

CEI Fund at the EBRD



ANNUAL REPORT 2023





Central European Initiative

The CEI is a regional forum for cooperation and consultation, which promotes collaboration in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe at political, economic, and cultural level.

Founded in 1989, the CEI currently counts 17 Member States¹: Albania, Belarus², Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Ukraine.

Since its inception, the Initiative's main aim has focused on supporting transition countries in their integration process with the European Union (EU). To achieve this goal, the CEI seeks to make a sustainable impact on strengthening the capacities of its Member States remaining outside of the EU to consolidate their institutional and economic background, thus bringing them closer to the Union.

In 1992, Italy signed an Agreement with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) on the establishment of a CEI Fund at the EBRD "to assist the Bank's countries of operations in Central, Eastern and South-eastern Europe in their economic and social transformation process". A Secretariat for CEI Projects (later renamed Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD) was established to manage the Fund.

The Fund - towards which the Italian Government has solely made a total contribution of 57 million EUR - mainly provides grant-type assistance for Technical Cooperation (TC) projects. The Fund has so far provided about 35.5 million EUR for TC projects. It has also contributed about 4.5 million EUR to the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP).

¹ According to the CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure the CEI Member States are Republic of Albania, Republic of Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italian Republic, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Poland, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Slovak Republic, Republic of Slovenia, and Ukraine.

² On 25 March 2022, the CEI Member States decided to suspend the Republic of Belarus of its rights of representation in the CEI, as a consequence of the country's actions in support of the Russia's war against Ukraine.

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ACQUA ITALIANA CHE DISTRIBUISCE
LA PATRIA NEL MONDO

Intro

Introduction



Over 30 years ago, the Central European Initiative (CEI) was envisaged as an instrument to facilitate dialogue and cooperation in Europe in order to cope with the major changes our continent was experiencing at the time.

Since its inception, the CEI has always demonstrated the value of regional cooperation as a catalyst for democratic transition, economic growth and social inclusion.

The partnership between the CEI and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has played a valuable role in this respect. It is a success story as it has concretely supported the socio-economic convergence of the region and its European integration process.

Today, Europe is facing unprecedented challenges. The unjustified and illegal war of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine calls on the CEI to stand united in supporting a long-standing member of our family, as well as all the CEI Member States which are affected by this brutal aggression.

This report comprehensively outlines the projects funded in 2023 by the Technical Cooperation Programme and by the Know-how Exchange Programme through the CEI Fund at the EBRD.

Strengthening the EU perspective of the CEI non-EU Member States and the regional integration process remain the main strategic objectives of the CEI Fund. In 2023,

we have committed about 2.4 million EUR for technical assistance and capacity building projects in the CEI non-EU Countries, supporting the stability of the Western Balkans and Moldova, as they are directly exposed to a risk of destabilisation. The CEI Fund has also directly contributed to repairing the energy network in Ukraine.

Through the Technical Cooperation Programme, the CEI Fund has committed about 2 million EUR for technical assistance to the CEI non-EU members in sectors such as Green Economy Transition, Sustainable Infrastructures, Support to SME Development and Institutional Development.

The Know-how Exchange Programme has contributed about 460,000 EUR for the implementation of twelve new projects aimed at strengthening the European integration of the CEI non-EU members through institutional capacity building actions. The main focus was on strengthening capacities of public administrations at all levels and on providing assistance in economic and social transformation.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is keen on supporting regional cooperation as a key vector for promoting stabilisation, strengthening the rule of law and fostering socio-economic growth in the CEI region.

In a time of great challenges, it is crucial for the CEI to continue reviewing its tools to improve its ability to address these challenges. Italy will do its utmost in strengthening the impact of the CEI Fund activities in the region. Our goal is to ensure that this tool responds quickly and effectively to the needs of the beneficiaries, in line with the new CEI Action Plan for 2024-2026.

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The CEI Fund at the EBRD

The **Central European Initiative (CEI)** was founded in Budapest on 11 November 1989. It is a regional intergovernmental forum committed to supporting European integration and sustainable development through cooperation between and among its 17 Member States. While acting as a platform for political dialogue, the CEI has developed a strong operational, result oriented approach to regional cooperation. It combines multilateral diplomacy and financing. The CEI-Executive Secretariat is based in Trieste (Italy).

The **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** was established in London in 1991. It is a multilateral bank that promotes the development of the private sector and entrepreneurial initiative in more than 35 countries from central Europe to central Asia and the southern and eastern Mediterranean, plus the West Bank and Gaza. The Bank is owned by 72 countries as well as the EU and the EIB. EBRD investments are aimed at making the economies in its regions competitive, well governed, green, inclusive, resilient, and integrated.

Italy is a founding member and an important contributor of both the CEI and the EBRD. In this framework, in 1992, it established the CEI Fund at the EBRD, acknowledging the great opportunity the newly created development bank represented for the CEI and its objectives.

Donor governments and partners make a vital contribution to the Bank's work by providing funds that act as a catalyst for investments and support to other activities in countries of operations. Therefore, 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".

The Fund has financed projects and activities targeting the entire CEI region with a sole Italian contribution of 57 million EUR. Currently, countries of operations are the non-EU CEI Member States, namely: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine.

The Fund has mainly financed a grant type Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme in support of EBRD operations in several areas, including agribusiness, energy/climate, finance and business, institutional development and capacity building, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), municipal infrastructure and services, and transport.

In addition to Technical Cooperation, the CEI Fund has been a source of financing for the Know how Exchange

Programme (KEP) – a grant facility aimed at European integration by supporting capacity building and best practice transfer from institutions in EU CEI countries to benefit recipients in non-EU CEI Member States.

From 1998 to 2006, the CEI Fund at the EBRD – in cooperation with a number of partners across the CEI region – also co-financed Cooperation Activities, i.e., projects of small scale and limited duration, such as conferences, seminars, workshops, or other types of short trainings.

Between 1998 and 2006, the CEI Fund supported 113 activities of this kind throughout the CEI member countries, with over 1.6 million EUR.

The Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD is the operational body, which ensures constant dialogue among the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), the EBRD and the CEI-Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES), on all issues related to the governance of the Fund.

The Office is linked institutionally to the CEI-ES as it is located at the CEI-ES Headquarters in Trieste (Italy).

In 2023, the Office staff was composed of a Programme Manager.

¹ On 25 March 2022, the CEI Member States decided to suspend the Republic of Belarus of its rights of representation in the CEI, as a consequence of the country's actions in support of Russia's war against Ukraine.



Technical Cooperation Programme

A wide community of donors is backing the EBRD. Donor partnerships are an integral part of how the EBRD operates, using donor funds strategically and responding to country specific conditions. By co-financing the EBRD's operations and related activities such as policy reforms and technical cooperation projects, Italy helps generate greater impact in the CEI region through the CEI fund at the EBRD, making economies competitive, well-governed, green, inclusive, resilient and integrated.

The EBRD technical assistance primarily aims at contributing to the preparation and implementation of the Bank's investment and non-investment operations, and at providing advisory services to private and public sector clients. Technical Cooperation (TC) projects can assist in implementing legal and regulatory frameworks, institutional reforms, as well as in achieving the highest standards of corporate governance.

In general, TC projects enable the EBRD to:

- Make thorough preparations for its investments and undertake them more effectively.
- Pursue investment opportunities in higher risk environments by reducing credit risks.
- Increase the impact of its projects in the transition process by supporting structural and institutional changes.
- Sponsor legal and regulatory reforms, institutional building, company management and training.

TC projects constitute the largest part of the activity funded by the CEI Fund at the EBRD. CEI Technical Cooperation 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 several priority areas, including agribusiness, business and finance, energy/climate, institutional development, municipal infrastructure and services, SME support and transport.

Since its inception, the Italian Government – through the CEI Fund at the EBRD – has committed about 35.5 million EUR towards 202 Technical Cooperation assignments (see Annex 6). These 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 the countries of operations of the CEI Fund.

Investment links

Technical cooperation grants typically involve technical expertise to help design or implement an investment project. The CEI TC Programme aims at supporting the Bank's investments and loans, either at project preparation or implementation level. The CEI has undertaken projects, which yield high co financing ratios.

TC projects supported by the CEI Fund in from 1993 to 2023 are expected to mobilise around 8.6 billion EUR of international investments. The EBRD alone is expected to contribute to those investments with around 6.5 billion EUR.

A Total Investment Ratio (TIR) can be calculated to show how many euros the international community is expected to invest for each euro granted by the CEI Fund for TC projects. Between 1993 and 2023, the Total Investment Ratio (TIR) was estimated to be 1:259. The EBRD's share, alone, is expected to reach 197 EUR for each euro of the CEI Fund dedicated to TC projects: this represents the EBRD Investment Ratio (EIR).

Chart 2.1.

Total Investments linked to the CEI TC assignments
(share of 8.6 billion EUR of estimated total linked investments)



Total Investment Ratio = 1:259

Total Investments / Total committed CEI grants

EBRD Investment Ratio = 1:197

EBRD Investments / Total committed CEI grants

Geographic distribution

The distribution of TC projects by country and their cumulative committed value since 1993 demonstrate the CEI Fund's focus on regional projects. Over 40% of its resources (amounting to around 13.5 million EUR) have been committed to regional operations through 57 TC assignments. As to country allocations, the initial focus

on Central European countries (which have since then become EU members) has shifted towards the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine. The charts below illustrate the geographical distribution of TC projects by number of assignments and their value over the period 1993-2023.

Chart 2.2.

Cumulative distribution of TC assignments by country, 1993-2023 (share of a total of 202 assignments)

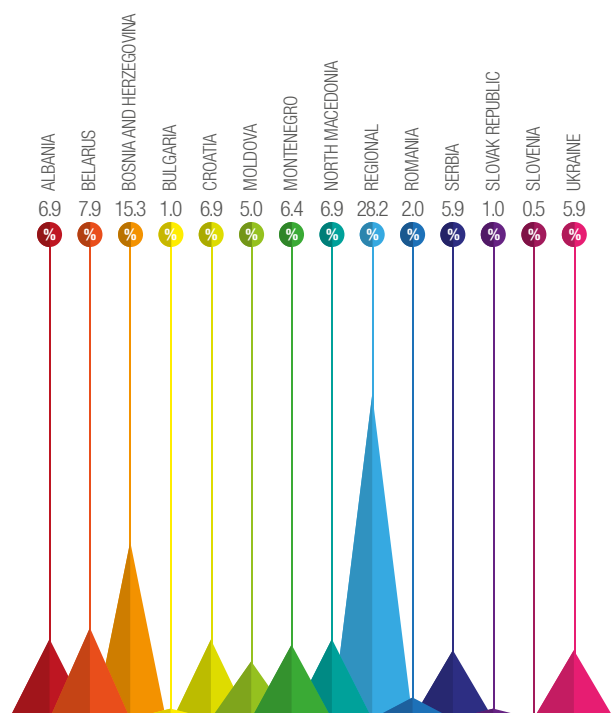
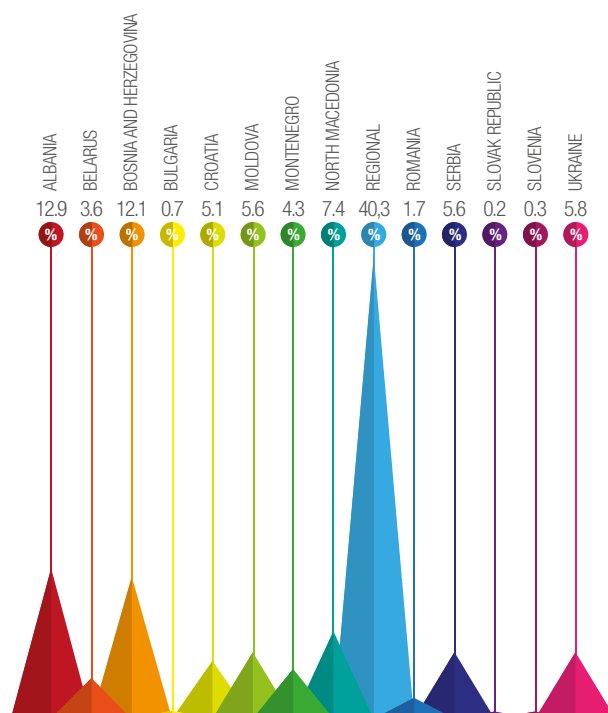


Chart 2.3.

Cumulative distribution of TC assignments by country, 1993-2023 (share of total committed grants of 35,330,409 EUR)



Sectors covered

The sector allocation analysis indicates seven areas of operations in which the CEI has funded TC projects: agribusiness, business and finance, energy/climate, institutional development, municipal infrastructure and services, SME support and transport. According to this categorisation and in terms of resources, transport is the

sector that has benefitted from the CEI Fund the most, followed by SME support and by energy/climate. The charts below illustrate the sector distribution of TC projects by number of assignments and their value over the period 1993-2023.

Chart 2.4.
Cumulative distribution of TC assignments by sector,
1993-2023 (share of a total of 202 assignments)

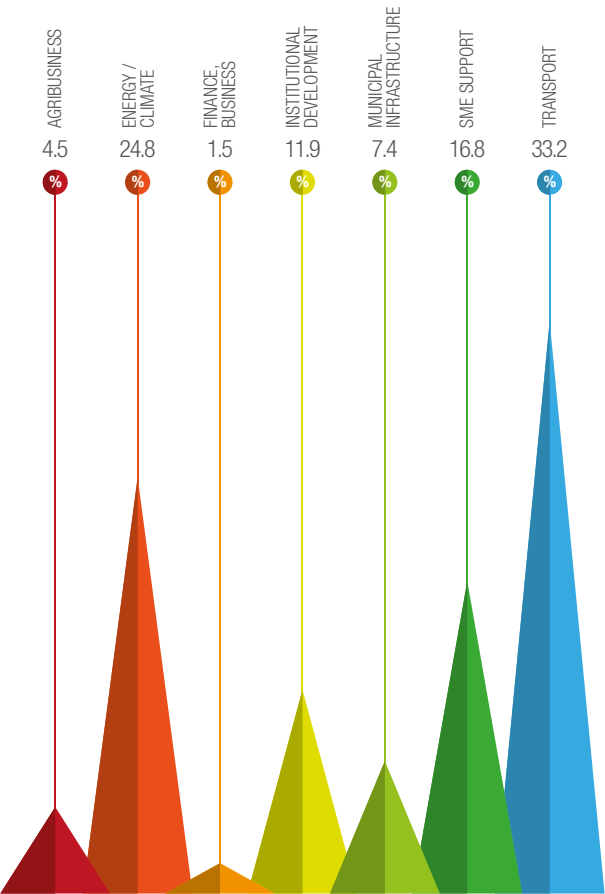
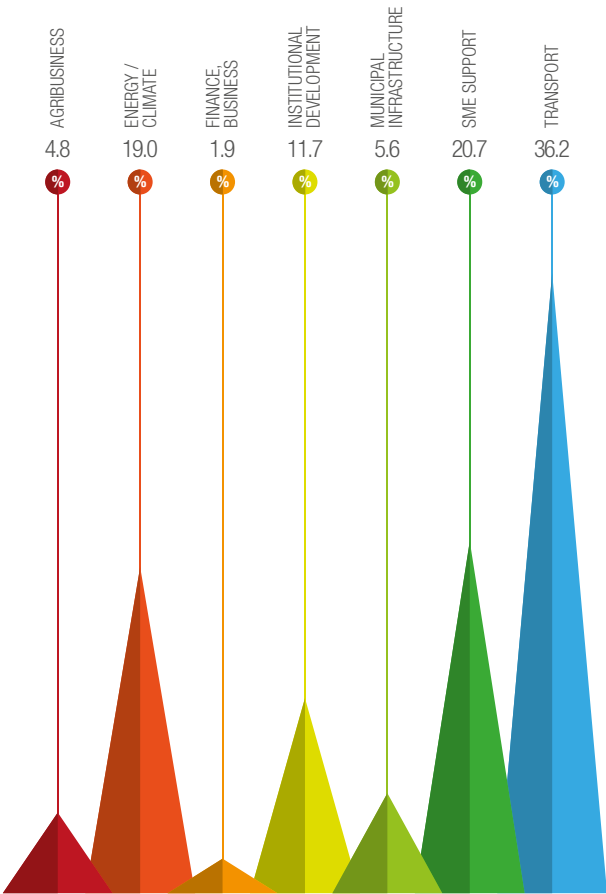


Chart 2.5.
Cumulative distribution of TC assignments by sector,
1993-2023 (share of total committed grants of 35,330,409 EUR)





Technical Cooperation Programme

Projects approved in 2023

02

Table 2.1. List of TC assignments approved in 2023

No.	Earmark document number	Assignment name	Country of operation	Sector of operation	Value €	Expected related investment (€ million)
1	50009636	Advisory to MSMEs and Start-Ups in Moldova	Moldova	SME support	500,000	n/a
2	50009654	Rail Corridor VIII - Phase 2 - Lender's Monitor Advisor	North Macedonia	Transport	500,000	145
3	To be assigned	Decarbonisation and Action Plan for Javno Preduzeće Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS)	Serbia	Energy/ Climate	350,000	300
4	50009637	International master's in public Procurement Management (10th edition Rome and 6th edition Belgrade)	Regional	Institutional Development	75,000	n/a
5	To be assigned	Ukrenergio Transmission Network Emergency Restoration - Gender and Inclusion TC support	Ukraine	Energy/ Climate	200,000	300
6	To be assigned	FINTECC (Finance and Technology Transfer Centre for Climate Change) in the Western Balkans	Regional	Energy/ Climate	300,000	10
TOTAL					1,925,000	755

Advisory to MSMEs and Start-Ups in Moldova

COUNTRY OF OPERATION Moldova
SECTOR OF OPERATION Enterprise development
VALUE 500,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION 36 months

BACKGROUND

MSMEs remain a key priority for the country as outlined in Moldova's existing national development strategy, "Moldova 2030", and as part of its priority area "sustainable and inclusive economic development". The strategy focusing on inclusion, sustainability, and growth, aims to: promote entrepreneurship and the employment of vulnerable groups; reduce informality and improve access to infrastructure; increase incomes and growth by focusing on facilitating MSME access to finance; and promoting innovation and reducing corruption.

In this framework, due to initiatives from the EU, the government, a growing range of supporting organisations, and Moldovan start-up ecosystem have been gaining ground in recent years. Despite the growing vibration, the following challenges of the Moldovan start-up ecosystem remain: difficulties in transferring knowledge to markets; highly centralised public system of R&I; high level of fragmentation; low level of innovation applicability; education system not focused on practical skills and innovative thoughts, and with little exposure to international experience; overreliance on external funding. Accelerators in Moldova are only focused on pre-acceleration support. As a company expands, it often relocated to any EU accelerator/hub. The migration of start-ups to EU (Romania, Estonia) and US driven by the potential for attracting venture capital and the perception of a more regulated financial market can be observed. Therefore, there is need to enhance the capabilities of accelerators to provide an advanced level of support and attract foreign investment.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

The Action will address the need to support the MSME ecosystem development as well as high potential start-ups (HPSUs), smaller and innovative companies with a strong potential to scale up and prepare to access finance, build partnerships, and excel, positioning themselves as the drivers of the economy in the future.

The overall objective of the Action is to foster economic development and enhance the competitiveness of MSMEs and early-stage enterprises in Moldova, allowing them to realise their untapped potential, attract finance from diverse sources, and foster innovation. It will contribute to build an innovation-friendly business environment, and it will ultimately produce a positive socio-economic impact on the local community through job-creation, skills development, and economic prosperity. The Action will cover MSMEs operating across all sectors in all regions of Moldova.

The specific objectives of the Action include: strengthen MSMEs' competitiveness via advisory support for HPSUs growth and innovation; improve MSMEs' access to finance by improving start-ups' market approach, management

skills, internationalisation and investment readiness, utilising a set of different advisory tools; support the digital transition in Moldova and promote cybersecurity awareness in the private sector through increased MSMEs awareness.

Eligibility criteria for MSMEs:

- Size: up to 250 employees for projects with local consultants.
- Area of activity: all activities except banking services, military products or services, gambling, hard liquor and tobacco in line with the EBRD policies.
- Commitment: management must be open and committed to the assistance and achieving agreed objectives.
- Integrity: enterprise and management are credible and respectable and must comply with the EBRD integrity procedures. There must not be any previous or ongoing legal proceedings, which may affect the implementation of the project or constitute reputational risk.
- Viability: be able to demonstrate further potential for growth in terms of having a discernible competitive advantage and have sufficient financial and operational resources available for implementation and follow up of advisory services.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The proposed Action will result in increased competitiveness of assisted MSMEs, leading to innovation and growth, export development, job creation, improved productivity, and increased adoption of innovative practices. Additionally, activities to develop the local consultancy market, including increased demand for and supply of high-quality advisory services and knowledge sharing with local institutions, will contribute to the creation of a thriving local market for external advice that will provide long-term support to MSMEs in Moldova. Expected results include:

- at least 5 HPSUs receive advice through the customised scaling support, which provides intensive business diagnostics, technical advisory and mentoring support;
- at least 100 MSMEs reached through ecosystem support activities, awareness raising, networking and other non-project activities.

INVESTMENT LINKS (IF APPLICABLE)

While the Action is not directly related to an EBRD investment, the local teams will seek to identify beneficiaries that are, or can become, more bankable and creditworthy and turn to them for EBRD co-financing and indirect financing. The start-ups supported will evolve into SMEs that could be benefit again in the future from the Bank through its standard SME one-to-one advisory and financing projects.

Rail Corridor VIII - Phase 2 - Lender's Monitor Advisor

COUNTRY OF OPERATION	North Macedonia
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Transport
VALUE	500,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION	48 months

BACKGROUND

The Orient/East-Med Corridor runs between Hamburg and Bremen in Germany and Thessaloniki and Varna in Greece and, respectively, Bulgaria. In this framework, citizens of North Macedonia will benefit from greener transport and improved regional connectivity thanks to new construction on the eastern section of its railway network, part of the Pan-European Corridor VIII.

Indeed, in North Macedonia, the Corridor VIII includes an 89 km-long rail section between Kumanovo and the border with Bulgaria as well as another 103 km-long rail section between Kicevo and Skopje.

The Eastern Rail Corridor VIII section in North Macedonia is divided into three sections totalling 89 km and includes the 30.8 km Kumanovo - Beljakovce section (section I, estimated at 48.9 million EUR), the 34 km Beljakovce – Kriva Palanka (section II, estimated at 145 million EUR) and the 24 km Kriva Palanka – Deve Bair at the border with Bulgaria (section III, estimated at 420 million EUR).

The construction works for sections I and II (covering Kumanovo – Kriva Palanka connection) were launched in November 2022 and are expected to be completed in 2026. The works for the first two sections are implemented under 200 million EUR contracts, while the section III project, currently assessed by the EIB, will be completed in 4 years from commencement – expected in 2030.

Concerning the second section, the EBRD has extended a loan of 145 million EUR for the construction works on a 34-kilometre section from Beljakovce to Kriva Palanka including the rehabilitation of 2 railway stations and 3 halts. The planned development includes several railway bridges and over/underpasses, 5.5 km-long tunnels and new signalling and telecommunication systems.

The start of construction works on the eastern sections of Railway Corridor VIII is a huge step in the expansion and

modernisation of the railway network of North Macedonia. The project will not just improve national connections but enhance connectivity across the region and with the EU.

