priorities. We have tried to provide new impetus and fresh ideas to the work of the Organisation as much as possible. I think I will not be immodest if I say that thanks to this spirit and to the professionalism of the Secretariat, the increased role of the Enlarged CEI Troika (Austria – previous Presidency, Macedonia – current Presidency, Bosnia and Herzegovina – future Presidency, Italy – host country of the CEI Secretariat) and to the excellent participation of all CEI Member States in the political deliberations, we have managed to obtain maximum results. Even in such difficult times as this year, in particular due to the unprecedented migrant crisis which not only Europe, but especially our Region has faced, the successful outcome of the Macedonian CEI Presidency is ever more visible.

Moreover, during our Presidency, the implementation of the CEI Plan of Action 2014-2016 was half way through. Therefore, we had the difficult task of assessing its implementation and understanding what worked well and what needed changing or adjusting. Namely, the guidelines included in the Plan of Action have been seriously taken into account in developing the annual work programme of the Presidency, in collaboration with the Secretariat. To this end, serious work has been done to increase the effectiveness of the CEI structures in order to enhance coordination between the political dialogue and the project-oriented activities. In this context, a stronger role has been provided to the Enlarged CEI Troika, as confirmed by its March meeting in Brussels, which had as

an outcome the appointment of the EC Focal Points for the CEI. The Parliamentary and Business Dimensions have also been adjusted to these standards. During our Presidency we have underlined the significant role and need for implementing the principal of all-inclusiveness in terms of the Macro – regional strategies of the EU. In this context, I am pleased to mention that an International conference on “European Integration through Regional Cooperation – Perspectives of Macro Regional Strategies”, was held in May 2015, in Skopje, which produced significant results. Furthermore, in the framework of the Macedonian Presidency, the CEI was recognised by the Berlin Process in the field of the Macro-regional strategies at the Final Declaration of the Chair of the Vienna Western Balkans Summit, held on 27 August 2015. A lot of work has also been done with the former Austrian CEI Presidency on reinforcing the links with other International and Regional Organisations. A number of Memoranda of Understanding have been signed throughout the year (IIASA and MARRI). Not to mention the excellent meetings of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs both in terms of participation and content in Ohrid in June 2015 and in New York in October 2015, where Commissioner Johannes Hahn was also present. The Resolution on Cooperation between the UN and the CEI, adopted last year by the UN General Assembly during the Austrian CEI Presidency, also opened avenues for cooperation with this global player and its specialised agencies. Indeed, we have ultimately increased the Organisation's visibility worldwide through the Joint CEI Statement initiated by the Macedonian CEI Presidency, presented on the occasion of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 for the adoption of the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” in September in New York. Furthermore, numerous events on topical issues have been organised, including an International Conference “Migration and refugee flows in transit countries: security implications”.

I wish to reiterate that many results have been achieved throughout the year, despite the number of challenges Macedonia has had to face as well, in particular with the migrant crisis, as one of the most affected countries. However, the Macedonian CEI Presidency would not have been so successful without the constructive approaches of the CEI Member States and the Secretariat's excellent, competent and crucial cooperation throughout the year.

Ambassador Jon Ivanovski

3. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

A number of important tasks have been tackled by the CEI throughout the year. They are outlined in detail in the Chapters related to the Macedonian CEI Presidency. Yet, a few salient activities involving all CEI Structures need outlining:

Outcome of the MFA Meeting

The Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CEI Member States, held in Ohrid on 15 June 2015, was successful both in terms of content and participation. Nine Ministers were present (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia) as well as other distinguished guests such as Deputy Ministers, the Vice President of the EBRD, the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and others. In particular, the Ministers commended the advancements made by a number of non-EU CEI Member States of the Western Balkans in the EU Enlargement process. They also welcomed the progress made in the cooperation between the EU and its Eastern European Partners, stressing the importance of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) in this respect. The Ministers expressed deep concern about the situation in and around Ukraine as well as about the radicalisation, violent extremism, terrorism and the foreign terrorist fighters phenomena as threats not only for the global security, but also for the CEI Region. In this regard, they committed themselves to continuing the fight against terrorism - addressing the underlying causes that have led to it, and increasing cooperation in this multidimensional issue by taking necessary steps towards global peace and security. They also expressed their apprehension about the recent escalation of the illegal migration and trafficking of human beings and agreed that necessary measures for combating them were crucial. The Ministers also reiterated the need for the CEI to closely cooperate with other international and regional organisations in this endeavour, first and foremost with the EU and its institutions. They also agreed that close collaboration with other European regional initiatives and organisations was useful to further the CEI's goals and appreciated the efforts of both Austria as previous CEI Presidency and the current Macedonian CEI Presidency in the process of bringing together all important players in regular meetings in Vienna. Last but not least, the Ministers took note, with great satisfaction, of the UN Resolution on the Cooperation with the CEI of November 2014 and underlined that an adequate follow-up was necessary. In this regard, they agreed to meet informally in New York.



Ohrid, venue of the MFA Meeting—June 2015

Extraordinary Call for Proposals 2015 for co-financing Cooperation Activities: migration and related security issues

Among the recommendations included in the Communiqué adopted by the CEI Ministers for Foreign Affairs at their meeting in Ohrid on 15 June 2015, was the need to contribute to global peace and security by establishing adequate measures for combating illegal migration and related crime, including radicalisation, violent extremism, terrorism and the foreign terrorist fighters phenomena. To this end, the CEI Secretariat, in agreement with the Macedonian Presidency, launched a first-of-its-kind Extraordinary Call for Proposals of the CEI Cooperation Fund covering migration and related security issues. Public and private institutions registered in a CEI Member State as well as international and regional organisations were invited to apply for CEI co-financing for innovative actions favouring mobility and networking. Proposals needed to focus on capacity building by transferring and sharing know-how, in particular from EU CEI Member States to non-EU CEI Member States.

Cooperation between the UN and the CEI

Pursuant to the MFA Communiqué, the Macedonian CEI Presidency organised a Working Lunch in New York on 1 October 2015, in the framework of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly, where the CEI has an Observer Status as of 2011. The Ministers used this opportunity to reiterate their concerns about the growing migrant crisis and to tackle this issue further. The New York meeting also served to strengthen relations with the UN. Indeed, several days prior to the meeting, the CEI Member States launched a Joint Statement, upon the initiative of the Macedonian CEI Presidency, at the UN Sustainable Development Summit (New York, 25-27 September 2015), to adopt the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".



Skopje the capital of Macedonia

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE MACEDONIAN CEI PRESIDENCY 2015

Macedonia took over the Presidency on 1 January. On top of the list of the Macedonian priorities (Annex 1) were the follow-up initiatives along the CEI priorities outlined in the Plan of Action 2014-2016 as well as strengthening of the CEI international visibility. With the aim to achieve these goals a rich programme of events and activities have been implemented (Annex 2). These particular events have taken place under the logo of the Macedonian Presidency:

CNC Meetings

The CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC) has met six times this year, with an exceptional participation of the Member States and their active role in the deliberations: two of the CNC meetings were held in Skopje (3 February and 17 December), one in London (17 April), one in Vienna (4 May), one in Ohrid (14 June) and one in Trieste (18 September). The CNC was involved in the preparation of the high-level meetings and has approved a number of projects. It has also launched a number of ideas and proposals, tackled by the Secretariat throughout the year.



Min. Poposki at the opening of CNC Meeting, Skopje—February 2015

Upon the proposal of the Presidency on the occasion of the CNC meeting in Trieste in September, the CEI Medal of Honour was bestowed upon Amb. Heidemaria Guerer, for her successful guidance of the Organisation and excellent results achieved during the Austrian CEI Presidency 2014.



CNC Meeting, Skopje—February 2015

CEI promotional event in Skopje on presidency's priorities and activities



CEI Promotional Event, Skopje—February 2015

On 4 February 2015, the Macedonian CEI Presidency and the Secretariat organised a Promotional Event in Skopje. It served as a platform for presenting the priorities and programme of the Presidency and of the overall activities of the CEI. In particular, the CEI funds, programmes and instruments of cooperation were illustrated before the representatives of the Embassies, National Coordinators and various Macedonian Institutions (both private and public and NGOs). In order to serve as best practices for potential applicants in Macedonia, successful Macedonian applicants to the CEI funds had the opportunity to present their projects as well as their experience as applicants and beneficiaries. They also outlined how the grant was used and how useful they found the CEI fund and instruments in general.

Meeting of the Enlarged CEI Troika

The National Coordinators of the Enlarged CEI Troika met in Brussels on 24 March 2015 to discuss possibilities for strengthening cooperation with the European Union and its institutions, also in the context of the EU Macro-regional strategies. In this regard, the Secretariat has prepared a position paper "CEI Vision and Action Plan on Macro-regional Strategies", tabled and endorsed on the occasion of several CNC Meetings. Meetings were held with representatives of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission (EC). In a separate meeting, the enlarged CEI Troika discussed the possibility of providing more substance to the political dialogue within the CEI.

Steering Committee Meeting

The CEI Steering Committee meeting, gathering the CEI National Coordinators and representatives from the CEI countries at the EBRD Board of Directors, met on 17 April 2015 at

the Headquarters of the EBRD in London. The meeting, focused on the recent developments in CEI-EBRD cooperation. The 2014 Annual Report of the CEI Fund at the EBRD was presented and the 2015 budget of the Fund was approved by the Committee members.



Steering Committee Meeting, London—April 2015

Networking Meeting with other Regional and International Organisations

The Macedonian CEI Presidency, in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, organised on 4 May in Vienna a Networking Meeting gathering the CNC and representatives of various regional and international organisations. The meeting served as a platform to take note of the well-established cooperation between the CEI and other regional organisations and to exchange views on future joint actions. It also served as a platform for exploring the possibility of collaborating with a number of UN specialised agencies in the context of last year's resolution adopted by the General Assembly, as well as with a number of other organisations. The CEI's rising role as a bridge between macro-regions was also discussed, thanks to its geopolitical position connecting both the existing and upcoming Macro-regional Strategies i.e. for the Baltic Sea Region, the Danube Region, the Adriatic-Ionian Region and the Alps. On the occasion of the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding between the CEI and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) was signed.



Participants at Networking Meeting, Vienna—May 2015

International Conference on "European Integration through Regional Cooperation-Perspectives of Macro-Regional Strategies"

Politicians, diplomats and experts from CEI Member States, including representatives from the academia, attended the international conference on "European Integration through

Regional Cooperation-Perspectives of Macro-Regional Strategies", in Skopje on 21 May 2015. The event, was organised by the Institute for Geostrategic Research and Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Macedonia in cooperation with the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary



International Conference, Skopje—May 2015

and the Institute for International Relations of the Czech Republic. The conference offered the opportunity to gather various actors involved in the elaboration of the macro-regional strategies and to assess the added value of this new concept on the enhancement of regional cooperation in Europe. Discussions focused on the overall importance and perspectives of the EU Macro-Regional Strategies within the EU integration process of the enlargement countries; the importance of achieving full participation of all countries concerned especially those in SEE; the implementation of the EU Macro-Regional Strategies and their contribution to further developing and strengthening regional cooperation as a key requirement in the EU accession process of the enlargement countries. The conference conclusions, endorsed by the MFA Meeting in Ohrid, advocated the need for achieving all-inclusiveness in the relevant strategies, in particular those of the Danube and the Adriatic-Ionian Region and acknowledged Macedonia's interest in establishing functional and working relations with the relevant Macro-regional strategies in its geographical vicinity. The conference was co-financed by the CEI Cooperation Fund and the International Visegrad Fund.

CEI Parliamentary Committee Meeting

The meeting of the CEI Parliamentary Committee was held in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in Skopje on 20 May 2015. The topic of the event was "Relevance of EU Macro-Regional Strategies as an Opportunity for Cross-Border Cooperation among CEI Member States: the Role of Parliaments." On that occasion, it was pointed out that the CEI, thanks to its geopolitical situation, represented an excellent platform for European integration and a bridge between macro regions, and that it was ready to contribute to the implementation of each EU macro-regional strategy. For the hosting country, the organisation of this meeting was an important indicator of the strategic determination of Macedonia to continuously and actively maintain good neighbourly relations and develop regional cooperation as a constructive partner in the region.

MFA Meeting

The Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CEI Member States was held in Ohrid (Macedonia) on 15 June. It was attended by nine Ministers for Foreign Affairs, several deputies and other high guests. Representatives of the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) were present as Special Guests. Kosovo* participated in the capacity of Guest of the Chair. The Ministers exchanged views on the latest developments in the CEI Region, in particular the European integration process, the interconnectivity at large and the security, stability and prosperity of the Region, especially in view of the migration issues. They also focused on the current and future role of the CEI, in line with the CEI Plan of Action 2014-2016 and beyond, and approved the budget of the CEI Cooperation Fund for the year 2016. At the end of the gathering, the Ministers adopted a Communiqué.



Participants at MFA Meeting, Ohrid, - June 2015

Workshop on Infrastructure Development of Virtual Western Balkans Centre for Hydrometeorological Services and Climate Change

The Macedonian CEI Presidency, in cooperation with the CEI Secretariat, organised a High Level Workshop in Skopje on 23 September 2015. The Workshop was attended by representatives from national and international institutions competent in this area, as well as from the academia and other stakeholders. Participants reaffirmed the need for regional cooperation in order to prepare a new regional strategy on climate change adaptation, and to revise the existing and/or to prepare a new South East European Climate Change Framework Action Plan for Adaptation. They also agreed upon the high desirability of transforming the South East Europe Virtual Centre on Climate Change into an efficient and highly operational network, able to provide



Participants at Workshop, Skopje—September 2015

support to respective Government decisions and policies. The ultimate goal is making SEE a more climate-resilient region, in compliance with the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change, adopted by the European Commission in 2013. Participants welcomed the new opportunities offered by EU-funded programmes (Horizon2020, Interreg, Adrion etc), which may offer relevant sources of funding, and agreed to consider developing a concept in view of the forthcoming calls.

MFA Working Lunch in New York

Nikola Poposki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Macedonia, hosted for his counterparts a Working Lunch in New York on 1 October 2015, on the margins of the UN General Assembly. This has become a traditional CEI gathering in particular with regard to the observer status in the UN General Assembly. EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, also participated in the event. The Ministers discussed the possibilities of strengthening cooperation between the CEI and the various UN agencies, through the establishment of an annual networking meeting. The Presidency informed the participants on the implementation of the Resolution A/RES/69/8 on cooperation between the UN and the CEI, adopted on 11 November 2014 by the General Assembly. Information on the outcome of the UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015 (New York, 25-27 September), where a Joint CEI Statement on the support of the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” presented by Macedonia was also provided. The Ministers also touched upon a number of regional matters such as the migrant crisis and its consequences. In this context, the Ministers highly appreciated the CEI Executive Secretariat’s launching - in agreement with the Macedonian CEI Presidency - of a first-of-its-kind Extraordinary Call for Proposals of the CEI Cooperation Fund for activities countering the migrant crisis and related security issues. They stressed that cooperation with other international and regional organisations and the EU in this regard was a must. The Ministers reiterated that the CEI’s core mission remained regional cooperation for European integration and a bridge between the macro-regions and the Eastern Partnership. With regard to the latter, the CEI was called upon to enhance the involvement of its Eastern dimension through cooperation with the EU and its institutions and with other European regional organisations and initiatives as well as international organisations.



Ministerial Working Lunch, New York—September 2015

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

Meeting of CEI-PD General Committee on Cultural Affairs

The event, held in Rome on 2 November 2015, was organised within the CEI Parliamentary Dimension, which along with the Governmental and the Business Dimension, is positioned as one of the three pillars of the CEI. The meeting mainly focused on intercultural cooperation promoted by the CEI, with special attention to several best practices developed over the years and supported through CEI instruments, funds and networks. Topics such as interuniversity cooperation and management of linguistic and cultural minorities were debated upon, in line with the priorities of the current CEI Plan of Action.

Ministerial Conference: Towards Climate Summit in Paris 2015, Challenges for CEI Member States

The international Ministerial Conference on Climate Change "Towards the Climate Summit in Paris in 2015, Challenges for CEI Member States," in Skopje on 6 November 2015, gathered more than 150 high-ranking participants, including 9 ministerial-level delegations from CEI Member States and 16 representatives of embassies in Macedonia. Several scientific institutions, international and domestic NGOs also participated in the event to exchange experiences and views on the challenges faced in achieving low-carbon growth. Roundtable panel discussions covered topics such as the role of science as a trigger for lower CO2 emissions; the need for reforms in the educational system aimed at preparing future generations for the challenges associated with climate change; raising public awareness by building a low-carbon society philosophy for each individual; acceptance of a low-carbon economy model. The conference - supported by the CEI through its Cooperation Fund, the Regional Environmental Center (REC) and the Milieukontakt and Development Program of the United Nations (UNDP) - adopted a declaration, which expressed readiness for mutual cooperation in order to achieve the so-called "greener" growth for the CE region.



Ministerial Conference, Skopje—November 2015

Meeting of CEI-PD General Committees on Political Affairs and Economic Affairs

In order to take stock of the various initiatives aimed at building the most important infrastructure networks in the area

and on the path towards EU enlargement, the two General Committees - on Political and Home Affairs, and on Economic Affairs - of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension took place in Trieste on 9 November 2015. On top of the agenda of both meetings was the migration crisis where the delegations of CEI Member States agreed to study the migration issue in depth and highlighted the need for a new commitment from Europe and its institutions in this part of the continent. The Economic Affairs Committee, in a separate session, included the participation of two coordinators of the Ten-T, transeuropean transport network, in order to provide an outlook especially with regard to the EU funds, the priority corridors and the involvement of the international financial institutions.



Opening of the CEI PD Political and Economic Committees Meetings, Trieste—November 2015

First CEI Diplomatic School: Macro and micro strategies for development – strengthening capacities of diplomatic academies in CEI region

Young diplomats from a number of CEI countries participated in the 1st Diplomatic School on "Macro and Micro Strategies for Development: Strengthening the diplomatic capacities of CEI region", in Skopje on 11-13 November 2015. It was organised in cooperation with the CEI-Executive Secretariat and under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Gjorge Ivanov. The three-day event addressed a number of key topics, including EU enlargement and European standards, regional connectivity, sustainable energy, trade and cooperation in the global market, competences and skills needed to promote multinational business and SMEs in the global economy, the role of brands especially in economic development. The Diplomatic School was supported by the CEI out of the CEI Cooperation Fund.



CEI Diplomatic School, Skopje—November 2015

CEI Business Forum

This year's CEI Business Forum on "Promotion of Regional Cooperation for Improving Market Competitiveness of CEI Agricultural and Food Business" was held in Skopje on 26 November 2015. The Forum gathered more than 90 high-ranking participants from the various CEI Ministries of Agriculture, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Small and Medium Enterprises and Embassies in Skopje. It was jointly organised by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Agriculture of the Republic of Macedonia, the Chamber of Commerce for Central Europe (ACCOA) and the CEI-Executive Secretariat. It provided an excellent opportunity to engage representatives from the agriculture and food businesses of CEI Member



CEI Business Forum, Skopje—November 2015

States and discuss how to address the challenges for increasing market competitiveness through cooperation and exploiting new potentials given by the EU integration process. The event also served as a platform for the exchange of agribusiness-related experiences and best practices among the old and new EU Member States. The Forum was followed by SME B2B meetings. Participants agreed that setting up the Business Forum significantly contributed to establishing new business connections, and, therefore, to boosting economic growth in the CEI region.

CEI Parliamentary Assembly Meeting

"Migration crisis as global problem and challenge: How realistic is only a regional solution? (Europe, CEI and Western Balkans)" and "Inter-connectivity in the EU context of the CEI region" were the central topics of the Meeting of the CEI Parliamentary Assembly, held in Skopje on 10 December 2015. During the debate, Members of CEI National Parliaments concluded that integration might further stabilise the region



CEI Parliamentary Assembly Meeting, Skopje—December 2015

and that EU and NATO Member States should find a sustainable solution and integrate the whole region into the EU, and NATO - only for those countries wishing to join. They also called for a proactive approach and effective use of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism for states mostly affected by the migrant crisis. The need for EU Member States and governments to raise awareness on the differences between refugees and migrants escaping from bad economic conditions was also highlighted. A joint conclusion of the gathering was that countries need to share responsibilities through a coordinated cross-border approach in a European spirit of solidarity. Regarding macro-regional strategies, MPs supported the role as parliaments to facilitate their promotion and called upon the EU institutions to support their full integration in these strategies. EU funds were welcome for developing infrastructure projects, since infrastructure investments have a strong impact on overall economic activities, productivity and employment, which ensure a greater economic growth.

International Conference "Migration and refugee flows in transit countries: security implications"

The International Conference on Migration held in Skopje on 15-16 December 2015 gathered a number of prominent representatives from the OSCE, UNHCR, International Organization for Migrations (IOM), Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) Regional Centre and of the Ministries of Interiors and of Foreign Affairs of most of the CEI



International Conference on Migrations, Skopje—December 2015

Member States. The discussions were structured into two panels entitled "The impact of migration flows in CEI member states, challenges and actions" and "Towards comprehensive strategy: collective response for the common challenge". The participants expressed concerns about the global character of the mixed mass flow phenomena, ensued by humanitarian, security, economic, social, financial and political implications. They also emphasized that the CEI countries, in particular those along the "Balkans route", have seriously been affected by this unprecedented crisis and agreed that the individual states could not appropriately address the consequence of the mass migratory and refugee flows on their own. In that context, it was pointed out that a situation of the kind required the highest level of synergy, solidarity and responsibility sharing, as well as a common, coordinated, timely and comprehensive approach combining internal and external policies. The gathering also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the CEI Secretariat and MARRI Regional Centre. The Conference was co-financed by the CEI Cooperation Fund.



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

The CEI-ES also manages a number of funds, programmes and instruments for cooperation in order to complement the institutional activities. These include the Cooperation Fund, supported by all Member States and the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP), supported by Austria. They aim at financing various cooperation projects in the CEI Member States, while the Secretariat takes care of their sound management and administration. Through this function, the CEI has developed an important aspect, i.e. programme management, and has gained an additional role in the transnational 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,

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.

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 €41.5 million of which €1 million in 2015. The Office for the CEI Fund is the operational structure, which ensures constant dialogue between the CEI, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EBRD for all questions related to the administration of the Fund.

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



EBRD Headquarters in London

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

for approval, it monitors their implementation and evaluates them after completion. The Office also manages the KEP supported by Italy through the Fund. The Office's role is not limited to the provision of grants, but follows the whole project cycle, from the initial screening of applications, throughout the monitoring of project implementation, to ex-post evaluation of results.

The activities of the CEI-ES and its staff are financed by the Italian Government (*the budget for the year 2015 is outlined in Annex 3*), while the activities and the staff of the Unit for EU-funded projects are financed out of the budget of the projects funded through EU Programmes.

As to the staff structure of the CEI-ES, one change has been made at the Executive Level: Ambassador Margit Waestfelt, Austria, terminated her mandate as Alternate Secretary General on 31 March 2015. She was succeeded by Ambassador Margot Klestil-Loeffler, Austria, who took over this position as of 1 April 2015.

Within the Advanced Training Programme for Young Officials from CEI Member States on the Management of EU-funded projects, two young officials - Sergiu Porcescu (R. Moldova) and Alina Oganovska (Ukraine), on secondment from their respective Governments, - carried out their traineeship at the CEI-ES in Trieste. In the framework of the Advanced Training Programme for a Young Journalist, Nela Lazarevic (Montenegro) continued her traineeship until December 2015. *The office staff with respective tasks are outlined in Annex 4 (also available on the CEI Website at the following link: <http://www.cei.int/contacts>).*

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

Meeting with the International Visegrad Fund

Representatives of the International Visegrad Fund (IVF) visited the CEI Secretariat in Trieste on 21 January 2015. The aim of the visit was to exchange views on possibilities of cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe. Both the CEI and the IVF have often met as donors in many projects over the years. Therefore, finding more areas where to pull together resources, expertise and experience in the region was important. There was a plenty of potential for enhancing collaboration, especially since the priority regions mostly overlap with the CEI Member States. The end users could benefit from this collaboration, as both the IVF and the CEI could jointly promote each other's programmes, offering users greater access to information about funding



opportunities and therefore a greater chance of receiving funding for their activities. In this respect, a number of opportunities have been identified and will be tackled further by both sides.

2nd Stakeholder Conference of Urban Platform Danube Region

The Conference under the topic "Strengthening the Urban Dimension of the Danube Region", was held in Vienna on 26-27 January 2015. The event, attended by Alternate Secretary General, Margit Waestfelt, was organised by the EUSDRC PAC 10 and supported by the city of Vienna as well as by the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns. The platform gathers representatives of cities, NGOs, institutions dealing with the improvement of urban administration, infrastructure and in general the development of the "smart cities" concept. High priority was given to the presentation and promotion of e-government and the principle of open data. The CEI SEEMORE project was presented during the second session in the frame of the Thematic Leaders' Knowledge Exchange Camp. During the second session on day two, which focused on Managing Environmental Risks, the speakers from Serbia addressed the effects of the flood disaster in 2014 and the experience gained. The speakers underlined the fact that the regional and local authorities dramatically lacked know-how and training in order to cope with crisis situations as occurred during the flood catastrophe. The statements proved that the KEP Italy relief-projects perfectly aim at meeting the needs of the region damaged by the floods.

Donor Coordination Conference for Western Balkans

On 12-13 February 2015, a meeting of bilateral (Austria, Germany, Italy and Sweden in particular) and multilateral donors, including the main IFIs supporting the SEE 2020 Strategy for Jobs and Growth, was organised in Sarajevo by the Regional Cooperation Council – RCC. Coordination of donor efforts in the Western Balkans remains a challenge. Although there are successful and innovative examples championed by some of the countries and donors, there is room for improvement, especially when it comes to cross-country and/or regional interventions. The aim of the gath-

ering was to provide a context for better donor coordination, present current efforts on mapping donor interventions and illustrate up-to-date examples. Alternate Secretary General, Margit Waestfelt took part in the meeting and introduced the long-lasting experience of the CEI in the delivery of financial support to bottom-up initiatives.

Visit from Slovene National Coordinator for Macro-Regional Strategies

Andreja Jerina, Slovene National Coordinator for the Macro-Regional Strategies, visited the CEI- Executive Secretariat in Trieste on 18 February 2015, in order to discuss the CEI's potential in implementation of the strategies. In that context, Jerina appreciated the CEI's work. Specific issues were raised, deserving further consideration, in particular the conditions for the peer participation of the candidate countries of the Western Balkans in the governance of the strategies and the state-of-the-art of the governance, in particular of the EUSAIR and the EUSDR.

Visit from Secretary General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Secretary General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC), Amb. Michele Valensise, visited the CEI-Executive Secretariat in Trieste on 20 February 2015. "The CEI is a valuable tool which has grown over time, adapting to new developments and today has new potential", he said. Valensise also highlighted the new challenges ahead, especially in relation to the EU macro-regional strategies. He underlined the need for promoting closer relations between the CEI and the Adriatic Ionian Initiative, in a spirit of complementarity. During his visit at the CEI Headquarters – the first ever from a SG of the Italian MFA - Amb. Valensise had the opportunity to meet with the executive level and the staff of the Secretariat who provided him with an overview of the main CEI developments from a political and project-oriented perspective. Amb. Valensise was accompanied by Couns. Andrea Orizio, Head of the Unit for the Balkan Region at the MFAIC and CEI National Coordinator. On that same day, the CEI and the MIB-School of Management organised a conference

with Amb. Valensise under the title "Balkans, Italy and the European Union: together to overcome the crisis. Diplomacy, cooperation opportunities". The event, held at the prestigious seat of MIB, was attended by high representatives from political, economic, academic and cultural institutions as well as by students of the MIB and the University of Trieste - Degree in International and Diplomatic Sciences. Amb. Valensise also had the opportunity to meet with the President of the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Debora Serracchiani. They discussed the role of the Region towards the Balkans and possible synergies between the Region and the MFA in this respect. Reference was made to the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, the framework in which the Region is coordinator for the Italian Regions of Pillar 2, concerning transport and energy.

CEI and OGS sign protocol for scientific and technological cooperation

The CEI and OGS (Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale) signed a Protocol for Scientific and Technological Cooperation on 27 February 2015. The protocol, focusing on Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans, aims at enhancing cooperation between the CEI and OGS, especially in fields related to blue growth. Priority will be given to activities promoting technology transfer, knowledge exchange, mobility, development of skills and public-private partnership in order to contribute to the scientific and technological advancement of the CEI Member States. In particular, the CEI and OGS intend to strengthen their cooperation in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) and fully exploit the EU funding opportunities such as Horizon 2020 and on the Adriatic-Ionian Transnational Cooperation Programme 2014-2020. The Protocol, covering cooperation between the two institutions in 2015 and 2016, is in line with the CEI's efforts for advancing the scientific and technological standards of its 18 Member States, a priority highlighted in the CEI Plan of Action 2014-2016. OGS, as a member of the CEI Science and Technology Network, already has a number of affiliated institutions in the CEI region with which it carries out scientific cooperation.



Visit of the Italian MF SG, Trieste, February 2015



Signing of Protocol with OGS, Trieste, February 2015

CEI – DG NEAR Conference on “The role of the EU in the Western Balkans: the contribution of transport to the enlargement process”

The CEI-Executive Secretariat and the European Commission’s Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) organised in Trieste on 21 April 2015, a half-day high-level conference on “The role of the European Union in the Western Balkans. The contribution of transport to the enlargement process”. The event explored the current efforts in the region aimed at reinforcing connectivity and the transport system, within the overall enlargement strategy in general, and the European Commission’s Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance - which provides financial and technical support to the candidate countries and potential candidates in the Western Balkans, in particular. The first session of the event focused on the ADRIA A project as a best practice of cross-border cooperation in the framework of the Macro-regional Strategies and European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Programmes. The second session examined the role of transport as a key factor for integrating the Western Balkans into the EU.



CEI DG NEAR Conference, Trieste—April 2015

Coordination Meeting of Regional Organisations

The Twelfth Coordination Meeting of Regional Organisations was held at the RCC Headquarters in Sarajevo on 21 April 2015. It was attended by the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), the Central European Initiative (CEI), the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Danube Commission, the Central European Free Trade Agreement, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat (UfM Secretariat), the SEECF C-i-O and the EC DG REGIO. The organisations exchanged information on their main activities since the last Coordination Meeting. The meeting also included a presentation of the EU macro-regional strategies delivered by the EC/DG REGIO. The presentation was followed by a debate among participants. Regional organisations expressed their interest in engaging in the implementation of the EU macro-strategies and creating synergies. The participants accepted the proposal tabled by the Danube Commission to host the Thirteenth Coordination Meeting in 2016, in Budapest and the CEI’s proposal to host the Fourteenth Coordination Meeting of Regional Organisations in 2017, in Trieste.

Memorandum of Understanding with International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

On the occasion of the Networking Meeting with other Regional and International Organisations operating in CEI area, held in Vienna on 4 May 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding between the CEI-ES and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) was signed. The document aims at developing a closer research collaboration between the two stakeholders, by fostering the exchange of scientists and specialists and of graduate and post-graduate students, as well as the development of joint collaborative research proposals and the organisation of meetings, workshops, conferences etc.

Central European Transfer Seminar on ‘Eco-smart Housing for Elderly’

In the framework of the WIDER Project (green growing of SMEs: Innovation and Development in the energy sector in mEd aRea) a Central European Transfer Seminar on ‘Eco-smart Housing for Elderly’ was held in Trieste on 14 May



Transfer Seminar, Trieste—May 2015

2015. The Seminar brought together innovation experts from Italy, Catalonia, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, who shared with the Seminar participants the valuable knowledge about innovation processes with particular subject-related focus. In the context of WIDER Policy Recommendations, a few stakeholders from the CEI Region provided a brief overview of the elderly situation in their own countries including related policy and social frameworks. The Seminar was addressed mostly to public sector officials and stakeholders from CEI countries dealing with planning, design and implementation of public policies and financial support measures for SMEs’ innovation, with focus on energy efficiency and/or domotics. Altogether 53 participants from 11 countries took part in this unique opportunity offered to CEI stakeholders for acquiring valuable knowledge which they should be able to replicate on their own respective territories, for the benefit of their elderly population, their companies, and their broader community.

Annual Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

The Annual Meeting of the RCC took place in Tirana on 22 May 2015, back-to-back with the South-East European Coop-

eration Process (SEEC) Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs. It gathered representatives of the 46 participants of the organization, as well as regional organizations and initiatives engaged in regional cooperation in South East Europe. The CEI was represented by Alternate Secretary General, Amb. Margot Klestil-Loeffler. The participants endorsed the RCC's efforts in fostering economic recovery and speeding up the European integration process of the region. The RCC Secretary General presented the Annual Report on Regional Cooperation in South East Europe 2014-2015, with focus on the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2014 – 2016 and the South East Europe 2020 Strategy, which was also endorsed at the meeting.

FOOD EAST Research and Innovation Forum 2015

The Forum focused on agro-food challenges towards the Milan Charter of EXPO 2015. It was held in Udine on 24-25 June 2015, highlighting the top-quality products and scientific achievements of the Friuli Venezia Giulia (FVG) Region and the Western Balkan countries contributing to sustainable food production. Ministries and ministerial representatives



CEI SG at FOOD EAST Forum, Udine—June 2015

of CEI Member States (Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia) and the Minister for Agriculture of Italy took the floor as well as representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament and of the CEI and the regional government of FVG. Research and innovation policies for improving agricultural activity and food production were illustrated with special reference to the establishment of the triple helix mechanism for connecting agro-food production and scientific achievements in the framework of growing public commitment towards technology transfer. Special attention was paid to the challenges of climate change for the sustainability of agro-food production and the potential of recent developments in the genomics for overcoming these challenges. The role of macro-regional strategies as a framework for coordinated transnational cooperation in this field was repeatedly praised, also with regard to the development of the “blue economy” within the EUSAIR.

Conference on EU Strategy for Adriatic-Ionian Region

The conference held in Izola on 21 September 2015 was co-organised by the Municipality of and the member of the Eu-

ropean Parliament's Committee on Regional Development (REGI) Franc Bogovič (SPP/EPP). It aimed at informing about the opportunities of European regional development policies in the Adriatic-Ionian region, in particular of the North Adriatic Area. It also aimed at discussing the possibility of defining a location for a Focal Point supporting the EUSAIR implementation, upon the responsibility of the Slovene Government.

