CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

25 years

1989 - 2014

CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE
Mission of the Central European Initiative

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.

Table of contents

Foreword by the Secretary General ............................................................................................................... 5

Messages
From the Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy ........................................................................................... 6
From the Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria .................................................................................. 7

Testimonials from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs ....................................................................................... 8

Timeline: History highlights and facts .......................................................................................................... 10

25 years in words ........................................................................................................................................... 14

CEI Today: structure, funds, instruments and figures ................................................................................... 20

Prizes and awards ........................................................................................................................................... 24

Photo Album 2014: activity highlights ........................................................................................................... 26

Conclusion and future outlook ....................................................................................................................... 28
The Central European Initiative (CEI) is celebrating its 25th Anniversary since its foundation. We wish to dedicate this special publication to outline how the CEI has developed over the years.

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.

I am proud to be able to say that 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, 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. But why has it worked so well, what work lies before us? A 25th anniversary is a time for taking stock of progress made so far. During these years we have contributed much to reaching an open and democratic society in Europe, especially during the great changes our continent has seen since the fall of the Iron Curtain.

After 25 years, it is also important to look forward to future goals and opportunities for the CEI. The Organisation has faced many challenges and there are many more ahead. The CEI strategic objectives will ever more focus on supporting its MS on their path towards European integration; promoting the alignment of the CEI Member States to EU standards; implementing small and medium-sized projects and converting constructive ideas into innovative results. Through its project-oriented working method, the CEI is a flexible basis for regional cooperation of its three Eastern Partners.

In this context, the aim of the political cooperation is to supply the countries and their institutions with a flexible, pragmatic platform for regional cooperation, while focusing on their preparation to a future accession to the European Union (EU). In doing so, the CEI will continue paying special attention to capacity building of its non-EU Member States, pursued through know-how transfer and exchange of experience among EU and non EU countries. I see this as solid evidence that the CEI is maintaining its validity even in these difficult times of political turbulence and economic crisis.

The CEI will therefore continue to be actively engaged in supporting projects in various areas of cooperation, thus providing greater possibilities for studying, financing and executing national and international projects. It will also fully exploit its geographical position - connecting the Baltic, the Danube, the Adriatic-Ionian, Black Sea and Alpine regions – in order to continue acting as a bridge between Macro-regions.

October 2014
Message
from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy Matteo Renzi

On behalf of the Italian Government, one of the four Founding Members of the Central European Initiative, as well as main donor and host country, I wish to extend my warmest greetings on this wonderful Anniversary.

For 25 years this Organisation has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to provide manifold assistance to its countries. It has played the role of an all-European Institution for regional cooperation, while adapting very well to the various political changes. The CEI has further strengthened and consolidated its activities despite the repercussions of the global financial crisis affecting almost all its Member States.

The CEI Secretariat based in Trieste has strongly committed itself to improving the efficiency of available resources. Not only has it benefited from contributions provided by Italy, but it has also exploited alternative sources for its activities which, inter alia, brought about an increased participation in EU Programmes.

An important element of the CEI's success is its 23-year experience with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) of which Italy is the main donor and continues to support with great determination. The EBRD-CEI Partnership has significantly contributed to strengthening the CEI's project-oriented dimension and in improving the capabilities in the governance of the Western Balkans countries.

The promotion of joint activities has enhanced cooperation with other regional and international mechanisms (both at bilateral and multilateral level). Those who have had leadership roles throughout the years are to be heartily congratulated.

Currently, Italy is holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Ukraine and the Eastern Neighbourhood are among the various topics on the Agenda centered on a new EU foreign policy approach.

The Italian EU Presidency is also strongly committed to ensuring the effectiveness of EU Macro-regional Strategies. In this regard, the CEI establishes links between European Macro-regions, thus making a CEI-EU link ever more crucial. It is interested in the evolving EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, a region with great potential, especially in the light of the integration of the Western Balkans in the EU and the CEI could also be involved in the foreseen EU Strategy for the Alpine Region.

Italy commends both the past and present of this highly respected Organisation and looks forward to seeing it embark on its second quarter of a century with fresh confidence. May it continue fostering our common endeavour: European Integration, peace and solidarity through regional cooperation.

Matteo Renzi

October 2014

Austria, a Founding Member of the Central European Initiative and its second main donor, is proud to hold the CEI Presidency in this celebrative year.

2014 is a year to recall some of the most fateful events in the history of Europe: 100 years since the outbreak of World War I; 75 years since the outbreak of World War II; 25 years since the fall of the Iron Curtain; 10 years since the European Union's first enlargement to include countries of the former Communist block; 25 years since the establishment of the Central European Initiative.

During these 25 years the Central European Initiative has enlarged from the four founding members Austria (neutral), Italy (EU and NATO member), Hungary (COMECON and Warsaw pact member) and Yugoslavia (non-aligned) to 18 out of which 10 are EU members, five are linked to the EU with Stabilisation and Association Agreements and three with Association Agreements, thus illustrating the huge political transformation Europe as a whole has undergone.

The Central European Initiative spans from the Baltic Sea to the Adriatic and Black Sea. It is bound together by the Danube and is the oldest and largest organisation in our region, it continues playing its bridging role between European Macro and other Regions in order to strengthen synergies and accompany our members on their path towards Europe by supporting the development of modern, democratic societies and sound market economies.

With a market of 240 million inhabitants, the CEI constitutes an important engine for a further prosperous economic development of our continent. The project orientation of the CEI and especially its involvement in the implementation of EU projects makes our Organisation an honest broker among EU members, the acceding EU countries and the EU Eastern Partnership members.

Austria thanks the Secretariat of the Central European Initiative for its valuable work and support and wishes our Organisation a prosperous future.

Werner Faymann

October 2014
"CEI, as the largest and oldest forum on regional intergovernmental cooperation in Europe, presents itself in a structure with a committed people and a significant contribution to the EU enlargement process."

