

# 2018



# Annual Report

of the Secretary General



# ToC

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# Introduction

## Introduction

### by the Secretary General

Taking into consideration that this is my farewell foreword as Secretary General, I would like to underline a few main conclusions. Looking back, throughout the years, I can say that the CEI, and the Region in general, has faced a number of crucial challenges with courage and determination. Let me just mention the recent ones: migration, security threats, a period of EU Enlargement fatigue, up-and-down economic development, climate changes, social and cultural challenges and so on. On top of that Austria has decided to withdraw from the CEI this year. However, in the light of such fast-changing circumstances, it is legitimate that a country decides to concentrate its efforts and resources on selected regional schemes, organisations, processes etc., while withdrawing from others. Nevertheless, I am also glad about the recent significant improvements and steps forward that many of our Member States have made with regard to the European integration process and the multilateral cooperation for sustainable development. Without a doubt, the high achievements in several areas are also the results of our hard work and united approach during the 29 years of our existence as the largest regional intergovernmental forum in Europe.

To back-up the above-mentioned, I would like to underline a few facts and figures about the use of our funds and instruments during the years:

- 1142 Cooperation Activities, funded out of our only multilateral instrument, the CEI Cooperation Fund provided by all Member States, co-financed with more than 10 million EUR, activities aimed at networking and people-to-people contacts, allowing the mobility of about 5,000 participants.
- The CEI Fund at the EBRD financed by Italy, committed over 27.5 million EUR for funding over 170 Technical Cooperation Projects, able to mobilise 6 billion EUR of international investments in the countries of operation. This means that for each Euro provided by this Fund, the EBRD and other financiers have invested over 200 EUR.
- Through the CEI Know-How Exchange Programme (KEP), mainly financed by the CEI Fund at the EBRD supported by Italy, but in the past also by Austria and lately with ad-hoc contribution from the Polish Government, we have contributed a total amount of 3.8 million EUR for 135 projects aimed in particular at capacity building through transfer of knowledge and experience from the EU-CEI

countries to the non-EU countries on European integration issues.

- Furthermore, 29 EU-funded projects have been implemented by the CEI-ES with a total fund mobilisation of nearly 53 million EUR, while 15 projects are under implementation with a total fund mobilisation of more than 25 million EUR.

In 2018 alone, through the above-mentioned funds and instruments for cooperation, we have managed to organise, implement and support 113 projects and activities, which details you will find in the CEI's Plan of Action 2018-2020 Interim Implementation Report 2018, endorsed by the Heads of Government at their CEI Summit in Zagreb on 4 December 2018.

I would also like to highlight, at this point, that the CEI has oriented the largest part of its activities towards the Western Balkans and Eastern European countries of its constituency. In this regard, it is truly imperative to stress the unrestricted support afforded by the EU CEI Member States to the non-EU CEI countries.

Furthermore, the CEI is fully fostering cooperation with other international and regional organisations, thus jointly contributing to the European integration process and reinforcing the coordinated approach towards sustainable development is of the utmost importance. In this context, cooperation has been tackled with the European Union and its institutions, in particular, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation Development, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development as well as with the UN specialised agencies and the UN itself. The latter is confirmed by the adoption of the fourth consequent Resolution on the Cooperation between the UN and the CEI by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 26 November.

In addition, efforts have been made by the Secretariat to enhance its relations with the media. Appropriate actions - in particular in connection to the high-level meetings have been undertaken.

Notwithstanding the already impressive achievements the CEI has made so far, I think there is still a lot of room for

improvement with regard to the CEI's performance and possibility to embrace new ideas linked to current challenges, thus further increase its visibility. I am confident that the updated CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure, adopted by the Heads of Government at their CEI Summit in Zagreb on 4 December 2018, will provide an efficient framework in this endeavour.

In this context, I would like to wish my successor and his collaborators, as well as the Italian CEI Presidency 2019 every success. I am confident that under their guidance and that of all CEI Member States, the CEI will continue to work on serving the needs of its Member States, the region and Europe as a whole.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the extraordinary efforts and deep commitment made by the Croatian CEI Presidency, the staff of the CEI-Executive Secretariat, the High Representatives of the CEI Member States, the CEI National Coordinators, and all other CEI collaborators.

December 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Caracciolo di Vietri', with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

*Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri*





# Priorities and Programme

## Priorities and Programme of the Croatian CEI Presidency

# 1

Croatia took over the CEI Presidency on 1 January 2018. In the period of many challenges faced by the Region, Croatia demonstrated a clear vision towards regional cooperation in particular through supporting non-EU CEI countries in their European integration process and promoting the sustainable development of all Member States. In doing so it brought as much creativity, continuity and consistency in its efforts.

### Priorities of the Croatian CEI Presidency

With the aim to achieve these goals, Croatia made significant efforts to improve dialogue and cooperation among the CEI Member States in different fields and established a number of priorities aimed at: transferring knowledge and experience from the EU Member States to the non-EU CEI Member States, boosting economic cooperation, tackling migration issues, carrying out cultural projects. Hence, under the above-mentioned framework, the Croatian CEI Presidency, promoted numerous activities and achieved significant results.

The significant value of regional cooperation and the need for a more comprehensive one was confirmed on the occasion of the high-level meetings organised by the Presidency, i.e. the MFA Meeting, the MFA Working lunch in New York, organised on the margins of the UN General Assembly, and the CEI Summit. Under this Presidency, important activities were also carried out by the Parliamentary Dimension, through meetings of the Parliamentary Committee and Parliamentary Assembly, and the Business Dimension, through a CEI Business Forum, organised back to back with the CEI Summit. Furthermore, numerous high-level and international conferences, expert meetings, workshops and other events linked to the established priorities were organised throughout the year.

In addition, the Croatia worked on strengthening, maintaining and deepening cooperation with other international and regional organisations. In this context, events were organised in cooperation with the Council of Europe and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Furthermore, it promoted the Resolution on the Cooperation between the UN and the CEI, adopted by the UN General Assembly in the framework of the biannual meeting among UN and Regional Organisations, in New York on 26 November.

Last but not least, throughout 2018, the Croatian CEI Presidency made significant efforts to better align the work of the CEI to the needs of the region. In doing so, the Croatian CEI Presidency was supported by the CEI-Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES) and by all the Member States. The joint actions significantly contributed to the overall success of activities. Moreover, the support of the CEI-ES and the Member States constitutes the basis for successfully achieving a stronger Presidency and shows that the challenges in the region can only be addressed with joint efforts.

### Programme of the Croatian CEI Presidency

The Croatian CEI Presidency implemented a rich Programme of events and activities (the Calendar of the Croatian CEI Presidency is attached as Annex 1):.

#### CNC Meetings

The Committee of National Coordinators (CNC) met six times in 2018. Two of the Meetings were held in Zagreb (16 February and 3 December), one in Split (11 June), one in London (19 April) and two in Trieste (30 May and 4 October). The CNC was fully committed to crucial issues throughout the year such as drafting and negotiating various documents for adoption from the high-level structures, strengthened relationship with the European Union and other international and regional organisations. An important effort was made to coordinate and monitor the process of Austria's withdraw from the CEI as well as to set up a new strategy for the upcoming period. It also approved a number of projects and launched a number of ideas and proposals, tackled by the CEI-ES throughout the year.



### Steering Committee Meeting

The CEI's annual Steering Committee (SC) meeting took place at the Headquarters of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London on 19 April. The SC meeting gathered the CEI National Coordinators and representatives from the CEI countries at the EBRD Board of Directors and focused on the recent developments in CEI-EBRD cooperation. The meeting confirmed the strong partnership between the CEI and the Bank, thanks in particular to the CEI Fund at the EBRD financed by Italy. On this occasion, the Annual Report 2017 of the CEI Fund at the EBRD and the Approval of the Budget 2018 of the Fund were presented.



