



# Annual Report 2014 of the Secretary General



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# 1. INTRODUCTION BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

2014 has been a very special year for the Central European Initiative (CEI): it has celebrated its 25th birthday. The Secretariat and the Austrian CEI Presidency made all the necessary efforts to properly mark this very important event for the Organisation. The Secretariat has prepared a commemorative publication outlining the CEI's development over the years. The Austrian CEI Presidency has marked this Anniversary through various events such as seminars, workshops, expert and ministerial meetings. Moreover, the Heads of Government in Vienna on 24 November, adopted a Declaration on this very special occasion.

We have also used this opportunity to analyse what has worked well in the CEI, both in the past and present as well as what could contribute to the future. We have ascertained that our well-functioning intergovernmental machinery and our strong operational character and project-oriented approach (i.e. a combination of multilateral diplomacy and project management); our manifold activities in various areas and initiatives to create a good business environment as well as our investment in a knowledge-based economy, will serve best to increase competitiveness and the overall performance of our Region.

Our 20-plus-year-old partnership with the EBRD is a real success story in this regard. We owe profound gratitude to the Italian Government for upholding its outstanding financial commitment even in difficult times. The CEI Fund at the EBRD, fully financed by Italy, and our partnership with the Bank in London have strengthened our project-oriented dimension. In the period 1992-2014, the CEI Technical Cooperation projects supported by the CEI Fund were linked to 4.8 billion EUR of international investments. For 1 euro spent on CEI Technical Cooperation over 200 EUR were invested by the EBRD, other IFIs and clients.

The list of instruments in the support of political and socio-economic development is also enriched with our support to small projects such as seminars, workshops, conferences, trainings, etc. through the CEI Cooperation Fund, to which all Member States contribute. Out of this Fund, 891 activities covering various areas have been co-financed so far with more than 8.2 million EUR.

Another project-oriented activity of ours is the CEI Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP), which supports small and

medium-sized projects and activities. KEP offers grants to institutions from EU countries willing to share their experience in the EU accession process with their partners in the non-EU CEI countries. Up to now, about 100 projects have been co-financed from these sources with about 2.7 million Euro. KEP is financed from two sources: out of the Italian CEI Fund at the EBRD and the Austrian Development Cooperation through an agreement with

the Austrian Development Agency. In January this year we signed a new three-year KEP AUSTRIA Grant Agreement. I am thankful to Austria for this renewal.

The CEI also promotes high-quality, result oriented projects through the participation in EU-funded projects. We are proud of our record: 29 EU-funded projects. We act as Lead



Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri

Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri was appointed Secretary General in January 2013 after having held the post of Italian Ambassador to France from 2009 to 2012. He took over the position in March 2013.

Having graduated in Law in 1970 at the University of Rome "La Sapienza", he also received a French education at the Lycee Châteaubriand in Rome, where he obtained the Baccalauréat "avec mention". Caracciolo di Vietri enters the diplomatic service in 1971 and in 1976 he was First Secretary at the Embassy of Italy to Ethiopia. From 1980 – 1985 he worked as Counsellor at the Embassy of Italy to the United States of America and from 1985 – 1992 as Deputy Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the Republic of Italy. In 1992 he was nominated Consul General in Paris and in 1996 Deputy Director General for Emigration and Social Affairs, MFA, Rome. From 2000 – 2004 he served as Ambassador to Belgrade and from 2004 – 2006 he was nominated Director General for European Countries and Regional Cooperation at the MFA in Rome. From 2006 – 2009 he was Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva.

Partner in such important sectors as transport, cross-border cooperation and science and technology. We will intensify our efforts to participate in EU-funded projects and to strengthen our ties with the European Commission as mandated by our Foreign Ministers.

Our expertise in the implementation of projects gives us an added value, particularly in view of the EU Macro-regional strategies and the Eastern Partnership, where many of our countries are included. We are actively involved in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, we are preparing the grounds to participate in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Macro-Region and are following the development of a future strategy for the Alpine Region. Through our project-oriented working method we provide a flexible basis for regional cooperation of our three Eastern countries encompassed by the Eastern Partnership. The final aim is to become a key-actor in the strategies' implementation and a bridge between macro-regions, connecting the Baltic, the Danube, the Adriatic-Ionian, Black Sea and Alpine regions. Ensuring synergies and complementarities through specific projects directly managed by the CEI is also an objective of ours.

This is an ambitious goal for a regional organisation such as the CEI: a goal that can be achieved only by constantly improving our records, while quickly adapting to the fast changing circumstances of the European political landscape. The CEI has been able to do so during its 25 years of life: this notwithstanding, I do believe that further efforts are needed in order to fully exploit our potential and make our organisation an even more flexible, innovative and practical tool for a result-based and project-oriented regional cooperation.

This year's developments have been characterised not only by success, but also by unsolved problems as well as new challenges. I am talking about the situation in Ukraine. This country has been at the centre of our attention also due to the fact that we had a number of ongoing projects there. These projects were not affected by the crisis, and we do

hope they might additionally contribute to stabilising the country. I would also mention here the devastating floods which have caused great damage in three of our countries, namely Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia. We have taken concrete actions to assist these countries in their recovery by exploiting our instruments and funds. Indeed, three emergency projects have been financed out of the KEP financed by Italy, two in Serbia and one in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As a contribution to strengthening the CEI visibility, particular efforts have been made by the Secretariat to enhance its relations with the media. Appropriate actions - in particular in connection to the high-level meetings - have been developed and consisted in the dissemination of press releases, organisation of press conferences, involvement of specialised journalists in specific CEI events and other initiatives. The valuable cooperation with the South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO) and with the ANSA News Agency also provided the necessary framework for enhancing media relations in the CEI region. Moreover, the engagement in the web-based social media, in particular Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, allowed the Secretariat to target broader networks and stakeholders in the CEI region and widely circulate information on CEI events, projects and opportunities (e.g. open calls). On a regular basis, a newsletter including the major news published on the website is also disseminated to CEI structures and relevant partners.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude for the extraordinary efforts of the Austrian CEI Presidency in making the year 2014 a real success for the Organisation. My gratitude also goes to all Member States for their deep commitment. At the same time, I can assure that the Secretariat - gaining more and more experience and know-how in putting forward the CEI's mission and objectives - will continue providing support to its Member States.



*Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri*

## 2. FOREWORD BY THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF AUSTRIA



Exactly 18 years have passed since the last Austrian CEI Presidency in 1996. Then a number of important events for the Initiative took place: the major CEI Enlargement came about that year when six countries, known as the Associated Countries<sup>1</sup>, became full CEI Member States, thus moving the Organisation geographically “towards the East”. In March that same year the Secretariat of the Initiative was officially inaugurated in Trieste.

Nonetheless, after so many years and having witnessed numerous developments in the region, taking up the Presidency was no easy task. At the beginning of the year, the Presidency was confronted with a certain scepticism concerning the role and functioning of the CEI in Austria itself as well as in other Member States. However, thanks to the increased professionalism of the Organisation, the networking activities of the Presidency (including the adoption of a UN resolution on cooperation with the CEI) and the special role of the Secretariat (in particular in elaborating the three-year Action Plan, in strengthening the Business Dimension and enhancing closer cooperation with the EU etc.), the CEI has been accepted towards the end of the Austrian Presidency as a useful instrument that has gained in visibility and skills in comparison with other organisations operating in the same geographical area.

Many results have been achieved throughout the year. Although the Presidency has been faced with a number of challenges as well, in particular with the crisis in Ukraine, sometimes making negotiations with regard to the texts of the political documents difficult. This was the case with the Final Communiqué of the MFA Meeting, the Resolution on Cooperation between the UN and the CEI, the Declaration on the 25th Anniversary of the CEI Summit and several statements directly concerning the developments in Ukraine. However, thanks to constructive approaches, the Member States have succeeded in reaching a consensus on most of these documents. Sometimes a Presidency Statement had to be adopted instead of a Statement from all the CEI members. The Presidency also would have wished sometimes a stronger ownership of the individual Member States.

The CEI’s stronger involvement in EU projects as well as programmes has contributed to fostering the CEI’s role as a bridge between *European (macro) regions* and to enhancing synergies in this respect. This was also confirmed by Commissioner Johannes Hahn, on the occasion of the meeting organised by the Presidency in Vienna on 24 January on the topic of macro-regions. The Western Balkan priority was underlined by a Western Balkans Ministerial meeting organised back to back with the CEI Ministerial, while the increased importance of the three CEI EU Eastern Partners by seminars organised in Belarus and Kyiv. The CEI’s enhanced importance was also demonstrated by the fact that some countries have increased their membership fees and/or expressed an interest in a future stronger engagement with the Organisation.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the Member States for their constructive approach and the Secretariat for its excellent, competent and crucial cooperation throughout the year. Without these two elements the Austrian CEI Presidency would not have been so successful.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Heidemaria Gürer'.

Ambassador Heidemaria Gürer

<sup>1</sup> Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Ukraine

## 3. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

A number of important tasks have been tackled by the CEI throughout the year. They are outlined in detail in the Chapters related to the Austrian CEI Presidency. Yet, a few salient activities involving all CEI Structures need outlining, such as the Celebrations of the 25th Anniversary and the 20th Anniversary of the CEI Instrument for the Protection of Minority Rights as well as the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the UN on the Cooperation between the UN and the CEI.

### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Central European Initiative

On 11 November 1989 - immediately after the fall of the Berlin wall - four countries (Italy, Austria, Hungary and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the eve of its dissolution) felt compelled to take action and adopt a Joint Declaration stating their readiness “to strengthen good-neighbourly relations and develop a manifold cooperation between their respective countries”. To this end, they launched what is known today as the Central European Initiative. Since its inception more than two decades ago, the CEI has taken root, grown and finally blossomed into the largest and oldest regional intergovernmental forum, committed to supporting European integration through cooperation among its Member States and the European Union (EU). Currently counting 18 Member States (MS), the Organisation has become a recognised promoter of EU - non-EU-country partnership and regional cooperation, a clear demonstration of how much can be achieved when all countries make determined efforts to implement internationally-agreed frameworks.

On the occasion of the CEI Summit in Vienna, under the title 25 years of CEI and Future Vision, the CEI Heads of Government adopted a Declaration on the 25 Years of the CEI, accompanied by a publication on the 25 years of CEI 1989 - 2014.



### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Instrument for the Protection of Minority Rights

From the very outset of their cooperation, the CEI Member States have devoted particular attention to questions related to national minorities. It was expected that a positive solution of national minority issues at regional level could offer a model to be applied within a greater European framework. Such an approach has reflected their intention to give political cooperation a higher profile within the CEI scope of activities with special regard to national minorities. Elaborating the CEI Instrument was one of the first attempts to create a systematic legal framework for this sensitive area at multilateral regional level. The Instrument was adopted at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers on 18-19 November 1994.

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the CEI Instrument for the Protection of the Minority Rights, the Austrian CEI Presidency and the Secretariat organised a Seminar in Trieste on 9 October under the title “20 Years of the CEI Instrument for the Protection of Minority Rights – A Retrospective Glance and Future Challenges”.

### Resolution on Cooperation between the UN and the CEI

The UN General Assembly adopted the Resolution on “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative” on 11 November, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the CEI. The document aims at strengthening cooperation between the UN system with the CEI, the latter enjoying observer status in the UN General Assembly since 2011.

While appraising continuous contribution of the CEI to the political advancement in the region, the Resolution, endorsed by all 18 CEI Member States, invites the UN Secretary General to strengthen dialogue with the Initiative, and recommends that all relevant agencies, organisations and programmes of the UN system continue cooperation and joint activities with the CEI. Also Liechtenstein joined in the endorsement of the Resolution.



Vienna the capital city of Austria

## 4. ACTIVITIES OF THE AUSTRIAN CEI PRESIDENCY 2014

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

### CNC Meetings

The CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC) has met five times this year, with an exceptional participation of the Member States and their active role in the deliberations: three of the CNC meetings were held in Vienna (23 January, 2 June and 21 November), one in London (11 April) and one in Trieste (10 October). The CNC was involved in the preparation of the high-level meetings and has approved a number of projects throughout the year. It has also launched a number of ideas and proposals, tackled by the Secretariat throughout the year.



Participants at CNC Meeting, Vienna—November 2014

Upon the proposal of the Presidency on the occasion of the CNC meeting in Trieste in October, the CEI Medal of Honour was bestowed upon Mr. Roberto Antonione for his longstanding engagement and merits for the CEI during his mandate, in particular as Chairman of the Italian Parliamentary Delegation at the CEI Parliamentary Assembly and as Italian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.



MoH Awarding Ceremony, Trieste—October 2014

### Conference “CEI as bridge between European (Macro-) Regions / Synergies with International Organisations”

On 24 January in Vienna, the Presidency organised a Conference under the title “CEI as bridge between European (Macro-) Regions / Synergies with International Organizations” with the CNC and representatives of various regional and international organisations and international financial institutions. EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, also took part in the meeting. The event served as a platform for sharing views and opinions on the CEI’s rising



from left: Austrian NC, Amb. Heidemaria Gürrer; EU Commissioner, Johannes Hahn; MFA Austria Secretary General, Michael Linhart

role in the EU Macro-regional Strategies, thanks to its geographical position connecting both the existing and upcoming Strategies (i.e., for the Baltic Sea Region, the Danube Region, the Adriatic-Ionian Region and the Alps) as well as in initiatives such as the Eastern Partnership. The basic idea behind the organisation of a meeting with representatives of 18 regional and international organisations was to pinpoint favourable synergies and avoid unnecessary overlapping. The final aim was to reach an effective exchange of programmes in order to create a sort of ‘clearing house’ for Central European projects. This would be even more so for the CEI, thanks to its large membership, enabling the Organisation to act as a sort of ‘catalyst’ in this regard. Commissioner Hahn saw many opportunities for the CEI in the context of the governance of the EU Macro-regional strategies.



Participants at Vienna Conference, January 2014

## International Symposium “25 Years of the Central European Initiative and 25 Years from the Fall of the Iron Curtain”

The Embassy of Austria and the School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES) of the University College London organised, on 10 April in London, an International Symposium under the title “25 Years of the Central European Initiative and 25 Years from the Fall of the Iron Curtain”. On this occasion, prominent academics and former political decision makers had the chance to analyse and discuss the fundamental changes in Central Europe since the fall of the Iron Curtain. Particular attention was paid to the role of the CEI in promoting regional cooperation in an area currently covering 18 countries. A special Round Table: ‘Perspectives for Regional Cooperation’ was held within the Symposium. Among the distinguished participants at the Round Table: Gianni De Michelis who was Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy when the CEI was founded as “Quadrangone” in 1989 and Dimitrij Rupel who was Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia during the Slovenian CEI Presidency 2004. Géza Jeszenszky former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary and Mihai Răzvan Ungureanu former Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania also took part in the Round Table. All the participants agreed on the outstanding role the CEI had played in the democratic transition of the countries of Central and South Eastern Europe in the nineties as well as in their European integration. They also highlighted the fact that the CEI would still have a lot to do regarding the further EU Enlargement, in particular with the countries of the Western Balkans, as well as in overcoming the economic crisis. In this context, the project-oriented approach of the CEI contributing to the strengthening of the political, economic and social systems of its Member State was praised.



from left: Olaf Osica (Director of Centre for Eastern Studies), Mihai Răzvan Ungureanu, Géza Jeszenszky, Dimitrij Rupel and Gianni De Michelis

### Steering Committee Meeting

The CEI Steering Committee met in London on 11 April, back to back with the CNC meeting, at the Headquarters of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The National Coordinators and the representatives from the CEI countries at the EBRD Board of Directors approved the Budget 2014 of the CEI Fund at the EBRD. Over 1.8 million EUR will be financing the Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme and the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP), the two CEI Fund’s operational instruments supporting non-EU



Steering Committee Meeting, London—April 2014

CEI Member States in their process of integration with the European Union. The Annual Report 2013 - related to the projects and activities financed by the CEI Fund - was also presented. The document outlines commitments made available throughout 2013 for 15 project assignments amounting to around 1.2 million EUR. During the meeting, EBRD experts presented selected projects and programmes financed by the CEI Fund at the EBRD. In particular: the Bank’s Resources Efficacy Initiative for the Corporate Sector, Technical Assistance Projects targeting Montenegro as well as a Capacity Building Project for training public procurement officials in CEI Member States. An outlook focusing on reforms and growth in CEI countries complemented these presentations. Delegates from CEI countries highlighted and praised the success story of the long-lasting CEI-EBRD partnership and expressed their gratitude to the Italian Government for its remarkable financial commitment that – since 1992 - has totalled a 38.5 million EUR contribution to the CEI Fund at the EBRD, thus enabling important EBRD investments and operations in the CEI region.

### Vienna Economic Talks

The conference “Vienna Economic Talks - Building Bridges in a Challenging Time” was organised in Vienna on 28 April, representing the first pillar of the revisited CEI Business Dimension, related to the needs of both small- and medium-sized companies. The event served as a platform for discussing cooperation and synergies between the Vienna Economic Forum (VEF) and the CEI, especially in view of providing a contribution to the economic development in the countries of both Organisations. More than 130 registered participants from 26 countries, including high-ranking political and economic representatives as members of the VEF, representatives of various regional chambers of commerce, international organisations and international financial institutions as well as representatives from several Embassies in Vienna took part in the meeting. The event provided a valuable networking platform among participants from all sectors involved and proved that cooperation is essential to support economic development. The main topics of discussion were: Building Bridges – The Role of the Synergy for the Economic Development of Vienna Economic Forum and CEI Member Countries; Imagine the Future: For a Better Economic Cooperation. Economic Chamber’s and Bank’s Responsibilities; and Family

Business – Role and Perspectives. Family business was mostly dealt with in respect of its characteristics pertaining to SMEs and to the fact, as stressed, that this business sector nowadays represented the backbone of the economies of the VEF and CEI Members.

### Seminar "Regional Co-operation, Economic Growth and Political Stability: the Central European Initiative and Euro-Arctic/Northern Fora in comparison"

In the context of the 25th Anniversary of the CEI, the Italian Cultural Institute of Oslo hosted a seminar on 12 May, entitled "Regional Co-operation, Economic Growth and Political Stability: the Central European Initiative and Euro-Arctic/Northern Fora in comparison". The panel of expert speakers included the Italian Ambassador to Oslo - Giorgio Novello and his colleagues from Sweden - Sverre Stub, Austria - Thomas Wunderbaldinger and Serbia - Milan Simurdic. The former Hungarian Foreign Minister, Geza Jeszenszky was also present. The event aimed to highlight a success story and the persistent Italian commitment in favour of a forum promoting regional cooperation and acting as a bridge between the European macro-regions, unique in many ways. The key to success was identified in six elements: flexibility, comprehensive approach, networking, focus on a few clear priorities, accurate financial commitment and flexible but adequate structure, i.e. the Secretariat in Trieste.

### MFA Meeting

Eleven Ministers for Foreign Affairs (Austria, Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia), six Deputy Ministers (Belarus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukraine), as well as the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE attended the annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of CEI Member States, held in Vienna on 3 June. The gathering was organised by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Secretariat, and back to back with a special Conference on the European perspective of the Western Balkans. The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kosovo\*, participated in the meeting as guest of the Presidency. The Ministers focused on the "New Challenges for the CEI", as the oldest and largest regional organisation and inter-governmental forum, celebrating its 25th anniversary. In this context, the Ministers expressed appreciation for the important role of the CEI in promoting stability in the region, as well as prosperity and cohesion among its Member States. They emphasised that the CEI should continue reinforcing its motto "regional cooperation for European integration", by further focusing on supporting its non-EU CEI members on their road to EU integration. In this context, the participants welcomed the efforts and progress of Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and

Kosovo\*. The Ministers also stressed the importance of the Eastern Partnership and welcomed the progress of cooperation between the EU and its Eastern Partners, referring to the three countries belonging to the CEI, namely Belarus, R. Moldova and Ukraine. They underlined the CEI's role as a bridge between *European (macro) regions* and its growing role as EU project implementation agency. Current pressing issues in the region were also addressed, in particular the Ukrainian crisis and the devastating floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia. The Ministers expressed deep concern about the events in Ukraine, underlining their support for territorial integrity. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), and the presentation of the results of the High Level Reflection Group of Energy Community were also amongst the highlights of this year's CEI Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting. At the end of the gathering, the Ministers adopted a Communiqué.



