

CEI Funds, Partnerships and Projects

Developing your idea for a regional project:
what, how and where



Introduction

1 Develop & implement your ideas 7

2 Does your idea fit? 8

3 Our Funds & Programmes 10

- Cooperation Fund
- CEI Fund at the EBRD
 - Technical Cooperation Programme
 - Know-how Exchange Programme

4 When & how can I apply? 17

5 Partnerships & Projects 18

This brochure gives an overview of the instruments the CEI utilises to meet its mission and boost sustainable development in its Member States.

Thanks to our funds, programmes, support to regional partnerships as well as design and management of projects funded by external sources, ranging from the European Union to the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, we are implementing the goals of our Plan of Action 2024-2026 .

This brochure shows in tangible terms what the CEI funds can bring to citizens, enterprises, organisations, institutions in CEI Member States enabling us to be faithful to our original commitment and be on the frontline of bridging Europe through regional cooperation.

CEI resources are allocated through calls for proposals as well as procurement procedures.

Through the CEI website and newsletter, you can receive additional information and updates!



We create new opportunities for cooperation and EU integration thanks to the transfer of innovative solutions and best practices and by building synergies and partnerships.



Register on the CEI website: www.cei.int
And **subscribe** to our Newsletter:
www.cei.int/cei-newsletter-subscription



1 Develop & implement your ideas

- ▶ Do you enjoy working in collaborative and interactive projects with different players?
- ▶ What results can you expect?
- ▶ Are you an institution seeking funding for innovative ideas?
- ▶ Is your organisation interested in supporting pioneering processes?
- ▶ Is your organisation interested in exchanging best practices and experience?



Our funding opportunities may well help support you in implementing your plans. The more clearly you define your needs, the easier it is to identify the right funding and partnership opportunities!

2 Does your idea fit?

Have a look at our Plan of Action 2024-2026



<https://www.cei.int/sites/default/files/publications/downloads/209.001-23%20PoA%202024-2026%20GR.pdf>

Plan of Action 2024-2026

Thematic Agenda

-  Good governance & institutional development
-  Youth, women & other vulnerable groups
-  Better health & well-being
-  Connectivity & sustainable mobility
-  Renewable energy, energy efficiency & energy security
-  Circular bioeconomy
-  Environmental protection, risk-reduction & resilience
-  Sustainable communities, cities & territories
-  Business environment & entrepreneurship
-  Research & innovation through science diplomacy
-  Media freedom & pluralism
-  Cultural cooperation



3 Our Funds & Programmes

"...people-to-people contacts..."

Cooperation in numbers

1,350

co-financed activities since 2002

12.5 Million €

invested in co-financing since 2002

Cooperation Fund

- ▶ **Source of Financing:** annual contributions from all Member States.
- ▶ **Aim:** fosters exchange in the CEI region, in particular between the EU and non-EU CEI Member States.
- ▶ **Type of Funding:** Grants and other forms of support for small-sized projects, such as seminars, workshops, conferences, training courses.
- ▶ **Who for?** Businesses, public bodies, schools and training centres, universities and non-profit organisations in all CEI Member States especially Western Balkans and the three Eastern Partners.



Examples of Cooperation Activities

- DisCo 2024: empowering digital, sustainable, and entrepreneurial competency development in era of AI
<https://tinyurl.com/yxmyntez>
- Summer Seminar for Young Public Policy Professionals on “Future Scenarios for Central and Eastern Europe in Times of Continuous Uncertainty”
<https://tinyurl.com/36t7dbjb>
- International conference on radiation, natural sciences, medicine, engineering, technology and ecology held in Montenegro
<https://tinyurl.com/bdf9as2y>

"...technical assistance
for investment projects..."