Once complete, the new railway interconnection will shorten the railway link between North Macedonia and the Black Sea by approximately 200 km. Once the eastern part of Corridor VIII is fully operational, it will enhance North Macedonia's transport system and its sustainability, providing an additional regional route for traffic flows to and from North Macedonia and facilitating further regional integration.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

The objectives of this assignment are to assist the EBRD to monitor implementation of the contracts financed under the Railway Corridor VIII – Phase II Beljakovce – Kriva Palanka Project and to ensure that investments are implemented within time and budget. To this end, the Consultant will identify any key problem, which may threaten implementation and advise the Bank, on remedial measures so that corrective action can be taken.

In particular, assistance will provide for: monitoring and auditing the performance of the client and its consultants; monitoring the implementation of the contracts on behalf of the EBRD; monitoring the EBRD performance requirements, EU environmental, health and safety requirements, good industry practice and other requirements of the Project documentation as applicable; identify any key problems, which may threaten the successful implementation of the Project so that corrective actions can be taken.

INVESTMENT LINKS

An EBRD loan of 145 million EUR to the Republic of North Macedonia for the benefit of the Public Enterprise for Railways Infrastructure for the new construction of 34 km of railway line, including the reconstruction of existing infrastructure, from Beljakovce to Kriva Palanka.

Decarbonisation and Action Plan for Javno Preduzeće Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS)

APPROVED IN 2023

COUNTRY OF OPERATION Serbia
SECTOR OF OPERATION Energy/climate
VALUE 350,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION 12 months

BACKGROUND

The EBRD is providing a 300 million EUR loan to the public electricity generation utility Javno Preduzeće Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS) for emergency liquidity support to maintain its financial resilience, enhance energy security for Serbia, and drive its decarbonisation agenda.

Serbia has embarked on its way to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 by endorsing the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. Approximately 60-70% of EPS's electricity generation comes from coal fired thermal power plants with total capacity of 4,079 MW. EPS also owns open coal pit mines that supply its thermal power plants. The Company recognises its role as one of the key players in country's decarbonisation by contributing to the development of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), with the current draft aiming for (i) 40.3% GHG emissions reduction in 2030 compared to 1990, (ii) over 45% renewables in the 2030 electricity generation mix.

EPS's key role in the decarbonisation process is expected to come from decommissioning of coal-fired powerplant capacities, rehabilitation of hydroelectric powerplants and ramping up intermittent renewable capacities. To ensure smooth energy transition, early planning is required via the development of low carbon and climate resilient pathways.

In this context, the EBRD intends to engage a consultant to support EPS in the development of a Paris-aligned decarbonisation action plan, consistent with NECP and key strategic documents that would ensure security of supply and facilitate green energy sector transition.

Based on analysis, the plan should include commitment to phase out the use of coal, not later than 31 December 2050, in line with the adopted NECP and adopted Energy Sector Development Strategy up to 2040 with the projections up to 2050. Considering that Serbia is a signatory to the Paris Agreement, all new planned investments will be in accordance with that agreement. Per current advanced

drafts (subject to approval), it not envisaged at present that there will be further investments in new coal generation assets after Kostolac B3 project. The plan should include tangible actions, targets and key performance indicators with specific timeframes, as well as analysis of costs, affordability and funding availability. The plan will also integrate strategic workforce planning to account for just transition considerations, as foreseen by the yet to be adopted national Just Transition Diagnostic and Action Plan, supported by the EBRD.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

The main objectives of the Assignment are to:

- develop a decarbonisation plan and underlying capital requirements for the Company that is consistent with the 1.5-degree temperature objectives, reflecting objectives of the draft National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and draft Energy Sector Strategy, as well as energy security considerations;
- analyse funding implications and affordability of proposed actions, provide overview of possible funding sources;
- analyse implications of transition on the workforce and develop company-level plan for addressing it in a just manner, informed by just transition diagnostic and action plan;
- develop a detailed decarbonisation action plan, including tangible actions, targets and key performance indicators with specific timeframes, integrating a coal phase out strategy and related monitoring provisions.

The Assignment will comprise the following tasks: a context overview; an overview of the current company operations and plans; a decarbonisation scenario analysis; an investment improvement and decarbonisation gap analysis; a decarbonisation action plan; and the organisation of a series of workshops with the EPS and the EBRD for each of the critical steps of the Assignment implementation.

Enhancing Public Procurement Professionalism Capacity Building Programme

COUNTRY OF OPERATION	Regional (non-EU Member States)
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Capacity building
VALUE	75,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION	12 months

BACKGROUND

Procurement is an essential component of public sector economic governance as it links increasing value for public money and public service delivery with creating an enabling environment for private sector-led growth. According to OECD findings, public procurement contracting represents 15-20% of GDP in any given country. While efficient public procurement leading to well-functioning public infrastructure is a prerequisite for economic growth, poor governance of public procurement can turn public investments into major economic liabilities and result in additional costs and waste of public funds. Deficient regulation and low capacity of human resources managing procurement has substantial economic cost.

The more efficient the management of public procurement, the better a country can take advantage of its purchasing power to promote economic activities. An efficient and productive management of public procurement depends on the level of procurement professionalism within the government and its agencies.

In this framework, the EBRD together with the University of Rome "Tor Vergata" (TVU, Italy) has successfully developed and delivered, for several years, an international Master programme in International Public Procurement Management (IMPPM) specifically designed for procurement officials from the Bank's countries of operation. The Faculty of Economics of TVU, recognised worldwide as a centre of excellence for education in procurement, is the partner academic institution where the programme is taught. Highly satisfactory results have been achieved during the previous editions of the IMPPM.

In recent years, the high number of applicants from the Western Balkans has highlighted the need to fulfil the high demand for training and knowledge on procurement policy for the region that cannot be adequately met due to both restrictions on the number of participants in TVU and the challenge faced by senior officials who are unable to be granted leave from their

functions for four consecutive months, this lead to the creation of the equivalent programme housed at the Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade (UoB, Serbia).

Italy, through the CEI Fund at the EBRD, has been providing funds for the organisation of the two Master's Programmes including offering scholarships to procurement professionals from the CEI region since 2012. Donor funding allows professionals/students to participate in and benefit from the Programmes. Over a period of 10 years, the overall contribution out of the CEI Fund has reached over 500,000 EUR.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

The Master's at TVU is a full time, postgraduate Programme. The interdisciplinary content of the Programme, for a new culture of public administration excellence, know-how and values is meant to attract public purchasers with relevant experience in procurement as well as young students interested in preparing for a career in public procurement. It runs on an annual basis, with classroom lectures followed by distance learning and a mandatory, professional internship.

The Master's at the Western Balkans Centre of Procurement, hosted by the UoB is carried out during 4 days with intensive lectures and seminars taking place each month throughout 12 consecutive calendar months, combining work and education. After completing the modules, to graduate, students are required to write and defend a final dissertation. Upon successful completion of the Programme, the students will receive a Master's Diploma jointly awarded by the TVU and the UoB.

INVESTMENT LINKS

Even though there is no directly related investment to this assignment, the project aims at developing public procurement legislation and practice in countries of operations, also complementing the on-going policy dialogue operations.

Ukrenergo Transmission Network Emergency Restoration - Gender and Inclusion TC support

COUNTRY OF OPERATION Ukraine
SECTOR OF OPERATION Energy/climate
VALUE 200,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION 24 months

BACKGROUND

The EBRD has approved a financing package that will deliver 372 million EUR to support Ukraine's electricity transmission company, Ukrenergo. The money will be used for swift emergency repairs following heavy bombings of civilian power infrastructure during Russia's war on Ukraine.

Up to 150 million EUR provided by the EBRD will be used for equipment procurement to implement emergency repairs while a further 150 million EUR provided by the EBRD consists of capital structure support. Separately, a grant for up to 72 million EUR has been provided by The Netherlands. This will be blended into a single 372 million EUR package to support the immediate transmission infrastructure restoration needs of Ukrenergo.

The United States of America, which has contributed 500 million USD to the EBRD's Crisis Response Fund and is strongly committed to addressing the impact of the war on Ukraine, will support up to 50% of the EBRD's loan with a funded guarantee.

The Project is strategically important since it will enable the Company to secure energy supply to population and businesses throughout the country and ensure the stability of the country's energy system. The Project will also strengthen the Ukrainian power system's ability to maintain commercial flows with ENTSO-E (European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity).

The Project aims to support the resilience of the Company and its operations as well as to improve energy security by providing emergency financial support to Ukrenergo. The Project will also preserve and enhance human capital by safeguarding access to electricity for households and businesses affected by the war. Moreover, the Company will engage on strategic workforce management activities to address its skill-related needs in line with the evolving

crisis by identifying crisis management skill gaps and putting in place essential support to management and affected workers (Inclusive). In addition, Ukrenergo will update its Gender Action Plan in light of the war and launch an outreach campaign promoting access to career opportunities for internally displaced young women, which will help filling workforce gaps within its own staff and across the vital energy industry (Gender SMART). Part of the capital structure support tranche will be also channelled towards payments to renewables.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

This TC support is currently being development.

However, it is envisaged with this TC support, Ukrenergo will assess what the recent integration into ENTSO-E means in terms of skills standards and qualification requirements. It will also analyse the gap between its current skills standards and the standards followed by other ENTSO-E members and develop a plan for closing such a gap.

The Company will also develop a training course for people managers at all levels on Leading through Change and Managing Change, to ensure that managers can follow the most appropriate tools and practices for leading their teams throughout the implementation of the strategic workforce planning activities.

The TC also envisages strengthening the e-learning platform and developing new modules and courses for employees on adaptability skills (i.e. coping strategies for working in hazardous conditions, stress management, etc.)

INVESTMENT LINKS

300 million EUR loan by the EBRD complemented by grant for up to 72 million EUR provided by The Netherlands.

FINTECC (Finance and Technology Transfer Centre for Climate Change) in the WB

COUNTRY OF OPERATION	WB countries
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Energy/climate
VALUE	300,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION	36 months

BACKGROUND

FINTECC (Finance and Technology Transfer Centre for Climate Change) is a multi-donor co-funded investment programme established by the EBRD to promote climate technology transfer across the private sector in a number of its countries of operation. The programme offers technical assistance, knowledge management, capacity building as well as incentive grants to companies in the corporate sector to introduce eligible climate technologies with low market penetration, co-financed by the EBRD investment in the company. The programme contributes to a reduction of GHG emissions by the private sector and to decreasing energy and resources use, especially of fossil origin as well as to increasing the overall competitiveness of the private sector in the regions.

Overall, FINTECC operates according to a business model based on four components: investment support, technical assistance, knowledge management, and policy dialogue.

FINTECC is currently operational in Kazakhstan, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine. As of the end of 2022 FINTECC programme portfolio consists of sixty investment projects. With ca. 17 million USD of multi-donor-funded grants, the EBRD co-financed over 285 million USD to support the implementation of climate technologies. Total associated investments, including donor, EBRD and private funds in those projects is over 2 billion EUR. The associated CO₂ benefits are approximately 2,6 million tonnes of CO₂ savings over ten years.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

Given the success of the FINTECC programme in the eligible countries, the Bank has explored the possibility to roll-out the Programme to the Western Balkan Region also thanks to a "Market Assessment for the Uptake of Climate Technologies in the Western Balkans for the launch of the FINTECC Programme" financed by the CEI Fund and realised in 2022, which also identified the key climate technologies.

Indeed, a need for a similar technology transfer programme in the Western Balkans countries was identified. The

launching of a technology transfer initiative will, therefore, ensure the prompt deployment of resource-efficient technologies by the local corporates while facilitating the creation of a suitable environment for technology transfer via comprehensive technical assistance and policy dialogue support. The Programme structure and governance applied in other countries of operation have been proven effective and will be fully replicated:

INVESTMENT SUPPORT

It is expected that the programme will support approximately 10-15 clients, to make climate technology investments of approximately 10-15 million USD. The recipients will be corporate companies, SMEs, mid and large-scale, financed either directly by the EBRD or through the local banks under the Risk Sharing Facility of EBRD.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The activity will be provided to the private sector in the Western Balkans countries to (i) strengthen climate technology supply chains through assistance to technology manufacturers, and (ii) support broader deployment of climate technologies in the country. It will cover technical assistance for project development and implementation support to enterprises. The cost of Technical Assistance activities will be shared between the donor and the recipient company (proportion: 90% to 10%).

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

The activity will include awareness-raising campaigns, dedicated trainings, building industry networks, overall stakeholder engagement, programme and Donor visibility. The key recipients will be private sector companies, local consultants, technology suppliers, technology manufacturers and policymakers. The activity will be fully financed by the donor.

POLICY DIALOGUE

This will include an engagement with the relevant governmental agencies to identify and agree on the support to address the lack of legislative incentives for the climate technologies uptake by the market. The activity will be fully financed by the donor.



Technical Cooperation Programme

Projects closed in 2023

02

Table 2.2. List of TC assignments closed in 2022

No.	Earmark document number	Assignment name	Country of operation	Sector of operation	Value €
1	50005643	Green Economy Transition (GET) Project Preparation and Implementation Framework	Regional	Energy/ Climate	52,000
2	50005921	Corridor Vc in Republika Srpska - Quality Management System and obtaining ISO Standards	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	70,000
3	50006498	FBIH Roads: Flood Repair and Upgrade - Introduction of Quality Management Systems and obtaining the ISO 9001 standard	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	70,000
4	50006877	Analysis of Climate Change Risks to Critical Transport Infrastructure Networks in Ukraine	Ukraine	Transport	144,297
5	50007692	COVID-19 Crisis Response: Environmental & Social Contractor Management	Regional	Institutional Development	120,000
6	50007838	Market readiness for a low-carbon hydrogen economy in the Western Balkans	Regional	Energy/ Climate	150,000
7	50009374	North Macedonia: Rail Corridor VIII, Phase 3 - E&S Support and Gender Due Diligence	North Macedonia	Transport	74,900
8	50008879	OSHEE COVID-19 Response - Smart Grid Development Roadmap	Albania	Energy/ Climate	203,882
TOTAL					885,079

Green Economy Transition (GET) Project Preparation and Implementation Framework

COUNTRY OF OPERATION Regional
SECTOR OF OPERATION Energy/ Climate
VALUE 52,000 EUR
DURATION 14 months

FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

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

Because of the financial and economic crisis, energy efficiency and environmental projects were at risk of being delayed and cancelled. There was an opportunity for the EBRD to provide for the needs of public and private clients in the market context, thereby fulfilling its transition mandate through the promotion of market innovation and the introduction of best practices in the broader energy and environmental aspect. The projects regarded the building of new state-of-the-art facilities or the reconstruction and modernisation of existing facilities.

In this framework, the main objectives of the assignment were to:

- Review the main technical solutions which are commercially available for floating PV plants, including prevailing technologies and layouts, main suppliers, current costs, and selected international reference cases;
- Analyse the main investment and operation cost components in current market conditions and as forecasted for the mid-term future;
- Review the current penetration and assess the investment potential in the CEI countries in comparison with other

relevant neighbouring countries of operations of the EBRD, including by developing relevant case studies at pre-feasibility levels of detail, fuel for climate change mitigation, whilst ensuring cost effectiveness and identifying potential for investment.

OUTCOMES

The project provided a very good market and technology assessment for the EBRD which the climate and banking teams used extensively afterwards in the business development with state-owned companies as well as the private sector to explore and scope out potential floating solar photovoltaic (PV) projects and associated financing packages.

Based on the deliverables, the EBRD systematically pitched several of the CEI countries, one project since then has been approved and is under construction in Albania, where the EBRD provided 9.1 million EUR to KESH (Korporata Elektroenergjitike Shqiptare sh.a.), the state-owned Albanian power generation company, to finance a 12.9 MW floating PV farm at the Vau i Dejës hydropower plant reservoir. The farm is the first floating solar plant of this size in Albania and the Western Balkans. It represents a breakthrough in innovative green technology, using Albania's rich solar resources while avoiding the use of scarce land.

Another two floating PV projects are also at different stages of internal due diligence in Montenegro and North Macedonia.

Corridor Vc in Republika Srpska - Quality Management System and obtaining ISO Standards

COUNTRY OF OPERATION	Bosnia and Herzegovina
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Transport
VALUE	70,000 EUR
DURATION	24 months

FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

The development of Corridor Vc is a strategic priority for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The EBRD is providing a sovereign-guaranteed loan up to 70 million EUR to Public Company "Republika Srpska Motorway" (RSM) to construct two motorway interchanges at Johovac and Rudanka and a motorway section, approximately 6 km in length, between these interchanges. This motorway section is the first section of Corridor Vc to be constructed within the territory of Republika Srpska (RS). The total length of Corridor Vc within RS is approximately 45 km.

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

The objective of this assignment was to assist RSM in the preparation and certification of a road safety management system in line with the ISO 39001 requirements, assisting the company during the certification process.

The specific objectives were:

- successfully develop and implement a Road Safety Management Plan;

- demonstrate conformity with the International Standard, assisting Public Company along the process to become ISO 39001 certified;
- train company staff in the road safety management practices.

The deliverables of this assignment were:

- a report with the results of the assessment of the background report, the gap analysis for ISO 39001 and the road map for the certification;
- quarterly interim reports detailing the work done and the steps to be taken in the next quarter.
- The final report covering in detail all the assignment's specific objectives including list of improvements to the Company's Road Safety Management System and confirming that the Company is ready for the final ISO 39001 certification.

OUTCOMES

The certificate for the management system according to ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 was obtained.

The scope was the preparation, organization, and management of the construction of highways and expressways, management, maintenance, and protection of paved sections of highways and expressways.

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

CLOSED IN 2023

COUNTRY OF OPERATION Bosnia and Herzegovina
SECTOR OF OPERATION Transport
VALUE 70,000 EUR
DURATION 12 months

FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

The Public Company “Roads of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina” (FBIH Roads) has launched an overarching programme for the modernisation of the main roads on the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) to ensure adequate and appropriate road infrastructure.

In this framework, the EBRD is providing a sovereign loan to BiH in the amount of up to 65 million EUR for on-lending to the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBH) and further to the Public Company Roads of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (the “FBIH Roads”) to finance the repair and modernisation of selected road sections and structures in the FBH.

The proceeds of the loan will be used to repair and upgrade the primary road network in the Federation following the damage caused by the severe floods during the Spring of 2014. In addition, the financing is aiming to improve the level of service and traffic safety on the FBIH primary road network.

The objective of this assignment was to provide tools to improve the efficiency and effectiveness by introducing in the Road Agency a Quality Management System (QMS), Environment Management (EMS) and Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) as an Integrated Management System (IMS), and the Road Agency to successfully prepare and implement the certification of the IMS.

The expected scope of the work was providing assistance in the preparation and certification of an IMS in line with ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015 and ISO 45001: 2018.

The expected outcomes and deliverables of the assignment included a gap analysis for IMS and the road map for the certification.

OUTCOMES

The Consultant has provided an Implementation of Integrated Management System Final Report. The Final Report contains information on the implemented activities of the project Implementation of an integrated management system according to the requirements of international ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018 standards.

The gap analysis was conducted to determine the initial state of the business system of Public Company Roads in FBiH in relation to the requirements of the ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018 standards. Trainings were carried out for the members of the organization's management, for members of the IMS Team and middle management, and training for internal auditors. The consultants also organised a seminar for internal auditors for quality, environment, health protection and occupational safety. An internal audit was conducted by the consultant.

The certificate for the management system according to ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018 was obtained.

Analysis of Climate Change Risks to Critical Transport Infrastructure Networks in Ukraine

COUNTRY OF OPERATION	Ukraine
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Transport
VALUE	144,297 EUR
DURATION	12 months

FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

The Project in order to increase climate resilience in the EBRD's countries of operations, the EBRD is systematically integrating climate risk assessments and adaptation measures in its investment operations. The EBRD intends to reduce long-term risks and increase resilience through improved practices and investments in measures and technologies that are better suited to a changing and more variable climate.

In this framework, natural hazards pose a significant threat to Ukraine's national transport network and infrastructure. Extreme climatic conditions such as heatwaves, blizzards, high precipitation events or drought, and natural hazards such as earthquakes, present a physical and financial risk to infrastructure assets and could negatively impact network resilience and regional connectivity in the future. The purpose of this assignment was to assess climate risks and the vulnerability of the national transport network across the Ukraine.

The main objectives of this assignment were:

- Assess current and future climate risks to the critical transport network in Ukraine and map out specific vulnerabilities.
- Develop a high-level investment framework for adapting transport networks to climate change at the country level.

Furthermore, the assignment was delivered in the context of two critical national road projects which were underway at the time of the assignment. These were the rehabilitation of the M-05 Kyiv-Odesa road section in Cherkasy, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv and Odesa regions (the "M-05 road") and the construction of the northern section of the bypass around the city of Lviv (the "Lviv bypass").

The assignment reports therefore assessed these road sections in more detail and provided detailed recommendations which could also be replicated for future road developments with similar climate hazards.

OUTCOMES

The deliverables from this assignment included:

- A final report summarising the analysis of the Climate Change Risks to Critical Transport Infrastructure Networks in Ukraine and providing a high-level investment framework.
- Specific assessment and recommendations for the Vulnerability Assessment of the two National Road Projects.
- GIS mapping of the Ukraine transport network (including static assets such as roads, bridges, trainlines, airports and the key ports of the Black Sea and considering dynamic assets such as bikes, cars, lorries, planes, trains, and other vehicles) compared with physical climate hazards (landslides, wildfires, flooding, winds, extreme heat, snowfall, extreme cold, blizzards, heavy precipitation and dry spells. The mapping also took earthquakes into consideration (although not climate related), demonstrating vulnerability and risk across the network.

The intention was that recommendations from this assessment would be used to strengthen the climate resilience of transport infrastructure within Ukraine and support mainstreaming of disaster risk management and adaptation planning for the future. However, following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022, the national transport priorities changed dramatically for clear reasons.

Nevertheless, the outputs from this assignment still represent a useful resource for future rebuilding efforts. The reports and GIS mapping can be used by Ukrainian authorities, EBRD and other potential financiers to inform future technical and financial resource spending decisions. The outputs provide a framework to allow decision makers to identify the most critical assets in the Ukraine transport network and to determine those most vulnerable to current and future climate change hazards, therefore prioritising project planning and a transparent and robust manner.

COVID-19 Crisis Response: Environmental & Social Contractor Management

COUNTRY OF OPERATION	Regional
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Institutional Development
VALUE	120,000 EUR
DURATION	24 months

FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

The EBRD has been ramping up its response to the economic and financial crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and has developed a COVID Resilience Framework to help existing and new clients. As a result of this Framework, the Bank has seen a dramatic increase in financing requests from existing and new clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic gave rise to unparalleled environmental, health, safety and social risks and impacts, presenting significant challenges to companies and their workforces, their contractors and suppliers, as well as project host communities across the EBRD regions.

The construction stage of projects has been recognised as often related to most significant H&S, environmental and social risks, including those related to COVID 19 infections. These risks need to be incorporated into the risk management approaches to the Environmental & Social (E&S) management of projects.

In this framework, the objective of the assignment was to develop and deliver an online training programme to selected Transport and Municipal and Environmental Infrastructure Project implementation agencies (ministries, directorates and project implementation units etc.) in the Western Balkans. This training aimed at incorporating responses to the COVID-19 risks related to construction activities (large civil engineering works) and also to how to meet the EBRDs Performance Requirements, manage contractual obligations and oversee execution of contractor performance related to environmental and social requirements.

The expected outcome of the Assignment aimed to:

- reviewing the training package on Contractor E&S Management developed in 2018 and aligning it to the

EBRD 2019 Environmental and Social Policy, with specific focus on the COVID-19 mitigation; developing relevant content for online modules;

- organising and delivering online seminars on key modules to training participants;
- providing practical examples of construction good practice related to the COVID -19 risk minimisation and other typical environmental and social risks applicable to infrastructure projects.