From left: CEI SG, Amb. Caracciolo di Vietri; MFA Italy Mogherini and MFA Austria Kurz at Press Conference



Participants at MFA Meeting, Vienna—June 2014

### CEI Parliamentary Committee Meeting

The meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension (CEI-PD) was held in Vienna on 10 - 12 June. Under the title "Education as foundation for prosperity" the gathering was chaired by Susanne Kurz, President of CEI-PD and Head of the Austrian Delegation to the CEI-PD. It was attended by representatives of 14 CEI Member States: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, R. Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia. Participants agreed that education was indeed the foundation for prosperity and expressed their conviction that a sound education was the best protection against joblessness. The need to adapt the educational systems to trends

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

such as the increasing internationalisation and mechanisation of the workplace, was strongly highlighted. The meeting was complimented by a visit to the TGM – Die Schule der Technik, a renowned school, which offered a practical insight into the Austrian educational system. The Final Document was adopted at the end of the meeting.

### International Seminar “25 Years of CEI: Promoting Partnership and Cooperation across Changing Europe”

The Seminar was attended on the level of Deputy Foreign Ministers (Belarus, R. Moldova) and high-level government officials (Austrian CEI Presidency, Ukraine, Poland, Serbia). The EU was represented by its office in Minsk, the CEI Secretariat by the Alternate Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General. Students from the Minsk State University, Faculty of Foreign Relations, participated in the discussion session. The goal was to offer a platform to the CEI Member States, which at the same time are participating in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) in order to exchange experience and views in particular, being confronted with the crisis in Ukraine. All present EaP countries, notwithstanding their different EU approach, showed great interest in the CEI Eastern Partnership cooperation. Through its project-oriented working method the CEI was considered a flexible basis for regional cooperation of the three Eastern Partners within the CEI. Transport, infrastructure, energy efficiency, agriculture, education and research, cultural exchange, civil society were identified as fields of action. The Minsk Seminar marked a new start for cooperation between the CEI and the EaP Member States as well as for closer links between the three CEI Eastern Partners themselves. Follow-up seminars are envisaged to take place in Kiev at the end of the year as well as in R. Moldova.

### Conference of Ministers for Agriculture

The Conference of CEI Ministers for Agriculture and the Environment on “Energy Turnaround” was held in Vienna on 9 October. The introductory speech on “Renewable Energy for Rural Development: Change for the Environment and Opportunity for the Forestry”, was delivered by Andra Rupprechter, Austrian Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. It was followed by a key note address by Franz Fischler, former EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries. Both speeches focused on the unique opportunities offered by biomass development in the field of renewable energies, including the positive, long-lasting implications in terms of rural development, job creation, environment protection and self-sufficiency from oil imports. Ministers of Croatia, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine actively participated in the round table on the economic importance of Renewable Energies, on the basis of the first-hand experience of the respective countries. Minister Rupprechter concluded the Vienna Meeting by emphasising that Austria strongly felt the need for an Energy

Turnaround based on Renewable Bioenergy, and that the impact of this turnaround on rural development could provide a substantial contribution in the right direction.

### Seminar on 20 Years of CEI Instrument for Protection of Minority Rights

A Seminar “20 Years of the CEI Instrument for the Protection of Minority Rights – A Retrospective Glance and Future Challenges” was held in Trieste on 9 October. It was promoted by the Austrian CEI Presidency and the CEI-Executive Secretariat on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the CEI Instrument. From the very outset of their cooperation, the CEI Member States have devoted particular attention to questions related to national minorities. Such an approach has reflected their intention to give political cooperation a higher profile within the CEI scope of activities, with special regard to national minorities. Elaborating the CEI Instrument was one of the first attempts to create a systematic legal framework for this sensitive area at multilateral regional level. In this context, eminent experts, representatives of governments, NGOs and international organisations dealing with minority issues, such as the CoE, OSCE and the UN, as well as the CEI National Coordinators, were invited to participate in the event and make their contributions. They were asked to compare this document to other available documents and provide their views on its further implementation; to identify and analyse best practices, challenges, opportunities and initiatives for further tackling the issue on national minorities in the framework of and beyond the Instrument. Some experts outlined the possibility to upgrade and adopt the instrument to the current challenges, including the “new minorities” phenomenon. A collective responsibility towards the minority issue was also voiced, through an increased dialogue among the governments. In this regard, domestic and international legislation were also to be better coordinated, thus making more use of existing instruments. A possible active information campaign was also mentioned through various raising-awareness events, such as seminars, summer schools etc. Last but not least, financial issues were also raised, namely the need either to set up a dedicated programme or to exploit existing ones. The Seminar was followed by a concert of the Donauwellenreiter Ensemble.



Minorities Seminar, Trieste—October 2014

### CEI Parliamentary Assembly Meeting

The Parliamentary Assembly of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension was held in Vienna on 17-19 November. Two main topics were debated upon by the representatives of national parliaments of CEI countries: the 25 anniversary of the CEI, with a focus on achievements and future perspectives, and the CEI Agenda 2014-2016, in relation to a knowledge-based society. On the occasion of the Parliamentary Assembly the General Committees also gathered. The following have been elected as the new General Committee Chairpersons: Tamara Blazina (Italy) as Chairperson of the General Committee on Political and Home Affairs; Maria-Andreea Paul (Romania) as Chairperson of the General Committee on Economic Affairs; Luis Alberto Orellana (Italy) as Chairperson of the General Committee on Cultural Affairs.

### Vienna Economic Forum

On 24 November the President of the Vienna Economic Forum, Former Vice-Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, Erhard Busek and Secretary General Elena Kirtcheva welcomed around 400 participants from 44 countries at the Palais Niederösterreich in Vienna. Under the motto "Visions and Responsibilities in a Changing Time" the high-ranking participants such as the Federal President of Austria Heinz Fischer, the Federal Chancellor of Austria Werner Faymann, the Prime Minister of Albania Edi Rama, the Prime Minister of Macedonia Nikola Gruevski, the Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Djukanovic, the Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria Tomislav Donchev, Sir Suma Chakrabarti, President of the EBRD and Amb. Margit Waestfelt, CEI Alternate Secretary General, discussed the topics of the economy in the region of the Vienna Economic Forum, the Danube and the Black Sea region.

### CEI Summit

On the occasion of the CEI Summit in Vienna, under the title "25 years of CEI and Future Vision", the CEI Heads of Government adopted a Declaration on the 25 Years of the CEI, accompanied by a publication on the 25 years of CEI 1989 - 2014. The gathering witnessed the presence of nine Prime

Ministers from Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Italy, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia; Deputy Prime Ministers; Ministers/Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs; State Secretaries and Ambassadors. The event was also attended by the high representatives of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII); the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC); the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS); the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); the Energy Community; the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA); the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the CEI. The Memoranda of Understanding between the Secretariats of the CEI and the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) as well as the CEI and the International Anti-corruption Academy (IACA) were signed on this occasion.

### Seminar "Role of Civil Society in Democratisation Process"

Civil society and media representatives from Ukraine, R. Moldova and Belarus gathered on 2 December at the Diplomatic Academy in Kyiv, for the seminar on "The role of civil society in the process of democratization". The event was organised by the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) and the CEI in the framework of the Austrian Presidency. The seminar, a follow-up of the conference on the Eastern Partnership held in Minsk on 16 September, included two panel discussions on "civil society and the rule of law in the process of democratisation" and "the role of new media in Democratization Processes" respectively. A welcome speech was delivered by Mykola Kulinich, Rector of the Diplomatic Academy in Kyiv, while introductory remarks were presented by Erhard Busek, IDM / former Austrian Vice Chancellor, Margit Wästfelt, CEI Alternate Secretary General, and Heidemaria Gürer, Head of the Eastern European Department at the MFA. The seminar offered a valuable chance for exchanging experience and debating relevant topics also in view of developing a future platform for cooperation.



from left: Italian PM, Matteo Renzi; Austrian PM, Werner Feymann; CEI SG Amb. Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri



CEI Headquarters in Trieste

## 5. ACTIVITIES OF THE CEI SECRETARIAT

The main role of the CEI Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES) is to provide administrative and conceptual support to the CEI Structures and take appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting the realisation of the CEI mission. With the establishment of the Secretariat, the Organisation has assured a permanent structure necessary for a systematic approach to wide-spread CEI activities. The overall guidance and orientation for CEI activities in general and for the Secretariat in particular remains embodied in the long-term CEI strategy. A strategy, which is reconfirmed both at political level and in the Plan of Action, reflecting the priority interests for cooperation among its Member States. The CEI-ES strongly supports the activities of the Presidency, not only by providing it and other decision-making and operational structures of the CEI with continuous administrative and conceptual support, but also by taking appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting the realisation of the CEI objectives. In this context, the CEI Secretariat's staff was actively involved in the implementation of the CEI Plan of Action 2014-2016 and other activities promoted by the Austrian Presidency.

The CEI-ES also manages a number of funds, programmes and instruments for cooperation in order to complement the institutional activities. These include the Cooperation Fund, supported by all Member States and the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP), supported by Austria. They aim at financing various cooperation projects in the CEI Member States, while the Secretariat takes care of their sound management and administration. Through this function, the CEI has developed an important aspect, i.e. programme management, and gained an additional role in the trans-national and cross-border context. This represents an added value, in particular for the design, implementation and management of large projects, such as the EU-funded projects. To carry

out this task, the Secretariat has established a special unit through which it actively participates in various EU programmes, both as Lead Partner and Partner -thus enhancing the involvement of its countries in EU-funded projects.

The Office for the CEI Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), is managing the largest Fund at the disposal of the CEI, i.e. the CEI Fund at the EBRD. Since its establishment, the Fund has received from the Italian Government alone about €39.5 million of which €1 million in 2014. The Office for the CEI Fund is the operational structure, which ensures constant dialogue between the CEI, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EBRD for all questions related to the administration of the Fund.

The Office is located at the CEI Headquarters in Trieste and in London within the Operational Policies Vice-Presidency of the EBRD. Through this Office - whose staff closely collaborates with EBRD banking teams - the CEI has managed to build a unique comparative advantage vis-à-vis other active funds within the Bank. This collaborative approach enables the CEI to better choose projects, thereby ensuring high-leverage ratios as well as greater effectiveness and efficiency. For the Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme, the Office for the CEI Fund regularly screens projects in the EBRD pipeline, and supports the



EBRD Headquarters in London

The **CEI Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES)** was established in Trieste under the Austrian CEI Presidency in 1996 and upon an offer of the Italian Government to host the seat in Trieste. It operates with the legal status of an International Organisation, based on a Headquarters Agreement concluded between the Italian Government and the CEI Presidency. The seat in Trieste, via Genova 9, was made available to the CEI by the Italian Government through the Friuli Venezia Giulia (FVG) Autonomous Region, free of charge and ties, under terms described in a Protocol concluded between the CEI Secretariat and the FVG Autonomous Region, signed in Trieste on 20 December 1999.

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

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in its selection process. Following positive appraisal by the Ministry, the Office presents the prospective TC projects to the CNC for approval, it monitors their implementation and evaluates them after completion. The Office also manages the KEP supported by Italy through the Fund. The Office's role is not limited to the provision of grants, but follows the whole project cycle, from the initial screening of applications, throughout the monitoring of project implementation, to ex-post evaluation of results.

The activities of the CEI Secretariat and its staff are financed by the Italian Government (*the budget for the year 2014 is outlined in Annex 3*), while the activities and the staff of the Unit for EU-funded projects are financed out of the budget of the projects funded through EU Programmes.

As to the staff structure of the Secretariat, no changes have been made this year. Within the Advanced Training Programme for Young Officials from CEI Member States on the Management of EU-funded projects, the four young officials - Elma Filipovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Ivana Ivkov (Serbia), Natalia Cataranciu (Republic of Moldova), and Masa Jurin (Croatia), on secondment from their respective Governments, - continued their traineeship at the CEI Secretariat in Trieste. In the framework of the Advanced Training Programme for a Young Journalist, Nela Lazarevic (Montenegro) started her traineeship in February. *The office staff with respective tasks are outlined in Annex 4 and (also available on the CEI Website at the following link: <http://www.cei.int/contacts>).*

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

#### Signing of New KEP AUSTRIA Cooperation Agreement

A new three-year agreement between the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the CEI-ES was signed for the Knowledge Exchange Programme (KEP) AUSTRIA on the occasion of the CNC Meeting in Vienna on 23 January 2014. Managing Director, Martin Ledolter, who signed the Agreement on behalf of ADA, expressed deep appreciation for the work car-

ried out by the CEI since Austria had joined the Programme in 2008. Secretary General Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri thanked Austria for the continuous support to the Programme, thus demonstrating a great commitment to the Organisation.

#### Final Conference of the EU-funded Project "Improving cooperation in South East Europe by strengthening RCC"

The successful completion of the project "Improving Cooperation in South-East Europe by Actions for Strengthening the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)" was marked by a Final Conference held on 18 March in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project's closing conference was organised by the CEI and the RCC Secretariats. The event was attended by the RCC and CEI representatives and diplomatic delegations of their participating countries in Sarajevo, by partners and stakeholders from the region, representatives of the European Commission (EC) and relevant international financial institutions, agencies and the private sector. The gathering entitled *Enhancing Growth through Regional Action – South East Europe (SEE) 2020* highlighted the major results of the Project. The project was one of the examples of the special attention the EC is paying to regional cooperation in SEE. The time frame of the Project implementation matched with some very important developments in the RCC: production of the Organisation's Strategy and Work Programme 2014–2016, and creation and launching of our SEE 2020 Strategy, as its central pillar. The Project of 0.9 million EUR, aimed at supporting regional cohesion in SEE, the EU enlargement process and strengthening of the RCC Secretariat, was funded by the EU and co-funded and implemented by the CEI for 28 months. The Project has had a positive multi-faceted impact: it has contributed to improving and enhancing regional cooperation, both at the level of transnational organisations and by networking of national stakeholders, in several specific areas and sectors in SEE, such as growth of local economies, rural innovation and creative industry. Moreover, it has stepped up the partnership-based cooperation between the RCC and the CEI. It has also succeeded in bringing together public broadcasters from 9 countries from the region participating in the European Association of Public Service Media in SEE around a joint production endeavour. This cooperation resulted in a 90-minute documentary film entitled "How do I see my neighbour?", which was jointly edited and aired in all the countries gathered around the project.



from left: CEI SG, Amb. Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri; CEI ASG, Amb. Margit Waestfelt; ADA Managing Director, Martin Ledolter



from left: RCC SG, Goran Svilanovic; CEI NC of Austria, Heidemaria Güterer; CEI ASG, Amb. Margit Waestfelt

### Coordination Meeting of Regional Organisations

On 21-22 March in Istanbul Deputy Secretary General, Erik Csernovitz, took part in the Coordination Meeting of Regional Organizations, organised by the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and attended by the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (AII), the Council of Baltic States (CBSS), the Danube Commission, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). In his speech, Csernovitz informed the participants about the CEI Plan of Action 2014-2016, paying particular attention to the importance of the revisiting of the CEI Business Dimension. He also reconfirmed the CEI's interest in further expanding cooperation with the regional organisations. Next year's Coordination Meeting of the Regional Organisations will be hosted by the RCC in Sarajevo.

### Talks with Representatives of Commissioner Hahn's Cabinet and DG REGIO

On 7 May, a CEI delegation headed by Secretary General Caracciolo di Vietri held talks with Mr Hubert Gambs, Chief of Commissioner Hahn's Cabinet and members of the Cabinet as well as the DG REGIO at the EC Berlaymont building in Brussels. The purpose of the gathering was to explore possible contributions of the CEI to the governance of existing and future EU Macro-regional Strategies. The representatives of the EC underlined that the implementation of the EU Strategies was and would always be under the ownership and full responsibility of the participating countries, the EC IS acting as facilitator of the entire process. They also pointed out that the involvement of international and regional organisations such as the CEI in this process was most welcome. The CEI received a strong encouragement to further develop its contacts and working relations with the various Priority Areas of the EUSDR, since its experience and track record in capacity building and networking actions represented an asset, especially for non-EU countries. The meeting was a result of the conference held in Vienna on 24 January under the auspices of the Austrian CEI Presidency, where Commissioner J. Hahn had highlighted the need to improve the governance of the macro-regional cooperation process. On that occasion he also recalled the "no new institutions" principle and pointed out that existing organisations, such as the CEI, should contribute to the process.

### Informal Brainstorming Interagency Meeting: Promoting advanced biofuels in CEI countries

Experts from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC-EC), the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), the International Centre for Applied Research and Sustainable Technology (ICARST), the Denmark-based biotech company Novo-

zymes and the Energy Community met on 6 May in Trieste, at the CEI Headquarters, for an informal Brainstorming Interagency Meeting on Advanced Biofuels. The Universities of Udine and Trieste were also invited. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Energy Agency (IEA), who were unable to participate in the meeting, also confirmed their specific interest in being associated to this CEI initiative. The relevance of this meeting derives from the fact that, for the first time, and upon the initiative of the CEI, the international organisations with competence in renewable energies and a specific focus on the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, have gathered to combine their actions to promote advanced biofuels in the context of the development of a bio-based economy. The participants agreed upon the fact that further research and innovation were crucial in order to make biofuels more competitive on the overall energy market. The participants also underlined the importance of institutional support, including multiple forms of public funding at national and European level, as well as short-term incentive programmes in order to help the development of advanced biofuels' production in target countries.

### Adriatic and Ionian Council Meeting

Secretary General Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri took part in the XVII Meeting of the Adriatic and Ionian Council, held in Brussels on 13 May. Under the auspices of the Chairmanship -in-Office of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII), represented by H.E. Ditmir Bushati, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania, delegations from all AII Member States, the EC (DG for Enlargement, DG for Regional and Urban Policy, DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) and four Regional Organisations (CEI, CBSS, BSEC, RCC) attended the gathering. Caracciolo di Vietri confirmed the CEI's interest in the EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region (EUSAIR), and readiness to mobilise the CEI's project and fund management expertise for its successful implementation, once the EU Council would have officially endorsed the EUSAIR Action Plan during the Italian EU Presidency semester. All Member States highlighted the prominence of regional cooperation in their respective foreign policies and the importance of the EUSAIR as a decisive cohesion factor in the Adriatic and Ionian macro-region. All delegations shared a common stand and a strong commitment towards the EUSAIR, clearly expressed in a joint "Brussels Declaration" and welcomed Bosnia and Herzegovina as incoming AII Chairmanship as of 1 June.

### Signing of Agreement between CEI and Friuli Venezia Giulia Region

The President of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (FVG), Debora Serracchiani and the Secretary General of the CEI, Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri, signed an agreement in Trieste on 26 May, for strengthening cooperation between the two parties and further developing relations between the FVG



from left: FVG Region President, Debora Settacchiani and CEI SG, Amb. Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri

and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. CEI's longstanding experience in promoting regional cooperation for EU integration in Central and Eastern Europe, its tight relations with its 18 Member States, as well as the solid experience in managing EU projects will serve to this purpose. The CEI's well-established relationship with the EBRD represents another important area of cooperation with the FVG Region. With this agreement the CEI is expected to contribute to increasing the FVG relations with the Balkans and the Danube area, and the countries bordering the Black and Baltic Seas, and to reinforcing the role of the FVG Region in the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-regional Strategy.

