



Annual Report **2013** of the Secretary General

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1. FOREWORD

This is my first Annual Report since I have assumed the position of Secretary General of the Central European Initiative (CEI) in March. I have taken over this role with great pleasure and commitment in decisive times for the advancement of regional cooperation, attracting renovated interest during the last years: Macro-regional strategies are being launched at European Union (EU) level. Indeed, our Organisation plays a key role in promoting **regional cooperation for European integration** and serves as a **bridge between the macro-regions** of Europe. It connects the Baltic, the Danube, the Adriatic-Ionian and the Black Sea regions and this year many of the CEI events have focused on these very topics.

What gives us a comparative advantage and added value for achieving our mission is the fact that not only are we an intergovernmental platform for high-level consultations among our countries, but we also have a strong record of achievements through our project based approach aimed at generating high-quality, result-oriented projects. This year the CEI has had a number of projects and activities in the pipeline to the benefit of our Member States. It has supported - thanks in particular to the extraordinary financial commitment by the Italian Government - a large number of projects and activities through the CEI Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and through the CEI Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP), also supported by Austria. Projects and activities have also been supported through the CEI Cooperation Fund, financed by all CEI Member States. Moreover, the CEI has participated in many EU-funded projects, thus attracting additional resources, both as Lead Partner and Partner. In this context, the CEI, and in particular its Secretariat, is not an administrator of funds alone, but is also substantially engaged in project design and implementation. Through this operational and project-oriented approach, the CEI is pursuing stronger institutional ties with the European Commission (EC).

This year the Organisation has elaborated the new CEI Plan of Action (PoA) 2014-2016, adopted by the Heads of Government, through written procedure, on 12 December. This important document will likely enhance cooperation with and among CEI Member States even more. The PoA will enter into force in 2014, a year of important celebrations including the 25th Anniversary of the CEI. The new EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014 – 2020 will also be launched. In drawing up the PoA, special attention was paid to the real

needs and proposals expressed by the countries. The main goal is to bring the Member States closer together in joint initiatives and encourage further regional cooperation in a structured and result-oriented manner aimed at making tangible contributions towards a knowledge-based and sustainable economy in an inclusive society. In order to reach this goal, the PoA offers the necessary framework to steer the CEI's future action, while committing the Organisation to a constant improvement of its performance.



Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri

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

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

The CEI has also worked, together with the Hungarian Presidency, on the revisiting of the CEI Business Dimension. In this context, a Position Paper elaborated by the Committee of National Coordinators (CNC) and the CEI Secretariat brought about the adoption of the Decision of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the occasion of their meeting in Gödöllő (Hungary) on 31 October 2013. The aim is to renew the Business Dimension on the basis of a two-pillar system, according to the needs of both SMEs and large businesses.

Last but not least, I also wish to emphasise our partnership with the EBRD. Thanks to the CEI Fund at the EBRD, the CEI has been able to expand its activities in the region. At the same time, the observer status in the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) opens a global perspective to our work. Furthermore, in order to accomplish our core mission

the CEI is in tune with any scenario of development of regional cooperation, thus often works in partnership with the EU and many other international and regional organisations.

For the times ahead, I will personally be engaged in facing the future challenges of the CEI in order to enhance multilateral political dialogue and cooperation for the benefit of our Member States. In this endeavor, the CEI Secretariat in Trieste will continue to assure its support to the overall success and visibility of our Organisation.

In conclusion, I would like to express our deep gratitude for the extraordinary efforts of the Hungarian Presidency which has made the year 2013 a great success for the CEI and its Member States.



Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri



Belarus ★

Poland ★

★ Ukraine

★
Czech Republic

Austria ★

★ Slovakia

★ Hungary

★ Moldova

Slovenia

★ Croatia

Bosnia
and
Herzegovina

★ Serbia

Romania ★

Italy ★

★ Montenegro

★ Bulgaria

★ Macedonia

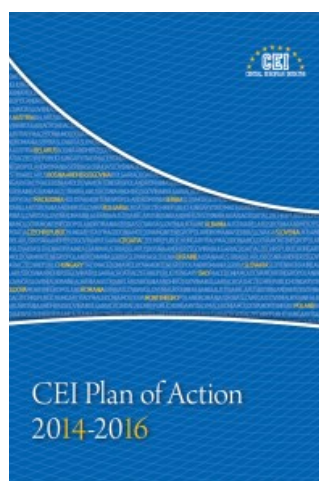
★ Albania

2. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2013, the CEI was commissioned with a number of tasks. In this context, numerous events, activities and projects have been carried out throughout the year. They are outlined in detail in the Chapters related to the Hungarian Presidency and the CEI Secretariat. Nevertheless, a few salient activities involving all CEI Structures need to be highlighted, such as the new Plan of Action 2014-2016 as well as the revisiting of the Business Dimension.