OUTCOMES

The EBRD has developed an Environmental & Social Contractor Management E-learning Course aimed at supporting its clients in the management of large civil engineering works in line with the EBRD Environmental and Social Policy and Performance Requirements. The course has been designed by environmental, social, health and safety specialists to provide:

- general overview of EBRD requirements and drivers for minimisation of EHS risks during construction;
- practical application of specific requirements in regard to labour, health and safety, biodiversity protection, pollution prevention, etc.
- build Client's capacity to manage the contractual obligations and requirements in the context of projects financed by the EBRD.

Large number of clients, which overall exceed 100, participated in the course launch over summer- autumn 2023.

Full course is available at <https://ebrdelearning.com/environmental-and-social-contractor-management-e-learning-course>.

Market readiness for a low-carbon hydrogen economy in the Western Balkans

COUNTRY OF OPERATION	Regional
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Energy/ Climate
VALUE	150,000 EUR
DURATION	18 months

FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

The assignment aimed at understanding the technical, economic and regulatory viability of developing hydrogen supply chains in the context of the economy for the Region. It was composed of six different tasks, aiming at:

- Task 1: assessing the potential demand for hydrogen in the Western Balkans, both in existing and prospective installations across the main economic sectors (such as industrial applications for heat and power or as a feedstock; transport; power sector; etc.), as well as potential export opportunities. This outlook included existing national policies as well as international targets stemming from the Paris Agreement. The analysis provided an indication of the priority users and of the most effective sectors for industry and policy makers to focus on in the short, medium and long term.
- Task 2: analysing the opportunities for future production of low-carbon hydrogen in the Region, with a view of quantifying the potential scale of the domestic hydrogen supply in the medium and long-term future.
- Task 3: assessing viability and readiness of alternatives for transportation/distribution and storage of hydrogen.
- Task 4: conducting a gap analysis and critical review of the main regulatory changes needed to support the development of hydrogen supply chains in the Region whilst ensuring safety, reliability, competitiveness and sustainability of supply.
- Task 5: developing a number of case studies of potential localised production, transportation and utilisation in energy intensive industrial sectors and other prospective sectors, preferably in close connection with existing/ prospective clients of the Bank in the Western Balkans.
- Task 6: disseminating the results of the study to all relevant stakeholders, through a workshop to be organised at the end of the assignment, either locally in one of the countries or remotely, depending on the evolution of international travel policies.

Overall, this assignment aimed to help the EBRD gain further insights in order to guarantee a sustainable development of hydrogen as a decarbonised fuel for climate change mitigation, whilst ensuring cost effectiveness and identifying potential for investment.

OUTCOMES

This was part of a multi-regional TC Project to assess the potential for low-carbon hydrogen in the EBRD's countries of operation. The study for the WB region funded by the CEI was completed in Q4 2022. It highlighted that at the current time the production of low-carbon hydrogen is not competitive and as of today, the Bank has been unable to identify a viable investment project in the region. This is mainly due to the following barriers:

- Production costs are high compared to other regions: 1.7 times the cost in North Africa and 1.2 times the cost in the EU.
- Due to the high production costs, there is very limited potential for exporting as well as for local use (as it is cheaper to import from North Africa).
- Renewable energy production is still to be developed at scale with a number of countries still reliant on coal. The widespread use of renewables is a key initial requirement for the development of the renewable hydrogen sector.

In the future, as the cost of production decreases and decarbonization requirements increase, low-carbon hydrogen projects may become more feasible. However, their scope may remain limited as importing hydrogen is likely to remain more competitive in the short-medium term.

North Macedonia: Rail Corridor VIII, Phase 3 - E&S Support and Gender Due Diligence

CLOSED IN 2023

COUNTRY OF OPERATION North Macedonia
SECTOR OF OPERATION Transport
VALUE 74,900 EUR
DURATION 12 months

FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

The EBRD is providing a sovereign loan of up to 175 million EUR to the Republic of North Macedonia for the benefit of the Public Enterprise for Railways Infrastructure (PERI) for the completion of the third and final section of rail infrastructure on the eastern end of the rail Corridor VIII. The loan will finance:

(i) the construction, signalling and telecommunication from Kriva Palanka to the Bulgarian border in total length of 23.4 km, and (ii) the electrification works for the overall eastern rail line including the three sections (total length of 88 km). The Project is envisaged to be co-financed by the European Investment Bank and the EU through the Western Balkans Investment Framework and the national Instrument for Pre-Accession II (total project cost amounts to 546 million EUR).

This investment project will: i) establish the first rail connection between North Macedonia and Bulgaria, ii) facilitate the international/transit movement of goods and people, in particular with EU neighbouring countries and Turkey, and iii) shift traffic from road to rail transport by improving the competitiveness of the rail sector. Additionally, the Project will increase traffic safety and reliability for both passengers and freight, offer opportunities for business development near the railway line and stations, and improve environmental conditions in settlements and regions covered by the Project.

In this framework, this assignment aimed at providing support for meeting the EBRD's environmental and social requirements linked to the above-mentioned investment project including gender equality.

OUTCOMES

The technical assistance provided support for an assessment of physical climate risks and recommendations for potential climate change adaptation measures, an Economic and Green Economic Transition Approach (GET) assessment of the investment project as well as an additional Environmental and Social (E&S) due diligence. An Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) has been developed.

Concerning gender equality, the Bank has developed tools that can assist in identifying gender impacts and recommend how to mainstream gender into projects. Specific tools have, therefore, been developed to facilitate the addressing of gender issues at all project stages, also during environmental and social due diligence, project design, project implementation and as part of continuing operations.

In this framework, the assignment aimed at backing PERI on achieving higher gender standards by integrating universal and gender-responsive access standards into the current investment and future railway infrastructure investments. Indeed, the project will respond to the security needs of female passengers by integrating gender-responsive access standards into the design of the two stations, which are based on the results of the gender assessment carried out as part of due diligence. Accessibility measures and gender considerations will be included in the final station design.

OSHEE COVID-19 Response - Smart Grid Development Roadmap

COUNTRY OF OPERATION	Albania
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Energy/ Climate
VALUE	203,882 EUR
DURATION	12 months

FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

The EBRD is providing a 70 million EUR to the Albanian energy company Operatori i Shpërndarjes së Energjisë Elektrike (OSHEE), out of which 55 million EUR will be provided for liquidity gaps caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and 15 million EUR will finance the construction of a 110/20 kV substation. OSHEE is the largest state-owned enterprise in the sector in Albania, with more than 6,000 employees. Its distribution company manages and operates the country's power distribution network and related infrastructure, while its retail supplier is responsible for electricity supply to regulated customers.

As a part of this investment project, the EBRD through this assignment, provided a consultancy support to conduct a smart grid development roadmap in the Country for industrial, commercial, and residential electricity consumers. This assignment aimed to help address challenges faced by OSHEE, including network overloads, high losses, and the need for modernisation. The main purpose of the assignment was a technical review and analysis of the existing situation of OSHEE and the development of a smart grid action plan for the rehabilitation and modernisation of the network of the company, including the installation of the smart meters. The objectives were:

- To review the current situation in terms of condition of major equipment and facilities, performances of recent years, operation, and maintenance (O&M) practices as well as losses.
- To review and analyse the power loads in recent years as well as the forecasts for the medium to long term future, the billing and collection system in the country, number and type of customers, type of meters.
- To perform a detailed estimation of the expected costs and benefits from the implementation for a modern smart metering system installation.

- To develop a Smart Grid Action Plan and related investment programme for the medium term (2020-2025), which is in line with international best practices and ensures that the current investments in the modernisation of the company's networks incorporate technologies that are in line with a longer-term vision of a Smart Grid.
- To review the current system of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA).

OUTCOMES

The completion of this assignment has contributed to the following outcomes:

- Comprehensive Understanding: a detailed review and analysis of OSHEE's current situation, including equipment condition, performance indicators, and investment programs.
- Smart Grid Roadmap: development of a comprehensive smart grid action plan aligned with international best practices and tailored to OSHEE's needs.
- Cost-Benefit Analysis: estimation of costs and benefits associated with smart meter installation and modernization efforts.
- Improved Performance: implementation of the smart grid roadmap is expected to lead to significant improvements in OSHEE's performance indicators, including reduction in losses.
- Enhanced Infrastructure: recommendations for changes to existing infrastructure and processes to support smart grid implementation.

OSHEE will consider these deliverables for future reforms in the sector. As Smart Grid / Smart Metering is one of the key investment priorities for the Company, this assignment was very timely and relevant, and will form the basis of the subsequent investments, which are foreseen to happen in stages.



Know-how Exchange Programme

The CEI Know how Exchange Programme (KEP) is an instrument dedicated to offering co-financing to projects and programmes, focused on the transfer of know-how and best practices from EU to non-EU CEI Member States. The KEP offers grants to institutions from EU countries willing to share their experience with their partners in the non-EU CEI countries.

The CEI Fund at the EBRD has been co-financing KEP projects since 2004. To date, 149 projects have been financed for a total CEI Fund contribution of about 4.5 million EUR with an overall project value amounting to over 17 million EUR (see Chart 3.1 and Annex 7).

As shown in Chart 3.2, the projects supported by the CEI Fund at the EBRD have targeted all non-EU CEI Member States and beyond. The countries that have benefited from direct KEP assistance the most, since its establishment, are CEI Western Balkan countries, with Serbia as first beneficiary country followed by Albania and North Macedonia.

The majority of KEP grants are assigned through annual Calls for Proposals. In 2023, the CEI Fund provided resources for one call launched on 15 May. Seventy-two applications were received within the deadline for the project submission set on 14 July 2023. After a careful evaluation, eleven capacity building projects were approved for co-financing with 419,888.70 EUR in addition to a priority project financed out of the call with 39,905 EUR.

These projects (see Table 3.1) will bring together know-how providers and beneficiaries from several CEI countries. They will focus on significant areas of cooperation aimed at strengthening European integration such as the EU Cohesion Policy, anti-fraud controls, blue and circular economy, energy, air and water quality, rural development, culture, data control, and health.

Chart 3.1. CEI Fund co-financing and mobilised co-financing resources for KEP Projects 2004-2023
(share of the overall value of projects amounting to 17,067,961 EUR).

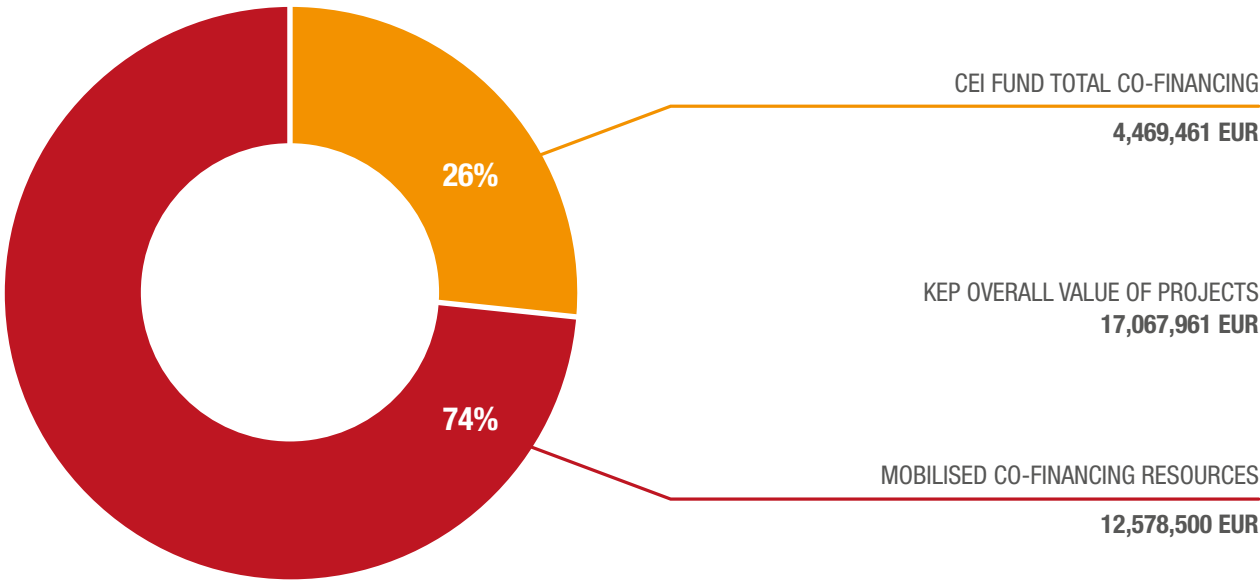
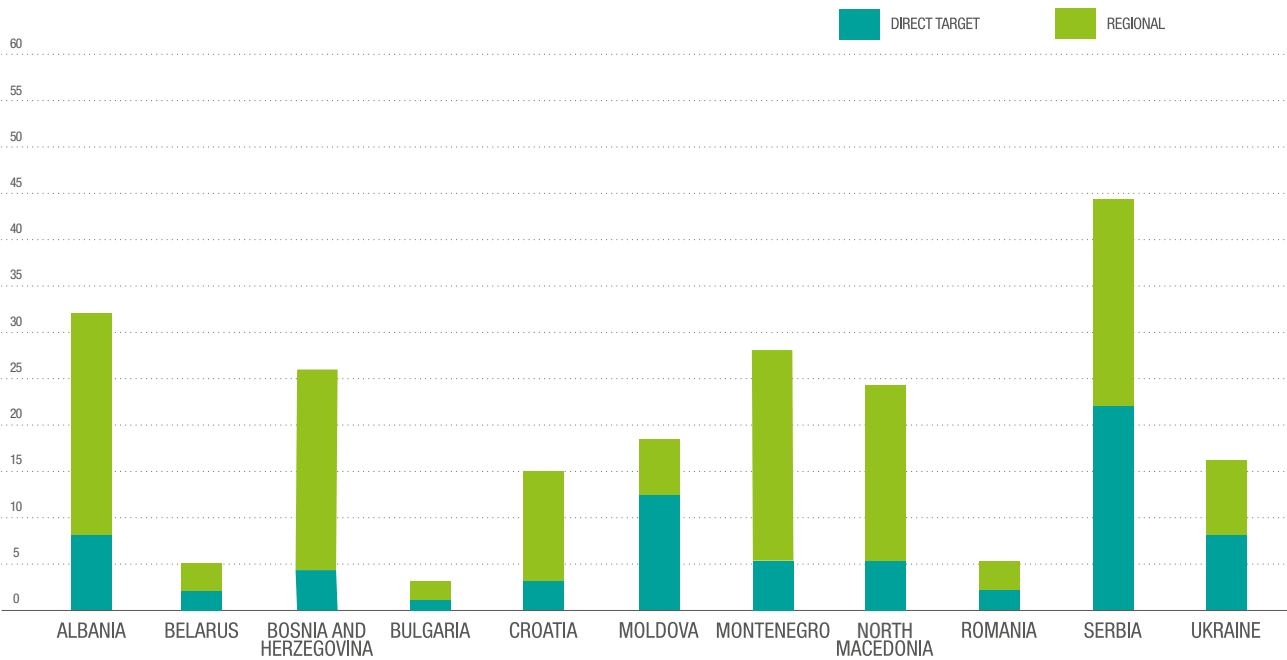


Chart 3.2. Distribution of KEP projects by number of assignments according to know-how recipient countries. The projects with regional spread are highlighted in light green *(share of 149 projects).*





Know-how Exchange Programme

Projects approved in 2023

03

Table 3.1. List of KEP projects approved in 2023

No.	Reference number	Project name	Country of know-how provider	Country of know-how recipient	Total project cost €	CEI grant €
1	304.4.2023.001	Supporting the Albanian Regulatory Authority to Improve the Efficiency of the Wholesale Electricity Market	Italy	Albania	84,980.00	39,905.00
2	304.4.2023.004	Promoting Capacity Building in Serbia through the Transfer of Technical Knowledge and Environmental Protection Measures in Beekeeping Sector	Italy	Serbia	78,093.60	39,046.80
3	304.4.2023.018	CEI Support for Increasing Capacity of Research and Action in Occupational and Environmental Health in Republic of Moldova	Italy	Moldova	79,951.37	39,970.90
4	304.4.2023.029	CEI Support to the Implementation of the New Electricity Package adopted by the Energy Community Ministerial Council incorporating EU acquis on Market Integration with Western Balkans	Italy	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia	83,200.00	40,000.00
5	304.4.2023.030	Assessment of Air and Water Quality Laboratories' Capacities in Albania	Italy	Albania	57,411.00	28,411.00
6	304.4.2023.031	CEI Support to DATA ROL (Data Protection and the Rule of Law) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	80,000.00	40,000.00
7	304.4.2023.034	Executive Programme "Effective Management and Anti-Fraud Controls in the Use of EU Funding Instruments"	Italy	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia	82,030.00	39,780.00
8	304.4.2023.039	Territorial Cohesion and Place-based Policies: an Exchange Programme on Chapter 22 (COPE22)	Italy	Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia	79,472.00	39,700.00
9	304.4.2023.045	CEI Support to Circular Economy in the Skopje Planning Region by Promoting Waste Processing Innovations and Increased Recycling Across Key Waste Streams	Italy	North Macedonia	74,000.00	34,600.00
10	304.4.2023.051	EU-SEE Forum for Intercultural Exchange on Sustainable Management of Cultural Heritage (SMACH Forum)	Italy, Slovenia	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia	82,720.00	40,000.00
11	304.4.2023.060	CEI Support to Strengthen Institutional Capacity and Performance of Ukrainian Agri-Food Sector and Rural Development through Application of EU Policy Tools and Good Practices	Poland	Ukraine	95,530.00	38,380.00
12	304.4.2023.064	CEI Support to Training and Research to Unlock and Enhance the Potential of Sustainable Blue Economy for Regional Cooperation and EE Integration	Croatia, Italy, Slovenia	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro	80,000.00	40,000.00
TOTAL					957,387.97	459,793.70

Supporting the Albanian Regulatory Authority to Improve the Efficiency of the Wholesale Electricity Market

APPROVED IN 2023

CEI REF. NO. 304.4.2023.001
TOTAL PROJECT COST. 84,980.00 EUR
CEI GRANT. 39,905.00 EUR
PLANNED DURATION. 12 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment (ARERA) through the Balkan Energy School (BES), Italy
www.arera.it/en

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Albanian Energy Regulatory Authority (ERE)
www.ere.gov.al

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

In 2017, the Italian energy regulatory authority (ARERA) launched a capacity building initiative in support of the European integration of the electricity markets targeting Albania, Montenegro, and Serbia. Since then, three KEP projects have successfully been implemented enabling regulatory authorities of the Balkan Region to align with the EU legal framework concerning market integration process. During the first and second phase of the project (2018 and 2019) the National Energy Regulatory Authorities of Albania (ERE), the Energy Regulatory Agency of Montenegro (REGAGEN), and the Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia (AERS) were involved as beneficiaries. In the third phase of the project, the Energy, Water Services and Municipal Waste Management Services Regulatory Commission of North Macedonia (ERC) was also included as a beneficiary. The Energy and Water Regulatory Commission of Bulgaria (EWRC) joined the initiative as partner while the Hellenic Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE), the State Electricity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Energy Regulatory Office of Kosovo* (ERO) joined the project as observers. Transmission System Operators and the Electricity Market Operators of the target countries were also involved in view of their role in the energy market integration process. In this framework, one of the tangible results of the KEP projects was the constitution of the Albanian Power Exchange (ALPEX) elaborated in October 2020.

In December 2022, the Energy Community Ministerial Council adopted a new electricity integration package that will enable a full market integration of the Energy Community Contracting Parties into the single European market for electricity, based on the principle of reciprocity. Encompassing nine acts, the package aims at making the markets fit to deliver on a cost-efficient clean energy transition while ensuring secure and affordable electricity supply to citizens. Thus, Albania and Italy are expected to become part of the same overarching market integration project.

In this framework, Albania should set all the major steps towards the creation of a well-functioning wholesale electricity market with the entry into full operation of ALPEX and its coordination with the balancing market. For a proper market functioning, ALPEX is expected to allow sellers and buyers to sell and buy power in a secure way. By matching in a centralised auction, the hourly bids and offers to sell and buy energy, ALPEX will reveal a transparent hourly price which can also be projected forward and used to attract new and cheaper investments in the energy sector. A well-ordered and transparent price formation is the main pillar of market efficiency.

As of 1 April 2021, the Albanian Electricity Balancing Market Rules have entered into full force and effect, marking the official commencement of the balancing market in Albania. However, a fully functional electricity balancing market in Albania will also require the operation of ALPEX.

The capacity of the Albanian Energy Regulatory Authority (ERE) to manage the transition from the establishment to full operation of ALPEX can be strengthened by means of a targeted support provided by ARERA, which takes stock of the past experience in the EU electricity market. This activity should be considered as a boosting of the work carried on in the framework of past KEP projects with a special target on Albanian needs.

The goal of the proposed know how exchange action is twofold. On the one hand, ERE will be enabled to define an action plan containing all the relevant regulatory measures needed for supporting the entry into the operation of ALPEX, with particular attention to monitoring the testing phase. On the other hand, ERE will be supported to define rules for coordinating the balancing market with the day-ahead and intraday markets and to establish the proper settlement rules and financial guarantees.

The main impact of the project will be the proper functioning of the Albanian electricity market. This result fulfils at least two major expectations of the Italian system: on the one hand, Albania is expected to become part of the EU wide internal electricity market and as such to become a reliable commercial partner for Italy (long term impact); on the other hand, Italian investors in Albania seek a business environment as similar as possible to that in the rest of Europe (medium term impact).

** 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.*

Promoting Capacity Building in Serbia through the Transfer of Technical Knowledge and Environmental Protection Measures in Beekeeping Sector

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2023.004
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	78,093.60 EUR
CEI GRANT.	39,046.80 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.	24 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Consiglio per la Ricerca in Agricoltura e l'analisi dell'Economia Agraria (CREA), Italy
www.crea.gov.it/en/home

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Agriculture, Serbia
polj.uns.ac.rs/en

BioSense Institute, Serbia
biosens.rs/en

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The protection of honeybees is of great importance for both environmental and economic reasons because of their role in plant pollination. Beekeeping is one of the most important branches of Serbian agriculture. A significant part of the total production of honey (about 28%) in Serbia is produced by professional beekeepers with more than 100 colonies, but the fragmentation of production from small beekeepers represents the largest portion. About 1.3 million hives are regularly registered in Serbia, with average annual honey yields ranging between 6K to 12K tons. Honey is also an important export product. On the other hand, Italy is the fourth European country for honey production. According to the estimates of the National Observatory on honey, the amount of honey produced is about 23.3 Ktons. Production is guaranteed by over 1.4 million beehives, of which approximately 390 K permanent, 556 K nomads, and the remaining deriving from hobby production and self-consumption. However, the honey production and the bees' health in recent years is endangered in both countries as confirmed by several reports. Climate change and environmental pollution are the main reasons for this decline. In Serbia, the Courier des Balkans in 2019 has reported that in some regions the production of honey has dramatically decreased due to high bee mortality attributed to the use of pesticides. To face these problems, it is of extreme importance to increase the attention in bee management and environment, developing systems capable to facilitate their control, but also promoting sustainable practices and rising political awareness on problems related to a large use of pesticides.