#### Signing of CEI-RCC Memorandum of Understanding signed

The CEI and the RCC signed a new two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 3 June, in Vienna. The Ceremony took place on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CEI Member States, before the Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Sebastian Kurz, and all the invited guests. The new MoU between the two organisations is expected to strengthen the already excellent cooperation and step up new inputs and ideas for collaborating in an important time for the region, which has faced a number of difficulties such as the devastating floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia. The MoU - among other possibilities for cooperation - envisages exchange of information on political and economic issues relevant for cooperation in the region, promotion of regional projects of common interest through joint preparation and implementation of activities etc. Moreover,



Signing Ceremony with presence of MFA of Austria, Sebastian Kurz

each party will appoint a contact person to manage the implementation of the MoU and secure the necessary flow of information between the two Secretariats.

#### CEI International Symposium "Opera Houses and Music Festivals in Central and Eastern Europe"

Learning more about opportunities offered by the European funds dedicated to culture through enhanced collaboration among organisations, foundations and festivals from 17 European countries, with special focus on the "New Europe" and the CEI Member States, was the main topic of the International Symposium "Opera Houses and Music Festivals in Central and Eastern Europe" in Trieste on 21 June. The event was organised by the CEI Secretariat in collaboration with the Giuseppe Verdi Theatre in Trieste, on the occasion of the World Music Day. The gathering was opened by the Secretary General Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri and by the Mayor of Trieste, Roberto Cosolini. Culture is one of the engines of growth, development and employment; the use of the opportunities offered by Europe should therefore be encour-



Mayor of Trieste, Roberto Cosolini at the opening

aged and strengthened, especially taking into account the special attention paid by Italy to Central Europe, the South West Balkans and to the Eastern Partnership, as part of its foreign policy initiatives stated Minister for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, Dario Franceschini in a goodwill message delivered to all participants. Caracciolo di Vietri underlined the CEI's wish to involve more and more young audiences, train young musicians in the member countries, promote the use of new technologies, follow the new trends in opera, ballet and symphonic music in Central and Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans, who share a common and well-recognised cultural heritage. He also stressed that the CEI had already a solid experience in the field of culture and - besides music which was the main topic of the Symposium - in the sectors of media, design, visual arts, literature and filmmaking.

#### CEI at 3rd Annual Forum of EUSDR

The long-standing experience and perspectives of the CEI as the oldest and largest intergovernmental forum promoting regional cooperation and serving as a bridge between macro-regions, was presented at the workshop dedicated to the

role of Civil Society organisations (CSOs) in democracy building and EU integration. The meeting was organised in the framework of the 3rd Annual forum of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), held in Vienna on 26 and 27 June. This major strategic event -organised by the EC together with the Republic of Austria and the City of Vienna - gathered stakeholders from the entire Danube area with the aim of further developing strategic direction and discussing vital questions of the Strategy's prospects and challenges. The CEI was officially recognised as a Danube Region stakeholder and was mentioned in the EUSDR Action Plan under chapters on energy and competitiveness. The CEI is already active in several fields that are covered by the EUSDR, such as science and transport, and also in the field of competence building. Alternate Secretary General Margit Waestfelt outlined the role of the CEI in the EUSDR, strengthened by its experience in participating as a partner in the FP7 Danube-INCO.NET project, which supports the implementation of the EUSDR in the field of research and innovation. Waestfelt noted that the role of civil society needs to be strengthened especially in non-EU countries of the Danube region. "Regional cooperation for the development of dynamic civil societies in non-EU countries is the CEI priority, as well as a pivotal aspect of the EU enlargement process", underlined Waestfelt.

### Bled Strategic Forum

This year the traditional Bled Strategic Forum, Slovenia's leading foreign policy event, held on 2 September, called for restoring trust at all levels of international relations, with particular regard to the conflict in Ukraine. In the Panels "The Spirit of Central Europe" and "The Future of the Western Balkans" the related Ministers for Foreign Affairs discussed the importance of further enhancing regional cooperation. The participants agreed that the Western Balkan countries and the EU should work together in a more resolute way in order to translate regional cooperation into concrete projects with tangible benefits for the citizens of the region. The CEI was represented by its Deputy Secretary General.

### CEI Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology

Ministers and senior representatives of the 18 CEI Member States met in Trieste, on 24 September, to take stock of the cooperation strategies in the field of science and technology promoted by the Organisation. Italy was represented by Minister for Education, Universities and Research Stefania Giannini, also on behalf of the Italian EU Presidency. There were three main topics on the agenda, as a follow up of the previous ministerial meetings held in Trieste over the past four years, which have laid the foundations for the development of concrete activities, with the involvement of the countries of Central-Eastern Europe and the Balkans and in synergy with the Centers of Excellence of the Trieste System: 1. Formal launch of the "CEI-PRAISE" Framework Programme for the promotion of research, technology transfer and innova-



tion in the 18 CEI Member States, finalised by the Trieste-based CEI Secretariat through its Science and Technology Network (This Programme is based on the excellence of the participating institutions, recognised at European level, complemented by a specific experience through international scientific cooperation. The Programme will develop over the next seven years, hopefully in collaboration with the Joint Research Centre - JRC of the EC, and in line with the European Macro-regional strategies. CEI PRAISE is therefore expected to strongly enhance, at international level, the excellences in the FVG Region in the field of science. Special focus will also be given to the potential the institutions in this area have in order to participate in Horizon 2020, with the peculiar characteristic of an enhanced collaboration with Eastern European countries); 2. Update on actions taken by the CEI to promote advanced biofuels in the context of an economy based on bio-resources: within priority given to renewable energy in the multi-year Plan of Action of the Organisation, which sees the CEI action in line with Italy being a leader in this area (In addition to the European projects promoted by the CEI under the Seventh Framework Programme, there is the commitment to replicate in one of the CEI member countries - and Serbia seems to be a particularly favourable target - the technology of the plant located in the Italian Piedmont Region Crescentino, the largest in the world for industrial-scale production of second generation bioethanol); 3. Commend the adoption of the Statute for the European Consortium CERIC-ERIC, which - with the accession already acquired of nine CEI countries - will further enhance the Elettra Synchrotron, the flagship of multidisciplinary research in Italy. Parallel to the CEI ministerial meeting, a special session of the Platform for Science and Technology in the Western Balkans has been convened. It was strongly promoted by the European Commission, organised by the CEI together with the Directorate-General for Research in the framework of the Italian Presidency of the EU Council.

### CEI at OSCE Meeting in Vienna on Disasters related to Energy Production and Transport

On 8 October, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) organised a high-level meeting in Vienna on "Protection of Europe's Network from Natural and Man-made Disasters" in the framework of activities of its Econom-

ic and Environmental Committee. The gathering was opened by the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Ol'ga Algayerová from Slovakia. In depth discussions were held by Anna Ifkovits Horner, Senior Advisor of the Swiss Presidency of OSCE; Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden, Coordinator for OSCE Economic Activities and Ambassador Silepberdi Nurberdiev, Senior expert from Turkmenistan. Nadejda Komendantova, Senior research scholar of the International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA), underlined the transnational nature of major disasters related to electricity production and distribution. Speaking on behalf on the CEI, Special Advisor to CEI Secretary General, Giorgio Rosso Cicogna, emphasised the role of Advanced Biofuels as an eco-friendly and renewable alternative energy. He underlined that their production technology and related logistics minimised the risks for accidents or disasters, and that the latter would in any case imply a minor impact on the environment. He also illustrated the many activities and projects, currently undertaken in this field by the CEI, and the positive results achieved so far.

#### Consultations in Skopje on Macedonian CEI Presidency 2015

A CEI delegation composed of the Secretary General, Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri, the Alternate Secretary General, Margit Weatsfelt, as well as staff members of the Secretariat paid a visit to Skopje on 16-17 October in view of the Macedonian Presidency with the Organisation in 2015. The main aim of the visit was to draft a vigorous programme of activities to be realised during next year. Several ideas for concrete activities emerged from the discussions in various fields such as transport, agriculture, culture and human rights. The possibility of organising a fruitful Business Forum was outlined. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nikola Poposki, confirmed the strong interest in the economic dimension of the Initiative. He further reaffirmed the strong Macedonian commitment to the CEI as one of the most functional regional cooperation initiatives in Europe. The CEI delegation was also welcomed by the



from left: Min. Poposki and Amb. Caracciolo di Vietri



CEI SG meeting Minister for Culture, Elizabeta Kanceska-Milevska

Minister for Culture, Elizabeta Kanceska-Milevska. She noted that regional cooperation was one of the priorities not only of the Government, but also of her Ministry, underlining the successful cooperation on regional projects together with the Council of Europe, UNESCO, RCC and of course the CEI. In this context, Kanceska-Milevska was certain a number of high-quality projects would be implemented in the framework of the Macedonian Presidency. Caracciolo di Vietri assured both Ministers on the strong support the Macedonian Government and institutions would receive in 2015 through the resources at the CEI Secretariat's disposal.

#### CEI Participates in UNECE Meeting of Experts in Innovation and Competitiveness for Smart Specialisation Strategies

The "UNECE Seventh Session of Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies" took place in Geneva on 16 -17 October. The gathering dedicated a special seminar to "Smart Specialization – Strategies for Sustainable Development". This policy seminar laid the foundations for developing and promoting good practices and policy recommendations for Smart Specialization Strategies, relevant for countries and regions currently facing a variety of development challenges. The EU - forerunner in this respect - calls upon its Member Countries to adhere to Smart Specialization Strategies with regard to all actions related to the field of Research and Innovation and funded through resources from the Structural Funds during the financial period 2014-2020. This approach was emphasised in the key note address delivered by the Director General for Regional Policy of the European Commission, Walter Deffa. He also underlined that the EU Macro-regional strategies were expected to promote an early involvement in smart specialisation practices also of non-EU participating countries (candidates or potential candidates). Other distinguished speakers from the UNECE area, representatives of national and regional Governments, of international organisations and academia, addressed the topic of "Smart Specialization" from different viewpoints: considering the existing policy gaps, the need for capacity building in policy design and implementation, as well as the opportunities deriving from an increasing international cooperation. On behalf of the Central European Initiative, Giorgio Rosso Cicogna, Special Advisor to CEI Secretary General, illustrated the adherence of the CEI-PRAISE Programme to the above EU policy approach. CEI PRAISE aims at promoting science, technology transfer and innovation in all the CEI countries. This programme, endorsed at the Meeting of CEI Ministers for Science and Technology, was designed for the development of centres of excellence and advanced research groups at regional level, in the spirit of smart specialisation.

#### CEI Attends Summit on EU Energy Challenges

Two hundred participants - among which high-level representatives from Governments, the EC, industry, academia, specialised and Non-Governmental Organisations as well as

top independent experts - gathered in Brussels, on 14 November, at the Summit on EU Energy Challenges for a global debate on "How innovation may fill the gap". The event was organised by SCIENCE|BUSINESS, an authoritative agency based in Brussels promoting cooperation in the fields of research, innovation and business. Dominique Ristori, Director General for Energy at the EC, opened the gathering with a key note/introductory speech recalling the challenges Europe is currently facing. The topics addressed from a broad spectrum of positions in several parallel sessions, covered biofuels/biomass, other renewables (solar/wind), the grid, carbon capture and sequestration and low carbon cars and innovation in resource efficiency. Recommendations and conclusions focused on a "New Order for Energy Research and Development" in Europe and across the Atlantic as well as on prospects for a fruitful cooperation with China. In this context, participants took into account optimal requirements for an EU Energy Policy, starting from an analysis of the 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy. The Special Advisor to the CEI Secretary General, Giorgio Rosso Cicogna described the current CEI promotion strategy of awareness building and research activities, carried out in the framework of the CEI Plan of Action. Among the topics discussed, the Head of Unit for Renewable Energy Sources at the EC-DG for Research and Innovation, Paul Verhoef, emphasised the extraordinary potential for advanced biofuels represented by the CEI countries and the need to identify appropriate actions in order to facilitate their full exploitation.

#### **CEI Participates in UNECE Conference on Energy for Sustainable Development**

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) convened a Conference on Energy for a Sustainable Development in Geneva on 17-21 November. High-level representatives from Governments of Member Countries and the EC, as well as experts from Industry, Academia, Specialised/Regional and Non-Governmental Organisations and other top independent experts in this field attended this annual event. The Conference included: a Meeting of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency; a second highly specialised Workshop on the extension of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and for Mineral Resources and Reserves (UNFC, adopted in 2009) to Renewable Energy Sources; a third Meeting of a Group of Experts on the Prospective Development of Renewable Energy and, finally, the Annual Session (23<sup>rd</sup>) of the institutionalised UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy. The various meetings clearly demonstrated the increasing attention UNECE is paying to renewable energy thanks to its geographical area of competence within the United Nations system. In fact, this year's event highlighted the crucial role renewable sources played in the framework of energy sustainability. On behalf of the CEI, Giorgio Rosso Cicogna, Special Advisor to CEI Secretary General, participated in some of the meetings and provided several inputs from the viewpoint of the CEI. With the partici-

pation of the UNECE Secretariat a small group of participants considered the idea of preparing a list of sustainable small and medium-sized projects for renewable energy production, in order to invite specialised industries, regional authorities and local administrations, together with representatives of International Financial Institutions and of the Banking sector, to a special event next year in Geneva.

#### **Signing of Memoranda of Understanding between CEI and CBSS and CEI and IACA**

On the occasion of the CEI Summit in Vienna on 24 November, Memoranda of Understanding were signed between the Secretariats of the CEI and the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the International Anti-corruption Academy (IACA). These MoUs are expected to step up cooperation with the two institutions and provide new inputs and ideas for collaboration to the benefit of the region. In this context, both MoUs envisage exchange of information on sensitive issues relevant for cooperation in the region as well as promotion of regional projects of common interest through joint preparation and implementation of activities.

#### **High-level workshop on advanced biofuels in Belgrade**

The Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union organised, in cooperation with the CEI, a high-level Workshop on Advanced Biofuels in Belgrade on 28 November. Ambassador of Italy, Giuseppe Manzo, and Milorad Milovančević, Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering opened the event at the University of Belgrade. A group of selected experts, stake-holders, policy-makers, entrepreneurs and journalists discussed the existing opportunities for advanced biofuels in Serbia, not only from a research and development point of view, but also taking into account various aspects related to finance, job creation, environmental protection, also through a substantial contribution for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Ambassador Manzo and Dragan Satarić, Director of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Development, event co-sponsored, emphasised that Serbia had great potential for a consistent production of advanced biofuels from agricultural waste and that Italy had developed technologies in this field, commonly identified as a frontier at the state-of-the-art. In this respect, the participants had the chance to see a video on the plant, which has been operative for over a year in Crescentino (near Turin), today the largest in Europe for the production of second-generation bioethanol. Giorgio Rosso Cicogna, Special Advisor to CEI Secretary General, summarised the main activities carried out by the Central European Initiative, a very active player in this field, and underlined the great interest in advanced biofuels demonstrated by the CEI Ministers for Science and Technology and by the CEI Ministers for Agriculture and Rural Development in their respective meetings in Trieste (September 2014) and in Vienna (October 2014).

## Feature Events, Prizes and Awards

The CEI Secretariat has continued the promotion of its Feature Events as well as Prizes and Awards - crucial elements in the role of the Organisation as a dialogue forum.

### *Trieste Film Festival*

The 25th edition of the Trieste Film Festival was held on 17-22 January. The CEI has established a long-standing cooperation with the Trieste Film Festival, recognising the merits of this initiative, attentively promoting and supporting high-quality filmmaking production from Central and Eastern Europe. In particular, the CEI supports the "Eastweek project", which offers training opportunities to students from cinema schools and academies of Central and Eastern European countries. As part of its commitment to supporting the Central and Eastern European cinema, the CEI is also among the supporters of the meeting of the co-production "When East Meets West", organised by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Regional Audiovisual Fund.

### *CEI Prize at Trieste Film Festival*

The young Hungarian director Eszter Haidú was the winner of the CEI Prize (3,000 EUR) assigned in the framework of the 25th Trieste Film Festival. Her documentary "Judgment in Hungary", resented at the Festival as Italian premiere, is about the trial of a group of Hungarian rightwing extremists who in 2008 and 2009 committed a series of attacks on random members of the Roma community. Six people were killed, including a five-year-old, and another five were injured. The film is a classical courtroom-drama taking place in a small and claustrophobic court room in Budapest. The trial began in March 2011 of four suspected perpetrators charged by the state, and ended in August 2013. They were charged with serial killings with racial motivation. The Prize was presented by the Deputy Secretary General, Erik Csernovitz, during the awarding ceremony on 22 January.



Young Hungarian director, Eszter Haidú

### *CEI International Summer School "Beyond Enlargement. The Wider Europe and the New Neighborhood"*

The 20th CEI International Summer School under the title "Managing Diversities: Minorities, Democracy, Citizenship"

was held in Bertinoro and Santa Sofia (Italy), on 1-13 September. It focused in particular on minorities and majorities, namely on preventive measures against bias behaviour and integration policies as well as minorities, identities and nation-states targeting the challenges and opportunities for reconciliation and reconstructions of historical memories.

### *Vilenica International Literary Festival – CEI Round Table*

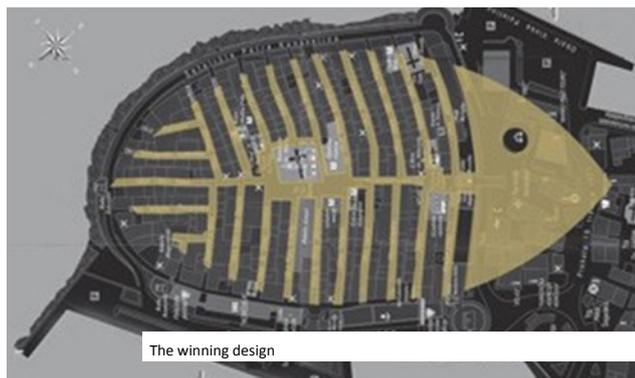
Featuring numerous literary and cultural events, round-table discussions, including the CEI Round Table, literary readings, a book fair, symposia, presentations of contemporary literatures and literary publications, the 29th Vilenica International Literary Festival was held on 2-7 September. The CEI Round Table took place on 4 September in Koper (Faculty of Humanities of the University of Primorska). A Pre-opening was held in Trieste at the CEI Headquarters on 2 September 2014 with the participation of László Krasznahorkai, winner of the Vilenica 2014 Award as special guest. This event was organised by the Slovene Writers' Association in cooperation with the CEI and Group 85.

### *CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence*

On the occasion of the official opening of the 29th Vilenica International Literary Festival on 3 September in Sezana (Slovenia), the CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence (5,000 EUR) was presented to Mirko Božič from Bosnia and Herzegovina by Deputy Secretary General, Erik Csernovitz. Born in Mostar, Mirko Božič writes poetry, prose, columns and essays. His poems have been published in literary anthologies and numerous literary magazines in Bosnia and Herzegovina and abroad. As emphasised in the laudation by the international jury "Mirko Božič's literary project is a unique reading of the history of his motherland written on the basis of uncommon material tightly related to his family and personal life. By metaphorically interweaving two tragic events, the loss of his mother and the loss of his motherland, the author constructs his unconventional and personal demythologization of the prewar (Bosnian and Herzegovinian) time and space".

### *CEI Award at International Design Competition*

The Serbian designer Ivana Sovilj was the winner of the CEI Award presented in the framework of the International Design Competition "Trieste Contemporanea". Her project represents the medieval city of Korčula, situated on the Adriatic Croatian island bearing the same name. Sovilj concentrated on the urban structure of the city: the streets are oriented in order to have a continuous exchange of air, while remaining sheltered from strong winds. The map of the city resembles a



The winning design

fishbone. This shape is presented as the symbol of the city: it is in every aspect its "skeleton." The object will be made of bronze casting and gold plated. The International Design Competition "Trieste Contemporanea", organised every two years by the Trieste Contemporanea Committee, is open to designers from all 18 CEI countries as well as from Germany, Turkey and the Baltic Countries. This year's edition was held under the theme "MAP PIN". Among the various prizes, the CEI Award (3,000 EUR) was addressed to the best designer from a non-EU CEI country. The opening of the exhibition of the selected and winning projects as well as the awarding ceremony took place in Trieste, at Studio Tommaseo, on 19 September.

### South East Europe Media Forum

The theme of this year's South East Europe Media Forum (SEEMF) held in Skopje on 16-17 October - Media in South East Europe: Not enough or too much information? - offered the opportunity for comprehensive and active discussions covering key topics such as the right to information access, journalism data, privacy and the protection of sources, self-regulation and quality-reporting standards. A session was also devoted to opinion making in times of conflict and lessons of the media war in Ukraine. SEEMF was organised by the South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO), the Media Program South East Europe of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the CEI in partnership with UNESCO, the EC, the International Academy - International Media Center



Opening of SEEMF

(IA-IMC) and the South East and Central Europe PR Organisation (SECEPRO). The event also benefitted from cooperation with the South East European Network for the Professionalization of Media (SEENPM); the Macedonian Institute for Media; the Association of Journalists of Macedonia (AJM/ZNM); the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs; the Council of Europe (COE); the European Broadcasting Union (EBU); the Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso (OBC) and the M6 Education Center in Skopje. Apart from working sessions, SEEMF offered a unique opportunity to meet media CEOs, editors-in-chief, leading journalists, business professionals, CEOs from companies active in South East and Central Europe, representatives of marketing and public relations agencies, civil society representatives, academics and representatives of state institutions from South, East and Central Europe. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Macedonia, Nikola Poposki, welcomed participants and debated with the journalists upon media and politics in Macedonia.

### CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism

During the SEEMF, the CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism 2014 was presented to Serbian journalist Brankica Stanković—section Professional Journalists, and to Bosnian-Herzegovinian reporters Sadeta Fišić, Jovana Kljajić and Maida Salkanović—section Young Professional Journalists (4,000 EUR and 1,000 EUR respectively). A Special Mention was presented to the Ukrainian reporter Anna Babinets. Brankica Stanković was awarded for her professional achievements and major commitment to investigative reporting undertaken with great efforts and under very difficult personal conditions. Born in Belgrade, Serbia, Stanković is a journalist of TV B92 and editor of the programme *Insajder* broadcasted since 2004. She has investigated and produced many stories tackling issues related to the recent socio-economic and political developments in Serbia, disclosing crime, corruption, and links between mafia, politics and business. After receiving numerous death threats, since December 2009 she has been under police protection. In spite of these circumstances, Stanković has continued her engagement in investigative reporting, pursuing the truth about



Winners of CEI SEEMO Award

power and corruption in Serbia. In 2013, TV B92 published Stanković's autobiography entitled "Insajder, moja priča" ("Insajder: My Story"), which shows her accurate professional approach to investigative reporting. Currently, Stanković is also involved in training and education activities, where she shares her knowledge and personal experience. Sadeta Fišić, Jovana Kljajić and Maida Salkanović from the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIN) in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, have been awarded for their joint efforts in investigative reporting, which resulted in the story "A Dear Cost of Having a Roof over your Head". The three young reporters dealt with a sensitive and problematic subject – the mistreatment of children in foster families – with courage, accuracy as well as great investigation and research efforts. The publication of the story caused a reaction in the public and the reporters received some threats. Nevertheless, they decided to continue their investigation and are currently working on a follow-up. A Special Mention was assigned to the Ukrainian reporter Anna Babinets, coordinator and journalist of the Agency of investigative journalism Slidstvo.Info producing investigations on corruption in Ukraine. In particular, Babinets was out on the front line as a reporter for Hromadske.TV when the EuroMaidan protests in Kiev began. Her work was remarkable for the courage she showed during some of the most violent protests.

## Projects, Programmes and Instruments

### EU Funded Projects

Since 2004, the CEI has been developing specific expertise in the design, management and implementation of projects either financed or co-financed by the European Union (EU) under various funding programmes. EU-funded projects represent one of the main activities of the CEI, and one of the most dynamic in a future perspective: this is a unique feature of the CEI, if compared to other regional organisations. Member States cannot but benefit from further progress and expansion of this field of work, which represents an effective instrument to implement the CEI Plan of Action and to fulfil the CEI core mission of promoting "regional cooperation for European integration".

In 2014, the CEI was involved in 14 EU-funded projects, both as Lead Partner and Partner (*the full list and description of the EU-funded projects under implementation is attached as Annex 5*).

In the time-frame 2004 –2014, the CEI participated in the successful implementation of 29 EU projects funded by several EU programmes, both as Partner and Lead Partner. With an initial investment of about €700.000 on the CEI budget, these projects have enabled the mobilisation of about €34 million.

### Technical Cooperation Programme

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

In 2014, the CEI Fund at the EBRD has committed €498.428 for 3 Technical Cooperation assignments (*the full list and description of the TC projects approved in 2014 is attached as Annex 6*).

Between 1993 and 2014, the Italian Government has committed through this Fund more than €23 million for 130 TC assignments. In the period 1993 to 2014 these TCs in the countries of operations are expected to mobilise about €4.8 billion of international investments. The EBRD alone has contributed to those investments about €2.9 billion. A Total Investment Ratio (TIR) can be calculated to show how many euros the international community has invested for each euro committed by the CEI Fund for TC projects. Between 1993 and 2014 the TIR is expected to be over 1:200.

### Know-how Exchange Programme

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

CEI Fund at the EBRD, supported by Italy, and the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). In 2008 and 2011 the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs made two voluntary contributions of €25.000 each to support KEP activities.

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

In 2014, the KEP ITALY co-financed 10 new projects with resources from the CEI Fund at EBRD with a contribution amounting to 334,099 EUR and an overall projects total cost of more than 5.6 million EUR.

73 KEP projects were approved under the KEP ITALY in the period 2004-2014 for a CEI Fund committed CEI contribution of about €2 million and a project total cost of more than €11 million. The projects targeted recipient institutions from all non-EU CEI Member States. The countries that have benefited the most from the KEP, since its establishment, are R. Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine, while the Western Balkans have mainly been addressed by region-oriented projects. The most active donor institutions were located in Italy and Poland, followed by Austria, Slovenia, and Hungary. Concerning the four areas of intervention: sustainable agriculture, capacity building, and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable energy and environment area, there is a rather balanced distribution among all of them.

## Austrian

## Development Cooperation

26 projects were approved under the KEP AUSTRIA Programme in the period 2008-2014 for a CEI committed contribution of about € 0.7 million and the total value of projects amounting to €1.63 million. The projects target recipient institutions from most of the CEI non-EU Member States. The beneficiary countries that have benefited the most from the KEP AUSTRIA, since its establishment, are Bosnia and Herzegovina, R. Moldova and Serbia, together with Croatia, an eligible beneficiary country until 2012. The most active donor institutions were from Austria and Italy, followed by Slovenia, Slovakia and Romania. Concerning the four areas of intervention, most projects are implemented in the following areas: capacity building and European integration, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable energy and environment.

Within the KEP AUSTRIA Programme Call 2014, four project proposals were approved by the CEI Committee of National Coordinators in October 2014 with a total CEI grant amounting to 186,000 EUR and a total project cost of 381,309 EUR. These activities have been selected among 117 applications, which have undergone a two-step evaluation procedure. *The full list and description of the KEP projects approved both through KEP ITALY and KEP AUSTRIA in 2013 is attached as Annex 7.*

### Cooperation Activities

The CEI Cooperation Activities (CAs) are multilateral small-scale projects, in some cases linked to a larger project. CAs are one of the main instruments through which the priorities of the CEI Plan of Action are implemented. They are entirely financed out of the CEI Cooperation Fund to which all Member States contribute annually, according to an agreed scale of contributions. The budget of the CEI Cooperation Fund for this year amounted to €374.040.

In 2014, 95 Cooperation Activities were approved. The total CEI contribution for these activities amounts to about €717,500, 16,9 % of the total cost of the projects representing a total value of around €4.2 million. In terms of areas, Culture has been the most tackled area, followed by Enterprise Development. As to the geographical context, the highest number of approved projects are organised by Italy followed by Serbia and Austria. *The full list of Cooperation Activities approved in 2014 is attached as Annex 8.*

Since the start of its operations in 2002, the CEI Cooperation Fund has co-financed - with an amount of about €8.2 million - 891 Cooperation Activities for a total value of about €53.6 million. It is estimated that the annual mobility generated by the Cooperation Fund in its twelve years of activity is of about 5,000 people.



Technical Cooperation Project financed out of the Italian CEI Fund at the EBRD:  
Preparation of Preliminary Design and Detailed Design for a New Passenger Terminal at Tivat Airport

# ANNEXES

# ANNEX 1. PRIORITIES OF THE AUSTRIAN CEI PRESIDENCY



## “CEI as Bridge between European (Macro-) Regions / Synergies with International Organisations”

### CEI MISSION

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

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

### PRIORITIES OF AUSTRIAN CEI PRESIDENCY 2014

- **Follow-up** initiatives along the CEI priorities outlined in the Plan of Action 2014-2016
- **Strengthen** CEI’s (international) visibility
- **Develop** a more streamlined, value added and cost effective cooperation with other regional and international organisations (“Clearing House” activities and bridging function).
- **Combine** multilateral diplomacy and project management
- **Continue** to promote European integration and the alignment of CEI Member States with EU standards
- **Continue** supporting economic cooperation at all levels
- **Focus** on Western Balkans – CEI Foreign Ministers meeting on 3 June, 2014 back to back with the Western Balkans Foreign Ministers Conference
- **Open** to new initiatives for the CEI Member States within the EU Eastern Partnership
- **Organise** meeting of the CEI Heads of Government on 24-25 November 2014, back to back with annual Vienna Economic Forum
- **Organise** event related to minority issues
- **Continue** Parliamentary cooperation

## ANNEX 2. CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF THE AUSTRIAN CEI PRESIDENCY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Event</i>
<b>23 - 24 January</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	Official opening of the 2014 AT CEI Presidency, 1 <sup>st</sup> CNC Meeting Motto "CEI as Bridge between European (Macro) Regions/Synergies with other International Organisations"; attended by representatives of international organisations
<b>18 March</b>	<i>Sarajevo, B/H</i>	Closing Conference of CEI-RCC project "Improving Cooperation in South East Europe by Strengthening the Regional Cooperation Council" (SRE-SEE)
<b>6 – 11 April</b>	<i>Seggau, Austria</i>	Workshop on "Plasma-assisted Vapour Deposition of Oxide-based Thin Films and Coatings"
<b>10 April</b>	<i>London, UK</i>	International Symposium "25 Years of the Central European Initiative and 25 Years from the Fall of the Iron Curtain"
<b>10 - 11 April</b>	<i>London, UK</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> CNC and EBRD Steering Committee Meeting Preceded by participation in closing ceremony of Central European Conference organized by the Austrian Embassy and other CEI members together with the University College of London
<b>28 April</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	Vienna Economic Forum: "Family/Start-up Business"
<b>12 May</b>	<i>Oslo, Norway</i>	CEI Workshop of the Embassies of Austria, Italy and Hungary
<b>2 - 3 June</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	Annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers preceded by a Western Balkans Conference in the 1914-2014 context Preceded by the 3 <sup>rd</sup> CNC Meeting
<b>4 - 5 June</b>	<i>Klagenfurt, AT</i>	Workshop "Engaging and Empowering Youth and Local Communities in CEI countries to connect with global sustainable development/sustainable energy efforts"
<b>10 – 12 June</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	CEI Parliamentary Committee: Conference on "Education as Foundation for Prosperity"
<b>27 June</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	EU Danube Strategy Conference with participation of CEI members, Workshop on "Civil Society"
<b>8 – 10 September</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	Civil society as a factor for change in Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>16 September</b>	<i>Minsk, BY</i>	International Seminar on "25 Years of CEI: Promoting Partnership and Cooperation across Changing Europe"
<b>24 September</b>	<i>Trieste, IT</i>	Meeting of CEI Ministers for Science and Technology
<b>26 September</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	Conference about Logistics, Transport and Infrastructure (organized by FH)
<b>9 - 10 October</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	Conference on "Regions as Key Factors of Energy Turnaround", organized by the Austrian Ministry of Life
<b>9 - 10 October</b>	<i>Trieste, IT</i>	4 <sup>th</sup> CNC Meeting on 10 Oct. in conjunction with a seminar regarding minorities issues, a concert and an evening reception on 9 Oct.
<b>13 - 17 October</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	Workshop of Austrian Energy Agency on Renewables-Solutions: Transfer of Successful Renewables- and Bioenergy Know-how to Ukrainian Stakeholders
<b>16 – 17 October</b>	<i>Skopje, MK</i>	South East Europe Media Forum (SEEMF)
<b>6 – 7 November</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	Danube Region Business Forum of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber with participation of CEI members
<b>11 – 16 November</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	Youth Meeting on Anti-Ziganism

<b>17 – 19 November</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	CEI PD Parliamentary Assembly
<b>21 November</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	5 <sup>th</sup> CNC Meeting
<b>23 November</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	CEI concert of Ensemble “Taras” (Winner of Award at International Music Competition “Premio Trio di Trieste 2013”) at Italian Embassy
<b>24 November</b>	<i>Vienna, AT</i>	CEI PMs summit in cooperation with yearly event of the Vienna Economic Forum
<b>2 December</b>	<i>Kiev, UA</i>	CEI – Eastern Partnership Seminar organized by IDM on “Chances and Challenges for the Civil Society in the Process of Democratisation”

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

### Profit

N°	Item	Law/Agreement/Reason	Amount
1.	Balance carried forward from 2013	N/A	1.044.931,21
2.	Contribution from Italian MFA	law 286/1997 and 142/2003	1.393.053,00
3.	Contribution from the Austrian Development Agency	GA 8180-01/2011-12-LR2010 and 8180-02/2014	190.000,00
4.	EU Grants and Refunds	CB008 - ADRIA A	1.152.030,90
		CB174 - ECHOS	
		229660 - CERES	
		2011/278-252 - SRC RCC	
		IEE/11/951/SI2.615948 - SEEMORE	
		SEE/C/0005/3.1/X - RAIL4SEE	
		4CE433P2 - EDITS	
		SEE/D/0093/3.3X - ACROSSEE	
		1C-MED12-94 - WIDER	
		333720 - DESIGN MTS	
		608622 - S2BIOM	
		609607 - EBTP-SABS	
5.	Contribution from Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region	LR 11/1996 and 18/2011	87.418,20
6.	Contribution from Member States to CEI Cooperation Fund	CEI MFA decision 22.06.2001	276.360,00
7.	Sponsorships and reimbursements*	local fundraising/reimbursements on anticipated expenses	230.020,46
8.	Accrued interests on CEI bank accounts**		697,46
<b>Total A</b>			<b>4.374.511,23</b>

### Loss

N°	Item	Amount
1.	EU projects (including staff and travels)	1.151.463,26
2.	KEP-ADA projects	120.648,98
3.	Cooperation Fund projects	340.619,79
4.	Events, meetings, sponsorships	77.453,62
5.	Infrastructural costs (HQs)	124.770,10
6.	Salaries and allowances	887.019,78
7.	Consultants	99.057,26
8.	Travel expenditures	98.983,06
9.	Auditing, banking costs, insurances, miscellaneous	27.889,28
10.	Internal loans/transfers	108.747,93
<b>Total B</b>		<b>3.036.653,06</b>

**Balance carried forward to 2014 (TOTAL A - TOTAL B)**

**1.337.858,17**

\* out of which: 2.440 EUR from local donors to support the organisation of meetings and events in Trieste; 227.580,46 EUR as reimbursements from EU projects, CEI Trust Fund, KEP Austria, TELECOM

\*\*not including the accounts of EU projects

# ANNEX 4. CEI SECRETARIAT'S STAFF

## CEI Executive Secretariat

### Executive Level

<b>Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri</b> <i>Secretary General</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities.
<b>Ambassador Margit Waestfelt</b> <i>Alternate Secretary General</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities.
<b>Erik Csernovitz</b> <i>Deputy Secretary General</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities. CEI Parliamentary and Business Dimensions.
<b>Giorgio Rosso Cicogna</b> <i>Special Advisor to SG</i>	Advisor to the Secretary General.

### Professional Staff

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

### General Staff

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

## Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD

### Executive Level

**Guido Paolucci**  
*Programme Manager*

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

### Professional Staff

**Elisabetta Dovier**  
*Senior Executive Officer*

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

**Daniela Biadene**  
*Junior Executive Officer*

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

### General Staff

**Tea Stibilj**  
*Secretary*

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

## Unit for EU Projects

**Anna Marconato**  
*Project Manager (on maternity leave as of April 2014)*

Coordination of the Unit for EU Projects (overall financial supervision, advice on project management, management of human resources); project and financial management of ACROSSEE, ADRIA A, ATTAC, EDITS and RAIL4SEE projects.

**Carlo Fortuna**  
*Head of Transport and Regional Cooperation Unit of the Office for EU Projects (until April 2014)*

External relations in the field of EU projects with Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, European Commission, European Parliament and Committee of the Regions; project and technical management of ACROSSEE, ADRIA A, EDITS and RAIL4SEE projects.

**Alberto Cozzi**  
*Project Manager (as of April 2014)*

Project and technical management of ACROSSEE, ADRIA A, EDITS, RAIL4SEE and TEN-T Napa Studies projects.

**Ugo Poli**  
*Project Manager*

Capacity Building – Team Leader of the EU – IPA project for RCC (SRC-RCC).

**Ana Sinkovic**  
*Project Officer*

Reporting, day-to-day project management and communication activities in the projects ACROSSEE, ATTAC, EDITS, RAIL4SEE and SRC-RCC.

**Peter Canciani**  
*Project Officer*

Day-to-day project management and communication activities in the ATTAC, EBTP-SABS and S2BIOM projects.

**Sara Baronio**  
*Project Assistant*

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

**Marina Juricev**  
*Project Assistant*

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

## ANNEX 5. EU-FUNDED PROJECTS

### *CEI Research Fellowship Programme (CERES)*

**EU Programme:** 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme

**CEI role:** Lead Partner

**Participating countries:** All CEI Member States

**Area:** Science & Technology – Mobility of Post Doctoral Researchers

**Duration:** 04/2009 – 03/2014

**Total cost:** €1.008.000,00

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €1.008.000,00

The CEI Research Fellowship Programme - CERES was meant to promote transnational mobility (incoming) of scientists from CEI Member States. CERES envisaged 30 post-doctoral fellowships to be distributed over a period of 60 months. The Programme was promoted by the Central European Initiative in cooperation with 5 partner institutions addressing a large spectrum of highly relevant fields of scientific research such as physics, maths, genetics, biotechnology, neurosciences, nano-sciences, bioinformatics: in line with the bottom-up approach pursued by all Marie Curie Actions, fellows were given the chance to choose the topic of their research projects, as well as their host institution.

#### **Highlights:**

- The CERES Programme awarded all fellowships at its disposal (30) in the period 2009 - 2014 and was successfully concluded in March 2014.
- 102 applications were submitted from 16 CEI Member States in 4 Calls for Proposals (55% from non-EU CEI countries).
- CERES fellowships were awarded to post-doctoral researchers from the following countries: Ukraine (7); Slovenia (5); Croatia (4); Poland (3); Bulgaria (3); Serbia (2); Hungary (2); Belarus (1); R. Moldova (1); Czech Republic (1); Bosnia and Herzegovina (1).
- Achieved gender balance: 17 male/13 female awarded CERES fellows.
- Achieved EU/non-EU balance: 57% of fellowships awarded to researchers from non-EU CEI Member States.
- Main indicators of success: a) 10 out of 30 fellows succeeded in attracting additional funding after completion of their CERES fellowship; b) 14 out of 30 fellows found a permanent position after completion of their CERES fellowship; c) 92 publications (peer-reviewed articles, chapters of books, conference proceedings) made possible by the research conducted in the context of the CERES Programme.

For more information : <http://www.cei.int/content/research-fellowship-programme-ceres>

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

**EU Programme:** 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme

**CEI role:** Partner

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

**Area:** Research & Innovation

**Duration:** 01/2014 – 12/2016

**Total cost:** €1.996.467,00

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €176.955,43

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

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

#### **Highlights:**

- The project started on 1 January 2014.
- Kick-off Meeting held in Vienna on 3-4 February 2014.
- CEI hosted a Task coordination meeting on 29 April 2014.
- CEI produced its first deliverable in June 2014 "Database of stakeholders in the field of renewable energy, energy efficiency and bioeconomy", with more than 500 institutions mapped.
- 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly Meeting held in Vienna on 10-11 December 2014.

### **Improving Cooperation in South-East Europe by Actions for Strengthening the Regional Cooperation Council (SRC-SEE)**

**EU Programme:** IPA Regional Programme 2010

**CEI role:** Lead Partner

**Participating countries:** All CEI Member States

**Area:** Regional Cooperation

**Duration:** 12/2011 – 03/2014

**Total cost:** €809.780,00

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €809.780,00

The project *Improving Cooperation in South-East Europe by Actions for Strengthening the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)* was designed by the Central European Initiative to support the interest of the DG Enlargement for further enhancing the role of the RCC in building regional policies and cohesion in South-East Europe (SEE) and feeding the process of EU enlargement in the Western Balkans.

The action contributed to the implementation of the Strategy and Work Plan 2011 – 2013 of the RCC and assisted in drafting the new SWP 2014 – 2016, where the design and implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy “Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective” ([www.rcc.int](http://www.rcc.int)) is the core goal.

Dissemination and communication activities, also on the best use of ICT for implementing the concept of e-RCC, realised the documentary “How do I see my neighbour”, the first common production of nine national broadcasters already associated in the European Association of Public Service Media in SEE (EAPSM SEE), aired in all participating countries.

The Closing Conference of the project was successfully held on 18 March 2014 in Sarajevo and was attended by the Austrian Presidency, CEI ASG and many CEI CNCs. A workshop for journalists on SEE 2020 Strategy took also place along the Conference. The partnership based approach to the project management brought the CEI and the RCC to finalise a new Memorandum of Understanding, signed in Vienna on 3 June 2014.

#### **Highlights:**

To match the project tasks the CEI deployed activities and delivered outcomes such as:

1. Finalisation of workshops and events relevant for the RCC regional role and the implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy like
  - two study tours (September & November 2012) and three training sessions for RCC staff (July and November 2012 – March 2013) on the multi-level governance in macro-regions; mirroring Europe 2020 in the Candidate Countries of SEE; stock-taking and programming of cohesion policies, ETC in particular;
  - a workshop on the coordination of Regional Strategies with the participation of top-level staff from macro-regions, regional organisations & ETC programmes secretariats (September 2013);
  - a two-day workshop on Monitoring Models matching the task bestowed upon the RCC by the European Council (December 2013) to establish a regional public monitoring mechanism of the reform process in the WBC.
2. Deployment of sector experts for four bottom-up consultations of stakeholders through national meetings (Sector Meetings) and final regional stakeholders conferences (SSC) in sectors relevant for RCC’s Strategy and Work Plan 2014 – 2016:
  - cultural heritage & tourism development (July 2013, six country based preparatory events);
  - advanced biofuels production & rural innovation (January 2014, five countries involved in meetings and events);
  - creative industry, design in particular (January 2014, seven countries involved in meetings and events);
  - Ombudsman offices & civil society (February 2014, seven countries involved in the preliminary survey, TAIEX Seminar dedicated session delivered, nine countries subscribing the final regional agreement).

For more information: <http://www.cei.int/content/improving-cooperation-south-east-europe-actions-strengthening-regional-cooperation-council-r>

### **Rail Hub Cities for South East Europe (RAIL4SEE)**

**EU Programme:** South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme

**CEI role:** Partner

**Participating countries:** Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Greece

**Area:** Transport – Rail passengers mobility

**Duration:** 05/2012 – 10/2014

**Total cost:** €4.826.900,00

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €390.000,00

South East Europe (SEE) faces the need for transnational rail connections among rail hubs, especially on TEN-T networks and along the main intercity lines. Rail and, in general, public transport bound feeder lines need upgrade, strengthening and better organisation. That called for a multimodal integration of local/city transport networks, regional transport systems and transnational transport axes. City rail hubs and Regions have a role to integrate these different transport levels as means for an improved transport interconnectivity in SEE. The challenge that the RAIL4SEE project partners shared was the development of models, concepts, measures, harmonised strategies and policy actions targeted to the improvement of rail and intermodal transport in SEE. The project activities were oriented towards the long-term sustainability of the project results from a political, financial and operational point of view, as the project directly involved the core decision makers in rail and public transport in SEE, i.e. policy makers and transport operators. In this regard, the main visible outcomes are policy and investments improvements, pilot actions on integrated ticketing and information systems for transport users, the set-up of regional and transnational cooperation platforms and improved rail services in SEE.

#### **Highlights:**

- The CEI coordinated the activities of Work Package 4, on passenger demand/supply and modelling.
- 11 major hubs were under investigation and the relevant local stakeholders in South East Europe were involved in the project implementation.
- The project focused and will contribute to the implementation of specific pilot activities, in order to foster the rail mobility in South East Europe.

For more information <http://rail4see.eu/>

**Accessibility and Development for the Re-launch of the Inner Adriatic Area (ADRIA A)****EU Programme:** Cross-border cooperation programme Italy-Slovenia**CEI role:** Lead Partner**Participating countries:** Italy, Slovenia**Area:** Transport and accessibility**Duration:** 01/2010 – 04/2015**Total cost:** €3.289.000,00**Budget administered by the CEI:** €3.289.000,00

The ADRIA A project aims at contributing to the accessibility and transport reorganisation of the entire cross-border area, in order to form an integrated Italian – Slovene metropolitan transport area.

The common intention is to define the missing links in the Italian and Slovene railway infrastructural network to guarantee a single transport model for the whole territory. Moreover, the project contributed to the creation of an EGTC (European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation) between Gorizia, Nova Gorica and Sempeter Vrtojba, in order to ensure cooperation in territorial and transport planning even after the conclusion of the project.

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

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

**Highlights:**

- On 11 May the project participated in an event organised together with the Municipality of Monfalcone in the framework of the cooperation with the SETA project (South East Europe Cooperation Programme), named “Train for Europe”. The aim of this initiative was to foster the spirit of cooperation and friendship among citizens, institutions of the project and the railroad operators of Italy, Slovenia and Croatia.
- An interactive multi-media exhibition was realised and it will be travelling the project area during 2014.
- The project design of the missing links on the Italian side was finalised.
- The Slovenian part will be completed within spring 2015.
- The project conclusion has been postponed from October 2014 to April 2015.

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

**Sustainable and energy efficient mobility options in tourist regions in Europe (SEEMORE)****EU Programme:** Intelligent Energy Europe**CEI role:** Partner**Participating countries:** Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, Poland, Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Sweden**Area:** Energy Efficiency - Tourism**Duration:** 03/2012 – 03/2015**Total cost:** €1.974.225,00**Budget administered by the CEI:** €133.928,00

The SEEMORE project aims to show that regional actors in 8 European coastal tourist regions are able to change the travel behaviour of visitors within their regions towards more sustainable transport modes.

The project has the following specific objectives:

1. increase the awareness among visitors about sustainable mobility options in tourist regions;
2. increase co-operation between the sectors of tourism and mobility, and create new and improved energy efficient mobility options for leisure travel in 8 coastal regions throughout Europe;
3. shift travel behaviour of visitors towards more sustainable modes (monitored in 8 coastal regions in Europe);
4. widely share and communicate the SEEMORE experiences and outcomes with other actors in Europe, so that they start implementing similar actions targeting leisure travel.

Visitors of SEEMORE tourist regions benefitted from the improved traveller information, the increased choice in mobility options and the attractive integrated travel and leisure products. At regional level, a stronger cooperation between actors from the tourism and mobility sectors was established with local working groups and the implementation of concrete activities like data exchange protocols.

**Highlights:**

- The CEI was responsible for transferring the SEEMORE best practices and knowledge to other tourist destinations from CEI countries. This was achieved during two Central European Transfer Seminars, where SEEMORE partners sat together with stakeholders (mobility and tourism professionals) from other CEI tourist localities, discussed the current situation regarding tourism and mobility issues and identified specific SEEMORE actions and measures to be possibly replicated in the CEI region.
- In 2014, the SEEMORE Central European Transfer Seminar took place in Bucharest on October 30. The event gathered tourism and mobility professionals of 16 tourist destinations from 7 CEI countries, namely Lezhe and Tirana (Albania); Tuzla and Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Sofia (Bulgaria); Zadar and Varazdin (Croatia); Stip and Ohrid (Macedonia); Bacau, Costinesti and Bucharest (Romania); Novi Sad, Sremski Karlovci, Arandjelovac and Belgrade (Serbia).

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

### ***Accessibility improved at border crossings for the integration of South East Europe (ACROSSEE)***

**EU Programme:** South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme

**CEI role:** Lead Partner

**Participating countries:** Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Belgium, Greece

**Area:** Transport – cross border bottlenecks

**Duration:** 10/2012 – 12/2014

**Total cost:** €3.025.246,64

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €3.025.246,64

By promoting a multilevel cooperation involving Transport Ministries, Regions, Universities, Chambers of Commerce, transport stakeholders and European transport associations, the ACROSSEE project aimed to develop a large and coherent platform that would contribute to rationalising and optimising the existing network in South-East Europe (SEE). One of the project's main objectives was to develop a single transport system for SEE and forge a new approach with infrastructure and transport services.

In order to obtain an operative and successful axis, the efficiency of European freight transport must be improved and the Western Balkans must be considered as integrated. Greater interoperability and the easing of cross border procedures are crucial for the corridors' success, including the identification of viable intermodal connections between rail, road and sea. The project focused on the implementation of common standards and contributed to optimising international border management to reduce cross-border transit time, while boosting regional and international trade.

**Highlights:**

- For the first time in South East Europe, EU and non EU Member States performed the same integrated Surveys and Traffic Countings at Cross Border Points.
- Surveys at ports, interports and on transport commodities were also performed.
- The results of the above-mentioned surveys contributed to the elaboration of a detailed transport model for South East Europe, focusing on Cross border issues.

For more information: <http://www.acrossee.net/>

### ***European Digital Traffic Infrastructure Network for Intelligent Transport Systems (EDITS)***

**EU Programme:** Central Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme

**CEI role:** Partner

**Participating countries:** Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Slovak Republic

**Area:** Transport - ICT

**Duration:** 07/2012 – 12/2014

**Total cost:** €2.424.272,15

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €244.972,50

The EDITS project focused on the improvement of the accessibility to interoperable and multimodal Real Time Traffic and Travel Information (RTTI) services with the goal to support the single traveller before and during his/her journey within a region, as well as across different regions.

The project ensured easy access to all traffic-related information via several consistent information channels. By bringing together partners from different governmental levels throughout Central Europe, EDITS will develop common transnational solutions for the exchange of transport related information and the improvement of interoperable and multimodal RTTI services. To meet this challenge, transnational cooperation is essential, since all partners were confronted with the similar need to inform their customers, i.e. travellers in an accurate way.

**Highlights:**

An EDITS system and application for users was tested and set up by the end of the project in December 2014.

- The project's final conference took place in Vienna, on 4 December 2014.

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

### ***Development of North Adriatic ports multimodal connections and their efficient integration into the Core Network (TEN-T***

#### ***NAPA STUDIES)***

**EU Programme:** TEN-T

**CEI role:** Partner

**Participating countries:** Croatia, Italy, Slovenia

**Area:** Transport

**Duration:** 10/2013 -12/2015

**Total cost:** €5.630.000,00

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €200.000,00

The TEN-T Napa project is funded under the TEN-T programme. It aims at supporting the preparation of mature motorways of the sea projects included in the North Adriatic Ports Development Plans. It contributes to the development of these ports as interconnection points between the sea transport and other modes of transport through the creation or improvement of hinterland access, linking the ports via rail and inland waterway connections to the TEN-T Network. This action focuses on the motorways of the "South-East Europe Sea"(connecting the Adriatic sea to the Ionian Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean) and contributes to the integration of the existing maritime links into the European intermodal logistics chain by improving hinterland connection (rail and inland navigation) and maritime access of the North Adriatic ports. ICT pilot actions are also foreseen to improve the interoperability of different transport modes (sea and rail).

**Highlights:**

- Project started in October 2013, but was officially approved by INEA in October 2014;
- All technical activities will be implemented in 2015;
- The project will be presented at the Transport Logistic Fair in Munich, in May 2015.

For more information: [www.napa-studies.eu](http://www.napa-studies.eu)

**Green growing of SMEs : innovation and development in the energy sector in MED area (WIDER)****EU Programme:** MED Programme**CEI role:** Partner**Participating countries:** Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Slovenia, France, Greece, Portugal, Spain**Area:** Energy**Duration:** 01/2013—06/2015**Total cost:** €2.292.142,00**Budget administered by the CEI:** €120.500,00

The purpose of the WIDER project is to address the ageing trend and related social changes and challenges it presents by using an innovative approach. In particular, it aims to enhance elderly customers' lifestyle while helping them to use energy in a cleaner and better way and improve energy savings until autonomy of their residence. This is done through targeted project activities aimed at improving and sharing knowledge management regarding innovation, markets opportunities and new products of SMEs all along the supply chain of eco-smart housing for independent living of the elderly sector in seven focused MED regional industrial areas.

Thanks to the implementation of seven regional targeted pilot projects and two Innovation Fairs, the selected local SMEs, actually or potentially belonging to the eco-smart housing for the elderly sector, have the chance to gain, improve and share competencies regarding the increase of the value of their own products or the repositioning of new ones on wider target market segments through an energy efficiency and end-user centred approach.

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

**Highlights:**

- The second WIDER Innovation Fair took place in Civitanova Marche on 5-7 June 2014. This networking event with 400 stakeholders from public, private, R&D entities, SMEs and end-users, all aimed to strengthen transnational cooperation on eco-smart housing for elderly. The main focus was on new opportunities and competitive advantages in the field of eco-smart housing for the elderly.
- The first round of EU Road Shows of the project took place in Brussels, where relevant EC officials were acquainted with the project innovative methodology and achieved results.
- WIDER has offered concrete opportunities to companies and consultants from the Mediterranean area: a number of WIDER innovation vouchers have been awarded to selected SMEs for undertaking an innovative project within the eco-smart housing for elderly sector. In concrete terms, the awarded financial means aim to provide the winning SMEs with the knowledge (consultancy) or technology needed to bridge the innovation gap.

For more information: [www.wider-project.eu](http://www.wider-project.eu)

**Defining Social responsibility Interventions for Grounded Networking in Machine Tool Sector (DESIGN-MTS)****EU Programme:** Competitiveness and Innovation Programme**CEI role:** Partner**Participating countries:** Italy, Belgium, United Kingdom**Area:** Corporate Social Responsibility**Duration:** 07/2013 – 12/2014**Total cost:** €266.341,22**Budget administered by the CEI:** €42.540,69

The main aim of the DESIGN-MTS project was to enable European enterprises of Machine Tool Sector (MTS) across the EU to take a strategic approach to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in cooperation with relevant stakeholders. Integrating CSR into a company's core business is critical for its own competitiveness and growth, but also for increasing social trust and consumer confidence in business and economy in general. This project aimed to develop awareness of CSR in the sector by integrating a multi-stakeholder approach to CSR and developing socially responsible best-practice cases to enhance the visibility and value of CSR in the MTS. A permanent multi-stakeholder platform on CSR in the machine tools industry was to be set up within the project. The platform aimed to include a broad range of relevant European stakeholders that would: facilitate stakeholder dialogue; build consensus on CSR issues in the sector; foster the adoption of joint commitments; provide multilateral support to CSR.

The project had a European-wide scope involving 29 EIP (Enterprise and Innovation Programmes) participating countries through the membership networks of the partner organisations and more specifically: 23 EU Member States, and 6 other EIP participating countries, i.e. Macedonia, Turkey, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Norway (EFTA/EEA Country).

**Highlights:**

- The Design-MTS project has facilitated enterprises in Europe's Machine Tool Sector (MTS) to take a strategic approach to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and sustainability. Since July 2013, Design MTS partners - in the partly funded European Commission project - have raised the bar for CSR in the machine tool sector by practically integrating a multi-stakeholder approach to raise awareness and socially responsible best practices and to enhance the visibility and value of CSR in the MTS sector.
- As the project drew to a close in December 2014, it formulated the principles around raising awareness and communication on CSR and facilitating a strategic approach to CSR in the MTS. These promised to bring continued benefits in terms of risk management, cost savings, access to capital, customer relationships, and human resource management and innovation capacity.
- The CEI contributed to these project achievements by coordinating the elaboration of a Networking Strategy, aimed to ensure the sustainability of the project's results, and of a specific Policy Recommendations: a public use document vastly disseminated to relevant Public Authorities in CEI Member States, as well as to respective national industrial, employers and other sector-based business associations.

For more information: [www.designmts.eu](http://www.designmts.eu)

**Italo-Croatian mobility in Euro-planning (ICROME)****EU Programme:** Life Long Learning Programme**CEI role:** Partner**Participating countries:** Croatia, Italy**Area:** Vocational Training**Duration:** 09/2013 -09/2014**Total cost:** €113.655,04**Budget administered by the CEI:** €42.540,69

The general aim of the ICROME project was the transfer of knowledge and specific competences in the field of European project planning and management with all related practical issues in Croatia. The specific aim was to train 38 newly-graduates, young professionals and unemployed people in the field of EU funded projects. The Lead partner of the project was the Croatian Institute for International Relations (IMO), who worked in close cooperation with the receiving partners in Italy during the whole project cycle. The successful candidates were selected by the LP and will followed a working experience in one of the proposed host institutions in Italy. The duration of the training placement depended on the type of trainee: unemployed young graduates (17 participants) followed an intensive three-month (13 weeks) practical working traineeship, whereas the people employed at the sending institutions - employed participants - (21 participants) followed a shorter, one-month (5 weeks) training placement. There were two mobility periods: the 1st between February and April and the 2nd between May and August 2014.

The Croatian candidates completed their working experience at one single Italian host body, extremely skilled in the preparation and management of EU-funded projects. All host partners were located in the North-East of Italy, in particular in the Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto Regions. These important private and public bodies were chosen for their multiannual experience in the management of EU funds and on the basis of previous joint experiences in this field. The traineeships were organised individually between the host partners and the same trainees on the basis of their interests and field of expertise. The trainees had the chance to work tightly with project managers/officers experienced in the management of vast transnational European projects as well as other EU projects, in which the host institutions are involved. Specific training was given for those EU Programmes of Territorial Cooperation, in which Croatia is and will shortly be a possible participating actor (e.g. South East Europe, Central Europe, IPA, MED, Cross-border Cooperation Programmes, etc.) as well as different EU Programmes (FP7, Intelligent-Energy Europe and others). The successful candidates were trained in various aspects related to the management and preparation of EU funds, such as project cycle management, administration, financial flows, communication, dissemination, public relations, reporting activities and drafting new project proposals. Special attention, considering the composition of the Sending Partnership, was given to the specific sector of interest: transnational opportunities for public bodies, SME and ICT, environment, energy and transport projects, transfer of knowledge, research. The working language within the receiving institutions was English.