Dmitri BUSHATI
Minister for Foreign Affairs - ALBANIA

"The fact that the CEI provides a geographical scope connecting the Adriatic-Ionian, the Baltic and the Black Sea regions bound together by the Danube. To just that the EU Commission has endorsed an enhanced role for the CEI in the context of the Danube Strategy is a very good step."

Ditmir BUSHATI
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs - BELARUS

"The CEI is a valuable regional promoter of European standards and European integration. Different experience of the CEI member states, while some of them were in the transition period, served as a guide for Romania and Hungary as it paths towards Euro-Atlantic integration. Romania and Hungary fully supported the CEI Agenda 2014-2016, particularly the areas of cooperation grouped into three thematic pillars covering the whole range of CEI activities towards a knowledge-based society towards a sustainable economy and towards an inclusive society."

Ziarko LAGUMDJU
Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Affairs - BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

"The CEI is the only guarantee for overcoming the hurdle of geographic distance and plays a major role in the positive effects of this transformation. We understand that CEI’s role is to continue to face new challenges for the better future of political, economic, cultural and social integrations of Europe."

Grzegorz SCHYTEMANS
Minister for Foreign Affairs - BELGIUM

"We should all continue to assist Western Balkan states on their way towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Romania considers that a similar approach needs to be adopted with regard to the Republic of Moldova, a country that has constantly proven its determination to follow the European path, even against a very challenging regional environment. Our cooperation within CEI remains key for tackling the common challenges (organized crime, corruption etc) and grasping the regional opportunities (cross-border cooperation, promoting broad economic projects)."

Titus CORLĂȚĂEN
Minister for Foreign Affairs - ROMANIA

"The announced support for the Moldovan 2015 CEI Chairmanship is also a support for the continuity and the institutionalized regional cooperation. Over the course of our CEI Chairmanship, we will continue to focus on the role of building a bridge between countries, cultures and peoples. It has been a useful platform, facilitating cooperation and exchange of experience among the beneficiaries.

Nikola POPOSKI
Minister for Foreign Affairs - MACEDONIA

"The CEI is the only guarantee for overcoming the hurdle of geographic distance and plays a major role in ensuring political stability and regional cooperation in the future. The CEI continues to refer to its valuable contribution."

Davidowsky ZAORÁLEK
Minister for Foreign Affairs - CZECH REPUBLIC

"As one of its founding members, we deem it essential to reaffirm our strong support in the CEI and its look to the future towards European integration through regional cooperation. The geographical proximity of the CEI is irreplaceable and expressed by its added value in terms of territorial linkage between Central and Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans, as well as in terms of projects financed through the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD financed by Bulgaria."

Federica MOGHERINI
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation - ITALY

"The fact that, after 25 years of its existence, ten states of the Central-European Initiative are committed to the process of promoting European values around the Baltic, the Danube, the Adriatic and the Black Sea is the only guarantee of sustainable development for the entire region. The CEI regional cooperation is not losing ground; on the contrary, it has advantages in establishing regional links and work together in the economic, cultural and political spheres."

Miroslav LAJČÁK
Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration - SLOVAKIA

"The announced support for the Moldovan 2015 CEI Chairmanship is also a support for the continuity and the institutionalized regional cooperation. Over the course of our CEI Chairmanship, we will continue to focus on the role of building a bridge between countries, cultures and peoples. It has been a useful platform, facilitating cooperation and exchange of experience among the beneficiaries.

Nikola POPOSKI
Minister for Foreign Affairs - MACEDONIA

"The CEI is a valuable regional promoter of European standards and European integration processes, as well as a political idea, but also in concrete terms of assistance in overcoming the difficulties encountered by our citizens during emergencies."

Ivica DAČIĆ
Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration - SERBIA

"In the 25 years it existence the CEI has lived up to its purpose and now the emphasis on the strengthening of regional cooperation should be further stepped up.

Miroslav LAJČÁK
Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration - SLOVAKIA

"We should all continue to assist Western Balkan states on their way towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Romania considers that a similar approach needs to be adopted with regard to the Republic of Moldova, a country that has constantly proven its determination to follow the European path, even against a very challenging regional environment. Our cooperation within CEI remains key for tackling the common challenges (organized crime, corruption etc) and grasping the regional opportunities (cross-border cooperation, promoting broad economic projects)."

Titus CORLĂȚĂEN
Minister for Foreign Affairs - ROMANIA

"The announced support for the Moldovan 2015 CEI Chairmanship is also a support for the continuity and the institutionalized regional cooperation. Over the course of our CEI Chairmanship, we will continue to focus on the role of building a bridge between countries, cultures and peoples. It has been a useful platform, facilitating cooperation and exchange of experience among the beneficiaries.

Nikola POPOSKI
Minister for Foreign Affairs - MACEDONIA

"The CEI is the only guarantee for overcoming the hurdle of geographic distance and plays a major role in ensuring political stability and regional cooperation in the future. The CEI continues to refer to its valuable contribution."

Davidowsky ZAORÁLEK
Minister for Foreign Affairs - CZECH REPUBLIC

"As one of its founding members, we deem it essential to reaffirm our strong support in the CEI and its look to the future towards European integration through regional cooperation. The geographical proximity of the CEI is irreplaceable and expressed by its added value in terms of territorial linkage between Central and Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans, as well as in terms of projects financed through the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD financed by Bulgaria."

Federica MOGHERINI
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation - ITALY

"The fact that, after 25 years of its existence, ten states of the Central-European Initiative are committed to the process of promoting European values around the Baltic, the Danube, the Adriatic and the Black Sea is the only guarantee of sustainable development for the entire region. The CEI regional cooperation is not losing ground; on the contrary, it has advantages in establishing regional links and work together in the economic, cultural and political spheres."

Miroslav LAJČÁK
Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration - SLOVAKIA

"We should all continue to assist Western Balkan states on their way towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Romania considers that a similar approach needs to be adopted with regard to the Republic of Moldova, a country that has constantly proven its determination to follow the European path, even against a very challenging regional environment. Our cooperation within CEI remains key for tackling the common challenges (organized crime, corruption etc) and grasping the regional opportunities (cross-border cooperation, promoting broad economic projects)."