### International Conference - "Knowledge sharing for building stronger partnerships in the process of European integration"

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia organised the international conference "Knowledge sharing for building stronger partnerships in the process of European integration" in Zagreb on 25-26 April. The main aim of the Conference was to share experiences on different aspects of institutional and capacity building instruments related to the European integration process, thus on the strengthening of capacities in the EU related fields, in particular of the non-EU CEI Member States. In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia confirmed that it would continue to provide expert assistance to partner countries to strengthen their capacities for the EU integration process and actively promote knowledge sharing instruments – Twinning and TAIEX, but also other forms of technical assistance projects. The Conference, which also focused on enhance networking possibilities for future cooperation between the CEI Member States and other interested stakeholders, witnessed ample



participation from the CEI Member States, other EU Member States and partner countries, including recipients and donors of the technical assistance.

### CEI Parliamentary Committee Meeting

The meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension was held in Zagreb on 14 May. Over 40 representatives from 15 parliaments of the CEI Member States gathered in Zagreb, on that occasion. The gathering focused on Sustainable Tourism. After a constructive debate and fruitful exchange of experiences, the Parliamentary Committee adopted a Joint Statement. It also elected the new chairs of the CEI Parliamentary General Committees (GC) until the end of 2019. The GC on Political and Home Affairs, the GC on Economic Affairs and the GC on Cultural Affairs will be chaired by Bulgaria, Poland and Hungary, respectively.

### Third Annual Conference of the Western Balkans Migration Network "A search for that special place under the sun in modern Europe: migration in the twenty first century"

The Third Annual Conference of the Western Balkans Migration Network (WB MIGNET) "A search for that special place under the sun in modern Europe: migration in the twenty first century" was held in Zagreb on 25-26 May with the aim of encouraging interdisciplinary approach to discussing migration. The conference attracted more than 60 participants from the academic community, international organisations, government institutions, and non-governmental organisations. In addition to the presentation of more than 20 research papers, the conference also included a panel discussion about the policy responses to the refugee and asylum seekers' problems on the Balkan route.



**International Expert Conference on Combined Cargo Transport**

The Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia organised the International Expert Conference on Combined Cargo Transport in Zagreb on 29 May. The general aim of the conference was to exchange experience and knowledge in order to advance and promote the development of combined transport in Europe and provide opportunities for future cooperation in the sector. The presentations dealt with the digitalisation of transport documents, which would contribute to a faster and simplified cargo flow, recent innovations and technologies, options,



challenges, but also risks encountered by the development of intermodal transport in the Republic of Croatia, the Western Balkans Region and beyond. The conference was attended by numerous representatives of the CEI Member States, other countries as well as international and regional organisations and other relevant stakeholders, including state authorities, academic community, port authorities and ports, transport organisers, road and railway transport operators and shipping companies who discussed the existing state and development of combined cargo transport in Europe, as well as models and mechanisms of its promotion in some countries.

**Ministerial Conference and Workshops “Fostering Cohesion and Competitiveness through Regional Cooperation”**

The Ministerial Conference on “Fostering Cohesion and Competitiveness through Regional Cooperation” held in Zagreb on 6 June was organised by the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds of the Republic of Croatia. The main aim of the event was to discuss how cohesion and competitiveness can foster regional and macro-regional co-



operation, economic relations and EU enlargement. It also included expert panels discussing EU accession and its impact on the efficiency of public administration and macro-regional strategies on European structural and investment funds.

**MFA Meeting**

The annual MFA Meeting was held in Split on 11 June. During the meeting, a number of relevant topics for the region, such as sharing knowledge on European integration, regional cohesion, combined transport, and migration were discussed. The Ministers focused on long-term strategies to further enhance the role of the CEI as a forum to promote political, economic, cultural and scientific cooperation among the countries of the region as well as an instrument to support European integration and sustainable development. The Ministers also took note of Austria’s withdrawal from the CEI. In this regard, while regretting this decision, they underlined the role the CEI still played and had to play for its countries in accomplishing the strategic objectives, i.e.



European integration and sustainable development of all its Member States.

#### **CEI Concert – Dubrovnik Summer Festival**

In the framework of the 69<sup>th</sup> Dubrovnik Summer Festival, a concert by Andreas Ottensamer - the first clarinet of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and pianist José Gallardo - was held on 14 August. The concert took place in the Rector's Palace atrium with a rich programme of pieces from renowned composers.

#### **General Committee on Economic Affairs of CEI Parliamentary Dimension**

The meeting of the General Committee on Economic Affairs of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension was held in Warsaw at the Polish Parliament on 25 September. It gathered parliamentary delegations from a number of CEI Member States and was also attended by high-level representatives of the Polish Government, i.e. Andrzej Adamczyk, Minister of Infrastructure, Krzysztof Tchórzewski, Minister of Energy, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Investment and Development. The main topics of the meeting were infrastructure, road, energy and connections in the CEI region on the North-South axis, with a special focus on the Via Carpathia road construction project. During the debate, participants emphasised that regional cooperation for infrastructure development should focus on the creation of a cohesive transport system between the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea as well as the Balkans. In this regard, participants also held discussions on the Carpathian Declaration signed by Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine during the Economic Forum in Krynica in September 2018.



#### **MFA Working Lunch in New York**

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CEI Member States held their traditional informal meeting in New York, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (73rd Session) on 26 September. The Ministers took note of the past activities and upcoming activities in the framework of the Croatian CEI Presidency and on the key role played by the CEI in promoting regional cooperation thanks to its unique membership and combination of a solid institutional dimension with a comprehensive project-oriented roadmap. They also discussed the most topical issues concerning the region. The draft Resolution on Cooperation between the UN and the CEI were also presented on this occasion.



#### **Conference “Energy Efficiency in Buildings – for a better tomorrow”**

The Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning of Croatia organised the International Expert Conference “Energy Efficiency in buildings - for a better tomorrow” in Zagreb on 26-27 September. It was attended by the expert speakers from and outside the CEI area with the goal to present legislation and strategic documents on energy efficiency and energy renovation of buildings, to share experiences in the use of ESI funds for financing energy renovation of buildings and to promote the use of renewable energy sources as well as the concept of nearly zero-energy buildings (nZEB) and to present information systems for monitoring and analysis of energy consumption in public sector buildings and systems for measuring and verifying energy savings (SMIV). Moreover, this conference served as a platform for an exchange of ideas and good practices and for encountering numerous professionals linked by the same theme and the same goal.

### International Conference “Underwater Cultural Heritage in Europe Today”

The international conference “Underwater Cultural Heritage in Europe Today” took place in Zadar, Croatia on 25-27 October. It was organised by the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (the UNSECO Category 2 centre), in cooperation with the Croatian Ministry of Culture. In celebrating the European Year of Cultural Heritage, the aim of the Conference was to identify current key issues and challenges, explore how they could be addressed and encourage people to explore Europe’s rich and diverse underwater cultural heritage. Experts in the field of underwater archaeology from all over Europe had the opportunity to exchange



experiences and best practices with regard to achievements in the protection and preservation of underwater cultural heritage and the availability of advanced technology that enhances the discovery of underwater cultural heritage.

