



The CEI Fund at the EBRD contributed by Italy and the Know-how Exchange Programme

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➤ Why the “CEI”

The **Central European Initiative**, is an intergovernmental forum founded in **1989** to promote regional cooperation among its **17 Member States in central and southeastern Europe**. Based in **Trieste**, it supports European integration and sustainable development combining multilateral diplomacy and financing.

➤ Why the “EBRD”

The **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development** is an international financial institution that opened for business in **London** in **1991**. It is committed to furthering progress towards “market-oriented economies and the promotion of private and entrepreneurial initiative”. It is currently active in **nearly 40 countries** from **central Europe to central Asia and the southern and eastern Mediterranean**.

The **CEI-EBRD partnership** is one of the oldest partnerships in the Bank's history, primarily thanks to Italy, a founding member and an important contributor of both institutions.

The CEI Fund at the EBRD is a strategic tool in the CEI framework.

- Established in 1992 and **fully financed by the Italian Government** with a total cumulative contribution amounting to **€53 million**.
- It is administered by the **Italian MFA** with the support by the **Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD**.

- **Mandate:** supporting the CEI transition countries in their integration process with the EU.
- **Countries of operation:** non-EU CEI Member States (Albania, Belarus*, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine).
- **Sectors of operation (CEI Plan of Action):** agribusiness, energy, finance and business, institutional development and capacity building, small and medium-sized enterprises, municipal infrastructure and services, and transport.

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It performs its mandate through two **grant-type financing programmes**:

Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme

Provides grant-type assistance in support of the EBRD investments and operations targeting EBRD's clients in non-EU CEI Member States

Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP)

Provides grant co-financing for institution-to-institution transfers of good practices from EU to non-EU Members States of the CEI

- Constitutes the largest part of the activities financed by the CEI Fund.
- **1993-2021:** around **€30.5 million** for a total of almost **200** TC assignments.
- **Technical expertise** to help design or implement EBRD's investments, including support related to policy/legal reforms and capacity building.
- Beneficiaries: EBRD's clients in the **non-EU CEI Member States** in sectors such as **energy, transport, capacity building, and SME development.**
- TC projects mobilize significant EBRD investments opportunities: up to **€7 billion** of investments by the EBRD and its financial partners (€230 for each € committed by the CEI Fund for TC projects)

CEI Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP)

- Is one of the CEI's **flagship instruments**.
- It co-finances projects focusing on the **transfer of know-how and best practices** from EU to non-EU CEI Member States.
- It operates through **Calls for Proposals**.

- Launched in **2004**, it is a **development tool** fostering cooperation and integration by supporting the advancement of CEI countries towards **EU standards and policies**.
- It is focused on areas of intervention where CEI EU countries demonstrate **strong-rooted experience**, and where beneficiary states exhibit the **strongest need for assistance**.
- To date, **129 projects** have been financed for a total CEI Fund contribution of about **€3.7 million** with an overall project value amounting to **€15.5 million**.

Projects target the **non-EU CEI Member States** in various areas of intervention **covering the CEI Plan of Action**

- Objective 1.1: Strengthening **Transport** Networks
- Objective 1.2: Boosting **Innovation** and **Entrepreneurship**
- Objective 1.3: Enhancing **Climate** Resilience
- Objective 1.4: Promoting Clean **Energy**
- Objective 1.5: Supporting **Circular Economy**
- Objective 1.6: Encouraging **Smart Communities**
- Objective 2.1: Advancing **Good Governance**
- Objective 2.2: Fostering Better **Health**
- Objective 2.3: Supporting **Intercultural Cooperation**
- Objective 2.4: Safeguarding **Media** Freedom
- Objective 2.5: Pursuing **People Empowerment**
- Objective 2.6: Furthering **Science Diplomacy**

- Projects can be **bilateral or multilateral**
- Partnerships must include at least **one know-how provider** from an EU Member State, and **one recipient** from a non-EU Member State.
- Both can act as **project applicant**.
- **Public** and **private sector** bodies (not individuals) registered in a CEI country.
- Including **regional/international and non-governmental organisations**.

- KEP projects address the needs for assistance **expressed directly by the beneficiary countries.**
- The **knowledge transfer** is carried out through capacity-building and technical assistance activities, including:
 - Workshops, trainings, study tours and peer review missions
 - Staff secondments
 - Assistance in the preparation of strategic documents
 - Technology transfers and technical assistance
- Project activities often support the **adoption of national strategies, new regulations and legislation.**

- The **CEI contribution** to a single project can be up to **€40,000**:
 - Any grant shall **not exceed 50%** of the total cost of a project.
 - The remaining 50% of the budget must be **provided by project partners**.
 - Both in-kind and cash co-financing resources are accepted.