Titus CORLĂȚĂEN
Minister for Foreign Affairs - ROMANIA

"The announced support for the Moldovan 2015 CEI Chairmanship is also a support for the continuity and the institutionalized regional cooperation. Over the course of our CEI Chairmanship, we will continue to focus on the role of building a bridge between countries, cultures and peoples. It has been a useful platform, facilitating cooperation and exchange of experience among the beneficiaries.

Nikola POPOSKI
Minister for Foreign Affairs - MACEDONIA

"The CEI is a valuable regional promoter of European standards and European integration processes, as well as a political idea, but also in concrete terms of assistance in overcoming the difficulties encountered by our citizens during emergencies."

Ivica DAČIĆ
Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration - SERBIA

"In the 25 years it existence the CEI has lived up to its purpose and now the emphasis on the strengthening of regional cooperation should be further stepped up.

Miroslav LAJČÁK
Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration - SLOVAKIA

"We should all continue to assist Western Balkan states on their way towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Romania considers that a similar approach needs to be adopted with regard to the Republic of Moldova, a country that has constantly proven its determination to follow the European path, even against a very challenging regional environment. Our cooperation within CEI remains key for tackling the common challenges (organized crime, corruption etc) and grasping the regional opportunities (cross-border cooperation, promoting broad economic projects)."

Titus CORLĂȚĂEN
Minister for Foreign Affairs - ROMANIA

"The announced support for the Moldovan 2015 CEI Chairmanship is also a support for the continuity and the institutionalized regional cooperation. Over the course of our CEI Chairmanship, we will continue to focus on the role of building a bridge between countries, cultures and peoples. It has been a useful platform, facilitating cooperation and exchange of experience among the beneficiaries.

Nikola POPOSKI
Minister for Foreign Affairs - MACEDONIA

"The CEI is the only guarantee for overcoming the hurdle of geographic distance and plays a major role in ensuring political stability and regional cooperation in the future. The CEI continues to refer to its valuable contribution."

Davidowsky ZAORÁLEK
Minister for Foreign Affairs - CZECH REPUBLIC

"As one of its founding members, we deem it essential to reaffirm our strong support in the CEI and its look to the future towards European integration through regional cooperation. The geographical proximity of the CEI is irreplaceable and expressed by its added value in terms of territorial linkage between Central and Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans, as well as in terms of projects financed through the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD financed by Bulgaria."

Federica MOGHERINI
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation - ITALY

"The fact that, after 25 years of its existence, ten states of the Central-European Initiative are committed to the process of promoting European values around the Baltic, the Danube, the Adriatic and the Black Sea is the only guarantee of sustainable development for the entire region. The CEI regional cooperation is not losing ground; on the contrary, it has advantages in establishing regional links and work together in the economic, cultural and political spheres."

Miroslav LAJČÁK
Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration - SLOVAKIA
Timeline: history highlights and facts

1989
- Fall of the Iron Curtain
- Central European Initiative established in Prague

1990
- Italy, Austria, Hungary, SFR Yugoslavia establish the Quadrangle

1991
- CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure adopted

1992
- CEI Cooperation Fund established

1993
- First CEI Plan of Action adopted

1994
- First CEI Plan of Action adopted

1995
- First CEI Plan of Action adopted

1996
- First CEI Plan of Action adopted

1997
- First CEI Plan of Action adopted

1998
- First CEI Plan of Action adopted

1999
- First CEI Plan of Action adopted

2000
- First CEI Plan of Action adopted

2001
- First CEI Plan of Action adopted
About the Central European Initiative

The Central European Initiative (CEI) was established in 1989 by Italy, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary as a platform for mutual political, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation. The CEI was established in 1989 by Italy, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary as a platform for mutual political, economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation. Its main aim was to help transition countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the name was changed to Central European Initiative. CEI’s main objectives is to bring the countries of Central and Eastern Europe closer to the EU and its institutions.

CEI’s interest towards the 10 Member States remaining outside the EU.

The CEI was established in 1989 by Italy, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary as a platform for mutual political, economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation. Its main aim was to help transition countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the name was changed to Central European Initiative. CEI’s main objectives is to bring the countries of Central and Eastern Europe closer to the EU and its institutions.

Pentagonal and Hexagonal Co-operation. At the outset of CEI's existence, the initiative included respectively:

- Italy, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, and Poland (the CEI’s pentagonal group);
- Italy, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Bulgaria (the CEI’s hexagonal group).

The CEI was established in 1989 by Italy, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary as a platform for mutual political, economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation. Its main aim was to help transition countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the name was changed to Central European Initiative. CEI’s main objectives is to bring the countries of Central and Eastern Europe closer to the EU and its institutions.

Co-operation between UN General Assembly and Central European Initiative was adopted by the MFAs resulting in Budva Recommendations adopted by the UN General Assembly where resolution 67/7 on Cooperation between United Nations and Central European Initiative was endorsed: activities carrying the name of the CEI or dedicating special segment to it.

President: Slovakia

KEP Italy established
CEI University and Science and Technology Networks operational

President: Slovenia

KEP Italy established
CEI University and Science and Technology Networks operational

Presidency: Moundva

Amb. Pietro Ercole Aga (Italy)
1st Secretary General
Change of titles of the executive level of the Secretary General (Secretary General replaced Director General)
Implementation of CEI Reorganization

Presidency: Montenegro

Amb. Gerhard Pfanzelter (Austria)
2nd Secretary General
Participate in elaboration of Danube Strategy and enhanced partnership with EU
Establishment of International Group of Experts (IGE) on Strengthening of the CEI resulting in Budva Recommendations adopted by the NMs

Presidency: Ukraine

Participates in Sixty-Seventh Session of UN General Assembly where resolution 67/7 on Cooperation between United Nations and Central European Initiative was adopted

MoU with Vienna Economic Forum

President: Austria

2nd MoU with BCC

UN General Assembly adopts Resolution on Cooperation between UN and CEI

President: Hungary

Amb. Giovanni Caracchio di Vietri (Italy)
current Secretary General

Revised: Business Dimension

Croatia joins EU

President: Serbia

Obtains observer status in UN General Assembly

Unanimously granted by Resolution 66/111

MoU with BSEC

Implementation of Budva Recommendations

President: Romania

MoU with BSEC

UNESCO Office in Venice

President: Bulgaria

KEP Italy established
Decision on repatriation adopted

President: Albania

Montenegro joins

Concept of Feature Events endorsed: activities carrying the name of the CEI or dedicating special segment to it.