### Central European Music Academies Network: Concert in Zagreb and Trieste

In the framework of the CEMAN-Central European Music Academies Network - established in 2016 under the initiative of the Trieste Conservatory of Music G. Tartini in cooperation with the CEI - the cross-border CEMAN Orchestra was created to promote talented young musicians and give them the chance to share professional experience and participate in international music events. The orchestra’s debut was held in Zagreb, Croatia, at the Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall, on 26 October 2018. It was followed by a concert in Trieste, on 28 October, at the Teatro Verdi, within a special event "TRIESTE 1918-2018, in commemoration of the end of



the Great War". The event aimed at celebrating the end of the Great First World War hostilities and was, therefore, full of symbolic significance for Trieste and for the whole regional area, the scene of the tragic events. Both concerts included the participation of 45 student musicians from 11 CEMAN academies who had the chance to spend one week together in Grožnjan, Croatia, for a rehearsing programme before the two concerts. This activity was co-funded by the CEI Cooperation Fund in the framework of the Croatian CEI Presidency for 2018.

### International Workshop “Cultural Routes of the Olive Tree”

The International Workshop “Cultural Routes of the Olive Tree”, a model for Europe’s values, heritage and sustainable development, was held on 14-16 November on the island of Mali Lošinj, Croatia. It was organised by the Ministry of Tourism of Croatia in the framework of the Croatian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe and CEI Presidency. The





gathering itself was divided into four sessions, an introductory workshop and three focused workshops where the participants had the chance to establish contacts, exchange experiences and share ideas on the contribution of the Cultural Routes to European integration and sustainable development and their impact on economic growth and sustainable tourism, as well as on rural and area development.

### CEI Parliamentary Assembly Meeting

The Parliamentary Assembly of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension under the topic “Tourism Development and Local Community: How to Foster Sustainability?” was held in Zagreb on 25-26 November. It was attended by representatives from eleven CEI Member States who discussed the tangible effects of tourism on the economy, infrastructure and the environment in local communities. The Parliamentary Assembly adopted a Final Declaration related to the topic.



### UNGA adopts Resolution on “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative”

The UN General Assembly adopted on 26 November, 8 resolutions promoting cooperation with regional groups, among which the Resolution “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative”. The Resolution was introduced to the Assembly by Vladimir Drobnjak from the Permanent Mission to the UN of the Republic of Croatia, in its capacity of CEI Presidency for 2018, who underlined the CEI’s efforts for political and socioeconomic development of its countries. This includes the Plan of Action 2018-2020, which contributes to the implementation of the Sus-

tainable Development Goals across the region. The Central European Initiative is committed to developing practical and result-oriented projects, particularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and other UN specialised agencies.

### CEI Summit

The Meeting of the Heads of Government of the CEI Member States (CEI Summit) was held in Zagreb on 3-4 December. The Summit focused on the current challenges the region was facing in the context of the topic “Building Security, Boosting Economy, Enabling Prosperity”. It gathered a number of Prime Ministers and other high-level guests, including the EU-Commissioner for European Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn and the President of the EBRD. The Heads of Government highlighted their countries’ individual concerns and approaches, but also the nec-



essary common actions aimed at cohesion and solidarity among them while addressing open issues such as migration, brain drain, climate change etc. In this context, the concept of more "regional cooperation", was stressed by the speakers, and the usefulness of the CEI in this endeavour was particularly highlighted. The gathering also witnessed the adoption of the revised CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure and endorsed the Interim Implementation Report 2018 of the CEI Plan of Action 2018-2020. The meeting was concluded with the formal transfer of the CEI Presidency to Italy, to be effective as of 1 January 2019.

### CEI Business Forum

A CEI Business Forum was held back to back with the CEI Summit in Zagreb on 4 December. The event was organised by the Croatian Chamber of Commerce and attended by representatives of the member states' chambers of economy and other interested parties. Under the topic "Innovations: Successful Tool Competitiveness", the participants had the opportunity to discuss the conduciveness of innovations towards the creation of more competitive economies in the region.







The main role of the CEI-Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES) is to provide administrative and conceptual support to the CEI structures and take appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting the realisation of the CEI mission. The CEI-ES strongly supports the activities of the Presidency, not only by providing it and other decision-making and operational structures of the CEI with continuous administrative and conceptual assistance, but also by taking appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting the realisation of the CEI objectives. In this context, the CEI Secretariat's staff was actively involved in the implementation of the CEI Plan of Action 2018-2020 and other activities promoted by the Croatian CEI Presidency.

The CEI-ES also manages a number of funds: the Cooperation Fund, supported by all Member States, as well as programmes and instruments for cooperation complementing the institutional activities. They aim at financing various cooperation projects in the CEI Member States. The CEI-ES has developed an important aspect, i.e. programme management, and has gained an additional role in the transnational and cross-border context. This represents an added value, in particular for the design, implementation and management of large projects, such as the EU-funded projects. To carry out this task, the 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 Office for the CEI Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), is managing the largest Fund at the disposal of the CEI, i.e. the CEI Fund at the EBRD. Since its establishment, the Fund has received from the Italian Government alone about 47.5 million EUR.

The Office for the CEI Fund is the operational body, which ensures constant dialogue between the CEI, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), and the EBRD for all issues related to the administration of the Fund. Through this Office, whose staff members closely collaborate with the EBRD banking teams, the CEI has managed to build a unique comparative advantage vis-à-vis other funds within the Bank. This collaborative approach allows the Office for the CEI Fund to better choose projects, thereby ensuring high leverage ratios as well as greater effectiveness and efficiency. For the TC Programme, the Office for the CEI Fund regularly screens projects in the

EBRD pipeline and supports the MAECI in the selection process. The Office also manages the Know-how Exchange Programme through annual Calls for Proposals.

The activities of the CEI-ES and its staff are financed by the Italian Government (the budget for the year 2018 is outlined in Annex 2), while the activities and the staff of the Unit for EU-funded projects are financed out of the budget of the projects funded through EU Programmes. The programmes of the Office at the CEI Fund at the EBRD and its staff are financed by this Fund. The CEI-ES staff with its respective tasks are outlined in Annex 3.

The Secretary General, the Alternate Secretary General 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.

### **Institutional Activities**

These particular events and projects, organised or supported by the CEI, took place with an active role from the CEI-ES:

#### **Trieste Film Festival**

The CEI is one of the long-standing sponsors of the Trieste Film Festival, held this year on 19-28 January. This event, 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. It includes three competitive sections: feature films, documentaries, shorts and national premieres. In particular, the CEI is supporting the "Eastweek" project, where film students from Central and Eastern Europe are trained through a specific and intensive programme of team work, Q&A sessions, masterclasses, case studies, lectures and one-to-one meetings. At European level, this workshop represents a unique and original forum addressed to film-making students. They are provided with a full immersion and advanced laboratory completely devoted to a creative discussion on storytelling for cinema. The CEI support was also given to the co-production forum "When East Meets West", gathering over 400 producers, financiers, decision makers and film professionals from more than 30

countries, and, in particular, from the 2018 spotlight territories: the Nordic Countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden) and South East Europe.

#### CEI Award 2018 at Trieste Film Festival

The 2018 CEI Award (3,000 EUR) at the Trieste Film Festival was awarded to Ada Solomon from Romania for her essential contribution to the New Romanian Cinema, the support to young authors and her special attention to “reality cinema” and historical memory. Her productions were awarded in the most prestigious festivals, i.e. Berlinale, Locarno, and Sundance. The CEI Award is assigned to artists who show particular sensibility towards the contemporary reality of



Europe, with specific attention to dialogue among cultures. The 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.

#### Meeting with the Secretary General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Ambassador Elisabetta Belloni, Secretary General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, visited the CEI Headquarters in Trieste on 7 February. The staff of the CEI-ES presented an overview of the main CEI developments from a political and project oriented perspective. Furthermore, this meeting was also an opportunity to illustrate the up-to-date actions implemented in the framework of the main CEI funds and instruments. Ambassador Belloni also took part in a meeting with the representatives of the institutions belonging to the Trieste Science System, also in view of 2020 Euro Science Open Forum (ESOF).