The progress of the participants was continuously monitored, before the beginning of the mobility programme through an evaluation test and later during the mobility programme, through mentors at the host institutions and after the conclusion of the mobility with another evaluation test.

**Highlights:**

- The trainings were launched in February 2014 and throughout the year the CEI has hosted six trainees from Croatian Institutions.

For more information: <http://www.cei.int/content/italo-croatian-mobility-europlanning-icrome>

**European Biofuels Technology Platform – Support for Advanced Biofuels Stakeholder (EBTP-SABS)****EU Programme:** 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme**CEI role:** Partner**Participating countries:** Austria, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom**Area:** Energy**Duration:** 09/2013—08/2016**Total cost:** €579.155,00**Budget administered by the CEI:** €75.600,00

The European Biofuels Technology Platform (EBTP) supports the development of cost-competitive advanced biofuels value chains and the acceleration of their sustainable deployment in the EU. The objective of the EBTP-SABS project is to provide support to all activities of EBTP that are of interest to the biofuels community and to the broader public. This includes information about technological, market, political, regulatory and financial developments and deployment activities such as the set-up, commissioning and operation of pilot and demonstration facilities and surrounding research. EBTP-SABS motivates discussions and interaction between various groups of stakeholders and the working groups of EBTP. Information is provided at several levels of detail. Key instruments to achieve this aim are the EBTP website, fact-sheets, reports, newsletters, etc. EBTP-SABS also aims to update the EBTP SRA and SDD, to help inform Horizon2020 priorities on advanced biofuels within European bioeconomy activities and the European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative (EIBI). The project will also establish and expand information about stakeholders, demonstration and flagship facilities, research on advanced biofuels across all Member States and other countries of interest, as well as events, reports, feedstock availability and stakeholders.

**Highlights:**

- Project started in September 2013; under implementation.
- Project meeting held in Bruxelles October 2014, back-to-back with the 6<sup>th</sup> EBTP Stakeholders Plenary Meeting.
- In the framework of the activities, an updated version of the EBTP website has been launched; contents are constantly updated, including an extensive database of advanced biofuels stakeholders.
- Focus on Central, East and South-East Europe is particularly appreciated by the business community owing to alleged wide availability of lignocellulosic (non-food) biomass that should be channelled to the market.
- CEI activities triggered stakeholders' attention: notwithstanding the activities of research institutions working in the specific field, relevant investments and large-scale industrial endeavours are still lacking in the region.

For more information: [www.biofuelstp.eu](http://www.biofuelstp.eu)

***Delivery of sustainable supply of non-food biomass to support a "resource-efficient" bioeconomy in Europe (S2BIOM)*****EU Programme:** 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme**CEI role:** Partner**Participating countries:** Austria, Croatia, Italy, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Spain, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom**Area:** Energy**Duration:** 09/2013 - 08/2016**Total cost:** €5.161.511,08**Budget administered by the CEI:** €267.600,00

The main aim of S2BIOM is to support the sustainable delivery of non-food biomass at local, regional and pan European level through developing strategies, roadmaps and a computerized toolset with updated harmonised datasets for EU28, western Balkans, Turkey and Ukraine. The project fits under the overall umbrella of the Europe 2020 strategy and will contribute to meeting the targets for renewable energies and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The research will cover the whole biomass delivery chain from primary biomass to end-use of non-food products, including logistics. All these aspects will be elaborated to facilitate integrated design and evaluation of optimal biomass supply chains, and to support the development of strategies fostering the Bioeconomy. Project activities are being implemented within three strongly interrelated themes:

- ⇒ Theme 1 focuses on methodological approaches, data collection and estimation of sustainable biomass potentials, resource efficient pathways and optimal logistical supply routes as well as the development of a computerized toolset.
- ⇒ Theme 2 makes use of the findings of Theme 1 to develop a Vision, Strategies and a R&D roadmap for the sustainable delivery of non-food biomass feedstock at local, regional and pan European level.
- ⇒ Theme 3 validates the findings of Theme 1 & Theme 2 through case studies, and ensures dissemination and outreach.

The CEI is responsible for the implementation of Theme 3 in collaboration with FNR, with particular regard to the implementation of case studies in non-EU countries covered by project activities. The case studies are tailored to the needs of Theme 1 and Theme 2 (completion of datasets, validation of the tool, etc.). Case studies will efficiently capture the different scales of applications for biomass supply chains in a sufficient number of regions across Europe. The first case study will be launched in February 2015 in AP Vojvodina, Serbia.

**Highlights:**

- Project started in September 2013; under implementation.
- Project meeting held in Vantaa (Finland) in September 2014.
- Project activities and expected results are being widely disseminated; stakeholders' have great expectations, since lack of information on biomass supply is deemed to be the main obstacle to extensive investments in bioenergy/bioeconomy.
- Stakeholders from CEI member countries express appreciation for CEI work as the advancement of bioenergy/bioeconomy is considered a major step forward in meeting EU 2020 targets, as well as a potential driver for economic growth, rural development and job creation.
- The first case study will be launched in February 2015 in AP Vojvodina, Serbia.

For more information: [www.s2biom.eu](http://www.s2biom.eu)

***Attractive Urban Public Transport for Accessible Cities (ATTAC)*****EU Programme:** South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme**CEI role:** Partner**Participating countries:** Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Germany, Greece**Area:** Improvement of the accessibility – Urban mobility**Duration:** 01/2011 – 03/2014**Total cost:** €2.342.128,28**Budget administered by the CEI:** €171.160,00

The ATTAC project, completed in March 2014, was successful in improving planning and operation of urban public transport networks, as well as their attractiveness to final users. Making public transport efficient and competitive towards private vehicles is crucial to fight congestion: this reverberates on European transport corridors by reducing bottlenecks in the proximity of participating cities, which are important intersections in South East Europe. Specifically, the project contributed to raising the share of public transport in participating cities by introducing attractive and sustainable services and solutions, creating a framework for a seamless journey. In this framework, the CEI coordinated the Extended Transfer Programme to the wider South East Europe area aiming at promoting knowledge sharing and dialogue between partners and stakeholders, thus ensuring dissemination and transfer of ATTAC results to other SEE locations.

**Highlights:**

- The CEI organised the ATTAC Ministerial Conference on "Sustainable urban transport perspectives in South East Europe. Building upon common solutions and best practices" (Trieste, 12.11.2013), with the participation of more than eighty representatives of relevant Line Ministries from SEE countries, Regional and Local Transport Agencies, Public transport operators, Universities and Research Organisations. The event contributed to raising awareness among decision-makers on the potential of innovative public transport solutions as drivers for change, with particular regard to the beneficial impact deriving from the implementation of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs). The event enabled disseminating to a wider audience project results and outputs, in particular the Mobility Toolbox.
- In order to further strengthen the impact of ATTAC and its long-term sustainability, the CEI contributed to setting-up a network of ATTAC Contact Points in the Countries participating to the project. A dedicated Workshop was organised in Trieste (13.11.2013) focusing on the project long-term sustainability, capitalisation of project results and internal communication.
- The Project has been completed in March 2014, with mutual satisfaction of the SEE JTS and project partners. Capitalization on its results and partnership might be evaluated vis-à-vis upcoming opportunities in the new programming period.

For more information: <http://www.attacproject.eu/>

## ANNEX 6. TECHICAL COOPERATION (TC) PROJECTS

### *Utilisation of Biomass Residues in Primary Agriculture and Food Processing Sectors*

**Ref. No.:** P201.001-14

**Country:** Regional (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia)

**Area:** Energy/Agribusiness

**Duration:** Ten months

**Total cost:** €150.000,00

**Expected investment related:** €45 million

The EBRD's energy sector investments are closely integrated with its technical cooperation (TC) activities. Donor partnerships enable these activities and help the Bank better address the challenges in the energy sector by providing targeted support to promote markets, reduce energy intensity and support low carbon solutions. The technical support given in this way to governments, regulators and private sector clients is an intrinsic part of the Bank's work and contributes substantially to the transition mandate.

Amongst other renewable resources the EBRD supports the growing use of biomass, that do not suffer from the intermittency problems of wind or solar and where many of the Bank's countries of operations, with their large forestry or agribusiness sectors, have strong resources.

The proposed TC assignment would support the EBRD's financing investments both through the EBRD direct lending products as well as through the EBRD credit lines targeting SMEs in primary agriculture and food processing sectors. In addition, this technical assistance project is consistent with the objectives and the operational approach defined by the EBRD Sustainable Resource Initiative, a tool recently developed by the Bank that focuses on resource, material and water efficiency in order to help the Bank's corporate clients in introducing energy efficiency improvements.

Donors' funds are required considering the limited information about characteristics of waste stream, geographical location, and market/regulatory barriers preventing the effective utilisation of waste residues in the agribusiness sector. Private enterprises and public institutions lack the capacity to develop a comprehensive understanding of the market opportunities but also of the actions required to develop the infrastructure, logistics, farming practices, management capability, financial products and regulatory set up which would enable the development of these opportunities.

The activities of the proposed TC assignment foresee two phases:

Phase I – Agribusiness Waste Streams Mapping. Phase one consists in a review of the type and volume of the major residues generated in the primary agriculture and food-processing sectors in the target countries, their current prevailing uses and the relevant commercial and regulatory drivers in place in the country.

Phase II – Review of Alternative Routes to Markets.

The aim is to analyse all the most significant possible uses of the residues beyond those currently in place and already reviewed within Phase I, such as conversion into biofuels, production of insulation materials, or fertilizers before/after anaerobic digestion, or bio-plastics, or other intermediate products suitable for use as feedstock in other sectors (e.g. pulp and paper).

### *Preparation of Preliminary Design and Detailed Design for a New Passenger Terminal at Tivat Airport*

**Ref. No.:** P201.002-14

**Country:** Montenegro

**Area:** Transport

**Duration:** Six months

**Total cost:** €300.000,00

**Expected investment related:** €30 million

The EBRD has a successful track-record of structuring transactions to promote transition. However, moving countries further up the transition curve is not only about investments – it is about improving policies, institutions and economic structures. In this framework, the Bank has recently started to pay more attention to the need to enhance impact through more structured policy dialogue and targeted technical cooperation interventions. The Bank recognises the need to create an environment that makes reforms more likely and improves their implementation, targeting areas such as control of corruption, the rule of law and institutional quality thus promoting a better investment climate. For these purposes the EBRD recently launched a new programme, the "Investment Climate and Good Governance Initiative" which has been designed to promote good governance and improve business climate in the Bank's countries of operation - including the CEI Fund's ones - and illustrates the need to put more efforts into policy dialogue measures to foster transition.

In this framework, the proposed TC assignment targeting Montenegro aims at improving the competition policy in the country. In fact, although reforms have been introduced in the years since independence, Montenegro faces a number of important transition challenges as it aims to achieve sustainable growth in the economy and advance further in the EU approximation process. In the forthcoming strategy period, the Bank will address a number of cross-cutting challenges, including expanding the economic base through enhancement of competitiveness. The proposed TC assignment regards this specific challenge.

Montenegro's current 'transition rating' in relation to competition policy is 2.0 out of a possible 4.5. To make progress, Montenegro must demonstrate greater efforts on the part of the regulator, the Agency for the Protection of Competition ('APC'), to take active measures to limit abuse of market power and to promote a competitive environment, including removal of market entry restrictions.

Two areas where the APC's capacity needs to be strengthened have been identified. First, the APC's members require greater understanding of key underpinning economic concepts that are critical for effective enforcement of competition policy. Second, the APC requires targeted training on best practices in relation to merger assessment and evaluation criteria. Merger control has constituted one of the APC's principal activities since its establishment. However, no instruction has yet been provided to the APC's members on this subject. The APC has requested the EBRD's assistance in preparing and delivering training in these areas.

The consultant would deliver a training programme on microeconomic underpinnings of competition policy, including use of econometric methods, as well as analysis of merger regulation and practice in the EU and how they are relevant for the handling of cases before the APC. Training would be provided to approximately 20 participants, including case handlers, the director of the APC, the director of the directorate in the Ministry of the Economy, and other staff to be agreed.

Success will be measured against the following indicators: (a) demonstrated increases in knowledge of training participants through appropriate testing; (b) the ex-post collection of information from trained personnel confirming that they have used their new knowledge and skills in their work (this contemplates follow up with participants up several months after the conclusion of the training).

### **Montenegro Agency for the Protection of Competition: merger control, economics**

**Ref. No.:** P201.003-14

**Country:** Montenegro

**Area:** Capacity building

**Duration:** Four months

**Total cost:** €50.000,00

**Expected investment related:** n/a

The EBRD has a successful track-record of structuring transactions to promote transition. However, moving countries further up the transition curve is not only about investments – it is about improving policies, institutions and economic structures. In this framework, the Bank has recently started to pay more attention to the need to enhance impact through more structured policy dialogue and targeted technical cooperation interventions. The Bank recognises the need to create an environment that makes reforms more likely and improves their implementation, targeting areas such as control of corruption, the rule of law and institutional quality thus promoting a better investment climate. For these purposes the EBRD recently launched a new programme, the "Investment Climate and Good Governance Initiative" which has been designed to promote good governance and improve business climate in the Bank's countries of operation - including the CEI Fund's ones - and illustrates the need to put more efforts into policy dialogue measures to foster transition.

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Success will be measured against the following indicators: (a) demonstrated increases in knowledge of training participants through appropriate testing; (b) the ex-post collection of information from trained personnel confirming that they have used their new knowledge and skills in their work (this contemplates follow up with participants up several months after the conclusion of the training).

## ANNEX 7. KNOW-HOW EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (KEP)

### KEP ITALY

***“ALERT”: Strengthening Serbian multi-hazard early warning and alert system. Phase I: Setting-up integrated policies to reduce damages from extreme events and risks for population***

**Ref. No.:** 1206.001-14

**Know-how provider institution:** Regional Environmental Protection Agency of Emilia Romagna – Regional Hydro-Meteorological and Climatological Service ARPA ER / ARPA SIMC, **ITALY**

**Know-how recipient institutions:** RHMSS- Republican Hydro-Meteorological Service, **SERBIA**

**Area:** Capacity building

**Implementation date:** December 2014 – July 2015

**Project total cost:** €80,240 .00

**CEI co-financing:** €40,000.00

The project's Phase I intends to extend the concept of hydro-meteorological hazard to a hydro-meteorological risk, in the framework of Multi-Risk approach, setting up at the same time the best effective mechanism to improve Serbian National Civil Protection Decision Support System, in order to timely identify, prevent and mitigate natural disasters, acting either in real or differed time. The project will analyse current mechanisms for decision support system, the Command Control Chain, in order to identify, analyse, prioritise and minimise risks, reducing relevant costs and identifying post-disaster activities as well as developing effective management of residual risk by means of real-time monitoring and use of early warning systems. The project will focus on integrating risk management, in order to establish a real-time alert system. Especially in this phase, the project will proceed with the analysis of the strong and weak points in Serbia, with focus on climate change and past effects, available future scenarios and proposing action to mitigate negative consequences. Lastly, the project will carry out a study for introducing new technologies as an essential tool for the implementation of a modern highly effective decision support systems, to face multiple risks and reduce impacts.

***“ALERT”: Strengthening Serbian multi-hazard early warning and alert system. Phase II: Improving dynamic real time data exchange at central and local level, to increase efficiency, directly involve populations and reduce costs for action***

**Ref. No.:** 1206.002-14

**Know-how provider institution:** Regional Environmental Protection Agency of Emilia Romagna – Regional Hydro-Meteorological and Climatological Service ARPA ER / ARPA SIMC, **ITALY**

**Know-how recipient institutions:** RHMSS- Republican Hydro-Meteorological Service, **SERBIA**

**Area:** Capacity building

**Implementation date:** July 2015 - February 2016

**Project total cost:** €80,450 .00

**CEI co-financing:** €40,000.00

The project is part of the continuation of the project “Exchanging Know-How to strengthen Early Warning system and Civil Protection mechanisms in the Serbian Republic, to face multi-hazards and reduce risk for population”. The final output of the project will be the planning of the advanced multi-risk alert system in Serbia. This system is intended as an instrument to strengthen inner-communication links and data exchange among all major actors playing their part in disaster prevention, risk reduction and safety of population. This includes not only the specific institutions involved such as hydro-meteorological services, civil and environmental protection agencies, etc. but also the civilians themselves, involved through advanced communication systems and more risk awareness knowledge. Phase II aims at effectively starting to implement of a multi-risk and alert system that based on Phase I methodologies and realisations will help Civil Protection, local Authorities and other institutions in charge of disaster prevention and safety of populations, to effectively monitor, predict, prevent and timely intervene against different types of risk, would they appear separately or together, due to extreme natural events or man-produced disasters. Specifically, Alert Phase II is conceived to introduce and start bringing into operation an advanced instrument, not only able to help decision makers in their day-by-day work, but focused on strengthening the inter-communication links and data exchange among all major actors playing roles in disaster prevention and risk reduction activity.

***On the job training in Humanitarian Demining and Mine Risk Education (MRE)***

**Ref. No.:** 1206.003-14

**Know-how provider institution:** INTERSOS, **ITALY**

**Know-how recipient institutions:** Detection Dog Center (MDDC), **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**Area:** Capacity building

**Implementation date:** October 2014 - December 2014

**Project total cost:** €80,000 .00

**CEI co-financing:** €40,000.00

Since the end of the conflicts in former Yugoslav territories, Bosnia and Herzegovina still remains one of the heavy contaminated countries with antipersonnel mines and unexploded devices. In addition, the recent floods severely affecting the country in May, have increased the danger once more, as the already cleared areas might have been contaminated again by mines and unexploded devices, scattered by flood. Many national and international companies are now active in the demining sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina but not many are operating according to the humanitarian demining principles, which require longer time and higher costs. The few local NGOs, that are trying to adopt humanitarian demining standards, suffer from a lack of experiences, knowledge and funds to implement their

activities, among them also the beneficiary of this project. This project is therefore based on the current situation in BiH. It is particularly important for these NGOs to gain know-how from international NGOs in order to make sure the humanitarian demining will be implemented in the future demining actions in BiH. The goal of the project was to clean about 8000 m<sup>2</sup> of the land in the municipality of Bihac, according to the humanitarian standards. Moreover, around 15 MRE sessions in the community were organised in order to increase awareness, including door-to-door presentations, by placing posters on prominent places through media campaign and dissemination of promotional MRE material. This way, the project contributed to the enhancement of local as well as the beneficiary's capacity in the demining and MRE sector according to the Humanitarian Demining Principles and Standards. A final promotion event was envisaged at the end of the project in order to disseminate the achieved results and best practices.

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#### ***Development of guidelines for implementation of the principles of sustainable agriculture according to EU Directive 2009/128 (SUSAGRI)***

**Ref. No.:** 1206.004-14

**Know-how provider institution:** Agricultural Research Council- Research Centre for the study of the plant-soil system, **ITALY**

**Know-how recipient institutions:** University of Sarajevo; Plant Health Protection Administration, **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**Area:** Sustainable agriculture

**Implementation date:** January 2015 – June 2016

**Project total cost:** €80,000 .00

**CEI co-financing:** €30,800.00

The overall goal of the proposed project is to contribute to the development of guidelines for sustainable and integrated agricultural development according to EU Directive 2009/128 "Establishing a framework for community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides", encouraging low-input of pesticides and alternative practices for the management of soil fertility and control of pathogens and pests of horticultural crops. Three major activities are planned in the framework of this assignment. In the first activity, the institutions will work together for the development of the guidelines that are expected to be utilised as official documents by the governmental beneficiary for further developments. The second activity is related to the organisation of workshops, trainings and study visits in Italy for about 50 farmers and advisors to encourage the wider adoption of more environmentally sustainable agricultural practices. The last activity is related to the visibility of the project activities and outcomes. The project partners will develop informative materials (brochures for farmers, leaflets, video, webpage) to enhance the knowledge on the Directive by increased awareness of growers, advisors, policy makers and consumers. Thanks to this project, the involved institutions will strengthen their scientific cooperation also for future joint activities.