New agreement between Italy and EBRD for CEI Fund

President: Macedonia

Amb. Harald Krend (Austria)
2nd Director General

CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure amended and adopted by CEI Summit in Skopje

President: Poland

CEI Medal of Honour established
Enhanced cooperation with Parliamentary Dimension and with the Business Dimension
Conference on CEI Cooperation bringing together Chairs of all Working Groups, CNC, and special bilateral capacity in Trieste.

KEP focal Point for the CEI established

President: Italy

MoU with UNESCO Office in Venice

Decision on repatriation adopted

President: Slovenia

KEP Italy established
CEI University and Science and Technology Networks operational

Could not be found
The early days 1989-1994

The origin of the Central European Initiative lies in the creation of the Quadrangle established by Italy, Austria, Hungary and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) in Budapest on 11 November 1989 (two days after the fall of the Berlin Wall). The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the four founding members on that occasion, adopted a Joint Declaration stating the readiness of their Governments to strengthen good-neighbourly relations and to develop manifold cooperation between their respective countries. The Quadragonal political dimension was able to achieve considerable success in a very short period of time and can be regarded as the first attempt to respond to the request of the member. In view of the enlarged CEI membership, the widening of the CEI membership of the associated countries and the CEI Summit in Sarajevo in November 1997 confirmed this orientation and adopted two documents of major importance: the Sarajevo Declaration and the Plan of Action 1998-1999 it also renamed the CEI Centre for Information and Documentation (CEI CID) in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The Central European Initiative (CEI CID) in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI Summit in Sarajevo in November 1997 confirmed this orientation and adopted two documents of major importance: the Sarajevo Declaration and the Plan of Action 1998-1999 it also renamed the CEI Centre for Information and Documentation (CEI CID) in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.

The CEI CID in terms of financing, personnel and equipment.
seminars, to projects of specific interest to the countries of the region. In many cases the CEI activities and projects were designed to provide political and operative expertise to the countries of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe and complement the strategic programmes pursued by other international organisations, in particular the EU. To this end, the CEI has maintained strong links with the European Commission (EC) with relevant organisations of the United Nations (UN) and with other international organisations and International financial institutions, especially the EBRD. Furthermore, a transparent and concrete cooperation with these organisations has been activated. Cooperation between the CEI and other regional actors also dates back to 1997 when a first initiation meeting with representatives of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the Baltic European Cooperation (BSEC) for an exchange of information and future cooperation had in Trieste in April followed by other coordination meetings. A Memorandum of Understanding between the CEI and the United Nations (UN) and with other international organisations, in particular the EBRD.

In 1999 the Stability Pact (SP) for South Eastern Europe was established. The CEI saw it as an instrument consistent with the CEI strategy of cohesion and solidarity in Europe. The CEI was committed to participating in and contributing to the implementation of the SP objectives. The MFA Meeting in Katvaru in June 1999 adopted a CEI Position Paper for a Stronger, More Effective, Coordinated Support to the CEI states in 1999. The latter presented a basis of the financial contribution made by the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD for the establishment of a Technology and Infrastructure Fund. A commemorative meeting of the CEI representatives to the EBRD ended in August 2006 when Montenegro became its eighteenth Member State. In 1999, at the CEI Summit in Zagreb, the CEI was committed to participating in and contributing to the implementation of the SP objectives. The MFA Meeting in Katvaru in June 1999 adopted a CEI Position Paper for a Stronger, More Effective, Coordinated Support to the CEI states in 1999. The latter presented a basis of the financial contribution made by the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD for the establishment of a Technology and Infrastructure Fund. A commemorative meeting of the CEI representatives to the EBRD ended in August 2006 when Montenegro became its eighteenth Member State. In 1999, at the CEI Summit in Zagreb, the CEI was committed to participating in and contributing to the implementation of the SP objectives. The MFA Meeting in Katvaru in June 1999 adopted a CEI Position Paper for a Stronger, More Effective, Coordinated Support to the CEI states in 1999. The latter presented a basis of the financial contribution made by the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD for the establishment of a Technology and Infrastructure Fund. A commemorative meeting of the CEI representatives to the EBRD ended in August 2006 when Montenegro became its eighteenth Member State.

In 2000, the CEI membership increased to seventeen members with the accession of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (afterwards called State of Serbia and Montenegro). The enlargement process ended in August 2006 when Montenegro became its eighteenth Member State. Due to an increased number of projects submitted for CEI financial support, the participation of CEI experts in CEI and CEI-sponsored meetings.