#### Cooperation with OGS (Italian National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics)

In the framework of the long-standing cooperation between the CEI Secretariat and OGS (Italian National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics), the CEI has provided a financial contribution to support scholarships for foreign students in the Advanced Master's Course in Sustainable Blue Growth, organised by the OGS and the University of Trieste for researchers, scientists and managers interested in bringing scientific excellence and technological innovation at the center of initiatives and strategies for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea area. The opening ceremony took place at the University of Trieste on Monday, 5 March. Furthermore, the CEI provided fellowships covering their expenses for travel and accommodation and the mobility of several participants from the CEI region in the Summer School on Blue Growth in the Euro-Mediterranean Region 2018. The mobility of several participants from the CEI region will be co-financed by the CEI. The School - jointly organised by the Euro-Mediterranean University – EMUNI and the OGS - was made up of online training on 11-15 June and classroom training in Piran (EMUNI) and in Trieste (OGS) on 18-22 June and 25-27 June, respectively.

#### CEI PIANO FORUM 2018: a music road map

In the framework of the Friuli Venezia Giulia International Piano Competition, the CEI co-sponsored the organisation of the CEI Piano Forum 2018, an international conference held in Sacile, Italy, on 7 May, gathering young musicians and experts from all the CEI countries. The Forum, held under the title “A Music Road Map”, promoted an open



confrontation between the young musicians and some experienced personalities of the music world from CEI countries (both EU and non-EU members) and other European institutions. The meeting also provided a wide exchange of good practices and discussions for music professionals and offered perspectives and opportunities for higher training, mobility of young artists and career starting. Thanks to the CEI, Piano FVG offered a special prize for the best competitor from a CEI country (with the exception of Italy), along with scholarships, supporting the participation of a CEI young pianist and a new Prize to CEI Music Academies, enrolling a group of their own students in the competition. The winner of the CEI special prize 2018 (as best competitor from CEI countries) is Tymoteusz Jan Bies from Poland. He also won the 1st prize of the PianoFVG Competition 2018.



#### **Press freedom in South East Europe: debate at CEI HQ in cooperation with ANSA**

On the occasion of the meeting of the jury of the CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism, held in Trieste on 29 June, the CEI-ES, in cooperation with the news agency ANSA, organised an open panel discussion on the media in South East Europe. The participants actively debated upon topics such as media freedom and transparency, quality journalism, investigative journalism. During the event, a short video from Syria was presented by Marco Gombacci as an example of journalistic work under difficult and precarious conditions. Media freedom and freedom of expression in general are high on the list of social improvements to be achieved on the road to EU membership. That is why the CEI is particularly engaged in supporting activities promoting free and diverse media. The CEI is also particular-



ly committed to endorsing investigative journalism through the CEI SEEMO Award as well as to supporting the annual South East Europe Media Forum which provides a valuable opportunity for exchanging best practices of professional reporting and encouraging a debate at various levels tackling the relationship between media and politics.

#### **Young Developers and Entrepreneurs to Advance Start-ups (YDEAS) Project – (CEI-OSCE Joint Activity)**

In the framework of the pilot project YDEAS (Young Developers and Entrepreneurs to Advance Start-ups in the Western Balkans), both the Italian 2018 OSCE Chairmanship and the CEI sponsored a Scholarship Programme which allowed 18 young people from the Western Balkans to attend the European Innovation Academy 2018, in Turin, Italy on 8- 27 July. The selected candidates had the opportunity to experience a multicultural environment with professionals and mentors from the world's top institutions, including business leaders from America, Europe and Asia, to help talents emerge and make a difference in the society. The YDEAS project aims to



improve entrepreneurial and innovation-intensive skills of youth in the Western Balkans, providing quality education opportunities, including networking and follow-up mentoring, with a view to contributing to human capital development and job creation in the region.

### Vilenica International Literary Festival

The CEI is a long-standing sponsor of the Vilenica International Literary Festival that was organised on 4-9 September 2018. The event included meetings, poetry readings, panel discussions and debates with authors and writers from Europe and other countries worldwide. In particular, the CEI supported two segments of the Festival at its 33rd edition,



i.e. a CEI Round Table – with the participation of authors and writers from the CEI region - held in Lipica on 7 September, under the title “Writing and Surviving”; and a CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence. On 4 September, the Vilenica pre-opening event took place in Trieste, at the CEI HQ, with the participation of Andriy Lyubka (Ukraine) and Maria Paula Erizanu (Moldova), winners of the CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence in 2017 and 2018 respectively. This event is organised by the Slovene Writers’ Association in cooperation with the CEI.

### CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence at the Vilenica International Literary Festival

The CEI has been presenting the CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence in collaboration with the Slovene Writers’ Association, as part of the Vilenica Festival, since 2006. The Fellowship seeks to encourage cross-border cooperation and



promotion in the field of literature for young writers from non-EU CEI Member States. The award of 5,000 EUR, is meant to be used for a three-month residency in any CEI Member State of the candidate’s choice. During this period the author is expected to work on the project indicated in the application form. This 2018 Fellowship was granted to Maria Paula Erizanu from Moldova. The awarding ceremony was held on 7 September in Sežana, Slovenia.

### CEI Prize at International Design Contest “Trieste Contemporanea”

The 13th edition of the “International Design Contest Trieste Contemporanea” - aimed at showcasing the most original design offerings from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe - was held under the patronage of the Central European Initiative and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It availed itself of the collaboration of the Museum of Architecture and Design–Ljubljana (BIO 50, 24th Biennial of Design), the Institute for Contemporary Art–Zagreb and the Civico Museo di Storia Naturale–Trieste. The competition was opened to the CEI countries as well as the Baltic countries, Germany and Turkey. This year the candidates were required to conceive an original and innovative item of contemporary design answering the question “Which object would you imagine to find in / bring to / take from a harbour for cultures?”. The CEI Prize (3,000 EUR) was assigned to the Serbian Designer Milan Ranković who submitted the project “S-case”, a portable solar suitcase that uses solar panels to produce electric energy and which can also be used for cooking. The awarding ceremony took place in Trieste on 8 September, at the opening of the projects’ exhibition.





#### Cooperation with Standing Working Group-Regional Rural Development SWG-RRD

On 12 September, the CEI-ES signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) of South-Eastern Europe aimed at promoting effective regional cooperation in the field of agriculture and rural development. Taking into account the SWG's and the CEI's geographical scopes and institutional missions, the MoU will create the appropriate framework for developing joint actions on topics of strategic interest. As the first initiative, the CEI supported the "42nd Meeting of the SWG Assembly", which was hosted at the CEI Headquarters in Trieste on 12-13 September. The event allowed for a thorough presentation of activities implemented by SWG in the period April-September 2018, in cooperation with the European Commission, the Joint Research Cen-



tre and GIZ. Moreover, upcoming activities were discussed, including the Agricultural Policy Forum 2018 and the 12th Annual Meeting of the Ministers from SEE 2018. Opportunities for collaboration with AREA Science Park and with the CEI were also presented, thus setting the grounds for future joint projects

#### Delegation of Science Representatives from CEI Member States visit to Scientific Centers in Trieste

The CEI-ES organised a visit to the Scientific Centres located in Trieste on the occasion of the Committee of National Coordinators meeting in Trieste on 4 October. The main aim of this visit was to enhance the role the CEI is playing in promoting scientific diplomacy, getting familiar with the international scientific institutions based in Trieste and the op-



portunities these centers of excellence offer to the scientific and economic realities of the CEI Member States. And in fostering scientific cooperation and internationalisation of research, also within the Euro Science Open Forum, which will be hosted in Trieste in 2020. A visit to the Laboratories and Light sources of Elettra - Sincrotrone Trieste was organised as well. The visit of Science centers, witnessed an ample participation from the scientific representatives from the CEI Member States.

