

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

CEI Fund at the EBRD





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, Czech Republic, 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 61.5 million EUR – mainly provides grant-type assistance for Technical Cooperation (TC) projects. The Fund has so far provided over 38 million EUR for TC projects. It has also contributed over 5.3 million EUR to the Know How Exchange Programme (KEP).

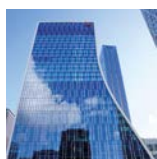
¹ According to the CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure the CEI Member States are Republic of Albania, Republic of Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italian Republic, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic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

ToC

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AGLI ITALIANI CHE PORTANO
LA PATRIA NEL MONDO

Intro

Introduction

The Central European Initiative (CEI) was established as a platform to promote dialogue and cooperation across Europe in response to the profound transformations following the fall of the Berlin Wall.

From the outset, the CEI has emphasized the importance of regional collaboration as a catalyst for democratic change, economic development, and social inclusion.

A notable example of this is the longstanding and productive partnership between the CEI and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which has played a key role in advancing the socio-economic development of the CEI region and supporting its path toward European integration.

Today, as Europe faces a range of complex challenges, this report presents a comprehensive overview of the initiatives financed in 2025 by Italy through the CEI Fund at the EBRD. These efforts were implemented primarily via the Technical Cooperation Programme and the Know-how Exchange Programme.

Maintaining a strong EU perspective for CEI countries that have yet to join the Union, and fostering regional integration, remain core strategic objectives of the CEI Fund. In 2025 alone, nearly 2.8 million EUR was allocated to support technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives in non-EU CEI countries.

Through the Technical Cooperation Programme, the CEI Fund provided over 2.2 million EUR for six technical assistance projects in critical areas such as sustainable energy and infrastructure, enterprise development, and agribusiness, thereby helping the EBRD unlock further investments.

Additionally, the Know-how Exchange Programme supported fifteen new projects with funding of over 550,000 EUR. These initiatives focused on strengthening institutional capacity and good governance to bolster the European integration prospects of CEI non-EU members, with a particular emphasis on digital transformation, energy and climate action, environmental protection, innovation, and scientific research.

Italy remains a steadfast supporter of regional cooperation, recognising its vital role in enhancing stability, upholding the rule of law, and fostering socio-economic progress throughout the CEI region.

As the continent continues to navigate evolving and multifaceted challenges, it is crucial for the CEI to adapt its tools and approaches to better respond to emerging priorities. Italy is fully committed to enhancing the impact of the CEI Fund across the region, ensuring it remains responsive and effective in meeting the needs of its beneficiaries, in alignment with the CEI Action Plan 2024–2026.



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EBRD

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 initiatives in more than 40 countries from central Europe to central Asia and the southern and eastern Mediterranean, as well as the West Bank and Gaza. The Bank is owned by 77 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 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 61.5 million EUR. Currently, countries of operations are: Albania, 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 several 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 2025, the Office staff was composed of a Programme Manager.

Promotion:

CEI Fund Promotional Activities: “Roadshows 2025 in the Western Balkans”

As part of the broader effort to enhance the visibility of the CEI Fund at the EBRD, promote its programmes, and share with beneficiary-country institutions the impact of the projects financed, a series of promotional events was organised in 2025 across the Western Balkans.

The initiatives were led by the Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD, in close cooperation with the Italian Embassies in the region, whose engagement was essential in mobilising national stakeholders and securing strong local participation, and with the valuable support of the EBRD Resident Offices.

Held in May 2025, the roadshows represented an important opportunity to highlight the CEI Fund at the EBRD and Italy’s role as its sole donor. The events took place in Belgrade (6 May), Skopje (7 May), Tirana (8 May), Podgorica (26 May) and Sarajevo (27 May).

The participation of CEI National Coordinators and senior representatives of beneficiary governments - particularly from strategic sectors such as energy, infrastructure, SME development and public administration - strengthened the

institutional dialogue and provided a concrete platform to present the impact of CEI-funded projects, especially those implemented under the Technical Cooperation Programme in support of EBRD investment preparation.

The roadshows also promoted the funding opportunities offered by the forthcoming Call for Proposals of the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP), a key instrument for knowledge transfer and cooperation, including through the valorisation of Italian expertise. The announcement of the 2025 KEP Call generated strong interest among local stakeholders and encouraged the preparation of project proposals aligned with the Fund’s strategic priorities, resulting in an increased number of submissions from beneficiary countries.

In summary, the 2025 roadshows strengthened the visibility of the Italy-funded CEI Facility, highlighted the tangible impact of its projects within institutional relations with beneficiary countries, and promoted new opportunities for cooperation and financing.

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 over 38 million EUR towards 209 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

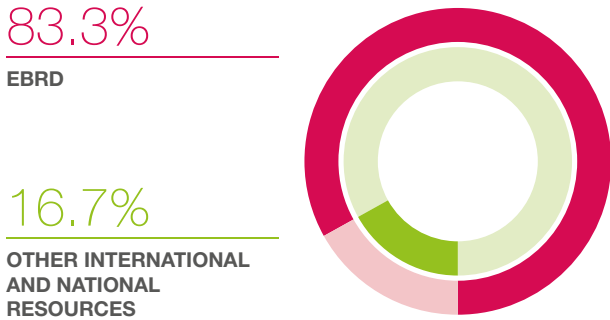
Technical cooperation grants typically involve technical expertise to help design or implement an investment project. The CEI TC Programme aims at supporting the Bank's investments and loans, either at project preparation or implementation level. The CEI has undertaken projects which yield high co-financing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

TC projects supported by the CEI Fund from 1993 to 2025 are expected to mobilise over 8.3 billion EUR of international investments. The EBRD alone is expected to contribute to those investments with over 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 2025, the Total Investment Ratio (TIR) was estimated to be 1:250. The EBRD's share, alone, is expected to reach 208 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 8.3 billion EUR of estimated total linked investments)



Total Investment Ratio = 1:250
Total Investments / Total committed CEI grants

EBRD Investment Ratio = 1:208
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. 37% of its resources (amounting to over 14 million EUR) have been committed to regional operations through 59 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 1993-2025.

Chart 2.2.

Cumulative distribution of TC assignments by country, 1993-2025 *(share of a total of 209 assignments)*

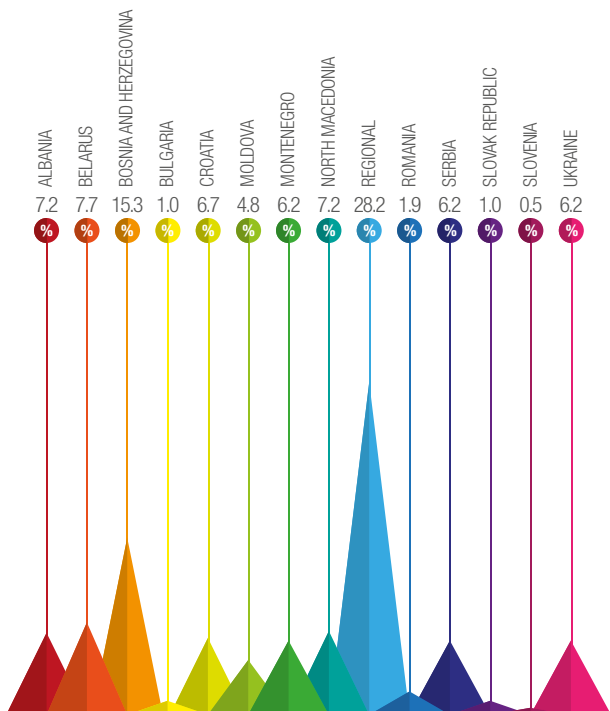
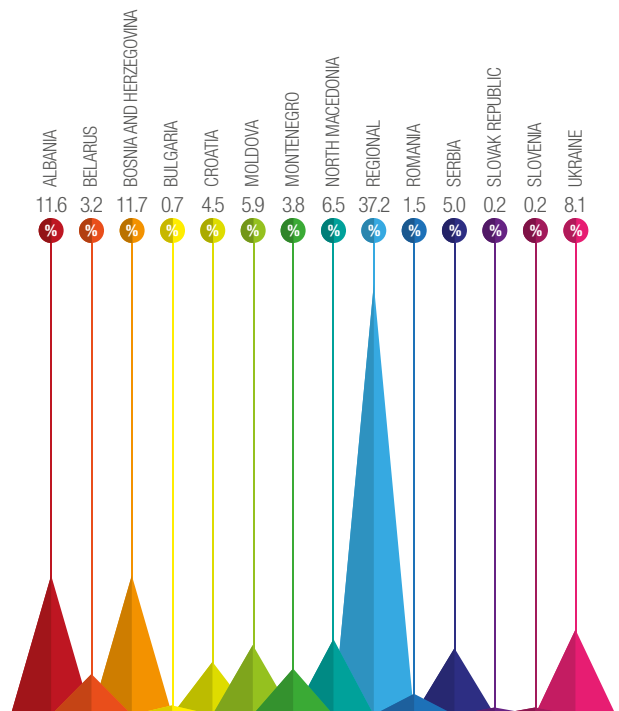


Chart 2.3.

Cumulative distribution of TC assignments by country, 1993-2025 *(share of total committed grants of 38,025,678 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 benefited from the CEI Fund the most, followed by SME support and by energy/climate. The charts below illustrate the distribution of TC projects by number of assignments and their value over the period 1993-2025.

Chart 2.4.
Cumulative distribution of TC assignments by sector, 1993-2025 (share of a total of 209 assignments)

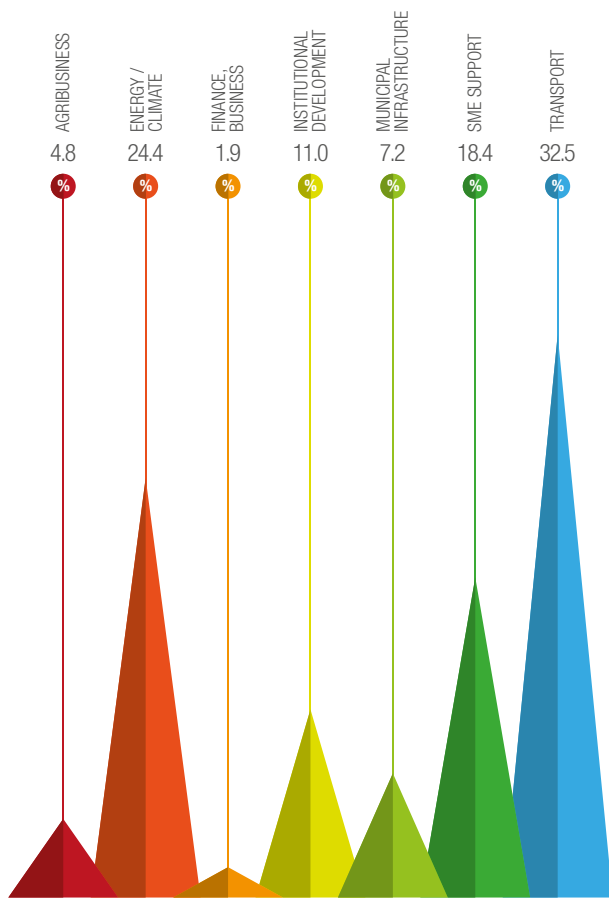
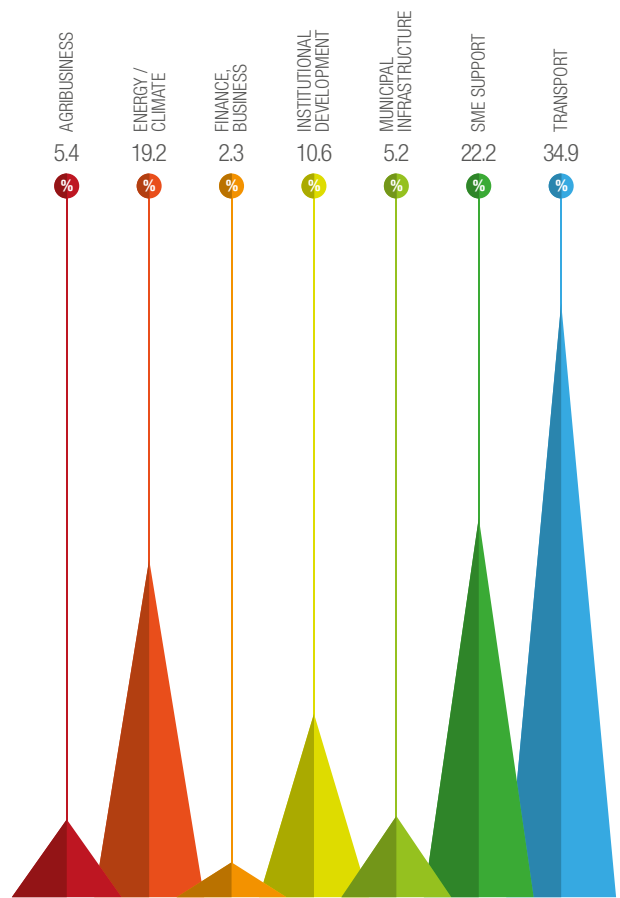


Chart 2.5.
Cumulative distribution of TC assignments by sector, 1993-2025 (share of total committed grants of 38,025,678 EUR)





Technical Cooperation Programme

Projects approved in 2025

02

Table 2.1. List of TC assignments approved in 2025

No.	Assignment name	Country of operation	Sector of operation	Value €	Expected related investment (€ million)
1	Circular Economy Regional Initiative - Technical Assistance for adopting circular technologies and processes, and strategies	Regional	Finance, business	200,000	Up to 30
2	Tunnel Prenj – JP Autoceste Corporate Development Programme	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	400,000	Up to 300
3	Fostering food quality and competitiveness through digitalisation	Regional	Agribusiness	388,450	Not applicable
4	SOEs Management Assistance Reform and Transformation (SMART) – “Distribution Code update and Investment Planning support to OSHEE”. Component 2: support with Investment Planning for OSHEE	Albania	Energy/ Climate	130,000	80
5	Ukraine Energy Security Support Facility (ESSF)	Ukraine	Energy/ Climate	1,000,000	40
6	Miravci Wind Power Project - Wind resource measurement and Energy yield assessment	North Macedonia	Energy/ Climate	120,000	150
TOTAL				2,238,450	600

Circular Economy Regional Initiative - Technical Assistance for adopting circular technologies and processes, and strategies

COUNTRY OF OPERATION Regional (non-EU CEI Member States)
SECTOR OF OPERATION Business, finance
VALUE 200,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION 12 months

BACKGROUND

Across the EBRD region, the traditional linear economic model—based on extracting, producing, consuming and discarding—has increased pressure on natural resources and accelerated waste generation. This model contributes to higher greenhouse gas emissions, extensive landfill use, significant water consumption and the release of hazardous chemicals, including Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and unintended POPs (uPOPs). Short product lifecycles further amplify inefficiencies.

To address these challenges, the Circular Economy Regional Initiative (CERI) supports public, private and municipal actors in adopting resource-efficient technologies, circular processes and innovative business models. Implemented by the EBRD in cooperation with the Global Environment Facility, which has provided USD 15 million in investment grants, the Programme aims to improve raw material management across product lifecycles, divert waste from landfills and the marine environment, reduce or avoid GHG emissions, and eliminate or better manage harmful chemicals.

The EBRD has extensive experience in circular economy financing, having supported more than 100 projects and mobilised over 1 billion EUR. However, many companies in non-EU CEI Member States still face challenges in identifying circular opportunities, assessing investment feasibility and aligning with emerging standards such as the EU Circular Economy Classification System. This Technical Assistance project responds to these needs by strengthening companies' capacity to adopt circular technologies, improve resource efficiency and integrate circularity into long-term strategies. Gender-responsive considerations will also be incorporated to ensure that women and men's differentiated needs are reflected in circular transformation processes.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

The Action supports the adoption of circular economy practices through two complementary components: Circular Economy Roadmaps and Circular Economy Assessments.

1. Circular Economy Roadmap

This component helps clients define a strategic pathway for circular transformation. Activities include:

- conducting an initial scoping exercise to identify entry points for circularity;
- benchmarking products, processes and services against international best practices and emerging circular standards;
- identifying priority intervention areas and opportunities for integrating circular principles into business strategies;
- developing a tailored circular economy roadmap outlining

actions, timelines and expected impacts;

- ensuring that gender-differentiated needs and opportunities are considered throughout the process.

2. Circular Economy Assessment

This component helps companies understand whether potential circular measures are technically feasible and financially worthwhile. The assessment will:

- evaluate the costs and economic benefits of proposed circular measures, including required investments, operational costs and potential savings;
- verify alignment with international circular economy standards, particularly the Circular Economy Categorisation System;
- assess the maturity and market uptake of proposed technologies and business models;
- identify risks associated with maintaining linear models and propose mitigation measures;
- measure the company's level of circularity before and after investments using recognised tools such as Circulytics or the Circular Transition Indicators;
- analyse the company's use of energy, water and materials, and its management of waste, by-products and chemicals, including POPs and uPOPs;
- identify additional opportunities for improvement following the 9R strategies (refuse, rethink, reduce, re-use, repair, refurbish, remanufacture, repurpose, recycle);
- consider sustainable packaging and gender-responsive aspects, where relevant.

Across both components, the Technical Assistance will support companies in collecting data, benchmarking performance, identifying feasible investments and preparing the necessary financial and technical analyses. The assignment will strengthen local capacity, promote innovation and contribute to long-term competitiveness in the region.

INVESTMENT LINKS

The Technical Assistance is expected to support the preparation of 3 to 5 investment projects, with an estimated total value of 20–30 million EUR. These investments will focus on circular technologies, resource-efficient processes, waste reduction and innovative business models aligned with CERI objectives.

By improving companies' readiness for circular investments and strengthening their strategic and operational capacity, the Action will contribute to a pipeline of bankable projects that can benefit from EBRD financing and complementary donor support. The initiative will also generate long-term economic, environmental and social benefits, including reduced material intensity, improved competitiveness, enhanced innovation and greater gender inclusion in circular economy sectors.

Tunnel Prenj – JP Autoceste Corporate Development Programme

COUNTRY OF OPERATION	Bosnia and Herzegovina
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Transport
VALUE	400,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION	16 months

BACKGROUND

Bosnia and Herzegovina's transport sector operates within a complex, entity-based governance system in which responsibilities for planning, construction and maintenance are divided between the Federation of BiH, Republika Srpska and Brčko District. In the Federation, JP Autoceste (JPAC) manages motorways and expressways, while JP Ceste oversees trunk roads. Although the road network is relatively dense, the motorway network remains limited, vehicle fleets are significantly older than EU averages, and road freight dominates inland transport. Corridor Vc - part of the Western Balkans Core Network and the indicative extension of the TEN-T - plays a strategic role for national connectivity and regional transit flows.

The EBRD is considering financing the construction of a 35 km motorway section of Corridor Vc, including the Ovcari-Tunnel Prenj segment, the 11 km dual-tube Tunnel Prenj, and the section from Tunnel Prenj to Mostar North. Rising construction costs have required adjustments to the financing structure, with the EIB and EBRD expected to provide up to 950 EUR million in loans, complemented by additional support from the Government of the Federation of BiH. The Corridor Vc programme represents one of the largest infrastructure investments in the country, with long-term implications for public finances, asset management and operational sustainability.

To deliver this programme effectively, JPAC must strengthen its financial planning, improve internal systems and enhance operational efficiency, particularly in areas such as staffing, tolling operations, maintenance planning and cost control. This Technical Assistance supports JPAC in addressing these challenges and in aligning its practices with international standards.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

The Action supports JP Autoceste in strengthening its financial management and improving operational efficiency to ensure the sustainable delivery of Corridor Vc. It is structured around two complementary components that together provide a clearer strategic direction, stronger internal systems and a more efficient operating model.

1. Corporate and Sector Diagnostic

This component offers a concise assessment of JPAC's organisational, financial and operational performance.

It reviews the company's business model, governance arrangements, revenue structure and main cost drivers, and examines construction and maintenance programmes, asset management practices and the regulatory environment. It also compares JPAC's staffing levels, tolling operations and key cost categories with domestic and international peers. The diagnostic identifies structural gaps, operational inefficiencies and financial risks, and defines the priority areas where improvements are most needed.

2. Financial and Operational Strengthening

This component develops the tools and measures required to support JPAC's long-term financial sustainability and operational performance. It includes the preparation of a financial model that reflects current revenues, operating costs, capital needs and debt service, and that allows the assessment of different delivery scenarios for Corridor Vc. It also provides a financial strategy and a Financial Reporting Action Plan to improve accounting practices, internal reporting, MIS systems and overall financial planning.

The component further reviews JPAC's tolling practices, compares them with regional approaches and proposes a modernised tolling policy that supports cost recovery and more predictable revenues. In parallel, it analyses the efficiency of staffing, maintenance, tolling and administrative functions, identifies feasible measures to reduce costs and improve productivity, and prepares targeted Efficiency Action Plans with clear implementation steps and expected savings.

Across both components, the Technical Assistance delivers practical outputs that strengthen JPAC's capacity to plan, finance, operate and maintain the expanding motorway network in a sustainable and efficient manner.

INVESTMENT LINKS

The Technical Assistance is directly linked to the preparation and implementation of major investments in Corridor Vc, for which the EBRD is considering financing of up to 300 million EUR. By strengthening JPAC's financial planning, operational efficiency and institutional capacity, the Action will support the sustainable delivery of one of the country's most significant infrastructure programmes. The initiative is expected to generate long-term benefits including improved connectivity, enhanced service quality, more efficient use of public resources and greater financial resilience.

Fostering food quality and competitiveness through digitalisation

COUNTRY OF OPERATION Regional (Western Balkans)
SECTOR OF OPERATION Agribusiness
VALUE 388,450 EUR
PLANNED DURATION 24 months

BACKGROUND

Across the Western Balkans, small and medium-scale food producers play a central role in rural economies but often face structural barriers that limit their competitiveness. Fragmented supply chains, limited access to information, low digital literacy and difficulties in complying with food safety and quality standards constrain their ability to reach higher-value markets. At the same time, consumer interest in local, traditional and certified products is growing, and the Covid-19 pandemic accelerated the relevance of Short Food Supply Chains (SFSCs), digital marketplaces and food hubs as tools to strengthen resilience and market connectivity.

Quality labels, including Geographical Indications (GIs), have proven effective in differentiating products, improving traceability and increasing value for producers. However, the adoption of such standards remains uneven due to complex procedures, limited advisory support and the absence of user-friendly tools to guide producers through compliance and certification processes. Digital solutions—such as mobile applications, e-extension platforms and cloud-based advisory systems—offer an opportunity to simplify requirements, improve traceability and strengthen coordination along the value chain.

FAO and the EBRD have collaborated for more than 25 years to promote sustainable, competitive and inclusive agrifood systems in the region. Their joint work has supported the development of digital platforms, strengthened producer associations, improved food safety and quality standards, and facilitated linkages between small producers and buyers, including EBRD clients. Building on these achievements, the present Technical Assistance aims to scale up digital tools and market inclusion models to enhance quality assurance, certification processes and market access for producers across the Western Balkans.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

The Action aims to strengthen food quality, traceability and competitiveness in the Western Balkans by promoting the use of digital tools for quality assurance and GI certification, and by enhancing digital market inclusion and aggregation through improved supply chain linkages and access to standards.

1. Digital Quality Assurance and GI Certification

This component supports the adoption of digital tools to help producers meet food safety, quality and GI requirements. It focuses on selecting and piloting suitable FAO open-source solutions with producer associations in Serbia. The work includes reviewing existing digital models, adapting the most relevant tool to local needs, and developing technical content on agronomy, post-harvest practices, food safety and GI management. The pilot will test user-friendliness, gather feedback and strengthen associations' capacity to support their members. E-guides and e-learning modules will provide step-by-step guidance on compliance, traceability and quality control. The component aims to make certification processes more accessible, improve consistency in quality management and enhance producers' competitiveness.

2. Digital Market Inclusion and Aggregation

This component expands and consolidates the Seljak digital marketplace and food hub model, initially developed in Montenegro, to other Western Balkan countries such as Serbia and North Macedonia. It aims to increase producers' market outreach, improve trading performance and strengthen regional collaboration. The platform will be upgraded with interactive e-modules on market requirements, digital marketing, quality control and best practices. Training activities will support SMEs, including women producer groups, in e-commerce, digital literacy and marketing. The component also broadens food safety and quality testing for new products, helping producers build trust and access new markets. Knowledge-sharing activities will promote digital innovations and highlight the benefits of improved traceability, quality and inclusion across agri-food value chains.

Together, the two components aim to digitalise quality assurance processes, enhance traceability, expand market access and strengthen the capacity of producers and associations, contributing to more sustainable, inclusive and competitive agrifood systems in the region.

INVESTMENT LINKS

Not applicable.

SOEs Management Assistance Reform and Transformation (SMART) – “Distribution Code update and Investment Planning support to OSHEE”. Component 2: support with Investment Planning for OSHEE

COUNTRY OF OPERATION	Albania
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Energy/climate
VALUE	130,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION	16 months

BACKGROUND

Albania’s electricity distribution system operator, OSHEE, plays a central role in the country’s energy sector, supplying all regulated customers, acting as supplier of last resort, operating the distribution network and purchasing electricity from most independent power producers. Following years of hydrological volatility, high import prices and financial stress, the EBRD is providing a loan of up to 80 million EUR to restore liquidity, refinance short-term debt and support the modernisation of the distribution system. In parallel, Albania continues to align its electricity market with EU rules and Energy Community obligations, including the integration of renewable energy, improved network operation and the adoption of modern regulatory frameworks.

OSHEE has been restructured into a holding company with three licensed subsidiaries responsible for distribution, supply and universal service. As part of ongoing reforms, the company is updating the Albanian Distribution Code to reflect national legislation, international best practices and EU requirements. This update will support more efficient network operations, non-discriminatory access and greater renewable energy integration. At the same time, OSHEE must strengthen its investment planning processes to ensure that future infrastructure development is transparent, coordinated and aligned with regulatory expectations.

In this context, OSHEE has requested Technical Assistance to support the development of robust investment planning methodologies and processes. This work forms Component 2 of the broader SMART programme and complements the policy advisory activities under Component 1. The Action will help OSHEE prepare its first investment programme under a modernised framework, contributing to a more resilient, efficient and climate-aligned electricity distribution system in Albania.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

The Action aims to strengthen OSHEE’s corporate and institutional capacity for investment planning, ensuring that future network development is aligned with EU and Energy Community requirements, national legislation and best international practices. It focuses on establishing clear, transparent and efficient processes for preparing, submitting and implementing OSHEE’s investment programme, while supporting coordination across the system and ensuring non-discriminatory treatment of market participants.

The work begins with a comprehensive review of Albania’s

regulatory framework and OSHEE’s obligations, including national legislation, Energy Community commitments, methodologies issued by the Energy Regulatory Authority (ERE) and other relevant rules. This review is complemented by an assessment of international experience and a gap analysis comparing OSHEE’s current practices with those of distribution system operators in the EU and the Energy Community region. The analysis considers forecasting, cost-benefit assessment, long-term planning, stakeholder coordination, transparency, and emerging challenges such as renewable integration, electrification, climate resilience and anticipatory investments. The findings will be consolidated into a Corporate Development Review Memo.

Building on this diagnostic, the Action will develop practical investment planning methodologies, guidelines and procedures tailored to Albania’s regulatory and market context. These will define the objectives and structure of OSHEE’s investment programme, approval timelines, roles and responsibilities, data requirements, consultation processes and approaches to assessing and comparing investment alternatives. The methodologies will support OSHEE in preparing a coherent, well-justified investment programme that reflects system needs, regulatory expectations and long-term energy transition priorities.

Finally, the Action provides hands-on support for the preparation, submission and approval of OSHEE’s first investment programme under the new framework. This includes assistance with data validation, engagement with ERE, coordination with market participants and corrective actions where needed. Capacity-building activities will strengthen OSHEE’s ability to apply the new methodologies, interact effectively with regulators and stakeholders, and embed improved planning practices into its long-term operations.

Together, these outputs will help OSHEE adopt a modern, transparent and efficient investment planning framework, supporting Albania’s energy transition and the development of a more resilient and sustainable distribution network.

INVESTMENT LINKS

The Technical Assistance complements the EBRD’s 80 million EUR loan to OSHEE, which supports financial restructuring and the modernisation of Albania’s distribution system. Strengthened investment planning will improve the quality, efficiency and climate resilience of future infrastructure investments, supporting renewable energy integration and long-term sector sustainability.

Ukraine Energy Security Support Facility (ESSF)

COUNTRY OF OPERATION. Ukraine
SECTOR OF OPERATION. Energy/climate
VALUE 1,000,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION. 24 months

BACKGROUND

Russia's ongoing military aggression has severely damaged Ukraine's energy infrastructure, triggering an unprecedented energy crisis marked by frequent power outages, reduced generation capacity and urgent reconstruction needs. In response, the EBRD launched the Energy Security Support Facility (ESSF) in July 2024 to provide intermediated financing through Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) for renewable energy, decentralised power generation, energy storage and energy efficiency investments. Initially designed to mobilise up to 700 million EUR, the Facility was expanded in 2025 to 2 billion EUR due to strong demand and the scale of reconstruction needs.

Ukraine faces a substantial shortfall in generation capacity. By 2026, the country is expected to require at least 4.3 GW of new renewable energy and 1.1 GW of gas-fired cogeneration to meet urgent needs. Depending on further damage, an additional 10.5–14.6 GW may be required by 2030. The ESSF aims to address these gaps by enabling rapid deployment of small- and medium-scale energy security investments by MSMEs, mid-corporates, SOEs, municipalities, housing associations and households. The Facility includes two financing windows: an Enterprise Window of up to EUR 1.7 billion for businesses and municipal entities, and a Residential Window of up to 300 million EUR for households and housing associations.

Given the urgency of restoring reliable energy supply, the Facility is supported by a comprehensive Technical Assistance package. The TA is designed to accelerate sub-project preparation, ensure correct implementation of technologies, strengthen the capacity of PFIs and sub-borrowers, and facilitate access to modern, high-performance equipment. It also aims to address market barriers such as shortages of eligible technologies, limited technical expertise and the need for rapid grid connection processes. Through this support, the ESSF contributes to Ukraine's energy resilience, reconstruction and long-term transition to a greener, more decentralised energy system.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

The Action aims to ensure the rapid and effective implementation of the Energy Security Support Facility by strengthening the capacity of PFIs and sub-borrowers to identify, structure and implement eligible energy security investments. It focuses on accelerating sub-project preparation, improving technical quality, facilitating access

to equipment and supporting the deployment of renewable energy, cogeneration and energy efficiency technologies across Ukraine.

The Technical Assistance provides urgent technical and eligibility assessments to shorten implementation timelines and reduce the risk of mis-implementation. It supports correct installation and operation of technologies, ensuring that sub-projects meet EBRD requirements and deliver expected energy security benefits. The Action also facilitates outreach to international and local suppliers to address shortages of eligible equipment and improve access to modern, efficient technologies. Guidance is provided to PFIs and sub-borrowers on grid connection procedures to accelerate commissioning of new power generation assets.

To support rapid deployment, the TA includes extensive capacity-building and outreach activities. These include workshops, regional seminars, supplier events and the preparation of marketing and informational materials. PFIs receive early support to ensure readiness for participation in the Facility, including guidance for loan officers, webinars and in-person sessions for headquarters and regional branches. Sub-borrowers and local suppliers benefit from training on technology options, implementation requirements and best practices. Engagement with housing associations further supports uptake in the residential sector.

The Action also strengthens PFIs' ability to build a pipeline of bankable green projects, conduct eligibility assessments and verify sub-projects. It provides sub-borrowers with recommendations on the best available technologies, technical parameters and structuring approaches. Support is also provided to facilitate grid connection processes and ensure compliance with EBRD policies and reporting requirements.

Overall, the Technical Assistance enables a streamlined, high-quality implementation of the ESSF, helping Ukraine deploy energy security investments at scale and speed during a period of acute need.

INVESTMENT LINKS

The 1 million EUR in Technical Assistance will support approximately 40 million EUR of new investment financing by MSMEs, mid-corporates, SOEs, municipalities, housing associations and households in renewable energy, cogeneration, energy efficiency and other energy security technologies.

Miravci Wind Power Project - Wind resource measurement and Energy yield assessment

COUNTRY OF OPERATION	North Macedonia
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Energy/climate
VALUE	120,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION	18 months

BACKGROUND

North Macedonia is accelerating its energy transition in line with national decarbonisation objectives, EU accession commitments and regional energy security priorities. The country's electricity system remains heavily dependent on lignite-based generation, creating an urgent need to diversify the energy mix and expand renewable energy capacity. Wind power is a central pillar of this transition, offering significant potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen security of supply and support a just transition in coal-dependent regions.

In this context, the EBRD and the Italian Development Bank Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP) are considering financing the construction of an up to or above 100 MW wind farm near the village of Miravci, in the Gevgelija Municipality. The site lies in the southern part of the Demir Kapija gorge, at altitudes between 390 and 700 metres, characterised by low vegetation and complex terrain. Total project costs are estimated at 150 million EUR. Electricity generated will be sold at the corporate level to the universal supplier and the market, without dedicated offtake arrangements. The wind farm is expected to produce around 350 GWh annually, reducing emissions by approximately 260,000 tCO₂ per year.

ESM, the state-owned electricity generation company, initially planned a 50 MW wind farm at the site and conducted earlier wind measurements using a 50-metre mast, but only one year of raw data from 2009 is available. To support the development of a larger, bankable project, the EBRD and CDP will provide technical assistance for a new wind measurement campaign, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, a feasibility study and a preliminary design. The feasibility study is expected to begin in early 2026. ESM already operates the 36 MW Bogdanci wind farm nearby and is currently expanding it with four additional turbines.

Given the scale of the planned investment and the limited availability of recent, high-quality wind data, a new measurement campaign and a robust energy yield assessment are essential to ensure accurate resource characterisation, optimise turbine layout and support financing decisions.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

The Action aims to provide ESM with reliable, bankable wind resource data and long-term energy yield projections to

support the development of an up to or above 100 MW wind farm at Miravci. It focuses on designing and implementing a modern wind measurement campaign in line with international standards and producing high-quality energy yield assessments that reflect site conditions, turbine characteristics and long-term climatic variability.

The Technical Assistance begins with a detailed site assessment to confirm optimal locations for measurement equipment, taking into account terrain, surface roughness, environmental sensitivities and accessibility. It includes the design, installation and operation of met masts and/or LIDAR/SODAR systems for at least twelve consecutive months, ensuring compliance with IEC and MEASNET requirements. The work covers permitting, procurement, calibration, commissioning, maintenance and continuous data collection. Regular reporting will ensure transparency and allow early identification of issues. Data will be subject to rigorous quality control, with preliminary analysis after four months and full long-term correction after twelve months using Measure-Correlate-Predict methods.

Based on the measured and corrected wind data, the Action will deliver a comprehensive energy yield assessment. This includes uncertainty analysis, modelling of wind flow using computational fluid dynamics, wake modelling, and estimation of gross and net energy yields for each turbine location. The assessment will incorporate all relevant loss factors and provide long-term production estimates at P50, P75, P90 and P99 confidence levels. Where relevant, historical data from the nearby Bogdanci wind farm will be reviewed to strengthen the analysis.

Together, these outputs will provide ESM and the financing institutions with robust, bankable information to support project design, feasibility assessment and investment decisions, contributing to the expansion of wind energy capacity in North Macedonia and supporting the country's broader energy transition.

INVESTMENT LINKS

The Technical Assistance supports the preparation of a 150 million EUR investment, expected to be co-financed by the EBRD (75 million EUR) and CDP (75 million EUR), for the construction of an up to or above 100 MW wind farm at Miravci.



Technical Cooperation Programme

Projects closed in 2025

02

Table 2.2. List of TC assignments closed in 2025

No.	Earmark document number	Assignment name	Country of operation	Sector of operation	Value €
1	50007341	Serbia: Climate-smart national irrigation strategy	Serbia	Agribusiness	140,836
2	50008812	Support for the Implementation of Renewable Energy Auctions in Montenegro	Montenegro	Energy	247,429
3	50007363	Strengthening Quality Standards in the Agrifood Sector	Regional (Montenegro, Serbia)	Agribusiness	118,325
5	50006823	Serbia Voz Rolling Stock Acquisition	Serbia	Transport	74,000
6	50009943	Decarbonisation and Action Plan for Javno Preduzeće Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS)	Serbia	Energy	297,720
TOTAL					878,310

EARMARK DOCUMENT NO	50007341
COUNTRY OF OPERATION	Serbia
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Agribusiness
VALUE	140,836 EUR (165,250 USD)
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	December 2020 – December 2025

FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

The Project supported the drafting of Serbia's Irrigation Development Strategy ("the Strategy") and the identification of policy and investment options to enhance agricultural productivity, sustainability, and climate resilience through improved and newly developed irrigation networks.

It was implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and structured around two main components:

- engaging and supporting stakeholders in preparing the Strategy and its five-year Action Plan;
- identifying and mapping priority irrigation investments for the 2020–2030 period.

OUTCOMES

Throughout implementation, the EBRD and FAO worked closely with a wide range of Serbian institutions coordinated through the Irrigation Strategy Working Group. This included the main line ministries, water management authorities at national and provincial level, academic and research institutions, and other sectoral organisations involved in agriculture and water management.

Draft Irrigation Strategy and Action Plan

A first draft of the Strategy was submitted to the Water Management Directorate (WMD) in September 2021, followed by the final drafts of the Strategy and Action Plan, which were presented to the Working Group in July 2022 and received full clearance by the end of the year.

Although WMD did not complete its internal review or the environmental impact assessment during 2023–2025, endorsement of the documents was nevertheless agreed in December 2025, marking the formal completion of the Project. WMD will carry out the environmental impact assessment from February 2026, after which the Strategy will be opened for public consultation and subsequently

submitted to the Government for adoption. FAO technical experts remain available for ad-hoc support.

Serbian Climate Resilience and Irrigation Programme (SCRIP)

SCRIP is a EUR 30 million two-sovereign loan approved in 2019 and extended in 2023 to finance critical irrigation infrastructure in three regions of Serbia. The programme combines EBRD-financed investments with FAO-led policy dialogue for the preparation of the Strategy, as well as technical assistance aimed at strengthening the contribution of women farmers to climate resilience and agricultural competitiveness.

Capa city building in the irrigation sector

In support of the Strategy's development, the Project facilitated a broad set of knowledge-sharing and training activities. These included an international webinar on irrigation network development and management, as well as four thematic workshops on water governance, irrigation economics, irrigation methods, and climate change impacts on agriculture and water resources.

Training programmes delivered by the Institute for Science Application in Agriculture covered key technical and economic aspects of irrigation, financing options, and gender dimensions in access to agricultural resources. By the end of 2022, 150 participants from 34 cities across Serbia had taken part.

Gender inclusion analysis

The University of Belgrade – Faculty of Agriculture prepared a gender inclusion brief providing an in-depth analysis of the gender characteristics of agricultural holdings in Serbia, with particular attention to access to irrigation and incentives for investment. The study examined the gender profile of farm holders, structural differences between male- and female-managed farms, and gender-related aspects of irrigation use.

Support for the Implementation of Renewable Energy Auctions in Montenegro

EARMARK DOCUMENT NO	50008812
COUNTRY OF OPERATION	Montenegro
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Energy
VALUE	247,429 EUR
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	July 2022 – June 2025

FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

The Montenegrin Ministry of Energy and Mining requested the assistance of the EBRD with competitive renewable energy (RE) auctions for onshore wind and/or solar PV, with the objective of helping diversify energy supply and create an enabling environment for international private investment in Montenegro's renewable energy sector. This involved supporting the design and implementation of a renewable energy auction and facilitating the scaling-up of renewables through wider sector reforms, including a new Law on Renewable Energy Sources and reforms to promote the market integration of renewable energy sources.

The key objectives of this assignment were to:

1) Provide detailed recommendations for the following elements relevant to the development of renewable resources, and draft/make amendments to existing related legislation and documentation:

- Support counterparty: review and provide recommendations on the institutional, payment and funding arrangements for the support counterparty.
- Structure of support for renewable energy: advise the Montenegrin authorities on the structure of a mechanism (including transition arrangements if needed) by which support to renewable energy was provided in relation to a reference electricity market price (i.e. a feed-in premium).
- Balancing arrangements: provide detailed recommendations on selected elements of the balancing arrangements for renewable energy, including the market and regulatory conditions under which RE producers could become balancing responsible parties (BRPs), and potential measures that could improve the efficiency of balancing arrangements.
- Taxation regime: provide recommendations for key regulatory reforms for the taxation regime for renewable energy projects in line with international best practice and the elements needed for an enabling environment for private sector investment.

2) Develop detailed recommendations on the design of auctions for procuring renewable energy capacity (including on the associated institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks), based on the analysis conducted in Parts 1) and 4).

- Prepare, up to the final version, all the auction-related documentation required for the implementation of the renewable energy auctions.
- Conduct a high-level assessment of site suitability, assessing technical, environmental and social dimensions alongside resource availability.
- Provide detailed technical, financial, legal and environmental assistance to the Authorities for the implementation of the renewable energy auctions.
- Evaluate the process and results of the auctions implemented under this assignment and provide advice to the Authorities on potential future changes to the renewable energy auctions framework.

The total cost of the auction support was 1.4 million EUR. CEI funds, together with those from Austria, were used to support Phase 1 of the auction support (tasks 1–4 above). Phase 2 (which began in August 2025 is funded by the European Union and will cover the remaining tasks (5–6).

OUTCOMES

The deliverables from this assignment included:

- Development and adoption, in August 2024, of a new Law on Renewable Energy Sources (RES).
- Design recommendations for the first auction round, including the structure of support, arrangements for the support counterparty, balancing arrangements, and ceiling price methodology.
- Site suitability and resource availability assessment for wind and solar

A key objective was to provide assistance to the authorities in aligning the legal and regulatory framework with the commitments stemming from Montenegro's membership of the Energy Community Treaty, and specifically the introduction of competitive bidding processes for renewable energy and market-based incentive schemes. This objective was achieved with the adoption of the new Law on Renewable Energy Sources. The corresponding secondary legislation required for auction implementation was planned for development in the second phase of the assignment (which was underway). Furthermore, the design recommendations for the auction were completed.

CEI funding contributed to the development of the new RES Law as well as to the associated legal, regulatory and commercial analysis for the renewables incentive scheme.

Strengthening Quality Standards in the Agrifood Sector

EARMARK DOCUMENT NO	50007363
COUNTRY OF OPERATION	Regional (Montenegro, Serbia)
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Agribusiness
VALUE	118,325 EUR (134,000 USD)
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	June 2020 – January 2025

FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

The Project aimed to strengthen food quality standards and enhance the competitiveness of the agrifood sector in the Western Balkans and the Caucasus. The Project was implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and was organised around two main objectives: (i) supporting the development, marketing and promotion of quality products in both Montenegro and Serbia by developing the capacity of producers' associations for relevant Geographical Indication (GI) labels and the Serbian Quality Label (SQL); and (ii) sharing knowledge, practices and lessons learned between the Western Balkans and the Caucasus related to food quality standards.

OUTCOMES

The Project strengthened food quality standards and enhanced the competitiveness of the agrifood sector in the Western Balkans through support to the development, promotion and marketing of quality products, including GIs and national quality labels such as the SQL; and enhanced capacity development and knowledge sharing between the Western Balkans and the Caucasus through a series of regional workshops, webinars, coaching sessions and international exchanges, facilitating the transfer of experience on GI systems, internal control mechanisms and the promotion of traditional products and agritourism. Activities related to Georgia were not financed by the CEI Fund.

Specific outcomes included:

Component 1 – Supporting promotion and marketing of quality products (GIs and SQL)

- In Serbia, outreach of GI and SQL products for domestic market consolidation and promotion was improved through business-matching between GI associations, retailers and the HORECA sector, as well as support to the Ariljska Malina Association to access export markets.
- SQL product specifications were drafted and developed for potential products with producers' associations and companies, including Nectar, Atlantic Carnex, the

SQL Meat Association, the Egg Association, Kopaonik Association and Atlantic Grupa, resulting in two new draft SQL specifications for tomato purée and jam.

- Understanding and implementation of food hygiene and packaging flexibility provisions were improved, supported by implementation guidelines, training videos and a dissemination workshop.
- In Montenegro, linkages between GI and traditional producers and the tourism sector were strengthened through further development of the Seljak B2B platform (25,000+ members) and a mobile application.
- Access to market and sector information for agrifood stakeholders was improved through regular knowledge-sharing content and video materials. Over 30 knowledge-sharing posts and over 40 Seljak TV videos were developed and published.
- Component 2 – Capacity development and knowledge sharing
- Georgian GI experience was transferred to the Western Balkans to strengthen the GI system through a series of regional exchange webinars, a three-day field visit by international professors, participation in an international GI conference in Montpellier in July 2022, and distance coaching sessions on needs assessments of GI associations involving 40 beneficiaries across Serbia, Montenegro and Georgia, including public authorities in Montenegro and Georgia. In addition, a workshop was organised, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, to develop the capacity of GI associations and producers' groups on the topic of GI labelling.
- Experience on promoting traditional gastronomy was transferred to the Balkans through coaching and mentoring provided to 55 participants from Montenegrin institutions and producers, as well as through the organisation of the first international conference with the European Federation of Rural Tourism in Montenegro in October 2022 for 44 participants.
- Linkages between GI and traditional products and tourism markets were strengthened through the development of a gastro-route promoting selected products and value chains.