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#### ***PACKSENSOR The impact of the controlled atmosphere on quality and safety of the close-seal packaged food applied in the SMEs of south Serbia***

**Ref. No.:** 1206.005-14

**Know-how provider institution:** National Research Council - Institute of Photonics and Nanotechnologies, **ITALY**

**Know-how recipient institutions:** Faculty of Technology in Leskovac, University of Niš, **SERBIA**

**Area:** SMEs development

**Implementation date:** January 2015 – August 2016

**Project total cost:** €80,000 .00

**CEI co-financing:** €37,800.00

The PACKSENSOR project will develop and validate, in the project timeframe, a non-intrusive laser-gas sensors completely contactless based on laser spectroscopy, leaving the gas mixture in the package unchanged. It will also apply laser spectroscopy with a new method of inspection and its adaptation for measuring closed containers whose optical properties can be extremely variable. This will lead to investigation of the quality of the used package material in keeping the atmosphere of packaging. In this field, training and technological transfer are one of the main activities of the applicant (IFN-CNR). Therefore, the applicant will proceed with the installation of the instruments of innovative technology at the Tfl, as a central place for organised Q&S control in the Region. Furthermore, it will provide a training to educate the personnel involved from the University in order to use the devices properly. During the trainings the practical measurements of the gas content in the packaged food products in the industrial conditions and the practical application of the device during processing and storage of packed foods, will be presented. This way, PACKSENSOR will introduce a simple, fast, non-destructive and not expensive technique for monitoring the Q&S of food products, available for producers in the region of South Serbia.

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#### ***MaCCIM - Maritime Cluster Cooperation Italy Montenegro***

**Ref. No.:** 1206.006-14

**Know-how provider institution:** DITENAVE – Naval and Nautical Technological District of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, **ITALY**

**Know-how recipient institutions:** Chamber of Economy of **MONTENEGRO**

**Area:** SMEs Development

**Implementation date:** January 2015 – June 2016

**Project total cost:** €80,000 .00

**CEI co-financing:** €40,000.00

The project's objective is to develop an operational model aimed at supporting the whole nautical and yachting system in Montenegro, through a know-how transfer approach and replicate the model in other regions. The activities of the project include the creation of a shared detailed working schedule and the deepening of the mutual knowledge of the two areas as well as of the stakeholders, led by the project partners. Furthermore, a mapping will be done in order to collect all the information needed to develop the project, following by mentoring and coaching in order to gather a precise knowledge on the existing resources and potentials. Moreover, the project will proceed with the promotion of a network in the nautical sector, with the intention in supporting the SMEs in upgrading their business cooperation and setting the bases for development of a business friendly environment. Lastly, the activities will proceed with the identification of a road map, which will allow the partners to develop a common view about the final model of the cooperation, helping to establish a technological district, a Nautical Business Centre and a model of governance to help the technological and business development of the institution, industries and SMEs. A final conference with the aim to disseminate the achievements is also foreseen. Overall, the final goal of the project is to draw a plan for the establishment of a maritime / shipbuilding cluster in Montenegro. The project is in line with the EU strategies aimed at establishing an Adriatic-Ionian macro region and to connect them to the specific challenge of developing an area with similar standards in education, training and production in the Blue Economy sector.

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**Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative (NGCI): South East Europe Competitiveness Outlook 2015****Ref. No.:** 1206.007-14**Know-how provider institution:** CEI EU Member States - The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as coordinator**Know-how recipient institutions:** Governments, public institutions and private sector and civil society organisations of **ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA, MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO, SERBIA.****Area:** SMEs Development**Implementation date:** January 2015 – December 2015**Project total cost:** €5,000,000.00**CEI co-financing:** €30,000.00

With the Western Balkans striving to achieve greater economic competitiveness and growth, the OECD Investment Compact for South East Europe has launched the Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative (NGCI). The NGCI aims to support the economies of the region in addressing structural economic challenges and implementing and monitoring policies for greater competitiveness. The NGCI supports the implementation and monitoring of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy (SEE2020). SEE2020 is the overarching regional growth strategy of the Western Balkans' economies. A key pillar of the NGCI is the SEE Competitiveness Outlook, the OECD regional flagship publication that will comprehensively monitor and assess reform progress across all dimensions of the SEE2020 Strategy (from trade policy via education, health and innovation, to SME policy and infrastructure) in the economies of the region. The activities of the project include drafting of quantitative and qualitative indicators, followed by the qualitative indicators assessments, namely the government self-assessment and independent assessment. Moreover, stakeholder meetings will be held in each country, where the two assessments will be discussed and aggregated. In order to familiarise with the scores of the qualitative indicators, building on the two assessments and the stakeholder meetings as well as to further include the regional organisations in the assessment process and to ensure sustainable capacity building, a meeting with all the interested stakeholders is envisaged in Paris. The launch of the publication is envisaged by November 2015.

**Emergency management and community resilience: a goal for Serbia****Ref. No.:** 1206.008-14**Know-how provider institution:** ISS –Istituto Superiore di Sanità, **ITALY****Know-how recipient institutions:** Institute of Public Health of Serbia „Dr Milan Jovanović Batut“, **SERBIA****Area:** Capacity Building**Implementation date:** January 2015 – December 2015**Project total cost:** €59,243.00**CEI co-financing:** €24,829.00

The project intends to enhance the reduction of acute mortality following disasters, the rapid recovery of the response capacity and management of local communities as well as their governance structures to avoid health related risks. It will also focus on the reconstruction of the system of social relations and healthcare to be able to maintain a secure level of the health status within the medium term, with particular attention to displaced persons and fragile groups, such as children, women, the elderly, the poor and the disabled. The overall objective is the strengthening of the existing capacities of the beneficiaries in the field of Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and particularly the enhancement of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention. The project activities include the setting up of a coordination committee for the purpose of defining roles, coordination and communication methods. The selection will take place for the panel members involved in the Focus Groups and workshops as well as the constitution of the group of experts on disaster management and preparedness, best practices and lessons learnt. The results, training programme, practical arrangements and learning methods will be presented in a workshop. In order to complete the knowledge exchange and establish a collaborative network, a study visit to Rome will be organised. A Regional Conference with representatives from all different levels of government (local, regional, national, European levels) is also envisaged. Through the planned activities, the project will have an impact on emergency prevention and preparedness in terms of increased community participation; promoting awareness of environmental hazards and safety consciousness; strengthening community resilience and organisation. Awareness raising and trainings are essential aspects of disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness.

**The development of graphene-based sensors for the detection of environmental pollutants****Ref. No.:** 1206.011-14**Know-how provider institution:** Laboratory for Nanostructure Epitaxy and Spintronics on Silicon, Politecnico di Milano, **ITALY****Know-how recipient institutions:** University of Novi Sad, **SERBIA****Area:** Sustainable energy and environment**Implementation date:** January 2015 – December 2016**Project total cost:** €83,400.00**CEI co-financing:** €30,228.00

The GRAPHSENS project aims to develop new graphene-based hybrid sensors for the detection of various environmental pollutants as a research platform for the transfer of the best European practices from the Laboratory for Nanostructure Epitaxy and Spintronics on Silicon (L-NESS), Como, Italy to the University of Novi Sad (UNS), Serbia. The assignment is designed to address perceived needs of the research team from the University of Novi Sad, which does not have practical experience in graphene-based structures, but has experience in the development of sensors for monitoring concentrations of various environmental pollutants. The transfer of know-how and experience from L-NESS to UNS will have an invaluable impact on the improvement of the UNS staff skills and knowledge, contributing also to social cohesion and economic dynamism in the region. In the framework of the project, the partners will design, fabricate and test hybrid sensors based on graphene for monitoring concentrations of various pollutants in the Serbian environment. The project will allow researchers from Serbia to access the equipment located in Italy, which will be used to fabricate graphene-based sensors and test them under realistic environmental conditions.

### ***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***

**Ref. No.:** 1206.012-14

**Know-how provider institution:** Idrostudi srl, ITALY

**Know-how recipient institutions:** Department of Production and Distribution, Department of Engineering of the Tirana Water Supply and Sewerage, ALBANIA

**Area:** SMEs development

**Implementation date:** January 2015 – July 2015

**Project total cost:** €72,800.00

**CEI co-financing:** €21,242.00

The principal aim of the project is the training of a working group made up of technicians of the Tirana Water Supply and Sewerage (UKT) that will allow them to acquire the skills required for the urgent rehabilitation of the aqueduct in the Albanian capital. This general objective will be achieved through the training of the members of a UKT Working Group, in order to give them the necessary skills to coordinate and resolve the problems that will arise with the application of the new territorial reform of Tirana. This Reform is relevant for the technological networks, paying particular attention to the aqueduct and guaranteeing the respect of drinking water as well as environment quality standards. More specifically, the training will cover the digital organisation of the drawing archive in order to update the information about the network geometry and its functionality, water supply networks and sewer systems monitoring campaigns, techniques of leak detection in water supply networks, use of GIS with the simulation of the sewerage and aqueduct lines with hydraulic models, technologies for excavation under water table, water resources management schemes and energy saving techniques and network optimisation.

## **KEP AUSTRIA**

### ***AIM @ INNOVATIONS - Innovation Management for SMEs and start-ups***

**Ref. No.:** 1206.AP.004-14

**Know-how provider institution:** Brainplus (Austria)

**Know-how recipient institution/s:** Knowledge Center - KC (Macedonia)

**Area:** Social and Economic Development, Inclusion and Equality.

**Implementation date:** November 2014 – November 2015

**Project total cost:** €90,000

**CEI co-financing:** €45,000

The project - in line with the CEI Plan of Action 2014 - 2016: Pillar 2 "Towards a Sustainable Economy and Development" - aims at strengthening the capacities of the Macedonian main partner (Knowledge Center - KC) by enhancing the knowledge and skills of trainers/educators in Innovation Management for SMEs, start-ups and spinoffs. The Austrian Know-how provider has specific skills and consulting experience in innovation management and management of business incubators. The Macedonian know-how recipient is a consultancy company providing professional advice, consultancy and services in the area of research, project management, knowledge management, organisational change and development and strategic management. The project foresees the following set of activities: assessment of the Macedonian economy in the area of Innovation management; development of an in-house training for KC members focused on enhancing the competencies of the team for consultancy and trainings in Innovation Management; study visit of a University spinoff center in Austria; development of adequate training module in Innovation Management; pilot training, i.e. testing the module on Innovation management together with the trainers from the main partner organisation (Knowledge Center Consultancy) on a core group of SMEs interested in developing their skills in in Macedonia.

### ***Innovation stimulation for Moldovan SMEs in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energies – CEI-ener2i-MD***

**Ref. No.:** 1206.AP.015-14

**Know-how provider institution:** Center for Social Innovation - ZSI (Austria)

**Know-how recipient institution/s:** Agency for Innovation and Technology Transfer (R. Moldova)

**Areas:** 1) European integration and related Capacity Building; 2) Social and Economic Development, Inclusion and Equality; 3) Agriculture, Environment and Climate Change.

**Implementation date:** November 2014 – November 2015

**Project total cost:** €100,000

**CEI co-financing:** €47,275

The project - in line with CEI Plan of Action 2014 - 2016: Pillar 2 "Towards a Sustainable Economy and Development" - will focus on raising awareness within the recipient institution (Agency for Innovation and Technology Transfer in R. Moldova) on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. It will support SMEs (including start-ups and spin-offs), through the implementation of a specific voucher system, while strengthening their overall administrative capacity. The Austrian Know-how provider is a transdisciplinary social science research institute with great experience in capacity building and policy advice with countries from Eastern Europe and numerous successful initiatives with R. Moldova. ZSI is especially skilled in applied research, project management and implementation. The Moldovan Know-how recipient aims at coordinating, stimulating and implementing the mechanisms of innovation and technology transfer in R. Moldova. Besides the organization of the voucher competition, the project foresees a webinars recording on a one-day training workshop in Chisinau; a study visit to Austria for 4 Moldovan experts.

**Development of the business ICT incubator in Gradiška**

Ref. No.: 1206.AP.055-14

Know-how provider institution: Institute of Advanced Technologies and Communications Murska Sobota (Slovenia)

Know-how recipient institution/s: Municipality of Gradiška (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Area: 1) European integration and related Capacity Building; 2) Social and Economic Development, Inclusion and Equality. Implementation date: December 2014 – November 2015

Project total cost: €92,445

CEI co-financing: €44,293

The project - In line with the CEI Plan of Action 2014 - 2016: Pillar 1 "Towards a Knowledge-based Society" - focuses on capacity building, transfer of know-how and best practices to the Municipality of Gradiška in Bosnia and Herzegovina in business incubator development and management. The Slovenian Know-how provider, has ample experience in networking, capacity building and international project management and cluster development; It carries out research, development, training, deployment, consulting and other non-profit activities, aimed at increasing or achieving excellence in the development of new products, services and technologies with high added value in the field of advanced ICT. It will implement the activities related to research, strategies/plans development, and education. The know-how recipient in Bosnia and Herzegovina deals with matters of local concern. Namely: adoption of development programs of Municipality, adoption of development, spatial, urban and implementing plans, adoption of budget and final budget, regulation and providing usage of construction land and business space, organisation of communal police, tasks of inspection supervision, managing and disposition of Municipality property, establishing municipal bodies, business incubators, organizations and services.

The activities, implemented in 2 phases, are: (i) research, training, strategic planning, (ii) admission of tenant ICT enterprises. Study visits

**New Micro-credit Scheme to women empowerment**

Ref. No.: 1206.AP.118-14

Know-how provider institution: LVIA (Italy)

Know-how recipient institution/s: FondiBESA Sh.a. (Albania)

Area: Social and Economic Development, Inclusion and Equality.

Implementation date: November 2014 – November 2015

Project total cost: €98,864

CEI co-financing: €49,432

The project - in line with the CEI Plan of Action 2014 - 2016: Pillars 2 "Towards a Sustainable Economy and Development" and 3 "Towards an Inclusive Society" - aims at supporting the exchange of best practices between the Albanian know how recipient and the Italian donor institution. Capacity building and training programmes will focus on how to target and serve women entrepreneurs through the creation of a micro-credit scheme.

LVIA deals with solidarity and international cooperation, it aims at countering social inequality, food insecurity and poverty and at operating for peace, human and sustainable development, as well as, social inclusion.

Fondi Besa sh.a, is the leading MFI in Albania offering micro, small and medium loans to individuals, supporting them to start, extend and further improve income generating activities. Fondi Besa sh.a aims to improve economic growth and poverty reduction in urban and semi-urban areas by promoting micro, small and medium enterprise sector in Albania through the creation of a private micro-financial Albanian fund which is self-sustainable. The project matches the "National Strategy for Employment and Skills 2014-2020", of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth of Albania based on four pillars: effective labour market policies; quality vocational education and training; social inclusion and territorial cohesion; governance of employment and qualification systems.

## ANNEX 8. COOPERATION ACTIVITIES (CAs)

Ref.N	Activity	Country	Applicant	Implementation date	Estimated cost	Requested Funding	Approved EUR	Sector
1202.006-14	Investment readiness program for innovative start-ups and future entrepreneurs	Macedonia	YES - Youth Entrepreneurial Service (YES) Foundation	May 2014	€ 30.490,00	€ 12.390,00	€ 6.980,00	Enterprise Development including Tourism
1202.011-14	MAIA Workshops	Italy	Genova Liguria Film Commission	29 September - 3 of October 2014, Lodz	€ 48.860,00	€ 13.050,00	€ 6.650,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.012-14	The Second International Conference on Radiation and Dosimetry in Various Fields of Research (RAD 2014) and the Second East European Radon Symposium (SEERAS)	Serbia	Faculty of Electronic Engineering, University of Niš	27-30 May 2014, Niš	€ 39.810,00	€ 13.980,00	€ 7.280,00	Science and Technology
1202.013-14	9th South-Eastern European Digitalization Initiative (SEEDI) Conference	Serbia	Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Mathematical Institute of SASA)	15 – 16 May 2014, Belgrade	€ 21.480,00	€ 10.360,00	€ 5.765,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.016-14	Promoting Integrity, Accountability, Pluralism and Independence in the Media Sector of South East	Albania	Albanian Media Institute (AMI)	22-24 October 2014, Tirana	€ 45.940,00	€ 14.140,00	€ 7.000,00	Information Society and Media
1202.019-14	"Port and multimodal logistic chains: changes in organisational effectiveness" summer school	Croatia	Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, University of Novi Sad	24-30 August 2014, University of Novi Sad	€ 15.496,00	€ 6.408,00	€ 4.320,00	Multimodal Transport
1202.020-14	11th DRC (Danube Rectors' Conference) Summer School on Regional Co-operation: "1914-2014: 100 Years after World War - Chances and Challenges for the Danube Region"	Austria	Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)	6-13 July 2014, Novi Sad	€ 40.710,00	€ 5.000,00	€ 5.000,00	Human Resource Development
1202.021-14	Spring School on "ICT, economical and organizational issues for e-health integration in the enlarged Europe" in the frame of the Higher Education in Clinical Engineering (SSIC-HECE) Masters' Program	Italy	SSIC-HECE (Higher Education in Clinical Engineering) of the University of Trieste	19-23 May 2014, Trieste	€ 30.420,00	€ 14.995,00	€ 5.000,00	Information Society and Media
1202.022-14	X International Forum of Aquileia Euroregion. EUROPE without EUROPE - CRISIS IN EUROPE OR EU-	Italy	Mitteleuropa Association	17 October 2014, Udine	€ 36.780,00	€ 11.900,00	€ 6.500,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.023-14	The European Union and Legal Reform Summer School	Italy	Johns Hopkins University SAIS Bologna Center	27th July – 1st August 2014, Igalo (Herceg-Novi), Montenegro	€ 54.360,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 7.200,00	Human Resource Development
1202.031-14	FundraiseIT 2014	Serbia	Serbian Business Angels Network (SBAN)	15-16 May 2013, Belgrade	€ 30.347,50	€ 14.987,50	€ 9.000,00	Enterprise Development including Tourism