In 1998, as the CEI Summit in Zagreb in November, where Austria held the EU Presidency, a paper entitled Joint Communiqué on the Cooperation between the CEI and the EU was circulated. In the framework of the Zagreb Summit a meeting between the CEI Presidency and the EU at ministerial level produced a Joint Communiqué on the Cooperation between the CEI and the EU. In 1999, new initiatives to develop the CEI Parliamentary and Business Dimensions were also launched in 1998. The enlargement of national parliaments in the CEI was highly welcomed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs in June 1998 and represented a new and important development for the CEI. The first CEI Business Forum, later renamed CEI Summit Economic Forum (SEP), was held on the occasion of the CEI Summit in Brioni in February 1999. In 1999 the Stability Pact (SP) for South Eastern Europe was established. The CEI saw it as an instrument consistent with the CEI strategy of cohesion and solidarity in Europe. The CEI was committed to participating in and contributing to the implementation of the SP objectives. The MFA Meeting in Katvaru in June 1999 adopted a CEI Position Paper for a Stronger, More Effective, Coordinated Support to the CEI states in 1999. The latter presented a basis of the financial contribution made by the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD for the establishment of a Technology and Infrastructure Fund. A commemorative meeting of the CEI representatives to the EBRD ended in August 2006 when Montenegro became its eighteenth Member State. In 1999, at the CEI Summit in Zagreb, the CEI was committed to participating in and contributing to the implementation of the SP objectives. The MFA Meeting in Katvaru in June 1999 adopted a CEI Position Paper for a Stronger, More Effective, Coordinated Support to the CEI states in 1999. The latter presented a basis of the financial contribution made by the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD for the establishment of a Technology and Infrastructure Fund. A commemorative meeting of the CEI representatives to the EBRD ended in August 2006 when Montenegro became its eighteenth Member State. In 1999, at the CEI Summit in Zagreb, the CEI was committed to participating in and contributing to the implementation of the SP objectives. The MFA Meeting in Katvaru in June 1999 adopted a CEI Position Paper for a Stronger, More Effective, Coordinated Support to the CEI states in 1999. The latter presented a basis of the financial contribution made by the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD for the establishment of a Technology and Infrastructure Fund. A commemorative meeting of the CEI representatives to the EBRD ended in August 2006 when Montenegro became its eighteenth Member State.

In 1999, at the CEI Summit in Zagreb, the CEI was committed to participating in and contributing to the implementation of the SP objectives. The MFA Meeting in Katvaru in June 1999 adopted a CEI Position Paper for a Stronger, More Effective, Coordinated Support to the CEI states in 1999. The latter presented a basis of the financial contribution made by the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD for the establishment of a Technology and Infrastructure Fund. A commemorative meeting of the CEI representatives to the EBRD ended in August 2006 when Montenegro became its eighteenth Member State. In 1999, at the CEI Summit in Zagreb, the CEI was committed to participating in and contributing to the implementation of the SP objectives. The MFA Meeting in Katvaru in June 1999 adopted a CEI Position Paper for a Stronger, More Effective, Coordinated Support to the CEI states in 1999. The latter presented a basis of the financial contribution made by the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD for the establishment of a Technology and Infrastructure Fund. A commemorative meeting of the CEI representatives to the EBRD ended in August 2006 when Montenegro became its eighteenth Member State. In 1999, at the CEI Summit in Zagreb, the CEI was committed to participating in and contributing to the implementation of the SP objectives. The MFA Meeting in Katvaru in June 1999 adopted a CEI Position Paper for a Stronger, More Effective, Coordinated Support to the CEI states in 1999. The latter presented a basis of the financial contribution made by the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD for the establishment of a Technology and Infrastructure Fund. A commemorative meeting of the CEI representatives to the EBRD ended in August 2006 when Montenegro became its eighteenth Member State. In 1999, at the CEI Summit in Zagreb, the CEI was committed to participating in and contributing to the implementation of the SP objectives. The MFA Meeting in Katvaru in June 1999 adopted a CEI Position Paper for a Stronger, More Effective, Coordinated Support to the CEI states in 1999. The latter presented a basis of the financial contribution made by the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD for the establishment of a Technology and Infrastructure Fund. A commemorative meeting of the CEI representatives to the EBRD ended in August 2006 when Montenegro became its eighteenth Member State. In 1999, at the CEI Summit in Zagreb, the CEI was committed to participating in and contributing to the implementation of the SP objectives. The MFA Meeting in Katvaru in June 1999 adopted a CEI Position Paper for a Stronger, More Effective, Coordinated Support to the CEI states in 1999. The latter presented a basis of the financial contribution made by the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD for the establishment of a Technology and Infrastructure Fund. A commemorative meeting of the CEI representatives to the EBRD ended in August 2006 when Montenegro became its eighteenth Member State. In 1999, at the CEI Summit in Zagreb, the CEI was committed to participating in and contributing to the implementation of the SP objectives. The MFA Meeting in Katvaru in June 1999 adopted a CEI Position Paper for a Stronger, More Effective, Coordinated Support to the CEI states in 1999. The latter presented a basis of the financial contribution made by the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD for the establishment of a Technology and Infrastructure Fund. A commemorative meeting of the CEI representatives to the EBRD ended in August 2006 when Montenegro became its eighteenth Member State. In 1999, at the CEI Summit in Zagreb, the CEI was committed to participating in and contributing to the implementation of the SP objectives. The MFA Meeting in Katvaru in June 1999 adopted a CEI Position Paper for a Stronger, More Effective, Coordinated Support to the CEI states in 1999. The latter presented a basis of the financial contribution made by the CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD for the establishment of a Technology and Infrastructure Fund. A commemorative meeting of the CEI representatives to the EBRD ended in August 2006 when Montenegro became its eighteenth Member State.
The observer status in the UN General Assembly put the CEI on the agenda of the most important regional and international organisations working for peace, security, development and democratic progress. This process, confirmed in the framework of the Sixty-Seventh Session of the UN General Assembly under the agenda item “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations” held in New York on 19 November 2012. On that occasion, upon the initiative of the Ukrainian Presidency, the resolution 67/77 on the Cooperation between the United Nations and the CEI Fund was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly. Moreover, on 4 June 2012 the Vienna Economic Forum (VEF) and the CEI signed a Memorandum of Understanding for enhancing cooperation and developing joint activities.

In 2013 the CEI was dedicated to the elaboration of the CEI Plan of Action (PoA) 2014-2016 adopted by the Heads of Government in December. The CEI Fund and at the EBRD was endorsed a structured roadmap setting out the clear and agreed priorities of cooperation in the framework of the CEI’s activities in the context of the EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 and in line with provisions of the EU 2020 Strategy. It intends to capitalise on the main strengths of the Organisation, based on its distinctive methodology for the promotion of effective regional cooperation through a combination of multilateral diplomacy and project management.