#### XIV International Forum of Aquileia Euroregion

The International Forum "The Betrayed Europe – Illusions and Disillusions", held in Udine on 19 October, provided a valuable platform for reflection and discussion among representatives from political, social, economic and cultural



institutions as well as diplomats, politicians and academics from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The Forum was organised by the Mitteleuropa Cultural Association, in cooperation with the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and a consortium of public and private stakeholders and was supported by the CEI. The main topic focused on the present issues Europe is facing and the future perspectives, in the light of the values which had inspired the EU founding fathers and the current crisis. Since its first edition in 2005, the Forum has represented an important meeting place for institutions and diplomacies of CEI member countries to get engaged in high-profile debates aimed at identifying common strategies and building effective networks for cooperation.

#### **South East Europe Media Forum (SEEMF)**

Under the topic “Thinking out of the box: more profitability and transparency in the media market” the 12th edition of



the South East Europe Media Forum, held in Tirana, Albania, on 15-16 November, gathered almost 300 participants - editors-in-chief, leading journalists, business professionals, civil society and academia as well as representatives of relevant international organisations and state institutions from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and beyond. The Forum was hosted by the South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO), the Media Program South East Europe of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the Central European Initiative (CEI). It included several panel discussions on key issues, such as: the business of news; influences of propaganda on media business; sustainability and credibility of media outlets; media ownership and transparency. A special session was devoted to media and politics in Albania. A welcome address was delivered by Ilir Meta, President of Albania.

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

During the SEEMF, the annual CEI-SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism was presented to Stevan Dojčinović and Dragana Pećo (Serbia) in the section “Professional Journalists” and Nino Bilajac (Bosnia and Herzegovina) in the section “Young Professional Journalists” while a special mention was assigned to Ákos Keller-Alánt (Hungary). The jury has also decided to honour the memory of the investigative journalist Ján Kuciak (Slovakia), murdered last February, with a special mention. Moreover, a special diploma was presented to the investigative journalist Olivera Lakić (Montenegro) shot and injured in May this year. The awarding ceremony took place during the South East Europe Media Forum (SEEMF) in Tirana on 15-16 November 2018.

#### **Winter School “Creating territorial cooperation: the impact of intercultural dialogue and migration flows in South East Europe”**

The Winter School held in Cesenatico, Italy, on 12-19 December was organised by the Jean Monnet Network Consortium, a network of higher-education institutions including the New York University of Tirana, the Institute of East Central and Balkan Europe (IECOB), the University of Dubrovnik, the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology and the European Movement of Serbia, in cooperation with the University of Bologna. The CEI and the Emilia-Romagna region supported the event. During the six days, participants had the opportunity to address and discuss the challenges faced

by the European and Nation-State governance in relation to security issues and socio-political developments. The School paid special attention to new conceptualisations emerging in academic debates on gender relations and on the existing legal, social and cultural instruments for the protection of minorities in the broader sense.

### Project and programme activities

The CEI-Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES) also continued with the management of its various project and programme activities:

#### 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 a major 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 - 2018, the CEI participated in the successful implementation of 29 EU projects with a total fund mobilisation of EUR 52.75 million. In 2018 alone, 16 projects were under implementation (1 was closed in the course of the year) with a total fund mobilisation of EUR 25.54 million, of which EUR 3 million administrated by the CEI, in particular by the CEI-ES. (*the full list of the EU-funded projects under implementation in 2018 is attached as Annex 4*).

#### Technical Cooperation projects

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 2018, the Italian Government committed through this Fund more than 27.7 EUR million for 171 TC assignments which are expected to mobilise about 6 billion EUR of international investments. The EBRD alone has contributed to those investments about 3.8 billion EUR. A Total Investment Ratio (TIR) can be calculated to show how many euros the international community has invested for each euro committed by the CEI Fund for TC projects. Between 1993 and 2018 the TIR is expected to be 1:221.

In 2018, the CEI Fund at the EBRD committed 1,055,000 EUR for 8 Technical Cooperation assignments (*the full list of the TC projects approved in 2018 is attached as Annex 5*).

#### Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP)

Launched in 2004, the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP) is a development assistance instrument 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 economic development in non-EU CEI Member States can be strengthened by transferring good practices and introducing benchmarks already tested and established in countries that have gone through the EU accession process. As such, the KEP offers grants to institutions from EU countries willing to share their experience with their partners in the non-EU CEI countries in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe. The Programme operates through calls for proposals.

Since its establishment, the KEP Projects have been financed mainly through the CEI Fund at the EBRD, financed by Italy (KEP Italy), and managed by the Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD. In 2008 and 2011 the Polish Ministry of Foreign

Affairs made two voluntary contributions of 25,000 EUR each to support KEP activities, while in 2017 an additional 40,000 EUR has been voluntarily contributed again by Poland.

To date, 101 KEP projects were approved under the KEP Italy in the period 2004-2018 for a CEI Fund committed CEI contribution of about 2.9 million EUR and a project total cost of more than 14 million EUR. The projects targeted recipient institutions from almost all non-EU CEI Member States.

In 2018, 6 projects were approved with resources from the CEI Fund at the EBRD (KEP Italy) with a contribution amounting to 228,057 EUR and an overall total cost of projects of 461,978 EUR, and 2 projects with 40,000 EUR and an overall total cost of projects of 90,932 through KEP Poland (*the full list of the KEP projects approved in 2018 is attached as Annex 6*).

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

The CEI-ES signed an agreement with the 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 with a total fund mobilisation of more than 1 million EUR. In 2018, the CEI-ES was involved in the implementation of 3 projects as outlined in Annex 7.

#### **Cooperation Activities**

The CEI Cooperation Activities are multilateral small-scale projects, in some cases linked to a larger project. They are entirely financed through the CEI Cooperation Fund to which

all Member States contribute annually, according to an agreed scale of contributions.

Since the start of its operations in 2002, 1142 Cooperation Activities - for a total value of about 65.03 million EUR - have been approved out of the CEI Cooperation Fund with an amount of more than 10.39 million EUR. It is estimated that the annual mobility generated by the Cooperation Fund in its seventeen years of activity is of about 5,000 people.

In 2018, 43 Cooperation Activities were approved. The total CEI contribution for these activities amounts to 368,460 EUR or about 16% of the total cost of the projects representing a total value of around 2.3 million EUR (*the full list of Cooperation Activities approved in 2018 is attached as Annex 8*).

#### **Advanced Training Programme for Young Officials**

The Programme 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. The fifth edition of the Programme was addressed to three young professionals from the non-EU CEI Member States and the following Young Professional were selected and will receive 1,650 EUR each for their 12 months traineeship at the CEI-ES: Simon Andov from North Macedonia (External Relations); Ksenija Martinić from Montenegro (Project Management) and Faris Mahmutovic from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Public Relations and Communication).