1202.032-14	Renewable energy perspectives for Eastern Europe	Ukraine	Dnipropetrovsk Regional Environmental Association "Zeleniy Svit / Friends of the Earth Ukraine"	20-+22 September 2014, Dnipropetrovsk	€ 26.864,00	€ 13.389,00	€ 6.570,00	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy
1202.035-14	20th International CEI International Summer School "Managing Diversities: Minorities, Democracy, Citizenship"	Italy	IECOB Institute for Central Eastern Europe and the Balkans (Istituto per l'Europa Centro-Orientale e Balcanica)	1-13 September 2014, Bertinoro	€ 56.370,00	€ 13.230,00	€ 6.900,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.038-14	String Field Theory and Higher Spin Theories	Italy	SISSA	2-20 June 2014	€ 30.000,00	€ 10.000,00	€ 8.000,00	Science and Technology
1202.041-14	Enlightening hidden passes : the reality of cultural mobility between the Balkans, Europe and the Arab world	other	Roberto Cimetta Fund, Paris	14-15 May 2014, Zagreb	€ 46.785,00	€ 14.500,00	€ 5.000,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.042-14	Regional congress of students of geotechnology – GEOREKS 2014	Macedonia	Faculty of Civil Engineering, Skopje	29 June-3 July 2014, Ohrid	€ 28.110,00	€ 11.390,00	€ 4.920,00	Science and Technology
1202.043-14	SMEs development and Innovation: Building competitive future of South-Eastern Europe	Macedonia	Faculty of Economics – Prilep, University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – Bitola	26-27 September 2014, Ohrid	€ 25.750,00	€ 11.220,00	€ 5.920,00	Enterprise Development including Tourism
1202.044-14	Re-Thinking Balkan Borderlands: Violence, Conflicts, Cooperation	Slovenia	University of Primorska, Science and Research Centre (UP SRC)	26-28 June 2014 (Koper 26, Duino Aurisina, Italy 27, remainings of the Isonzo Front, Slovenia, Italy 28)	€ 17.100,72	€ 8.550,36	€ 5.000,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.047-14	Open Minds Festival	Croatia	Rijeka's Sports Association	27-28 September 2014	€ 27.820,00	€ 13.120,00	€ 3.600,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.049-14	International Palliative Care Nursing Leadership Training Course	Romania	Hospice Casa Sperantei Foundation (HCS)	September 2014, Brasov	€ 40.773,00	€ 14.890,00	€ 4.160,00	Human Resource Development
1202.052-14	Youth cooperation in support of autonomy and employability of young women with disabilities in Europe	Bulgaria	Rhodopes Center for Community Development (RCCD)	1-8 May 2014, Bansko	€ 30.079,00	€ 14.827,00	€ 6.100,00	Human Resource Development
1202.053-14	Trends in the development of multimodal transport in the functioning of the Common Economic Area	Belarus	Belarusian Association of International Forwarders and Logistics (BAIF)	October 2014	€ 23.400,00	€ 11.700,00	€ 6.100,00	Multimodal Transport
1202.056-14	Straniak Academy for Democracy and Human Rights	Austria	Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM)	7-20 September 2014, Budva	€ 54.998,16	€ 15.000,00	€ 12.000,00	Human Resource Development
1202.057-14	XI International Conference "Methodological aspects of scanning probe microscopy" (BySPM-2014)	Belarus	State Scientific Institution "A.V.Luikov Heat and Mass Transfer Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus"	21-24 October 2014, Minsk	€ 19.432,28	€ 7.530,00	€ 5.960,00	Science and Technology
1202.063-14	The role of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for the development of sustainable multimodal transport networks in South-Eastern Europe	Italy	Dipartimento di Ingegneria e Architettura (DIA), Università degli Studi di Trieste	26-27.06.2014 or 30.06 – 01.07.2014, Trieste	€ 42.570,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 7.000,00	Multimodal Transport

1202.064-14	International research college of theatre arts for children and young people	Serbia	Open University Subotica	18-22 May 2014, Subotica	€ 24.414,80	€ 11.741,60	€ 5.300,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.065-14	Life Cycle of Power Transformers	Serbia	Electrical Engineering Institute "Nikola Tesla"	17-19 September 2014, Belgrade	€ 29.890,00	€ 14.945,00	€ 5.250,00	Science and Technology
1202.069-14	CEI Piano Forum	Italy	Piano FVG	4-10 May 2014, Aviano	€ 34.300,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 6.500,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.078-14	10TH International Organic Food Festival - BIOFEST	Serbia	Association TERRA'S	third week of October 2014	€ 29.736,00	€ 14.868,00	€ 4.252,00	Sustainable Agriculture
1202.079-14	6th CEI South East Europe Health, Wellness and Spa Conference – regional chances and challenges	Serbia	Cluster of Health, Wellness and SPA Tourism Serbia (WELLNESS SERBIA)	18 November 2014, Belgrade	€ 24.013,08	€ 12.006,54	€ 6.020,90	Enterprise Development including Tourism
1202.082-14	"Villages in a growingly urbanized world" – Fostering public discourse on 'glocality' ICWiP2014 Debate Summer Academy	Hungary	SIEN - Student International Exchange Network Foundation	July 25 – August 3, 2014, Pécs	€ 35.500,00	€ 13.000,00	€ 5.000,00	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy
1202.083-14	Cooperation prospects in Central Europe and neighbouring Areas of the Giuseppe Verdi Opera House in Trieste	Italy	Fondazione Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi (Opera House)	21 June 2014, Trieste	€ 28.810,00	€ 12.800,00	€ 12.800,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.085-14	Borders as threshold of the European multiculturalism (BoTh EuroM)	Italy	Adriatic GreenNetwork (AGNet)	1-5 August 2014, Bač (Serbia)	€ 31.058,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 5.500,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.090-14	KROKODIL – literary festival	Serbia	KROKODIL Festival (an acronym in Serbian that stands for Literary Regional Gathering That Removes Boredom and Lethargy)	12-14 June 2014, Belgrade	€ 33.415,00	€ 14.250,00	€ 3.005,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.095-14	Networking for Development of Bicycle Tourism Businesses in South and Eastern Europe	Macedonia	EDEN – Tourism Cluster of South-west Macedonia	20-22 June 2014, Ohrid	€ 46.471,00	€ 14.943,00	€ 10.348,00	Enterprise Development including Tourism
1202.096-14	Minority Inclusion shouldn't be Illusion	Serbia	Regional Endeavour for Art, Culture and Health - REACH	30 May - 2 April 2014 training course "Theatre for Inclusion" 3 April 2014 Interactive Conference "Different models for Inclusion" <b>POSTPONED TO 5-10 OCTOBER 2014</b>	€ 31.670,00	€ 14.770,00	€ 5.000,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.099-14	Development of the organization through leadership in Human Resources Management	Macedonia	Macedonian Human Resource Association (MHRA)	September 2014	€ 37.000,00	€ 13.610,00	€ 4.300,00	Human Resource Development
1202.102-14	Central European Youth Meeting on Anti-Gipsysm	Austria	Romano Centro – Verein für Roma	Beginning of October 2014, Vienna	€ 42.067,00	€ 14.740,00	€ 9.100,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.113-14	Physics Conference TIM14 – Physics without frontiers	Romania	Faculty of Physics – West University of Timisoara	27-29 November 2014	€ 31.900,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 8.750,00	Science and Technology
1202.114-14	20th International Festival of Local Televisions, Košice, Slovakia	Slovakia	City TV Foundation	11-14 June 2014, Kosice	€ 145.430,00	€ 14.320,00	€ 8.000,00	Information Society and Media
1202.126-14	FESTIVAL IDENTITY 2014 – workshop for festival organizers from across Europe	Czech Republic	Jihlava IDFF	23-28 October 2014, Jihlava	€ 45.022,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 5.000,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities

1202.133-14	Mosaic Heritage: Workshop for documentation of ancient mosaics	Macedonia	Local Development Agency Struga	September 2014	€ 20.155,00	€ 9.075,00	€ 5.000,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.134-14	CEI Round-Table Discussions at Vilenica	Slovenia	Slovene Writers' Association	10 September 2014, Koper	€ 72.510,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 13.500,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.144-14	VII Youth Meeting of Central European Countries on the Topic "Right to Dialogue". Sub topic: "Europe, Non-Europe: Knowledge, Identity, Dialogue and European Citizenship"	Italy	Associazione Poesia e Solidarietà (Association Poetry and Solidarity)	3-5 October 2014, Trieste	€ 30.710,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 4.480,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
1202.148-14	Present position and development prospects of Wholesale Markets in CEE – Special workshop on the occasion of accession of Bulgaria to CEI WMF as the 10th CEI country	Poland	Central European Initiative Wholesale Markets Foundation (CEI WMF)	6-10 October 2014, Sofia	€ 40.200,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 9.120,00	Sustainable Agriculture
1202.151-14	IIAS International Archival Day - Autumn Archival School	other	International Institute for Archival Science of Trieste and Maribor (IIAS)	mid-October 2014	€ 45.000,00	€ 10.000,00	€ 5.000,00	Information Society and Media
1202.156-14	VIII South East Europe Media Forum 2014	other	SECEPRO and SEEMO	6-7 November 2014, Macedonia	€ 84.350,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 13.500,00	Information Society and Media
1808.001-14	YOP Call 2014	Secretariat					€ 36.000,00	
1202.001-15	Women entrepreneurship trade fair	Moldova	Association of Professional Women from Moldova	8-10 April 2015, Chisinau	€ 32.202,00	€ 13.310,00	€ 6.500,00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.002-15	CEI – JRC EC Workshop on Advanced Biofuels, Biorefinery and Bio-Economy: A Challenge for Central and East European Countries; (AdvanBioCEI)	Slovakia	University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Slovakia (UCM)	23-25 March 2015, Bratislava	€ 36.000,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 13.000,00	2.2. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
1202.003-15	Support of the Civil Society Movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Changes From Bottom Up	Austria	Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Vienna	7-10 September 2014, Vienna	€ 90.299,00	€ 12.516,00	€ 10.000,00	3.3. Civil Society
1202.004-15	Cluster Networking and Development Prospects in the Danube Region - 3rd Cluster Workshop of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region: Priority Area 8	Croatia	Croatian Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts	14-15 April 2015, Vukovar, Croatia	€ 23.330,60	€ 11.314,52	€ 8.000,00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.005-15	Cleaning Up the Present – Securing the Future	Serbia	Creativa Natura	7-8 March 2015, Backi Jarak	€ 33.990,00	€ 10.050,00	€ 6.500,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.012-15	Trieste Film Festival	Italy	Alpe Adria Cinema	January 16-22, 2015, Trieste	€ 343.000,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 15.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.013-15	Improving energy efficiency and renewable energy in South East Europe (SEE)	Serbia	Business Info Group (BIG) media production company	6 March 2015, Belgrade	€ 35.610,00	€ 14.480,00	€ 8.500,00	2.2. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
1202.014-15	Regional Assemblies and Parliaments and the implementation of EU Policies	Austria	Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE), Salzburg	20-21 October 2014, Brcko	€ 34.500,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 10.000,00	3.3. Civil Society
1202.020-15	Sharing experiences of EGTC Approval Authorities - Economic development from the EU and CEI perspective	Hungary	Ministry of Public Administration and Justice; Department of Cross-Border Cooperation for Territorial Public Administration	Budapest, March 12-13, 2015	€ 25.701,00	€ 12.335,00	€ 7.500,00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development

1202.025-15	VISEGRAD ACADEMY OF CULTURAL MANAGEMENT, VACUM	Poland	Villa Decius Association	1 January – 31 December 2015 various locations Poland; Czech Republic; Belarus, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia	€ 54.180,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 8.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.026-15	Green Jobs. How sustainable economy and development can facilitate employability	Italy	Università degli studi di Padova – Dipartimento di Ingegneria Industriale	Banja Luka (Bosnia & Herzegovina) March 2015; - in Subotica (Serbia) April 2015; - in Khmelnytskyi (Ukraine) May 2015.	€ 30.000,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 9.000,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.031-15	Educational meeting: Sustainable Organic Farming	Serbia	Centre for Social Stability	20-22 March 2015, Begec	€ 42.840,00	€ 12.600,00	€ 7.000,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.051-15	Education and Training seminar "Media - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"	Serbia	Youth Council of Novi Sad	16-18 January 2015, Novi Sad	€ 43.552,50	€ 10.000,00	€ 5.500,00	3.2. Media
1202.054-15	International Conference Development of Euroregion Dniester Economic Potential	Ukraine	REGIONAL CENTER FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION EUROREGION "DNIESTER"	25-26 March 2015, Vinnytsia National Technical University	€ 32.382,40	€ 14.960,00	€ 6.000,00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.061-15	Eco-lodging entrepreneurship in South East Europe (EESSE)	Croatia	Croatian Youth Hostel Association	26 February – 1 March 2015, Zadar	€ 21.035,00	€ 10.440,00	€ 4.000,00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.062-15	WHEN EAST MEETS WEST – Trieste Coproduction Forum	Italy	Friuli Venezia Giulia Audiovisual Fund	18-20 January 2015, Trieste	€ 118.800,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 8.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.070-15	Skopje Business and Investment Forum	Italy	ACCOA – Chambers of Commerce for Central Europe	April 20th 2015, Skopje	€ 36.755,50	€ 11.850,00	€ 10.000,00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.075-15	1st Danube:Future Workshop "CHALLENGES AND POTENTIALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE DANUBE REGION: CONTRIBUTING TO HORIZON 2020"	Austria	Universitaet Klagenfurt (UNI-KLU)	9-10 April 2015, Klagenfurt	€ 38.167,00	€ 14.480,00	€ 8.500,00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.080-15	5-day Regional Conference on Climate Change-Balkan AdMit	Macedonia	BIO-TEK Association, Skopje	13-17 April 2015, Ohrid	€ 15.000,00	€ 7.500,00	€ 6.000,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.089-15	Approaching countries in transition to global trends in tourism industry	Bosnia and Herzegovina	CIR - Center for Research and Development d.o.o	6-8 February 2015, Banja Luka	€ 16.392,26	€ 7.347,52	€ 5.000,00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.094-15	Logistics and Infrastructure in Central and Eastern Europe Summit (LICES)	Austria	University of Applied Sciences bfi Vienna – Competence Centre for the Black Sea Region	26 September 2014 Vienna	€ 51.138,30	€ 15.000,00	€ 14.000,00	2.1. Transport, Logistics and Accessibility
1202.096-15	International Scientific Conference "Evolution and Modern Trends in Marketing Theory and Practice"	Moldova	Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (AESM)	March 19-20, 2015	€ 28.863,80	€ 14.143,80	€ 8.000,00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.099-15	International Conference on the Organic Sector Development in Central/Eastern European and Central Asian countries	Ukraine	Organic Federation of Ukraine (OFU)	April 16-18, 2015, Kyiv	€ 48.500,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 8.500,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development

1202.107-15	IRE Expert Conference: „Smart Cities” - traffic in cities with historical centers	Austria	Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE), Salzburg	26-27 March 2015, Trieste	€ 33.500,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 8.000,00	2.1. Transport, Logistics and Accessibility
1202.159-14	Seminar in Minsk	Austria		11 September 2014			€ 1.750,00	Austrian Presidency
1202.006-15	21th International CEI International Summer School “Managing Diversities in Democracy: Minorities, Territories, Self-Determination”	Italy	IECOB Institute for Central Eastern Europe and the Balkans (Istituto per l’Europa Centro-Orientale e Balcanica)	1-13 September 2015, Bertinoro	€ 59.838,05	€ 12.690,00	€ 9.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.007-15	ICGEB DNA Tumour Virus Meeting 2015 - DNATV 2015	other	International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)	21 - 26 July 2015, Trieste	€ 163.146,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 9.000,00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.011-15	Discrete Mathematics, Algebra and their Applications (DIMA15)	Belarus	Institute of Mathematics (IM) of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB) and the Belarus State University (BSU) (Minsk)	September 14-18, 2015, IM and BSU, Minsk	€ 19.230,00	€ 8.450,00	€ 6.400,00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.015-15	VI Spring School on “ICT, economical and organizational issues for e-health integration in the enlarged Europe” in the frame of the Higher Education in Clinical Engineering (SSIC-HECE) Masters’ Program	Italy	SSIC-HECE (Higher Education in Clinical Engineering), Master in Management in Clinical Engineering, Department of Engineering and Architecture, University of Trieste	20-22 May 2015 Trieste	€ 21.764,00	€ 10.282,00	€ 7.500,00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.018-15	Stepping Beyond Conventional Water Resources Management with WEAP (StepInWEAP)	Serbia	Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad	18-21 May 2015, Novi Sad	€ 27.680,00	€ 13.580,00	€ 7.500,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.021-15	Conference on the past and the future of Higher Education of Arts	Hungary	University of Theatre and Film Arts Budapest	4-6 September, 2015	€ 25.020,00	€ 11.660,00	€ 7.200,00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.027-15	Straniak Academy for Democracy and Human Rights	Austria	Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Vienna	14-27 September 2015, Budva	€ 55.038,60	€ 15.000,00	€ 9.000,00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.033-15	Budapest International Documentary Festival 2015	Hungary	ALL DOX Ltd	23-27 September 2015	€ 263.755,90	€ 14.265,00	€ 8.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.036-15	CEI Round-Table Discussions at Vilenica	Slovenia	Slovene Writers' Association	3 September 2015	€ 78.020,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 15.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.044-15	Logic and Applications Conference – LAP 2015	Serbia	Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad	Dubrovnik, September 21-25, 2015	€ 37.310,00	€ 14.890,00	€ 6.000,00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.045-15	RICE - Research and Innovation in Central Europe	Slovenia	Alma Mater Europaea – European Centre Maribor	Kick-off meeting: 7-8 May 2015, Maribor (Slovenia), Conference: 26-28 June 2015, Opatija (Croatia), Conference: 25-26 September 2015, Budapest (Hungary)	€ 29.975,00	€ 14.970,00	€ 6.000,00	1.1. Research and Innovation

1202.047-15	"FOSTER INNOVATIONS TO EMPLOYER PEOPLE" European Regional Meeting on FabLabs potential for socio-economic development.	Albania	AULEDA – Local Development Agency of Vlorë Region	9 June 2015, Vlorë	€ 16.944,00	€ 8.375,00	€ 4.500,00	2.4. SMEs and Business Development
1202.052-15	Public Participation in Energy Matters: Know-How Transfer between the EU and the SEE and EECCA Regions	Czech Republic	Justice and environment	September 22-26, 2015 in Ljubljana	€ 29.620,00	€ 14.810,00	€ 4.000,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.077-15	XVI Summer Seminar for Young Public Policy Professionals	Bulgaria	Economic Policy Institute (EPI)	first half of June 2015, Albena	€ 64.226,00	€ 14.711,00	€ 8.500,00	3.3. Civil Society
1202.081-15	CEI Venice Forum of Contemporary Art Curators	Italy	Trieste Contemporanea Com-	7-8 May 2015, Venezia	€ 44.340,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 9.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.082-15	Two Open Weeks of Plavo Theatre – Celebration of Differences	Serbia	Plavo pozoriste Theatre Laboratory	July 19 – 31, 2015, Belgrade	€ 27.129,00	€ 10.451,00	€ 7.000,00	3.1. Intercultural cooperation
1202.084-15	6th Central European Symposium on Plasma Chemistry (6th CESPC)	Italy	Department of Chemical Sciences of the University of Padova	6-10 September 2015, Bressanone	€ 43.960,00	€ 14.000,00	€ 8.000,00	1.1. Research and Innovation
1202.086-15	Proud to be a European – The Importance of Active Citizenship	Hungary	Linum International Scientific and Arts Foundation	3-5 September 2015, Nagykovácsi	€ 33.305,00	€ 14.205,00	€ 7.000,00	3.3. Civil Society
1202.102-15	Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina as a response to Natural and Anthropogenic Hazards	Serbia	Association of Geophysicists and Environmentalists of Serbia (AGES)	19-21 May 2015, Belgrade	€ 52.200,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 7.500,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.103-15	Central European Gathering of Women Farmers	Serbia	Amma-Centre for the Care of People and Nature	August 14-22, 2015 Visocka Razana, Pirot	€ 17.670,00	€ 8.830,00	€ 7.500,00	2.3. Climate, Environment and Rural Development
1202.105-15	17th CEI Dubrovnik Diplomatic Forum 'Diplomacy and Diplomatic Training: New Approaches to Diplomatic Practice'	Croatia	Diplomatic Academy	19-21 May 2015, Dubrovnik	€ 61.765,00	€ 21.000,00	€ 8.000,00	1.2. Lifelong Education and Training
1202.160-14	Seminar in Kyiv	Austria	Austrian Presidency	December 2014			€ 5.000,00	Austrian Presidency
					€ 4.246.043,45	€ 1.206.121,84	€ 717.500,90	



**CEI Secretariat / Headquarters**

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