4th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

This major strategic event in the framework of the EUSDR, held in Ulm on 29-30 October 2015, gathered stakeholders from the entire Danube area with the aim to further develop the strategic direction and discuss the Strategy's prospects and challenges. The Forum was set on four main thematic sessions and a number of parallel workshops. Session 1 focused on “Intertwining the strategy with civil society, parliaments and local communities”; Session 2 on “Innovation connects” focused on smart solutions emerging from the Macro-regional strategies cooperation; Session 3 was entitled “From the idea to implementation” dealing with the role of professional training; and Session 4 focused on demographic change in the framework of “Labour mobility and migration in the Danube Region”. The CEI is active in several fields covered by the EUSDR, such as science, transport and competence building.

Staff Consultations with the OSCE

On 18 November 2015, the Secretariat had staff consultations with the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna. For the CEI enhancing its relationship with the OSCE is of strategic importance and this meeting was a great learning process for both organisations. The gathering was also very timely in such difficult and important times for Europe and the Region CEI is covering. The migration crisis requests more cooperation, more synergies, more interaction among the institutions involved. The exchange of views provided new ideas and a solid basis for a follow-up in the areas identified for further cooperation in Eastern and South Eastern Europe. These include: good governance and rule of law, youth with focus on job creation and education, connectivity with focus on transport and energy. In this context, as of next year the Secretariat will try to join the OSCE in a number of existing projects or to-be-launched joint projects. On this occasion it was also pointed out that cooperation with the OSCE-PA could have an added value since the CEI Parliamentary Dimension is a very strong and well-functioning. Cooperation in the framework of the CEI Business Dimension will also be stepped-up.

7th Aspen Southeast Europe Foreign Ministers' Conference

Secretary General, Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri, participated in the 7th Aspen Southeast Europe Foreign Min-

isters' Conference in Berlin on 24 November 2015, together with the Foreign Ministers of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Germany, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and other distinguished guests. The Conference was organised by the Aspen Institute Germany, in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office and the Italian Embassy in Berlin. The event included two panel discussions – one dedicated to attracting investments and improving the legal and business framework in the Western Balkans (WB);



Aspen Conference, Berlin—November 2015

and the other - Southeast European Foreign Ministers' panel discussion - dedicated to Euro-Atlantic integration in times of crisis. In the panel dedicated to attracting investments, Amb. Cracciolo di Vietri stressed the CEI long-term partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), thanks to the strong Italian commitment, in particular through the CEI Fund at the EBRD, fully provided by Italy. He underlined that the CEI could be instrumental to Europe's support to a major structural transformation in the WB. This was also confirmed by the fact that, for each euro allocated by Italy through the CEI Fund at the EBRD, 215 EUR of EBRD investments followed, resulting in an overall investment of 4.8 billion EUR – a notable ratio which could serve as an example for other donors interested in attracting investments in the WB and ready to provide grant-type financing. The second part of the Conference - the Ministers' panel dedicated to Euro-Atlantic integration - tackled a number of key geopolitical issues, including the implications of the migrant crisis on the WB countries and the repercussions on the region due to the tensions between the Euro-Atlantic community and Russia.

Memorandum of Understanding with Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI)

The CEI-Executive Secretariat signed on 15 December 2015, in Skopje, a Memorandum of Understanding with MARRI—the Regional Centre of the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative—, where all six Western Balkan candidate countries are cooperating on issues regarding migration flows. The signature took place on the occasion of the International Conference “Migration and refugee flows in transit countries: security implications” held in Skopje. The signature

seals a strong partnership established after the Ministries for Foreign Affairs had called upon the CEI Secretariat in Trieste to also address its activities to facing the challenges posed by the growing flow of asylum seekers and migrants towards the CEI region. The Memorandum foresees actions enhancing the exchange of information and expertise in migration management: there is a need to move from the current emergency approach to a structural establishment of adequate assistance capacity and security for the incoming peoples; there is



Migrations Conference, Skopje —December 2015

a need for integration policy measures and European citizens are to be well informed on what lies ahead with regard to this unavoidable long-lasting perspective of humanitarian crisis. The signature took place in the framework of the international conference in Skopje held under the Macedonian CEI Presidency on the security implications of the migration and refugee flows in transit countries.

Feature Events, Prizes and Awards

The CEI Secretariat has 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 - through its Cooperation Fund - of the Trieste Film Festival, the Italian leading annual appointment with Central and Eastern European cinema, held on 16 - 22 January 2015. In particular, the CEI is supporting the “Eastweek” project, an international script-writing workshop involving film schools and academies from Central and Eastern Europe. Its main objective is to develop the selected projects from the delicate phase of the initial idea through a series of tutorials, masterclasses and case studies. This year, 10 students attended the workshop with the participation of two major screenwriters as trainers, Nicos Panayotopoulos e Pavel Jech. In the framework of the Festival, CEI support is also given to the co-production forum “When East Meets West” gathering funders, commissioning editors, sales agents, distributors and producers, in particular from Eastern Europe, Italy and – in 2015 – from the UK, Ire-

land, Canada and the USA. 22 projects from 29 countries were selected: 12 fiction feature films and 10 documentaries. In the framework of the Festival, the CEI is also presenting an Award for the film best interpreting the contemporary world and dialogue among cultures.

CEI Award 2015 at Trieste Film Festival

The CEI Award at the Trieste Film Festival was bestowed upon the young Croatian director, Tiha K. Gudac, for the docu-



Awarding Ceremony, Trieste—January 2015

mentary film *Goli (Naked Island)* which, as underlined by the jury, “denounces how a nation’s past can haunt its present”. The Award (3.000 EUR) was presented by Alternate Secretary General, Amb. Margit Waestfelt, on the occasion of the awarding ceremony in Trieste on 22 January 2015. *Goli* is an investigation built upon the ruins of the past, a mosaic made of clues, family photos and intimate testimonies of a tight-knit group of people who were brought together by the same place, a political prison in former Yugoslavia, also known as an “Island of broken souls” – and the consequences this place has left on three generations. At the same time it is a fascinating portrayal of a moment in which a past can become history and a brave documentary defies silence and fear. *Goli* was awarded as best documentary at the latest Sarajevo Film Festival.

CEI Venice Forum for Contemporary Art Curators

The ways and modalities to support research, experimental artistic production and curatorial practice were debated during the CEI Venice Forum for Contemporary Art Curators on 8 May 2015 at the Ca’ Rezzonico Museum, attended by qualified professionals, experts and artists from the CEI region. Considering that the current public funding schemes do not provide enough resources for fostering experimental production and research and that the visual arts’ sector is often required to act as an industry able to demonstrate efficiency through numbers, in compliance with the rules for “quantity”, the Forum offered a valuable framework for discussion and exchange of experience on this current topic. The connection with the Venice Biennale, opened on 9 May 2015, gave various curators of the national pavilions the chance to

attend the Forum and present their own experience on the subject. Organised by the Trieste Contemporanea Committee, in cooperation with the Institute for Contemporary Art in Zagreb, the Forum is granted with the patronage of Tibor Navracscics, member of the European Commission, and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Many local and regional authorities and institutions also support the event. The CEI has been supporting the Forum since its first edition. Over the years it has become a major CEI flagship activity in the field of culture, co-financed



Venice Forum Follow-up, Trieste—October 2015

by the CEI Cooperation Fund. The long-standing cooperation of the CEI Secretariat with the Trieste Contemporanea Committee has led to the promotion of many joint activities which have the merit of establishing successful networks encompassing a high number of institutions from various countries, generating dialogue, experience sharing and project partnerships.

Curators from Central and Eastern Europe gathered in Trieste on 23-24 October 2015 to discuss the key topic on public funding for research and experimental production in contemporary art. The event “Before Numbers. Issues and Activities”, was organised by the Trieste Contemporanea Committee, as a follow-up of the CEI Venice Forum for Contemporary Art Curators. The Trieste meeting included expert contributions by Maja Ćirić, independent curator and currently curator in residency at the BAR project of Barcelona; Julia Fabenyi, director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art in Budapest; Suzana Milevska, independent curator and art theorist of Skopje; Raluca Voinea, critic and curator of Bucharest, co-director of *transit.ro* and founder of the international platform *Artleaks*; Vladiya Mihaylova, curator, Vaska Emanouilova Gallery, Sofia; Zorana Đaković Minniti, curator at the Cultural Centre of Belgrade and at Podroom gallery, Belgrade. The participants, coordinated by Guliana Carbi, President of Trieste Contemporanea Committee, and Janka Vukmir, director of the Institute for Contemporary Art, Zagreb, were involved in a lively exchange of views, experiences and perspectives on ways and modalities to support research, experimental artistic production and curatorial practice. A session also focused on the management and planning of contemporary art in Friuli Venezia Giulia, with the participation of local curators who presented their experienc-

es and had the possibility to interact with curators from other countries. The Mayor of Trieste, Roberto Cosolini, and Barbara Fabro, CEI officer in charge of cultural events welcomed the participants. The two-day event, was complemented with a video at the crossing of visual arts, performative arts and new media elaborated by the Croatian group Komična Hunta. The video had originally been created for the contest "Squeeze it" and won the "Franco Jesurun Award".

CEI Dubrovnik Diplomatic Forum

The CEI Dubrovnik Diplomatic Forum is traditionally organised by the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, with the University in Zagreb and its Centre for Advanced Academic Studies (CAAS) in Dubrovnik, as well as in conjunction with the London Academy of Diplomacy (LAD), which has a strategic partnership with the University of Stirling. This year's edition



of the Forum, held in Dubrovnik, on 14-16 May 2015, under the title 'Diplomacy and Diplomatic Training: New Approaches to Diplomatic Practice', gathered high-state officials and other experts, both practitioners and academics, as well as junior diplomats from the CEI region and beyond (Israel, Malaysia, Morocco, Turkey, Turkmenistan). The 3-day programme encompassed 5 panels focusing on selected topics of diplomacy, diplomatic training, diplomatic and academic education, innovations in diplomatic communication, networking, economic and soft diplomacy. Two workshops for junior diplomats, dealing with public diplomacy policies and the media, were organised in the afternoon sessions. The Dubrovnik Diplomatic Forum started as an international conference in the field of diplomacy and diplomatic training (1998), and over the years has grown into an annual event, unique of its kind in this part of Europe. It has become a CEI feature event, co-financed by the CEI Cooperation Fund.

CEI International Summer School

Another Feature Event supported by the CEI through its Cooperation Fund is the CEI International Summer School. This year's edition, the 21st, was held in Santa Sofia in Bertinoro (Italy) on 1-13 September 2015 under the title "Managing Diversities in Democracy: Minorities, Territories, Self-

Determination". It was organised by the Istituto per l'Europa Centro-Orientale e Balcanica (IECOB) in cooperation with the European Regional Master's Degree in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe (ERMA), based on a network of 10 universities of South Eastern Europe and the EU. A set of lectures, round tables and workshops was held by a pool of over 27 professors and guest lecturers, selected with the aim of fostering a highly interdisciplinary approach. Implementation of Self-Determination, the principle of territorial integrity and minority rights policies were some of the topics addressed. Issues such as challenges faced by the European and Nation state governance in relation to enlargement and integration policies, multi-ethnic societies and diversity management strategies were also discussed. The international conference "Envisioning Moving Frontiers. Ukraine and Balkans: Cultural and Political Perspectives on the 'Other' Eu-



rope" coordinated by the Department of Political and Social Studies, University of Bologna was organised in the framework of the School as well. The CEI Summer School established in 1995 is the result of a longstanding cooperation between the CEI, the University of Bologna and the Institute for Eastern Central and Balkan Europe (IECOB) and enjoys a widely recognised international reputation). It focuses on a different topic and set of issues each year and provides students with the opportunity to learn from top professors on Central and Eastern Europe from around the world, while they are working on their Master's thesis.

Vilenica International Literary Festival – CEI Round Table

The Vilenica International Literary Festival with a Programme including meetings, poetry readings, panel discussions and debates with authors and writers from Europe and other countries worldwide, was held on 2-6 September 2015. In particular, the CEI supports two segments of the Festival, which this year had its 30th edition, i.e. a CEI Round Table, supported through the Cooperation Fund – with the participation of authors and writers from the CEI region - held in Lipica on 3 September 2015, under the title "Reflections of Place"; and a CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence. On the eve of the Festival a Vilenica Pre-Opening Event was hosted

at the CEI Headquarters. This event is organised by the Slovene Writers' Association in cooperation with the CEI and Group 85 - Skupina 85. It was held on 1 September with the participation of Kateryna Kalytko and Mirko Božić, respectively this year's and last year's Fellowship recipients.

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 promotion 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



Kateryna Kalytko, Winner of CEI Fellowship

year's Fellowship was granted to Kateryna Kalytko from Ukraine. Her Fellowship project is a collection of 22 stories entitled *The TVs Stay on All Night Through*, dedicated to the theme of memory and anxiety resulting from major social traumas. In these stories the author intends to compare post-Yugoslav and post-Soviet experience (mainly Ukrainian and Bosnian-Herzegovinian) through the prism of personal stories of characters whose lives have been affected by enormous social upheavals. To implement her project, Kalytko will spend her residency in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The awarding ceremony was held on 2 September in Sežana, Slovenia, during the opening of the Festival.

16th International Competition for Chamber Music Ensembles "Premio Trio di Trieste"

The International Competition for Chamber Music Ensembles "Premio Trio di Trieste", taking place every two years in Trieste, is one of the largest in the world in the field of chamber music. The competition, organised by ACM – Associazione Chamber Music, pays homage to the outstanding activity and interpretation of chamber music by the renowned "Trio di Trieste" ensemble. The CEI has always supported the competition by offering a cash prize to the most deserving ensemble from a CEI country. This year, the event has witnessed an even stronger cooperation thanks to the high participation of

ensembles from the CEI region and following the good collaboration established in 2014 during the CEI Summit in Vienna, where ACM had organised two remarkable concerts of the Josef Suk Piano Quartet (winner of the 2013 edition of the competition). This year, the main prize was awarded to the Lavrynenko-Guliei Duo (piano and cello) from Ukraine, the second prize went to the Romanian Banciu and Goicea Duo (piano and violin) and the third prize was bestowed upon the Polish Herbert Duo. The awarding ceremony took place on 7 September 2015 in Trieste, at the Verdi Theatre, on the occasion of the concert offered by the three selected finalists who all performed pieces by Johannes Brahms. At the opening, CEI Secretary General Amb. Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri recalled the CEI support to the competition, which is in line with the overall cultural cooperation promoted by the organisation aimed at supporting young talented artists, especially from non EU-CEI countries.



Lavrynenko-Guliei Duo

South East Europe Media Forum

The South East Europe Media Forum (SEEMF), organised by the South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO), the Central European Initiative (CEI) and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), was held in Bucharest on 5-6 November 2015. This Forum is one of the most prominent gatherings focusing on the media sector in Central and South Eastern Europe. This year's 9th edition of the Forum, under the title "Media in South East Europe – the Struggle for Success on the Web", gathered distinguished regional media CEOs, editors-in-chief, leading journalists, business professionals, governmental and NGO representatives. The Forum included four panel discussions on the future of journalism: "News content - competition on the Web. Who can cash in on it, and what kind of regulation is necessary?"; "Future of the media business - the vision of CEOs and directors. Which directions are media landscapes taking in Southern and Eastern Europe?"; "Journalists and their audience - a new relationship. Is a true dialogue through the Internet possible, and how can it be successful?"; "Innovative business models in times of change and crisis. How can traditional media survive and start-ups become prosperous?". A concluding address on "Europe today and the media" was delivered by Erhard Busek, former Vice-Chancellor of Austria, President of the Institute for the

Danube Region and Central Europe, Coordinator Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI). The SEEMF is a CEI Feature Event supported by the CEI Cooperation Fund. During SEEMF, the annual CEI-SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism, in special partnership with the Media Program South East Europe of the KAS, was also presented.

CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism

This year's Award - in cooperation with the CEI and the South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO), in special partnership with the Media Program South East Europe of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) - was bestowed upon Aleksandra Bogdani from Albania in the section "Professional Journalists"



SEEMF Opening, Bucharest—November 2015

and Nadia Burdey from Ukraine in the section "Young Professional Journalists". Aleksandra Bogdani, an investigative journalist and editor at the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) in Albania, has been awarded for her overall professional achievements as an intrepid reporter covering complex stories of human trafficking, organised crime and child abuse, corruption and national security. With more than a decade of experience working as a reporter, editor and deputy editor in chief in different media outlets in Albania, including the dailies Mapo, Shekulli and Top News TV, Bogdani has particularly impressed the jury by the courage shown as a woman producing an in-depth series of six investigations on the network of recruiters who send hundreds of Albanian muslims off to fight in the Syrian civil war as jihadists for the Islam State of Iraq and Levant, ISIS and the al-Nusra front. Nadia Burdey from Ukraine has been awarded as a promising young journalist who follows high professional standards in a difficult environment in which these standards are not widespread. Working in ZIK TV's weekly investigative programme "Our money" that focuses on corruption in state procurement and power abuse, Burdey reported on conflicts of interest between business and politics, which remain an important topic in Ukraine. In particular, her recent investigation about the illegally acquired and undeclared property of the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine resulted with the resig-

nation of the official. Bogdani and Burdey officially received their awards offered by the CEI (4,000 EUR and 1,000 EUR respectively) on the occasion of the South East Europe Media Forum (SEEMF) held in Bucharest on 5-6 November 2015. A Special Mention has been assigned to the Montenegrin reporters Mirko Boskovic (RTCG) as well as to Vlado Otasevic and Ana Komatina (CIJ Montenegro) for contributing to the advancement of investigative journalism in their country. In particular, Mirko Boskovic launched the investigative show "Mechanism" on RTCG in March 2015, marking a historical breakthrough for Montenegro's public broadcaster as a first noticeable criticism of official policy. Vladimir Otasevic and Ana Komatina jointly published a number of relevant investigations as members of the newly formed Center for Investigative Journalism Montenegro (CIJ Montenegro), including the exposing of the secret dual citizenship agreement between Montenegro and Macedonia.