To face the problems in beekeeping and contribute to bee preservation, between 2019 and 2021, CREA developed a digital system capable of monitoring important parameters

inside the beehives, including weight variation, temperature variation and moisture. The system was conceived to upload information to a remote server, making them available at any time. Monitoring such parameters can provide important information on bee health status and honey/pollen production, allowing a prompt and correct planning of the interventions. The system, still in use at a prototype level, has been used by CREA within a national project designed to connect beekeepers all over the country. This digital hive differs from commercial solutions for its economical and customisable design, representing an easy-to-use instrument for the study or the simple control of bee activities, productivity, and health status.

The Serbian beneficiary partners are the University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Agriculture and the institute Biosense. The University will be trained and equipped with this digital technology by CREA through desk-based and field-based activities, while the BioSense institute will collaborate with CREA to build EU-SERBIA alignments in agricultural legislations. The knowledge transfer is expected to build the baseline for raising the interest in beekeepers, researchers and policymakers in Serbia to create and beekeeping businesses and environmental programmes.

Project objectives include:

- Provide Serbian partners of adequate technology and knowledge (short term);
- Create an operative monitoring platform to work remotely with the Serbian colleagues, provide assistance when needed, and create a bridge between Italian and Serbian beekeepers (short term).
- Demonstrate the efficiency and the importance of this system to the larger number of people in Serbia, including beekeepers, researchers, journalists.
- Rise political awareness and propose solution on environmental problems linked to agricultural activities that endanger the bee prosperity.

Measurable indicators can be quantified as follows: Transfer the knowledge on the proposed technology to at least 50 researchers across Serbia; Transfer the concept and the importance of monitoring bees to at least 1000 beekeepers through the project events (trainings, dissemination and communications channels and final event) ; Reach journalists to be included in at least 2 national press release; Reach at least 5.000 people with the project communication channels; Write at least 2 scientific publications and 2 informative papers; Reach the referring ministries in Serbia related to agriculture and environment.

CEI Support for Increasing Capacity of Research and Action in Occupational and Environmental Health in Republic of Moldova

APPROVED IN 2023

CEI REF. NO. 304.4.2023.018
TOTAL PROJECT COST. 79,951.37 EUR
CEI GRANT. 39,970.90 EUR
PLANNED DURATION. 18 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

University of Pavia, Italy
wcm-3.unipv.it/site/en/home.html

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Moldova
usmf.co.il/en/

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The EU has granted candidate country status to the Republic of Moldova in June 2022. As a result, efforts should be made to identify and implement actions that will strengthen Moldova's path towards EU membership. A previous KEP project involving the University of Pavia from Italy (UNIPV) and Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy from the Republic of Moldova (SUMP) focused on "Improving Occupational Health and Safety System in the Republic of Moldova." Through this project, it was discovered that there is a need to enhance the research skills of Moldavian beneficiaries in assessing not only workplace exposure and its health effects, but also environmental hazards and risks in general. To answer these needs, the Moldovan beneficiary and the Applicant, the Pavia University decided to address them by transferring new knowledge in occupational and environmental risk assessment, which are crucial for informed decision-making.

Occupational risk assessment (ORA) is a process that involves evaluating, ranking, and classifying workplace hazards and associated risks from the perspective of occupational health and safety (OHS). This assessment helps policymakers take appropriate actions to eliminate hazards and prevent risks. On the other hand, environmental risk assessment (ERA) is a process that evaluates the likelihood of environmental impact resulting from exposure to various stressors such as chemicals, disease, invasive species, and climate change.

The Moldovan society has undergone changes, and in order to build resilience against future crises and promote sustainable and inclusive development, the government has

developed the National Development Strategy "European Moldova 2030." This strategy serves as a long-term vision document, aligning the country's development directions with the national context and international commitments made by the Republic of Moldova. Additionally, Moldova has been a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 1994 and the Council of Europe since 1995. The country has ratified numerous ILO conventions and protocols, including the process of ratifying ILO Convention No. 190 on the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work.

By ratifying these conventions, Moldova is committed to promoting a healthy and safe work environment by formulating national policies based on principles such as assessing occupational risks and hazards, combating them at the source, and fostering a culture of health and safety through consultation, information, and training. The obligation to assess workplace risks in Moldova is rooted in current legislation, which has been aligned with the health and safety at work regulations of the European Union. However, the existing global risk assessment methodology is not sufficient to address enterprise-specific dangers, work accidents, occupational diseases, and psycho-social risks. Risk management at the level of economic units needs improvement, and the assessment of psycho-social risks and stress at work is lacking.

The implementation of the ILO Convention 161 on Occupational Health Services in Moldova, which was launched during the previous KEP project, needs to be monitored, assessed, and guided. Furthermore, developing skills in environmental risk assessment is essential for implementing European environmental policies. The University of Pavia will serve as the Applicant and Know-how Provider in this new project, while Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy from the Republic of Moldova will be the Know-how Beneficiary.

The project will identify and evaluate potential hazards and risks on the workplace environment for the main occupational fields in the RM using the previous KEP project results. A report on the occupational risk assessment study in RM will be elaborated together with a comparative analysis on efficacy and effectiveness of existing safety measures and risk assessment procedures adopted in Moldova with respect to Italian good practices.

CEI Support to the Implementation of the New Electricity Package adopted by the Energy Community Ministerial Council incorporating EU acquis on Market Integration with Western Balkans

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2023.029
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	83,200.00 EUR
CEI GRANT.	40,000.00 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.	24 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment (ARERA) through the Balkan Energy School (BES), Italy
www.arera.it/en

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

Albanian Energy Regulatory Authority (ERE), Albania
www.ere.gov.al

State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) and Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina
www.derk.ba/en; www.mvteo.gov.ba/?lang=en

Energy and Water Regulatory Agency (REGAGEN) and Ministry of Capital Investments, Montenegro
regagen.co.me/en/pocetna-english/

Energy and Water Services Regulatory Commission, North Macedonia (ERC)
www.erc.org.mk/Default_en.aspx

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

In 2017, the Italian energy regulatory authority (ARERA), launched a capacity building initiative in support of the European integration of the electricity markets targeting Albania, Montenegro, and Serbia enabling them to align with the related EU legal framework. Since then, three KEP projects have been successfully implemented also involving, as beneficiaries, the regulatory authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia, as well as transmission system operators and the electricity market operators of the target countries.

On 15 December 2022, the Energy Community Ministerial Council (MC) adopted the new electricity package extended to the Energy Community. The final goal is the thorough integration of Balkan electricity markets into the EU single

market and, consequently. Contracting Parties are required to transpose and implement the full package. This task represents a big challenge for national regulatory authorities, the relevant ministries and other stakeholders, both for the complexity of the new legal framework and for the short time to implement it.

In this framework, the rationale of this new KEP project is to provide specific support to national regulatory authorities and ministries of the target countries as well as supporters (i.e. system operators and market operators) engaged in the transposition and implementation of the new electricity package, with special attention to the regulators of Bosnia and Herzegovina (SERC) and Montenegro (REGAGEN).

The support will be provided through the organisation of courses and seminars on the main subjects of the new legislation. Special attention will be devoted to the entry into operation of a power exchange in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the future development of the existing power exchange (MEPX) and allocation office (SEE CAO) of Montenegro.

The fulfilment of the regulatory requirements needed for the implementation of the Integration Plan approved by the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) is among the main expected results of the project. The project will provide support to the regulators part of the Association to overcome challenges towards the full implementation and transposition of the recently approved electricity package.

Considering that the overall aim of the project is fostering the integration of the Euro-Balkan energy markets through the implementation the new electricity package, a number of activities will target countries which require ad hoc support to enhance the integration process.

The concrete outputs of the project will be a number of recommendations to project target countries in particular to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro on how to identify and overcome the obstacles to the transposition and implementation of the new EU electricity package. Those recommendations will be developed jointly by the partners and collected in the final report.

Assessment of Air and Water Quality Laboratories' Capacities in Albania

CEI REF. NO. 304.4.2023.030
TOTAL PROJECT COST. 57,411.00 EUR
CEI GRANT. 28,411.00 EUR
PLANNED DURATION. 10 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Italy
www.iss.it/en/

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

Faculty of Medical Sciences, Albanian University, Albania
albanianuniversity.edu.al/en/faculty-of-medical-sciences/

Albania Institute of Public Health (ISHP), Albania
www.ishp.gov.al/

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

In June 2014, Albania was awarded with candidate status by the EU. Since then, the Country has been fully involved in the process of approximation to the European regulations and standards at all levels. Yet, a need for improving horizontal legislation, industrial control and monitoring of air emissions, water quality and waste management is to be met, along the line of the European Green Deal Strategy. Currently, according to the last Environmental Performance Reviews (United Economic Commission for Europe, Environmental Performance Reviews, Albania, 2021), in Albania, the health impact of air and water pollution is not assessed. In the absence of such an assessment, Albania is not able to measure its progress towards the WHO Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), target 3.9 (i.e. substantially reduce by 2030 the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination).

In Albania, the laboratories are not equipped with all the analytical instruments, methods and consumables required for analysis of air and water samples for the assessment of the chemical status of both air and water. Their respective staff capacity and expertise for monitoring and assessment are not yet aligned with the European requirements. The current network for air quality monitoring does not allow to provide a correct picture of air quality. The number of monitoring stations is limited and the macro- and microlocations of existing monitoring stations are not accurate. There are no accredited laboratories for analysing air quality data in Albania (and international laboratories are not used) and therefore data remain indicative. Similarly, the current monitoring data on the quality and quantity of water resources are insufficient. Water bodies have not been identified, delineated and characterised in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). Available monitoring data and assessment criteria do not yet allow for a comprehensive assessment of the environmental state of water bodies. Generally, most rivers are polluted. Most groundwater bodies still appear to be of good quality, although there are insufficient monitoring data to assess their possible

pollution with pesticides or heavy metals. The population, especially vulnerable groups, is not provided with sufficient and timely information on air and water quality accompanied by recommendations on health protection. Referring to the importance of environmental monitoring to assess the risks to health and well-being and the impact of infectious diseases, it is important to carry out an assessment of these capacities (environmental laboratories). The results would be used for raising European standards and carrying out studies on assessment, management and risk communication.

This project pursues the ecological public health approach that determines population health by integrating complexity, multiple interactions and change of systems and by exploring variables or factors. This adaptable approach could improve the effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation strategies, assess progress towards nationally and internationally agreed targets, and act as an early warning system. Indicators for inclusion in the system should be prioritised using transparent criteria, including relevance, sensitivity, sustainability, scalability, accuracy, economic viability, and consistency.

This project is substantially based on a survey and assessment of diagnostic laboratories for air and water quality, through the use of a validated questionnaire and relevant monitoring of data, followed by the final presentation and discussion of the collected findings.

Expected results include:

- Assessment of health impact of air and water pollution in Albania;
- Production of a report on the identified gaps of current chemical and microbiology laboratory capacities and practices in the public and private sector, and corresponding recommendations including on sub-national level for air and water quality;
- Identification of the main legislation gaps with respect to the EU *acquis communautaire* in the field of EHPT (Environmental Public Health Tracking) and propose specific, tailored recommendations;
- Drafting a roadmap to implement the Twinning Project strategic recommendations on water and air risk analysis for the protection of the environment and public health in Albania.

Impact:

- Providing a Roadmap for data collection and validation processes;
- Enhanced health human resources capacities involved in preparedness and response to epidemic and pandemic situations and other communicable diseases;
- Increase the efficiency and capacity of the air and water laboratories.

CEI Support to DATA ROL (Data Protection and the Rule of Law) in Bosnia and Herzegovina

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2023.031
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	80,000.00 EUR
CEI GRANT.	40,000.00 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.	12 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Politiscope, Croatia
politiscope.eu/

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Sarajevo Open Centre, Bosnia and Herzegovina
soc.ba/en/

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The EU has established a robust legal framework to protect digital rights and privacy. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), implemented in 2018, sets strict standards for data protection and privacy within the EU, and ensures that individuals have control over their personal data and establishes obligations for organisations handling such information. The EU recognises digital rights and the right to privacy as fundamental rights. Privacy and data protection are crucial for maintaining trust in the digital economy and for ensuring the security of personal information. Striking a balance between fostering digital innovation and protecting privacy rights is crucial to address emerging challenges posed by new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, internet of things, and big data analytics.

In 2006, Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Law on Personal Data Protection (PDPL), which was amended in 2011. This Law established the Agency for Personal Data Protection (APDP) as the national supervisory authority responsible for ensuring compliance with data protection laws. In December of 2022, Bosnia and Herzegovina was

granted the candidate status which expedited the legal reforms in alignment of the BiH legislation with the EU Acquis in key areas. While GDPR and protection of personal data are not explicitly named in the 14 priorities, in January 2023, the APDP announced that, considering technological advancements, new solutions need to be implemented because the methods of data processing, misuse, or illegal data processing have significantly advanced. The new law has been drafted but has not yet been sent into the legislative procedure. The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina is expected to be the proposer, and according to PDPL representatives, once the new Law has been adopted, drastic changes in personal data protection will occur.

While there are CSO's involved in monitoring the respect of digital rights and rights to privacy, such as the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, currently, there are no civil society actors developing the legal and policy solution in the area of the right to privacy and data protection.

In this framework, Sarajevo Open Centre, as the coordinating organization of the Initiative for Monitoring the European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, would like to raise the capacities of the member organisations of the Initiative to actively engage and participate in the legal codification and protection of personal data and the right to privacy, through developing legal and policy solutions, as well as assessing and monitoring the work of the PDLP as the key stakeholder for upholding these rights and implementation of Law on Personal Data Protection. Indeed, there is a strong need for relevant CSOs to participate in the legislative process, with informed, relevant and timely knowledge, that will be enhanced with the expertise shared by the project know-how provider from Croatia, Politiscope.

Executive Programme “Effective Management and Anti-Fraud Controls in the Use of EU Funding Instruments”

CEI REF. NO. 304.4.2023.034
TOTAL PROJECT COST. 82,030.00 EUR
CEI GRANT. 39,780.00 EUR
PLANNED DURATION. 13 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

Luiss Guido Carli University, Italy
www.luiss.edu

Corte dei Conti, Italy
www.corteconti.it/Home/EnglishCorner

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

Office of Prime Minister, Albania
www.kryeministria.al/en/

General Secretariat of the Government of the Federation of
BiH, Bosnia and Herzegovina
fbihvlada.gov.ba/en/sekretarijat

Secretariat General of the Government of Montenegro
www.gov.me/en/secretariat-general-of-the-government

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, North Macedonia
vlada.mk/node/18031?ln=en-gb

National Academy of Public Administration, Serbia
www.napa.gov.rs/tekst/en/115/about-us.php

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Executive course “Effective Management and Anti-Fraud Controls in the Use of EU funding instruments” organised by Luiss Guido Carli through its School of Government in cooperation with the Corte dei Conti aims at providing advanced training to 18 civil servants (3 from each of the target countries), for strengthening their administrative capacity in the management of EU funds, including countering mismanagement and frauds. The involved public

servants will also act as “knowledge ambassadors” as they return to their professional engagements and as they will be sharing and implementing their newly acquired skills within their administrations.

The course will benefit, inter alia, from the latest research in the framework of the EU funded project BETKOSOL, implemented by Luiss Guido Carli and focused on investigating the limits and perspectives of the improvement of the current regulatory framework in the fight against frauds affecting EU financial interests, in particular in the social, health, and economic sectors.

The course will include training in presence (in Rome), and remotely and will be complemented by methods for verifying the learning and satisfaction of the civil servants. To complete their academic training, they will also undertake a project work describing national best practices in the administration and management of EU funds and their impact on fostering good governance and anticorruption. As for the whole academic project, specific attention will be directed towards the pivotal importance of digital measures supported by innovative e-government services.

In addition, the project will also support the overall strategic goal of strengthening the public administrations in the Western Balkans in line with overarching principles of public administration and European integration process, contributing, among others, to good governance in the region. By involving at the same time representatives from all the Region, the project will provide support in improving cooperation in the domain of European integration and accession negotiations, enhancement of capacities and institutional conditions in their national public administration; advancement in capacities, innovative practices, and regional co-operation in EU funds management by using the most advanced best practices.

Territorial Cohesion and Place-based Policies: an Exchange Programme on Chapter 22 (COPE22)

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2023.039
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	79,472.00 EUR
CEI GRANT.	39,700.00 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.	12 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

Centro per la Cooperazione Internazionale/Osservatorio
Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa (OBCT), Italy
www.balcanicaucaso.org/eng

Institute for the Study of Regionalism, Federalism and
Self-Government of the National Research Council of Italy
(ISSIRFA-CNR),
www.issirfa.cnr.it

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid
Coordination (SASPAC), Albania
www.linkedin.com/company/saspacalbania/about/

Ministry for European Affairs, Montenegro (MEA)
www.gov.me/en/mep

Secretariat for European Affairs (SEA), North Macedonia
www.sep.gov.mk/en/

Ministry of European Integration, Serbia (MEI)
www.mei.gov.rs/eng/

European Affairs Fund of the Autonomous province of
Vojvodina (FEP), Serbia
vojvodinahouse.eu/en

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

In 2022, the two know-how providers were awarded with a project under the KEP focused on the exchange of knowledge and experience on Cohesion Policy (namely chapter 22 of the EU negotiation acquis). The beneficiary partners were the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, the Ministry of European Integration of Serbia and the European Fund of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. This new project aims to build on experience and expand the activities in a two-fold direction: (i) the new project aims to include among the beneficiaries the State Agency for Strategic Programming and Assistance Coordination of Albania and the Secretariat for European Affairs of North Macedonia, providing a training on chapter 22; (ii) to organise an exchange event in the Western Balkan region, bringing together national representatives of the four EU candidate countries and Italian partners involved.

On 19 July 2022, the First Intergovernmental Conferences between the EU and the national authorities of Albania and North Macedonia respectively took place, marking

the start of a new phase in the EU accession path of these countries. According to the Commission's 2022 Report, Albania is moderately prepared in the area of regional policy and limited progress has been made with the adoption of the implementing legislation to the Law on Regional Development and Cohesion. In this respect, inter-agency coordination for pre-accession assistance needs improvement, and issues need to be addressed as regards strategic planning, implementation and monitoring capacity of infrastructure projects under the Economic and Investment Plan. According to the Commission's 2022 Report, North Macedonia is moderately prepared in the area of regional policy and coordination of structural instruments, but no progress was made over the last reporting period. Considering the needs of Albania and North Macedonia in the field of chapter 22 and based on the experience of the previous KEP project, the aim of this new project is to focus on the territorial cohesion instruments and perspectives, besides the principle of participation. These topics need to be addressed at the national and regional level. For this reason, the project includes a final regional event dedicated to topical discussions and mutual exchanges between the four know-how beneficiaries.

In this framework, this project aims at contributing to the preparation of two EU-candidate countries, i.e., Albania and North Macedonia, for the implementation of the EU Cohesion policy, in line with Chapter 22 of the Acquis Communautaire. The acquis under this chapter mostly consists of framework and implementing regulations, which do not require transposition into national legislation. They define the rules for drawing up, approving and implementing Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund programmes reflecting each country's territorial organisation. These programmes are negotiated and agreed upon with the Commission, but Member States are responsible for their implementation. Member States must respect EU legislation in general, for example, in the areas of public procurement, competition, and environment, when selecting and implementing projects. Member States must have an institutional framework in place and adequate administrative capacity to ensure programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in a sound and cost-effective manner from the point of view of management and financial control.

Therefore, by focusing on the programming phase of the Cohesion Policy, this project aims to offer a strategic framework and goal-oriented roadmap tailored to meet the needs of the two target countries. Actions will provide support for improving good governance by strengthening the quality and capacity of public institutions to undertake policy reforms and to promote the horizontal inclusion of diverse actors of society, such as civil society organisations, trade unions and chamber of commerce representatives.

CEI Support to Circular Economy in the Skopje Planning Region by Promoting Waste Processing Innovations and Increased Recycling Across Key Waste Streams

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2023.045
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	74,000.00 EUR
CEI GRANT.	34,600.00 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.	12 months

APPROVED IN 2023

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

- Consortio Stabile Cassiopea, Italy
www.consortiocassiopea.com/
- Kore University Enna, Italy
unikore.it/en/kore-university-of-enna/

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

- Centre for Development of the Skopje Planning Region, North Macedonia
skopjeregion.gov.mk/en/
- FUEL Research and Development Centre Skopje, North Macedonia
www.fuel.mk/

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

North Macedonia has made limited progress towards achieving a circular economy, with low recycling rates at less than 1% of solid waste and almost 99% going to landfill (Economic Reform Programme 2022-2024, Ministry of Finance). Introducing modern regional waste management through improved waste collection practices and waste recycling capacities is one of the key priorities identified by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning to enable circular economy. While national legislation follows EU waste legislation, the implementation at local and regional level is not in accordance with technical and environmental standards. Many municipal landfills - including sites in the Skopje planning region - should be closed as they are not compliant with EU standards. Municipal waste recycling and waste composting are almost non-existent. The recycling rate is very low, at 0.3 %, and with composting dropped from 0.4 % in 2015 to 0 % in 2019. Regarding waste management infrastructure, there are no facilities to sort or aggregate recyclable materials. There are no composting plants for energy production from biowaste.

In this framework, the project addresses the specific needs of improved waste collection and increased recycling of the

Skopje planning region to enable circular economy. The highest amount of collected municipal waste is registered in the Skopje region. Although the recycling of packaging waste produced is increasing, most of the waste is not recycled while recycling of municipal bio waste is insignificant. The overall project objective is to contribute to modernising the waste management system in Skopje planning region and landfills, through innovative waste processing, separate waste collection and improved recycling rates across key waste streams in line with circular economy principles and EU legislation and standards.

The Consortio Stabile Cassiopea in cooperation with the Kore University Enna will share new technologies and know-how in waste management in Italy and the EU. Main project beneficiaries are the Centre for Development of the Skopje Planning Region covering 17 municipalities and FUEL Research and Development Centre which gathers expert community in the field of energy and waste management innovations from the Skopje University St. Cyril and Methodius. Exchange of know-how and innovations in waste processing and recycling will be conducted through waste screening visits to the Skopje region; comparative analysis of national and regional policies and identification of needs; two capacity building and awareness raising workshops in Skopje on the importance of circular economy and recycling; two visits to Italy from the key stakeholders to know-how providers and relevant authorities; specific recommendations to modernise the waste management model in the Skopje region based on circular economy principles and EU regulations.

The main expected outcomes are the identification of key priorities and needs of the Skopje region in waste processing and recycling; a proposed modernised waste management model that could be used by public authorities and serve as a basis for the planned construction of the Regional Waste Management System for the Skopje region; recommendations for a further upgrade of the biggest Drisla landfill to EU standards; increased awareness and strengthened capacities of key authorities and stakeholders to incorporate circular economy principles. The project will also contribute to and is directly linked to the implementation of existing legislation, strategies and plans of the target country.

EU-SEE Forum for Intercultural Exchange on Sustainable Management of Cultural Heritage (SMACH Forum)

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2023.051
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	82,720.00 EUR
CEI GRANT.	40,000.00 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.	18 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

Venice International University (VIU), Italy
www.univiu.org

City of Venice, Italy
www.comune.venezia.it

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

Sarajevo School of Science and Technology, Bosnia and Herzegovina
www.ssst.edu.ba

University of Montenegro
www.ucg.ac.me/#lat

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, North Macedonia
www.ukim.edu.mk/en_index.php

University of Belgrade, Serbia
arhiva.rect.bg.ac.rs/en/index.php

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Cultural heritage represents an important asset for countries, as a resource for economic development (e.g. in the tourism sector), social cohesion and as a driver for sustainable development, providing also a momentum for intercultural dialogue particularly in case of shared or cross-border heritage. Current environmental challenges, also related to climate change, have been introducing increased pressure on cultural heritage management: this increases the risk of material and intangible heritage loss and thus loss of values, along with the growing costs of preservation as well as other socioeconomic risks, the amplitude of which is still not fully understood. Sound management of these challenges strongly depends on institutional management and policy, decision making and visitor behaviour, that should be supported by scientific knowledge and research results. The SEE Region is rich in diverse cultural heritage, but experience shows that management of risks related to current challenges and understanding of how cultural heritage management could contribute to successful climate adaptation are faced with institutional, technical, policy, societal and economic barriers. Cultural heritage

can be sustainably managed by learning from existing good practices and research. In this context, important opportunities come from the exchange among countries, as well as between researchers, practitioners and policy makers promoting intercultural collaboration.

This project is the follow-up of another KEP project implemented in 2022 through which project partners have started collaborating, networking, and a know-how exchange on the topic in the SEE Region, which the SMACH Forum project aims to further develop. SMACH Forum will explore the synergies among initiatives to support the sustainability of local cultural heritage and communities. Based on the European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science (E-RIHS) training strategy and on the needs of the SEE Region the SMACH Forum will promote mutual exchange of systematic, interdisciplinary good practices along with research on cultural policies, heritage management and heritage science expertise among the different SEE heritage institutions. It will eventually establish and launch an EU-SEE forum on sustainable cultural heritage management, shared heritage science research and policy, bringing together EU and SEE researchers, policymakers and international platforms.

The SMACH Forum will contribute to supporting intercultural cooperation, sustainability of local cultural heritage and communities, and enhancement of climate resilience. In detail it will: (1) Map sustainable cultural heritage management initiatives, research capacities and needs as well as policy initiatives, related to historical and archaeological research, analysis and diagnosis, for conservation, restoration, climate change and environmental challenges, planning, management, governance, policies and enhancement initiatives and practices. Special attention will be paid to the social aspects of sustainability and economic growth; (2) Develop a sustainable cultural heritage management forum tailored for the SEE Region, built on specific cultural and economic complexities, with a comprehensive understanding of heritage value in its regional and national context; (3) Develop a EU-SEE strategy for collaboration on sustainable cultural heritage research, management and policy with the current European Platforms and initiatives, building a Forum on sustainable cultural heritage management field, based on a dialogue of equals attitude; (4) Develop solutions for sustainable management of cultural heritage engaging the policy levels and promoting the role of science diplomacy, supporting a dialogue between scientists, practitioners and policy makers.

CEI Support to Strengthen Institutional Capacity and Performance of Ukrainian Agri-Food Sector and Rural Development through Application of EU Policy Tools and Good Practices

CEI REF. NO. 304.4.2023.060
 TOTAL PROJECT COST. 95,530.00 EUR
 CEI GRANT. 38,380.00 EUR
 PLANNED DURATION. 18 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics National Research Institute (IAFE NRI), Poland
www.ierigz.waw.pl

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Odesa National Economic University (ONEU), Ukraine
oneu.edu.ua/en/

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The outbreak of Russia's war in Ukraine on 24 February 2022 has resulted in civilian casualties, cross border and internal displacement, destruction of housing, and devastating damage to civil and transportation infrastructure across the country. Farmers have been prevented from tending their fields and harvesting, production, storage, and transportation costs have all increased. As the deteriorating security situation continues to negatively impact the country's rural economy and agri-food sector, the war has also brought about serious consequences for the broader food and nutrition security for the European Union and the world. As of November 2022, the war has caused over USD 6.6 billion damages in the agriculture sector. Damages include partial or complete destruction of machinery and equipment, storage facilities, livestock and perennial crops, extensive losses of inputs and outputs, and largescale damages to agricultural land. Production loss resulting from unharvested winter crops, higher farm production costs, and lower farm gate prices due to disruptions to logistics and exports are of particular significance to Ukraine's export-oriented agriculture sector.

Against this background, it is essential that policies and programmes that protect and support the agriculture sector and rural economies be put in place to prevent the further deterioration of Ukraine's agrifood systems and the country's contribution to the world's food needs. There is especially a need to support medium and small-scale agriculture production to strengthen and secure rural households' contributions and incomes.

The Governments of Ukraine and the EU recognise that assistance should be tailored to the specific needs and characteristics of agriculture activity and the rural economy in different oblasts as Ukraine prepares for joining the European Union. To achieve this successfully, it is critical to monitor the dynamic situation at regional and local levels, to provide complementary assessments, and conduct integrated analysis on the impact of the war on Ukraine's rural economy and agricultural system to better guide

short, medium, and long-term policies, subsidies, and other support programmes and actions.

The Institute of Agriculture and Food Economics National Research Institute (IAFE NRI) in Warsaw, Poland plays an important role in supporting policy makers in Poland and throughout the EU, including data collection, conducting analysis, and supporting programme decisions focused on agri-food and rural development. Through this project, the IAFE NRI will conduct a menu of activities to enhance the capacity of the Odesa National Economic University (ONEU) team to play a similar role in supporting policy makers in the city of Odesa, rural communities throughout the Odesa Oblast, and within the national government. ONEU is playing an increasingly important role as the magnitude of challenges in Ukraine's agri-food sector and rural economy continue to expand. Importantly, this project will enable the ONEU team to share gained knowledge, skills and experiences with other Ukrainian institutions supporting policy makers throughout the country tasked with guiding agriculture and rural development as the agri-food sector recovers, the rural economy develops, and the country works to join the EU. This project builds on the history of cooperation between the IAFE NRI team and ONEU, both at the individual and institutional level. A memorandum between the institutions was signed in 2022 to guide recently renewed efforts. Communities, business, local and regional governments, and national policy makers are asking ONEU and other universities to conduct research and make recommendations on strategy and actions that address immediate needs while laying a foundation for future efforts to rehabilitate agriculture and rural communities as Ukraine moves toward joining the European union. ONEU is doing this work but states they need much greater capacity to address growing demands. ONEU is hoping to contribute not only to the Odesa region's rehabilitation and growth but recognises its obligations to help other universities and research institutions to guide recovery of other regions and of the entire country of Ukraine. The goal of the project is to enhance the capacity of the ONEU team to guide policy and programmes designed to support the Ukrainian Agri-Food Sector and Rural Development by applying EU CAP policy tools, monitoring, and best practices. Objectives include: 1) Enhancing the knowledge and skills of 3 to 5 ONEU faculty members and partner representatives in EU CAP Policies, tools, and monitoring systems; 2) Creating a "tool kit", teaching guide, and case study to be used by the ONEU team to train representatives of other education institutions, local and regional governments, and other stakeholders in the EU CAP evidence-based policy development and monitoring tools; 3) Drafting a CAP Strategic Plan, which will support improving farm incomes and the rural economy while enhancing long-term food security, agricultural diversity, and economic sustainability.

CEI Support to Training and Research to Unlock and Enhance the Potential of Sustainable Blue Economy for Regional Cooperation and EE Integration

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2023.064
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	80,000.00 EUR
CEI GRANT.	40,000.00 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.	24 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics, Italy
www.ogs.it/en

Euro-Mediterranean University, Slovenia
emuni.si/

Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Croatia
galijula.izor.hr/en/

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

Institute for Sustainable development, Environment and Tourism, Albania
www.inset.al/

University of Sarajevo – UNSA, Bosnia and Herzegovina
www.unsa.ba/en

University of Montenegro
www.ucg.ac.me/#lat

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The European Union considers sustainable blue economy as a fundamental component of the Green Deal, building on clear and ambitious objectives such as ensuring the sustainability of blue economy sectors, moving towards a circular economy and protecting biodiversity and ecosystems. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro need support to prepare for the green transition, strengthening the relevant governmental institutions to meet this challenge, also by upskilling their public administration's officials on this topic. It is essential to join efforts to create synergies in these countries among public administrations in charge of policy elaboration and decision-making on sustainable blue economy, and to equip them with the necessary "blue skills", especially in the following sectors: a) marine spatial planning; b) fisheries and aquaculture; c) coastal and maritime tourism; d) shipping

and ports. In this context, universities and research centres have strong potential as hubs to enhance cooperation among stakeholders, to respond to the real needs of local governments by identifying problems and recommending appropriate solutions.

In this framework, science diplomacy can be used as a key tool to promote cooperation among the three target countries of this project through training and capacity-building activities on sustainable blue economy. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro have similar needs in terms of expertise on sustainable blue economy. Therefore, the project is designed to tackle the following challenges: a) enhancing the recognition of sustainable blue economy as a priority for national governments, raising awareness on the opportunities of achieving sustainable blue economy sectors; b) equipping the officials of local administrations with the appropriate skills on sustainable blue economy to support decision-making; c) furthering science diplomacy through capacity building and skills development, to advance good governance on sustainable blue economy through joining efforts and planning activities at regional level; d) establishing a network of key actors for decision making in the blue economy that can work together at regional level, fostering cooperation to achieve sustainable blue economy and move one step forward towards EU integration.

In order to achieve a multiplier effect, project activities will include the organisation of a training of trainers course, to upskill key public administration officials that are in the position to transfer knowledge to their peers, boosting institutional capacity of their countries to effectively respond to the current challenges of the green transition, focusing on the main EU policies and strategies to achieve sustainable blue economy.

In addition, in order to share good practices and plan joint activities at regional level, four thematic workshops and networking sessions are planned. The project activities will also facilitate the establishment of a blue community of officials of public administrations in the beneficiary countries, who will be able to join forces and work together also after the project completion.



Know-how Exchange Programme

Projects closed in 2023

03

Table 3.2. List of KEP projects closed in 2023

No.	Reference number	Project name	Country of know-how provider institution	Country of know-how recipient institution	Total project cost €	CEI co-financing €
1	1206.002-19	Meat Biological Hazards	Italy	Serbia	92,481.93	40,000.00
2	304.4.22-20	Improving Occupational Health and Safety System in Republic of Moldova	Italy, Hungary	Moldova	53,230.83	25,937.93
3	304.4.56-20	An Evolution of the Automotive Training Centre Serbia toward the Concepts of Light and Sustainable Mobility	Italy, Croatia, Slovenia	Serbia	85,954.60	39,960.00
4	304.4.35-20	Sustainability of the Platforms for Monitoring Population Food Consumption Habits and Pilot Study on Web- and Computer-based 24-h Dietary Recall Tools	Italy	Serbia	78,159.00	31,577.00
5	304.4.022-21	To Enhance the Institutional and Regulatory Framework for Organic Food Production in Albania	Italy	Albania	80,000.00	40,000.00
6	304.4.046-21	Italy-North Macedonia Knowledge Exchange in Conservation and Innovative Management of Cultural Heritage	Italy	North Macedonia	50,524.00	25,020.00
7	304.4.026-21	Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Constitution and EU Accession, An Academic Platform for Discussing the Options	Italy	Bosnia and Herzegovina	80,658.00	37,500.00
8	304.4.001-22	North Macedonia: Advisory Support for Strengthening the Capacities for Diaspora Engagement and Evidence-Based Migration Policy Planning	IOM	North Macedonia	80,000.00	40,000.00
9	304.4.068-22	Strengthening ties and learning between the twinned municipalities of Centar Sarajevo and Reggio Emilia	Italy	Bosnia and Herzegovina	80,000.00	40,000.00
10	304.4.070-22	Habitat, landscape, forest, and water management: experiences in the mirror between from Italy to Moldova	Italy	Moldova	90,474.00	39,175.00
TOTAL					771,482.36	359,169.93

CEI REF. NO. 1206.002-19
TOTAL PROJECT COST. 92,481.93 EUR
CEI GRANT. 40,000.00 EUR
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD February 2020 – January 2023 (36 months)

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

National Research Council of Italy - Institute of Photonics and Nanotechnologies, Italy
www.pd.ifn.cnr.it/

University of Padua, Department of Agronomy, Food, Natural resources, Animals and Environment, Italy
www.unipd.it/en/

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Faculty of Technology in Leskovac, University of Niš, Serbia
www.tf.ni.ac.rs/

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

Biological hazards are biological agents that have the capacity to cause harmful effects in humans. They can come from a variety of contaminants including bacterial and viral pathogens. Meat products are liable to harbour different types of microorganisms during long chain of handling, processing, distribution and storage as well as preparation. Despite the importance of meat in the Serbian cuisine, there is a scarcity of research on the microbial deterioration of meat in the country, even though there is an increased interest in and demand for R&D and quality improvements.

Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) related to the increase in spoilage and pathogen microorganisms in food is an important public health risk related to the maintenance of the cold chain during storage and transport of meat and other food.

Prevention of contamination is the most important control factor to enhance food safety. The project, therefore, addressed the needs for Safety and Quality (S&Q) inspection during meat processing and distribution of Serbian meat processing industries. It developed a system for easy and accurate monitoring of gas in meat products during storage and distribution and offered in-service training, where professionals and researchers worked with the aim of enhancing S&Q of meat products. It met urgent needs for training in this field, as well as the increasing demands to improve food-quality inspection.

The project also addressed the need for transdisciplinary collaboration within different research activities for safety during production, storage, and distribution of meat products in order to improve quality inspection methodologies (chemical and microbiological analysis, gas measurement).

Project results included:

- the development of a new multifunctional sensor apparatus to inspect different gases released by pathogenic and spoilage microorganisms during decomposition of meat components;
- the development of a set of training modules for innovative spectroscopic devices;
- the comparison of the gas contamination with spoilage and pathogenic bacteria content in meat products;
- monitoring activities concerning changes in meat chemical composition as a result of contamination and realising gases;
- the enhancement of know-how related to meat S&Q control in research institutions and SMEs in the South of Serbia;
- the identification of good practices to improve control during production, storage and distribution of meat.

Improving Occupational Health and Safety System in Republic of Moldova

CEI REF. NO. 304.4.22-20
 TOTAL PROJECT COST. 53,230.83 EUR
 CEI GRANT. 25,937.93 EUR
 IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD April 2021 – January 2023 (22 months)

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

University of Pavia, Italy
wcm-3.unipv.it/site/en/home.html

University of Miskolc, Hungary
www.uni-miskolc.hu/en

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Moldova
usmf.co.il/en/

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

Working conditions and occupation are an important factor of health at social level. Over time, the Republic of Moldova has gone through several stages of development and reform of the Occupational Health and Safety System. In 2008, as part of the transposition of the EU legislation, the country adopted the Law on occupational safety and health. At the beginning of 2021, the Moldavian parliament adopted the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No.161 (1985) on occupational health services. The legal and regulatory framework in occupational safety and health is good enough, but major problems have been identified in their implementation.

Indeed, there have been no structural reforms in this field. As a result, the competences of the State Labour Inspectorate and those of the National Agency for Public Health (NAPH) have been combined and delegated to 10 national centres whose employees had no professional training in the field of occupational health. At present, the country is facing the essential challenges in organising its Occupational Health services.

In this framework, this project aimed at improving the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) System in Moldova by transferring the Italian and Hungarian know-how to Moldovan institutions. As a matter of fact, Italy and Hungary stand in a better place, both regarding well-trained occupational health professionals, as well as in the organisation of occupational health services.

Thus, the project, jointly implemented by the University of Pavia (Unit of Biostatistics and Clinical Epidemiology/ Department of Public Health, Experimental and Forensic Medicine), Italy, in cooperation with the University of Miskolc (Centre of Healthcare and Methodology), Hungary, and the Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy (Department of Preventive Medicine), Moldova, responded to the national priorities of Moldova and met its specific occupational health needs. The role of international cooperation in this endeavour was critical for creating and transferring knowledge as well as for achieving “knowledge-based economies”. In this context, the project partnership offered an added value.

Project results include:

- the implementation of the most appropriate research methodologies for estimating risk factors due to occupational exposures. As a result, the knowledge acquired in the field of research methodology, application of epidemiological methods, risk management will strengthen the capacities of Moldova specialists in studying and assessing risk factors, impact on employee health, use of results in reasoning decisions in the field. The result was a research methodology for estimating risk factors due to the occupational exposure which can be implemented in Moldova.
- the review of the national legislative and normative acts to facilitate the ratification of the ILO Convention No. 161 on occupational health and safety in Moldova. The legislative and normative acts were analysed and evaluated. The results of the evaluation served for developing the concept of a National Register of persons professionally exposed to risk factors.
- the strengthening of the competencies of the academic staff in occupational health and safety. The curriculum of medical education institutions was reviewed and evaluated in order to highlight the weaknesses in local education.
- the establishment of a sustainable research partnership between the three project partners with coordination and harmonisation of modern occupational exposure assessment methods, and the facilitation of the integrated research strategy on occupational health.

An Evolution of the Automotive Training Centre Serbia toward the Concepts of Light and Sustainable Mobility

CLOSED IN 2022

CEI REF. NO. 304.4.56-20
TOTAL PROJECT COST. 85,954.60 EUR
CEI GRANT. 39,960.00 EUR
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD April 2021 – January 2023 (22 months)

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

University of Bologna, Italy
www.unibo.it/en

University of Rijeka, Croatia
uniri.hr/en/home/

University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
www.uni-lj.si/university/

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

Polytechnic School Kragujevac, Serbia
www.politehnickakg.kg.edu.rs/

University of Kragujevac, Serbia
en.kg.ac.rs/

University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia
www.arts.bg.ac.rs/en/

University of Novi Sad, Serbia
www.uns.ac.rs/index.php/en/

University of Nis, Serbia
www.ni.ac.rs/en/

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

The Serbian automotive industry has a tradition of more than 70 years, since 1939, when Zastava started producing cars in Kragujevac. Today, this industry is one of the most prominent sectors in Serbia, attracting almost 10% of foreign direct investments.

The project aimed at modernising knowledge and skills at the Automotive Training Center Serbia (ATC) to adapt them to the latest lines of development in automotive technology. ATC is a competence centre established in 2010 thanks to the financial support of the European Union (EU) by means of a territorial development programme (RSDP2).

Three faculties, two schools and several industries have created a 'common educational area' on mechatronics in vehicle engineering. It consists of a network of educational laboratories powered by special didactical equipment and technical competences.

This integrated infrastructure enables the organisation of modular training courses, which can be adapted according to the need to train students from secondary schools, engineering faculties or PhDs from research centres. But it is also used to train company technicians in case of new duties or relocation. For this reason, important industrial groups were involved in the project, as partners since the very beginning, or as stakeholders during the implementation phase.

Various institutional bodies have also supported the initiative (e.g. Presidency of the Republic of Serbia, EU Embassy in Serbia, Territorial Development Agencies). Since its foundation, more than 3,000 students per year of every education level have benefited from modern training courses and methodologies which, however, appear to be partially outdated nowadays. In fact, main topics on car design are related to an increasing presence of electronic & control devices in vehicles.

Today, the major theme is sustainable mobility, with lines of research as, among others, lighter vehicles and energy efficiency. From such a point of view, Serbia is somewhat technologically behind its neighbouring countries despite having a great story and an enormous industrial capability.

ATC Evo goes in the direction of modernising local knowhow by transferring key elements of vehicle design and manufacturing regarding not yet existing skills. It also makes the most of existing educational infrastructures.

The topics of knowledge transfer have been strategically chosen to ensure the maximum impact in terms of modernisation of knowledge. They focus on two elements: 1) Light Vehicles; 2) Sustainable Mobility. The project workplan included training-to-trainers, reserved to a relatively small number of experienced trainers. It also foresaw their involvement in teaching a significant number of students.

Sustainability of the Platforms for Monitoring Population Food Consumption Habits and Pilot Study on Web- and Computer-based 24-h Dietary Recall Tools

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.35-20
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	78,159.00 EUR
CEI GRANT.	31,577.00 EUR
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	February 2021 – June 2023 (26 months)

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Council for Agricultural Research and Economics
-Research Centre Food and Nutrition (CREA-AN), Italy
www.crea.gov.it/en/web/alimenti-e-nutrizione

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Capacity Development in Nutrition (CAPNUTRA), Serbia
www.capnutra.org/

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

Self-administered dietary surveys are becoming increasingly necessary to address the needs for data collection on individual food consumption on a large scale. Acceptability is greatly enhanced, but at the same time data quality – completeness, precision, accuracy – is challenging due to the complexity of estimating dietary patterns (foods, nutrients, exposure, environmental indices). Validation of web-based tools requires specific research tasks and a rigorous evaluation for this growing research field application.

The project aimed at building further capabilities and deliver innovative tools to support the long-term sustainability of the project 'Training in dietary assessment and sharing platforms for monitoring population food consumption habits in a long-term perspective (surveillance and continuous training) (TRAIN-DIE)' financed by the CEI Fund in 2019.

It is well known that the platform was finalised to acquire the knowledge in performing nationwide dietary surveys according to the EFSA's EU-MENU methodology and to implement a system for a continuous training system of fieldworker specialists in individual dietary surveys (IDS). This tool is to be disseminated to other European countries

especially the Balkans, which have already implemented the survey to enrich the information in the platform with their experience. Moreover, the involvement of the stakeholders is to be considered to achieve better informed decisions of the use of the platform and to develop a new strategy to conduct food consumption data collection.

In this framework, the project's main objective was to share the platform with other European countries and stakeholders and provide a new tool enabling a self-administered web-based 24-h recall through the organisation of two webinars. The webinars were a tool for sharing information about food consumption surveys, starting from the TRAIN-DIE course on dietary assessment as general training on the importance of accuracy in data collection, and to enrich the material present in the platform with the experience of the other countries so far as the stakeholders can implement and consult the platform in planning food consumption studies, and/or nutritional surveillance and/or epidemiological studies.

At the same time, the software devoted to filling in food consumption data and providing indications on dietary adequacy was shared. It was tested on 40 volunteers, both from Italian and Balkan countries, to compare the self-administered web-based 24-h recall against the 24-h recall administered by trained interviewers in person via computer-assisted interviews based on the Automated Multiple Pass Method.

The test provided indications on the difference between administered and self-administered interviews and to raised awareness on the self-dietary assessment, to evaluate the performance and its correct use.

The results from this pilot study will be useful to test new methods to improve the data collection on food consumption in terms of data quality.

To Enhance the Institutional and Regulatory Framework for Organic Food Production in Albania

CEI REF. NO. 304.4.022-21
 TOTAL PROJECT COST. 80,000.00 EUR
 CEI GRANT. 40,000.00 EUR
 IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD January 2022 – February 2023 (13.5 months)

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEM), Italy
www.iamb.it/

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD),
 Albania
bujqesia.gov.al/

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

EU integration is considered a major political and economic goal for Albania, as it represents major opportunities for democratisation and economic development of the country. Thus, Albania has undertaken numerous legal and policy reforms in all sectors, including agriculture. In this context, organic farming is considered a pillar to environmental and sustainable food development at European level.

The use of harmful plant protection products has an impact on the environment and on people's health. Organic food production is more sustainable because it considers the medium- and long-term effect of agricultural practices on the agro-ecosystem. Albania has the potential to successfully develop organic farming, but the sector needs structural and sustainable interventions. The fertile agricultural land, warm weather and mild climate make Albania an ideal source of organic production. According to the latest available data there are 653 hectares of organic farmland, which represents 0.05% of the total agricultural land area. The Albanian market is rather small, seasonal, and fragmented. Greater volumes and permanent supply seem to be a persisting problem, affecting both the development of the national and export markets.

Albania had an organic law from 2004 until 2016 on the production, processing, certification, and marketing of 'bio' products. In 2016 a new law on biological production,

biological products, labelling, and control was approved.

There is currently no national organic logo. Several challenges have been identified to further develop the organic sector in the country. EU rules for quality policy and organic farming are crucial for the achievement of the pre-accession process of Albania into the EU, but the level of alignment with the EU acquis on organic farming and future regulations remains low.

In this framework, the project know-how provider CIHEAM Bari – with its huge experience on valorisation and qualification of organic quality products, food safety and consumers' health protection including support to small local businesses – addressed the needs of the MARD in terms of institutional capacity building also thanks to synergies with important international networks such as IFOAM – Organics Europe for strengthening the local production system.

The overall objective of the project was to encourage the alignment of the legal framework of the organic food production in Albania with EU acquis and its implementation. It supported the progress with the implementation of action plans for the acquis alignment in chapters 11 "Agriculture and Rural Development" and the fulfilment of given benchmarks in the chapter. This was achieved by increasing the skills and capacities of MARD public officers. They benefited from information and knowledge exchange with international expertise on issues concerning quality standards, organic food, traceability, and sustainable agrifood production models. The main stakeholders involved in the development of organic agriculture in Albania in addition to the MARD were the Institute for Organic Agriculture, the Albanian Association for Marketing, and Albinspekt (a certification body).

In this context, the project strengthened and improved the efficiency of the institutions to be incisive in the organic sector which will, therefore, be able to guarantee the future sustainability of the intervention. In addition, project activities also raised awareness on organic agriculture policies and instruments addressed to the consumers and SMEs at national level.

Italy-North Macedonia Knowledge Exchange in Conservation and Innovative Management of Cultural Heritage

CEI REF. NO. 304.4.046-21
 TOTAL PROJECT COST. 50,524.00 EUR
 CEI GRANT. 25,020.00 EUR
 IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD November 2021 – March 2023 (17 months)

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

Centro Conservazione Restauro La Venaria Reale, Italy
www.centrorestaurovenaria.it/en

Fondazione Santagata per l'Economia della Cultura, Italy
www.fondazionesantagata.it/en/

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

Directorate for Protection of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture, North Macedonia
uzkn.gov.mk/default_en.html

International Council for Monuments and Sites, North Macedonia
www.icomos.org/en

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

The Republic of North Macedonia has very rich, numerous and varied cultural heritage properties, many of which are under threat and in precarious conditions requiring even more urgent actions. One of the main threats to the heritage properties is the inherent lack of specialists in conservation/restoration since the trained conservators available in the country to perform the necessary works are insufficient. This is also a great challenge for the future.

The lack of specialised profiles mainly stems from the fact that there is no specialised higher education institution in the country for conservation/restoration. Therefore, the working conservators are mainly coming from the Fine Arts Academy and are being trained in the practice, from more experienced conservators, even though different types of cultural heritage are subject to study in the curricula and scientific programmes of several universities.

Another weak aspect in the overall sphere of heritage protection in the country is the fact that cultural heritage conservation and restoration projects are often partial, methodologically, and functionally inadequate and out of sync, whereas comprehensive rehabilitation projects for such properties are very rare.

This situation is a result of several factors, including lack of financial resources/ partial financing of projects, insufficient staff and technical staff and expertise to perform specific and complex conservation procedures, problematic implementation of the methodology for project development, monitoring and implementation, and use of inappropriate materials. This indicates a major need for training on conservators projects cycle management, sustainable

planning and use of heritage properties, conservation principles and latest technologies used for specialists already employed within the conservation centre.

The institutional network for the protection of immovable cultural heritage consists of nine national institutions with regional competencies but also for free-lance conservators (including students and recent graduates) that are usually hired for conservation works on Macedonian heritage properties. Until today there had not been any specific training programmes systematically organised for conservation/restoration specialists in the country.

The National Strategy for Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage for the period 2021-2025, which, at the moment is at a draft version open for public debate, clearly recognizes these shortcomings and the impact it creates on heritage properties. In the Heritage Assessment Report prepared by the Council of Europe back in 2012, and subsequently revised in 2014, the shortage of specialist conservators is also noted, proposing the establishment of training programmes in order to tackle the issue. Moreover, the report also identifies the lack of skills in proper implementation of project activities.

In this framework the main objectives of the project were:

- The conservation and the innovative management of cultural heritage in the CEI region, through the strengthening of the technical and management skills of professionals involved in cultural heritage safeguard in the Republic of North Macedonia.
- The strengthening of international collaborative networks.
- The enhancement of cultural policies to foster intercultural dialogue, preserve the cultural and linguistic identity of minority groups and ensure equal access to knowledge.

The Conservation and Restoration Centre “La Venaria Reale”, with its wide technical and scientific expertise in the conservation of natural and artificial stone materials, such as mural paintings, mosaics, stuccoes and mortars (all constituting the identified heritage at risk on the Republic of North Macedonia territory), provided the didactical activity on the guidelines and the methodological approach in conservation interventions. The Fondazione Santagata with its expertise on cultural economics, cultural heritage management (including UNESCO conventions and guidelines) and culture-led local development, led the training activities on enhancing and updating practitioners understanding of approaches and methodologies adopted at the international level to secure the role of heritage in sustainable development, international relations, and community participation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Constitution and EU Accession, An Academic Platform for Discussing the Options

CEI REF. NO. 304.4.026-21
 TOTAL PROJECT COST. 80,658.00 EUR
 CEI GRANT. 37,500.00 EUR
 IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD November 2021 – December 2023 (26 months)

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy (project applicant)
en.unimib.it

University of Trento, Italy
unitn.it/en

EURAC Research - Institute for Comparative Federalism,
 Bolzano, Italy
www.eurac.edu/en

Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso TransEuropa, Italy
www.balcanicaucaso.org/eng

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
www.unsa.ba/en

University of East Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
www.ues.rs.ba/en/ues/

University of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina
www.unmo.ba/en/

University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
www.unibl.org/en

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

As a consequence of EU integration, almost all EU Member States have amended their constitutions or interpreted some constitutional provisions differently, in the light of the obligations deriving from membership and in order to adapt to the EU's multilevel governance system. The academic community has actively taken part in the debates on those changes sharing expertise and advice. A free, critical and lively academic debate is characterised by different ideas and positions of scholars.

It is essential that the academic community explore the different options for adapting the constitutional and legal system to the requirements of European integration and make its voice heard in the debate. Scholarly expertise can help prepare and orient the decision on which option to adopt, with the decision evidently belonging to political institutions and to citizens. As scholars and universities play a key role in the debate on constitutional issues and possible reform options, the Embassy of Italy has promoted academic cooperation

between Bosnian and Italian universities by organising two academic conferences as well as by inviting scholars from all Bosnian universities to engage in a recent series of workshops on fundamental constitutional issues. A group of Italian and BiH scholars have engaged in planning and preparing three workshops on essential questions related to key concepts of the Dayton Constitution and to options for their reform (January-May 2021). This debate and cooperation between and among scholars from all major BiH universities need to continue and become more intense.

In this framework, this research project generated an intense academic debate on the central issues and essential concepts of the BiH Constitution, involving a network of scholars from all major public universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as from Italy, Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The project was based on an innovative insight into the constitutional framing of the complex state of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), as it promoted a multidimensional and interdisciplinary analysis that included different perspectives: BiH as a multi-national and multi-ethnic country, as a post-socialist and post-conflict transitional society in transition, as well as the perspective of EU enlargement and integration.

At the core of the project, from the very beginning, were three 'foundational' questions related to the formation of identities and the organisation of institutions and territorial governance. These three fundamental questions were actually three focal points of discussion, with each of them containing several closely linked sub-questions. Basic values and normative principles, rights and duties were a first focus of research and discussion. The second was the institutional framework capable of translating these values, principles, rights, and duties into a functioning system of representation and effective political participation. And finally, the question was raised as to which system of territorial government, in combination with the institutional structure of the legislative, executive, and judicial powers, could best guarantee these values, principles, rights and duties.

Each of the three workshops, held in February, June and October 2022, and the final conference in April 2023, framed the discussion within these three main questions. The Glossary of Basic Constitutional Terms in Bosnia and Herzegovina was published in November 2023, and the edited volume on Bosnia and Herzegovina as a Complex State will be published by Brill (a leading international academic publisher in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and International Law) in late 2024. The project has been continuously supported by the Italian Embassy in Sarajevo.

North Macedonia: Advisory Support for Strengthening the Capacities for Diaspora Engagement and Evidence-Based Migration Policy Planning

CEI REF. NO. 304.4.001-22
 TOTAL PROJECT COST. 80,000.00 EUR
 CEI GRANT. 40,000.00 EUR
 IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD June 2022 – November 2023 (18 months)

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) North Macedonia
north-macedonia.iom.int/

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia, relevant Ministries dealing with Diaspora
vlada.mk/?ln=en-gb

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

The Government of North Macedonia is increasingly seeking to strengthen cooperation prospects with the Diaspora. Germany, Italy, and Switzerland are European countries with the highest number of migrants from the Republic of North Macedonia. According to data from the World Bank, the majority (around 60%) of foreign-currency remittances from the diaspora come from European countries, specifically: Germany (23%), Italy (22%), Switzerland (11%) and Austria (5%). This basically corresponds to the scope of emigration from the Republic of North Macedonia to European host countries. In recognition of the potential of the Macedonian diaspora, including through financial, human and social resources, the Government of North Macedonia has made significant efforts in devising measures to systematize diaspora engagement in the country in the National Strategy of the Republic of North Macedonia for cooperation with the diaspora 2019-2023, which features objectives and activities aimed at ensuring participation of the diaspora in the transfer of knowledge, investments, and other contributions.

The project contributed to the national efforts aimed at enhancing and widening the engagement of the Diaspora in Italy in the development of the country. The government's National Diaspora Cooperation Strategy (2019) also pointed out to the growth of the 'scientific diaspora', made up of high-skilled individuals who either obtained their degrees at home and departed, or went on to complete their degrees

abroad and did not return. The latest Migration Profile of the Republic of North Macedonia 2021 also underlines that 'the ties with the diaspora play an important role'. Additionally, the project complemented the ongoing efforts for overcoming the challenges of lack of reliable data on migration, the limited and outdated inter- and interinstitutional information exchange and insufficient data on emigration, remittances, and returnees. The activities supported key national stakeholders to increase their capacity for evidence-based policy making and inter- and interinstitutional collaboration on migration data management. Furthermore, the alignment with EU standards will contribute to a continued long-term use of the introduced methodologies.

At institutional level, relevant stakeholders have benefited from the project action through the skills generated from the capacity-building trainings and enhanced capacities and institutional performance in migration data collection. They have also enhanced their capacities to promote gender-responsive diaspora policies, as well as ensure gender and age responsive approaches, taking into consideration their needs when engaging with diaspora. In line with the existing and ongoing government strategies and efforts, the project addressed the following core issues:

- Strengthening inter-institutional cooperation and reinforcing capacities for diaspora engagement.
- Supporting policy makers and institutional stakeholders design and implement evidence-based and coordinated migration policies.
- Facilitating the transfer of knowledge and skills from the diaspora to support business development and EU accession priorities and alignment process.

The actions of this project targeted officials in those institutions directly involved at either policy or operational level. By utilising local and international expertise, secondary available data have been analysed and used on the migratory stock and the migrants' skills and knowledge, thus contributing to a comprehensive approach to dealing with migration and development issues. Additionally, the activities provided tools for direct engagement of the North Macedonian diaspora in Italy.

Strengthening ties and learning between the twinned municipalities of Centar Sarajevo and Reggio Emilia

CLOSED IN 2023

CEI REF. NO.304.4.068-22
TOTAL PROJECT COST.80,000.00 EUR
CEI GRANT.40,000.00 EUR
IMPLEMENTATION PERIODJanuary 2023 – December 2023 (12 months)

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

Reggio Emilia Municipality, Italy
www.comune.re.it

E35 Foundation for International Projects, Italy
e-35.it/en/front

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

Centar Sarajevo Municipality, Bosnia and Herzegovina
www.centar.ba/stranica/about-municipality

Institute for Development and European Integration (IREI),
Bosnia and Herzegovina
irei.com

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

Bosnia and Herzegovina is at an early stage with public administration reform and innovation. Centar Sarajevo Municipality is quite developed, and, in this regard, it is ranked as the most advanced in the Federation entity. The Municipality has been working with the Institute for Development and European Integration (IREI) on the “Ozone project – Open and Accountable Municipalities” that selected motivated newly elected mayors and provided them and their municipal staff with assessment by experts with governance experience in order to enable the setting of a New Policy Programme (NPP) with specific and measurable goals during the first 2 years of their mandate.

Special emphasis was placed on better communication with citizens regarding the needs and expectations of citizens and municipal goals and the progress made. Therefore, the KEP project complemented and built on existing work regarding municipal development planning and citizen participation. It focused on two priorities of the Municipality, namely working on a more democratic political culture and digitalisation of municipal services. This aims at empowering the civil society as a crucial component of any democratic system

that should be recognised and treated as such by public institutions, also at local level. Since the Centar Sarajevo Municipality signed a twinning agreement with the Reggio Emilia Municipality in May 2022, this Italian municipality was a natural knowledge provider considering the needs in terms of expertise. Indeed, Reggio Emilia has been investing a lot since 2005 in participation-related policies, particularly through ITC tools, with emphasis on policies concerning inclusion and social innovation.

This project made the twinning between the two municipalities more concrete and at the same time provided focused assistance to Centar Sarajevo to achieve its goals. Centar Sarajevo is an innovator concerning citizen participation in public planning and has relatively high IT capacity. As a large municipality in the country's capital, it manages extensive real estate used for public events and civil society. It manages parks, and is responsible for urban planning, which is central to the quality of life of its citizens.

Centar Sarajevo has embarked on the creation of regulations for conducting public hearings (regarding budgets, urban planning, and more broadly) that for the first time in BiH make broad principles of transparency more concrete (how should citizens be informed in advance and about results of public hearings), how to conduct and facilitate public hearings to ensure equal participation. Regarding IT capacity, Centar Sarajevo is the only municipality in BiH that has created its own smartphone application. It is an early adopter of electronic submission of forms and a document management system which, however, remains underutilised. In addition, it is currently in the process of revamping its website to improve communication with citizens.

In this framework, the project further enhanced the Municipal's capacity and represents a best practice example for other municipalities in BiH. Municipal staff was provided with support by experts in order to integrate new policies and practices in the implementation of their priority actions. As one of the main project outputs, IREI published the manual “Digitalization for citizens: Good practices for Municipalities and Cities”, distributed to all municipalities and made available on IREI's website and social media.

Habitat, landscape, forest, and water management: experiences in the mirror between from Italy to Moldova

CEI REF. NO. 304.4.070-22
 TOTAL PROJECT COST. 90,474.00 EUR
 CEI GRANT. 39,175.00 EUR
 IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD January 2023 – December 2023 (12 months)

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

- | Romagna Acque Società delle Fonti SPA, Italy
www.romagnacque.it
- | AlberItalia Foundation, Italy
www.alberitalia.it
- | Institute for Research and Study on Education and Family, Italy
www.irsef.it/english-info

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

- | State Forestry Agency “Moldsilva” Moldova
www.moldsilva.gov.md/?l=en
- | Institute of Ecology and Geography, University of Chisinau, Moldova
<https://usm.md/?lang=en>
- | Association of Women in Forestry, Moldova

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

According to the EU Association Agreement the Republic of Moldova signed in 2014, the country is committed to developing and strengthening cooperation on environmental and climate action issues, thereby contributing to the long-term objective of sustainable development and greening the economy. This also concerns the environmental governance including, inter alia, nature protection (conservation and protection of biological and landscape diversity), water resource management, flood risk management, awareness raising, education and training.

In this framework, Moldova had developed an overall strategy on environment and is also engaged in carrying

out an approximation of its legislation to the EU acts and international instruments including: the Water Framework Directive 2000/60 / EC; the Floods Directive 2007/60 / EC; the Council Directive 92/43 / EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora; the FAO Forestry Paper 185. The latter is a guide to forest–water management aimed at improving the global information base on the protective functions of forests for soil and water. It reviews emerging techniques and methodologies, provides guidance and recommendations on how to manage forests for their water ecosystem services, and offers insights into the business and economic cases for managing forests for water ecosystem services.

In this framework, the KEP project aimed at supporting the country in fulfilling its obligations and commitments in the transposition of the FAO guideline by also combining the implementation of the European directives. KEP actions supported the country's institutional capacity to guarantee the management and preservation of protected natural areas and biodiversity including the water cycle. Indeed, forests and trees are an integral part of the global water cycle and, therefore, vital for water safety. The capacity building activities focused on institutional structures of natural protected areas, their regulatory framework, financing, related management & monitoring plans.

The project beneficiaries were involved in extensive training sessions including the application of methodologies and best practices targeting also a specific “case study” such as the Lower Prut Biosphere Reserve in Moldova.

In addition, the project also foresaw a study and related guidelines for the design of an environmental education and biodiversity conservation centre in Moldova based on a model developed by the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research. This centre should promote and develop education and training programmers programmes of environmental themes.

Annexes

Annex 1

Financial Report 2023

Summary as at 31 December 2023 ¹

€

Inflows

Inflows 1992-2007 CEIE00 account (MEF)	26,580,805
Inflows 2008-2023 CEI200 account (MAECI)	30,499,765
Expected inflow in 2024 (second tranche replenishment 2023) CEI200 account (MAECI)	500,000
Other income 1992-2007 CEIE00 account (MEF)	2,913,932
Other income 2008-2023 CEI200 account (MAECI)	268,426
Total inflows 1992-2023	60,762,928

Expenditures

Office operating expenditure (1992-2003), CEI Summit Economic Fora (1998-2003), international events/cooperation activities (1998-2006) CEIE00 account (MEF)	6,012,236
EBRD management fee CEIE00 account (MEF)	969,660
EBRD management fee CEI200 account (MAECI)	1,250,000
Bank charges, income and reimbursements, interest expenses, other charges CEIE00 account (MEF)	1,364
Bank charges, income and reimbursements, interest expenses, other charges CEI200 account (MAECI)	934,297
Earmarks CEIE00 account (MEF)	22,496,908
Earmarks CEI200 account (MAECI)	25,781,955
Total expenditures 1992-2023	57,446,420

Fund availability

Available fund balance CEIE00 account (MEF)	14,569
Available fund balance CEI200 account (MAECI)	3,301,939
TC assignments not earmarked	-1,155,100
Available balance Trieste Office accounts	21,783
Total available	2,183,191

Budget 2024-2025

€

Annual budget 2024	2,101,500
Expected fund availability for 2025	81,691

¹ This Financial Report uses unaudited figures for planning purposes. Audited accounts are available from the EBRD System and external auditors for the Fund.

Budget 2023

Annex 2

Allocations Report

Budget items	Approved €	Actual allocations €	Not allocated €	Additional allocations €
Projects				
Technical Cooperation Programme	1,925,000.00	1,925,000.00	0.00	0.00
Know-how Exchange Programme	400,000.00	459,793.70	0.00	59,793.70
Subtotal	2,325,000.00	2,384,793.70		
Human Resources				
Programme Manager	115,000.00	116,742.22	0.00	1,742.22
<i>Reimbursement to the CEI-ES (part-time personnel unit for Administration)</i>	15,300.00	15,301.06	1,198.94	0.00
<i>Reimbursement to the CEI-ES (part-time personnel unit for Accounting)</i>	16,500.00	16,502.09	0.00	1,202.09
<i>Reimbursement to the CEI-ES (part-time personnel unit for Communication)</i>	17,200.00	17,206.88	0.00	6.88
Subtotal	164,000	165,752.25		
Travel and Events				
Missions	15,000.00	4,332.13	10,667.87	0.00
Events	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	0.00
Reimbursement to the CEI-ES for events	2,000.00	270.20	1,729.80	0.00
Subtotal	32,000.00	4,602.33		
General Expenses				
Utilities, suppliers, equipment, maintenance, audit, insurance	10,000.00	3,208.37	6,791.63	0.00
Reimbursement to the CEI-ES for utilities, suppliers, equipment, maintenance	12,000.00	15,179.11	0.00	3,179.11
Publications	15,000.00	2,119.00	12,881.00	0.00
Reimbursement to the CEI-ES for publications	2,000.00	540.75	1,459.25	0.00
Subtotal	39,000.00	21,047.23		
Contingency Reserve				
Contingency Reserve	20,000	0.00	00.00	
Subtotal	20,000	0.00		
Total	2,580,000.00	2,576,195.51		0.00

Annex 3

Budget 2024

Projects	Trieste (€)	London (€)	Total (€)
Technical Cooperation Programme		1,520,000	
Know-how Exchange Programme	400,000		
Subtotal			1,920,000

Human Resources	Trieste (€)	London (€)	Total (€)
Programme Manager	117,000		
Insurance	1,500		
Subtotal			118,500

Travel, Events and Publications	Trieste (€)	London (€)	Total (€)
Missions	5,000		
Events & Publications	5,000	3,000	
Subtotal			13,000

Contingency Reserve	Trieste (€)	London (€)	Total (€)
Contingency Reserve	45,000	5,000	
Subtotal			50,000

Total			2,101,500
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Central European Initiative Fund

Balance 2023

€	
Contributions received	26,580,805
Other income	2,913,932
Total income	29,494,737
Management fee	969,660
Administrative/other expenses	6,012,236
Earmarks	22,496,908
Undrawn management fee and other administrative expenses reserve	1,037
Total expenditure	29,479,841
Available fund balance	14,896

Central European Initiative CEI200 account (MAECI)

Balance 2023

€	
Contributions received	30,499,765
Expected inflow in 2024 (second tranche replenishment 2023)	500,000
Other income	268,426
Total income	31,268,191
Management fee	1,250,000
Administrative/other expenses	723,859
Earmarks	25,781,955
Undrawn management fee and other administrative expenses reserve	210,438
Total expenditure	27,966,252
Available fund balance	3,301,939

List of Technical Cooperation Assignments 1993-2023

EARMARK DOCUMENT NUMBER	COMMITMENT NAME	COMMITTED € OF OPERATIONS	COUNTRY	SECTOR OF OPERATIONS	COMMITMENT STAGE
50002143	Kyiv to Western Border Highway feasibility study	784,844	Ukraine	Transport	closed
50002144	Central European Initiative - transport information reporting project (design and supervision)	156,621	Albania	Transport	closed
50002145	Commercial law training	1,910,891	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50002146	CETIR - Central Initiative System - transport information reporting system	505,484	Regional	Transport	closed
50002147	Industrial zone development (Phase I)	19,923	Slovak Republic	Institutional Development	closed
50002148	Co-financing advisory services	22,827	Albania	Institutional Development	closed
50002149	Board On-Line Documents	71,647	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50002115	Board On-Line Documents	78,193	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50002116	Funding of assistants for Directors representing constituencies of countries of operations	41,983	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50002117	Commercial law training extension	619,474	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50002154	Air navigation system management information	182,412	Ukraine	Transport	closed
50002191	Emergency power system reconstruction project	76,218	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Energy/ Climate	closed
50002192	Emergency power system reconstruction project	133,581	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Energy/ Climate	closed
50002193	Board on-line documents	59,058	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50002194	Law reform and training programme III / CEI support	82,566	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50002195	Project screening for Bosnia and Herzegovina	62,683	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Institutional Development	closed
50002196	Sarajevo Airport Masterplan study	167,412	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	closed
50002197	Design and supervision consultants for Croatia Wholesale Markets	553,229	Croatia	Agribusiness	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Services - feasibility study	19,594	Bosnia and Herzegovina	SME support	closed
50002198	Board on-line documents	63,962	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50002199	Sarajevo International Airport - Lighting and Equipment	409,971	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	closed
50004352	Sarajevo International Airport - Firefighting Training	30,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	closed
50002200	BOLD Project Manager and CEI Deputy Programme Manager	81,148	Regional	Transport	closed
50002201	Procurement assistance to the transport team	89,091	Regional	Transport	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Croatia	24,633	Croatia	SME support	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Croatia - TAM Management & Support	37,600	Croatia	SME support	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Croatia	759,928	Croatia	SME support	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Croatia	71,600	Croatia	SME support	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Croatia	85,944	Croatia	SME support	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Croatia	20,967	Croatia	SME support	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Croatia	61,431	Croatia	SME support	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Croatia	9,680	Croatia	SME support	closed
50002202	CEI Loans for Small Entrepreneurs in Albania	268,586	Albania	Finance, Business	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Croatia - Project Officer	36,688	Croatia	SME support	closed