Serbia Voz Rolling Stock Acquisition

EARMARK DOCUMENT NO	50006823
COUNTRY OF OPERATION	Serbia
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Transport
VALUE	74,000 EUR
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	January 2022 – December 2025

FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

The assignment focused on providing the EBRD with independent and continuous support throughout the entire project cycle. This included monitoring the tendering process and contract award to ensure full compliance with the Bank's Procurement Policies and Rules. Throughout the preparation and implementation phases, the work also involved auditing the performance of Serbia Voz, the Project Implementation Unit, consultants and suppliers.

A key component of the assignment consisted in overseeing contract implementation for the rolling stock acquisition, with close attention to progress, quality, costs, scheduling and risk management. The activity also encompassed the monitoring of compliance with Environmental and Social requirements, including ESAPs, the Bank's Performance Requirements and relevant EU Environmental, Health and Safety standards. A central aim was to identify emerging risks or issues that could have jeopardised successful project delivery and to enable the Bank to take timely corrective action.

OUTCOMES

The assignment resulted in the preparation of regular, independent monitoring reports offering a clear and concise overview of project quality, progress, costs, risks, contractual matters, disbursements and EHS compliance. Continuous oversight ensured the early identification and escalation of critical issues affecting procurement, manufacturing, testing, commissioning or acceptance of the EMUs, together with practical recommendations for corrective measures.

The work provided the Bank with assurance that procurement, implementation, payments and covenant compliance were aligned with the Loan and Guarantee Agreements and with internal policies. It also confirmed that systems for quality control, progress monitoring and cost management were functioning effectively and that the rolling stock was on track to meet the required technical and operational specifications at completion. The assignment concluded with the Final Lender's Monitoring Report, which confirmed that completion and acceptance procedures had been properly carried out and that the project's completion criteria had been met.

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

EARMARK DOCUMENT NO	50009943
COUNTRY OF OPERATION	Serbia
SECTOR OF OPERATION	Energy
VALUE	297,720 EUR
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	December 2024-December 2025

FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

The Implementation Plan (IP) was developed to provide a clear framework for implementing the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP). The assignment defined the RAP implementation process, clarified the roles and responsibilities of State and non-State actors, and outlined the structure of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), together with proposed capacity-building measures.

The work included preparing a plan for outstanding valuation, survey and asset-inventory activities, and developing additional valuation methodologies to ensure full replacement-cost compensation for losses affecting land, structures, houses and businesses. It also defined livelihood restoration measures, vulnerability criteria and orphan land criteria applicable to the Project.

The entitlements matrix was updated with confirmed categories of Project-Affected People (PAPs), eligibility criteria and additional assistance measures. The assignment also designed a programme for physical displacement, including further surveys, consultations, relocation alternatives and transitional support. In addition, it developed a stakeholder engagement and disclosure programme, monitoring and evaluation arrangements, and three separate budgets covering land acquisition, physical displacement of homes, and displacement affecting both homes and businesses.

OUTCOMES

The assignment identified key findings and recommendations to strengthen RAP implementation. It proposed a clearer vulnerability assessment framework, including defined criteria, livelihood-impact considerations and tailored assistance with implementation timelines.

It highlighted gaps between Macedonian legislation and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Performance Requirement 5 (PR5), particularly regarding informal land rights, socio-economic surveys, vulnerable groups, replacement-cost valuation, grievance mechanisms and monitoring. Alignment with PR5 was recommended, especially for livelihood restoration, consultation and outcome monitoring.

A more robust approach to orphan land was advised, with clearer criteria, timelines, consultations and systematic inclusion in the PAP database. The assignment also called for clearer institutional responsibilities within the IP, improved coordination with government agencies and strengthened socio-economic surveys aligned with design changes, including access-road redesign and the church relocation.

Further recommendations included expanding livelihood restoration and support for vulnerable people, integrating RAP-specific engagement activities into the Implementation Plan, and updating the RAP to reflect disclosure already undertaken. Finally, the timetable, budget and monitoring framework were to be updated to include missing cost items—such as assistance for vulnerable PAPs, crop and tree losses, business income losses and impacts linked to access-road redesign—ensuring appropriate valuation and alignment with implementation requirements.

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, 174 projects have been financed for a total CEI Fund contribution of over 5.3 million EUR with an overall project value amounting to 19 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 the non-EU CEI Member States. The countries that have benefited from direct KEP assistance the most, since its establishment, are Serbia, followed by Moldova, Albania and North Macedonia, while regional projects primarily targeted the Western Balkan region.

The majority of KEP grants are assigned through annual Calls for Proposals. In 2025, the CEI Fund provided resources for one call launched on 22 July.

Eighty-three applications were received within the deadline for the project submission set on 26 September 2025. After careful evaluation, fifteen capacity building projects were approved for co-financing with 553,322 EUR.

These projects – both bilateral and regional – (see Table 3.1) will bring together know-how providers and beneficiaries from several CEI countries as well as international organisations. A wide network of partners and stakeholders will be involved, including public institutions, government agencies, universities, research centres and the private sector, each contributing specific expertise to the projects.

The projects will focus on key areas of cooperation aimed at strengthening European integration and will span a wide range of strategic sectors, including institutional development and good governance, digital transformation, energy and climate, environmental protection, innovation and scientific research.

Chart 3.1. CEI Fund co-financing and mobilised co-financing resources for KEP Projects 2004-2025
(share of the overall value of projects amounting to 18,947,099 EUR).

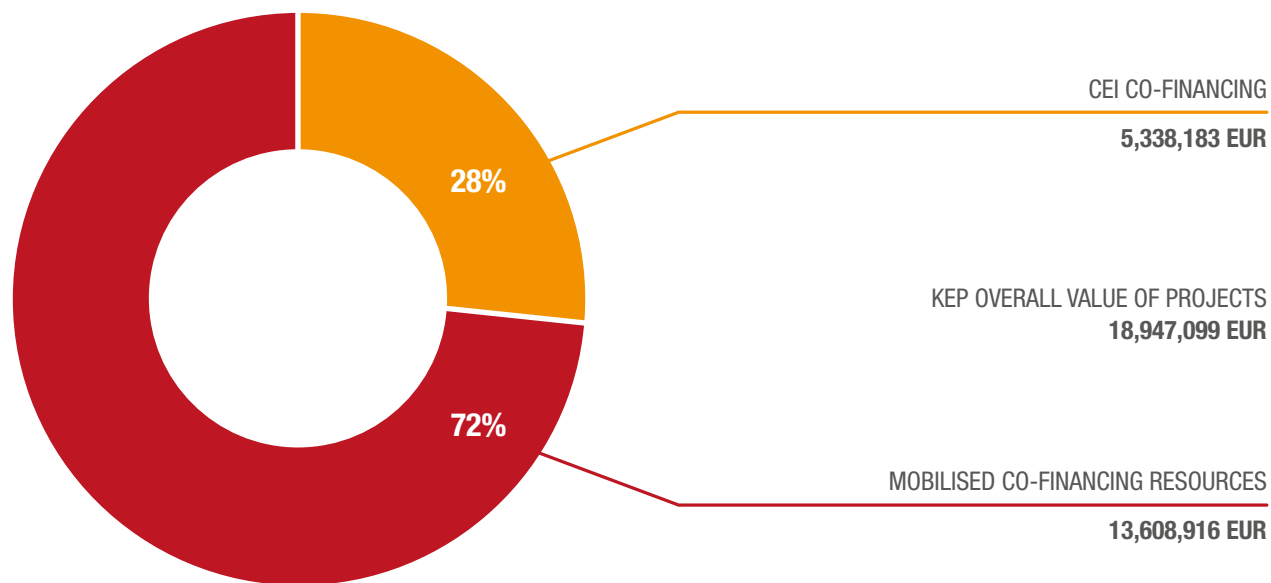
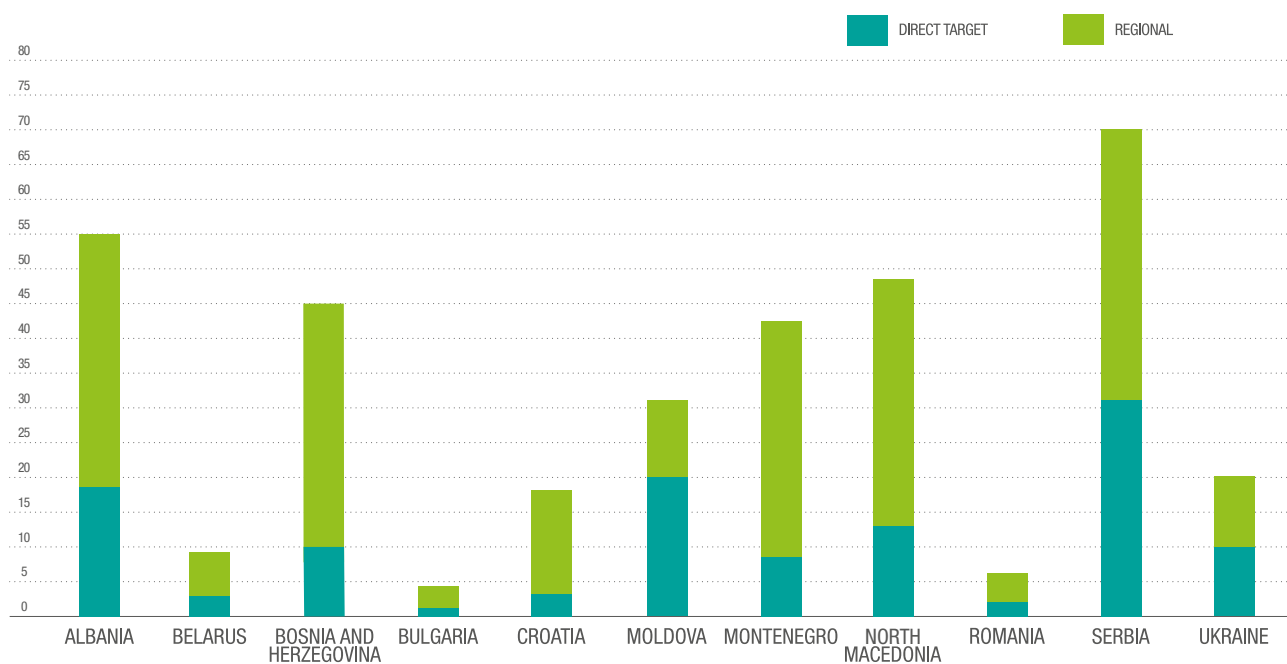


Chart 3.2. Distribution of KEP projects by number of assignments according to know-how recipient countries. The projects with regional spread are highlighted in light green *(share of 174 projects).*



Know-how Exchange Programme

Projects approved in 2025

03

Table 3.1. List of KEP projects approved in 2025

No.	Reference number	Project name	Country of know-how provider	Country of know-how recipient	Total project cost €	CEI grant €
1	304.4.2025.001	Applying Artificial Intelligence to the Electricity Sector in the Balkans	Italy	Regional	80,000	40,000
2	304.4.2025.005	CEI for Albania: a Blueprint for a modern, EU-Compliant Business Register to support EU integration and economic development	Italy	Albania	102,952	39,926
3	304.4.2025.010	CEI Support to Hydrogen Strategy Development and Know-How Transfer for Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	80,000	40,000
4	304.4.2025.012	Integration of Data and Approaches for Seismic Hazard assessment in CEI regions - IDASH	Italy, Slovenia, Croatia	Regional	87,765	39,999
5	304.4.2025.026	ALIGN-AL Albania–EU Data Protection Alignment	Italy	Albania	79,000	39,500
6	304.4.2025.027	Raising public and stakeholder awareness on the importance of water protection and pollution prevention in North Macedonia	Croatia	North Macedonia	79,928	39,400
7	304.4.2025.031	CEI support for Bridging Borders: Strengthening Regional Capacity for Moldova's EU Integration through Know-How Exchange (BRIDGE2EU)	Romania, Italy	Moldova	39,187	19,320
8	304.4.2025.035	DeepTech Capacity Building for EU-Aligned Innovation in Moldova	Romania	Moldova	82,000	40,000
9	304.4.2025.037	CEI support to regional development policy in the context of the EU integration of the Republic of Moldova by exchange of know-how with North-East and West Regional Development Agencies	Romania	Moldova	45,000	22,500
10	304.4.2025.040	European Bridges of Science and Knowledge: Capacity Building in Computational Approaches for Young Scientists	Slovenia	Regional	65,612	32,712
11	304.4.2025.042	BRIDGE – Strengthening EU Integration Capacities in Brčko District through Italian Know-How and Regional Cooperation	Italy	Bosnia and Herzegovina	87,615	39,965
12	304.4.2025.043	Technical assistance for the creation of the Albanian Development Bank - ADB	Italy	Albania	100,000	40,000
13	304.4.2025.044	CEI Support to Taxation Policy Knowledge Transfer: Strengthening Public Revenues through Evidence-Based R&D	Slovakia	Serbia	80,000	40,000
14	304.4.2025.053	CEI support to regional exchange on climate risk adaptation in Moldova and Ukraine	Poland, Italy	Regional	80,000	40,000
15	304.4.2025.060	Designing better public services: Italian Serbian Exchange on User-Centred Digital Transformation	UNDP, Italy	Serbia	80,000	40,000
TOTAL (€)					1,169,059	553,322

Applying Artificial Intelligence to the Electricity Sector in the Balkans

CEI REF. NO.304.4.2025.001
TOTAL PROJECT COST.80,000 EUR
CEI GRANT.40,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.24 months

APPROVED IN 2025

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

| Balkan Energy School (BES), Italy

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

- | Energy Regulatory Authority of Albania (ERE)
- | State Electricity Regulatory Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina (SERC)
- | Energy and Water Regulatory Agency of Montenegro (REGAGEN)
- | Energy Regulatory Commission of North Macedonia (ERC)

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The electricity systems of the Balkan region are undergoing rapid change due to increasing renewable penetration, evolving market structures, and the need for more transparent and efficient regulatory frameworks. Despite progress, regulators still face significant challenges: limited operational efficiency in grid management, fragmented electricity markets, insufficient data transparency, and regulatory frameworks that struggle to keep pace with digitalisation and decentralisation. Many authorities lack the tools and expertise required for data-driven supervision, long-term planning, and effective market monitoring.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers concrete opportunities to address these gaps. Machine learning and predictive

analytics can enhance market surveillance, detect anomalies, improve forecasting, and support tariff and policy analysis. However, the responsible adoption of AI requires targeted capacity building and coordinated regional approaches. Against this background, the project aims to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of Balkan energy regulators and system operators to understand, evaluate, and apply AI-based tools in regulatory oversight, grid management, and market operations.

The initiative will deliver four thematic workshops and technical trainings covering AI for regulatory decision-making, smart grid operations, market surveillance, and data governance. Through practical case studies and sandboxed applications, participants will explore use cases such as predictive maintenance, load and price forecasting, automated anomaly detection, and AI-assisted congestion management. The project will equip regulators with the knowledge needed to assess algorithmic tools, ensure transparency and fairness, and integrate data-driven approaches into regulatory practice.

Expected results include strengthened regulatory capacity, improved understanding of AI applications across the electricity value chain, and enhanced ability to supervise and enable responsible AI deployment. The project will support alignment with EU digitalisation and decarbonisation objectives, particularly in areas such as market transparency, system efficiency, and data governance. By promoting convergence with the EU energy acquis and European best practices, the initiative will contribute to the broader EU integration process of the Western Balkans.