Aleksandra Bogdani from Albania, Winner of CEI SEEMO Award

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 2015, the CEI was involved in 7 EU-funded projects, both as Lead Partner and Partner (*the full list and description of the EU-funded projects under implementation is attached as Annex 5*).

In the time-frame 2004 - 2015, 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 €700.000 for the execution of these projects, with a total value of around €34 million.

Technical Cooperation Programme

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

In 2015, the CEI Fund at the EBRD committed about €1.7 million for 11 Technical Cooperation assignments (*the full list and description of the TC projects approved in 2015 is attached as Annex 6*).

Between 1993 and 2015, the Italian Government committed through this Fund more than €24 million for 144 TC assignments. In the period 1993 to 2015 these TCs in the countries of operations are expected to mobilise about €4.8 billion of international investments. The EBRD alone has contributed to those investments about €2.9 billion. A Total Investment Ratio (TIR) can be calculated to show how many euros the international community has invested for each euro committed by the CEI Fund for TC projects. Between 1993 and 2015 the TIR is expected to be 1:215.

Know-how Exchange Programme

Launched in 2004, the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP) is a development assistance instrument aimed at supporting transfer of experience from the EU to the non-EU countries within the CEI region. The Programme originates from the belief that economic development in non-EU CEI Member States can be strengthened by transferring good practices and introducing benchmarks already tested and established in countries that have gone through the EU accession process. As such, the KEP offers grants to institutions from EU countries willing to share their experience with their partners in the non-EU CEI countries in South-eastern and Eastern Europe. The Programme is financed from two sources: the CEI Fund at the EBRD, supported by Italy, and the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). In 2008 and 2011 the Polish

Ministry of Foreign Affairs made two voluntary contributions of €25.000 each to support KEP activities.

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

In 2015, the KEP ITALY co-financed 7 new projects with resources from the CEI Fund at EBRD with a contribution amounting to 229,635 EUR and an overall projects total cost of about 0.5 million EUR.

Within the KEP AUSTRIA Call 2015, five project proposals were approved by the CEI Committee of National Coordinators in October 2015 with a total CEI grant amounting to 165,972 EUR and a total project cost of about 395,000 EUR. These activities have been selected among 96 applications. *The full list and description of the KEP projects approved both through KEP ITALY and KEP AUSTRIA in 2015 is attached as Annex 7.*

80 KEP projects were approved under the KEP ITALY in the period 2004-2015 for a CEI Fund committed CEI contribution of about €2.2 million and a project total cost of more than €11.5 million. The projects targeted recipient institutions from all non-EU CEI Member States. The countries that have benefited the most from the KEP, since its establishment, are R. Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine, while the Western Balkans have mainly been addressed by region-oriented projects. The most active donor institutions were located in Italy and Poland, followed by Austria, Slovenia, and Hungary. Concerning the four areas of intervention: sustainable agriculture, capacity building, and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable energy and environment area, there is a rather balanced distribution among all of them.

31 projects were approved under the KEP AUSTRIA in the period 2008-2015 for a CEI committed contribution of about € 0.9 million and the total value of projects amounting to about €2 million. The projects target recipient institutions from most of the CEI non-EU Member States. The beneficiary countries that have benefited the most from the KEP AUSTRIA, since its establishment, are Bosnia and Herzegovina, R. Moldova and Serbia, together with Croatia, an eligible beneficiary country until 2012. The most active donor institutions were from Austria and Italy, followed by Slovenia, Slovakia and Romania. Concerning the four areas of intervention, most projects are implemented in the following areas: capacity building and European integration, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable energy and environment.

Cooperation Activities

The CEI Cooperation Activities (CAs) are multilateral small-scale projects, in some cases linked to a larger project. CAs are one of the main instruments through which the priorities of the CEI Plan of Action are implemented. 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 2015 amounted to €386,990.

In 2015, 56 Cooperation Activities were approved. The total CEI contribution for these activities amounts to €477,107 or 16 % of the total cost of the projects representing a total value of around €2.5 million. In terms of areas, Intercultural Cooperation (14) has been the most tackled area, followed by Climate, Environment and Rural Development (10), Lifelong Education and Training (9), Research and Innovation (6) and SME Development (5). As to the geographical context, the highest number of approved projects are organised by Serbia (11) followed by Macedonia (10), Italy (8) and Hungary (6). *The full list of Cooperation Activities approved in 2015 is attached as Annex 8.*

As to the Extraordinary Call on Migrations and Security Related Issues, 11 Cooperation Activities were approved in the framework of the Call. The total CEI contribution for these fast-track activities amounts to € 96,445, thus, mobilising an expected total expenditure of about € 450,000. *The full list of Cooperation Activities approved within this Call is attached as Annex 9.*

Since the start of its operations in 2002, the CEI Cooperation Fund has co-financed - with an amount of more than €8.7 million - 947 Cooperation Activities for a total value of about €54 million. It is estimated that the annual mobility generated by the Cooperation Fund in its twelve years of activity is of about 5,000 people.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. PRIORITIES OF THE MACEDONIAN CEI PRESIDENCY



PRIORITIES OF MACEDONIAN CEI PRESIDENCY 2015

- **Follow-up initiatives along the CEI priorities outlined in the Plan of Action 2014-2016**, and mid-term review of the CEI Plan of Action
- **Focus on the Western Balkans**, promotion of the advantages of the region, and the added-value of the integration of all countries of Western Balkans in the European Union
- **Further focus on the macro regional strategies** – inclusiveness of the EU regional approach, involvement of the European Commission in the CEI activities, in particular the role of the CEI as a bridge between macro-regions
- **Continue developing the energy and transport infrastructure connecting all CEI Member States**, with special focus on Corridors X and VIII, intersecting the CEI countries
- **Strengthening the Business Dimension**, through the organisation of a fruitful and focused Business Forum of interest to all Member States
- **Accent on Sustainable Development and Agribusiness, and Knowledge-based Society**, in accordance with the provisions of the CEI Plan of Action 2014-2016
- **Cooperation with other relevant international and regional organisations active in the region**, especially with the UN Agencies, as a follow-up to the UN CEI resolution, as well as with international financial institutions, in particular the EBRD
- **Strengthening the role of the CEI as an important actor in the region** and increasing its visibility

CEI MISSION

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

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

ANNEX 2. CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF THE MACEDONIAN CEI PRESIDENCY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Event</i>
3 February	<i>Skopje, Macedonia</i>	First Meeting of CEI National Coordinators under the Macedonian CEI Presidency
4 February	<i>Skopje, Macedonia</i>	Presentation of CEI's Funding Programs (EU projects, CEI Know-How Exchange Program and Technical Cooperation) before the Macedonian institutions and NGOs
24 March	<i>Brussels, Belgium</i>	Meeting of CEI National Coordinators of the Enlarged Troika
17 April	<i>London, UK</i>	Second Meeting of CEI National Coordinators, <i>on this occasion coupled with the EBRD/CEI Steering Committee</i>
4 May	<i>Vienna, Austria</i>	Third Meeting of CEI National Coordinators and Networking Meeting with other Regional and International organisations operating in the CEI area
19-21 May	<i>Skopje, Macedonia</i>	CEI Parliamentary Committee
21 May	<i>Skopje, Macedonia</i>	International conference "European Integration through Regional Cooperation–Perspectives of Macro-Regional Strategies" co-organized by the Institute for Geopolitical Research and Foreign policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia
14 June	<i>Ohrid, Macedonia</i>	Fourth Meeting of CEI National Coordinators prior to the CEI Foreign Ministerial Meeting
15 June	<i>Ohrid, Macedonia</i>	CEI Foreign Ministerial Meeting
30 July	<i>Ohrid, Macedonia</i>	Concert of the Chamber of the Jeunesses Musicales Macedonia with Elena Mitrevska, conductor, in the framework of the Ohrid Summer Festival
18 September	<i>Trieste, Italy</i>	Fifth Meeting of CEI National Coordinators
23 September	<i>Skopje, Macedonia</i>	Workshop on Infrastructure development on Virtual Western Balkans Centre for Hydrometeorological Services and Climate Change organized by the National Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of Macedonia
1 October	<i>New York, USA</i>	CEI Foreign Ministerial Working Lunch at the margins of the United Nations General Assembly
2 November	<i>Rome, Italy</i>	Meeting of the CEI – PD General Committee on Cultural Affairs
6 November	<i>Skopje, Macedonia</i>	Ministerial conference: Towards Climate Summit in Paris 2015, challenges for the CEI Member States organized by the Ministry of environment and physical planning of the Republic of Macedonia

9 November	<i>Trieste, Italy</i>	Meeting of the CEI – PD General Committee on Political Affairs Meeting of the CEI – PD General Committee on Economic Affairs
13 November	<i>Skopje, Macedonia</i>	First CEI Diplomatic School: Macro and micro strategies for development – strengthening the capacities of the diplomatic academies in the CEI region organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia - Directorate for Diplomatic Academy
26 November	<i>Skopje, Macedonia</i>	CEI Business Forum
9 – 11 December	<i>Skopje, Macedonia</i>	CEI Parliamentary Assembly
16 December	<i>Skopje, Macedonia</i>	International Conference “Migration and Refugee Flows in Transit Countries: Security Implications”
17 December	<i>Skopje, Macedonia</i>	Sixth Meeting of CEI National Coordinators

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

Profit

N°	Item	Law/Agreement/Reason	Amount
1.	Balance carried forward from 2014	N/A	1,337,849.19
2.	Contribution from Italian MFA	law 286/1997 and 142/2003	1,350,053.00
3.	Contribution from the Austrian Development Agency	GA 8180-01/2011-12-LR2010 and 8180-02/2014	210,000.00
4.	EU Grants and Refunds		261,092.47
5.	Contribution from Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region	LR 11/1996 and 18/2011	109,400.00
6.	Contribution from Member States to CEI Cooperation Fund	CEI MFA decision 22.06.2001	333,710.00
7.	Sponsorships and reimbursements	local fundraising/reimbursements on anticipated expenses	105,831.68
8.	Accrued interests on CEI bank accounts		75.65
9.	Internal Transfers		271,000.00
Total A			3,979,011.99

Loss

N°	Item	Amount
1.	EU projects (including staff and travels)	506,696.02
2.	KEP-ADA projects	149,910.69
3.	Cooperation Fund projects	438,959.52
4.	Events, meetings, sponsorships	97,923.60
5.	Infrastructural costs (HQs)	130,029.70
6.	Salaries and allowances	938,094.27
7.	Consultants	96,582.54
8.	Travel expenditures	121,590.53
9.	Auditing, banking costs, insurances, miscellaneous	36,784.95
10.	Bank fees	6,093.94
11.	Internal loans/transfers	302,115.88
Total B		2,824,781.64

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

1,154,230.35

ANNEX 4. CEI SECRETARIAT'S STAFF

CEI-Executive Secretariat

Executive Level

Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri <i>Secretary General</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities.
Ambassador Margot Klestil—Loeffler <i>Alternate Secretary General (as of 1 April 2015)</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities.
Ambassador Margit Waestfelt <i>Alternate Secretary General (until 31 March 2015)</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.
Giorgio Rosso Cicogna <i>Special Advisor to SG</i>	Advisor to the Secretary General.

Professional Staff

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

General Staff

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

Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD

Executive Level

Guido Paolucci
Programme Manager

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

Professional Staff

Elisabetta Dovier
Senior Executive Officer

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

Daniela Biadene
Junior Executive Officer

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

General Staff

Tea Larsson
Junior Secretary (on maternity leave until 1 July)

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

Unit for EU Projects

Anna Marconato
Project Manager

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

Ugo Poli
Project Manager
Focal Point Migrations

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

Alberto Cozzi
Project Manager

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

Peter Canciani
Project Manager

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

Ana Sinkovic
Project Officer (on maternity leave as of March 2015)

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

Sara Baronio
Project Assistant (until October 2015)

Assistance to communication, administration and reporting activities, as well as organization of meetings and events in the context of the EU projects.

Marina Juricev
Project Assistant (until November 2015)

Assistance to communication, administration and reporting activities, as well as organization of meetings and events in the context of the EU projects.

ANNEX 5. EU-FUNDED PROJECTS

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

EU Programme: 7th Framework Programme

CEI role: Partner

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

Area: Research & Innovation

Duration: 01/2014 – 12/2016

Total cost: €1,996,467.00

Budget administered by the CEI: €176,955.43

Danube-INCO.NET is a strategic Coordination and Support Action strongly connected to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), and in particular to its Priority Areas for Knowledge Society (PA7) and for Competitiveness (PA8). Implemented by a consortium of 19 partners from all over the Region, the project promotes policy dialogue within the EUSDR through a combination of diverse activities aimed at enhancing transnational dialogue, networking and clustering, while contributing to the implementation of the 'Innovation Union' and the ERA Framework. This will help overcome obstacles hindering the social and economic development of the Danube Region. Moreover, Danube-INCO.NET addresses two societal challenges, i.e. sustainable energy and innovative/inclusive societies, with the ultimate goal to support more cohesion between the leading, world-class innovative regions upstream and the less knowledge/innovative-intensive regions downstream.

The CEI plays a role within the Danube-INCO.NET consortium by leading Work Package (WP) 3 entitled "Tackling societal challenges: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in a Bio-based Economy". The tasks and activities included in WP3 aim at assessing the overall potential of the Danube Region in the field of sustainable energy and bioeconomy in order to promote the establishment of clusters and networks among stakeholders (both private and public), also through the implementation of pilot/demonstration actions.

Highlights:

- The CEI is responsible for mapping Danube Region-based institutions/stakeholders in the field of renewable energy, energy efficiency and bioeconomy (more than 550 institutions identified).
- The CEI is responsible for the elaboration of a monthly newsletter focused on sustainable energy and bioeconomy, with tailored information for mapped institutions/stakeholders on funding opportunities, calls and events in the Danube Region.
- The CEI organised three Clustering Workshops, of which one hosted at its HQs, aimed at promoting transnational cooperation in support to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.
- The CEI was responsible for the management of a "restricted call", out of which 2 Pilot Activities were selected. Both Pilot Activities, to be implemented in 2016, focus on the development of bioeconomy in the Danube Region.
- The CEI was invited to present its activities in the Danube-INCO.NET project at the JRC Annual Event on the Support to the Danube Strategy (Ulm, 27-28 October 2015).
- 2nd General Assembly Meeting held in Budapest on 10-11 December 2015.

For more information: www.danube-inco.net

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

EU Programme: 7th Framework Programme

CEI role: Partner

Participating countries: Austria, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom

Area: Energy

Duration: 09/2013—08/2016

Total cost: €499,685.00

Budget administered by the CEI: €67,410.00

The objective of the EBTP-SABS project is to provide support to all activities of the European Biofuels Technology Platform, which are of interest to the biofuels community as a whole, and to the general public. This includes information about technological, market, political, regulatory and financial developments and deployment activities such as the set-up, commissioning and operation of pilot and demonstration facilities and surrounding research.

EBTP-SABS is motivating discussion and interaction between various groups of stakeholders and the working groups of EBTP on 'hot topics' relating to the accelerated deployment of the most promising value chains for advanced biofuels. Informing the biofuels debate with scientifically correct, unbiased information is beneficial to all biofuel stakeholders. The information is provided at several levels: general information to support those entering the biofuels community as well as the general public; more detailed information to support research or deployment activities; and links to research projects, demonstration facilities, external reports, stakeholders and training courses to support those actively seeking to implement biofuels technologies. The key instruments to achieve this goal will be the EBTP website, factsheets, reports, newsletters and networking events at different levels.

EBTP-SABS will help connect the EBTP with a wide range of stakeholders in research, industry, government, NGOs and related professions, providing expertise in 4 key areas to:

- Improve feedstock sustainability and availability by addressing logistics, land use issues and production of a diversity of feedstocks (wastes, aquatic and microbial biomass, cellulosic energy crops, etc);

- Demonstrate conversion of feedstocks to advanced biofuels via innovative technologies at industrial level (biochemical, thermochemical, etc), to establish best-performing value chains, overcome technical bottlenecks, and lower capex and opex;
- Develop end use of advanced biofuels in road, air, marine and rail transport and other uses, through innovations in fuel use, engines and infrastructure;
- Accelerate market deployment of the most promising advanced biofuels to contribute to the EU strategy on climate change mitigation and sustainable transport across all Member States, improve European energy security and technology leadership, and help create 1000s of new jobs in the Bioeconomy.

Specific EBTP-SABS tasks also include:

- Updating the EBTP Strategic Research Agenda to inform on priorities for research and demonstration under Horizon 2020 and the European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative (EIBI);
- Developing strategic solutions to overcome the main barriers to deployment of advanced biofuels;
- Disseminating information about demonstration and flagship facilities, and supporting research on advanced biofuels across all Member States and other countries of interest;
- Promoting greater involvement in EBTP activities of a wider range of stakeholders from all advanced biofuels sectors, and providing information on events, reports, feedstock availability, funding and deployment issues.