CEI Plan of Action 2014-2016

The **CEI Plan of Action (PoA) 2014-2016** was adopted by the Heads of Government on 12 December, through a written procedure launched by the Hungarian Presidency. Elaborated by the Member States, in cooperation with the CEI Secretariat and the Networks of Focal Points, the new PoA represents a structured roadmap, setting out clear and agreed priorities of cooperation in the framework of the CEI.



The document, in force as of 1 January 2014, is composed of two parts: Part one, "CEI strategic approach to regional cooperation", highlights the CEI's core mission, as well as the main strategic objectives and measures for a structural and financial strengthening of the organisation as well as for enhancing its visibility; Part two, "A CEI Agenda for 2014-2016", contains a list of priorities per area of cooperation, with a set of concrete actions building upon the results achieved in the recent past, thus ensuring coherence and follow-up. This structure of the document enables a quick adaptation to the evolving European landscape in a flexible

CEI strategic objectives:

- Support CEI Member States on their path towards European integration
- Promote the alignment of CEI Member States to EU standards
- Implement small and medium-sized projects

A CEI Agenda for 2014-2016:

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

and dynamic manner. The PoA is aligned with the entry into force of the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 and in line with provisions of the EU 2020 Strategy on a knowledge-based, sustainable and inclusive economy. Last but not least, the PoA intends to capitalise on the main strength of the Organization: its distinctive methodology for promotion of effective regional cooperation through multi-lateral diplomacy in combination with project management.

Revisiting the CEI Business Dimension

The Member States, in cooperation with the CEI Secretariat, have elaborated a new concept for the **CEI Business Dimension (BD)**. In this context, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs at their meeting in Gödöllő (Hungary) on 31 October, agreed upon revisiting the BD and introducing a new approach, aimed at addressing the specific needs of SMEs and those of the large businesses. The renewed BD shall be an effective tool meeting the needs of the business communities within the CEI Region and shall serve to promote growth through enhanced business interaction. The Ministers, furthermore, endorsed the Position Paper "Revisiting the CEI Business Dimension" as a guiding tool for future activities in the BD. In this context, they tasked the Secretariat to start the necessary institutional changes in order to incorporate a solid basis for a sustainable functioning of the new BD into the CEI Structures.

The **CEI Business Dimension**, together with the Governmental Dimension, which develops activities at political level through its own structures and the Parliamentary Dimension, aimed at cooperation among the Parliaments of CEI Member States also through its own structures, represents one of the three main pillars of the Organisation.



3. HUNGARIAN CEI PRESIDENCY 2013



Hungary - one of the CEI founding members - took over the Presidency on 1 January, 2013. Hungary took up the challenge to renew, intensify and streamline a number of activities carried out in the Organization. In doing so it brought as much creativity, continuity and consistency in its efforts.

With the aim to achieve the goals established as priorities (*the Priorities of the Hungarian CEI Presidency are outlined in Annex 1*), at the beginning of the year, Hungary drafted and implemented a rich Programme of events and activities in a number of important areas (*the Calendar of Events is outlined in Annex 2*). Under the Hungarian Presidency, the CEI further promoted its traditional activities and embarked on a number of new projects.

Priorities of Hungarian CEI Presidency:

- Strengthening visibility
- Identifying opportunities for sustainable growth
- Enhancing mobility
- Strengthening inclusiveness

CNC Meetings

The **CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC)** has met five times this year. Two of the CNC meetings were held in Budapest (22 January and 16 December), one in London (12 April), one in Vienna (10 June) and one in Trieste (10-11 October). The CNC, in examining the activities of the CEI, has launched a number of ideas and proposals, which have been tackled by the Secretariat throughout the year. It has approved a number of projects and was also involved in the preparation of the high-level meetings.