CEI for Albania: a Blueprint for a modern, EU-Compliant Business Register to support EU integration and economic development

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2025.005
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	102,952 EUR
CEI GRANT.	39,926 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.	7 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

InfoCamere – Digital Services Company of the Italian Chambers of Commerce, Italy

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Technical Secretariat of the National Economic Council of Albania (NECTS)

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Albania's EU accession process has intensified the need to modernise its economic and legal infrastructure in line with European standards. A key priority is the creation of a transparent, reliable, and fully EU-compliant Business Register, essential for strengthening the rule of law, improving the business environment, and supporting sustainable economic development. As part of its pre-accession reforms, the Government is reorganising the Chamber of Commerce system and establishing a unified National Chamber, which will manage a new centralised Register together with the competent Ministry. The project directly supports this reform by providing the technical and regulatory know-how required to design a modern Register aligned with EU best practices.

The initiative will be implemented by InfoCamere, the digital services company of the Italian Chambers of Commerce and manager of the Italian Business Register, in cooperation with the Technical Secretariat of the National Economic Council of Albania (NECTS), the project's main beneficiary. The intervention will ensure alignment with the national "Digital Albania 2022–2026" Agenda by promoting secure data interoperability, high cybersecurity standards, and

the integration of qualified electronic signatures and seals. A key component will be the technical integration of the new Register with the e-Albania portal, the country's single gateway for digital public services.

Activities are structured into three phases: (1) an assessment of the current governance, processes, access channels, and IT systems; (2) the design of the new Register's legal, functional, and technological model based on EU requirements and best practices from the Italian system; and (3) the evaluation of investment scenarios and the preparation of an implementation roadmap. The main output will be a comprehensive design document detailing specifications, IT architecture, and transition planning.

The project will strengthen Albania's capacity to meet EU standards on corporate transparency and legal publicity, providing a benchmark for assessing the current system and transferring internationally recognised best practices. Expected results include improved legal certainty, greater transparency, enhanced protection for creditors and consumers, and increased attractiveness for foreign investors. The new Register will also support evidence-based policymaking by providing reliable macroeconomic data.

The initiative directly supports Albania's EU integration by enabling full harmonisation with the *acquis* on company law and digitalisation. It also promotes regional cooperation by fostering future interoperability between business registers, particularly relevant given the strong economic ties between Albania and Italy. Enhanced cross-border data accessibility will contribute to a more transparent, interconnected, and competitive European market.

CEI Support to Hydrogen Strategy Development and Know-How Transfer for Bosnia and Herzegovina

CEI REF. NO.304.4.2025.010
TOTAL PROJECT COST.80,000 EUR
CEI GRANT.40,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.24 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

| Green Sustainable Solutions d.o.o. (GSS), Croatia

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

| Association for Green Hydrogen and Renewable Energy

| Sources (AgH2RES), Bosnia and Herzegovina

| JP Elektroprivreda Bosne i Hercegovine (EP), Bosnia and Herzegovina

| Energoinvest d.d. (EI), Bosnia and Herzegovina

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is advancing its EU integration process and working to align its energy and climate policies with the EU acquis. Hydrogen has emerged as a strategic priority under the EU Green Deal, yet BiH currently lacks a national hydrogen strategy and has limited institutional expertise in this field. Public utilities, policymakers and industry stakeholders have had little exposure to hydrogen technologies, safety standards and EU regulatory frameworks. This project addresses these gaps by transferring know-how from Croatia—an EU Member State with practical experience in hydrogen strategy development—to key Bosnian institutions.

The initiative is implemented by Green Sustainable Solutions (GSS), a Croatian SME specialised in sustainable hydrogen, in cooperation with three Bosnian beneficiaries: AgH2RES, JP Elektroprivreda BiH (EP) and Energoinvest (EI). Through workshops, technical training, expert missions

and study visits, the project will build national capacity on hydrogen production, storage, applications and EU policy requirements. It will also support the drafting of a preliminary National Hydrogen Strategy for BiH and the development of internal hydrogen roadmaps for EP and EI, enabling both companies to integrate hydrogen solutions into future operations and investment planning.

Activities include a needs assessment, four capacity-building workshops in BiH, two study visits to Croatia and another CEI country, peer-review missions and the preparation of strategic documents. The project will conclude with a public conference in Sarajevo to disseminate results and raise awareness among policymakers, industry, academia and the general public.

Expected results include strengthened institutional knowledge, improved understanding of EU hydrogen policies and the creation of strategic documents that provide a clear, EU-aligned framework for hydrogen development in BiH. The project will also establish a cooperative network between Croatian and Bosnian stakeholders, fostering long-term collaboration and enabling BiH to participate more effectively in regional hydrogen initiatives.

The initiative directly supports BiH's EU integration by aligning national planning with EU climate and energy objectives and by preparing institutions to meet future acquis requirements. It also enhances regional cooperation through cross-border study visits, expert exchanges and engagement with CEI member states active in hydrogen development. By building capacity and strategic vision, the project positions BiH to accelerate its clean energy transition and participate in emerging regional hydrogen value chains.

Integration of Data and Approaches for Seismic Hazard assessment in CEI regions – IDASH

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2025.012
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	87,765 EUR
CEI GRANT.	39,999 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.	20 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

- | Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV), Italy
- | G. d'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara (UniCH), Italy
- | Geological Survey of Croatia (HGI), Croatia
- | Geological Survey of Slovenia (GeoZS), Slovenia

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

- | Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro (IHMS), Montenegro
- | University of Banja Luka (UNIBL), Bosnia and Herzegovina

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Seismic hazard is a major concern for CEI countries, especially in the Western Balkans, where moderate to strong earthquakes occur frequently but knowledge of active faults remains limited. Historical and instrumental catalogues are incomplete and uneven across borders, leading to systematic underestimation of seismic hazard. Modern approaches such as earthquake geology, paleoseismology, geodesy and fault-based seismic hazard assessment are still rarely applied in the region. IDASH addresses these gaps by transferring advanced scientific know-how from leading European institutions to Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, supporting more reliable seismic hazard assessment and contributing to disaster-risk reduction.

The project builds on successful cross-border cooperation developed after the 2020 Petrinja earthquake, when scientists from Italy, Croatia and Slovenia collaborated

to map coseismic effects and characterize the causative fault. IDASH expands this model to CEI pre-accretion countries, enabling beneficiaries to improve fault recognition, characterize seismogenic structures and integrate fault data into seismic hazard models. The initiative is implemented by INGV, UniCH, HGI and GeoZS, in partnership with IHMS and UNIBL.

Activities include online thematic lectures, two hands-on workshops (a field school in Bosnia and Herzegovina and a modelling school in Montenegro), virtual meetings and preparation of best-practice materials. Beneficiaries will learn to identify active faults, collect geological and geodetic data, perform paleoseismological analyses and use open-source tools for probabilistic seismic hazard and fault-displacement modelling. A specific test area—the 1969 Banja Luka earthquake region—will serve as a practical case study.

Expected results include strengthened institutional capacity to collect and analyse fault data, improved ability to integrate fault information into seismic hazard assessments and enhanced use of GNSS for fault monitoring and rapid earthquake characterization. The project will also produce best-practice handouts, outreach materials and recommendations for future GNSS station deployment. These outputs will support microzonation, seismic source modelling and future Eurocode 8 updates.

IDASH directly supports EU integration by aligning beneficiary practices with European standards, improving coordination mechanisms and enabling participation in EU scientific networks such as EPOS. It also reinforces regional cooperation through joint fieldwork, shared datasets, cross-border training and the exploration of a rapid-response geological and seismological team for the Western Balkans. By fostering long-term collaboration and knowledge-based risk-reduction strategies, IDASH contributes to a more resilient and interconnected CEI region.

ALIGN-AL Albania–EU Data Protection Alignment

CEI REF. NO.304.4.2025.026
TOTAL PROJECT COST.79,000 EUR
CEI GRANT.39,500 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.12 months

APPROVED IN 2025

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

| EON Impresa SRLS, Italy

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

| Confindustria Albania

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Albania's new Law 124/2024 on personal data protection, aligned with the EU GDPR, requires companies to adopt modern compliance systems and strengthen accountability practices. Many Albanian SMEs, however, lack the internal expertise, tools and methodologies needed to meet these obligations. ALIGN-AL builds on the long-standing cooperation between EON Impresa and Confindustria Albania to support the private sector in translating legal requirements into operational practice. The project aims to strengthen corporate capacity, reduce compliance gaps and promote a culture of responsible data management aligned with EU standards.

The initiative combines needs assessments, targeted training, practical tools and peer learning. A first phase will analyse compliance gaps in 5–10 companies across different sectors, producing tailored reports and a consolidated overview of common challenges. Based on these findings, multilingual training modules will be developed on GDPR and Law 124/2024, accountability, data governance, DPIAs and breach management. Training will be delivered through hybrid

workshops and webinars, supported by case studies and hands-on exercises.

A key output is the bilingual "Privacy Toolkit", a practical resource containing templates for processing registers, DPIA forms, breach workflows, data subject request procedures and compliance checklists. A study visit to Italy will expose Albanian professionals to advanced GDPR practices and cross-border compliance models. The project will conclude with a national conference in Tirana to disseminate results, share lessons learned and promote long-term adoption of compliance frameworks.

Expected results include strengthened professional competencies, improved corporate compliance systems and a pool of trained practitioners able to support wider dissemination. Participating SMEs will serve as demonstration cases, showcasing practical pathways to GDPR alignment. The project will enhance legal certainty, reduce operational risks and improve the competitiveness and credibility of Albanian companies in EU markets.

ALIGN-AL directly supports Albania's EU integration by operationalising alignment with Chapters 23 and 10 of the acquis, strengthening business capacity to implement EU-equivalent data protection rules and facilitating cross-border data flows. It also contributes to regional cooperation by providing transferable tools, replicable models and resources that can be adopted across the Western Balkans, reinforcing convergence toward EU standards and supporting the Common Regional Market.

Raising public and stakeholder awareness on the importance of water protection and pollution prevention in North Macedonia

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2025.027
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	79,928 EUR
CEI GRANT.	39,400 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.	14 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Adriatic Training and Research Centre for Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (ATRAC), Croatia

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Hydrometeorological Service (UHMR), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, North Macedonia

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

North Macedonia's rivers and lakes—including the Vardar, Crn Drim, Treska and Ohrid Lake—are vital national and regional resources but remain highly vulnerable to accidental pollution from industrial discharges, agricultural runoff and transport incidents. Many of these water bodies are transboundary, meaning pollution can rapidly affect neighbouring countries such as Greece, Albania, Serbia and Bulgaria. Although national legislation exists and alignment with the EU Water Framework Directive has progressed, implementation capacity, monitoring systems and emergency response mechanisms remain limited. Recent incidents, such as the 2020 wastewater spill into the Vardar River, highlight the need for stronger preparedness, coordination and public awareness.

The project addresses these gaps by strengthening institutional capacity, improving response readiness and

raising awareness among authorities, stakeholders and the general public. Implemented by ATRAC, a regional leader in pollution preparedness, in cooperation with UHMR, the initiative combines technical training, public workshops and a tabletop exercise simulating real-world spill scenarios. Activities include an opening conference, two awareness-raising workshops in Skopje and Ohrid, a two-day training course tailored to local conditions, and a multi-agency tabletop exercise to test decision-making, communication and coordination.

Expected results include improved national protocols for responding to accidental pollution, enhanced technical skills among environmental agencies and emergency services, and stronger mechanisms for cross-border cooperation on shared water resources. The project will reduce environmental and health risks, support better water quality management and strengthen institutional capacity to meet EU environmental standards.

The initiative directly supports North Macedonia's EU integration by improving implementation of EU water directives, strengthening monitoring and response systems, and promoting public participation—key elements of EU environmental governance. It also reinforces regional cooperation by encouraging shared risk assessments, harmonised response procedures and data exchange with neighbouring countries. By building trust and technical capacity across borders, the project contributes to a more resilient and coordinated regional approach to water protection.

CEI support for Bridging Borders: Strengthening Regional Capacity for Moldova’s EU Integration through Know-How Exchange (BRIDGE2EU)

CEI REF. NO. 304.4.2025.031
TOTAL PROJECT COST. 39,187 EUR
CEI GRANT. 19,320 EUR
PLANNED DURATION. 12 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

| Regional Development Agency Centru Romania (RDA Centru RO)

| Emilia-Romagna Region, Italy

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

| Regional Development Agency Center Moldova (RDA Center MD)

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Following the opening of EU accession negotiations in June 2024, Moldova faces the challenge of translating EU policy frameworks into effective regional development actions. Institutional capacity gaps, limited experience with EU cohesion instruments and the need for stronger inter-institutional coordination remain key obstacles. BRIDGE2EU responds to these needs by fostering structured know-how transfer from Romania and Italy—two EU Member States with extensive experience in regional development, EU programming and accession processes. The project builds on more than a decade of cooperation between the Romanian and Moldovan regional development agencies and introduces Emilia-Romagna as an additional source of expertise.

The initiative strengthens the capacity of RDA Center Moldova to prepare EU-aligned strategic documents, manage EU funding programmes and coordinate regional development processes. Activities include two five-day

study visits (one in Moldova, one in Romania), four online technical exchange meetings, mentoring sessions and a final dissemination event. These exchanges will expose Moldovan staff and stakeholders to practical methodologies for drafting regional operational programmes, smart specialisation strategies and guidelines for EU-funded project management.

Expected results include improved institutional skills in strategic planning, enhanced understanding of EU cohesion policy, and the development or revision of at least two key planning documents aligned with EU standards. A practical knowledge toolkit will consolidate best practices, templates and recommendations for future use. The project will also strengthen long-term cooperation among the three regions, creating a durable network for future EU projects and cross-border initiatives.

BRIDGE2EU directly supports Moldova’s EU integration by equipping regional authorities with the tools needed to implement EU-compliant policies, manage funding instruments and adopt transparent, participatory planning processes. Learning from Romania’s accession experience and Italy’s advanced regional governance models accelerates Moldova’s readiness to meet EU obligations under the “European Moldova 2030” strategy.

The project also reinforces regional cooperation by deepening the Romania–Moldova partnership and expanding it to Italy, promoting trilateral knowledge exchange and harmonised regional development approaches. Through joint activities and sustained dialogue, BRIDGE2EU contributes to a more integrated, collaborative and EU-oriented CEI region.

DeepTech Capacity Building for EU-Aligned Innovation in Moldova

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2025.035
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	82,000 EUR
CEI GRANT.	40,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.	11 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Impact Hub Bucharest (Asociația Ropot), Romania

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Technovator, Moldova

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Moldova's innovation ecosystem is growing rapidly, yet deep-tech teams still face major barriers in aligning prototypes and venture creation with EU standards. Challenges include limited coaching quality at hackathons, insufficient understanding of EU regulatory frameworks (Green Deal, eco-design, MDR/IVDR, GDPR, cybersecurity), and weak pathways from prototyping to EU-level acceleration. Building on four editions of the DeepTech GigaHack and Romania's strong experience in venture readiness, the project establishes a structured know-how transfer from Impact Hub Bucharest to Technovator, strengthening Moldova's capacity to produce EU-aligned innovation.

The intervention centres on a Training-of-Trainers (ToT) programme for 15 Moldovan mentors and coaches, delivered through one in-person session in Chişinău and two online modules. The ToT provides practical methodologies

on sustainability-by-design, digital transformation priorities, sector-specific EU frameworks for AgriTech, HealthTech and EnergyTech, and investor-readiness. This knowledge will be immediately applied during the DeepTech GigaHack 2026, where trained mentors will guide 40–45 teams (~300 participants) in developing prototypes aligned with EU expectations. The best teams will then join the Impact Creators Accelerator in Bucharest, gaining access to EU investors, study visits and cross-border networking.

Expected results include improved mentoring quality, enhanced prototype maturity and a practical ToT toolkit for long-term use. The project will produce an EU Alignment Scorecard applied to all hackathon prototypes, a policy brief and an EU Alignment Report. Cross-border acceleration will support 6–8 winning teams in developing investor-ready business plans and establishing partnerships within the EU innovation ecosystem.

The initiative directly supports Moldova's EU integration by embedding EU policy frameworks into the country's largest innovation events and strengthening local capacity to design solutions aligned with European standards. It also reinforces regional cooperation by deepening Romania–Moldova collaboration and leveraging Impact Hub's European networks. Through structured know-how transfer, improved mentoring systems and cross-border acceleration, the project strengthens Moldova's readiness to participate in EU markets and innovation programmes.

CEI support to regional development policy in the context of the EU integration of the Republic of Moldova by exchange of know-how with North-East and West Regional Development Agencies

CEI REF. NO. 304.4.2025.037
TOTAL PROJECT COST. 45,000 EUR
CEI GRANT. 22,500 EUR
PLANNED DURATION. 12 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

- | North-East Regional Development Agency, Romania
- | West Regional Development Agency, Romania

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

- | North Regional Development Agency (North RDA), Moldova

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

As Moldova advances on its EU accession path, strengthening regional development institutions is essential for meeting EU cohesion policy requirements and preparing for future access to structural and pre-accession funds. While Romania has over a decade of experience in planning, managing and implementing EU-funded regional programmes, Moldovan regional authorities still face significant gaps in administrative capacity, project pipeline development and understanding of EU procedures. This project responds to these needs by facilitating structured know-how transfer from Romania’s North-East and West Regional Development Agencies to the North RDA of Moldova.

The initiative focuses on building institutional capacity through a tailored Training-of-Trainers programme, mentorship and coaching sessions, and technical assistance

for developing a portfolio of mature, EU-eligible project proposals. A five-day study visit to Romania will expose Moldovan staff to real examples of EU-funded infrastructure, urban development, energy efficiency and innovation projects, offering practical insights into procurement, monitoring and compliance mechanisms. Knowledge transfer will also cover evidence-based planning tools, regional statistics systems and digital instruments used in Romania to align regional strategies with EU cohesion priorities and smart specialisation frameworks.

Expected results include a comprehensive capacity-building programme, improved institutional readiness to absorb EU funds, and a set of well-prepared project proposals aligned with IPA requirements. The project will also strengthen local-level capacity through the ToT model, enabling North RDA specialists to train municipalities and local public authorities, where EU project experience remains limited.

The initiative directly supports Moldova’s EU integration by enhancing administrative preparedness, introducing EU-compliant planning tools and strengthening the ability to design and manage regional development programmes. It also reinforces regional cooperation by deepening long-standing partnerships between Moldovan and Romanian RDAs, promoting peer learning, and creating a sustainable framework for future joint initiatives. Through this cooperation, the project contributes to a more cohesive, capable and EU-aligned regional development system in Moldova.

European Bridges of Science and Knowledge: Capacity Building in Computational Approaches for Young Scientists

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2025.040
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	65,612 EUR
CEI GRANT.	32,712 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.	12 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

Faculty of Medicine, University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Faculty of Physical Chemistry, University of Belgrade, Serbia

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Young scientists in the Western Balkans face limited access to modern computational tools and training, despite growing research potential in chemistry, biomedicine and related fields. University programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia offer only partial coverage of computational modelling, molecular dynamics and machine learning, leaving early-career researchers without the skills needed to apply advanced methods widely used in EU research institutions. This gap slows scientific progress, limits participation in international collaborations and reduces the adoption of greener, simulation-based research practices. EuroSciComp-Bridge responds to this need by establishing a structured knowledge-transfer partnership between leading EU institutions and Western Balkan universities.

The project connects the University of Banja Luka and the University of Belgrade with the University of Ljubljana,

enabling hands-on training in state-of-the-art computational chemistry. Six researchers will undertake five-day mobility visits, receiving intensive mentoring in molecular modelling, molecular dynamics, docking and predictive analytics. The acquired expertise will be disseminated regionally through two hybrid workshops in Banja Luka and Belgrade, each gathering around 15 young scientists for practical sessions integrating computational methods with experimental research.

A central training school in Banja Luka, organised with COST Action CA21101 (COSY), will bring together approximately 30 early-career researchers from Inclusiveness Target Countries for lectures and computer-based exercises delivered by leading European experts. A dedicated project website will ensure long-term access to all materials, including tutorials, recorded lectures and methodological guides.

Expected results include strengthened computational skills among at least 70 young researchers, adoption of EU-standard methodologies in local laboratories, and improved research quality through greener, simulation-driven approaches. The project supports EU integration by embedding Western Balkan researchers into European scientific networks, enhancing participation in COST Actions and fostering long-term cooperation with EU institutions. By building sustainable scientific partnerships and modernising research practices, EuroSciComp-Bridge contributes to a more competitive, interconnected and EU-aligned research ecosystem in the region.

BRIDGE – Strengthening EU Integration Capacities in Brčko District through Italian Know-How and Regional Cooperation

CEI REF. NO.304.4.2025.042
TOTAL PROJECT COST.87,615 EUR
CEI GRANT.39,965 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.10 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Orange Public Management Srl, Italy

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Development-Guarantee Fund of Brčko District, Bosnia and Herzegovina

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Brčko District, with its unique governance structure and dual municipal–regional functions, faces significant challenges in aligning with the EU acquis and participating effectively in EU programmes. Despite progress, administrative and technical capacities for EU project preparation, management and financial reporting remain limited, reducing the District’s ability to benefit from EU funding instruments. The BRIDGE project responds to these gaps by transferring Italian know-how—drawing on Apulia’s extensive experience with EU cohesion policy and territorial cooperation—to strengthen Brčko’s institutional readiness for EU integration.

The initiative focuses on building professional competences in EU Cohesion Policy, project cycle management, Interreg cooperation, eligibility of expenditure and financial reporting. A core component is the Smart Onboarding Lab, an intensive training programme for 15 civil servants from departments directly involved in EU integration and development planning. This will be complemented by a study

visit to Apulia, where participants will observe successful EU-funded projects and engage with Italian practitioners, gaining practical insights into implementation, monitoring and cross-sector cooperation.

An Interactive Laboratory in Italy will provide advanced, hands-on project design practice, including logical frameworks, indicators, peer-review simulations and visibility planning. To ensure horizontal dissemination, a Knowledge Transfer Forum in Brčko will engage at least 20 representatives from other municipalities, civil society and government bodies, positioning the District as a knowledge hub within Bosnia and Herzegovina. A final public event will present results, highlight CEI support and promote future cooperation.

Expected results include strengthened institutional capacity to prepare and manage EU-funded projects, improved understanding of EU standards and procedures, and a portfolio of draft project ideas aligned with EU priorities. The project will also foster peer learning within BiH and create durable cooperation channels with Italian partners.

BRIDGE directly supports Bosnia and Herzegovina’s EU integration by enhancing Brčko District’s administrative readiness, embedding EU-compatible governance practices and improving its ability to access EU programmes. It also reinforces regional cooperation by promoting peer-to-peer exchanges, intra-BiH networking and long-term partnerships between Italian and Bosnian institutions.

Technical assistance for the creation of the Albanian Development Bank - ADB

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2025.043
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	100,000 EUR
CEI GRANT.	40,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.	12 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP), Italy

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

National Economic Council (NEC), Albania

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Albania's EU accession process and its strategic partnership with Italy have highlighted the need for stronger financial institutions capable of supporting sustainable growth, competitiveness and infrastructure development. Despite progress, Albanian enterprises—especially micro and informal businesses—continue to face limited access to finance, weak creditworthiness systems, low productivity and insufficient capacity to meet EU quality standards. To address these structural gaps, the Albanian Government has initiated the creation of a National Promotional Institution (NPI), the Albanian Development Bank (ADB), whose establishment law was approved in March 2025 with substantial technical support from CDP.

The project provides further technical assistance to operationalise the ADB and ensure its alignment with EU practices. CDP, Italy's National Promotional Institution, will transfer specialised know-how across six workstreams: legal and regulatory frameworks; postal savings and

funding models; product design and commercial planning; organisational structures and HR policies; risk management and supervisory mechanisms; and ICT and operational infrastructure. This comprehensive support will guide the drafting of bylaws, governance rules, risk appetite frameworks, product portfolios, treasury arrangements and IT systems required for the Bank's launch.

Expected results include a fully developed institutional blueprint for the ADB, strengthened Albanian capacity to manage promotional finance, and improved readiness to implement EU financial instruments. The new NPI will complement the banking system by expanding access to finance for SMEs, supporting infrastructure and transport investments, and enabling long-term financing in sectors such as renewable energy, environmental protection, logistics and tourism. Over time, the ADB will help reduce market failures, increase financial inclusion and support Albania's transition toward a functioning market economy.

The initiative directly supports Albania's EU integration by aligning national financial governance with EU standards, enhancing the country's ability to absorb EU funds and strengthening its capacity to implement cohesion-related financial instruments. It also contributes to regional cooperation by reinforcing economic convergence in the Western Balkans and supporting EU initiatives such as the Reform and Growth Facility. Through Italian–Albanian cooperation, the project creates long-term opportunities for investment, trade and sustainable development.

CEI Support to Taxation Policy Knowledge Transfer: Strengthening Public Revenues through Evidence-Based R&D

CEI REF. NO.304.4.2025.044
TOTAL PROJECT COST.80,000 EUR
CEI GRANT.40,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.24 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Institute of Economic Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences (IER SAS), Slovakia

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Institute of Economic Sciences (IEN), Belgrade, Serbia

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Serbia's fiscal system faces increasing pressure from rising public expenditures, growing debt, and structural weaknesses in revenue collection. Despite progress in public finance management, the country still lacks advanced analytical tools to model the effects of tax reforms, assess revenue elasticities and translate research into actionable policy recommendations. Strengthening these capacities is essential for Serbia's EU accession process, which requires transparent, evidence-based fiscal governance aligned with European standards. Slovakia's experience—particularly the work of IER SAS in developing econometric models for excise taxation and effective knowledge-translation practices—offers a relevant and transferable model.

The project enables structured cooperation between IER SAS and IEN Belgrade to build Serbia's capacity for evidence-based tax policy. It focuses on two pillars: methodological transfer of advanced econometric techniques for estimating taxation elasticities (with gambling and excise duties as test cases) and strengthening IEN's

ability to communicate research findings to policymakers and the public. Activities include workshops in Bratislava, development of a methodological manual with annotated R/Stata codes, support for building long-term datasets, and mentoring for adapting Slovak models to Serbian data.

In Serbia, IEN researchers will apply the transferred methodology to produce pilot elasticity estimates and organise a policy roundtable with the Ministry of Finance and civil society. A second phase will focus on knowledge-to-society transfer through training modules on policy communication, stakeholder engagement and media outreach. Two bilingual policy briefs and a peer-reviewed article will disseminate results, while a final conference in Belgrade will present findings to CEI stakeholders.

Expected results include increased technical capacity at IEN, improved availability of evidence for fiscal decision-making, and strengthened cooperation between Slovak and Serbian research institutions. Long-term impacts include more transparent taxation policy, enhanced credibility of IEN as a policy partner, and regional spillovers through a transferable methodological toolkit.

The project directly supports Serbia's EU integration by improving fiscal modelling, aligning policy analysis with EU surveillance mechanisms and strengthening public dialogue on taxation. It also reinforces regional cooperation by connecting EU and non-EU CEI members and creating a replicable model of science diplomacy in fiscal governance.

CEI support to regional exchange on climate risk adaptation in Moldova and Ukraine

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2025.053
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	80,000 EUR
CEI GRANT.	40,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.	12 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDERS

Development Policy Foundation, Poland

ANCI Lazio, Italy

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

Municipality of Cimişlia, Moldova

Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy City Council, Ukraine

Odesa 5T / Odesa City Council Grant Office, Ukraine

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Moldova and Ukraine face accelerating climate risks—flooding, droughts, erosion, coastal hazards—while simultaneously advancing toward EU membership. Local administrations, particularly in small and medium-sized municipalities, lack the technical capacity and financial tools to design adaptation measures aligned with EU standards. The situation is further compounded in Ukraine by the ongoing war, which heightens the urgency of climate-resilient investments that can be implemented independently of reconstruction timelines. This project responds to these needs by enabling structured know-how transfer from two EU partners, the Development Policy Foundation (Poland) and ANCI Lazio (Italy), to three committed municipalities: Cimişlia, Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy, and Odesa.

Building on methodologies piloted under the EU-funded CLIMAX programme, the action will strengthen local capacity to conduct climate risk assessments, develop Local Climate Risk Management Plans, and prepare donor-ready adaptation project concepts. Activities include two expert missions (one in Moldova, one in Ukraine), tailored workshops on rural/semi-urban adaptation, urban flooding and estuary protection, and coastal resilience, plus two online follow-up sessions to consolidate learning and refine outputs. The project will generate baseline climate risk maps, draft adaptation strategies, and at least three initial project concepts eligible for EU and international funding.

Expected results include improved municipal capacity to analyse vulnerabilities, prioritise interventions, and design evidence-based adaptation measures. The project will directly benefit at least sixty municipal staff and stakeholders and indirectly support resilience for more than 400,000 residents across the three cities. A policy brief will capture lessons learned and provide a transferable model for other CEI municipalities.

The initiative supports EU integration by embedding European methodologies, governance standards, and donor-readiness practices in local administrations, reinforcing Moldova's and Ukraine's accession trajectories. It also strengthens regional cooperation by creating a structured platform for peer learning among municipalities in Moldova, Ukraine, Poland, and Italy, contributing to CEI's mission of integration, resilience, and sustainable development.

Designing better public services: Italian Serbian Exchange on User-Centred Digital Transformation

CEI REF. NO.304.4.2025.060
TOTAL PROJECT COST.80,000 EUR
CEI GRANT.40,000 EUR
PLANNED DURATION.12 months

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Dipartimento per la Trasformazione Digitale – Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

- Office for IT and eGovernment (ITE), Government of Serbia

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The project strengthens Serbia's institutional capacity to design and deliver modern, user-centred digital public services through a structured knowledge exchange between the Office for IT and eGovernment (ITE), Italy's Department for Digital Transition (DTD), and UNDP. Building on a long-standing partnership between UNDP and the Serbian Government, and on Italy's recognised leadership in digital governance, the initiative responds to Serbia's growing demand for practical expertise in service design, agile delivery, product management, and interoperability—key pillars of EU-aligned digital transformation.

The action combines a high-level study visit to Rome with two expert missions to Belgrade, enabling Serbian officials to observe Italy's digital ecosystem first-hand and receive targeted training from DTD practitioners. The study visit will expose ITE to national digital platforms such

as SPID, CIE and IO App, governance models, and agile organisational structures. The training missions will deepen technical skills in user research, service design, product management, interoperability frameworks, and team-based delivery methods. A kick-off workshop will align priorities with ongoing Serbian reforms, while a final public event will showcase results and promote continued cooperation.

Expected results include enhanced technical and operational capacity within ITE, increased uptake of user-centred and agile methodologies, and strengthened institutional links between Italian and Serbian digital actors. The project will directly benefit at least 20 ITE staff and indirectly support broader public administration reform by embedding citizen-centred approaches into digital service development. It will also document the application of Italian know-how to at least one ongoing ITE initiative, demonstrating practical impact.

The project contributes to Serbia's EU integration by aligning national digital governance with EU standards under the Digital Decade, the eGovernment Action Plan, and accession chapters related to information society, public administration reform, and financial control. It also reinforces CEI's mission by promoting regional cooperation, peer learning, and the transfer of EU Member State expertise to a Western Balkan candidate country. Through UNDP's facilitation and dissemination, the model can be replicated across the CEI region, supporting broader digital transformation efforts.

Know-how Exchange Programme

Projects closed in 2025

Table 3.2. List of KEP projects closed in 2025

No.	Reference number	Project name	Country of know-how provider institution	Country of know-how recipient institution	Total project cost €	CEI co-financing €
1	304.4.2023.018	CEI support for increasing capacity of research and action in Occupational and Environmental Health in Republic of Moldova	Italy	Moldova	78.611	38.630
2	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	86.022	40.000
3	304.4.2023.031	CEI support to DATA ROL (Data Protection and the Rule of Law) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	79.653	38.833
4	304.4.2023.034	Executive Program "Effective Management and Anti-Fraud Controls in the use of EU Funding Instruments"	Italy	Regional	39.780	26.384
5	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	94.977	37.889
					393,978	181,736

CEI support for increasing capacity of research and action in Occupational and Environmental Health in Republic of Moldova

CEI REF. NO.304.4.2023.018
TOTAL PROJECT COST.78.611 EUR
CEI GRANT.38.630 EUR
IMPLEMENTATION PERIODJanuary 2024 – June 2025 (18 months)

CLOSED IN 2025

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Department of Public Health, Experimental and Forensic Medicine, University of Pavia, Italy

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

Department of Preventive Medicine, Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Modova

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

The project, building on a previous KEP initiative, aimed to strengthen Moldova's capacity in occupational and environmental health through collaboration between the University of Pavia and Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy. The work focused on improving research skills, updating methodologies and aligning national practices with European standards.

The first component addressed workplace risks. Moldovan researchers analysed key sectors such as garment manufacturing, bakery production and healthcare, combining literature review, field visits, air sampling and examination of national procedures. Their findings were discussed with the Italian team, forming a consolidated overview of occupational hazards. A practical study on work-related stress and musculoskeletal disorders among 750 teachers generated early scientific outputs and helped refine research tools.

A joint SWOT analysis highlighted strengths in Moldova's legislative framework and weaknesses in implementation, training and technological resources. A comparative review

with Italian practices followed, focusing on risk-assessment procedures, reporting systems and health surveillance. The results were presented during a workshop attended by Moldovan professionals and students.

The environmental component began with a review of major environmental risks. Moldovan researchers produced studies on endocrine disruptors, hospital waste management and air pollution in Chisinau, contributing to a clearer understanding of population exposure. Two scientific missions strengthened methodological skills: one in Chisinau on planning environmental and occupational studies, and one in Pavia on environmental impact assessment and indoor air quality. This work supported the preparation of a white paper on environmental risk assessment.

The project also advanced the harmonisation of Moldovan procedures with Italian and EU standards. Italian experts presented national approaches to environmental and health impact assessment, enabling Moldovan researchers to draft new procedures, including a methodology for evaluating health risks linked to air pollution submitted to the Ministry of Health. A new curriculum on Monitoring and Evaluation in Public Health was developed for Continuing Medical Education and prepared for national validation. Training sessions in Pavia supported long-term sustainability of the knowledge transfer.

All planned activities and deliverables were completed. The project produced sectoral analyses, scientific studies, updated procedures, a new curriculum and multiple training events, strengthening institutional cooperation and supporting Moldova's progress toward European integration in occupational and environmental health.

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.86,022 EUR
CEI GRANT.40,000 EUR
IMPLEMENTATION PERIODApril 2024 – December 2025 (21 months)

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

Autorità di Regolazione per Energia Reti e Ambiente (ARERA) through the Balkan Energy School (BES), Italy

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

Energy national authorities of Italy (ARERA), Albania (ERE), Bosnia and Herzegovina (SERC), Montenegro (REGAGEN), North Macedonia (ERC), and Serbia (AERS).

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

The project supported the transposition and implementation of the new electricity package adopted by the Energy Community Ministerial Council, extending key elements of the EU electricity acquis to the Western Balkans. It was led by the Balkan Energy School (BES), a non-profit association of regulators bringing together the national authorities of Italy (ARERA), Greece (RAE), Albania (ERE), Bosnia and Herzegovina (SERC), Montenegro (REGAGEN) and North Macedonia (ERC), with Serbia's regulator (AERS) as observer.

The direct beneficiaries were these regulatory authorities and their respective ministries, with particular attention to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, where legislative and regulatory gaps still hinder full alignment with the new electricity package.

The project revolved around a structured programme of thematic seminars. The first, held in Milan in April 2024, focused on decarbonisation policies and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), analysing their implications for the region. Two seminars followed in Sarajevo in November 2024, dedicated to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. They assessed each country's readiness for integration into the EU internal electricity market and

highlighted key obstacles, including the absence of a legal basis for a power exchange in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the need for updated primary legislation.

A further seminar in Podgorica in March 2025 addressed electricity forward markets, gathering European experts to discuss challenges, best practices and reforms needed to support long-term market development. The event also advanced the dialogue on Italy–Montenegro market integration, building on the MONITA interconnection.

Throughout the project, regulators strengthened their understanding of the EU electricity acquis, market coupling mechanisms and the requirements of the ACER Integration Plan. The initiative also clarified which elements of the package require primary legislation and which can be implemented through secondary acts — a crucial issue for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The project contributed to concrete progress: several Balkan countries advanced the adoption of the legal acts required by the new electricity package, and cooperation between ARERA and REGAGEN supported parallel initiatives on Italy–Montenegro market integration. This process led to a high-level round table in September 2024 and to the signature of a memorandum of understanding between the Italian and Montenegrin Ministries of Energy in October 2025.

A study on the future of electricity forward markets was presented in December 2025, providing an additional analytical tool for regulators.

Overall, the project strengthened institutional cooperation, enhanced regulatory capacity and supported the broader objective of integrating the region's electricity markets into the EU framework. The knowledge acquired is already reflected in ongoing legislative reforms and active participation in Energy Community initiatives.

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.79,653 EUR
CEI GRANT.38,833 EUR
IMPLEMENTATION PERIODFebruary 2024 – February 2025 (13 months)

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

| Politiscope, Croatia

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

| Sarajevo Open Centre, Bosnia and Herzegovina

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

The project strengthened the capacity of civil society organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina to understand and engage with the evolving legal framework on personal data protection, an important element of the country's EU integration process. It was implemented by the Sarajevo Open Centre (SOC), coordinator of the Initiative for Monitoring the European Integration of BiH, with the support of Politiscope, a Croatian organisation specialised in GDPR and digital rights. The beneficiaries were the member organisations of the Initiative, which play a key role in monitoring reforms and advocating for alignment with EU standards.

The project began with two training sessions, held in April and September 2024, which introduced the principles of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the existing legal framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the relevance of data protection for the rule of law. The sessions, attended by twenty civil society representatives, significantly increased participants' knowledge and provided a shared foundation for subsequent analytical work.

A study visit to Croatia in June 2024 enabled a smaller group to meet institutions and organisations directly involved in GDPR implementation. The visit offered practical insights into institutional structures, oversight mechanisms and

the interaction between data protection and human rights, helping prepare the Initiative for its own engagement with national authorities.

A central output of the project was the first comprehensive analysis of personal data protection legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its alignment with GDPR, finalised in September 2024. The document identified gaps in the existing and proposed legislation and assessed the capacities of the Agency for Personal Data Protection (APDP).

Building on this work, a mentoring process supported members of the Initiative in drafting two policy proposals: one addressing amendments to the Law on Personal Data Protection, and another focusing on strengthening the APDP. The mentoring also helped prepare advocacy strategies and facilitated direct engagement with institutions.

For the first time, civil society organisations established structured communication with the Agency for Personal Data Protection of BiH, which hosted a meeting in October 2024 to discuss the analysis and proposals. Communication activities throughout the year, including articles, videos and social media content, helped raise public awareness of GDPR principles.

The last project activity was a public conference in Sarajevo in December 2024, where the analysis and policy proposals were presented to civil society, institutional representatives and independent oversight bodies. The event consolidated cooperation between CSOs and institutions and highlighted the need for transparent and inclusive legislative processes, marking an important step toward a more robust and rights-based data protection framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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

CEI REF. NO.	304.4.2023.034
TOTAL PROJECT COST.	39,780 EUR
CEI GRANT.	26,384 EUR
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	March 2024 – February 2025 (12 months)

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

School of Government and School of Law, Luiss Guido Carli University, Italy

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENTS

Civil servants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

The project delivered an executive training programme on the effective management of EU funding instruments and the prevention of fraud and mismanagement, aimed at strengthening the administrative capacity of Western Balkan public administrations. It was implemented by Luiss Guido Carli University, through its School of Government and School of Law, in partnership with the Procura of the Italian Court of Auditors, which contributed specialised expertise on financial controls, accountability and anti-fraud mechanisms. The beneficiaries were fifteen civil servants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

The programme began with two online modules delivered in June 2024, introducing participants to European and Italian legislation on public procurement, administrative transparency, accountability and the operational management of EU funds. The modules combined legal, organisational and practical perspectives and were followed by an online assessment to verify knowledge acquisition and ensure a shared foundation for the in-presence phase.

The core component of the project was the in-presence training week held at Luiss in Rome in September 2024. Over

five days, participants attended lectures delivered by Luiss professors and met representatives of key Italian institutions, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), the National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC) and the Italian Court of Auditors. An institutional visit was organised at the National Committee for Combating Fraud against the EU (COLAF – AFCOS), offering direct exposure to Italy’s anti-fraud coordination system and its cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor’s Office. The week concluded with a final conference featuring contributions from senior officials of the Guardia di Finanza.

Following the in-presence module, participants prepared a final comparative paper analysing national best practices in the management of EU funds and proposing ways to strengthen administrative capacity and anti-fraud controls. The papers were evaluated by Luiss academic staff, and successful participants were awarded a university certificate corresponding to 7 ECTS.

Throughout the programme, participants benefited from the research and methodologies developed through the EU-funded BETKOSOL initiative, which analyses risks and regulatory challenges in protecting the EU’s financial interests. This enriched the training with up-to-date insights on fraud detection, digital tools and governance reforms.

The project strengthened the skills and knowledge of public officials responsible for EU funds management, promoted the exchange of experiences among Western Balkan administrations and enhanced understanding of Italian and European best practices in transparency and anti-fraud systems. It also fostered regional cooperation by bringing together civil servants from different countries to work on shared challenges related to EU integration and public administration reform.

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. 94,977 EUR
CEI GRANT. 37,998 EUR
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD March 2024 – September 2025 (18 months)

KNOW-HOW PROVIDER

| Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute (IAFE-NRI), Poland

KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT

| Odesa National Economic University, Ukraine

DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

The project strengthened the institutional capacity of Odesa National Economic University (ONEU) to support Ukraine's agri-food sector and rural development through the application of tools and good practices drawn from the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Led by the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute (IAFE-NRI, Poland), the initiative responded to the severe disruption caused by the war, which has damaged agricultural infrastructure, reduced production, and increased the need for evidence-based policies to support small farms, rural communities and regional authorities. The project aimed to equip ONEU with the knowledge, methodologies and practical skills required to guide policy makers as Ukraine advances toward EU accession.

Capacity-building activities focused on transferring EU and Polish experience in agricultural policy design, monitoring systems, and rural development instruments. A structured series of thematic trainings introduced CAP principles, the functioning of Pillar I (direct payments and market measures) and Pillar II (rural development programmes), the LEADER community-led development approach, participatory planning methods, and monitoring and evaluation tools. These sessions provided ONEU faculty with a solid methodological base and prepared them for the strategy-drafting phase.

The project placed strong emphasis on applied learning. Joint research between IAFE-NRI and ONEU examined existing Ukrainian policies, support programmes for small

farms, and rural development needs in Odesa Oblast. This work informed the drafting of a CAP-aligned regional strategy and helped adapt EU methodologies to wartime conditions. Consultations with local self-government units, regional authorities, agribusiness representatives and expert communities ensured that local priorities and constraints were fully reflected in the strategy.

Two study visits to Poland offered ONEU researchers direct exposure to CAP implementation, multi-level governance, digital advisory systems, and rural development programmes. Meetings with ministries, agencies, farmer associations and academic institutions provided practical insights into how Poland operationalised CAP tools during its own EU accession. These exchanges strengthened cross-border cooperation and enriched the drafting of the Odesa strategy with concrete examples and lessons learned.

Throughout 2024–2025, ONEU and IAFE-NRI worked jointly on the Odesa Regional Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy (2025–2030). Multiple iterations were reviewed in technical workshops, ensuring alignment with EU methodologies while addressing the realities of wartime recovery. The final draft integrates evidence-based planning, stakeholder engagement, and a roadmap for CAP-compatible support measures for small farms, rural communities and local authorities.

The project achieved its objectives by enhancing ONEU's analytical and advisory capacity, transferring practical knowledge on CAP implementation, and producing a comprehensive draft strategy for Odesa Oblast. It strengthened institutional cooperation between Ukrainian and Polish partners and positioned ONEU as a regional hub for CAP-aligned policy development. Despite wartime disruption, the combination of targeted training, joint research and international exchanges ensured continuity, resilience and meaningful results. The strategy and training materials developed through the project now provide a replicable model for other Ukrainian regions as the country advances toward EU integration.