Cooperation
in numbers

200

36.5 Million €

committed for projects
mainly in the areas of
infrastructure, energy
efficiency and climate
change, enterprise
development, capacity
buildingover

technical
cooperation
projects supported
by the Programme
since 1992

9 Billion €

mobilised investments
from the EBRD and
financial partners



Examples of Technical Cooperation Projects

- Analysis of Climate Change Risks to Critical Transport Infrastructure Networks in Ukraine
<https://bit.ly/3oKlpNZ>
- Climate Resilience Assessment for Belarus - Regional Bridges and M3 Road Rehabilitation
<https://bit.ly/3sza85s>
- Increasing Market Opportunities for High-quality Food Products (Regional)
<https://bit.ly/2N3sM58>

Technical Cooperation Programme

- ▶ **Source of Financing:** CEI Fund at the EBRD contributed by Italy.
- ▶ **Aim:** support transition countries in the process of EU integration by providing technical assistance to help design investment projects and to build client capacity, and policy dialogue to improve the business climate and promote reforms.
- ▶ **Type of funding:** grants that act as a catalyst for EBRD investments and support other Bank's activities in non-EU CEI countries.
- ▶ **Who for?** EBRD clients from non-EU CEI Member States.

Cooperation
in numbers

150 projects

co-financed by the
Programme since
2004

4.5 Million €

of total contribution

17 Million €

of overall
project value

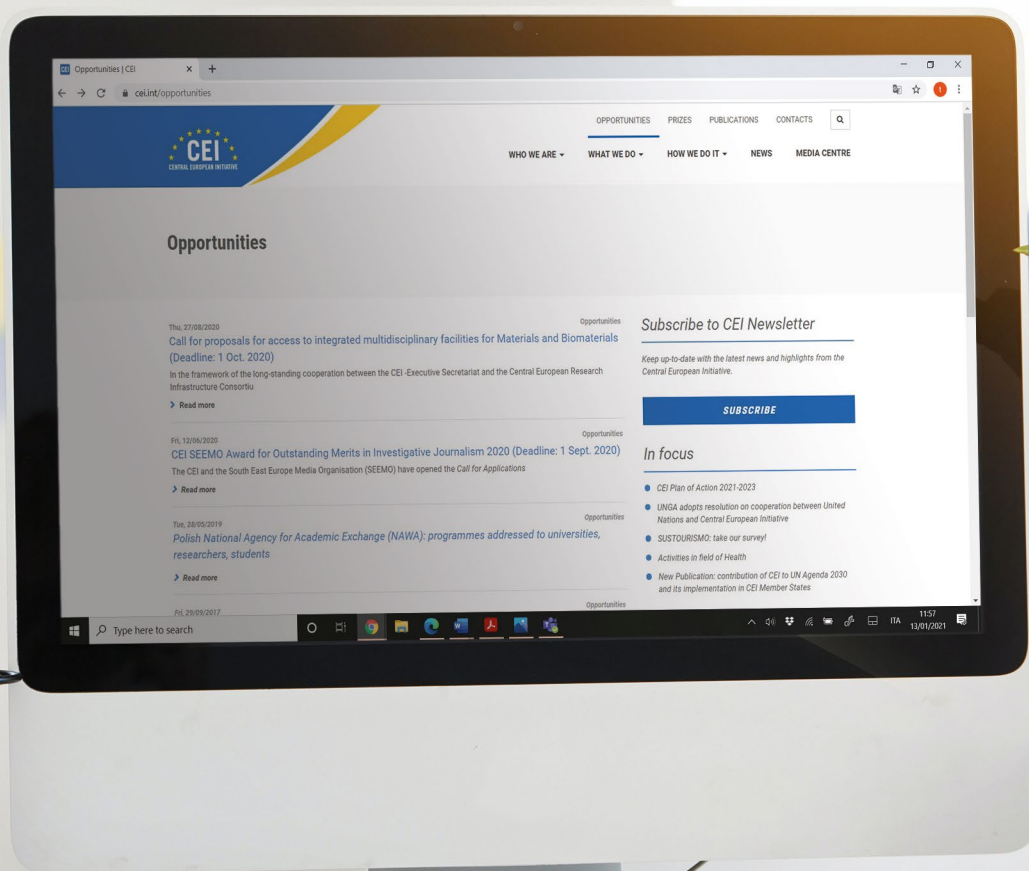
"...know-how transfer and best practices
from EU to non EU countries..."

Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP)

- ▶ **Source of financing:** CEI Fund at the EBRD contributed by Italy.
- ▶ **Aim:** supports projects (bilateral and multilateral) focused on the transfer of know-how and best practices from EU to non-EU CEI Member States, thus helping non-members to advance on their path towards EU standards and policies.
- ▶ **Type of funding:** co-financing grants for capacity building and technical assistance.
- ▶ **Who for?** public/private entities registered in CEI Member States.

Examples of Know-how Exchange Projects

- Assessing the effectiveness and affordability of tariff-setting methodologies in covering drinking water and wastewater services costs in the Western Balkans
<https://tinyurl.com/4t5czxkv>
- Supporting Albanian Regulatory Authority to improve electricity market efficiency in Tirana
<https://tinyurl.com/3pcdz5j4>
- Bio.Re.Goal - To enhance the institutional and regulatory framework for organic food production in Albania
<https://tinyurl.com/5n7stkh2>



4 When & how can I apply?



Cooperation Fund & Know-how Exchange Programme: Calls for Proposals are published on our <https://www.cei.int> on a regular basis where information on submission requirements, documents and deadlines are provided.



Technical Cooperation Programme: for information send an email to: cei.ebrd@cei.int



TIPS

- Read Funding Opportunity Announcement carefully for intent, focus areas, submission information, administrative and regulatory requirements, and review criteria.
- Pay attention to participation quorum and partnership requirements.
- Pay attention to co-financing obligations.
- Carefully meet eligibility rules concerning budget lines.
- Explain relevance of your proposal and how it addresses programme-specific goals.
- Innovative proposals that fill gap(s) and use novel approaches to accelerate progress are welcome!
- Explain the proposed work with clarity.
- Meet the deadlines listed on the front cover of the funding opportunity!

5 Partnerships & Projects

The CEI-Executive Secretariat has developed and fostered a number of partnerships with regional organisations, institutions, professional associations and research, training and education providers. The scope of our partnership activities is diverse but mainly consists in the elaboration of joint actions meeting the goals of our Plan of Action.

Partnerships through CEI Funds and Programmes

The activities/projects covered by our Cooperation Fund in particular, as well as those under our Technical Cooperation Programme and Know-how Exchange Programme, often witness an excess of demand over available funds. In order to meet the requests of our Member States we are constantly looking for additional resources.

Partnerships through projects

We collaborate in the design, management and implementation of projects co-financed by the European Union under its sectoral, structural and external programmes and by the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

It is a multilateral, multilevel and multi stakeholder cooperation, entailing crossborder, interregional and transnational actions where the CEI either acts as lead partner or partner of a given project.



If you share our vision and wish to become a co-financing partner / donor or sponsor join our Network of Partners!



For more information on our Funds and Programmes:
www.cei.int
cei@cei.int

For more information on our projects:
www.cei.int/PMO
euprojects@cei.int



The CEI was established in 1989 right after the fall of the Berlin Wall to foster novel approaches to regional cooperation in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in response to the expressed needs of its stakeholders – the governments and its citizens combining multilateral diplomacy and a result-oriented cooperation.

- Regularly adapts each programme's objectives and strategies, allowing rapid response to changing needs.
- Coordinates with other regional organisations to avoid duplication and target unfunded/unmet gaps.



17 MEMBER STATES

Albania, Belarus*, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine.

*suspended

CEI - Executive Secretariat
Via Genova, 9 - 34121 Trieste, Italy
+39 040 7786 777
cei@cei.int | press@cei.int | cei.int

Follow us on:

