

Annual Report of the Secretary General 2020



CEI Central European Initiative

The Central European Initiative (CEI) is a regional intergovernmental forum established in 1989, following the fall of the Berlin wall. It gathers 17 Member States in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe*.

It supports a united Europe with shared values embracing all countries, regions, peoples and citizens; and fosters the strengthening of capacities of its Member States towards good governance, rule of law and sustainable economic development for stability, social cohesion, environmental sustainability, security and prosperity.

One central mission: working towards European integration and sustainable development through regional cooperation.

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

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Table of Contents

Introduction by the Secretary General	4
Main Achievements	6
1. Priorities and Programme of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency	9
2. Activities of the CEI-Executive Secretariat.....	13
ANNEXES	
Annex 1: Calendar of Events of Montenegrin CEI Presidency.....	22
Annex 2: Staff of the CEI-ES	23
Annex 3: Contributions to the Budget of the CEI-ES.....	25
Annex 4: EU-funded Projects Implemented in 2020.....	26
Annex 5: TC Projects Approved in 2020	28
Annex 6: KEP Projects Approved in 2020	29
Annex 7: CEI-ARFVG Projects Implemented in 2020	31
Annex 8: Cooperation Activities (CAs) approved in 2020	32

Introduction

Introduction by the Secretary General



It was an immense challenge and duty to lead the Executive Secretariat of Central European Initiative (CEI-ES) in a year of great global unravelling when the world was suddenly hit by the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak in 2020. Both myself and the CEI-ES as a team were oriented to do our best in order to assist our Member States and the region we operate in through rapid solutions and strategic initiatives.

The purposes and principles of the CEI mission were safeguarded as our organisation entered into its fourth decade of its existence within a newly constituted international reality. In times when the country approach was proliferating, preserving regional cooperation and multilateral approach fostering solidarity among countries remained our mission. The CEI has thus once again reconfirmed its role as an important actor in the promotion of European integration and sustainable development.

Since our constituency is made up of five countries of the Western Balkans and three of the Eastern Partnership, while the remaining nine are members of the European Union (EU), we have continued pursuing our mission relying on a well-functioning multilateral dialogue, a solid decision-making process and instruments for cooperation designed by our Member States over the years, which enable us to translate political priorities into tangible results.

In our attempt to overcome surging divisions, and simultaneously assist our Member States in response to the pandemic, the CEI has launched several initiatives with the support of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency. Recognising the devastating consequences of this pandemic for our societies and economies, we launched an Extraordinary Call for Proposals in order to promptly address the specific needs of communities in the CEI Member States in domains of education, support to small and medium enterprises and medicine. Despite the short duration of the Call, we received

an extraordinary number of applications (more than 7,000). Yet the limited resources allowed us to finance 22 projects. Among the concrete and immediate actions that we undertook in order to curb the negative effects of the crisis, we are particularly proud of the one that was realised in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, through the establishment of a Task Force composed of key health officials from our Member States. Backed up with the scientific expertise of the WHO, and policy coordination and overall support of the CEI-ES, it served as a platform for tackling the emerging issues of the health crisis through a coordinated approach.

Being aware of the fact that the situation was not to undermine the political dialogue in our region, an Extraordinary virtual meeting of the CEI Heads of Government under the umbrella of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency was held amid the pandemic, followed by a Meeting of the Foreign Ministers convened in the crucial weeks of transition period of our Member States. These high-level meetings addressed health, economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and represented an excellent opportunity for leaders of the CEI countries to jointly discuss the post emergency strategies and recovery plans in a coordinated and effective manner.

During this time, we did not slow down on partnering with other international and regional organisations either. We had a fruitful meeting with the EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, to exchange views on the situation and activities undertaken. Building upon the Memorandum of Understanding between the CEI and the Adriatic Ionian Initiative (AII), signed in 2019, the two organisations have decided to join efforts in the field of youth. Furthermore, our high-level meetings in 2020 featured numerous guests, including representatives from the European Commission (EC), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), WHO/Europe, AII, Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC).

We are proud the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution on “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative” (23 November),

Introduction

Introduction by the Secretary General

stressing the importance of the interaction between the United Nations (UN) and the CEI, as well as the role the CEI plays as a promoter of political dialogue and as a flexible and pragmatic platform for regional cooperation, supporting peace, stability, security and the economic progress of its Member States. Moreover, in the framework of the 5th Anniversary of the adoption of the UN Agenda 2030, a Study “Contribution of CEI to UN Agenda 2030 and its implementation in CEI Member States”, carried out by the Public Strategy for Sustainable Development, in cooperation with the CEI-ES, was published in September 2020.

In the meantime, we designed a new CEI Plan of Action 2021-2023, a strategic framework and goal-oriented roadmap tailored to meet the needs of our Member States, while advancing the mission of the Organisation to achieve two far-reaching priorities, supporting European integration and promoting sustainable development. In the upcoming three-year period, the CEI will seek to promote models for political and socio-economic integration that are green, economically sustainable, and resilient, as well as inclusive, by expanding its activities in social sectors, through integrated solutions. Therefore, the new Plan of Action is built upon two main pillars: just societies and green growth.

In 2020 the CEI also continued the project cooperation to the widest extent possible through its usual funds and instruments for cooperation. On the whole, we managed to organise, implement and support 95 projects and activities. The related details are available in the CEI’s Plan of Action 2018-2020 Interim Implementation Report 2020.

Here below I am mentioning only some of the achievements:

- Within the framework of Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP), financed out of the CEI Fund at the EBRD funded by Italy, 6 KEP projects targeting the non-EU CEI Member States were approved under the 2020 Call, with 200,000 EUR. Additional 300,000 EUR were granted to 8 projects in the framework of the CEI Extraordinary Call for Proposals 2020 to address the COVID-19 emergency;
- 14 activities were approved out of the CEI Cooperation Fund to address the COVID-19 emergency in the CEI Member States in framework of the above-mentioned Extraordinary Call, with a total CEI contribution for these activities amounting to 305,715 EUR;

- In 2020, 10 TC projects were approved for financing under the CEI Fund at the EBRD targeting the non-EU CEI Member States in priority sectors such as energy, transport and capacity building for a total cumulative cost of 1.4 million EUR;
- During 2020 the CEI-ES was also involved in 18 EU-funded projects with a total amount of about 37.5 million EUR of which over 3.6 million EUR administered by the Secretariat in a number of areas such as transport, energy, research and innovation, judicial cooperation, environmental protection, bioeconomy, social innovation, cultural heritage.

Last but not least, I wish to thank my closest Executive Level collaborators at the Secretariat for their support and cooperation; the whole CEI – ES staff; the High Representatives of the CEI Member States; the CEI National Coordinators and all other CEI partners for their day-to-day contribution, thus enabling us to operate smoothly even when working conditions are tough.

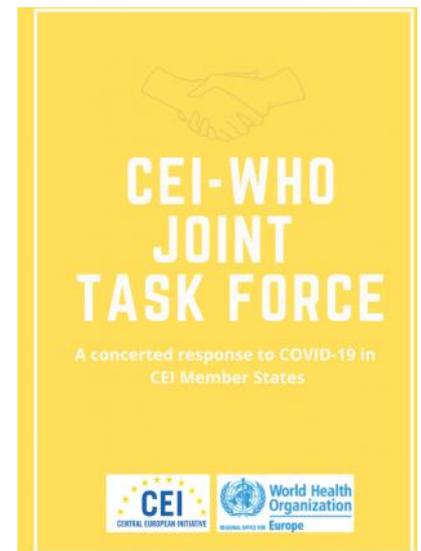
Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the extraordinary efforts, support and deep commitment made by the team of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency. I wish it best of luck as it embarks upon its second year of the CEI Presidency. We are aware of the significant challenges that marked the year behind us along with the looming global recession that will persist, but we remain confident that only with joint forces and regional cooperation will we be able to counter these difficult circumstances.

Roberto Antonione
Secretary General

Main Achievements

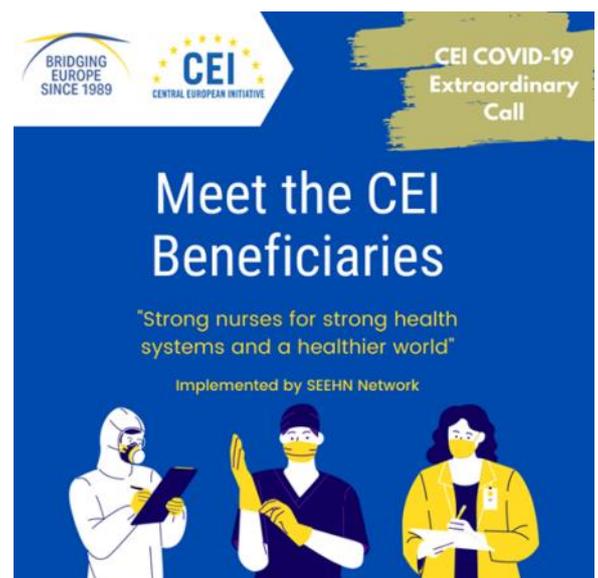
CEI-WHO Task Force in response to the COVID-19 emergency

The CEI and the WHO Regional Office for Europe joined efforts by setting up a functioning Task Force (TF) composed of health officials from CEI Member States to respond to the COVID-19 emergency. The CEI-ES acted as a policy coordinator and the WHO provided scientific advice to the discussions. The aim of the TF was to equip CEI countries with tools able to reverse the effects of the current situation, building on the WHO's state of knowledge on the epidemic curve, response readiness, as well as available instruments. It also served as a platform for the CEI Member States to discuss the situation on the state of the epidemic. The TF held eight meetings on a bi-weekly basis and five thematic webinars. An inter-country dialogue meeting on the European Program of Work (EPW) of the WHO Regional Office for Europe "United Action for Better Health" was also held on 15 July.



CEI Extraordinary Call for Proposals 2020 to address the COVID-19 emergency

As a response to the immediate consequences caused by the pandemic, the CEI launched an Extraordinary Call for Proposals 2020, with a total budget of 600,000 EUR (combining resources provided by all CEI Member States to the CEI Cooperation Fund, and by the CEI Know-how Exchange Programme – KEP, financed by Italy), to promptly support its Member States in three areas of intervention: healthcare and telemedicine; education and e-learning/distance learning and support to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. The Call received a huge number of applications, more than 7,000, thus revealing the gravity of the situation on the ground. Out of these, 22 applicants have been awarded with a grant to implement their projects in the framework of the Call.



Main Achievements

Resolution on the Cooperation between the UN and CEI

Since the CEI was granted an observer status in the UNGA in December 2011, it participates in the biannual meetings between the UN and the Regional Organisations, when a Resolution on “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative” is presented for adoption. In 2020, the Resolution was adopted by the UNGA on 23 November. It stresses the important role the CEI plays as a promoter of political dialogue and as a flexible and pragmatic platform for regional cooperation, supporting peace, stability, security and the economic progress of its Member States, good-neighbourly relations also through the implementation of tangible projects and programmes. Moreover, it welcomes the cooperation established between the CEI and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, through the establishment of the joint TF in response to the COVID-19 emergency in the CEI region. with the support of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency. The UN encourages the specialised agencies and other organisations to establish cooperation with the CEI through common actions towards shared goals.



CEI Plan of Action 2021-2023

The CEI Plan of Action 2021-2023 was adopted by the Heads of Government through written procedure on 31 December 2020. Elaborated by the CEI-ES and the Member States, the Plan of Action is conceived as a flexible tool to enable the CEI to quickly adapt to the evolving landscape, also considering the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. It represents a structured roadmap, setting agreed priorities of cooperation in the framework of the CEI. The document, in force as of 1 January 2021, is composed of two parts: Part 1 highlights the CEI’s mission, strategic objectives and working methodology. Part 2 comprehensively outlines its goals and objectives.





MONTENEGRIN PRESIDENCY

New decade

Priorities and Programme

Priorities and Programme

of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency 2020

1

On 1 January, Montenegro took over the rotating Presidency of the CEI. The new Presidency had to start off facing a difficult year due to the pandemic that disrupted global affairs. Therefore, it had to adjust to newly constituted international realities triggered by the COVID-19, while carrying out its agenda. However, thanks to the dynamism and flexibility of the CEI, the Montenegrin CEI Presidency succeeded in easily incorporating a proactive response within its programme and activities.

At the same time, the Montenegrin CEI Presidency in 2020 pursued the goal of strengthening the CEI role as a unique intergovernmental forum with a varied membership and an agile structure, suitable for facilitating political dialogue on arising challenges in the context of both European integration and sustainable development, demonstrating once again that the CEI is a versatile tool that works for the benefit of its Member States.

Priorities of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency 2020

The Montenegrin CEI Presidency highlighted the CEI's role as a fast responder to the pandemic outbreak, while underlining the CEI's traditional role as facilitator of political dialogue and an accelerator of reforms, both at the EU level and in the framework of multilateral international cooperation, starting with valuing the CEI observer status in UNGA.

The Montenegrin CEI Presidency, supported by the CEI-ES, continued to build upon the Organisation's comparative advantage and comprehensive approach, while tackling the current challenges, thus providing in the first place an effective response to the COVID-19 outbreak, while pursuing the CEI's core mission.

Indeed, European integration and sustainable development remained a crucial focus for the CEI daily activities. Given that the integration process requires the implementation of additional reforms, transparent institutions and full respect for democratic values and the rule of law, the development of good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation, the transfer of knowledge on European integration issues was considered of the utmost importance and was as such promoted by the Montenegrin CEI Presidency. In the context of promotion of sustainable development, the Presidency supported efforts made by all CEI countries in the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and its 17

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advocated better coordination, promotion and mainstreaming of the SDGs.

Yet, during 2020 the public health emergency dominated the international agenda and everyday life. In the immediate response to the crisis, the Montenegrin CEI Presidency focused on regional solidarity and multilateral cooperation, which proved to be indispensable in the fight against the pandemic.

In addition, Montenegro worked on strengthening, maintaining and deepening cooperation with other international and regional organisations. In this context, events were organised in cooperation with the WHO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Furthermore, the Presidency promoted the Resolution on the Cooperation between the UN and the CEI, adopted by the UNGA in the framework of the biannual meeting among UN and Regional Organisations, in New York on 23 November.

Overall, the Montenegrin 2020 Presidency tackled pressing challenges with an increased focus on the promotion of research and innovation, people empowerment as well as prioritising public health in the framework of the activities that combine intensified political dialogue and cooperation with other international players, as well as through a strong project-oriented approach.

Programme of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency 2020

In line with the objective of affirming the CEI as a relevant regional actor in the international arena, the Montenegrin CEI Presidency focused on meeting the priorities and challenges by launching both traditional and new initiatives.

In particular, the Montenegrin CEI Presidency intended to offer immediate response to the pandemic outbreak and strengthen regional dialogue mainly in the fields of scientific diplomacy engaging youth and mainstreaming woman empowerment. In this context, the high-level meetings, expert forums, and other events were organised on these topics.

These particular events and activities were implemented within the programme of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency (*the Calendar of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency is attached as Annex 1*):

CNC Meetings

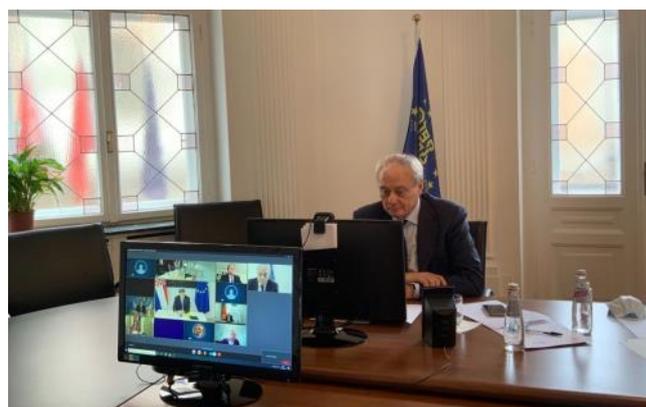
The CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC) met four times in 2020, with one meeting in presence in Podgorica (12 February) while the rest were carried out virtually (8 May, 23 September and 3 December). Aside from tackling the public health emergency along with the looming socio-economic crises, the CNC was committed to brainstorming the new areas of the CEI, firmly supporting the elaboration of the new CEI Plan of Action 2021-2023. Furthermore, the CNC was involved in drafting and negotiating various documents for adoption by the high-level meetings, as well as the



strengthened relations with the UN, EU and other relevant stakeholders. It also approved a number of projects and launched a number of ideas and proposals, implemented by the Secretariat throughout the year.

Extraordinary CEI Summit

The Heads of Government of the CEI Member States and other distinguished guests met on 15 May to address the COVID-19 emergency. The high-level discussions, chaired by the Prime Minister of Montenegro, Duško Marković, also witnessed opening statements from Roberto Antonione, CEI Secretary General, and Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe, as well as a keynote intervention by Olivér Várhelyi, EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement. The Summit emphasised the urgency of acting swiftly to face the challenges ahead through concerted actions and a decisive and comprehensive approach. In particular, the Prime Ministers agreed on the fact that, while the emergency measures must be in line with the public



health crisis, the recovery should be paramount especially with regard to the economic sector, in particular, tourism and small and medium-sized enterprises. In this regard, the freedom of movement of people was especially highlighted including the need for cooperation at border level in order to boost tourism and travel while safeguarding the health aspect. As the economies in the region have been languishing, they also pledged to improve socio-economic performance, business and investment friendliness to spur growth and connectivity, with special focus on digitalisation, education, research and development. In this context, they underlined that regional cooperation, and the two initiatives recently launched by the CEI (i.e. the Extraordinary Call as well as the CEI-WHO TF, which was endorsed by the Summit), could represent valuable best practices to be applied in other fields as well, and that the cooperation should be based in particular on solidarity and cooperation, as also underlined in the Joint Statement adopted by the participants.

MFA Meeting

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CEI Member States converged in an e-meeting on 24 September to take stock of



the latest developments in the CEI region following the COVID-19 pandemic and the transition to a “new normal”. The meeting was chaired and opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, Srđan Darmanović, alongside Roberto Antonione, CEI Secretary General. All participants agreed on the importance of multilateral cooperation and coherence, also at regional level, during the recovery phase, thus transforming this transnational challenge into an opportunity for a better future. In this regard, the work of the CEI-WHO TF in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was praised and highlighted as a best practice model to be replicated in other areas, in particular the economic one. The gathering also witnessed the presence of Olivér Várhelyi, EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe, as well as representatives of the EBRD and regional organisations, who expressed commitment towards targeted synergies and increased collaboration for jointly addressing issues of common interest. The Ministers concluded their meeting with the adoption of a Communiqué, where they also endorsed the continuation of the CEI Presidency chaired by Montenegro in 2021.

“Expert support for drafting application for involving SEEIST to ESFRI Road map”

Science Diplomacy was identified as one of the priorities of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency 2020. In relation to this, the Presidency, through the Ministry of Science of Montenegro, promoted international cooperation and activities in the field of science diplomacy with the aim of providing support to scientific and technological innovations. Special focus was put on the promotion activities of the International Institute for Sustainable Technologies in the South-East Europe (SEEIST), as one of the key regional developing projects. In this context, the Montenegrin CEI Presidency promoted further development and activities under the above-mentioned regional project with focus on a project proposal for its inclusion under ESFRI Road Map (European Strategic Forum Road Map), thus providing continuation on the SEEIST project development. The application for involving SEEIST to ESFRI Road map was successfully submitted on 9 September.

Resolution on the Cooperation between the UN and CEI

On 23 November, the UNGA adopted the resolution on “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative” in the framework of the biannual meeting between the UN and regional organisations. Montenegro’s Ambassador to the UN, Milica Pejanović-

Đurišić, in his capacity of CEI Presidency for 2020, introduced the resolution on behalf of the CEI, underlining the initiative’s commitment to concerted actions and to a decisive and comprehensive approach to regional cooperation, also in the context of the COVID-19. The resolution thus outlined the various self-standing actions which were introduced to effectively tackle the region’s challenges, helping to build the region’s democratic capacity and stronger partnerships among its Member States.

Online Event “Women Empowerment in a time of COVID-19 crisis”

The Montenegrin CEI Presidency 2020 and the CEI-ES, in cooperation with the UNDP in Montenegro, held a virtual conference on 21 December focused on the promotion of



gender equality and the empowerment of women in the region. With the goal of laying out more gender-inclusive recovery approaches, participants across the region exchanged views and experiences on national policy measures and practices, in particular towards reducing the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls, as well as its deteriorating impact on past achievements on gender equality. In this regard, discussions tackled how women's leadership could change the status of international affairs, stressing that in order to meet diverse needs, women were to be included at any level of decision-making processes. Emphasis was also placed on the need for better gender-responsive policies, including targeted efforts to protect women workers and financial incentives for women entrepreneurs, as well as on early childhood education.



Activities Activities

of the CEI-Executive Secretariat

2

The main role of the CEI-ES is to provide administrative and conceptual support to the CEI structures and take appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting the accomplishment of the CEI mission. With the establishment of the Secretariat, the Organisation has assured a permanent structure necessary for a systematic approach to widespread 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, which is reconfirmed both at political level and in the Plan of Action, thus reflecting the priority interests for cooperation among its Member States.

The CEI-ES supports the activities of the Presidency and other decision-making and operational structures of the Organisation, not only by providing continuous day-to-day administrative and conceptual support, but also by taking appropriate initiatives aimed at putting into practice the CEI objectives. It is led by a Secretary General, an Alternate Secretary General and two Deputy Secretaries General, (Executive Level), who, together with the staff members are engaged in institutional and project activities in numerous fields. In 2020, the CEI Secretariat's staff was actively involved in the implementation of the CEI Plan of Action 2018-2020, in drafting the CEI Plan of Action 2021-2023 and supporting the Montenegrin CEI Presidency. *The respective tasks of the Secretariat's staff are outlined in Annex 2.*

The CEI-ES also oversees the funds, programmes and instruments for cooperation complementing the institutional activities: the Cooperation Fund, supported by all Member States, the CEI Fund at the EBRD and the Know-how Exchange Programme - (these last two are financed by Italy), and the participation in EU-funded Projects (*the contributions stemming from various resources are outlined in Annex 3*). They aim at financing various cooperation projects implemented 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 skill, i.e. programme management, and has gained an additional role in the trans-national and cross-border scenario. 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 CEI-ES has 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 staff of the Unit for EU-funded projects is financed out of the budget of the projects funded through EU Programmes.

Institutional Activities

The Executive Level and other staff members actively participated in many CEI, CEI sponsored or other international events. They also maintained regular contacts with other international and regional organisations and participated in the events organised by them. In addition, the CEI-ES organised and promoted a number of events of institutional character, including a number of Feature Events and Prizes, as described below.

Policy discussion – “Will the last person to leave, turn out the lights? – tackling demographic challenges in the Western Balkans”?

A policy discussion on demographic challenges in the Western Balkans was organised by the Slovene Centre for European Perspective (CEP) under its flagship youth project, the Young Bled Strategic Forum, in cooperation with the CEI-ES and was held near Ljubljana (Slovenia) on 4 March. The aim of the gathering was to: raise questions on the demographic challenges in the area of the Western Balkans, but also in other European countries, shed a light on the brain drain phenomenon faced by this area, as well as identify good practices and policies. A group of 40 experts, practitioners, state officials, diplomats, students and civil society representatives discussed the root causes and how to stop the brain drain as well as the possibility of turning it into brain circulation. Healthcare, housing, family policies,



the educational system, democratic performance, environment policies etc. all play an important role when trying to turn brain drain into brain circulation. In this context, various experts in this field offered insights into potential solutions and presented best practices e.g. through development projects. Participants also agreed that governments should - through a mix of different policies offer incentives for youth to stay in their home countries, and thus create favourable conditions for youth in the region.

CEI Extraordinary Call for Proposals 2020 to address the COVID-19 emergency

With the aim to provide a quick and tangible response to the immediate consequences caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the CEI-ES launched a CEI Extraordinary Call for Proposals 2020 on 27 March. The aim was to support activities in areas that were most affected by the outbreak: health, education and SMEs. The total budget of the Call amounted to 600,000 EUR, combining resources provided by all Member States to the CEI Cooperation Fund, and by the KEP, financed by Italy. The Call received a huge number of applications, more than 7,000, thus revealing the gravity of the situation on the ground. Out of these, 22 applicants were awarded with a grant to implement their projects in the framework of the Call.

Meeting with EU Commissioner Várhelyi

The Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement, Olivér Várhelyi, met with the CEI-ES Executive Level in a conference call on 24 April, to exchange views on activities of joint interest with special focus on the response to COVID-19, including possible concerted actions. The talks paid attention to specific tailor-made activities by both the EC

and the CEI aimed at tackling the pandemic, and its dramatic consequences to the societies of the CEI Member States. They also agreed on a further exchange of views and updates on future developments and activities.

CEI-WHO Task Force (TF)

The CEI-ES, as a policy coordinator, and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, providing scientific advice, have jointly guided the works of the CEI-WHO TF composed of key health officials from CEI Member States to respond to the COVID-19 throughout 2020. In particular, the aim of the TF was to equip CEI countries with tools able to reverse the effects of the current situation, building on the WHO's state of knowledge on the epidemic curve, response readiness, as well as available instruments. It also served as a platform for the CEI Member States to discuss the situation on the state of the epidemic. The first meeting of the TF held on 6 May in a remote mode, has paved the way towards a strategic plan aimed at stepping up regional coordination to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. After that, it held eight meetings on a bi-weekly basis and five thematic webinars as well as an Inter-country dialogue meeting on the European Program of Work (EPW) of the WHO Regional Office for Europe "United Action for Better Health" held on 15 July.

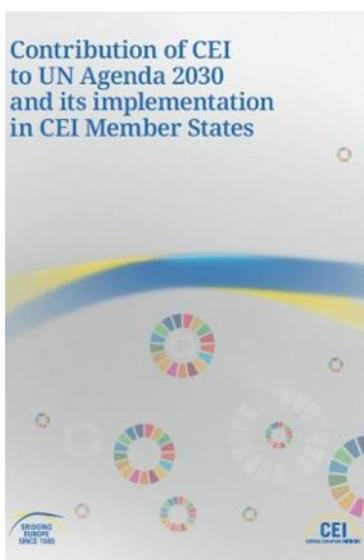
CEI-WHO Inter-Country Dialogue

The CEI and the WHO converged in an e-meeting focused on the key theme of the European Programme of Work (EPW) of the WHO Regional Office for Europe *United Action for Better Health*, on 15 July. The meeting thus delved into the key enablers, accelerators and impediments to the EPW implementation, including the power of partnerships at country level. The contributions from the representatives of the Member States fed into the discussion by highlighting some of the most pressing issues at the community and national level. Well-functioning communication mechanisms were deemed necessary to cope with the multisectoral challenges brought by the pandemic. Additional capacities and professional expertise should also be included in order to craft better policies and messages to share with the people. Moreover, participants agreed that focusing on mental health and digital technologies should be priorities to complement and supplement the health workforce. The shortage of healthcare workers that often decide to migrate to other countries and the protection of the most vulnerable groups in society were identified as two of the most critical challenges shared by countries in the CEI-wide region.



Study “Contribution of CEI to UN Agenda 2030 and its implementation in CEI Member States”

In the framework of the 5th Anniversary of the adoption of the UN Agenda 2030, the CEI-ES published a Study “Contribution of CEI to UN Agenda 2030 and its implementation in CEI Member States” on 12 October, carried out by the Public Strategy for Sustainable Development team in cooperation with the CEI-ES. The analysis explores the present and future role of the CEI in the sustainable development agenda. It provides an overview of good practices and recommendations on how to further integrate Agenda 2030 in CEI activities, as well as how the implementation of SDGs features in strategies and institutional arrangements of all CEI countries. The study also offers a common knowledge basis for cooperation and for strengthening the CEI relationship with the UN.



Online Event “Perspectives towards a Central and South-Eastern European Partner Facility for Solid Earth Science”

The CEI and National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics - OGS converged to step up actions called for in the “Trieste Declaration on Science” 2019. In this context, the event titled “Perspectives towards a Central and South-Eastern European Partner Facility for Solid Earth Science” was held in the context of the project enlaRging EPOS mEmbership – RISE, on 28 October. 38 representatives from 11 different countries met virtually to discuss opportunities for scientific collaboration in the field of solid earth science between and among Central and South-Eastern European countries. The event also promoted an open discussion about potential interactions between the European Plate Observing System (EPOS) and the scientific communities of CEI countries that are not included in the EPOS membership with view of consolidating the transnational collaboration network and establishment of international partnerships for joint applications to future Horizon Europe calls.

Online Event “Strategies and tools to reduce cross-border obstacles”

The event, organised in the framework of the Final Conference of the ADRIPASS project (Integrating multimodal connections in the Adriatic-Ionian Region), funded under the INTERREG ADRIAN Programme and led by the CEI-ES, virtually gathered on 2 December with the partnership of the project, as well as the representatives of CEI Member States and the Montenegrin CEI Presidency. It aimed at providing evidence of the positive results achieved in the framework of the project. In particular, among all, the key points of the ADRIPASS transnational strategy for the improvement of multimodal transport and accessibility were presented as a final project outcome, representing a basis for a strong transnational cooperation network fostering a sustainable, integrated and multimodal transport for the Adriatic-Ionian Region. More than 70 participants attended the event and provided important feedback to the ADRIPASS results, in terms of capitalisation in the Adriatic-Ionian Region. Round table discussions confirmed the need for a more unified and sustainable multimodal transport system, which would connect the EU and the Western Balkan countries, supported by transnational cooperation and joint efforts to involve decision makers.

Feature Events, Prizes and Awards

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

Trieste Film Festival

The CEI is one of the long-standing sponsors of the Trieste Film Festival, held on 17-22 January. This Festival, organised by the Alpe Adria Cinema Association, is the Italian leading appointment with Central and Eastern European cinema, offering a unique retrospective of quality filmmaking production from the CEI region. In particular, the CEI supported the Midpoint Feature Launch Eastweek, an international script-writing workshop involving film schools and academies from Central and Eastern Europe, whose main objective is to develop the selected projects from the delicate phase of the initial idea through a series of tutorials, masterclasses and case studies. The CEI’s support was also given to the co-production forum “When East Meets West”, gathering funders, commissioning editors, sales agents, distributors and producers.

CEI Award 2019 at Trieste Film Festival

The CEI Award (3,000 EUR) in the framework of the Trieste Film Festival is traditionally assigned to an artist who best interprets the contemporary reality of Europe and dialogue among cultures. This year it was bestowed upon the Slovak film director Marko Škop for his film “Let there be light/Nech je svetlo”, in a ceremony held on 20 January 2020.



Vilenica International Literary Festival

The Vilenica International Literary Festival, a gathering of poets, prose writers, playwrights and essayists, but also translators, publishers, editors and critics from Central Europe and beyond, is organised by the Slovene Writers' Association in collaboration with the Cultural Society Vilenica from Sežana. It has been supported by the CEI for many years now. Responding to the challenges linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's edition, held on 8-13 September, combined live and virtual events bringing together authors, critics and audiences from Central and Eastern Europe and beyond. The programme also included the CEI Round Table “Europe is expanding and shrinking. Quo vadis” with the participation of Yuri Andrukhovych (Ukraine) and Boris A. Novak (Slovenia).

CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence

The CEI Fellowship in the framework of the Vilenica International Literary Festival seeks to encourage crossborder cooperation and promotion in the field of literature for young writers from non-EU CEI Member States. It is meant to be used for a residency in any CEI Member State of the candidate's choice. This year the CEI Fellowship was presented - in an online ceremony on 9 September - to the Bulgarian writer Yassen Vasilev. The fellowship will allow him to delve into a project he had started writing at Mark Ravenhill's playwriting workshop in Venice as part of Biennale Teatro 2016.

South East Europe Media Forum

The South East Europe Media Forum (SEEMF) is the largest media conference in South, Central and Eastern Europe, bringing together editors, media CEO, journalists, media experts and politicians. It is organised by the, South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO), in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) Media Programme South East Europe and the CEI-ES. This year, the SEEMF was held on 22 October 2020 under the title “(Re)Think the Digital Reliability of the media, economic aspects of the pandemic, sustainable digital transitions in South East and Central Europe”. It combined online coverage with “live” in-person attendance in seven locations (Belgrade, Fažana, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Sofia, Tirana and Trieste).



CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism

The CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism aims at honouring the work carried out by investigative journalists and their contribution to investigative reporting despite the difficult conditions under which they often have to operate. This year's edition of the CEI SEEMO Award gave priority to works covering issues related to the Coronavirus crisis. The awarding ceremony took place on 22 October during the SEEMF. It was bestowed upon the Italian journalist Cecilia Anesi for the category "Professional Journalists" and the Serbian Natalija Jovanović for the category "Young Professional Journalists", while Esmeralda Keta from Albania received a special mention.

Projects, Programmes and Instruments

The CEI-ES continued to implement and support various projects out of its funds, programmes and instruments for cooperation:

EU-funded Projects

Since 2004, the CEI-ES has been developing specific expertise in the design, management and implementation of projects co-financed by the European Union under its sectoral, structural and external programmes. EU co-financed projects represent an important tool for attaining the goals outlined in the CEI Plan of Action, as well as a unique capacity of the CEI, if compared to other regional organisations. Member States benefit from further progress and expansion of this field of work, which proves to be a strategic instrument to fulfil the CEI core mission of promoting "regional cooperation for European integration".

In the time frame 2004-2020, the CEI participated in the successful implementation of 44 projects with a total fund mobilisation of about 77 million EUR. In 2020 alone, 18 projects were under implementation (8 were closed in the course of the year) with a total mobilisation of 37.5 million EUR, of which over 3.6 million administered by the CEI-ES (*the full list of the EU-funded projects under implementation in 2020 is attached as Annex 4*).

Technical Cooperation Programme

The Technical Cooperation projects (TCs) 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 non-EU CEI Member States, 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.

Between 1993 and 2020, the CEI Fund has dedicated almost 30 million EUR to technical assistance operations. These TC projects are expected to mobilise over 7 billion EUR of international investments. The EBRD alone is expected to contribute to those investments with around 5 billion EUR. A Total Investment Ratio (TIR) can be calculated to show how many euros the international community is expected to invest for each euro granted by the CEI Fund for TC projects. Between 1993 and 2020, the TIR is estimated to be 1:239. The EBRD's share, alone, is expected to reach approximately 167 EUR for each euro of the CEI Fund dedicated to TC projects: this represents the EBRD Investment Ratio (EIR).

In 2020, the CEI Fund at the EBRD committed over 1.4 million EUR for 10 Technical Cooperation assignments (*the full list of the TC projects approved in 2020 is attached as Annex 5*).