# Annexes

Annexes



## 1

# Calendar

## Calendar of Events of the Croatian CEI Presidency 2018

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Event</i>
16 February	Zagreb	Official opening of the 2018 Croatian CEI Presidency 1st CNC Meeting
19 April	London	2nd CNC Meeting and EBRD Steering Committee Meeting
25 – 26 April	Zagreb	Conference “Knowledge sharing for building stronger partnerships in the process of European integration” Organised by the MFEA
14 May	Zagreb	CEI PD Parliamentary Committee
25 - 26 May	Zagreb	Third Annual Conference of the Western Balkans Migration Network “A search for that special place under the sun in modern Europe: migration in the twenty first century”
29 May	Zagreb	Conference on Intermodal Transport Development Organised by the Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure
30 May	Trieste	3rd CNC Meeting
6 June	Zagreb	Ministerial Conference and workshops “Fostering Cohesion and Competitiveness through Regional Cooperation” Organised by the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds
11 June	Split	Annual meeting of CEI Foreign Ministers Preceded by the 4th CNC Meeting
14 August	Dubrovnik	CEI Concert at Dubrovnik Summer Festival: A recital by Andreas Ottensamer clarinet / Jose Gallardo, piano
26 September	New York	Informal CEI Foreign Ministers Meeting (working breakfast or working lunch) during the United Nations General Assembly
26 – 27 September	Zagreb	Conference “Energy Efficiency in Buildings – for a better tomorrow” Organised by the Ministry of Construction and Spatial Planning
25 – 26 October	Zadar	Conference “Underwater cultural heritage in Europe today” Organised by International Centre for Underwater Archaeology
26 October	Zagreb	CEMAN (Central European Music Academies Network) Concert at the Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall, Organised by Conservatorio Giuseppe Tartini
14 - 16 November	Mali Lošinj	Expert meeting on Cultural Routes “The Olive Oil Routes” Organised by the Ministry of Tourism, in cooperation with the Council of Europe
26 November	Zagreb	CEI PD Parliamentary Assembly
3 – 4 December	Zagreb	CEI Summit CEI Business Forum 5th CNC Meeting

# Contributions

## Contributions to the CEI-ES Budget 2018

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	€ 977,879.35
Contribution from Member States to CEI Cooperation Fund (excluding Italy)	€ 307.777,27
EU Grants and Refunds, in the framewrk of EU-funded projects	€ 587.203,23

## 3

# Staff

## Staff of the CEI-Executive Secretariat 2018

### CEI-Executive Secretariat

#### Executive Level

<b>Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri</b> <i>Secretary General</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities.
<b>Ambassador Margot Klestil—Loeffler</b> <i>Alternate Secretary General (until February 2018)</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities.
<b>Antal Nikoltti</b> <i>Alternate Secretary General (as of July 2018)</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities.
<b>Erik Csernovitz</b> <i>Deputy Secretary General (until February 2018)</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities. CEI Parliamentary and Business Dimensions.
<b>Antal Nikoletti</b> <i>Deputy Secretary General (from February to July 2018)</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities. CEI Parliamentary and Business Dimensions.
<b>Roberto Antonione</b> <i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	Advisor to the Secretary General.

#### Professional staff

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

#### General service staff

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

# Staff

## Staff of the CEI-Executive Secretariat 2018

### Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD

<b>Elisabetta Dovier</b> <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Management of the Technical Cooperation Programme and of the Know-how Exchange Programme. Cooperation activities in the fields of Enterprise Development, Energy, Agriculture and Transport.
<b>Daniela Biadene</b> <i>Junior Executive Officer (until March 2018)</i>	Liaison Officer at Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Assistance in the general management of the Fund; Cooperation Activities in the field of Information Society.

### Unit for EU Projects

<b>Anna Marconato</b> <i>Project Manager</i>	Financial management of Unit; Project Manager of COME-INI, NAMIRG, SENTINEL.
<b>Ugo Poli</b> <i>Project Manager</i> <i>Focal Point Migrations</i>	Project Manager of SECNET, TARTINI, ICARUS; Management of activities financed by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (MIGRALONA Project); Cooperation Activities in the area of Migrations.
<b>Paolo Dileno</b> <i>Project Manager</i>	Project Manager of CONNECT2CE, ADRI PASS, INTERCONNECT.
<b>Peter Canciani</b> <i>Project Manager</i>	Project Manager of SUMPORT, SULPITER, ETIP.
<b>Olga Izquierdo Sotorrió</b> <i>Project Officer</i>	Day-to-day project management and reporting.
<b>Lara Cocco</b> <i>Project Officer (as of April 2018)</i>	Day-to-day project management and reporting.
<b>Alice Pappas</b> <i>Project Officer (as of April 2018)</i>	Management of communication activities.
<b>Ana Sinkovic</b> <i>Project Officer</i>	on maternity leave.
<b>Ana Aligrudic</b> <i>Project Assistant (as of July 2018)</i>	Support on reporting, day-to-day project management and communication activities.

### Cooperation with ARFVG

<b>Carlo Fortuna</b> <i>Programme Manager</i>	Project Manager of SILK2FVG, WB6Facility
<b>Lisa Chen (Chen Qiong)</b> <i>Project Officer</i>	Day-to-day project management and reporting (SILK2FVG).



## 4

# EU-funded Projects

## EU-funded Projects Implemented in 2018

### *Cooperating for Open access to Museums – towards a widEr INclusion (COME-IN!)*

**EU Programme:** Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

**CEI role:** Lead Partner

**Participating countries:** Austria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovenia

**Area:** Accessibility to Cultural Heritage

**Duration:** 07/2016-06/2019

**Total cost:** €2,727,737.50

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €381,980

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### *ETIP Bioenergy - SABS (ETIP BIO)*

**EU Programme:** Horizon2020

**CEI role:** Partner

**Participating countries:** Austria, Germany, Italy

**Area:** Renewable Energy/Bioeconomy

**Duration:** 09/2016—08/2018

**Total cost:** €599,105.00

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €95,062

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### *Sustainable Urban Logistics Planning To Enhance Regional freight transport (SULPITER)*

**EU Programme:** CENTRAL EUROPE

**CEI role:** Partner

**Participating countries:** Italy, Hungary, Slovenia, Poland, Germany and Croatia

**Area:** Transport

**Duration:** 05/2017-04/2019

**Total cost:** €2,440,658.30

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €180,050

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### *Improved rail connections and smart mobility in Central Europe (CONNECT2CE)*

**EU Programme:** Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

**CEI role:** Lead Partner

**Participating countries:** Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia

**Area:** Transport

**Duration:** 06/2017-05/2020

**Total cost:** €2,703,435

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €314,029

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### *Sustainable Urban Mobility in MED port cities (SUMPORT)*

**EU Programme:** Interreg MED

**CEI role:** Lead Partner

**Participating countries:** Italy, Spain, Slovenia, Albania, Montenegro, Greece, Cyprus

**Area:** Low Carbon Economy

**Duration:** 02/2017-07/2019

**Total cost:** €2,358,759

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €392,562

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### *Cross-border institutional cooperation for Port Security Enhancement (SECNET)*

**EU Programme:** Interreg ITALY-SLOVENIA

**CEI role:** Partner

**Participating countries:** Italy, Slovenia

**Area:** Port security and governance

**Duration:** 10/2017-03/2019

**Total cost:** €1,299,675

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €133,650

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# EU-funded Projects

## EU-funded Projects Implemented in 2018

### *Innovation in Health And Care for All (ITHACA)*

**EU Programme:** Interreg EUROPE

**CEI role:** Partner

**Participating countries:** Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, UK

**Area:** Health

**Duration:** 01/2017-12/2021

**Total cost:** €2,263,152

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €98,300

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### *Advancing the role of social enterprises in the economic and social sector of Central European countries (SENTINEL)*