Under the Hungarian CEI Presidency in 2013, the Member States in cooperation with the CEI Secretariat, have elaborated a new concept for the CEI Business Dimension. In this context, the MFA Meeting in Gödöllő (Hungary) on 31 October 2013, agreed upon revisiting the Business Dimension and introducing a new approach, aimed at addressing the specific needs of SMEs and those of the large businesses. The revised Business Dimension takes account of the needs of the business communities within the CEI Region and shall serve to promote growth through enhanced business interaction and clustering.

The Ministers endorsed the recommendation of the International Group of Experts (IGE) on Strengthening of the CEI and its Activities. With regard to the EU macro-regional strategies, the Member States, in cooperation with the CEI Secretariat, have elaborated a new concept for the CEI Business Dimension. As a result of the revision, the CEI Business Dimension as an integral part of the CEI’s methodology for promoting effective regional cooperation through a combination of multilateral diplomacy and project management.

In 2014-2016 the year celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Central European Initiative into the Organisation it is today. The next Chapter is dedicated to the current stance of the Organisation, its structure, areas of cooperation, funds and instruments and main activities.
CEI TODAY
structure, funds, instruments and figures

STRUCTURE

The CEI operates in a flexible manner to promote intergovernmental, inter-parliamentary and business cooperation.

Governmental Dimension

Provides political and economic orientation and is responsible for the organisational and financial directives of the CEI. It is composed of the Committee of National Coordinators (CNC), key body responsible for the definition, coordination, management and implementation of CEI cooperation; Working bodies (networks of Focal Points, project implementation groups and ad hoc task forces); the Secretariat, executive body managing the overall activities of the Organisation. It also deals with the development and implementation of projects and is located in Trieste (Italy).

Decisions are taken and approved by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Heads of Government, meeting respectively once a year. The Presidency is held by a CEI Member State and rotates on an annual basis.

Parliamentary Dimension

CEI representatives of national Parliaments cooperate and meet in the framework of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Committee and the General Committees (on Political and Home Affairs; on Economic Affairs; on Cultural Affairs).

Business Dimension

Promotes an active participation of the business communities of the CEI Member States in a bottom-up approach, fostering inputs, open discussions and recommendations for Political Leadership.

Funds & Instruments: strategic approach to regional cooperation

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.

In order to meet the strategic objectives outlined in its Plan of Action 2014-16 for the benefit of its Member States, the CEI makes use of a variety of Funds and Instruments covering 10 main areas of cooperation:

Areas of Cooperation

- Towards a Knowledge-based Society
- Towards a Sustainable Economy and Development
- Towards an Inclusive Society

Thanks to the CEI Cooperation Fund, financed by annual contributions from all Member States, the CEI succeeds in implementing a large number of small and medium-sized projects such as seminars, workshops, conferences, training courses, fostering mobility and people-to-people contacts in the CEI region. Through the supported Cooperation Activities the intra-CEI mobility rate has grown to an average of 5,000 people every year. Since its inception in 2002, 857 activities have been co-financed with around €8 million and an overall value of about €52 million.

Overall contribution to Cooperation Fund 2002-2014
Contributions MS received from the CF 2002-2014
Since 2008 the KEP has also been financed by Austria through an agreement with the Austrian Development Agency in 2007. 22 projects of an overall value of about €1.2 million have been supported with more than €542,000.

By participating in EU Projects, the CEI is able to achieve tangible results for the ultimate benefit of its Member States. Since 2004, 18 projects have been implemented with a total fund mobilisation of €21.2 million. The experience gained over the years qualifies the CEI as a credible and reliable player in the field of EU project design and management. Its long-standing activity in the promotion of regional cooperation and well-established networks in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe makes the CEI a relevant partner in the construction of project partnerships and in the elaboration of concepts and constructive ideas to be turned into innovative EU project applications.

Networking through science and education

The CEI Science and Technology Network (S&TN) and the CEI University Network (UniNet) are proven effective tools for promoting regional cooperation in the scientific and academic fields. The contacts established over the years with renowned Centres of Excellence and universities of the entire region are contributing to fostering mobility of scientists, professors and graduate/postgraduate students as well as to the development of tangible programmes and projects. Through these exchanges the CEI has given its contribution to the development of a strong knowledge-based society, which is one of the main objectives of Horizon 2020.

The CEI Fund at the EBRD supports the CEI Member States on their path towards European integration. The CEI EBRD Partnership has significantly contributed to strengthening CEI’s project-oriented dimension.

The Fund, towards which the Italian Government has solely made a total contribution of €38.5 million, mainly provides grant-type assistance for specific components of Technical Cooperation (TC) projects. Since its inception, the Fund has provided more than €23 million for funding more than 120 TC projects mobilising €4.8 billion of international investments in the countries of operations.

The CEI Fund has also contributed a total of more than €2.1 million to the Know-How Exchange Programme (KEP), supporting 75 projects. The KEP is a development instrument aimed at supporting the transfer of experience from organisations in the EU to peers in the non-EU countries within the CEI region.

In 1992, the Italian Government established the CEI Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) “to assist the bank’s countries of operation in Central and Eastern Europe in their economic and social transformation process”.

It is managed by the Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD.

The CEI Fund has also contributed a total of more than €21.2 million to the EBRD Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and to the strengthening CEI’s project-oriented dimension.

European integration. The CEI-EBRD Partnership has significantly contributed to the advancement of CEI’s project-oriented dimension.

The European Integration Fund, towards which the Italian Government has solely made a total contribution of €38.5 million, mainly provides grant-type assistance for specific components of Technical Cooperation (TC) projects. Since its inception, the Fund has provided more than €23 million for funding more than 120 TC projects mobilising €4.8 billion of international investments in the countries of operations.

The CEI Fund has also contributed a total of more than €2.1 million to the Know-How Exchange Programme (KEP), supporting 75 projects. The KEP is a development instrument aimed at supporting the transfer of experience from organisations in the EU to peers in the non-EU countries within the CEI region.