Highlights:

- Project started on 1 September 2013 and will be finalised in Q3 2016.
- R&D&D topics.
- Ongoing Implementation.
- A follow-up project proposal has been submitted to capitalise on project results.

For more information: www.biofuelstp.eu

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

EU Programme: 7th Framework Programme

CEI role: Partner

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

Area: Energy

Duration: 09/2013 - 08/2016

Total cost: €5,151,300.00

Budget administered by the CEI: €267,600.00

The main aim of S2BIOM is to support the sustainable delivery of non-food biomass feedstock at local, regional and pan European level through developing Strategies, Roadmaps and a Toolset with harmonised datasets for EU28, Western Balkans, Turkey and Ukraine.

The project reflects most recent developments in policies, strategies and trends in the field of Bioeconomy, Renewable Energy and Sustainability, as well as the evolution of macro-regional strategies. The research encompasses the entire biomass value chain, including production, logistics, pre-treatment and conversion, taking into account sustainability constraints in order to create a coherent knowledge base that will facilitate the integrated design of optimal biomass value chains.

The project activities are implemented in three strongly interrelated pillars:

- Theme 1 focuses on data collection and estimation of sustainable biomass potentials, resource efficient conversion pathways and optimal logistical supply routes. This information is consolidated in the Toolset, which will allow for integrated planning of infrastructures of the bio-based economy. Activities under this pillar are almost completed, with the final version of the Toolset available in April 2016.
- Theme 2 is developing a structured overview of all elements of economic and regulatory frameworks that relate to the sustainable delivery of non-food biomass at different levels of governance across Europe. It is also developing coherent policy guidelines that will enable policy makers to quickly appreciate the existing support frameworks, and the most efficient ways to apply them for the future use of biomass in a sustainable manner. Theme 2 also focuses on the streamlining of sustainability requirements for the different value chains addressed in the project, as well as on the definition of optimal pathways towards a low-carbon bio-based economy.
- In the framework of Theme 3, led by the CEI in collaboration with the FNR, the elaborations of the other two pillars, and in particular the Toolset, are being extensively tested and validated. This is achieved through the engagement of stakeholders, i.e. those from CEI Member Countries, and the implementation of a wide set of case studies, which help capture the different scales of applications for biomass supply chains in a sufficient number of regions across Europe. Moreover, the CEI ensures wide dissemination of the project activities and outputs among stakeholders.

Over the past 30 months of implementation, the EC, as well as representatives of the business community and Academia from EU MS have expressed a growing interest in the potentials and capacities of Central, East, and South-East European Countries, especially in terms of biomass availability, but also with regard to the existing knowledge and competences.

Highlights:

- The Project started on 1 September 2013 and will be finalised in Q4 2016.
- The Toolset will be delivered in April 2016.
- The Strategies and Roadmaps are under development.
- The Case Studies are under implementation.
- Several dissemination events will be organised in 2016.
- A follow-up project proposal has been submitted to capitalise on project results.

For more information: www.s2biom.eu

Development of North Adriatic ports multimodal connections and their efficient integration into the Core Network (TEN-T NAPA STUDIES)

EU Programme: TEN-T

CEI role: Partner

Participating countries: Croatia, Italy, Slovenia

Area: Transport

Duration: 10/2013 -12/2015

Total cost: €5,630,000.00

Budget administered by the CEI: €200,000.00

The TEN-T Napa project is funded under the TEN-T Programme. It aims at supporting the preparation of mature motorways of the sea projects included in the North Adriatic Ports Development Plans. It contributes to the development of these ports as interconnection points between the sea transport and other modes of transport through the creation or improvement of hinterland access, linking the ports via rail and inland waterway connections to the TEN-T Network.

This action focuses on the motorways of the "South-East Europe Sea"(connecting the Adriatic sea to the Ionian Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean) and contributes to the integration of the existing maritime links into the European intermodal logistics chain by improving hinterland connection (rail and inland navigation) and maritime access of the North Adriatic ports.

ICT pilot actions are also foreseen to improve the interoperability of different transport modes (sea and rail).

Highlights:

- All technical activities were finalised and implemented in 2015.
- The project was presented at the Transport Logistic Fair in Munich, in May 2015.
- Each port organised a dissemination and stakeholder event to involve the key partners for the success of the project.
- The CEI and RAM held a ministerial meeting in Rome in December 2015, gathering representatives from the Ministries of Transport of the countries involved.
- The final event took place in Rijeka in December 2015, with a relevant coverage by the Croatian media.

For more information: www.napa-studies.eu

Green growing of SMEs : innovation and development in the energy sector in MED area (WIDER)

EU Programme: MED Programme

CEI role: Partner

Participating countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Slovenia, France, Greece, Portugal, Spain

Area: Energy

Duration: 01/2013—06/2015

Total cost: €2,292,142.00

Budget administered by the CEI: €120,500.00

Increasing life expectancy has been one of the main achievements of European societies, their lifestyle and their healthcare systems, but the aging population presents other challenges for economies and the welfare state. Demographic transition is in fact one of the greatest challenges the European Union has to face nowadays. This demographic transformation generates the challenge for our societies to promote greater opportunities for older people, they can feel fully satisfied and participate in all aspects of life. This is a change in attitudes, policies and practices at all levels and in all sectors where the enormous potential of older people as well as the development of a society and an economy suitable for all ages are promoted.

The WIDER project has addressed some of the challenges raised by the ageing trend in Europe, in particular the challenge of elderly people living in inadequate and high costly homes. Through the Innovation Voucher scheme specifically designed for the purpose of the project, WIDER has offered concrete opportunities for SMEs to gain the necessary knowledge in order to develop products and services

responding to the specific needs of the elderly in terms of housing solutions. The achieved result is two-fold: 1) SMEs are now able to develop new potential for their own economic recovery and 2) by making the homes of the elderly safe, comfortable and eco-smart, SMEs are enabling the elderly to live a well-serviced and independent life in their own homes, thus contributing to enhancing and enriching the quality of their lives.

The CEI has strongly contributed to the project by promoting and disseminating to its Member States the specific knowledge and the experiences gained through the project activities. The CEI's aim was indeed threefold: to raise the awareness of a broader public in its Member States on the elderly issue in general, to influence public policies regarding elderly needs and possible solutions, and particularly to provide SMEs with innovative and specific ideas, information and know-how for new potential market niches and related growth opportunities.

At the end of the project, the CEI organised in Trieste a Central European Knowledge Transfer Seminar on 'Eco-smart Housing for Elderly', targeting relevant public officials and stakeholders from CEI MS. The event proved to be the right frame for transferring the knowledge and experience of WIDER to a CEI transnational audience, thus enabling the latter to replicate the project's successful methodology and experience on their own respective territories.

For more information: <http://www.wider-project.eu/>

Accessibility and Development for the Re-launch of the Inner Adriatic Area (ADRIA A)

EU Programme: Cross-border cooperation programme Italy-Slovenia

CEI role: Lead Partner

Participating countries: Italy, Slovenia

Area: Transport and accessibility

Duration: 01/2010 – 04/2015

Total cost: €2,960,616.00

Budget administered by the CEI: €2,960,616.00

The ADRIA A project aims at contributing to the accessibility and transport reorganisation of the entire cross-border area, between Italy and Slovenia, in order to establish an integrated plan for metropolitan mobility. The shared intention was to define the missing links in the Italian and Slovene railway infrastructural network to guarantee a single transport model for the whole territory. Moreover, the project has contributed to the creation of an EGTC (European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation) between Gorizia, Nova Gorica and Sempeter - Vrtojba, in order to ensure cooperation in territorial and transport planning even after the conclusion of the project.

The project focused on the development of a metropolitan area between the Italian and Slovene territories with the implementation of an integrated rail service model. The metropolitan areas consist of housing settlements and industries set in an adequate infrastructural system where all relations and exchanges occur. All transport modes must be coordinated by taking into account the most profitable experiences (i.e. American – rapid transit, German Schnellbahn). This kind of service – light rail or light train – will provide the basis for a potential connection between the Airports of Venice, Trieste, and Ljubljana. The main lines are coordinated with other public transport services and also with the use of private vehicles.

Through the project, the existing railway line was analysed with enhancement actions aimed at eliminating missing links and bottlenecks, by introducing service programmes and by identifying service stations, stops and interexchange points. Finally, the cross-border area should be integrated with the central section of the Veneto region in one single metropolis. This large area hosts production centres, housing, commercial, cultural and transport areas of international importance.

Thus, the achieved results of this pilot model of bilateral cooperation entail a pattern of common planning suitable to be transferred to many cross-border realms of the CEI Member States in the framework of the European Territorial Cooperation goal and of the IPA CBC programmes.

Highlights:

- The project duration was extended from October 2014 to April 2015.
- All projects outputs were concluded, including the preliminary designs for the missing railway links between Italy and Slovenia, performed by the Ministry of Transport of Slovenia and the Italian Railway Infrastructure Manager, RFI S.p.A.
- A workshop on the capitalisation of all transport-related projects funded by the CBC Italy-Slovenia 2007-2013 Programme was organised by the CEI in Trieste in March 2015.
- A conference titled "The role of the European Union in the Western Balkans: Transport interconnections and the enlargement process" was organised within ADRIA-A, together with DG NEAR, in Trieste in April 2015.

For more information: <http://www.adria-a.eu/>

Sustainable and energy efficient mobility options in tourist regions in Europe (SEEMORE)

EU Programme: Intelligent Energy Europe

CEI role: Partner

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

Area: Energy Efficiency - Tourism

Duration: 03/2012 – 02/2015

Total cost: €1,974,225.00

Budget administered by the CEI: €133,928.00

Many tourist regions face seasonal peaks in demand for transport services, causing problems such as congestion, increased travel times and environmental pollution (noise, CO₂, etc.). To counter this situation, infrastructural developments are needed since they are lacking. In fact, soft measures such as information and awareness raising play a key role in shaping people's (and tourists') mobility behaviour. Within SEEMORE, a wide range of activities were implemented to shift visitors' travel behaviour towards more sustainable transport modes. SEEMORE has demonstrated that engaging in sustainable mobility is worth the effort, since sustainable destinations (offering clean seawater and beaches, poor noise and traffic and healthy air) means attractive destinations with consequent benefits for the local economy and public health.

Within SEEMORE, great efforts were put into providing tourists with appealing and tourist-friendly mobility information. This was mainly achieved through the development of "tourist sustainable mobility information packages", i.e. leaflets or thin brochures combining tourist and mobility information (descriptions of tourist attractions and explanations on how to reach them in a sustainable way, i.e. by using public transport, bikes, seaways or walking). New forms of cooperation between tourism and mobility professionals were also initiated, leading to new tourist products, which combined transport and leisure activities, such as:

- free or reduced entrance tickets at attractions for visitors travelling by public transport
- discounts at shops for public transport users
- free public transport services to major events (local feasts, festivals, etc.)

The CEI was responsible for transferring SEEMORE best practices and knowledge to tourist destinations in CEI countries. This was achieved during two Central European Transfer Seminars, where SEEMORE partners sat together with stakeholders (mobility and tourism professionals) from other CEI tourist localities, discussed the current situation regarding tourism and mobility issues and identified specific SEEMORE actions and measures to be possibly replicated in the CEI region.

For more information: <http://www.seemore-project.eu/>

ANNEX 6. TECHNICAL COOPERATION (TC) PROJECTS

Macedonia Rail Corridor VIII Phase II - Consultancy Services for Project Implementation

Country: Macedonia

Sector: Transport

Total cost: €350,000.00

Expected investment related: €145 million

The EBRD is considering extending a sovereign loan to the Republic of Macedonia to be on lent to the Public Enterprise for Railway Infrastructure (PERI or "the Company") in a total amount of €145 million for the construction of a new rail line and of existing sections between Beljakovce and Kriva Palanka. This investment would provide financing for the second phase of the eastern section of the Pan-European Rail Corridor VIII within Macedonia. It is a continuation of EBRD's Corridor VIII Phase I Project signed in August 2012 and the works contract awarded in December 2013.

The Bank's investment will support the rehabilitation and new construction of a section, which extends from Beljakovce station at the northern end to the vicinity of the city of Kriva Palanka, with a length of approximately 34 km. The envisaged works include: (i) execution and completion of earthworks and drainage; (ii) construction of 12 bridges and finalisation of the works on 14 bridges which are partially constructed; (iii) construction of 15 tunnels currently at the various stages of completion. The investment project will be implemented by a Project Implementation Unit (PIU), established by the representatives from the Ministry of Finance (MOF), the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC), and the Company. It will receive implementation support in the form of consultancy services funded by this Technical Cooperation assignment. PERI wishes to engage a consultant to support the PIU in the management and implementation of the works and supervision contracts and overall project implementation tasks assigned to the PIU.

The key objective is for the Consultant to support the PIU during the implementation of contracts, provide advisory services to assist the PIU in meeting the works schedule, assess any requests of change(s) variation orders and provide other technical inputs/advice as needed. The Consultant shall assist the PIU with the preparation of the progress reporting required under the EBRD Loan Agreement.

An additional aspect of the assignment is the transfer of knowledge and skills to the PERI PIU staff. The transfer of knowledge and skills is to result from collaborative work between the Consultant and the PERI PIU staff – reinforcing the need for the Consultant to maintain a regular local presence. The Consultant shall assist PERI in the management and administration of the works and supervision of the engineering contracts. Tasks shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- overall technical and financial management and administration of the contracts during the implementation phase;
- monitoring progress of project implementation based on the project implementation plan;
- monitoring of project costs against the budget;
- assessing the Contractor's applications for change orders and providing a recommendation as to whether these should be accepted or not; reviewing the Engineer's determinations in this respect;
- consideration of additional applications from the contractor to subcontract parts of the works;
- production and submission of all scheduled reports;
- advising the PIU on all matters related to the execution of the contracts;
- assisting the PIU in preparing disbursement requests for drawdowns of loan funds;
- assisting the PIU with the preparation of regular reports to the Bank pursuant to the relevant financing documents.

Macedonian National Roads Programme. Project Implementation Assistance

Country: Macedonia

Sector: Transport

Total cost: €450,000.00

Expected investment related: €178 million

The EBRD intends to extend a sovereign-guaranteed loan to the Macedonian Public Enterprise for State Roads (PESR) for the construction or upgrading of four national road sections. Much of Macedonia's national road network is obsolete and it follows existing routes that have been progressively upgraded in status, but still contain poor alignments with inadequate capacity and safety standards. The project will be divided into two parts. Part 1: Reconstruction and widening of the section Stip – Kocani of national road A3 (approx. 27km); Construction of the section Raec - Drenovo of National Road A1 (approx. 10km). Part 2: Construction of the section Trebenista - Struga of National Road A2 (approx. 8km); Construction of the section Ohrid - Pestani of National Road A3 (approx. 12km).

A combined construction and maintenance contracts will be used for part of the road sections in the investment project. This approach will initially be applied to the Stip-Kocani road section, where the PESR will be required to include maintenance for a period of at least 5 years after the completion of construction works in the contract. No private maintenance component is envisaged for the Raec-Drenovo road section due its difficult terrain. For Part 2 road sections, a suitable approach still needs to be defined, but should include competitively tendered maintenance where feasible, either as part of the construction contracts or tendered separately.

In addition to the four road sections, the EBRD loan will fund the acquisition and implementation of a digital archiving system. The definition of the functional and technical parameters and specifications of the digital archiving component will be provided by a separate consultancy assignment. Total project costs excluding consultancy costs and taxes are expected to be approximately €77 million for Part 1 and €101 million for Part 2. PESR is seeking to appoint a consultant for implementing the Project in accordance with the Bank's requirements, and with the following three key objectives:

- Assist PESR in developing a suitable contractual structure for the combined construction and maintenance contract for the Stip-Kocani section. Based on experience with this section, the Consultant shall advise PESR on an appropriate contractual structure for the sections to be financed from the EBRD Loan for Part 2. This should include competitively tendered maintenance contracts where possible, but it is recognized that given the short length of Part 2 sections, a combined use of construction and maintenance contracts may not be feasible.
- Ensure that all procurement activity under the project is conducted fully in accordance with the EBRD's Procurement Policies and Rules (PPRs).
- Support the PIU during contract implementation, including an advisory role to assist the PIU in meeting the schedule, as well as assessing any requests of change(s) variation orders and providing technical input as needed. The Consultant shall assist the PIU with the preparation of the progress reporting required under the EBRD Loan Agreements.

An additional aspect of the assignment is the transfer of knowledge and skills to the staff of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) within PESR. The transfer of knowledge and skills is to result from collaborative work between the Consultant and the PESR PIU staff – reinforcing the need for the Consultant to maintain a regular local presence.

Macedonia Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreement Preparation

Country: Macedonia

Sector: Energy

Total cost: €65,000.00

Expected investment related: €30 million

Macedonia is signatory to the Energy Community Treaty. Amongst other things, this commits Macedonia to taking measures to implement the EU Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources.

In this context, the Country has been set a mandatory binding target for the percentage of electricity to be generated from renewable sources. In order to meet this target, the Country has adopted a feed-in tariff mechanism under which generator of electricity from renewable resources are entitled to (a) priority of despatch and (b) payment of a fixed tariff (indexed) per kWh for electricity generated. The Country's mechanism foresees that a power generator shall be purchased under a Power Purchase Agreement (a PPA) to be signed, respectively, with the Macedonian electricity market operator (the Buyer).