Annexes

Annex 1

Financial Report 2025

Summary as at 31 December 2025 ¹		€
Inflows		
Inflows 1992-2007 CEIE00 account (MEF)		26,580,805
Inflows 2008-2025 CEI200 account (MAECI)		35,000,421
Other income 1992-2007 CEIE00 account (MEF)		2,914,787
Other income 2008-2025 CEI200 account (MAECI)		770,818
Total inflows 1992-2023		65,266,831
Expenditures		
Office operating expenses (1992-2003), CEI Summit Economic Fora (1998-2003), international events/ cooperation activities (1998-2006) CEIE00 account (MEF)		6,012,236
EBRD management fee CEIE00 (MEF)		969,660
EBRD management fee CEI200 (MAECI)		1,400,000
Earmarks CEIE00 account (MEF)		22,496,908
Earmarks CEI200 account (MAECI)		28,473,133
Balance CEIE00 account (MEF) to be transferred to the MEF TC account		16,788
Other expenses CEI200 account (MAECI)		220,476
Total expenditures 1992-2025		59,589,201
Available resources		
Available fund balance CEI200 account (MAECI)		3,615,772
Income vs Budget CEI200 account (MAECI)		2,061,858
Available fund balance, CEI/EBRD Office Trieste accounts		122,883
Total available resources		5,800,513
Commitments not earmarked and reserve		
TC assignments not earmarked		2,338,450
Total Commitments not earmarked		2,338,450
Net available resources		3,462,063
Budget 2026		3,000,000
Expected available resources in 2027		462,063

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

Planned vs. Actual Budget Report 2025

Budget items	Approved €	Actual allocations €
Projects		
Technical Cooperation Programme	2,200,000.00	2,238,450.00
Know.how Exchange Programme	600,000.00	553,322.00
Subtotal	2,800,000.00	2,791,772.00
Human Resources		
Salaries	117,000.00	118,173.23
Insurance	2,000.00	2,498.87
Provision for severance indemnities 2002–2025	0.00	10,000.00
Subtotal	119,000.00	130,672.10
Office Expenses		
Travels	20,000.00	6,440.30
Events & Publications	35,000.00	16,682.01
Office operational expenses	12,000.00	7,677.45
Subtotal	67,000.00	30,799.76
Contingency Reserve		
Reserve	14,000.00	0.00
Subtotal	14,000.00	0.00
Total	3,000,000.00	2,953,243.86

Budget 2026

Annex 3

Projects	Trieste (€)	London (€)	Total (€)
Technical Cooperation Programme		2,250,000	
Know-how Exchange Programme	550,000		
Subtotal			2,800,000
Human Resources			
Salaries, insurance	120,000		
Subtotal			120,000
Office Expenses			
Travels	15,000		
Events & Publications	25,000		
Office operational expenses	10,000		
Subtotal			50,000
Contingency Reserve			
Reserve	30,000		
Subtotal			30,000
Total			3,000,000

CEI Fund - CEIE00 account (MEF) Balance 2025 (MEF)

€	
Contributions received	26,580,805
Other income	2,914,787
Total income	29,495,592
Management fee	969,660
Administrative/other expenses	6,012,236
Earmarks	22,496,908
To be transferred to the MEF TC account	16,788
Total expenditure	29,495,592
Available fund balance	0

CEI Fund: Balance 2025 (MAECI)

Balance 2025

	€
Contributions received	35,000,421
Other income	770,818
Total income	35,771,239
Management fee	1,400,000
Administrative/other expenses	220,476
Earmarks	28,473,133
Undrawn management fee and other administrative expenses reserve	2,061,858
Total expenditure	32,155,467
Available fund balance	3,615,772

List of Technical Cooperation Assignments 1993-2025

EARMARK DOCUMENT NUMBER	COMMITMENT NAME	COMMITTED € OF OPERATIONS	COUNTRY	SECTOR OF OPERATION	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

EARMARK DOCUMENT NUMBER	COMMITMENT NAME	COMMITTED €	COUNTRY OF OPERATIONS	SECTOR OF OPERATION	COMMITMENT STAGE
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
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

EARMARK DOCUMENT NUMBER	COMMITMENT NAME	COMMITTED € OF OPERATIONS	COUNTRY	SECTOR OF OPERATION	COMMITMENT STAGE
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
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 - Pinski drev	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	closed
50001182	EGP - MixNet and Maize	69,382	Ukraine	SME support	closed

EARMARK DOCUMENT NUMBER	COMMITMENT NAME	COMMITTED €	COUNTRY OF OPERATIONS	SECTOR OF OPERATION	COMMITMENT STAGE
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 Diary 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	157,500	Moldova	Transport	closed
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
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 - Agrofusion	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

EARMARK DOCUMENT NUMBER	COMMITMENT NAME	COMMITTED € OF OPERATIONS	COUNTRY OF OPERATIONS	SECTOR OF OPERATION	COMMITMENT STAGE
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: the Belt and Road Initiative in the Western Balkans	148,434	Regional	Transport	closed
50002889	Enhancing Public Procurement Professionalism - Capacity Building Programme	120,000	Regional	Institutional Development	closed
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	closed
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
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
50006267	Green Economy Transition - Project Preparation and Implementation Framework	164,994	Regional	Energy/ Climate	closed
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	74,000	Serbia	Transport	closed
50006824	Moldova: Support for the Competitive Procurement of Renewable Energy	200,000	Moldova	Energy/ Climate	disbursing

EARMARK DOCUMENT NUMBER	COMMITMENT NAME	COMMITTED €	COUNTRY OF OPERATIONS	SECTOR OF OPERATION	COMMITMENT STAGE
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	closed
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	Serbia: Climate-smart national irrigation strategy	140,836	Serbia	Agribusiness	closed
50007363	Increasing market opportunities for high-quality food products	118,325	Regional	Agribusiness	closed
50007692	COVID-19 Crisis Response: Environmental & Social Contractor Management	119,450	Regional	Transport	closed
50007917	Methane Emissions Reduction Programme in Gas Supply Chains	71,842	Ukraine	Energy/ Climate	closed
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
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	Regional	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	247,429	Montenegro	Energy/ Climate	closed
50009263	Brcko District: Electrical Grid Expansion - Due Diligence & Advance Procurement	150,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Energy/ Climate	closed
50009267 / 50009283	Youth in Business Programme in the Western Balkans	1,500,000	Regional	SME support	disbursing
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	disbursing
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	31,643	North Macedonia	Transport	closed
50009879	Feasibility study for Albania-Montenegro 110 kV overhead transmission line connection Dajc (Kosmac) - Briska Gora (Ulcinj)	250,000	Regional	Energy/ Climate	disbursing

EARMARK DOCUMENT NUMBER	COMMITMENT NAME	COMMITTED € OF OPERATIONS	COUNTRY OF OPERATIONS	SECTOR OF OPERATION	COMMITMENT STAGE
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	disbursing
50009637	International master's in public Procurement Management (10th edition Rome and 6th edition Belgrade)	75,000	Regional	Institutional Development	disbursing
50009943	Decarbonisation and Action Plan for Javno Preduzece Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS)	297,720	Serbia	Energy/ Climate	closed
50010663	Continuation of the Programme "Advisory to MSMEs and Start-Ups in Moldova"	500,000	Moldova	SME support	disbursing
50010668	Continuation of "Youth in Business Programme in the Western Balkans"	500,000	Regional	SME support	disbursing
50010766	Ternopil Trolleybus Project - Project Implementation Unit	370,000	Ukraine	Transport	disbursing
50010788	Serbia Project Science Phase 2- Legal Due Diligence	20,000	Serbia	SME support	committed
50010789	Serbia Project Science Phase 2 - Environmental & Social Due Diligence	120,000	Serbia	SME support	committed
To be assigned	North Macedonia: Rail Corridor VIII, Phase 3 - Gender and Inclusion	100,000	North Macedonia	Transport	approved
To be assigned	Circular Economy Regional Initiative - Technical Assistance for adopting circular technologies and processes, and strategies	200,000	Regional	Finance, Business	approved
To be assigned	Tunnel Prenj – JP Autoceste Corporate Development Programme	400,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	approved
To be assigned	Fostering food quality and competitiveness through digitalisation	388,450	Regional	Agribusiness	approved
To be assigned	SOEs Management Assistance Reform and Transformation (SMART) – "Distribution Code update and Investment Planning support to OSHEE". Component 2: support with Investment Planning for OSHEE	130,000	Albania	Energy/ Climate	approved
To be assigned	Ukraine Energy Security Support Facility (ESSF)	1,000,000	Ukraine	Energy/ Climate	approved
To be assigned	Miravci Wind Power Project - Wind resource measurement and Energy yield assessment	120,000	North Macedonia	Energy/ Climate	approved
TOTAL		38,025,678			

List of Know-how Exchange Programme Projects 2004-2025

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	Czech Republic, 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

REFERENCE NUMBER	PROJECT NAME	COUNTRY OF KNOW-HOW PROVIDER INSTITUTION	COUNTRY OF KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT INSTITUTION	TOTAL PROJECT COST €	CEI CO-FINANCING €	IMPLEMENTATION STAGE
1206.026-08	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 Acceding 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
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	Czech Republic	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)	Czech Republic	North Macedonia	77,590	37,895	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
1206.009-12	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
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)	Czech Republic	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

REFERENCE NUMBER	PROJECT NAME	COUNTRY OF KNOW-HOW PROVIDER INSTITUTION	COUNTRY OF KNOW-HOW RECIPIENT INSTITUTION	TOTAL PROJECT COST €	CEI CO-FINANCING €	IMPLEMENTATION STAGE
1206.004-16	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 OIL FREE)	Czech Republic	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
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	INNOVATION to prevention and protection from natural and environmental RISKS: experiences in the mirror between civil protection and emergency management from Italy to Moldova (INNOVATION.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	20,289	8,335	closed
1206.006-19	Promoting geological, ecological, and cultural heritage through 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

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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	Czech Republic, 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	80,658	37,500	closed
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- F0od exPrtise 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
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	65,405	32,702	closed
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	76,825	36,841	closed
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	99,825	36,425	closed
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	61,168	24,082	closed

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304.4.055-22	Executive Program "Countering Corruption within Public Administration Through Transparency"	Italy	North Macedonia	60,450	29,065	closed
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	77,400	37,350	closed
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	90,474	39,175	closed
304.4.2023.001	Supporting the Albanian Regulatory Authority to improve the efficiency of the wholesale electricity market	Italy	Albania	85,275	39,905	closed
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	under implementation
304.4.2023.018	CEI support for increasing capacity of research and action in Occupational and Environmental Health in Republic of Moldova	Italy	Moldova	78,611	38,630	closed
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	86,022	40,000	closed
304.4.2023.030	Assessment of air and water quality laboratories' capacities in Albania	Italy	Albania	59,208	22,893	closed
304.4.2023.031	CEI support to DATA ROL (Data Protection and the Rule of Law) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	79,653	38,833	closed
304.4.2023.034	Executive Program "Effective Management and Anti-Fraud Controls in the Use of EU funding instruments"	Italy	Regional	54,716	26,384	closed
304.4.2023.039	Territorial cohesion and place-based policies: an Exchange programme on Chapter 22 (COPE22)	Italy	Regional	76,551	37,848	closed
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	under implementation
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	94,977	37,889	closed
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	under implementation
304.4.2024.002	Civil Society for Good Governance and Anti-Corruption in Southeast Europe: CEI Support to Capacity Building for Evidence-Based Advocacy, Policy Impact and Citizen Engagement	Bulgaria	Regional	80,000	40,000	under implementation
304.4.2024.006	Capacity enhancing of the Albanian marine pollution preparedness and response system	Croatia	Albania	78,500	39,000	under implementation
304.4.2024.007	EU Natural gas markets: fundamentals, regulatory frameworks and challenges for market integration and decarbonisation	Italy	Regional	80,000	40,000	under implementation
304.4.2024.010	Resilience and Preservation: Security, Migration, and Cultural Heritage Protection in Ukraine	Italy	Ukraine	38,935	18,900	under implementation
304.4.2024.011	Urban Nexus: Empowering Local Governance in the Western Balkan (UrbaNEX – WB)	Italy	Regional	98,078	39,498	under implementation
304.4.2024.017	CEI support to strengthening the Parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine, in the context of the EU Accession	Italy	Regional	69,992	34,992	under implementation
304.4.2024.021	Technical assistance for the creation of a National Promotional Institution (NPI) in Albania	Italy	Albania	100,000	40,000	under implementation
304.4.2024.023	CEI for Ukraine's Future. Empowering Ukrainian Municipalities through Polish Expertise in Fund Management and Project Practices for Pre-Accession Readiness of Ukraine	Poland	Ukraine	102,005	40,000	under implementation
304.4.2024.034	MAAM - Media Advocacy Action for Moldova: Empowering Moldova's Public Watchdogs to Safeguard Media Freedom	Romania	Moldova	80,850	39,313	under implementation
304.4.2024.049	CEI support to Technology Transfer for Hospitals in Albania and North Macedonia (ALBAU-TT-CRO)	Italy	Regional	89,752	40,000	under implementation

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304.4.2024.054	Enhancing Sustainable Tourism Development in Montenegro	Croatia	Montenegro	80,000	40,000	under implementation
304.4.2025.001	Applying Artificial Intelligence to the Electricity Sector in the Balkans	Italy	Regional	80,000	40,000	approved
304.4.2025.005	CEI for Albania: a Blueprint for a modern, EU-Compliant Business Register to support EU integration and economic development	Italy	Albania	102,952	39,926	approved
304.4.2025.010	CEI Support to Hydrogen Strategy Development and Know-How Transfer for Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	80,000	40,000	approved
304.4.2025.012	Integration of Data and Approaches for Seismic Hazard assessment in CEI regions - IDASH	Italy, Slovenia, Croatia	Regional	87,765	39,999	approved
304.4.2025.026	ALIGN-AL Albania–EU Data Protection Alignment	Italy	Albania	79,000	39,500	approved
304.4.2025.027	Raising public and stakeholder awareness on the importance of water protection and pollution prevention in North Macedonia	Croatia	North Macedonia	79,928	39,400	approved
304.4.2025.031	CEI support for Bridging Borders: Strengthening Regional Capacity for Moldova’s EU Integration through Know-How Exchange (BRIDGE2EU)	Romania, Italy	Moldova	39,187	19,320	approved
304.4.2025.035	DeepTech Capacity Building for EU-Aligned Innovation in Moldova	Romania	Moldova	82,000	40,000	approved
304.4.2025.037	CEI support to regional development policy in the context of the EU integration of the Republic of Moldova by exchange of know-how with North-East and West Regional Development Agencies	Romania	Moldova	45,000	22,500	approved
304.4.2025.040	European Bridges of Science and Knowledge: Capacity Building in Computational Approaches for Young Scientists	Slovenia	Regional	65,612	32,712	approved
304.4.2025.042	BRIDGE – Strengthening EU Integration Capacities in Brcko District through Italian Know-How and Regional Cooperation	Italy	Bosnia and Herzegovina	87,615	39,965	approved
304.4.2025.043	Technical assistance for the creation of the Albanian Development Bank - ADB	Italy	Albania	100,000	40,000	approved
304.4.2025.044	CEI Support to Taxation Policy Knowledge Transfer: Strengthening Public Revenues through Evidence-Based R&D	Slovakia	Serbia	80,000	40,000	approved
304.4.2025.053	CEI support to regional exchange on climate risk adaptation in Moldova and Ukraine	Poland, Italy	Regional	80,000	40,000	approved
304.4.2025.060	Designing better public services: Italian Serbian Exchange on User-Centred Digital Transformation	UNDP, Italy	Serbia	80,000	40,000	approved
TOTAL				18,947,099	5,338,183	

Abbreviations and acronyms

AER	Assembly of European Regions
ATCO	Air Traffic Control Officer
BAS	Business Advisory Service
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CEI	Central European Initiative
CEI-ES	CEI Executive Secretariat
CERI	Circular Economy Regional Initiative
CETE	Circular Economy Categorisation System
CIRCTI	Circular Transition Indicators
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIR	EBRD Investment Ratio
ESSF	Energy Security Support Facility
EU	European Union
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IAFE-NRI	Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute
JPAC	JP Autoceste Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine
KEP	Know-how Exchange Programme
MAECI	Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale
MEF	Ministero dell’Economia e delle Finanze
MIS	Management Information System
OSHEE	Operatori i Shpërndarjes së Energjisë Elektrike
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RF	Recovery Fund
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
SOEs	State-Owned Enterprises
TC	Technical Cooperation
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport Network
TIR	Total Investment Ratio
uPOPs	Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants

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