Participants at CNC Meeting, Budapest—December 2013

Upon the proposal of the Presidency on the occasion of the CNC meeting in Trieste, the CNC awarded the **CEI Medal of Honour (MoH)** to Ambassador Gerhard Pfanzelter - former CEI Secretary General - for the achievements reached by the Organisation under his leadership; and to Senator Oskar Peterlini - former Chairperson of the General Committee on Cultural Affairs of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension - for the long-lasting and successful chairmanship of this Committee.



MoH Awarding Ceremony, Trieste —October 2013

Also on the occasion of the CNC meeting in Trieste and the Conference “Towards the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-region. Connecting Macro-regions and Strengthening Regional Cooperation on the Eve of the New Cohesion Policy of the European Union” on 12 October, a **Poster Exhibition “Visegrad Karma”**, organised by the Hungarian Presidency, in cooperation with the Secretariat, was displayed at the CEI Headquarters from 12 to 14 October. The exhibition was opened by Gergely Pröhle, Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, and Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri. “Visegrad Karma” is a travelling exhibition of approximately 60 posters, made by Hungarian, Slovakian, Czech and Polish artists displayed together for the first time. The mission of the exhibition was to portray the change of regime in the four Central European countries and how these changes had an impact on culture and the everyday actions of social and individual life. The collapse of the regimes in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, symbolised by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, has changed



Opening of the Exhibition, Trieste —October 2013

the face of Europe. At that time, the art of posters re-emerged as an artistic phenomenon with cultural and social relevance. These works effectively expressed the needs and concerns of society by giving voice to the feelings of the people. They have become an alternative means of communication to the mainstream media.

Steering Committee Meeting

Back to back with the CNC meeting in London, 12 April, the **CEI Steering Committee meeting**, gathering National Coordinators and representatives from the CEI countries at the Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), was also held. The top priority of this meeting was to approve the budget of the CEI Fund at the EBRD for 2013: over €1.8 million foreseen for financing the Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme and the Knowledge Exchange Programme (KEP) – the CEI Fund’s operational instruments, through which it supports transition countries, i.e. ODA eligible CEI Member States, in the process of European integration. The success story of the CEI Fund at the EBRD was also highlighted by EBRD representatives who thanked the CEI for its effective partnership. They also expressed the Bank’s gratitude to the Italian Government as sole donor of the CEI Fund enabling important Bank operations in the CEI Region. On the margins of this meeting an **International Conference: “EBRD Activities in Central and Eastern Europe”** was promoted by the Hungarian Presidency.

Political Directors’ Meeting

The **CEI Political Directors’ meeting** was held on 12 June in Budapest in an innovative format and saw the participation of USA officials. This meeting – according to the CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure – is the third most important body of the Governmental Dimension of the Organisation. Under the title “Security in Central Europe and Beyond”, the topics discussed included: “Western Balkans: Stagnation or a New Momentum” and “Vilnius on the Horizon: Perspectives for the Eastern Partnership?”.

Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs

The high-level event marking the Hungarian Presidency was the **Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (MFA Meeting)** held in Gödöllő (Hungary) on 31 October, back to back with the Visegrad Group + Western Balkans (WB) Foreign Ministers Meeting. Entitled “The Mission of the CEI on the Eve of its 25th Anniversary”, the event was attended by ministers from ten countries, seven deputies and other high-level representatives. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, in his capacity of President of the Council of the European Union, the Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs of the USA and the representative of the EBRD were present at the meeting as Special Guests. On that occasion, the Ministers had the opportunity to evaluate



Participants at MFA Meeting, Budapest—October 2013

the results achieved during the two and a half decades since the CEI’s establishment and to reflect upon its future role. They praised the role of the Organisation as an important political forum for regional cooperation, which contributes to strengthening relations among its Member States. The Ministers affirmed that “Regional Cooperation for European Integration” remained the CEI’s basic aim and mission and supported the idea to strengthen the role of the Organization as “A Bridge between Macro-regions”. The Ministers also praised the CEI’s project-oriented cooperation approach, thanks to its various funds and instruments of cooperation, which had provided support for the creation of a successful model for regional cooperation, necessary for enhancing dialogue and economic growth of the countries of the region, especially the non-EU CEI Member States. In this context, the Ministers endorsed the CEI Plan of Action 2014-2016. During the gathering, the Ministers also agreed upon the decisions on the revitalisation of the CEI Business Dimension and on the obligatory contributions to the CEI Cooperation Fund for 2014. The Meeting was concluded with the approval of the Joint Communiqué.