A number of renewable energy projects are being developed in the Country, mainly in the area of wind and small hydropower. The EBRD recognises that renewable energy investors are particularly sensitive to the form of PPA they rely on, given: (a) the particular challenges posed by the intermittency of some renewable energy generation, (b) the large size of some of these investments and (c) the common use of limited recourse finance for such investments.

While extensive support has been provided by, amongst others, the EBRD, the World Bank and the European Commission, for the technical aspects of integrating wind-power into electricity systems, less support has been made available to the buyers, regulators and government authorities in relation to commercial aspects. Given that private investments, and in particular limited recourse finance, are not common in the energy sectors of the Country, there is relatively limited experience of commercial and legal characteristics normally found in PPAs of this kind.

The objective of the TC assignment is to assist in the finalisation of a PPA for renewable energy that will meet the requirements of domestic and international investors, while protecting the interests of the buyer and other stakeholders in the energy sector.

The Country has its own legal, regulatory and political system. Therefore, the PPA model prepared must reflect this and be tailored appropriately.

The scope of the Consultant's work is to assist both the Bank and the local authorities in the finalisation of a market-standard PPA and associated documents for renewable energy in its Country, as well as develop a clear understanding of the terms of, and rationale for, this document.

A PPA model has been developed in Macedonia. The Bank is interested in concentrating its assistance on developing the documents needed for larger projects, i.e. those larger than 5 MW.

The outcome of the assignment should be a finalised bankable PPA and associated documents acceptable to the key stakeholders: the Lenders (and the Bank in particular); the Government of Macedonia; the Buyer; the Transmission System Operator; and the principal developer(s).

Water Sector in Coastal Area Reform

Country: Montenegro

Sector: Municipal infrastructure

Total cost: €70,000.00

Expected investment related: €18 million

The EBRD has arranged a sovereign loan of €18 million to the Public Enterprise for Regional Water Supply "Regionalni Vodovod Crnogorsko Primorje" (PEW) for the construction of a Regional Water Supply System (RWSS) that would provide potable water from Lake Skadar to the municipalities along the Montenegrin coast.

PEW is responsible for providing bulk water to the coastal municipalities in Montenegro. It completed the construction of a regional water supply system and put it into operation in July 2010.

It is crucial for the sustainability of the entire water supply sector that it become the managing centre for the entire production and distribution of water through appropriate control and regulatory functions.

Through this Technical Cooperation assignment, the Government will gain access to international best practices in the field of institutional set up of water utilities as well as advice on specific legal, financial and technical matters.

The overall objective of the assignment is to assist in preparing the Plan for the reorganisation of the water supply sector on the Montenegrin coast. It will be presented to the Government of Montenegro and local municipalities. The project should bring about an integrated business system with high level long-term technical and economic sustainability, fully meeting the needs of consumers.

The Consultant should prepare a draft plan for reorganising the water supply sector on the Montenegrin Coast, which is to comprise means of implementing a new institutional model. This should cover the preparation of all the informational and analytical documents, detailed legal framework and acts for the implementation of the new institutional model, operation analyses of local water supply companies (VIKs) and PEW, detailed structural and functional schemes of VIKs and PEW, analysis of production tariffs for all the available water sources, staff rationalisation plan, and redundancy programme.

Priority Investment Program Identification and Pre-feasibility study of local water supply systems expansion in the coastal municipalities of Montenegro

Country: Montenegro

Sector: Municipal infrastructure

Total cost: €35,000.00

Expected investment related: €20 million

The construction of the regional water supply system resolved the problem of water shortage in coastal municipalities that had lasted for decades. The investment substantially financed by the EBRD with €18 million, created prerequisites for regular and constant water supply for consumers on the Montenegrin coast. It provided high-quality potable water, and eliminated the basic limiting factor for faster economic growth, in particular the development of tourism and associated branches of trade.

Currently, there are six local public waterworks companies operating independently in the coastal area of Montenegro (Ulcinj, Bar, Budva, Kotor, Tivat and Herceg Novi). They all have their own water sources, their own transportation and distribution of water systems as well as their own supply /consumption areas. However, due to their inability to provide regular water supply for all residents, local waterworks companies are still lacking water supply networks in a number of residential areas along the coast. This is why they approached the EBRD for financing of up to €20 million, i.e. for a water supply system expansion in residential and tourist areas.

The overall objective of this assignment is to assist local water utilities (VIKs) of Herceg Novi, Kotor, Tivat, Bar and Ulcinj and Regional Water supply Company (PEW) in undertaking a comprehensive Priority Investment Programme and:

- identify priority investment programmes for the settlements for which local water supply systems will be constructed - in line with the project preparation and due diligence requirements of the EBRD, with a map showing locations of these settlements and preliminary descriptions of the proposed scope of works for each priority investment, and
- prepare pre-feasibility studies for these investments.

It is envisaged that the following experts will be needed:

- team leader with a comprehensive experience in similar assignments and in working with international financial institutions (IFIs);
- technical specialists, water engineers;
- financial analysts with due diligence experience in similar assignments;
- environmental and social specialist.

3rd International Master's in Public Procurement Management (IMPPM), University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy

Country: Regional (non-EU CEI Member States)

Sector: Institutional development

Total cost: €75,000.00

Expected investment related: not applicable

In 2013-2014 the joint work between the EBRD and the University of Rome Tor Vergata - whose Faculty of Economics is recognised world-wide as a centre of excellence for education in procurement - produced the first and second edition of the International Master's in Public Procurement Management. It was a challenge both institutions have developed successfully. The CEI Fund at the EBRD supported the Master's through two capacity building technical cooperation assignments with €40,000 in 2013, and €40,000 in 2014. The Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance also supported the assignment in 2013 with €45,000, in 2014 with €35,000, and in 2015 with €35,000.

The first two-year experience was valuable to identify opportunities for improvement, based on feedback from students, professors and EBRD experts. Excellent results achieved with the two editions of the Master's has served as a basis for the subsequent continuation and consolidation of the Programme aimed at enhancing public procurement professionalism in the EBRD's transition countries. In addition, good results from the first two generations have increased the demand for capacity building in public procurement within the EBRD client public entities thanks to the fact that the acquired knowledge could immediately be applied to a better organisation and procurement strategy in implementing projects financed through EBRD loans. These Public entities/organisations have recognised the advantage of having their own specialists trained to resolve procurement issues and to advance a more efficient implementation of projects, avoiding the high cost of engaging consultants to perform these duties. These benefits are further shared and expanded to the EBRD by reducing the fiduciary risk to the Bank when qualified and skilled professionals are responsible for procurement activities and results.

In the framework of the third edition of the Master's, the Bank will offer full sponsorship for an international group of up to twenty senior public procurement managers/officials from the following EBRD countries of operations: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan and Ukraine. The contribution of the CEI Fund at the EBRD will support the participation of selected participants from non-EU CEI Member States.

The main objective of the Master's Programme is to raise the academic level and training of public procurement officials, from different backgrounds, to have the capacity to design and administer procurement solutions to resolve complex strategic, managerial and organisational problems. Special emphasis is placed on professional capacity, ethics, transparency and accountability. Training takes the form of traditional class units for a total duration of four consecutive months, including traditional lectures and seminars covering specific procurement topics such as abnormally low tender prices, negotiations, IT, vendor rating, etc. The participants will learn more about good procurement practices: strategic purchasing tools, international procurement law, PPP, ethical aspects involved in procurement activities, economic analysis of markets.

Montenegro: Tivat Airport Modernisation Project. Procurement Support Consultant

Country: Montenegro

Sector: Transport

Total cost: €250,000.00

Expected investment related: €30 million

The EBRD is considering granting a loan to JSC Airports of Montenegro (APM or the Company), a state-owned operator of Montenegro's international civil airports, in order to finance the construction of a new passenger terminal and modernise the manoeuvring area and apron at Tivat Airport (the "Project"). Airports of Montenegro owns and operates Montenegro's only two international civilian airports in the tourism hub of Tivat on the Adriatic coast and in the capital city of Podgorica. APM was established in 1999 and has managed the airports at Tivat and Podgorica since 2003. The Company aims at providing high-quality service while maximising the commercial potential of the airports. Tivat Airport was built in 1971 and has a 4,050 sq m single-storey passenger terminal, which was refurbished in 2006 and has limited retail facilities, a single runway of 2,500 meters and apron space for seven aircrafts. The capacity of the airport is insufficient to handle the demand during the peak summer season, which limits the growth of the country's tourism industry and leads to overcrowding and delays at the Airport. Moreover, the runway at the Airport does not currently comply with the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) safety requirements due to an insufficient safety zone at the end of the runway. The Project would address both of these issues by increasing more than double the handling capacity of the passenger terminal and adding two aircraft stands that would provide sufficient handling capacity and improve service quality. Works would also be undertaken on the runway to meet the ICAO safety requirements.

The Company and the Bank have agreed that the assistance to the Company by an experienced procurement specialist (the Consultant) is necessary in order to ensure that procurement is carried out in line with the best international practices and the Bank's Procurement Policies and Rules (PP&R), using open tendering procedures including two-stage tendering. This support is particularly necessary, as the Company does not have specific experience with the application of this type of procedure.

In 2014 the CEI Fund committed €300,000 in support of a TC assignment aimed at providing a design analysis of possible functional concepts of the new and existing terminals, a proposal of an optimal Concept Design and development of Preliminary and Detailed Designs based on the adopted technological concept of the new passenger terminal at Tivat Airport.

The overall objective of this proposed TC assignment is to assist the Tivat Airport throughout the procurement process, including the preparation of the tender and request for proposal documents, evaluation of tenders, applications and the awarding of contracts. The use of TC funds to engage an expert Procurement Consultant will facilitate the timely and effective procurement of the Project components by assisting the Company throughout the procurement process. This will also have an important demonstration effect with regard to the effective procurement and management of a project of this size and complexity.

Establishing of Origination and Execution Capacity Program for SME Direct Finance in Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus

Country: Ukraine, R. Moldova, Belarus

Sector: SME support within SBI (Small Business Initiative)

Total cost: €180,000.00

Expected investment related: €100,000

The banking sector in Ukraine is undergoing a systemic crisis because of ongoing political and economic turmoil. Both local and international banks have substantially reduced their lending appetite and are concentrating on liquidity management and portfolio consolidation. While lack of risk appetite on behalf of commercial lenders and lack of equity on behalf of investors plagued Ukrainian SMEs prior to 2014 as well, availability of debt and equity financing to SMEs has become extremely limited post 2014. SMEs in Moldova and Belarus are facing similar challenges in access to finance, due to depreciating currencies and consolidation of the banking sector in both countries. SMEs are an important contributor to economic growth and a very important source of jobs. SME contributions to GDP amount to 40% in Ukraine, 28% in Moldova and 20% in Belarus. SMEs employ more than 50% of working population in both Moldova and Ukraine and 28% in Belarus. In 2014, the EBRD launched the Small Business Initiative (SBI), a strategic initiative integrating the tools the EBRD offers to support small enterprises in its countries of operations, including Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. The SBI aims to provide a more comprehensive and integrated support to small businesses in the Bank's countries of operation. It aims to increase its delivery capability through a better use of synergies amongst SME programmes and resources dedicated to this sector. The Initiative comprises, among other products, direct finance to SMEs.

Historically, the EBRD has directly financed small local enterprises mainly in Early Transition Countries (ETC) such as Moldova and Belarus. It has focused on multinationals and large corporates in larger countries such as Ukraine. The EBRD has financed SMEs in larger countries for example Ukraine mainly indirectly, through dedicated credit lines in commercial banks. However, as risk appetite of commercial banks is decreasing, it is important for the EBRD to interfere in the SME finance sector directly, by decreasing its minimum loan/investment amount and expanding its execution capacity. Through the SBI, the EBRD plans to build on the extensive experience of direct financing to SMEs gained over the years in other regions such as the ETC or the Western Balkans, and launch direct finance of SMEs (debt and equity) in Ukraine, as well as significantly step up these activities in Moldova and Belarus. In this context, an adequate project-management-support-programme is essential for efficient project implementation both during the pre-investment and post-investment phase, in particular for small-size deals as those to be implemented under the SBI. In view of the above, TC assistance is required to launch and expand the SME direct finance activity of the EBRD in Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus. In order to provide origination, execution and monitoring capacity for the planned increased number of SME transactions, funding is currently requested for one Associate Banker position for 24 months, to be located in Kyiv and responsible for SME transactions in Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, with extensive traveling in each of the three countries. The required budget for the proposed Programme also foresees resources to cover business development and project implementation activities. As part of the origination effort, the Associate Banker will be fully integrated into the SBI team from the start of operations. He/she will exclusively be dedicated to investments under the SBI frameworks. This programme will provide essential support to the financing activity for SMEs the EBRD will be putting into place over the next two years in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. In this timeframe, the Bank expects to invest a minimum of €100 million in small and medium local enterprises.

Analysis of Climate Risks in Transport Infrastructures in the Western Balkans

Country: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia

Sector: Transport

Total cost: €74,500.00

Expected investment related: Investments to be determined by the analysis

Many of the countries in which the EBRD operates are particularly vulnerable to climate change: partly because of their geographical location and characteristics, but also because under-investment has resulted in ageing infrastructure and facilities. The EBRD supports projects focused on adaptation and resilience to climate change by offering technical expertise and finance. The Bank helps clients to:

- identify climate change impacts that will affect their operations;
- develop and implement strategies to facilitate adaptation;
- invest in measures and technologies that improve their resilience.

Initial EBRD investments in these areas demonstrate that early-moving clients can reduce costs, maximise profitability and increase competitiveness.

Considering the growing effects of climate change in the Western Balkans (e.g., increasing extreme summer temperatures, increasing level of rain precipitation and subsequent episodes of flooding, etc.), transport infrastructures are ever more increasing risk disruption. Major repercussions are observed on economic activities, mobility, trading patterns and strain on national budgets in terms of increasing costs for maintenance, emergency interventions and operational costs.

In this framework, the proposed TC assignment will analyse existing evidence of changing weather patterns and assess the impact on transport infrastructures (ports, road, railways, inland rivers and related systems).

It will also identify critical focus areas for transport planners and transport operators and define appropriate interventions with indications of investment requirements and institutional and organisational arrangements needed to reduce climate risks, mitigate the effects of climate change and maximise the economic return for local communities and businesses. The scope of the work will include:

- Analysis of climate/weather patterns according to established climate models and empirical evidence.
- Review of transport infrastructures, which present especial level of risk with respect to their relevance for economic activity and forecasted degree of impact.
- Assessment of appropriate interventions in terms of: policies, operational arrangements and specific investments with economic analysis and assessment of the reduced risk level.
- Definition of priority interventions at country level with recommendation of optimal implementation strategies including terms of financing mechanisms.
- Publication of country notes with results and main findings.

Innovation Vouchers scheme for resource efficiency technologies and services: programme preparation and definition of possible implementation approaches

Country: Serbia

Sector: Energy

Total cost: €74,000.00

Expected investment related: The aim of the TC assignment is to identify investment opportunities

The proposed TC assignment will define the relevance and scope of an innovation voucher scheme for Serbia focused on resource efficiency technologies (energy, water and material efficiency). It will include a cost and benefit assessment and the definition of appropriate implementation arrangements.

Rationale for provision of innovation services: an innovation voucher programme could be set up in order to support the Serbian private sector to manufacture and deploy state-of-the-art resource efficiency technologies. This would help Serbian industry become more competitive by lowering its cost base and helping it meet international standards. The Serbian industry currently faces multiple barriers to the adoption of best practice technologies and services on resource efficiency.

Empirical evidence from EBRD activities in the country shows that: financial barriers (e.g. high upfront costs, or high financing costs) are the biggest barrier to uptake with regard to resource efficiency technologies; and this is followed by knowledge and technical barriers. Most firms have limited awareness and capacity to implement new advanced resource efficiency technologies.

Within the resource-efficiency technology sector, Serbia has under-developed local supply chains. Currently, many technologies have to be sourced from other countries, which leads to incremental costs for local companies. Supporting the development of local companies in resource efficiency technologies will help develop local supply chains, lower costs and increase competition.

Innovation vouchers are an established mechanism for supporting businesses to innovate – especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The first scheme of this kind was set up in 1990, and by 2010, the number of schemes increased to at least 25, implemented at national and regional levels all across Europe. Innovation vouchers help overcome the presence of information and co-ordination failures that inhibit businesses from investing in innovation. SMEs also tend to have many innovative ideas but often lack the necessary capital, technical expertise and/or business expertise to transform their innovation project into a market success.

From the EBRD's point of view, innovation vouchers present a mechanism where a large number of EBRD clients can be supported by a variety of providers in a non-burdensome manner administratively. The activity will define costs/benefits and the appropriate implementation arrangements for an Innovation Vouchers scheme in the country.

Operational Details.

What is an innovation voucher? A voucher provided to a Serbian business, worth between €5,000 and €50,000, to partially or fully pay an external expert to help the business to innovate and adopt/expand their manufacture or use of resource efficiency technologies. The voucher will pay between 50% and 100% of incurred costs.

What services can be accessed? R&D technology design, customisation, applied research; Testing; Certification; Market research; Developing and protecting intellectual property, Innovation advice covering any part of the business related to resource efficiency technologies.