Know-how Exchange Programme

Launched in 2004, the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP) is a development assistance instrument, financed by the CEI Fund at the EBRD provided by Italy and managed by the Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD, aimed at supporting transfer of experience from the EU to the non-EU countries within the CEI region. The Programme originates from the belief that European integration and 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. The Programme operates through calls for proposals. Since its establishment 123 projects have been financed through KEP for a total CEI Fund contribution of over 3.6 million EUR with an overall project value amounting to 15.1 million EUR. The projects targeted recipient institutions from almost all non-EU CEI Member States.

In 2020 the traditional format of the KEP was revised and adjusted to the new situation, and a considerable amount was earmarked out of the KEP to the CEI Extraordinary Call for Proposals 2020 to address the COVID-19 emergency, with the aim to tackle the needs of the non-EU CEI Member States in strengthening their national systems of emergency management and their capacity to face the pandemic. The CEI Fund provided about 300,000 EUR to 8 projects form beneficiary institutions as a grant-type assistance for the first half of 2020.

For the second half of the year, the EBRD was encouraged by the donor to identify new opportunities for projects addressing the emerging need for socio-economic recovery. A new Call for KEP projects was set up in the last months of the year, granting additional 200,000 EUR to six KEP projects, more focused on economic recovery and development.

Overall, the KEP Italy co-financed 14 new projects in 2020, both in the framework of the ordinary call and the Extraordinary Call, with resources from the CEI Fund at EBRD with a contribution amounting to 514,218 EUR and an overall total cost of projects of about 768,406 EUR (*the full list of the KEP projects approved in 2020 is attached as Annex 6*).

Projects financed by the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (ARFVG)

The CEI-ES signed an agreement with the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (ARFVG) in Trieste on 26 May 2014, with the aim to strengthen cooperation between the two parties and further develop relations between the FVG and the countries of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Through this enhanced partnership, the CEI contributes to increasing the FVG international links and reinforcing the role of the Region in the Adriatic-Ionian macro-regional strategy, as well as to developing new economic relations with the Balkans and the Danube area, and the countries bordering the Black and Baltic Seas. The CEI's longstanding experience in promoting regional

cooperation as well as the solid experience in managing EU projects serves to this purpose.

In this framework, the CEI-ES has developed a more structured cooperation through the realisation of a number of projects and cooperative actions with a total fund mobilisation of about 1 million EUR in 2020. *The 2 projects implemented this year are outlined in Annex 7.*

Cooperation Activities

The CEI Cooperation Activities (CAs) are multilateral small-scale projects, in some cases linked to a larger project. 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 Fund operates through calls for proposals.

This year, the traditional format of the CEI Cooperation Fund was revised as well and adjusted to the new situation linked to the pandemic, and the whole budget for 2020 of the Fund, in combination with resources from the KEP, was thus earmarked to the CEI Extraordinary Call for Proposals 2020 to address the COVID-19 emergency, with the aim to tackle the needs of CEI Member States.

Since the start of its operations in 2002, the CEI Cooperation Fund has co-financed - with an amount of more than 11 million EUR – more than 1,200 Cooperation Activities for a total value of the activities amounting to about 67.5 million EUR. It is estimated that the annual mobility generated by the Cooperation Fund throughout the years of its operation is of about 5,000 people.

In 2020, 14 activities were approved to address the COVID-19 emergency in the framework of the above-mentioned Extraordinary Call. The total CEI contribution for these activities amounts to 305,715 EUR or about 58% of the total cost of the projects representing a total value of 525,755.90 EUR (*the full list of activities approved in 2020 is attached as Annex 8*).

Advanced Training Programme for Young Officials

The Programme, financed out of the CEI Cooperation Fund, aims at providing training for young professionals on work at the CEI-ES, thus gaining knowledge not only on its numerous institutional and promotional activities, but also on the importance of regional cooperation in general through both multilateral diplomacy and project and programme

management. In 2020 two young professionals in the framework of the seventh edition of the Programme performed their traineeship at the CEI-ES in the area of liaison&external relations and communication.

Annexes

Annexes

Calendar

Calendar of Events of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency

Date	Place	Event
12 February	Podgorica	1 st Meeting of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC)
8 May	Online	2 nd Meeting of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC)
15 May	Online	Extraordinary Virtual Meeting of the Heads of Government of the CEI Member States (CEI Summit)
23 September	Online	3 rd Meeting of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC)
24 September	Online	Meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the CEI Member States (MFA Meeting)
23 November	New York	UNGA Plenary meeting Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations Presentation of the Resolution on the cooperation between the UN and CEI
3 December	Online	4 th Meeting of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC)
21 December	Online	"Women Empowerment in a time of COVID-19 crisis"

2

Staff
Staff of the CEI-ES

CEI-Executive Secretariat

Executive Level

Roberto Antonione <i>Secretary General</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities.
Antal Nikoletti <i>Alternate Secretary General</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities. CEI Economic Dimension.
Nina Kodolja <i>Deputy Secretary General</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities. Institutional relations.
Zoran Jovanović <i>Deputy Secretary General</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities. CEI Parliamentary Dimension.

Executive staff

Lidija Arsova <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Liaison with Member States (CNC and CEI Presidency); External relations; Preparation of CNC meetings, MFA Meetings and CEI Summit; Coordination of Annual Report and Plan of Action.
Barbara Fabro <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Coordination of CEI activities in the fields of Intercultural Cooperation and Media, including Cooperation Activities and Feature Events; CEI Parliamentary Dimension; CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Journalism and other CEI Prizes/Awards.
Alessandro Lombardo <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Head of Programme - Unit for EU Projects; management of EU projects including related financial administration; Coordination of CEI activities in the field of Scientific Cooperation, Science Diplomacy and Innovation, including Cooperation Activities in these areas; CEI Executive Secretariat's financial management.
Tania Pibernik <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Communication and media relations including CEI website's news, social media and CEI newsletter; English reviser/copy-editor of CEI website, publications and official documents; corporate image.
Paola Plancher <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Supervision of procedural requirements and administrative evaluation of CEI Cooperation Activities. Coordination of ministerial and other high-level meetings organized at CEI Headquarters.
Slavena Radovanovic <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Cooperation Activities in the area of Climate, Environment and Rural Development; activities related to the CEI Youth Agenda; management of EU projects including related financial administration; coordination of Young Officials from CEI Member States; coordination of intern recruitment.

Administrative staff

Roberta Milano <i>Senior Administrative Officer</i> <i>/Accountant</i>	Head of Human Resources; responsible for Personnel Administration and General Services; Accounting; Cooperation on budgetary issues: overall financial planning, monitoring and reporting of Italian Contribution (L. 286/1997 and 142/2003) and overall financial planning, monitoring and reporting of contributions provided by the Region FVG (LR 11/1996, 18/2011 and 19/2000).
Loretta Brcic <i>Senior Administrative Officer</i>	Assistance to SG; assistance to accounting; assistance to administration of personnel issues; supervision on relations with suppliers; supervision on conference services.
Antonio Monteduro <i>Senior Administrative Officer</i>	Archives and Protocol; switchboard; management of the official CEI e-mail address; any other office management tasks delegated by the administrative office.