**EU Programme:** Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

**CEI role:** Partner

**Participating countries:** Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovenia

**Area:** Social Innovation

**Duration:** 05/2017-04/2020

**Total cost:** €2,110,521.20

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €250,537

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### *Turismo culturale all'insegna di Giuseppe Tartini - Kulturni turizem v znamenju Giuseppeja Tartinija (tARTini)*

**EU Programme:** Interreg ITALY-SLOVENIA

**CEI role:** Partner

**Participating countries:** Italy, Slovenia

**Area:** Cultural Heritage

**Duration:** 10/2017-09/2019

**Total cost:** €1,286,926

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €212,059

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### *Integrating multimodal connections in the Adriatic-Ionian region (ADRIAPASS)*

**EU Programme:** Interreg ADRION

**CEI role:** Lead Partner

**Participating countries:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia

**Area:** Transport

**Duration:** 01/2018-12/2019

**Total cost:** €1,462,373

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €190,895

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### *Intermodality Promotion and Rail Renaissance in Adriatic - Ionian Region (Inter-Connect)*

**EU Programme:** Interreg ADRION

**CEI role:** Partner

**Participating countries:** Albania, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia

**Area:** Transport

**Duration:** 01/2018-12/2019

**Total cost:** €11,613,232

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €197,745

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### *European Technology and Innovation Platform on Bioenergy - Support of Renewable Fuels and Advanced Bioenergy Stakeholders 2 (ETIP-B-SABS 2)*

**EU Programme:** Horizon 2020

**CEI role:** Partner

**Participating countries:** Austria, Germany, Italy, Sweden

**Area:** Energy

**Duration:** 09/2018-08/2021

**Total cost:** €997,720

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €93,750

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## 4

# EU-funded Projects

## EU-funded Projects Implemented in 2018

### *North Adriatic Maritime Incident Response Group (NAMIRG)*

**EU Programme:** European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – DG ECHO

**CEI role:** Lead Partner

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

**Area:** Environmental protection

**Duration:** 01/2018-12/2019

**Total cost:** €904,698

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €138,522

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### *Targeted Analysis on “Territorial and Urban Potentials Connected to Migration and Refugee Flows” (ESPON)*

**EU Programme:** ESPON European Regional Development Programme

**CEI role:** Partner

**Participating countries:** Albania, Italy, Greece

**Area:** Good governance

**Duration:** 07/2017-07/2018

**Total cost:** €245,000

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €54,000

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### *BOOSTING the innovation potential of the triple helix of Adriatic-Ionian traditional and emerging BLUE growth sectors clusters through an open source/knowledge sharing and community-based approach (BLUE\_BOOST)*

**EU Programme:** Interreg ADRION

**CEI role:** Partner

**Participating countries:** Albania, Croatia, Greece, Italy

**Area:** Research and Innovation

**Duration:** 01/2018-10/2019

**Total cost:** €1,489,422

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €252,598

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### *Empowering the 4 helix of MED maritime clusters through an open source/knowledge sharing and community-based approach in favour of MED blue growth (4helix+)*

**EU Programme:** Interreg MEDITERRANEAN

**CEI role:** Partner

**Participating countries:** Albania, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal

**Area:** Research and Innovation

**Duration:** 02/2018-07/2020

**Total cost:** €2,193,984

**Budget administered by the CEI:** €148,809

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# TC Projects

## TC Projects Approved in 2018

<i>Project name</i>	<i>Country of operation</i>	<i>Sector of operation</i>	<i>Approved CEI grant (€)</i>
Green Economy Transition - Project Preparation and Implementation Framework.	Regional (non-EU CEI Member States)	Energy	250,000
Preparation of a Corporate Plan for the organisational strengthening of Public Enterprise for State Roads.	North Macedonia	Transport	200,000
Investment Climate and Governance Expert for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro.	Regional (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro)	Capacity building	145,000
CEI Support to Small Business Initiative: Expansion of Origination and Execution Capacity Programme for SME Direct Finance and Risk Sharing in Belarus - Phase 2.	Belarus	SME development	150,000
Enhancing Public Procurement Professionalism Capacity Building Programme.	Regional (non-EU CEI Member States)	Capacity building	60,000
Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings. Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.	Serbia	Energy	100,000
Miravci Wind Power Project. Project preparation and technical study.	North Macedonia	Energy	150,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,055,000</b>



# 6

## KEP Projects

### KEP Projects Approved in 2018

#### KEP Italy

<i>Project name</i>	<i>Country of know-how provider</i>	<i>Country of know-how recipient</i>	<i>Approved CEI grant (€)</i>
CEI support for strengthening Energy Regulatory Authorities in the Western Balkans - Second phase	Italy	Albania, Montenegro, Serbia	39,855
Capacity building program for extension services in the Western Balkans to support participation in IPARD calls	Italy	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro Serbia	32,250
Training in dietary assessment and sharing platforms for monitoring population food consumption habits in a long term perspective (TRAIN-DIE)	Italy	Serbia	40,000
Capacity Building for Implementing Innovative EU Monitoring Tools for Good Governance and Anti-Corruption	Bulgaria	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro	39,994
BE.ST. (BEst practices exchange to STimulate Serbian SMEs growth)	Italy	Serbia	35,970
INNOVA.tion to prevention and protection from natural and environmental RISKS: experiences in the mirror between civil protection and emergency management from Italy to Moldova (INNOVA.RISKS)	Italy	Moldova	39,988
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>228,057</b>

#### KEP Poland

<i>Project name</i>	<i>Country of know-how provider</i>	<i>Country of know-how recipient</i>	<i>Approved CEI grant (€)</i>
Composite persistent materials for solar concentrators	Poland	Belarus	22,110
We4Nature & Nature4us: AAs Enshrined Ecosystem Services based approach to local environmental management of Lower Nistru Cross-border Area of MD and UA	Poland	Moldova, Ukraine	17,890
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>40,000</b>

# CEI-ARFVG Projects

## CEI-ARFVG Projects Implemented in 2018

<i>Project name</i>	<i>CEI-ES role</i>	<i>Implementation date</i>
MIGRALONA Project - Strengthening collaboration between the local and the national tiers in the management of migrations	CEI-ES implementing partner, with the support of NALAS, association of the SEE Municipalities; MARRI, the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative	Regional, six workshops in the Western Balkans between December 2017 and March 2018 and a regional closing conference in Skopje
WB6 Facility	CEI-ES implementing partner	September 2018-September 2021, Western Balkans
SILK2FVG	CEI-ES implementing partner	01/01/2017 – 31/12/2018