Resource efficiency in the supply chain: Univerexport**Country:** Serbia**Sector:** Energy**Total cost:** €50,000.00**Expected investment related:** €10 million

The retail industry in Serbia is characterised by a limited awareness about environmental impact along the supply chains, particularly with respect to food. According to estimates by the FAO, food is responsible for over 1/3 of global GHG emissions associated to land use, farming operations, animal husbandry, food processing, transport/distribution and retail. Because of its role at the end of the food chains and because it is the main interface of the food sector with the consumers, retail represents a key entry point for the introduction of best practices of sustainability along the food chains.

The proposed TC assignment aims at creating a demonstration case in the Western Balkans regarding the appraisal of the environmental footprint of goods and products (with a particular focus on food) and the identification of measures, investments and interventions, which can improve consumer awareness through better information on the use of resources along the supply chains. In addition, the study will also identify innovative financial instruments to reduce risks and cost of funding for resource efficiency investments along selected supply chains.

Univerexport is one of the main retailers in Serbia, which the EBRD is considering financing.

The scope of the work includes:

- Use the methodology developed by the EBRD to select specific products and goods, which present a significant environmental impact along their production, distribution, use and disposal.
- Perform a detailed assessment of the environmental impact of the selected products with a specific focus on the use of resources, the GHG emissions and other relevant environmental impact indicators (e.g., water pollution).
- Identify technically feasible measures and investments along the supply chains, which can reduce significantly the environmental impact of the selected products.
- Based on a detailed economic analysis of costs and benefits related to such measures and investments, and the expected reduced environmental impact, determine priority interventions along the supply chains.
- Define possible financial instruments to reduce costs/risk of these measures and investments and determine the appropriate set of incentives and economic return along the value chains from the suppliers to the retail company. The study will focus in particular on financial solutions implemented through the retail company which is expected to be able to access cheaper finance compared to most suppliers (typically, SMEs with limited access to long-term finance).

ANNEX 7. KNOW-HOW EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (KEP)

KEP ITALY

WASTE MGMT in Vinnytsia – Capacity building and transfer of knowledge for increasing and improving professional skills in waste management in the Region of Vinnytsia

Ref. No.: 1206.001-15

Know-how provider institution: Contarina Spa, ITALY

Know-how recipient institutions: Vinnytsia Regional State Administration, UKRAINE; EcoVin, UKRAINE

Area: Sustainable energy

Implementation date: February 2016 – August 2017

Project total cost: €79,714.00

CEI co-financing: €39,755.00

The project intends to support the Ukrainian Region of Vinnytsia in improving its waste management policy and practices and aligning them with European standards (in compliance with the Ukraine–European Union Association Agreement).

The project has the potential of supporting the Regional State Administration of Vinnytsia (responsible for the policies on waste management, environmental standards, economic development, urban planning) in reducing costs. This will be possible thanks to the experiences and expertise made available by the know-how providers; the Italian applicant Contarina Spa with its strong expertise in the field of sustainable waste management, supported by the Agence de coopération et développement (expert in cross border cooperation), FORMA.Azione (experienced in planning and delivering vocational/liberal training programmes) and Scuola Agraria del Parco di Monza (training centre delivering courses in agriculture, waste and environmental management). Together they have organised a strong capacity-building programme adapted to the Region of Vinnytsia.

The main objective of the project is the preparation of the Waste Management Plan (WMP) for the Region of Vinnytsia, in order to improve waste management along with the technical and administrative competences, which could be also used as a model for neighbouring regions (Local strategic planning). It will also enable the renewal of equipment available in the Region of Vinnytsia, facilitating the sustainability of the WMP as well as will improve competences among Ukrainian professionals, transferring the knowledge within the country. Moreover, the project aims at increasing the awareness among the local population on waste production and separation of materials.

Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Civil Society Initiative: Capacity Building for Monitoring SOE Governance in the Energy

Ref. No.: 1206.002-15

Know-how provider institution: Center for the Study of Democracy, BULGARIA; Transcrime – Joint Research Centre on Transnational Crime, ITALY

Know-how recipient institutions: Albanian Center for Economic Research, ALBANIA; Center for Investigative Reporting, BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA; Center for International Cooperation, MACEDONIA; Centre for the Analysis and Prevention of Corruption, R. MOLDOVA; Center for Democratic Transition, MONTENEGRO; Center for Liberal-Democratic Studies, SERBIA

Area: Capacity building

Implementation date: January 2016 - December 2016

Project total cost: €78,948.00

CEI co-financing: €39,474.00

The project proposal is submitted by Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) in its capacity as SELDI Secretariat (Southeast Europe Leadership for Development and Integrity) - an anti-corruption and good governance coalition of 30 likeminded CSOs in Southeast Europe. CSD will work together with Transcrime (Joint Research Centre on Transnational Crime of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano and the Università degli Studi di Trento, Italy). The project objective is to strengthen the corporate governance systems in SEE by enhancing the capacity of CSOs to monitor the behaviour of key stakeholders and to exercise control over State Owned Enterprises (SOE). In all countries, the OECD Principles of Corporate Governance have been transferred, yet the specific guidelines are still not widely known nor implemented. The expertise providers supporting the activities include two internationally recognized anti-corruption and good governance organisations. The beneficiaries of the project are six SELDI members.

The project aims at accomplishing its objectives by leveraging the SELDI coalition resources and capacity of our know-how providers in the area of good governance and energy security. CSD and Transcrime will conduct a workshop raising awareness of the risks and negative effects of governance deficiencies in the energy sector and the state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in SEE, focusing on the six beneficiary countries in particular. A presentation of the OECD's good governance principles and the methodology for conducting research will ensure detailed and focused data gathering and analysis structure.

The outcome will be the publication of national fact-sheets for each country as well as case studies on the transparency and corporate governance of SOEs in the energy sector, outlining the situation in the energy sectors of the countries in the region and assessing the main factors, determining the level of transparency, independence and strategic decision-making.

Innovation management for SMEs**Ref. No.:** 1206.003-15**Know-how provider institution:** Free Entrepreneurship Association, POLAND**Know-how recipient institutions:** Association of European Business, BELARUS**Area:** SME Development**Implementation date:** January 2016 - October 2016**Project total cost:** €34,501.00**CEI co-financing:** €17,250.00

One of the main barriers in Belarus for the adoption and success of SMEs innovative-driven management practices is the limited amount of resources that SMEs have, of the lack of integration of innovative initiatives with the business strategy as well as the fact that innovative initiatives do not always lead to improved business performance.

Following the perceived needs, the project will focus on a series of trainings in business management and best practices, transfer of the know-how and SME guidelines development tailored to the Belarusian business environment. The purpose of the project is therefore to show that business management innovative practices may be seen not just as an additional cost for the enterprise, but as something, that can add value. In this context, the project objectives aim at transferring knowledge on practical application of business management innovative practices based on international standards from Polish experts to Belarusian SMEs. Specifically, the main objectives are to train Belarusian SMEs in business management best practices and to draft the SMEs practical guidelines adapted to Belarusian conditions.

The estimation is that the project will have a positive impact on the overall SME management in Belarus and will help to demonstrate how innovative practices can be a part of a business strategy of the company.

HYMEUR-HYdrometeorological Modelling for Environmental qUalitycontRol**Ref. No.:** 1206.005-15**Know-how provider institution:** University of Brescia, ITALY**Know-how recipient institutions:** University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Technical Sciences Čačak, SERBIA**Area:** Capacity Building**Implementation date:** January 2016 – December 2017**Project total cost:** €81,150.00**CEI co-financing:** €40,000.00

In May 2014 Serbia was hit by floods, and as a consequence, the importance of an efficient hydro meteorological and environmental monitoring system in strategic areas, as that close to Kragujevac and Čačak, has become vital. According to the 2010 Law on meteorological and hydrological activities of Serbia, a network of meteorological and hydrological stations has already been established.

The project's objective is to transfer technology know-how in the field of hydro meteorological monitoring from the University of Brescia, which is one of the leading institutions in the field in Italy, to the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Čačak. In 2014 the two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understandings to promote and encourage scientific and/or academic collaboration including the exchange of professors, researchers and students.

The project is expected to improve Serbia's know-how on hydro meteorological and environmental monitoring systems as well as mitigate Serbia's environmental hazards. The project will also ensure the scientific and technological development of hydro-meteorological monitoring for a wider range of users: by installing the station, the whole community will benefit from an improved quality of life and a healthier environment. Strategically, the installation and networking into the existing national network of stations is highly significant, as it will improve environmental monitoring in Čačak and therefore the quality of the environment in the area.

"SMART RIVER GOVERNANCE: EXPERIENCES IN THE MIRROR FROM ITALY TO MOLDOVA" - Acronym: SMA.RI.GO.**Ref. No.:** 1206.006-15**Know-how provider institution:** Alta Scuola, ITALY**Know-how recipient institutions:** State Enterprise Basin Water Management Authority, R. MOLDOVA**Area:** Capacity Building**Implementation date:** January 2016 – March 2017**Project total cost:** €80,000.00**CEI co-financing:** €38,785.00

In the European Union (EU), questions related to river water management are successfully managed by using the River Contracts (RC), a very valuable EU participatory tool to promote the involvement of the local communities in making decisions on river basins management. One of the know-how providers, BETA Studio (Italian engineering company providing consultancy and technical services for water and natural resources conservation, planning and management) is currently involved in the hydraulic modelling of the Moldovan rivers. With its knowledge and results obtained from the hydraulic modelling with flood risk assessment, it will develop the good practices, included in "River Contracts".

The results will lead to dissemination and sharing of good practices as well as innovative technologies in water resource governance aimed at small river basins of Moldova, in order to improve water management among the partners. The main aim is to implement the practice of "River Contracts" in the area of Botna sub-basin in the territory of Moldova and perform capacity building trainings for local public authorities and the non-governmental sector, who are involved in water governance, through technological and methodological transfers from Italy to Moldova. These actions should strengthen the management capacities of the beneficiary and associated institutions as well as enable them to apply the good practices of the "River Contracts" with the approach used in the "Management and technical assistance support to Moldova flood protection project" to other river basins in the Country.

Development of a training program on Management of Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Rapid Response

Ref. No.: 1206.007-15

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

Know-how recipient institutions: Institute of Public Health "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut", SERBIA

Area: Capacity Building

Implementation date: January 2016 – December 2016

Project total cost: €73,850.00

CEI co-financing: €36,925.00

The project is based on the already existing collaboration between the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, the main institute active in research, audit, technical and scientific advisory in the field of the public health system in Italy and the Institute of Public Health of Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut". The joint action was confirmed by the signature of a MoU in May 2014 between the two institutions.

The main objective of the project is to set up a training programme in Serbia on Environmental Disaster Prevention and Management. The project aims at filling the gap between what is perceived as lacking - by transferring knowledge in relation to the design and the development of training activities - and the actual needs. The project will focus on strengthening and enhancing the activities of the Institute of Public Health of Serbia and its readiness to respond in case of natural disasters. Furthermore, it will provide decision-makers and other stakeholders with more effective and timely action plans as well as improve the expertise of the beneficiary's personnel in order to increase their knowledge and management capacity towards adverse events.

Capacity Building for Improved Mineral Fuels Monitoring System - Transfer of Best Practices against Grey Economy (FUELPAGE)

Ref. No.: 1206.008-15

Know-how provider institution: University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC

Know-how recipient institutions: Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, SERBIA

Area: Capacity Building

Implementation date: February 2016 – December 2016

Project total cost: €48,100.00

CEI co-financing: €17,445.00

The project aims at improving the control of distribution of petroleum products on the Serbian market, preventing losses in budgetary incomes due to unpaid customs duties, taxes and excise duties. In addition, it will focus on securing fuel quality on the market, protecting interests of consumers and producers of petroleum products and indirectly reducing harmful emissions; and on further improving the fuel quality monitoring system in Serbia.

The Fuel Quality Monitoring System for implementation of Directive 98/70/EC and supplementary Directives have not yet been fully transposed into the legislation in Serbia, where further support and exchange of experience would greatly contribute to system improvements in line with EU best practices.

The beneficiary of this project, the Serbian Ministry of Trade, in charge of the direct supervision of fuel quality, has recognised the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, as an academic institution with relevant experience in fuel quality assessment, able to implement the project and provide know-how and experience exchange with Czech experts. The project includes screening and an analysis of the mineral fuels monitoring system in Serbia with a presentation of best Czech and EU practices. It includes the Review of Findings, Recommendations and Measures for system improvement.

The project also envisages the strengthening of the beneficiary institution's capacities for development and implementation of an enhanced fuel quality monitoring system in line with EU Directives and best European practices, taking into account first and foremost the experiences from the Czech Republic. This will enable to better comprehend the European system of trade flow control for mineral fuels as well as to bring the key stakeholders in Serbia closer to understanding the need to implement EU directives in the field of the mineral fuels quality monitoring system. Lastly, it will provide the best practice examples of direct surveillance mechanisms and on-the-field organisation of the mentioned surveillance.

KEP AUSTRIA***LCA – GHG emissions of RES production and utilization in Serbia (RESEnviro)*****Ref. No.:** 1206.AF.006-15**Know-how provider institution:** BOKU – University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, AUSTRIA**Know-how recipient institution/s:** University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Technical Sciences, Novi Sad, SERBIA**Area:** Energy**Implementation date:** February 2016 – December 2016**Project total cost:** €47,200.00**CEI co-financing:** €20,000.00

Renewable energy sources (RES) should provide sustainable energy to society, and the environmental life cycle assessment tool (LCA) has found its place in many research institutions throughout Europe where many strategies or legislative documents in Europe are promoting the use of LCA and its principles for evaluation of production and utilisation pathways of RES (e.g. Renewable Energy Directive). Bearing this in mind and in order for Serbia to meet the EU standards, it ought to have institutions and trained experts capable to perform LCA studies. The project aims at increasing the research capabilities of institutions and experts in Serbia for measuring the environmental impact of RES, through LCA. Special attention will be paid to biomass, one of Serbia's main RES through activities such as: procurement of appropriate software tool for LCA analysis; training for conducting LCA studies; conducted LCA studies of biomass production and utilisation pathway in the form of biogas in Serbia.

“Heroes and she-roes”: Knowledge for analysis of and advocacy for equal pay for women and mothers in Macedonia (SHE-ROES)**Ref. No.:** 1206.AF.015-15**Know-how provider institution:** The Vienna Institute of International Economic Studies, AUSTRIA**Know-how recipient institution/s:** Association for economic research, advocacy and policymaking “Finance Think” Skopje, MACEDONIA**Area:** Social inclusion/capacity building/economic development**Implementation date:** December 2015 – April 2017**Project total cost:** €98,500.00**CEI co-financing:** €40,000.00

According to previous research, Macedonia is facing gender and motherhood wage gaps of 12.5% and 8.7%, respectively. A large part of females is outside the labour market and cannot be considered when the pay gap is calculated (as their wage is not observed). This makes the above figures incorrect, since it is likely that females outside the labour market are not randomly selected as non-working. A main objective is also to obtain sufficient knowledge for a proper calculation of pay gaps, i.e. econometric (technical) knowledge to address the selectivity bias in the labour market. The project will focus on instructing the Macedonian recipient to correctly measure gender pay gaps (difference in wages between men and women) and motherhood pay gaps (difference in wages between mothers and childless women) in Macedonia as well as at advocating solutions for addressing them.

Reduce energy use and change habits – REACH**Ref. No.:** 1206.AF.0038-15**Know-how provider institution:** Focus, SLOVENIA**Know-how recipient institution/s:** Centar za ekologiju i energiju, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA; NGO Fractal, SERBIA and Zeleni dom, MONTENEGRO**Area:** Environment**Implementation date:** November 2015—December 2016**Project total cost:** €102,090.00**CEI co-financing:** €45,000.00

With rising energy prices, more and more households are facing difficulties in paying their energy bills. As they cannot cover their basic energy needs they face energy poverty. In new Member States and accession countries this is the case for about 30% of the households. Energy poverty is not properly defined and monitored and there is lack of structural approach to the problem. Hence the aim of the project is to contribute to energy poverty abatement at practical and structural level. This aim translates into twofold overall objective of the action, which is: to empower energy poor households to take actions to save energy and change their habits, and to establish energy poverty as an issue that demands tailor-made policies and measures. The project focuses on energy poverty abatement at practical and structural level through tailor-made policies and measures. The Slovenian Know-how provider will carry out capacity building, transfer of know-how and best practices to the main partner in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to additional partners in Serbia and Montenegro (NGO Fractal and NVO Zeleni dom respectively). The project is based on ongoing project REACH (reach-energy.eu), which covers Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia.

Leap forward with flexible and appropriate wastewater solutions in R. Moldova (WaterLEAP)**Ref. No.:** 1206.AF.067-15**Know-how provider institution:** Business Development Group, ROMANIA**Know-how recipient institution/s:** Basin Water Management Authority of R. MOLDOVA**Area:** Environment**Implementation date:** December 2015—November 2016**Project total cost:** €94,080.00**CEI co-financing:** €38,000.00

R. Moldova has a deteriorated wastewater infrastructure due to ageing, lack of investments and under-maintenance. About 45% of the infrastructure needs rehabilitation. Urban access to sewage services is improving but still at about 60%, for rural communities it is even lower at about 40%. The environmental degradation due to unmanaged wastewater discharge is significant (high levels of Phosphorus and Nitrogen nutrient loads, eutrophication and suspended solids) which affects aquifers and downstream intake for water use, and ultimately the Black Sea. Utilities face a combination of factors including outdated equipment, high physical losses, inefficient operations, low staff productivity, and tariffs. Relevant in this context is the Water Law 272 that focuses on integrated water management, efficient water consumption, environmental protection, and river basins administration; and the overarching EU Water Framework Directive that sets European criteria. The dire wastewater circumstances together with the demanding legislative and regulatory criteria require investments in rehabilitation and new build infrastructure. The project addresses these challenges by supporting the exchange of best practices on asset management to water authorities providing information on how to optimise decision-making in all lifecycle phases of wastewater treatment to increase the efficiency and productivity of the utilities with innovative 'green' solutions; including the application of modular systems and specific treatment systems that would fit in rural settings such as constructed wetlands.

