

## WHO WE ARE

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The Central European Initiative (CEI) was founded in Budapest on 11 November 1989. It is a regional intergovernmental forum committed to supporting European integration and sustainable development through cooperation between and among its Member States and with the European Union, international and regional organisations as well as with other public or private institutions and non-governmental organisations. While acting as a platform for political dialogue, the CEI has developed a strong operational, result-oriented approach to regional cooperation. It combines multilateral diplomacy and fund, programme and project management as both donor and recipient. The everyday CEI activities are handled by the CEI-Executive Secretariat in Trieste, including the development and implementation of projects.

## 18 MEMBER STATES

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

## THREE-PILLAR SYSTEM

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### • Governmental Dimension

Composed of the Committee of National Coordinators (CNC), responsible for the CEI cooperation; decisions are approved by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Heads of Government. The annual rotating Presidency is held in turn by each of the 18 CEI Member States.

### • 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 cooperation.

## WHAT WE DO

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### CONNECTIVITY



### DIVERSITY



## HOW WE DO IT

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### ***CEI Cooperation Fund***

Provided by all Member States, it supports projects of small scale and limited duration such as seminars, workshops, training courses or other kinds of meetings focusing on mobility and networking. Since 2002 more than 1000 activities have been co-financed with around €9.4 million and an overall value of about €59.9 million. It is estimated that around 5000 participants take part in the events every year.

### ***CEI Fund at EBRD***

Established by Italy in 1992, the Fund provides grant-type technical assistance (prefeasibility and feasibility studies, project implementation, management training, capacity building, and pre-loan audits) in support of investments and operations of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The Fund, managed by the Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD, has been financed by Italy with €43.5 million. It supports projects targeting the whole CEI Region. About €27.5 million have been committed for 170 technical cooperation projects able to mobilise €6 billion of international investments in the countries of operations. For each euro provided by the CEI Fund, the EBRD and other financiers have invested €215.

### ***CEI Know-how Exchange Programme***

Provides grants for projects related to capacity building and transfer of good practices from EU to non-EU CEI Member States. Since 2004, around €3.3 million have been allocated by Italy through the CEI Fund at the EBRD and by Austria through an agreement with the Austrian Development Agency. So far, 127 projects for an overall value of over €15 million have been supported.

### ***CEI Participation in EU Projects***

Enhances the involvement of CEI countries in EU projects focusing on transnational and regional cooperation for European integration. Since 2004, 29 projects have been implemented with a total fund mobilisation of over €52 million; 14 projects are currently under implementation for a total fund mobilisation of €24 million, of which €3 million administered by the CEI. The CEI-Executive Secretariat designs, manages and implements the projects, acting as both Partner and Lead Partner.

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