Ministerial Meetings

The **Meeting of the Ministers for Economic Affairs** was held in Budapest on 24 September. This gathering represented an important example of a fruitful cooperation between the Governmental Dimension and a revisited Business Dimension, thus marking a new phase of cross-fertilisation between the two bodies. Held back to back with the Visegrad Group meeting of the Ministers of National Economy, it was attended by several Ministers for Economic Affairs from the CEI Member States, Deputy Ministers and their high-level Representatives as well as representatives of the European Investments Bank and the CEI Secretariat. The event, organised by the Ministry for National Economy of Hungary and entitled



Participants at Economic Ministers Meeting, Budapest—September 2013

“Growth potential in Central Europe”, aimed at strengthening the personal contacts among the Member States in order to balance their economic, financial and commercial relations and played an important role in fostering economic growth in the entire region. It offered an excellent chance for the Ministers of Economy of the Member States to meet and discuss topics such as sustainable regional economic growth, macro-regional strategies and innovation. The gathering also touched upon topical issues regarding global economic difficulties and jointly explored most appropriate efforts for facilitating an economic recovery.

A Ministerial Meeting “Green Growth – Rural Development in the Foreground” was held in Budapest on 15-16 April to discuss on sustainable agriculture and its impacts in terms of rural development and environment protection. Twelve Ministers and Deputy Ministers from the 18 CEI Member States attended the Meeting, together with High Officials from competent national Ministries of other member countries and from the European Commission (EC) and many stakeholders, also representing Agricultural and Farmers’ Organization in Europe and more specifically, in the Danube Macro-region. At the end of the meeting a Joint Declaration was issued, emphasising the sustainability as the prevailing factor for the whole economy, also in view of a proper balance between economic and social aspects in the countryside. In this respect, cooperation in the field of research related to improving production was greatly recommended with the final objective to sharing knowledge and best practices among CEI countries.

Meetings in the Framework of the CEI Business Dimension

As a contribution to the revitalisation of the Business Dimension (BD) and in particular to its two-pillar system aimed at addressing the specific needs of SMEs on the one hand and those of the large businesses on the other, the Hungarian Presidency organised a number of events in Budapest. In this context, the **CEI Chamber Network Economic Forum and Brokerage Event** was held in Budapest on 10 April. The event was organised by the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary. The Forum provided an insight into the business dimension and environment of the Member States. The Brokerage Event had a dual objective: it offered the opportunity for small and medium-sized enterprises to participate in B2B meetings and for Chamber representatives to meet one another.

This meeting was followed by another Forum, organised in the framework of the Presidency’s efforts to revitalise the BD, i.e. the **High-level International Business Forum**, held on 24 September in Budapest. Organised jointly by the Hungarian Confederation of Industrialists and the Hungarian Presidency, the Forum gathered over 70 high-level business executives, entrepreneurs and representatives of em-

ployers’ organisations from the Member States. The participants discussed three main topics related to future developments in the Region: Transport Policy, Environmental Policy and Creative Industries. They welcomed the idea to establish the large industry pillar of the BD and were of the opinion that it might further contribute to: promoting growth within the region in order to meet the increased and specific needs of the large enterprises; strengthening significantly the role of Confederations of Industrialists in the Region and enhancing the business cooperation between themselves; establishing closer cooperation on the implementation of the project-oriented EU funds within the region; encouraging the SME pillar of the BD. The results of the above-mentioned Forum were presented at a joint working lunch to the competent Ministers of the Member States, participating in the Meeting of CEI Ministers for Economic Affairs.

Meetings in the Framework of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension

This year cooperation within the Parliamentary Dimension (PD) has also been further developed. Throughout 2013 the Hungarian Presidency has organised a number of meetings. The **Meeting of the CEI Parliamentary Committee** of the PD was held in Budapest on 24 April. Delegations from the Parliaments of CEI countries discussed the topic “Diversity Provided Creativity for the Economic Growth of our Region”. All participants recognised that cultural diversity in the Region was an asset and that creative economy and innovation were key factors to overcome the global crisis. Active participation and coordinated efforts at various levels of society – involving governmental, business and NGO dimensions – are essential elements of this process.