Staff

Staff of the CEI-ES

2

Frida Cottic <i>Administrative Officer</i>	Assistance to SG; travel desk for SG, ASG and DSG; relations with suppliers and MFA with regards to ID cards, passports and plates; administrative support to CEI-ES and to Office of the CEI Fund at the EBRD; overall office maintenance; hospitality and conference services, including internal meetings; errands.
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Francesca Taliani de Marchio <i>Senior Secretary</i>	Detached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy.
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Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD

Elisabetta Dovier <i>Programme Manager</i>	Management of the CEI Fund at the EBRD: Technical Cooperation Programme and the Know-how Exchange Programme.
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Simona Mameli <i>Executive Officer</i>	Liaison Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy. Support in the management of the CEI Fund at the EBRD.
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Unit for EU Projects

Anna Marconato <i>Programme Manager</i>	Head of Finance and Administration – Unit for EU Projects; Project Manager of COME-IN!, NAMIRG, SENTINEL, PRE-RIGHTS, TAAAFE.
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Gian Matteo Apuzzo <i>Project Manager</i>	Project Manager of ACSELL, Digital Health Europe. CEI-ES Focal Point of the CEI-WHO Task Force in response to COVID-19 emergency.
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Ugo Poli <i>Project Manager</i>	Project Manager of TARTINI, ICARUS; Focal Point Migrations; Focal Point Anti-corruption; Member of EUSDR PA10 SC.
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Paolo Dileno <i>Project Manager</i>	Project Manager of CONNECT2CE, ADRI PASS, INTER-CONNECT, FORTIS, MIMOSA.
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Peter Canciani <i>Project Manager</i>	Project Manager of SUMPORT, Sulpiter, ETIP, CELEBIO.
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Olga Izquierdo Sotorrio <i>Project Officer</i>	Day-to-day support to project management and reporting.
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Alice Pappas <i>Project Officer</i>	Day-to-day support to project management and reporting.
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Ana Sinkovic <i>Project Officer</i>	Day-to-day support to project management and reporting.
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Ana Aligrudić <i>Project Officer</i>	Day-to-day support to project management and reporting.
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Cooperation with ARFVG

Carlo Fortuna <i>Programme Manager</i>	Project Manager of SILK2FVG, WB6 Facility.
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Lisa Chen (Chen Qiong) <i>Project Officer</i>	Day-to-day support to project management and reporting (SILK2FVG).
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3

Contributions

Contributions to the budget of the CEI-ES

Type of contribution	Amount
Contribution from Italian MFA (including contribution to Cooperation Fund)	€ 1,250,053.00
Contribution from Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (ARFVG), including for CEI-ARFVG Projects	€ 114,789.01
Contribution from Member States to CEI Cooperation Fund (excluding Italy)	€ 284,030.00
EU Grants and Refunds, in the framework of EU-funded projects	€ 785,623.78

EU-funded Projects

EU-funded Projects Implemented in 2020

4

Title	Implementation date	EU Programme	Area	CEI-ES Role	Total cost (€)	CEI budget (€)
CONNECT2CE Improved rail connections and smart mobility in Central Europe	06/2017-05/2020	Interreg Central Europe	Mobility	LP	2,602,924.73	314,029.60
SENTINEL Advancing the role of social enterprises in the economic and social sector of Central European countries	06/2017 - 05/2020	Interreg Central Europe	Social innovation	PP	2,110,521.20	250,537.50
ITHACA Innovation in Health And Care for All	01/2017 - 12/2021	Interreg Europe	Health	SC	2,263,152.61	98,300.00
ADRIPASS Integrating multimodal connections in the Adriatic-Ionian region	01/2018 - 12/2020	Interreg ADRI-ON	Mobility	LP	1,423,893.50	211,895.00
INTER-CONNECT Intermodality Promotion and Rail Renaissance in Adriatic-Ionian Region	01/2018 - 12/2020	Interreg ADRI-ON	Mobility	PP	1,604,192.38	197,805.11
BLUE_BOOST BOOSTing the innovation potential of the quadruple helix of Adriatic-Ionian traditional and emerging BLUE sectors clusters through an open source/knowledge sharing and community based approach in favour of MED blue and green growth	01/2018 - 01/2021	Interreg ADRI-ON	Innovation / Blue economy	PP	1,489,422.00	252,598.00
TARTINI Cultural tourism along the heritage of Giuseppe Tartini	10/2017 - 08/2020	Interreg Italy-Slovenia V A	Cultural Heritage	PP	1,286,926.00	212,059.00
4HELIX+ Empowering the 4 helix of MED maritime clusters through an open source/knowledge sharing and community-based approach in favour of MED blue growth	02/2018 - 12/2020	Interreg MED	Innovation / Blue economy	PP	2,193,983.75	148,808.75
DIGITAL HEALTH EUROPE Digital transformation in Health and Care	01/2019 - 06/2021	H2020	Health	PP	3,999,993.75	41,400.00
ETIP-B-SABS 2 European Technology and Innovation Platform on Bioenergy	09/2018 - 08/2021	H2020	Bioenergy	PP	997,720.00	93,750.00
ICARUS Intermodal Connections in Adriatic-Ionian Region to Upgrowth Seamless solutions for passengers	01/2019 - 12/2021	Interreg Italy-Croatia	Mobility	PP	2,200,000.00	170,000.00

4

EU-funded Projects

EU-funded Projects Implemented in 2020

Title	Implementation date	EU Programme	Area	CEI-ES Role	Total cost (€)	CEI budget (€)
CELEBIO Central European Leaders of bioeconomy network	06/2019 - 11/2020	H2020 (BBI-JU)	Bioeconomy	LP	749,350.00	197,500.00
ACSELL ACcelerating SmE innovation capacities with a Living Lab approach	08/2019 - 07/2023	Interreg Europe	Innovation	PP	1,726,686.00	161,600.00
PRE-RIGHTS Assessing impact and performance of preventive measures on EU Directives and Framework Decisions	10/2019 - 03/2022	Justice	Judicial co-operation	LP	806,673.00	207,152.00
TAAFE Towards an Alpine Age-Friendly Environment	10/2019 - 06/2022	Interreg Alpine	Social innovation	PP	2,168,317.23	135,399.84
SUSTOURISMO Sustainable Tourism & Mobility Hand by Hand Development	02/2020 - 08/2022	Interreg ADRION	Mobility	PP	1,798,950.00	228,750.00
FORTIS Institutional cooperation for improving cross border public transport services	03/2020 - 02/2022	Interreg Italy-Slovenia	Mobility	LP	759,290.00	225,815.00
MIMOSA Maritime and multimodal sustainable passenger transport solutions and services	01/2020 - 12/2022	Interreg Italy-Croatia	Mobility	LP	7,140,000.00	477,000.00