- It is disbursed in two instalments:
 - **Advance Payment** (up to 50% of the approved amount after the signing the grant agreement)
 - **Final Payment** (upon submission of final reports)

KEP Call for Proposals 2022

- Publication: **Monday, 11 April 2022**
- Deadline for submission of project proposals: **Monday, 13 June 2022**
- Tentative awarding of grants: **October 2022**
- Budget: **€ 250,000**

How to apply?

- Proposals must be submitted using the **CEI Electronic Submission System** accessible at <https://application.cei.int/application/kep-2022/> together with the Call documentation.
- Access to the CEI Electronic Submission System is subject to registration as a CEI user.
- **KEP Application Package:** an Online Application Form, two Financial Annexes and a Statement.

Online Application Form

Project Summary

- ✓ Title
- ✓ Start date / End date / Project duration
- ✓ Origin and background
- ✓ Summary and objectives
- ✓ Activities and workplan
- ✓ Results and impact

✓ Project Applicant

- ✓ Organisation/institution
- ✓ Legal status & brief description
- ✓ Project manager

Project Partners in addition to the Applicant

- ✓ Organisation/Institution
- ✓ Partner type
- ✓ Partner description

Cooperation experience (if applicable)

Communication activities

- ✓ Project promotion and dissemination
- ✓ Use of CEI logo

Budget

- ✓ Total project cost / Requested CEI grant
- ✓ % of total cost of project

No.	Description of items	Unit (days, flight, rooms, etc.)	Amount per Unit (in euro)	Total (in euro)	CEI requested grant (in euro)
1	Personnel				
1a			0,00	0,00	0,00
1b			0,00	0,00	0,00
2	Travels				
2a			0,00	0,00	0,00
2b			0,00	0,00	0,00
3	Accommodation				
3a			0,00	0,00	0,00
3b			0,00	0,00	0,00
4	Meetings and conferences				
4a			0,00	0,00	0,00
4b			0,00	0,00	0,00
5	Equipment				
5a			0,00	0,00	0,00
5b			0,00	0,00	0,00
6	Promotion				
6a			0,00	0,00	0,00
6b			0,00	0,00	0,00
7	Administrative costs				
7a			0,00	0,00	0,00
7b			0,00	0,00	0,00
8	Other (please specify)				
8a			0,00	0,00	0,00
8b			0,00	0,00	0,00
	TOTAL			0,00	0,00

Sources of financing	Total amount (€)	% of total project cost	Requested (R) or confirmed (C)	Budget item(s) covered	in-kind contributions (€)
Requested CEI grant*	0,00	0,00%		<i>example (1a, 3b, 2c)</i>	0,00
Applicant's co-financing	0,00	0,00%			0,00
Partner #1 co-financing**	0,00	0,00%			0,00
Partner #2 co-financing	0,00	0,00%			0,00
Partner #3 co-financing	0,00	0,00%			0,00
Other (please specify)	0,00	0,00%			0,00
Total	0,00	0,00%			0,00

*An in-kind contribution is a non-cash, other than monetary contribution or input which can be given a cash value: they can take the form of: (i) donation of goods or services, time or expertise, rather than cash or appreciated property; (ii) infrastructure support, office supplies support, equipment support, etc.; (iii) **human resources of the applicant and/or project partners.**

Selection and awarding procedure:

- Applications undergo an **administrative and eligibility check** on compatibility to the Call for Proposals requirements.
- **Evaluation:** according to a merit point system published within the text of the Call.
- **Co-financing:** highest ranked project proposals up to the available resources of the Call.
- Contracting: signing of a **Grant Agreement**.

Evaluation Grid		Maximum score
1	Does the applicant have sufficient experience in project management ?	10
2	Does the know-how provider have sufficient knowledge and technical expertise of the issues to be addressed?	10
3	How relevant is the proposal to the KEP objectives and to one or more of the CEI priorities outlined in the CEI Plan of Action 2021-2023?	10
4	Does the project proposal appropriately address the needs of the know-how beneficiary and contribute to the effective building up of its expertise?	10
5	Are the proposed activities coherent, appropriate, practical, and consistent with the objectives and results as laid down in the application form?	10
6	Does the project proposal present objectively verifiable indicators related to the outcome of the action?	10
7	Are the proposed activities clear and feasible in the given timeframe?	10
8	To what extent are the benefits of the project likely to continue after the cease of the current funding ?	10
9	What is the quality of the proposed communication plan and the CEI's visibility?	10
10	Are the estimated costs coherent with the project activities and expected results?	10
Maximum total score		100

**Through our KEP
we create cooperation opportunities for
European integration and sustainable development.**

**Thanks to the transfer of know-how and best practices
we contribute to developing synergies and new
partnerships throughout the CEI region.**

We look forward to supporting you!



Thank you!

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