The following day, on 25 April, the **Meeting of the CEI PD General Committee on Cultural Affairs** was organised in Bonyhád-Kalocsa on the topic “Initiatives to Sustain Linguistic and Cultural Identities”. It offered the opportunity to present national minority self-governments in Hungary – the local and national self-government of Germans. Moreover, an analysis of the CEI Instrument for the Protection of Minority Rights was presented. Following the proposal of the Hungarian delegation, participants pointed out the possibility of updating the book on “Minorities and the Central European Initiative” elaborated on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the CEI Instrument (1994-2004).

The annual **Meeting of the CEI Parliamentary Assembly** of the PD was held on 24-26 September in Budapest at the historic building of the Hungarian Parliament. More than 80 participants of 17 Member States and representatives of the CEI Secretariat, the EU Committee of the Regions and EC DG REGIO held an open and fruitful discussion on “The Possible Role of the CEI in Strengthening Regional Cooperation in the Context of the 2014-2020 Budgetary



Participants at CEI Parliamentary Assembly, Budapest—September 2013

period". At the end of the meeting a final declaration was adopted. On the margins of the Assembly meeting, the three General Committees of the CEI PD (Economic Affairs, Cultural Affairs and Political and Home Affairs) also held their meetings and have elected the new Chairpersons.

High-level and Expert Meetings

A number of high-level and expert meetings have been organised throughout the year by the Presidency. A **High-level Meeting of EGTC's Approval Authorities – "EGTCs as an EU's Instrument for our Common Regional Challenges"** was organised in Budapest on 21-22 February. The aim was to discuss the role of the Approval Authorities in the implementation of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) with special focus on the new proposals by the EC and the Committee of the Regions on improving this important instrument of regional cooperation in Europe. Out of over 100 participants, many interventions expressed hope for a prompt approval of reform, stressing that in order to make EGTC a more efficient instrument, more flexibility and certainty about the timeframe of implementation was needed.

Hosted by the Hungarian Ministry of Public Administration and Justice and the Institute for Public Policy Research under the auspices of the Hungarian Presidency, a **Workshop on Crisis Management and the Politics of Reform** was held in Budapest on 24-25 May. It brought together decision makers and researchers from across the region to discuss issues related to crisis management (successful tools of stabilisation and growth stimulation), structural reforms (changes in public administration, public services and social insurance) and social and political costs (unpopular measures and elections, poverty and radicalisation). The sessions of the international workshop were divided into panels, serving as forums for presentations and discussions. The event began with a session consisting exclusively of public officials, followed by panels of researchers and think tanks discussing policy-related and political, social and electoral aspects of the crisis and its management. The 15-minute presentations were followed by moderated discussions.

An **Expert Meeting on Tourism: "Opportunities of Transnational Development in CEI Countries"** was held in Gödöllő (Hungary) on 6 June and organised by the Ministry for National Economy, Tourism Department. Participants had the opportunity to analyse the possibilities of thematic tourism

development, also through presentations of examples of successful tourism and cultural routes. The sessions were organised around three thematic fields: cultural and gastro-nomic themed routes, Spa tourism and sustainable tourism.

The Ministry of Public Administration and Justice of Hungary organised an expert level international conference on **"Promoting EU Integration through Judicial Cooperation"** in Budapest on 20-21 June. The Hungarian Presidency worked towards increasing cooperation among judicial authorities in the Central European region and supporting exchange of views on this issue as a vehicle for mutual trust as well as promoting good neighbourly relations. In line with these objectives, the two-day conference brought together experts from the European Commission and the CEI Member States in the field of international judicial cooperation for a roundtable discussion and exchange of experience on current issues on judicial cooperation in both civil and criminal matters in the EU.

In the framework of the Hungarian Presidency, the Ministry of Human Resources of Hungary, in cooperation with the Semmelweis University Health Services Management Training Centre and the National Institute for Quality and Organisational Development in Healthcare and Medicines — organised a **High-level Meeting of Senior Health Experts** in Budapest on 11-12 October. The overarching theme of the meeting was "Central European Virtual Health Space". During the event, three main agenda items were touched upon: 1. Towards more responsive, effective and sustainable health systems; 2. Health workforce labour markets: expanding interconnections; and 3. e-Health.