TC Projects

TC Projects Approved in 2020

5

Title	Country of operation	Sector of operation	CEI Grant (€)	Expected related investment (EUR million)
Mostar North to Mostar South Motorway	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	72,790	60.0
Serbian Climate Resilience and Irrigation Project - Development of Irrigation Strategy	Serbia	Agribusiness	150,000	30.0
Road Corridor VIII - Phase 1. Biodiversity Scoping Study and Assessment Study of the Protected Areas	North Macedonia	Transport	95,500	69.2
COVID-19 Crisis Response: Environmental and Social Contractor Management	Montenegro, Serbia	Institutional development	120,000	n/a
SEZ Minsk Electricity Network Upgrade - Project Implementation Support	Belarus	Energy	200,000	14.2
Montenegro Renewables: Governance and Climate Resilience	Montenegro	Energy	225,000	70.0
Methane Emissions Reduction Programme in Gas Supply Chains	Ukraine	Energy	200,000	50.0
Market Readiness for a Low-carbon Hydrogen Economy in the Western Balkans	Regional (WB)	Energy	150,000	n/a
Impact on the Use of Public Transport due to COVID-19 Pandemic in the Western Balkans	Regional (WB)	Transport	50,000	n/a
Corridor Vc - Tunnel Prenj: Corporate Governance Action Plan	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Transport	150,000	300.0

6

KEP Projects

KEP Projects Approved in 2020

Reference number	Title	Country of know-how provider institution	Country of know-how recipient institution	Total project cost (€)	CEI grant (€)
305.998-20	Strong Nurses for Strong Health Systems and a Healthier World	South Eastern Europe Health Network (SEEHN)	Albania. Bosnia and Herzegovina. North Macedonia. Moldova. Montenegro. Serbia	45,250	39,850
305.1227-20	Portal Implementation for Sharing Information about Personal Protective (PPE-HEALTH-PORTAL)	Italy	Albania. Bosnia and Herzegovina. North Macedonia. Serbia. Ukraine	39,000	39,000
305.1521-20	Distance Learning on Epidemic and Pandemic Outbreaks in the Western Balkans: Albania. Bosnia and Herzegovina. Montenegro. North Macedonia. Serbia	Italy	Albania. Bosnia and Herzegovina. Montenegro. North Macedonia. Serbia	35,300	32,000
305.1543-20	Distance Learning on Epidemic and Pandemic Outbreaks in Belarus. Moldova and Ukraine	Italy	Belarus. Moldova. Ukraine	25,060	23,000
305.2347-20	SOS Covid Emergency - Protecting Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing of Adults and Minors during Social Distancing in Italy and Serbia	Italy	Serbia. Italy	39,000	39,000
305.3763-20	Interactive Webinars to Accelerate the Shift to Digital Innovation in Albanian Health (WebinHealth)	Italy	Albania	39,800	39,800
305.6019-20	Use of Regressive Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) Methods in Modelling of COVID-19 spread (COVIDAi)	Serbia	All CEI Member States	38,000	38,000
305.6130-20	Hospital at Home in the Field of Chronic Wound Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Romania and Moldova	Romania	Moldova. Romania	39,000	39,000
304.4.22-20	Improving Occupational Health and Safety System in Republic of Moldova	Italy. Hungary	Moldova	80,000	39,933

KEP Projects

KEP Projects Approved in 2020

6

Reference number	Title	Country of know-how provider institution	Country of know-how recipient institution	Total project cost (€)	CEI grant (€)
304.4.41-20	Sustainable Management of Cultural Heritage in the Balkans in Response to Climate Change. Best practices for adaptation and intercultural cooperation (SMAC)	Italy	North Macedonia. Serbia. Bosnia and Herzegovina. Montenegro	80,935	39,925
304.4.56-20	An Evolution of the Automotive Training Centre Serbia toward the Concepts of Light and Sustainable Mobility (ATC Evo)	Italy, Croatia, Slovenia	Serbia	83,485	39,960
304.4.15-20	Practical Application of 3D Technology in Medicine and Health Care	Italy	Bosnia and Herzegovina	59,556	24,975
304.4.3-20	"Composites for All". Advanced Materials for a Modern. Improved. and Sustainable Society	Italy. Slovenia	Montenegro. Bosnia and Herzegovina. North Macedonia	84,020	39,775
304.4.35-20	Sustainability of the Platforms for Monitoring Population Food Consumption Habits and Pilot Study on Web- and Computer-based 24-H dietary Recall Tools	Italy	Serbia	80,000	40,000

7

CEI-ARFVG Projects

CEI-ARFVG Projects Implemented in 2020

Title	CEI-ES role	Implementation date
WB6 Facility	CEI-ES Implementing partner	September 2018 - September 2021, Western Balkans
SILK2FVG plus	CEI-ES Implementing partner	May 2018 – April 2021

Cooperation Activities

Cooperation Activities Approved in 2020

8

Ref. No.	Activity	Institution	Country	Beneficiary countries	CEI Grant (EUR)
305.2195-20	E-learning Platform for People with Disability (EPPD)	Help the Life Association (HLA)	Albania	Albania	22,000.00
305.6189-20	Distance learning platform for school children of the Republic of Belarus	Educational Systems LLC, Sergey Sukalo (CEO)	Belarus	Belarus	22,000.00
305.1000-20	ShareIT Platform – Sharing of relevant electronic IT experience, data, knowledge, trainings, webinars, offer and demand via new Platform	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Srpska	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia	22,000.00
305.4344-20	Protecting mental health and psychosocial wellbeing in a time of unprecedented crisis.	Bulgarian Society of Group Analysis and Group Processes	Bulgaria	All CEI Member States.	22,000.00
305.5970-20	Healthcare online. Acronym: HERO	Rudjer Boskovic Institute Zagreb	Croatia	Croatia, Italy, Ukraine	22,000.00
305.6057-20	Improving COVID-19 Reporting (ICR)	Transitions	Czech Republic	Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine	22,000.00
305.6732-20	MeOut Helps	MeOut Association for Peace and Development	Hungary	Ukraine	22,000.00
305.2368-20	Support to the health operators in piloting telemedicine and tackle COVID-19 spread in Moldova (TeleM)	Homecare association	Moldova	Moldova, Romania	22,000.00
305.6672-20	National Telemedicine Platform	Institute of Public Health, Central Public Authority of Public Health	Montenegro	Montenegro	22,000.00

8

Cooperation Activities

Cooperation Activities Approved in 2020

Ref. No.	Activity	Institution	Country	Beneficiary countries	CEI Grant (EUR)
305.2054-20	Building Innovative E-commerce platform to digitalise micro and small businesses from Western region (BE-digitalised)	KREACIJA	North Macedonia	North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia	22,000.00
305.3938-20	Dissemination of the Knowledge on Application of Ionising Radiation for Sterilization of Medical Equipment, Personal Protection Equipment and the other Microbiologically Infected Objects	Institute of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology	Poland	All CEI Member States.	22,000.00
305.5176-20	STEMI – COVID-19 Telemedicine triage tool to protect hospital staff	STEMI Global, Slovak HealthTech company	Slovakia	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia	22,000.00
305.2493-20	Teleconsultations for doctors and nurses, a quick guide webinar series – TelCoDoc	Technology Park Ljubljana Ltd.	Slovenia	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia	19,715.00
305.2825-20	STOP COVID 19	Lviv Polytechnic National University and Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University & Belarus State Economic University	Ukraine	Ukraine, Belarus	22,000.00





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