In 1992, the Italian Government established the CEI Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) “to assist the bank’s countries of operation in Central and Eastern Europe in their economic and social transformation process”.

It is managed by the Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD.

The CEI Fund has also contributed a total of more than €21.2 million to the EBRD Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and to the strengthening CEI’s project-oriented dimension.
PRIZES and Awards

In order to honour and encourage initiatives and activities of talented and often young people from CEI Member States, over the years several CEI Prizes & Awards* have been offered.

Below the award and prize winners of activities still ongoing in present time:

CEI SEEKO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism:

It aims to honour the work carried out by investigative journalists and their contribution to investigative reporting despite the difficult conditions under which they often have to operate. Organised in cooperation with SEEKO, the CEI Secretariat is in charge of the overall coordination. The awarding ceremony usually takes place during the South East Europe Media Forum. (From €2500 to €5000 each)

2006 George Bugojner (from Bosnia)
2007 Ajpić Ćetković from Albania
2008 George Agațășanu from Moldova
2009 Dragos Năstăicu from Serbia
2010 Ajpić Ćetković from Albania

CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence:

CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence 2014 within Vilenica International Literary Festival.

Cooperation and promotion in the field of literature for young writers from non EU CEI countries and it is promoted in the context of the Vilenica International Literary Festival, it aims at encouraging cross-border cooperation. (From €2500 to €5000 each)

2008 Dragos Năstăicu from Serbia
2009 Boris Ljetišan from Albania
2010 Adin Hrgoč from Romania
2011 Maja Hrgović from Croatia
2012 Blaz Zgaga and Matej Surc from Slovenia

2013 Marva Sahačević (Bosnia and Herzegovina) award in the section “Professional Journalists”
2014 Boriša Kovačević in the section “Young Professional Journalists”
2015 Jadranka Filic, Janez Hribar and Minoša Skadarić (Bosnia and Herzegovina) award in the section “Young Professional Journalists”

CEI Award at the Trieste Film Festival:

promoted by the Alpe Adria Association, the CEI award is addressed to film directors from CEI countries. (From €2500 to €5000 each)

2006 George Bugojner (from Bosnia)
2007 Ajpić Ćetković from Albania
2008 George Agațășanu from Moldova
2009 Dragos Năstăicu from Serbia
2010 Ajpić Ćetković from Albania
2011 Dusan Hevid (from Slovenia)
2012 Milko Manovski (from Macedonia)
2013 Gyorgy Feri (from Hungary)
2014 Eizner Hevo (from Hungary)

CEI Award in the framework of the International Design Contest “Trieste Contemporanea”:

organised every two years by the Trieste Contemporanea Committee, the competition is open to designers from 18 CEI countries as well as from Germany, Turkey and the Baltic Countries. The prize is awarded to the best design from non-EU CEI countries. The jury meeting is usually hosted at the CEI HQs and the CEI officer in charge of culture is member of the jury. (From €2500 to €5000 each)

2004 Elena Kolesnitschenko and Igor Bobovych (from Ukraine)
2005 Elena Kolesnitschenko and Igor Bobovych (from Ukraine)
2006 Marija Hristovska from Macedonia
2007 “Frant Duo” from Hungary
2008 Vladimir Stankovic from Serbia
2009 Kujtim Cashku from Albania
2010 Milco Mancevski from Macedonia
2011 George Agațășanu from Moldova
2012 Dragos Năstăicu from Serbia

CEI Award at International Competition for Chamber Music Ensembles “Premio Trio di Trieste”:

organised by the Chamber Music Association, the competition is open to chamber music ensembles coming from non EU CEI countries. (From €2500 to €5000 each)

2003 Duo Kd-MA from Hungary
2004 Duo Roselli/Dmitriev from Russia
2005 Duo Roselli/Dmitriev and Igor Bobovych (from Ukraine)
2006 Edo Evrinc/Aleksandra and Dragos Manza (from Croatia)
2007 “From Dual” from Portugal
2008 “Trieste Contemporanea”. Her project represents the urban structure of the city. Streets are named after intellectuals and artists who lived in Trieste. Photo: urban structure of the city where streets are named after intellectuals and artists who lived in Trieste. Photo: urban structure of the city where streets are named after intellectuals and artists who lived in Trieste. Photo: urban structure of the city where streets are named after intellectuals and artists who lived in Trieste. (awarded with the opportunity to perform in the framework of the CEI Secretariat’s “Trieste Contemporanea”)

2009 “Duo Enescu (Alina Bercu and Dragos Manza) from Romania
2010 Vitek Zikmund and Milan Šafařík (from Czech Republic
2011 Kujtim Cashku from Albania
2012 Ivanac Levaj from Serbia
2013 Ena Priselec from Croatia
2014 Kujtim Cashku from Albania

CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism:

In 2006, the CEI, the South East Europe Media Forum, SEEMO, the CEI Secretariat and the Vilenica International Literary Festival decided to award the “CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism.” The criteria and rules of the competition were drawn up and the advisory board was appointed. The award was celebrated in Skopje, 16-17 October 2014:

Winners of CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism.

2006 Goce Smilevski from Macedonia
2008 Ivanka Krstojević from Serbia
2009 Kujtim Cashku from Albania
2010 Besar Likmeta from Albania
2011 Włodzimierz Kalicki from Poland
2012 Maja Hrgović from Croatia
2013 Milko Manovski from Macedonia
2014 Dragos Năstăicu from Serbia

* CEI Prize at “Mammamango” 2004-2010, From Research to Enterprise 2004-2006, CEI Award for Innovative SMEs 2006, CEI Nanochallenge Special Prize 2006

Photo: Trieste Film Festival 2013

Vienna, November 2013: Josef Suk Piano Quartet
PHOTO ALBUM 2014
activity highlights

Sarajevo, 18 March: Final Conference of EU funded Project “Improving Cooperation in South-East Europe by Actions for Strengthening the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)”. The gathering entitled Enhancing Growth through Regional Action – South East Europe 2020 highlighted the major results of the Project an example of the special attention the European Commission is paying to regional cooperation in SEE.