The **International Conference "Public Administration as a Tool for Promoting Growth"** was held in Budapest on 29 November. It gathered a number of high-level representatives of the Member States with the aim to exchange experience on the territorial public administration reforms in both EU and non-EU countries. It was also attended by experts who provided an international review on the reform tendencies of territorial public administration.

Other Meetings

The Antall József Knowledge Centre, in cooperation with the Andrassy and Corvinus Universities in Budapest, organised an international workshop **"Multiculturalism: Trap or Chance?"** in Budapest on 21-23 March. The invited Ph.D. Students from the CEI countries and Germany discussed the challenges and perspectives of multiculturalism in Central Europe. The two panels of the event focused on: 1. Minorities: discussion about ethnic and cultural diversity, possibilities of autonomy in the region, diversity-management, and the integration of the Western-Balkan countries; and 2. Migration: discussions about the need of intercultural cooperation, new cultural impacts; brain-drain; and multiculturalism. The aim of the

gathering was to assist the development of a new, more tolerant generation in order to achieve the best outcomes in these respective fields and to be able to prevent further conflicts in the Central European region.

The Secondary School of Visual Arts of Budapest, in cooperation with the Serbian Lead Partner, hosted a **Meeting of the CEI Network of Design Schools** in Budapest on 26-27 March. This meeting included complex workshops on education, social responsibility and activity, professional support for young designers and creation of plans for constant presence in promotional events dedicated to this respective area. The two-day event gave students and teachers the chance to meet. Non EU countries received useful information about the education system in EU countries. Moreover, it was a remarkable opportunity to present personal and collective achievements as well as to further develop cooperation among these institutes. The participants adopted a *Statute of the Network* and as a follow-up are likely to find partners in the other CEI Member States.

20th Anniversary of the Carpathian Euroregion: new opportunities in the framework of the CEI and V4 – international conference: On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Carpathian Euroregion Interregional Association, the Regional Development Association for the Carpathian Euroregion organised an international conference on 11 April, in Nyíregyháza (Hungary). The aim of the event was the introduction of the success and future plans of the Association. Discussions also focused on a possible future cooperation with the V4, Macro-regional Danube Strategy, EGTCs and the CEI.

The Institute for Social and European Studies (ISES) Foundation, organised an **International Summer University: “Who is Sovereign? Citizenship in Europe and Beyond”** in Kőszeg (Hungary) from 22 June to 7 July. The aim of the Summer University was to encourage knowledge-transfer and establish a closer cooperation of experts of CEI Member States in the field of cultural-heritage management. It applied a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach, enabling the young generation to understand the existing complex relations between political, ideological, economic and cultural questions and to identify possible solutions towards European integration. Another main aim was to develop perceptions and analytical skills of students. The students participating in the Summer University had the chance to understand the local, regional, national and transnational needs and interests of multi-cultural Europe, building and establishing long-lasting intercultural solutions.

The Research Centre for Natural Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Diamond Congress Ltd. organised the **Fifth Central European Symposium on Plasma Chemistry (5th CESPC)**, in Balatonalmádi (Hungary) on 25-29 August. The topics covered chemical and technological aspects of the plasma processing of gases, liquids and solids. The plasma technology has been expanding in many new

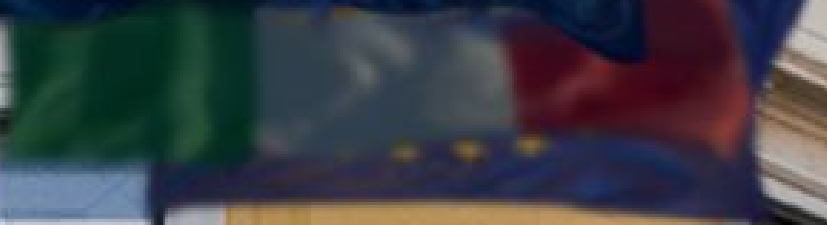
areas from the fusion science to materials processing, energy technologies, medicine and plasma applications for environmental protection. In the next decade, plasma science is expected to serve as a basis for nano-, bio-, and environmental technologies, following the main EU priorities in research and development. All these technologies strongly depend upon the results of fundamental research in plasma chemistry. One of the main aims of the 5th CESPC was to accelerate progress in plasma science and technology in the CEI countries. The symposium helped participants to exchange information and experience in various areas of the multidisciplinary field of plasma science and technology. There is a plethora of practical applications of these areas, essentially in the knowledge-based economy, highly needed in the CEI countries.