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# Cooperation Activities

## Cooperation Activities Approved in 2018

<i>Ref. No.</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Sector (PoA)</i>	<i>Approved CEI grant (€)</i>
1202.017-19	Trieste Film Festival 30th Edition 2019 Feature Launch Workshop @ EAST-WEEK/CEI EVENT	Italy	Alpe Adria Cinema	4. Intercultural Cooperation	15.000,00
1202.121-19	SOUTH EAST EUROPE MEDIA FORUM (SEEMF) - XIII SEEMF	Serbia	South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO)	5. Media Freedom	14.960,00
1202.037-19	CEI Round-Table Discussions at Vilenica	Slovenia	Slovene Writers' Association	4. Intercultural Cooperation	15.000,00
1202.068-19	9th CEI Venice Forum for Contemporary Art Curators	Italy	Trieste Contemporanea Committee	4. Intercultural Cooperation	15.000,00
1202.024-19	FESTIVAL IDENTITY 2019 – workshops for film professionals from across Europe	Czech Republic	DOC.DREAM Services, s.r.o.	4. Intercultural Cooperation	10.200,00
1202.096-19	FNE CEI Cultural Innovation Forum 2019	Poland	FILM NEW EUROPE Sp. z o.o (POLAND)	4. Intercultural Cooperation	8.900,00
1202.042-19	Advanced Training on Sustainable Blue Growth in the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries ("Summer School")	Italy	OGS - National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics	6. Scientific Cooperation / Education and Training	11.000,00
1202.056-19	WHEN EAST MEETS WEST Co-production Forum – WEMW	Italy	Friuli Venezia Giulia Audiovisual Fund	4. Intercultural Cooperation	11.000,00
1202.033-19	International Conference DisCo 2019: E-learning - Unlocking the Gate of Education around the Globe	Czech Republic	Center for Higher Education Studies (CHES)	6. Scientific Cooperation / Education and Training	7.800,00
1202.016-19	Trends in Medicinal and Pharma Biotechnologies in Europe: Towards Strengthening Regional Cooperation Including CEE Countries - Med-Pharm BT in EU/CEE	Slovakia	University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava (UCM)	2. Economic Growth	10.200,00
1202.023-19	XV Central European Forum of Aquileia Euroregion: Nostalgia for the Future. The Reawakening of Mitteleurope	Italy	Mitteleuropa Association	4. Intercultural Cooperation	7.800,00
1202.076-19	Central and Eastern European Animation Workshop and Animation Forum	Slovenia	Slovene Animated Film Association (DSAF)	4. Intercultural Cooperation	10.000,00

# Cooperation Activities

## Cooperation Activities Approved in 2018

1202.022-19	IX Spring School on "IoT, economic and management challenges for e-health integration in the enlarged Europe" in the frame of the Higher Education in Clinical Engineering (SSIC-HECE) Masters' Program	Italy	SSIC-HECE (Higher Education in Clinical Engineering) of the University of Trieste	6. Scientific Cooperation / Education and Training	8.500,00
1202.064-19	Going local – ground-up support for diversity, integration, social care of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants	Serbia	Asylum Protection Center APC/CZA	1. Good Governance	5.000,00
1202.092-19	From Arbitration Legislation Reform to Enhancing the Business Climate	North Macedonia	Economic Chamber of Macedonia - Permanent Court of Arbitration	1. Good Governance	9.000,00
1202.040-19	SEE MOSAICS Meeting V "Conservation of mosaic bedding layers – how to preserve"	Serbia	Central Institute for Conservation-CIK	4. Intercultural Cooperation	5.200,00
1202.062-19	Supporting ICT industry from Western Balkans to take part in HORIZON 2020, SupportWBICT	Serbia	EUTA - European Training Academy	2. Economic Growth	5.400,00
1202.029-19	Inter-basin Cooperation on Marine Litter. A focus on the Danube River and the Black Sea (ICML – International Conference on Marine Litter)	other	Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC PERMIS) Istanbul	2. Economic Growth	10.000,00
1202.058-19	Rights and Protection of Children Left Behind by Parents Migrating for Labour	other / Romania	Federation ChildPact – Regional Coalition for Child Protection	1. Good Governance	10.000,00
1202.015-19	The European Union and its Eastern Partners: Strengthening cooperation, building up resilience? Eastern Partnership Reflection Forum	Other	Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe	4. Intercultural Cooperation	9.000,00
1202.036-19	Crossing Borders: Conference on Audience Development in Theatres	Slovenia	Slovene National Theatre Maribor (SNG Maribor)	4. Intercultural Cooperation	8.600,00



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# Cooperation Activities

## Cooperation Activities Approved in 2018

1202.047-19	The Seventh International Conference on Radiation and Applications in Various Fields of Research (RAD 2019)	Serbia	RAD Association, Niš	6. Scientific Cooperation / Education and Training	6.400,00
1202.041-19	Enhancing the CEE Collaboration and Know-how Transfer in Biotechnology and Biosecurity	Belarus	Institute of Genetics and Cytology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus	2. Economic Growth	9.000,00
1202.059-19	SEEQ-SJ South East Europe and central Europe Quality Science Journalism	Italy	Center for Ethics in Science and Journalism	5. Media Freedom	9.000,00
1202.060-19	The European Union and Legal Reform Summer School (EULR)	Italy	Johns Hopkins University SAIS Bologna Center	6. Scientific Cooperation / Education and Training	8.000,00
1202.061-19	Adolescent Parenting and Educational Programs for Future Digital World / Adolescent Parenting and Educational Programs	Belarus	Institute of Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus	6. Scientific Cooperation / Education and Training	6.300,00
1202.070-19	The 3rd International symposium «Combating of illegal migration and illicit human trafficking»	Ukraine	King Danylo University	1. Good Governance	6.200,00
1202.071-19	Forum of best practices for Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities cooperation (Forum of best practices for CSOs-LAs cooperation)	North Macedonia	Association of the Local Democracy Agencies in Skopje – ALDA Skopje	1. Good Governance	8.000,00
1202.103-19	Geosciences applied to solve humanitarian problems all over the world	Serbia	AGES Association of Geophysicists and Environmentalists of Serbia	3. Environmental Protection	8.600,00
1202.111-19	XX Anniversary Summer Seminar for Young Public Policy Professionals from South Eastern Europe and the Black Sea Region / XX Summer Seminar	Bulgaria	Economic Policy Institute (EPI)	1. Good Governance	7.800,00
1202.050-19	Network for disability Beyond the Borders (NetDisBB)	Italy	Istituto Regionale Rittmeyer per I Ciechi	4. Intercultural Cooperation	5.500,00

# Cooperation Activities

## Cooperation Activities Approved in 2018

1202.089-19	Docu Rough Cut Boutique module Sofia (Docu RCB) – A professional training workshop focused on documentary projects in post-production stage from the region of Southeast Europe	Bulgaria	Association Balkan Documentary Center	4. Intercultural Cooperation	5.500,00
1202.090-19	Keeping the Government Honest	North Macedonia	Macedonia 2025	1. Good Governance	9.000,00
1202.093-19	Two Open Weeks of Plavo Theatre 2019 - From Myself towards Theatre – from Theatre towards Myself	Serbia	Plavo pozoriste Theatre Laboratory	4. Intercultural Cooperation	5.000,00
1202.018-19	Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage, Cultural Tourism & Wellness Tourism (Culture & SPA)	Serbia	Cluster of Health, Wellness and SPA Tourism Serbia (Wellness Serbia)	2. Economic Growth	5.000,00
1202.021-19	Short food supply chains: perspectives for small and medium farmers in the Western Balkans	Italy	Area Science Park - Trieste	2. Economic Growth	6.600,00
1202.067-19	CineLink Drama Workshop	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Obala Art Centar	4. Intercultural Cooperation	8.500,00
1202.094-19	Safety of passenger transportation	Belarus	Belarusian Research Institute of Transport Transtekhnika -research center of the Ministry of Transport and Communication	2. Economic Growth	8.500,00
1202.006-19	How to mitigate agricultural droughts impact in the CEI countries? (AgriDro)	Serbia	Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad	2. Economic Growth	8.000,00
1202.063-19	Support to the South East Europe Economic Digital Transformation (EDITA) project	Montenegro	Amplitudo d.o.o. / Private entity	2. Economic Growth	8.000,00
1202.102-19	CEEweb's Academy on Green and Blue Infrastructure – cities development in line with nature principles	Hungary	CEEweb for Biodiversity	3. Environmental Protection	6.000,00
1202.048-19	Fortresses of Tomorrow	Serbia	Inbox Art Association	4. Intercultural Cooperation	8.000,00
1202.074-19	Central European Cultural Diplomacy Forum	Croatia	RIJEKA 2020 LLC	4. Intercultural Cooperation	8.000,00
	<b>TTOTAL</b>				<b>368.460,00</b>



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