From left: Renzo Daviddi, Goran Svilanovic, Heidemaria Guerer, Margit Waestfelt, Sanjin Arifagic, Ugo Poli.

Trieste, 26 May: CEI and Friuli Venezia Giulia Region sign agreement for enhancing cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe.

From left: Debora Serracchiani; Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri.

London, 18 April: Launch of “21 Years of the Central European Initiative and 21 Years from the Fall of the Iron Curtain”.

From left: Chief Dyson/Stefan Rademacher, Engraver/Engraving, David/Drago Dr. Mihailetchi.

Trieste, 24 September: Meeting of the CEI Ministers for Science and Technology.

From left: Stefania Giannini, Elmar Pichl, Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri.

Trieste, 2 September: Vilenica Pre-opening event with Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai.


Promoted by the CEI, in cooperation with Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi in Trieste, the event aimed at encouraging cooperation in view of possible projects financially backed by the European Union.

Sarajevo, 18 March: Final Conference of EU funded Project “Improving Cooperation in South-East Europe by Actions for Strengthening the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)”. The gathering entitled Enhancing Growth through Regional Action – South East Europe 2020 highlighted the major results of the Project an example of the special attention the European Commission is paying to regional cooperation in SEE.

From left: Renzo Daviddi, Goran Svilanovic, Heidemaria Guerer, Margit Waestfelt, Sanjin Arifagic, Ugo Poli.

Trieste, 24 September: Meeting of the CEI Ministers for Science and Technology.

From left: Stefania Giannini, Elmar Pichl, Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri.

Trieste, 2 September: Vilenica Pre-opening event with Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai.


Promoted by the CEI, in cooperation with Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi in Trieste, the event aimed at encouraging cooperation in view of possible projects financially backed by the European Union.

Trieste, 24 September: Meeting of the CEI Ministers for Science and Technology.

From left: Stefania Giannini, Elmar Pichl, Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri.

Vienna, 3 June: CEI-RCC Memorandum of Understanding signed.

From left: (from left); Johnston, Karl; Marge, Marcel, Green; Colombo; Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri.

Vienna, 14 June: Press Conference on EU-funded Project “Improving Cooperation in South-East Europe by Actions for Strengthening the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)”. The gathering entitled Enhancing Growth through Regional Action – South East Europe 2020 highlighted the major results of the Project an example of the special attention the European Commission is paying to regional cooperation in SEE.

From left: Renzo Daviddi, Goran Svilanovic, Heidemaria Guerer, Margit Waestfelt, Sanjin Arifagic, Ugo Poli.

Trieste, 24 September: Meeting of the CEI Ministers for Science and Technology.

From left: Stefania Giannini, Elmar Pichl, Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri.

Trieste, 2 September: Vilenica Pre-opening event with Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai.


Promoted by the CEI, in cooperation with Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi in Trieste, the event aimed at encouraging cooperation in view of possible projects financially backed by the European Union.

Trieste, 24 September: Meeting of the CEI Ministers for Science and Technology.

From left: Stefania Giannini, Elmar Pichl, Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri.

Vienna, 3 June: CEI-RCC Memorandum of Understanding signed.

From left: (from left); Johnston, Karl; Marge, Marcel, Green; Colombo; Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri.
Since its inception in a quickly-evolving European political environment, the CEI has always adapted to the needs of its Member States. While acting as an intergovernmental platform for high-level consultations, helping maintain cooperative relations among its countries, the Organisation has a strong record of achievements through its project-oriented approach. A combination of multilateral diplomacy and project management has enabled the CEI to promote a number of high-quality, result-oriented activities through its various funds and instruments as well as through the participation in EU-funded projects attracting additional resources for their implementation. These activities aim at fostering cohesion and integration between and among its EU and non-EU countries, transferring experience and best practices, capacity building and cross-border cooperation. The fact that the CEI is both a donor and a recipient institution represents a comparative advantage for achieving its mission of promoting regional cooperation for European integration.

The latest main achievements obtained in all its areas of activity and cooperation have contributed to drawing a map to be followed for moving on in this direction. These are comprehensively outlined in the Plan of Action 2014-16 aimed at bringing its Member States closer together in joint initiatives. Making tangible contributions towards a knowledge-based and sustainable economy in an inclusive society is thus on top of the CEI's Agenda. In this context, special attention will be dedicated to enhancing cooperation in the field of research and innovation through tailor-made programmes and projects.

In the forthcoming years, the CEI will focus on refining its ability in designing and implementing EU-funded projects; involving partner institutions from candidate and partner countries, to contribute to the enlargement process in a tangible manner. Further efforts to support its Member States targeted by the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and bring them closer to the EU will be made. Cross-border and transnational activities will also be promoted with regard to the multilateral dimension of the EaP.

Our expertise in the implementation of EU-funded projects will fuel the future involvement in the EU macro-regional strategies. The CEI is receiving strong encouragement from the EC to further develop its contacts and working relationship with the priority areas coordinators. The EC considers the CEI's experience and track record in capacity building and networking actions as an asset, especially for non-EU countries. The CEI is already active in several fields covered by the EUSDR, such as science and transport, and in the field of competence building. It is also following the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region, recently endorsed on 24 October 2014. It stands ready to contribute to the implementation of each and every one of the strategies involving its Member States. Taking into account that on 19 December 2013, the European Council had invited the Commission, in cooperation with Member States, to elaborate an EU Strategy for the Alpine Region by June 2015, the CEI will exploit possibilities for cooperation in this new strategy as well. The CEI will do its utmost to become a key-actor in the strategies' implementation, ensuring synergies and complementarities through specific in-house managed projects.

These are ambitious goals, which can be achieved only by constantly improving its records, while adapting to the fast-changing circumstances of the European political landscape and with the full support of its Member States.