EARMARK DOCUMENT NUMBER	COMMITMENT NAME	COMMITTED €	COUNTRY OF OPERATIONS	SECTOR OF OPERATIONS	COMMITMENT STAGE
50002203	CEI Romanian Railways Cooperation Project - Project Preparation and Implementation	409,448	Romania	Transport	closed
50003472	Albania - Rehabilitation of Road Network	1,700,000	Albania	Transport	closed
50002687	CEI Wholesale Markets Foundation	464,812	Regional	Agribusiness	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in South East Europe	1,243,645	Regional	SME support	closed
50001183	TAM Programme - CEI TAM Privatisation Support	468,284	Regional	SME support	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Croatia	14,482	Croatia	SME support	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Croatia	6,273	Croatia	SME support	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Croatia	21,965	Croatia	SME support	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Croatia	3,111	Croatia	SME support	closed
50002204	North Macedonia, ATCO refresher courses	235,408	North Macedonia	Transport	closed
50002205	North Macedonia, ATCO refresher courses	58,433	North Macedonia	Transport	closed
50001458	CEI Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Croatia and North Macedonia - Programme Evaluation	9,748	Regional	SME support	closed
50002206	CEI Romanian Railways Cooperation Project	16,099	Romania	Transport	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in SE Europe (Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, and North Macedonia)	1,070,930	Regional	SME support	closed
50002207	Bulgaria Water and Wastewater Project Facility	204,233	Bulgaria	Municipal infrastructure	closed
50003240	FAO CEI - EASTAGRI	56,323	Regional	Agribusiness	closed
50003201	Regional: Energy Audits Programme Framework Agreements (D'Appolonia)	226,582	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50003201	Regional: Energy Audits Programme Framework Agreements (MWH)	238,162	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
20002208	Bulgaria Water and Wastewater Project	43,860	Bulgaria	Municipal infrastructure	closed
20002209	Milavitsa Strategic Industry Advisor	15,110	Belarus	Finance, Business	closed
50001183	TAM - Tikves	38,972	North Macedonia	SME support	closed
50001458	Business Advisory Service (BAS) Programme in Slovenia - Framework	92,232	Slovenia	SME support	closed
50002210	CEI Insurance Privatisation Assistance for INSIG (Albania)	404,970	Albania	Finance, Business	closed
50002211	BiH Regional Railway Project: Environmental Analysis and Audit	19,800	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	closed
50002212	Bosnia - Sector Study of the Forestry Study	49,103	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Agribusiness	closed
50002213	Market Study for Sustainable Energy in the Slovak Republic	49,307	Slovak Republic	Energy/ Climate	closed
50003241	Regional: EastAgri CEI Network - Phase II	46,889	Regional	Agribusiness	closed
50002214	North Macedonia: Consulting Services for Implementation of Management and Financial Procedures and Systems for Air Navigation System Provider	235,814	North Macedonia	Transport	closed
50002215	Brasov Urban Transport: Regulatory Strengthening Advisory Services to the City	69,084	Romania	Transport	closed
50002216	Brasov Urban Transport: Corporate Development Programme	79,998	Romania	Transport	closed
50002217	OECD Membership 2006	26,274	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50002218	BiH Regional Railway Project: Assistance with Restructuring	279,950	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	closed
50001183	TAM - Tikves	8,040	North Macedonia	SME support	closed
50002219	Crimea Municipal Infrastructure - Yalta Vodocanal IFRS	49,440	Ukraine	Municipal infrastructure	closed
50002220	Albania: Tirana Creditworthiness Enhancement Programme	330,018	Albania	Municipal infrastructure	closed
50002221	BiH Regional Railway Project: Assistance with Restructuring (extension)	20,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	closed
50002222	Kiev City Transport: Financial Due Diligence and IFRS Audit - Kiev Metropolitan	60,000	Ukraine	Municipal infrastructure	closed
50002223	Assessment of Sustainable Energy Potential in West Balkans	196,000	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50002003	BiH Resettlement Framework and Action Plan for Corridor Vc	79,604	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	closed
50002006	BiH Resettlement Framework and Action Plan for Corridor Vc (Extension)	12,138	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	closed
50002007	Extension to IBP and Strengthening of SME Loans Procedures	191,544	Belarus	SME support	closed
50002391	Energy Audits Programme (CEI funded - extension) D'Appolonia	142,784	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed

EARMARK DOCUMENT NUMBER	COMMITMENT NAME	COMMITTED € OF OPERATIONS	COUNTRY OF OPERATIONS	SECTOR OF OPERATIONS	COMMITMENT STAGE
50002391	Energy Audits Programme (CEI funded - extension) MWH	190,050	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50002009	North Macedonia: Environmental and Social Analysis for ASR	46,567	North Macedonia	Transport	closed
50002010	Sarajevo Water & Wastewater - Feasibility Study	190,840	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Municipal infrastructure	closed
50002011	Mahovljani Interchange Feasibility and Environmental Due Diligence	170,140	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	closed
50002012	Assessment of SEI Potential in Belarus - Market Demand Study	74,512	Belarus	Energy/ Climate	closed
50002013	Sarajevo Water & Wastewater - Feasibility Study-Extension	37,125	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Municipal infrastructure	closed
50001183	TAM - Pantomarket	11,315	Montenegro	SME support	closed
50001183	TAM - Altimed	59,399	Belarus	SME support	closed
50001183	TAM - Pinskdev	55,217	Belarus	SME support	closed
50001183	TAM - Bereza Cheese Plant JCS	55,773	Belarus	SME support	closed
50002491	Regional Energy Efficiency Programme for the Corporate Sector - CEI - MWH	165,996	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50002491	Regional Energy Efficiency Programme for Corporate Sector - CEI - D'Appolonia	65,493	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50002014	Energy Efficiency Programme for Corporate sector - CEI - D'Appolonia - Moldovan Railways	47,250	Moldova	Energy/ Climate	closed
50002017	Life in Transition Survey II - Bosnia and Herzegovina	45,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Institutional Development	closed
50002018	Life in Transition Survey II - Albania	45,000	Albania	Institutional Development	closed
50000872	Rail Corridor X in Serbia and North Macedonia: Lender's Monitor Advisor	83,307	Regional	Transport	closed
50002019	WeBSEDF:TC Banker	171,473	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50000873	Support to ZS for Implementation of Energy Information Management System - Serbia	243,025	Serbia	Transport	closed
50002021	Capljina Water Supply Environmental and Social Due Diligence	49,400	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Municipal infrastructure	closed
50000874	JSC Serbian Railways: Lender's Monitor Advisor	93,056	Serbia	Transport	closed
50001988	Montenegro: Energy Efficiency Action Plan for ZPCG	149,760	Montenegro	Energy/ Climate	closed
50001970	Market Study: Opportunities to Implement Sustainable Strategies in the Maritime Sector	220,032	Regional	Transport	closed
50001968	Enhancing Public Procurement Professionalism - Capacity Building Programme	40,000	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50001967	Resource and Process Efficiency in Manufacturing Sectors	427,570	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50000875	North Macedonia: Railway Corridor VIII - Energy Management System for PERI	175,000	North Macedonia	Transport	disbursing
50001182	EGP - MixNet and Maize	69,382	Ukraine	SME support	closed
50000876	Kotor - Cetinje Cable Car - Technical Review and Preparation of PPP Tender	200,000	Montenegro	Municipal infrastructure	closed
50001966	Montenegro: Energy Efficiency Action Plan for ZPCG extension	20,000	Montenegro	Transport	closed
50001965	Public-Private Policy Forum Dairy Sector	28,165	Ukraine	Agribusiness	closed
50000877	Kotor Fortress Urban Regeneration - Technical and Market Due Diligence	24,800	Montenegro	Municipal infrastructure	closed
50000878	Training of Grain Farmers in Ukraine	225,245	Ukraine	Agribusiness	closed
50001964	Strengthening the capacity of the Belarusian Renewable Energy Association (BREA) for its active involvement in policy- and decision-making processes in Belarus	175,166	Belarus	Energy/ Climate	closed
50002355	Montenegro Local Roads Reconstruction and Upgrade: Strategy and Model Contracts for Performance-Based Maintenance, and Road Safety Regulation	137,516	Montenegro	Transport	closed
50000879	Moldova Railways: Environmental, Health and Safety Management Support and Capacity Building	72,600	Moldova	Transport	closed
50000880	Moldova Railways: Assistance in preparation and implementation of tender for rolling stock rehabilitation	250,000	Moldova	Transport	disbursing
50001957	Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme for the Corporate Sector - Production of fertilizers from agribusiness wastes: technical and market potential in Ukraine and Western Balkans	49,850	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50003087	Kotor - Cetinje Cable Car - Technical Review and Preparation of PPP Tender Extension	39,850	Montenegro	Municipal infrastructure	closed
50000881	Serbian Roads - Road Rehabilitation and Safety Project. Capacity Building on Road Safety Management (ISO 39001)	70,000	Serbia	Transport	closed

EARMARK DOCUMENT NUMBER	COMMITMENT NAME	COMMITTED €	COUNTRY OF OPERATIONS	SECTOR OF OPERATIONS	COMMITMENT STAGE
50000882	Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) for Chisinau. Urban Regeneration Market Study	110,000	Moldova	Municipal infrastructure	closed
50001956	Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme for the Corporate Sector CEI - Mark Formelle Cogeneration Plant: Feasibility Study	19,803	Belarus	Energy/ Climate	closed
50002889	Enhancing Public Procurement Professionalism - Capacity Building Programme	40,000	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50002714	Resource and Process Efficiency in Manufacturing Sectors - extension 2014	42,650	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50000883	Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme for the Corporate Sector - CEI - D'Appolonia - Makstil	44,546	North Macedonia	Energy/ Climate	closed
50002556	Montenegro Agency for the Protection of Competition	48,428	Montenegro	Energy/ Climate	closed
50001954	Resource Efficiency Programme for the Corporate Sector - Uniflex	18,697	Belarus	Energy/ Climate	closed
50000884	Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme for the Corporate Sector - CEI - D'Appolonia - Agrofusison	37,628	Ukraine	Energy/ Climate	closed
50000885	Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme for the Corporate Sector - CEI - KPMG - Belarus Industry Study	48,280	Belarus	Energy/ Climate	closed
50003909	North Macedonia: National Roads Programme - Project Implementation Unit support	450,000	North Macedonia	Transport	disbursing
50002468	North Macedonia: Railway Corridor VIII (second phase): PIU Support	350,000	North Macedonia	Transport	disbursing
50002889	Enhancing Public Procurement Professionalism - Capacity Building Programme	98,000	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50001955	Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme for the Corporate Sector - CEI - Bingo III	40,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Energy/ Climate	closed
50004118	Montenegro Water Sector Reform - Plan for the Reform of the Montenegrin Coastal Region	81,200	Montenegro	Municipal infrastructure	closed
50002317	Tivat Airport Modernisation Project - Preparation of Concept Designs	281,000	Montenegro	Transport	closed
50002760	Establishing of Origination and Execution Capacity Program for SME Direct Finance in Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus	175,561	Regional	SME support	closed
50000886	Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme for the Corporate Sector - CEI - D'Appolonia - Mesopromet	49,125	Montenegro	Energy/ Climate	closed
50000887	Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme for the Corporate Sector - CEI - D'Appolonia - Serseris Grain Terminal	46,856	Ukraine	Energy/ Climate	closed
50000890	Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme for the Corporate Sector - CEI - Polesie	21,875	Belarus	Energy/ Climate	closed
50000891	Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme for the Corporate Sector – CEI – Resource Efficiency Audit at Glass Container Company	42,758	Moldova	Energy/ Climate	closed
50003482	Utilisation of Production Residues in the Food Processing Sector in the Western Balkans	150,000	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50002949	Innovation Vouchers scheme for resource efficiency technologies and services: programme preparation and definition of possible implementation approaches	74,000	Serbia	Energy/ Climate	closed
50002951	Analysis of Climate Risks in Transport Infrastructures in the Western Balkans	74,500	Regional	Transport	closed
50004365	Framework for joint EBRD-CEI collaboration for policy engagements: Project Facilitation and Analyst Support - Silk Road + Extension	170,000	Regional	Transport	closed
50002889	Enhancing Public Procurement Professionalism - Capacity Building Programme	120,000	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50004365	Project Preparation along the Silk Road in CSEE: Assessing and Tackling Policy Obstacles to Infrastructure Investment in the Region	90,000	Regional	Transport	disbursing
50004930	Independent System Operator of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Consultant for the Project Implementation Unit	399,530	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Energy/ Climate	closed
50004927	Climate Resilience in the Bosnian Road Network. FBiH Roads – Flood Repair and Upgrade	135,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	closed
50005513	Implementation of the Corporate Governance Action Plan (CGAP) for "Korporate Elektroenergjitike Shqiptare Sh.A"	300,000	Albania	Energy/ Climate	disbursing
50005174	Albania Secretariat to the Investment Council	175,000	Albania	Institutional Development	disbursing
50005337	Assessment of environmental hotspots and review of remediation investment opportunities in the low Adriatic (Albania and Montenegro)	60,080	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50005455	Supporting Public-Private Partnerships in the Transport Sector in Belarus: Road Sector Reform	99,990	Belarus	Transport	closed
50005615	CEI Support to Small Business Initiative: Expansion of Origination and Execution Capacity Program for SME Direct Finance and Risk Sharing in Belarus	90,000	Belarus	SME support	closed

EARMARK DOCUMENT NUMBER	COMMITMENT NAME	COMMITTED €	COUNTRY OF OPERATIONS	SECTOR OF OPERATIONS	COMMITMENT STAGE
50005643	Green Economy Transition (GET) Project Preparation and Implementation Framework	52,000	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50002889	Enhancing Public Procurement Professionalism - Capacity Building Programme	125,000	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50005796	Enhancing Public Procurement Professionalism - Capacity Building Programme	62,500	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50005921	Corridor Vc in Republika Srpska - Quality Management System and obtaining ISO Standards	70,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	closed
50005922	Corridor Vc in Republika Srpska - Procurement Certification Support	70,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	closed
50006097	Moldova Railways - Fleet Renewal Project	50,000	Moldova	Transport	committed
50006267	Green Economy Transition - Project Preparation and Implementation Framework	185,000	Regional	Energy/ Climate	disbursing
50006442	Albanian Railways - Asset Management Plan and Track Access Charges Methodology	350,000	Albania	Transport	closed
50006443	Albanian Railways - Development of Accounting and Reporting Systems for full International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Compliance	149,050	Albania	Transport	closed
50006499	Albanian Railways - Assistance with Civil Society Engagement	120,000	Albania	Transport	disbursing
50006497	Preparation of the Study on improvement of public transportation and preparation of tender for a multi-year public lines distribution	150,000	Montenegro	Transport	disbursing
50006498	FBIH Roads: Flood Repair and Upgrade - Introduction of Quality Management Systems and obtaining the ISO 9001 standard	70,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	closed
50006531	Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings. Autonomous Province of Vojvodina	99,970	Serbia	Energy/ Climate	closed
50006822	Serbia Route 7 Highway - Lender's Monitor	125,000	Serbia	Transport	disbursing
50006823	Serbia Voz Rolling Stock Acquisition	75,000	Serbia	Transport	disbursing
50006824	Moldova: Support for the Competitive Procurement of Renewable Energy	200,000	Moldova	Energy/ Climate	committed
50006877	Analysis of Climate Change Risks to Critical Transport Infrastructure Networks in Ukraine	144,297	Ukraine	Transport	closed
50006941	Climate Resilience Assessment for the Belarus Roads Sector	74,960	Belarus	Transport	closed
50005615	CEI Support to Small Business Initiative: Expansion of Origination and Execution Capacity Programme for SME Direct Finance and Risk Sharing in Belarus - Phase 2	148,276	Belarus	SME support	closed
50005644	Technology review and market potential in CEI region about Floating Solar PV	36,900	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50006242	Green Economy Project Preparation and Implementation Framework - Technical Due Diligence for four Biogas Power Plants	59,755	Belarus	Energy/ Climate	closed
50006328	Investment Climate and Governance Expert for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro	145,000	Regional	Institutional Development	disbursing
50007253	Advice for Small Businesses in Moldova (Youth and Skills)	300,000	Moldova	SME support	disbursing
50007101	Sustainable and Eco Tourism Programme - Albania National and Regional Roads Project	69,210	Albania	Transport	closed
50007325	Mostar North to Mostar South Motorway - Environmental and Social Impact Assessment	72,790	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	closed
50007341	Serbian Climate Resilience and Irrigation Project (SCRIP) - Development of irrigation strategy	149,190	Serbia	Agribusiness	committed
50007363	Increasing market opportunities for high-quality food products	120,661	Regional	Agribusiness	disbursing
50007692	COVID-19 Crisis Response: Environmental & Social Contractor Management	120,000	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
50007917	Methane Emissions Reduction Programme in Gas Supply Chains	110,200	Ukraine	Energy/ Climate	disbursing
50008223	Corridor Vc - Tunnel Prenj: Corporate Governance Action Plan	150,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	committed
50007838	Market readiness for a low-carbon hydrogen economy in the Western Balkans	150,000	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50007911	Study to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the use of public transport in the Western Balkans	47,870	Regional	Transport	closed
50008295	Green City Action Plan for Brcko District	275,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Municipal infrastructure	disbursing
50008332	Green Cities Framework 2 Window 2 (GrCFW2) Sarajevo Public Transport e-Mobility – Project Implementation Support	430,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	disbursing
50008332	Green Cities Framework 2 Window 2 (GrCFW2) Sarajevo Public Transport e-Mobility – Project Design	70,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	disbursing
50008403	Chisinau Solid Waste – Project Implementation Support Services	300,000	Moldova	Municipal infrastructure	disbursing

EARMARK DOCUMENT NUMBER	COMMITMENT NAME	COMMITTED €	COUNTRY OF OPERATIONS	SECTOR OF OPERATIONS	COMMITMENT STAGE
50008587	Port of Brcko – Corporate Development Plan	250,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	disbursing
50008531	Market Assessment for the Uptake of Climate Technologies in the Western Balkans	55,575	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
50008661	Improving Corporate Governance in Family-Owned Enterprises	40,000	Serbia	SME support	disbursing
50008879	OSHEE COVID-19 Response - Smart Grid Development Roadmap	203,882	Albania	Energy/ Climate	closed
50008812	Support for the Implementation of Renewable Energy Auctions in Montenegro	250,000	Montenegro	Energy/ Climate	disbursing
50009263	Brcko District: Electrical Grid Expansion - Due Diligence & Advance Procurement	150,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Energy/ Climate	committed
50009267 / 50009283	Youth in Business Programme in the Western Balkans	1,500,000	Regional	SME support	committed
50009034	Serbia: High Speed Rail Belgrade to Nis - Serbian Railways Infrastructure: Corporate Governance Action Plan	150,000	Serbia	Transport	disbursing
50009035	Serbian Rail Sector Reform and Regulatory Capacity Building	400,000	Serbia	Transport	committed
50009374	North Macedonia: Rail Corridor VIII, Phase 3 - E&S Support and Gender Due Diligence	74,900	North Macedonia	Transport	closed
50009516	North Macedonia: Rail Corridor VIII, Phase 3 - Supplementary Environmental and Social Due Diligence and Monitoring Programme	70,000	North Macedonia	Transport	committed
50009879	Feasibility study for Albania-Montenegro 110 kV overhead transmission line connection Dajc (Kosmac) - Briska Gora (Ulcinj)	250,000	Regional	Energy/ Climate	committed
50009636	Advisory to MSMEs and Start-Ups in Moldova	500,000	Moldova	SME support	disbursing
50009654	Rail Corridor VIII - Phase 2 - Lender's Monitor Advisor	500,000	North Macedonia	Transport	committed
50009637	International master's in public Procurement Management (10th edition Rome and 6th edition Belgrade)	75,000	Regional	Institutional Development	approved
To be assigned	Decarbonisation and Action Plan for Javno Preduzece Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS)	350,000	Serbia	Energy/ Climate	approved
To be assigned	Preparation of a Corporate Plan for the organisational strengthening of Public Enterprise for State Roads	200,000	North Macedonia	Transport	approved
To be assigned	Ukrenergo Transmission Network Emergency Restoration - Gender and Inclusion TC support	200,000	Ukraine	Energy/ Climate	approved
To be assigned	FINTECC (Finance and Technology Transfer Centre for Climate Change) in the WB	300,000	Regional	Energy/ Climate	approved
Total		35,330,409			

List of Know-how Exchange Programme Projects 2004-2023

REFERENCE NUMBER	PROJECT NAME	COUNTRY OF KNOW-HOW PROVIDER INSTITUTION	COUNTRY OF KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT INSTITUTION	TOTAL PROJECT COST €	CEI CO-FINANCING €	IMPLEMENTATION STAGE
1206.009-04	Introduction to Public Finance Management	Slovenia	North Macedonia	15,172	5,000	closed
1206.001-05	Sharing Policy Know-how in Transition Countries in CEI Region	Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia	Regional	81,025	28,400	closed
1206.014-05	CEI Support to Wholesale Markets Development in Ukraine	FAO	Ukraine	65,164	36,502	closed
1206.016-05	APRI - AER PEER Review Initiative in the CEI Region	AER	Regional	61,621	16,100	closed
1206.004-06	Prospects of EU-Ukraine Economic Relations	Poland	Ukraine	54,143	21,790	closed
1206.005-06	Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development in Southeast Europe: Identification and Implementation of Good Policy Practices	OECD	Regional	95,900	38,200	closed
1206.006-06	Support for Moldova: Innovation, Leadership and Positive Environment (SMILE)	Italy	Moldova	83,183	22,708	closed
1206.007-06	Introduction to Public Finance Management for Junior Governmental Officials assigned to Public Finance Management Positions	Slovenia	Romania	15,830	5,240	closed
1206.008-06	Support to the Development of Rural Tourism and Setting up of a Professional Tourist Organisation with Member Municipalities of the Rose Valley, Bulgaria	Austria	Bulgaria	50,118	20,500	closed
1206.009-06	Building Effective Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Quality Control System in Moldova	Slovak Republic	Moldova	10,791	1,660	closed
1206.010-06	Study Tour on EU co-ordination	Austria, Poland	Romania	8,523	3,689	closed
1206.001-07	CEI support to Wholesale Markets Development in Ukraine (phase 2): Wholesale Markets Training at Regional Level	FAO	Ukraine	36,147	14,832	closed
1206.002-07	Improving Transparency in Local Government Finance in Moldova through Better Budgeting Process	Poland	Moldova	67,191	18,065	closed
1206.003-07	Human Resources Development and Improvement of Internal Control in Administration of Small Cities of Moldovan -Ukrainian Borderland – Floresti, Soroca, Yampil	Poland	Regional	117,712	23,249	closed
1206.004-07	Ecological Agriculture, Agrotourism Promotion and Development in the Eastern Ukrainian Carpathian Region and Moldova	Poland	Regional	83,853	24,308	closed
1206.012-07	CEI Study Tour and Workshop: Networking and Cluster Model to Support SME Internationalisation	Italy, Slovenia	Regional	88,044	34,584	closed
1206.001-08	Pilot project on enhancing sustainable local and rural development in the SAP (Stabilization and Association Process) countries by introducing the LEADER experience	Hungary	Regional	40,376	18,598	closed
1206.002-08	1st Ukrainian School of Civil Society Leaders	Poland	Ukraine	128,666	32,992	closed
1206.014-08	Analysis and Study of the Feasibility of a Biomass Chain in Albania (BIOM-ALBA)	Italy	Albania	97,039	31,987	closed
1206.015-08	Promotion and Development of Agrotourism and Ecological Agriculture in Moldova	Poland	Moldova	109,061	13,273	closed
1206.018-08	Systems for the Organisation of the Moldovan Food Farming Production Process (MOLDAGROFOOD)	Italy	Moldova	83,185	36,023	closed
1206.020-08	Fostering Innovation in SMEs in the Western Balkans, Phase II	OECD	Regional	91,591	35,084	closed
1206.021-08	Monitoring SME Policy Implementation in the Western Balkans	OECD	Regional	102,622	40,000	closed
1206.026-08	Capacity Building in Public Accounting (CBIPA) in Moldova	Slovenia	Moldova	241,357	40,000	closed
1206.027-08	Transfer of Macrolotto Best Practice to the Management of Sustainable and Equipped Productive Areas	Italy	Serbia	41,508	14,181	closed
1206.002-09	PORTRAIN	Italy	Albania	91,979	33,900	closed
1206.003-09	Supporting Serbian SMEs in Accessing to EU Markets	Italy	Serbia	42,448	21,224	closed
1206.004-09	System for Energy Autonomy (SEA)	Italy	Moldova	121,600	20,000	closed