Establishing Methodology for the Development of CE Application for Directive on Machinery - MEDOCE**Ref. No.:** 1206.AF.074-15**Know-how provider institution:** Austrian Economic Chamber - WKÖ, AUSTRIA**Know-how recipient institution/s:** Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia –CCIS, SERBIA**Area:** Capacity building**Implementation date:** January 2015—November 2016**Project total cost:** €53,700.00**CEI co-financing:** €22,972.00

With the Stabilization and Association Agreement, barriers to doing trade with the EU are diminishing and Serbian companies are faced with more export opportunities, but also more competition from the EU. In order to support Serbian SMEs, CCIS has initiated capacity building to create tailor made, but fast, efficient and effective support to SMEs in the process of application of CE marking regulation. Therefore, The project targets lack of capacities of SMEs to adapt to challenging EU rules on marketing certain set of products (CE marking requirements) by transferring knowledge, best practices and specific expertise accumulated during the EU accession process on the CE marking. CCIS has developed business web portal poslovanje.rs with the basic information about CE marking, products that are subject to CE marking, rights and obligations of participants in the market, etc. This portal can be upgraded by the transfer of know-how from the WKÖ, by training the CCIS staff to use, maintain, upgrade and promote the new service to companies in this area.

ANNEX 8. COOPERATION ACTIVITIES (CAs)

Ref. Nr.	Activity	Country	Applicant	Implementation date	Estimated cost	Approved	Sector
1202.008-15	CEI Prague Human Resources Development Forum 2015 – How to support employment of young people by the continuing education and training	Czech Republic	National Training Fund	19-20 November 2015, Prague	€ 27.000,00	€ 9.000,00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.017-15	Fostering SMEs competitiveness through matchmaking and business cooperation (SME Matchmaking Mission)	Macedonia	Youth Entrepreneurial Service (YES) Foundation NGO	13-14 November 2015	€ 34.000,00	€ 9.000,00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.024-15	Food standards and safety in the traditional distribution channel	Poland	CEI Wholesale Markets Foundation	5-9 October, 2015 Shkoder, Lushnje, Korçe, Vlora (Albania)	€ 48.001,00	€ 8.500,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.040-15	BIDIPEERS - CEI Business and bioDiversity PionEERS	Hungary	CEEweb for Biodiversity	6-7 October 2015, Budapest	€ 19.861,00	€ 5.000,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.046-15	Toward a technological platform in the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion - AITP	Italy	DITENAVE - Naval and Nautical Technological District of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region SCARL	Trieste, Italy – Friday October 9, 2015 in the framework of the Barcolana	€ 43.750,00	€ 10.000,00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.057-15	Southe East Europe Media Forum - SEEMF	Austria	SECEPRO and SEEMO	29-30 October 2015, Bucharest	€ 77.250,00	€ 11.500,00	3.2. Media
1202.058-15	The first Sarajevo Annual Summer School for Object-Oriented Modeling with Modelica / Sara-Mod'2015	Austria	Austrian Institute of Technology	Sarajevo State University, Faculty of electrical engineering, 5-9 October 2015	€ 35.000,00	€ 8.000,00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.106-15	Exchanging BirdLife Experience	Bulgaria	Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/ BirdLife Bulgaria	28 – 30 October 2015, Sofia	€ 47.170,00	€ 6.500,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.063-15	IIAS International Archival Day and IIAS Autumn Archival School	other	International Institute for Archival Sciences (IIAS) of Trieste and Maribor	19-24 October 2015, Trieste	€ 50.000,00	€ 6.000,00	1.3. Information society
1202.066-15	Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities - Improving Reporting in media	Serbia	International Academy NGO	10-11 December 2015, Belgrade	€ 30.000,00	€ 8.000,00	3.2. Media
1202.073-15	FESTIVAL IDENTITY 2015 – workshop for festival organizers from across Europe	Czech Republic	Jihlava IDFF	October 27- November 1, 2015 Jihlava	€ 31.418,18	€ 8.500,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.078-15	Educational Tourism for Life-Long Learning	Serbia	Cluster Educational Tourism of Serbia	October 2015	€ 30.040,00	€ 7.500,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.001-16	European Integration through Regional Cooperation - The Perspectives of the Macro-Regional Strategies	Macedonia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia -Institute for Geo-strategic Research and Foreign Policy	21 May 2015, Skopje	€ 29.880,00	€ 14.700,00	/
1202.058-16	Ministerial conference: Towards Climate Summit in Paris 2015, challenges for the CEI Member States	Macedonia	Macedonian Ministry of environment and physical planning	6 November 2015, Skopje	€ 29.940,00	€ 14.490,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development

1202.094-16	CEI Business Forum: "IMPROVING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD BUSINESS: ENHANCING REGIONAL ECONOMY AND BETTER PENETRATION ON THE EU MARKET"	Macedonia	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia - Directorate for Economic Diplomacy	Mid November 2015	€ 29.580,00	€ 10.000,00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.095-16	Infrastructure development on Virtual Western Balkans Centre for Hydrometeorological Services and Climate Change	Macedonia	National Hydrometeorological Service of Republic of Macedonia	17.08.2015 - Skopje postponed to 23 september 2015	€ 25.920,00	€ 11.040,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.097-16	The 1-st CEI Ohrid Diplomatic Summer School : Macro and micro strategies for development – strengthening the capacities of Diplomatic Academies in the CEI region of CEI	Macedonia	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia - Directorate of Diplomatic Academy	16 – 18 August 2015, Ohrid postponed to ????	€ 30.380,00	€ 12.000,00	/
1202.007-16	WHEN EAST MEETS WEST Trieste Co-production Forum	Italy	FVG Audiovisual Fund	25-26 January 2016, Trieste	€ 137.960,00	€ 8.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.009-16	SMEs – Regional Networking and business improvement	Serbia	Business Info Group (BIG)	1 March 2016, Belgrade	€ 29.180,00	€ 6.000,00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.021-16	Youth Forum: Representation of Minorities in the New Media in Central and Eastern Europe	Macedonia	Mladiinfo International	3-4 March 2016, Skopje	€ 19.620,00	€ 6.500,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.023-16	Trieste Film Festival	Italy	Alpe Adria Cinema	January 2016	€ 343.000,00	€ 12.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.028-16	Improving energy efficiency in SME's – Make a choice	Serbia	Regional Chamber of Commerce Novi Sad	22 April 2016 – Earth Day	€ 15.453,00	€ 6.000,00	2.2. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
1202.043-16	41st Conference of the Middle European Cooperation in Statistical Physics – MECO41	Austria	Faculty of Physics, University of Vienna	February, 15-17, 2016	€ 41.501,00	€ 6.000,00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.044-16	CEI PIANO FORUM 2016 > STEP BEYOND	Italy	Piano FVG	Sacile (Italy): April 30th > May 15th 2016	€ 25.760,00	€ 7.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.054-16	Regional Climate Cross-Border Networking Initiative	Macedonia	Geobalcanica Society	January 2016, Skopje	€ 27.990,00	€ 6.000,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.060-16	EIAT Conference (Education and Industry Advancing Together)	Serbia	Centre for Tourism Research and Studies (CTRS)	14-15 October 2016, Belgrade	€ 41.180,00	€ 7.700,00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.061-16	Toy Library Conference – "Reducing the gap in early childhood education of Roma: Opportunities and obstacles for inclusion" (TLC)	Hungary	Roma Education Fund (REF)	January-September 2016 - conference in Belgrade	€ 33.195,00	€ 6.500,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.063-16	Application of Advanced Plasma Technologies in CE Agriculture	Slovenia	Slovenian Society for Vacuum Technique – SSVT	Cerklje na Gorenjskem, Slovenia 2nd week (6.-11.) in March 2016	€ 37.960,00	€ 7.000,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.065-16	Innovation and Sustainable Product Development for Special Interest Tourism (ID SIT)	Croatia	UHPA: Association of Croatian Travel Agencies	16th and 17th February 2016, Zagreb	€ 36.858,53	€ 8.000,00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development

1202.076-16	PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT FOR SMARTER BUSINESS - How to learn and share in Age of Knowledge, Innovation and Creativity (Business Conference) Acronym: #P2PSmarterBusiness	Serbia	GI GROUP HR SOLUTIONS Doo Beograd	25-26 February 2016, Belgrade	€ 68.580,00	€ 7.000,00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.085-16	KineDok 2 days' workshop and conference on alternative distribution 2016	Czech Republic	IDF – Institute of Documentary Film	March 11-12, 2016, Prague, Czech Republic	€ 40.385,00	€ 6.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.089-16	think.BDPST - Young Leaders' Forum	Hungary	Antall József Knowledge Centre	8-10 March 2016 Budapest	€ 162.387,00	€ 6.500,00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.013-16	The European Union and Legal Reform Summer School	Italy	Johns Hopkins University SAIS Bologna Center	10-15 July 2016, Igalo (Herceg-Novi), Montenegro	€ 45.900,00	€ 8.500,00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.016-16	Summer School for Junior Anti Corruption Professionals from South East Europe	other	Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) - Secretariat	30 May-3 June 2016, Chisinau	€ 41.026,00	€ 8.600,00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.017-16	25 years of Development in the post-Soviet Space: Civil Society and Participatory Democracy (25PostSovCivSocParDem)	Moldova	National Association of Young Historians of Moldova (ANTIM)	May 18-21, 2016	€ 17.650,00	€ 7.000,00	3.3. Civil Society
1202.029-16	Ready to Change: Slow Down	Slovenia	Bunker Ljubljana	18-20 May 2016, Ljubljana postponed to 26-27 August 2016	€ 60.926,00	€ 6.500,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.031-16	Cultural tourism in the CEI Region: sustainable economic development of local communities through preservation of cultural heritage	Belarus	Polotsk District Executive Committee, PDEC	June 5, 2016, Polotsk	€ 40.000,00	€ 6.500,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.035-16	Workshop for ethno choreographers and singers during "Eastville" International Ethno Song Festival	Serbia	NGO Village	13-19 June 2016, various locations	€ 30.581,00	€ 5.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.036-16	THERESIA - The empress cities: urban centres, societies and economies from Maria Theresia von Habsburg	Italy	Municipality of Trieste, Cultural Department	Mid-May 2016	€ 30.000,00	€ 15.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.037-16	2016 DIAnet International School "Contributing to a sustainable future of the Danube River Basin: capacity building in developing inter- and transdisciplinary research proposals"	Italy	University of Trieste	17-25 June 2016, Gorizia	€ 60.152,00	€ 10.880,00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.039-16	Political and Economic Transformation in Southeastern Europe	Montenegro	Center for Democratic Transition (CDT) NGO	12-13 May 2016, Budva	€ 50.410,00	€ 7.000,00	3.3. Civil Society
1202.047-16	Fourth International Conference on Radiation and Applications in Various Fields of Research (RAD 2016)	Serbia	RAD Association, Niš	May 23-27, 2016, Faculty of Electronic Engineering, University of Niš	€ 40.880,00	€ 7.000,00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.049-16	Modelling Energy – Macro-regional Cooperation for a Decarbonized Future	Hungary	Energiaklub Climate Policy Institute and Applied Communications Association (Energiaklub)	26h and 27th of May, 2016, Pecs	€ 30.000,00	€ 7.500,00	2.2. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
1202.050-16	International seminar on models of political participation and self-governance of national minorities in CEI Member States	Italy	SLORI – Slovene Research Institute-Slovenski raziskovalni inštitut-Istituto Sloveno di Ricerche	end of June 2016	€ 26.465,00	€ 7.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation

1202.052-16	6th Summer School on Policy making and Politics at the Local Level (POL-LOC)	Romania	National University of Political Studies and Public Administration	17-31 July 2016, Casa Vlasia	€ 33.000,00	€ 6.850,00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.056-16	SEE Mosaics Meeting III "New perspectives and challenges in mosaic conservation"	Macedonia	Local Development Agency Struga	30 May-3 June, Ohrid 2016	€ 29.900,00	€ 9.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.057-16	7th CEI Regional Forum for Health, Wellness & Spa Industry	Serbia	Cluster of Health, Wellness and SPA Tourism Serbia (WELLNESS SERBIA)	24 May 2016, Belgrade	€ 16.705,00	€ 6.347,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.066-16	International Conference DisCo 2016: Towards open education and information society	Czech Republic	Center for Higher Education Studies (CHES)	20-22 June 2016, Prague	€ 23.745,00	€ 7.500,00	1.3. Information society
1202.070-16	International Summer School "Sustainable Development of Real Estate and Forest Resources" (RESO)	Belarus	Belarusian State Technological University (BSTU)	2-11 May 2016, Warsaw	€ 26.665,00	€ 8.000,00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.072-16	12th BUSHO Film festival	Hungary	Gombolyag Foundation	30 August-4 September 2016	€ 52.500,00	€ 6.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.074-16	Yes to Easier Education and Employment for Sensitive Groups (YEEES)	Croatia	Adult Education Institution Dante	9 June – 15 June 2016, location undefined	€ 32.202,00	€ 7.000,00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.077-16	TABIS & DMBI.2016. International Joint Conference of Theoretical Approaches to Bioinformation Systems and Data Mining in Bioinformatics.2016	Serbia	Faculty of Mathematics, University of Belgrade	20-24 June 2016, Belgrade	€ 30.450,00	€ 7.000,00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.084-16	Pécs Debate Academy 2016 "Understanding Our Interpolar World - 25 Years After the End of the Bipolar System"	Hungary	SIEN - Student International Exchange Network Foundation	15-25 July, 2016 Pecs	€ 42.320,00	€ 5.000,00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.093-16	Towards the Adaptation to Climate Change in Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina as a response to Natural and Anthropogenic Hazards	Serbia	AGES	6-8 June 2016, Goražde, Bosnia and Herzegovina	€ 47.600,00	€ 7.000,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.100-16	Migration and refugee flows in transit countries: security implications	Macedonia	MFA	15 December 2015	€ 19.500,00	€ 9.000,00	Migration
1202.101-16	Young Officials Programme	Secretariat	Secretariat	Year 2016	€ 36.000,00	€ 36.000,00	Secretariat

ANNEX 9. EXTRAORDINARY CALL ON MIGRATIONS

<i>Ref. Nr.</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Implementation date</i>	<i>Estimated cost</i>	<i>Approved</i>
1202.007-16 M	Conference on unaccompanied children arriving in the Baltic Sea Region: comparing experiences and discussing solutions	Regional	CBSS Council of the Baltic Sea States	3-4 May 2016, Stockholm	€ 89.839,00	€ 15.000,00
1202.019-16 M	Acting together in Migration Management- Enhancing Coordination among Local and Central Level	Regional	MARRI (Migration, Asylum, and Refugees Regional Initiative)	17 March 2016, Skopje	€ 31.330,00	€ 12.600,00
1202.020-16 M	WELCOMING – Wanting Europe as Leverage for Cooperation on the Migratory Insertion Governance	Macedonia	ALDA Skopje	20-21 June 2016	€ 30.338,00	€ 10.000,00
1202.018-16 M	First Annual Meeting of the Western Balkan Observatory	Albania	Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS)	15-16 April 2016, Tirana	€ 16.970,00	€ 6.330,00
1202.013-16 M	Scattering Reception. International workshop aimed at creating bounds and collaborations to spread a reception culture and to promote real programs of integration for refugees and asylum seekers	Italy	ICS Consorzio Italiano di Solidarietà – Ufficio Rifugiati, Onlus	17-19 March 2016, Trieste	€ 14.442,00	€ 7.115,00
1202.010-16 M	10th Conference for the International Society for Health and Human Rights (ISHHR); “Mental health, mass people displacement and ethnic minorities”	Serbia	KNOW How Centre	3-6 October 2016, Novi Sad	€ 84.072,83	€ 8.000,00
1202.014-16 M	MIGRATION AND BALKAN NETWORKS	other	NATO Defense College Foundation	Trieste, June 2016	€ 48.000,00	€ 9.600,00
1202.003-16 M	Combating of illegal migration and illicit human trafficking	Ukraine	Ivano-Frankivsk Law University	11-12 March 2016, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine	€ 25.810,00	€ 6.800,00
1202.015-16 M	European Values and Security in Face of Migrant Crisis	Macedonia	European Movement in Republic of Macedonia	19-20 September 2016, Skopje	€ 28.051,00	€ 7.000,00
1202.016-16 M	MUNSC Salient – Youth Conference on Global Matters	Slovenia	United Nations Association of Slovenia (UNAS)	11-15 July 2016, Ljubljana	€ 41.208,00	€ 7.000,00
1202.008-16 M	5th Young Scholars Forum on Central- and South East Europe “Challenges and Opportunities of Migration in and from South East Europe” (YSF V)	Austria	IDM	24 – 26 November 2016, Vienna	€ 35.600,00	€ 7.000,00

For additional updated information see at www.cei.int

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