REFERENCE NUMBER	PROJECT NAME	COUNTRY OF KNOW-HOW PROVIDER INSTITUTION	COUNTRY OF KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT INSTITUTION	TOTAL PROJECT COST €	CEI CO-FINANCING €	IMPLEMENTATION STAGE
1206.005-09	Assessment of Energy Sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina: AER Peer Review on Energy in Republika Srpska	AER	Bosnia and Herzegovina	25,992	12,092	closed
1206.006-09	Development of Decision Support Systems for Integrated Water Management in Belarus	Italy	Belarus	64,306	31,288	closed
1206.007-09	CEI Study Tour and Workshop: The Role of Professional Branch Associations in Fostering the Competitiveness of SMEs in the IT Sector – Creating a Common South-east Europe IT Brand	Austria, Bulgaria	Regional	66,961	25,941	closed
1206.008-09	ICT Cooperation: Italy- Croatia Technology Cooperation	Italy	Croatia	14,492	6,239	closed
1206.009-09	Capacity Building and Transfer of Knowledge for the Development of Organic Farming in Blidinje Nature Park	Czechia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	65,089	15,536	closed
1206.011-09	Technical Assistance for the Development and Improvement of Technologies, Methodologies and Tools for the Enhanced Use of Agricultural Biomass Residues	Italy	Serbia	79,053	39,000	closed
1206.005-10	Good Governance in Chisinau - Introduction of Performance Budget in the Capital of Moldova	Poland	Moldova	123,544	32,683	closed
1206.006-10	Farming and Off-farming Activities in Mountain Areas and Natural Parks: "the Italian Experience" a Study Tour for Montenegro	FAO	Montenegro	59,851	24,851	closed
1206.007-10	Technical Assistance and Good Practices Sharing in order to Promote Female Entrepreneurship in the Tourism and Services Sector	Italy	Croatia	103,016	40,000	closed
1206.008-10	AER peer review on energy in Vojvodina "How to create sustainable energy communities within our regions?"	AER	Serbia	28,815	13,066	closed
1206.009-10	Financial Facilities for SMEs: Training and Capacity Building for Business Support Organisations in non-EU CEI Member States (FIT4SMEs)	Italy	Regional	80,000	39,883	closed
1206.010-10	Monitoring SME Policy Implementation in the Western Balkans	OECD	Regional	142,858	40,000	closed
1206.011-10	Technical Assistance to Luka Bar for the Development of Action Plans to Improve the Capacity in the Domains of Environment protection, Safety and Security at work (SAFE ADRIA)	Italy	Montenegro	57,777	26,520	closed
1206.012-10	Support to the Capacity in Developing and Managing Cooperation Projects: Institute of Transport (COOPERADRIA)	Italy	Albania	45,899	15,622	closed
1206.013-10	Krapina Zagorje County Rural Development Strategy	Slovenia	Croatia	28,908	12,919	closed
1206.005-11	Financial Facilities for SMEs: Training and Capacity Building for Business Support Organisations in non-EU CEI Member States (FIT4SMEs II)	Italy	Regional	80,633	39,948	closed
1206.009-11	Public Accountants Certification Training (PACT) in North Macedonia	Slovenia	North Macedonia	114,080	29,915	closed
1206.010-11	Training of Internal Auditors in Public Sector in Montenegro	Slovenia	Montenegro	225,122	39,641	closed
1206.011-11	Evaluating SME Policy Implementation in the Western Balkans	OECD	Regional	102,150	39,671	closed
1206.001-12	Improving Environmental and Disaster Prevention Capacity in Serbia	Italy	Serbia	72,135	33,002	closed
1206.003-12	Conditions for Technology Transfer of Experience for Tirana City (Context)	Italy	Albania	86,193	28,435	closed
1206.004-12	Application of Open-source Software and Methods for Territorial Analysis and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Belarus	Italy	Belarus	57,694	28,006	closed
1206.005-12	Public Accountants Certification Training (PACT) in North Macedonia	Slovenia	North Macedonia	218,153	38,786	closed
1206.006-12	Know-how for Donetsk Region - Strengthening of Administrative Structures and Regional Development in Ukraine	Poland	Ukraine	28,736	11,292	closed
1206.008-12	Environmental Impact Assessment of the Kozuf Metallogenic District in Southern North Macedonia (ENIGMA)	Czechia	North Macedonia	77,590	37,895	closed
1206.009-12	Renewable Energy Knowledge and Technology Transfer in Albania and in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Italy	Regional	89,737	39,110	closed
1206.010-12	Competitiveness and New Industrial Policy: Building Capacities for Diagnosis, Design and Implementation	OECD	Regional	279,653	30,000	closed
1206.004-13	Supporting the Implementation of CEFTA 2006 in the Areas of Reduction and Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers, Trade in Services and in Relation to the Investment Related Clauses	OECD	Regional	614,581	30,000	closed
1206.005-13	Improving Environmental Monitoring and Disaster Prevention Capacity in Drina River Basin – Phase II	Italy	Regional	67,767	25,372	closed
1206.006-13	Renewable Solutions: Transfer of Successful Renewables and Bioenergy Know-how to Ukrainian Stakeholders (RES-SOL)	Austria	Ukraine	34,774	13,451	closed
1206.008-13	Capacity Building and Transfer of Knowledge for Increasing and Improving Professional Skills in the Field of Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy in Albania, Montenegro and Serbia	Italy	Regional	86,979	35,056	closed
1206.009-13	Implementation of Directive 2009/28/EC in the Field of Biofuels and Transport in the Republic of Serbia - Transfer of Best Practices	Croatia	Serbia	34,053	12,356	closed
1206.010-13	Development of Online Geodata Portal of Cultural Heritage in Novi Sad (GISNS)	Italy	Serbia	44,106	14,951	closed
1206.011-13	Smallholders Farmers' Access to Markets in Eastern and Northern Bosnia-Herzegovina and Northern Albania	Italy	Regional	79,527	36,600	closed

REFERENCE NUMBER	PROJECT NAME	COUNTRY OF KNOW-HOW PROVIDER INSTITUTION	COUNTRY OF KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT INSTITUTION	TOTAL PROJECT COST €	CEI CO-FINANCING €	IMPLEMENTATION STAGE
1206.001-14	Strengthening Serbian Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Alert System (ALERT)	Italy	Serbia	86,291	30,741	closed
1206.002-14	Strengthening Serbian Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Alert System (ALERT II)	Italy	Serbia	84,633	32,984	closed
1206.003-14	On the Job Training in Humanitarian Demining and Mine Risk Education	Italy	Bosnia and Herzegovina	80,000	40,000	closed
1206.004-14	Development of Guidelines for Implementation of the Principles of Sustainable Agriculture according to EU Directive 2009/128 (SUSAGRI)	Italy	Bosnia and Herzegovina	61,581	30,781	closed
1206.005-14	The Impact of the Controlled Atmosphere on Quality and Safety of the Close-Seal- Packaged Food applied in the SMEs of South Serbia (PACKSENSOR)	Italy	Serbia	86,695	37,000	closed
1206.006-14	Maritime Cluster Cooperation Italy Montenegro (MaCCIM)	Italy	Montenegro	70,736	30,781	closed
1206.007-14	Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative (NGCI): Southeast Europe Competitiveness Outlook 2015	OECD	Regional	5,000,248	30,000	closed
1206.008-14	Emergency Management and Community Resilience: A Goal for Serbia	Italy	Serbia	74,289	24,829	closed
1206.011-14	The Development of Graphene-based Sensors for the Detection of Environmental Pollutants	Italy	Serbia	83,435	25,808	closed
1206.012-14	Water Supply, Sewerage Networks, and Future City Development: Theoretical Update and on-the-job Training of the UKT staff members in view of the Territorial Reform	Italy	Albania	43,188	12,602	closed
1206.001-15	Capacity Building and Transfer of Knowledge for Increasing and Improving Professional Skills in Waste Management in the Region of Vinnytsia (WASTE MGMT in Vinnytsia)	Italy	Ukraine	88,853	38,047	closed
1206.002-15	Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Civil Society Initiative: Capacity Building for Monitoring SOE Governance in the Energy Sector	Bulgaria, Italy	Regional	83,498	39,474	closed
1206.005-15	Hydro meteorological Modelling for Environmental quality control (HYMEUR)	Italy	Serbia	78,881	37,831	closed
1206.006-15	Experiences in the Mirror from Italy to Moldova (SMA.RI.GO.)	Italy	Moldova	82,187	38,784	closed
1206.007-15	Development of a Training Program on Management of Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Rapid Response	Italy	Serbia	73,850	36,925	closed
1206.008-15	Capacity Building for Improved Mineral Fuels Monitoring System - Transfer of Best Practices against Grey Economy (FUELPAGE)	Czechia	Serbia	49,178	17,445	closed
1206.001-16	Support Anti-corruption Capacity Building in Albania	OSCE	Albania	70,210	34,920	closed
1206.002-16	Dams Safety: A New Approach for the Monitoring of the Dams with the Use of Remote Sensing	Italy	Albania	79,710	39,885	closed
1206.003-16	GIs for Non-wine Food Products: Exchange of know-how and Boost for Partnerships based Rural Development in Moldova	Poland	Moldova	24,816	11,940	closed
1206.004-16	Development and Regulation of the University of Belgrade Laser-laboratory infrastructure for Education and Research	Italy	Serbia	571,664	27,090	closed
1206.005-16	Preserving Kotor Bay as Natural and Historical Heritage - Analysing Sea Pollution Sources and Raising Ecological Awareness	Italy	Montenegro	74,794	33,263	closed
1206.006-16	Professional Intergovernmental Know-how Exchange on the Implementation of Large-Scale Secondary School Scholarship and Mentoring Programme for Roma Students	Hungary	Regional	78,481	38,158	closed
1206.001-17	Innovation Vouchers Scheme for Resource Efficiency Technologies and Services in Serbia	Italy	Serbia	81,872	40,000	closed
1206.002-17	Strengthening Governance through Public Procurement in the Western Balkans - Regional Western Balkans Master's Programme in Public Procurement Management	Italy	Serbia	88,783	40,000	closed
1206.003-17	Heritage First Aid: Cultural Tourism in Support of Heritage Conservation	Italy	Albania	37,500	18,714	closed
1206.004-17	- Integrated Waste-oils Management System. Transfer of Best Practices for Safe, Sustainable and Eco-friendly Transport in Serbia (WASTE OILFREE)	Czechia	Serbia	41,330	17,560	closed
1206.005-17	SAFEMEAT	Italy	Serbia	80,804	36,936	closed
1206.006-17	SMART RIVER GOVERNANCE 2.0	Italy	Moldova	83,325	37,000	closed
1206.007-17	Improving Disaster Risk Reduction Skills and Resilience. Building Practices in the Western Balkans (EMS WeB)	Italy	Regional	46,235	20,047	closed
1206.008-17	Sustainable Approach to Managing Construction and Demolition Waste (SAMCODE)	Italy	North Macedonia	63,149	30,870	closed
1206.009-17	CEI support for strengthening Energy Regulatory Authorities in the Western Balkans	Italy	Regional	81,588	27,845	closed
1206.010-17	Capacity building on PPPs for road construction and exploitation for Albanian authorities with the participation of Serbia and other Western Balkan countries	Italy	Regional	74,991	36,979	closed
1206.001-18	CEI support for strengthening Energy Regulatory Authorities in the Western Balkans - Second phase	Italy	Regional	89,162	39,662	closed
1206.002-18	Capacity building program for extension services in the Western Balkans to support participation in IPARD calls	Italy	Regional	25,105	12,552	closed

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1206.003-18	Training in dietary assessment and sharing platforms for monitoring population food consumption habits in a long-term perspective (TRAIN-DIE)	Italy	Serbia	80,000	40,000	closed
1206.004-18	Capacity Building for Implementing Innovative EU Monitoring Tools for Good Governance and Anti-Corruption	Bulgaria	Regional	80,022	39,994	closed
1206.005-18	BEst practices exchange to STimulate Serbian SMEs growth (BE.ST.)	Italy	Serbia	65,772	31,222	closed
1206.006-18	INNOVA.tion to prevention and protection from natural and environmental RISKS: experiences in the mirror between civil protection and emergency management from Italy to Moldova (INNOVA.RISKS)	Italy	Moldova	81,181	39,988	closed
1206.001-19	CEI support for strengthening Energy Regulatory Authorities in the Western Balkans - Third phase	Italy	Regional	118,372	39,475	closed
1206.002-19	MEAT BIOHAZ	Italy	Serbia	92,482	40,000	closed
1206.003-19	Innovative Know-how Exchange Programme in Animal Nutrition and Feed Technology (INNOKEP-FEED)	Italy	Serbia	85,188	39,950	closed
1206.004-19	On the Flood Wave of Vardar River. Flood Risk Management for Skopje	Italy	North Macedonia	80,236	38,726	closed
1206.005-19	Capacity Support of Regional Cooperation in Mine Action (SEEMACC)	Slovenia	Regional	35,000	17,500	under implementation
1206.006-19	Promoting geological, ecological, and cultural heritage trough sustainable development and creation of geo-parks (GECCOSPARK)	Italy	North Macedonia	80,539	40,000	closed
1206.007-19	Introducing modern learning methods in North Macedonia using Italian experiences (INLEARN)	Italy	North Macedonia	72,853	33,822	closed
1206.008-19	Non-invasive and multi-analytical approach to the discovering of "Old Believer Faith icons" of VETKA Museum (ICONS)	Italy	Belarus	33,427	9,855	closed
305.998-20	Strong nurses for strong health systems and a healthier world	SEEHN	Regional	39,848	39,848	closed
305.1227-20	Portal Implementation for Sharing Information about Personal Protective (PPE-HEALTH-PORTAL)	Italy	Regional	38,997	38,997	closed
305.1521-20	Distance Learning on Epidemic and Pandemic Outbreaks in the Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia	Italy	Regional	29,993	29,993	closed
305.1543-20	Distance Learning on Epidemic and Pandemic Outbreaks in Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine	Italy	Regional	19,034	19,034	closed
305.2347-20	SOS COVID-19 Emergency - Protecting Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing of Adults and Minors during Social Distancing in Italy and Serbia	Italy	Serbia	39,000	39,000	closed
305.3763-20	Interactive Webinars to Accelerate the Shift to Digital Innovation in Albanian Health (WebinHealth)	Italy	Albania	40,438	39,800	closed
305.6019-20	Use of Regressive Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) Methods in Modelling of COVID-19 spread (COVIDAI)	Serbia, Croatia	Regional	37,900	37,764	closed
305.6130-20	Hospital at Home in the Field of Chronic Wound Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Romania and Moldova	Romania	Moldova	39,000	39,000	closed
304.4.003-20	"Composites for All". Advanced Materials for a Modern, Improved, and Sustainable Society	Italy, Slovenia	Regional	84,020	39,775	closed
304.4.015-20	Practical Application of 3D Technology in Medicine and Health Care	Italy	Bosnia and Herzegovina	137,205	24,975	closed
304.4.022-20	Improving Occupational Health and Safety System in Republic of Moldova	Italy	Moldova	53,231	25,938	closed
304.4.035-20	Sustainability of the Platforms for Monitoring Population Food Consumption Habits and Pilot Study on Web- and Computer-based 24-H dietary Recall Tools	Italy	Serbia	78,159	31,577	closed
304.4.041-20	Sustainable Management of Cultural Heritage in the Balkans in Response to Climate Change. Best practices for adaptation and intercultural cooperation (SMACH)	Italy	Regional	45,969	22,942	closed
304.4.056-20	An Evolution of the Automotive Training Centre Serbia toward the Concepts of Light and Sustainable Mobility (ATC Evo)	Italy, Croatia, Slovenia	Serbia	85,955	39,960	closed
304.4.015-21	"Bridging the Culture Gap", Novi Sad 2022 - 95th International Session of the European Youth Parliament	Czechia, Slovenia, Italy	Regional	81,619	15,000	closed
304.4.022-21	To enhance the institutional and regulatory framework for organic food production in Albania	Italy	Albania	80,000	40,000	closed
304.4.026-21	Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Constitution and EU Accession, An Academic Platform for Discussing the Options	Italy	Bosnia and Herzegovina	79,960	39,700	under implementation
304.4.030-21	Exchange programme on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities between Albanian and Croatian Institutions of human rights and anti-discrimination	Croatia	Albania	18,310	9,130	closed
304.4.044-21	FORKITS- FOod expeRtise and Know-how exchange on technology transfer between Italy and Serbia	Italy	Serbia	35,199	20,802	closed
304.4.046-21	Italy-North Macedonia knowledge exchange in conservation and innovative management of cultural heritage	Italy	North Macedonia	50,524	25,020	closed

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304.4.072-21	MARteFund: developing cooperation in the creative sector in the Western Balkans through replication of an Italian expertise in project design and fundraising	Italy	Regional	79,920	39,960	under implementation
304.4.001-22	North Macedonia: Advisory Support for Strengthening the Capacities for Diaspora Engagement and Evidence-based Migration Policy Planning	IOM	North Macedonia	80,000	40,000	closed
304.4.015-22	Programming the EU Cohesion Policy: Exchange Programme on Chapter 22 in Serbia and Montenegro	Italy	Regional	79,718	39,808	under implementation
304.4.022-22	Assessing the effectiveness and affordability of tariff-setting methodologies in covering drinking water and wastewater services costs in the Western Balkans	Italy	Regional	121,800	39,400	under implementation
304.4.029-22	Reducing the impact of earthquakes in Albania through collaboration: Computing seismic hazard to support the update of Albania's building code	Italy	Albania	66,698	26,698	under implementation
304.4.055-22	Executive Program "Countering Corruption within Public Administration Through Transparency"	Italy	North Macedonia	82,820	39,820	under implementation
304.4.065-22	Harmonising the Regulatory FRAMEwork for the ORGanic food production in Montenegro with the Regulation (EU) 2018/848 - FRAME. ORG MONTENEGRO	Italy	Montenegro	74,700	37,350	under implementation
304.4.068-22	Strengthening ties and learning between the twinned municipalities of Centar Sarajevo and Reggio Emilia	Italy	Bosnia and Herzegovina	80,000	40,000	closed
304.4.070-22	Habitat, landscape, forest and water management: experiences in the mirror between from Italy to Moldova	Italy	Moldova	78,350	39,175	under implementation
304.4.2023.001	Supporting the Albanian Regulatory Authority to improve the efficiency of the wholesale electricity market	Italy	Albania	84,980	39,905	under implementation
304.4.2023.004	Promoting capacity building in Serbia through the transfer of technical knowledge and environmental protection measures in beekeeping sector (ProTechBee)	Italy	Serbia	78,094	39,047	approved
304.4.2023.018	CEI support for increasing capacity of research and action in Occupational and Environmental Health in Republic of Moldova	Italy	Moldova	79,951	39,971	approved
304.4.2023.029	CEI support to the implementation of the new electricity package adopted by the Energy Community Ministerial Council incorporating EU acquis on market integration with western Balkans	Italy	Regional	83,200	40,000	approved
304.4.2023.030	Assessment of air and water quality laboratories' capacities in Albania	Italy	Albania	57,411	28,411	approved
304.4.2023.031	CEI support to DATA ROL (Data Protection and the Rule of Law) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	80,000	40,000	approved
304.4.2023.034	Executive Program "Effective Management and Anti-Fraud Controls in the Use of EU funding instruments"	Italy	Regional	82,030	39,780	approved
304.4.2023.039	Territorial cohesion and place-based policies: an Exchange programme on Chapter 22 (COPE22)	Italy	Regional	79,472	39,700	approved
304.4.2023.045	CEI support to circular economy in the Skopje planning region, North Macedonia by promoting waste processing innovations and increased recycling across key waste streams.	Italy	North Macedonia	74,000	34,600	approved
304.4.2023.051	EU-SEE Forum for intercultural exchange on Sustainable management of cultural heritage (SMACH Forum)	Italy, Slovenia	Regional	82,720	40,000	approved
304.4.2023.060	CEI support to strengthen institutional capacity and performance of Ukrainian agri-food sector and rural development through application of EU policy tools and good practices.	Poland	Ukraine	95,530	38,380	approved
304.4.2023.064	CEI support to training and research to unlock and enhance the potential of sustainable blue economy for regional cooperation and EU integration (TRUE BLUE)	Croatia, Italy, Slovenia	Regional	80,000	40,000	approved
TOTAL				17,047,961	4,469,461	

Abbreviations and acronyms

AER	Assembly of European Regions
ATCO	Air Traffic Control Officer
BAS	Business Advisory Service
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
CHIAM	Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Italy
CEI	Central European Initiative
CEI-ES	Central European Initiative - Executive Secretariat
EBRD, the Bank	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
EGP	Enterprise Growth Programme
EIR	EBRD Investment Ratio
ENTSO-E	European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity
EU	European Union
E&S	Environmental and Social
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FBiH	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
FINTECC	Finance and Technology Transfer Centre for Climate Change
GET	Green Economic Transition
HPSU	High Potential Start-Up
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
JSC	Joint Stock Company
KEP	Know-how Exchange Programme
MAECI	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
MEF	Ministry of Economy and Finance, Italy
MSME	Micro, small and medium-sized Enterprise
MW	Megawatt
MWH	Montgomery Watson Harza
NECP	National Energy and Climate Plan
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organisation for security and Cooperation in Europe
OSHEE	Operatori i Shperndarjes se Energjise Elektrike (Albanian Alectric Energy Company)
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PPP	Public Private Partnership
SEEHN	South Eastern Europe Health Network
SME	Small and Medium Sized Enterprise
TAM	TurnAround Management Programme
TC	Technical Cooperation
TIR	Total Investment Ratio
ZPCG	Zeljeznicki Prevoz Crne Gore (Montenegro Railway Transport)
ZS	Zeleznice Srbije (Serbian Railways Company)

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Photography credits
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Produced by the Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD, July 2024

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