On 3-4 October, the Rural Credit Guarantee Foundation organised in Budapest an International Conference under the title **“Guarantee Models in Europe – Focus on the Opportunities in CEI Countries”**. The aim of the two-day international conference was to share experiences and to spread best practices among European guarantee institutions, involving even non-EU CEI countries without a relevant guarantee system. It was a good opportunity to discuss the problems and potential solutions in the credit guarantee sector, including differences of guarantee schemes, counter-guarantee opportunities and pricing. The programme covered: the operational models and last year’s experience of 8-10 different guarantee organisations in the Central European region as well as future prospects; the forthcoming EU programmes and the expected modification of EU state aid rules. As a result the event contributed to improving the credit guarantee system all over CEI countries, especially in non-EU CEI countries by presenting well-functioning models. Non-EU CEI country experts were better involved in the international cooperation and discussions, helping them with ideas on how to create or improve their own guarantee system and ease SME access to finance. Finally, the current and future EU programmes and state aid rules were better understood.

The “Europe’s Great War and the Genesis of the New World Order” International Conference was the first of a series of events dedicated to the commemoration of World War I in Hungary. The Conference was held at the Budapest Music Centre on 11-12 November. Twenty international experts, historians – among them CEI Member State specialists - held presentations on the outbreak of World War I. The aim of the conference was to present the war from new, up-to-date approaches. Besides the commemoration and tribute paid to the centenary, it was a great opportunity to recognise new approaches and discuss one of Europe’s most controversial periods in history from various perspectives. World War I still has lasting effects. It had serious consequences including World War II and the ethnic fragmentation of the continent. The 100 years which have passed since the outbreak of the war have to be sufficient for creating cooperation and mutual understanding. Central European cooperation is a great opportunity to overcome the historical grievances.



CEI
EUROPEAN INITIATIVE



4. ACTIVITIES OF THE CEI SECRETARIAT

The main role of the **CEI Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES)** is to provide administrative and conceptual support to the CEI Structures and take appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting the realisation of the CEI mission. With the establishment of the Secretariat, the Organisation has assured a permanent structure necessary for a systematic approach to wide-spread CEI activities. The overall guidance and orientation for CEI activities in general and for the Secretariat in particular remains embodied in the long-term CEI strategy. A strategy, which is reconfirmed both at political level and in the Plan of Action, reflecting the priority interests for cooperation among its Member States.

The CEI-ES strongly supports the activities of the Presidency, by not only by providing it and other decision-making and operational structures of the CEI with continuous administrative and conceptual support, but also by taking appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting the realisation of the CEI objectives. In this context, the CEI Secretariat's staff was actively involved in drafting the new CEI Plan of Action 2014-2016 and other activities promoted by the Hungarian Presidency. The CEI-ES also manages a number of funds, programmes and instruments for cooperation in order to complement the institutional activities. They are aimed at financing various cooperation projects in the CEI Member States, while the Secretariat takes care of their sound management and administration.

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

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 €38.5 million of which €2 million in

2013. The Office for the CEI Fund is the operational structure, which ensures constant dialogue between the CEI, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EBRD for all questions related to the administration of the Fund.

The Office is located at the CEI Headquarters in Trieste and in London within the Operational Policies Vice-Presidency of the EBRD. Through this Office, whose staff closely collaborates with EBRD banking teams, the CEI has

managed to build a unique comparative advantage vis-à-vis other funds active within the Bank. This collaborative approach enables the CEI to better choose projects, thereby ensuring high-leverage ratios as well as greater effectiveness and efficiency. For the **Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme**, the Office for the CEI Fund regularly screens projects in the EBRD pipeline, and supports the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its selection process. Following positive appraisal by the Ministry, the Office presents the prospective **TC projects** to the CNC for approval, it monitors their implementation and evaluates them after completion. The Office also manages the **Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP)**. The Office's role is not limited to the provision of grants, but follows the whole project cycle, from the initial screening of applications, throughout the monitoring of project implementation, to ex-post evaluation of results.

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



EBRD Headquarters in London

The CEI-ES takes care of the administration of the **Cooperation Fund**, supported by all Member States and the **Knowledge Exchange Programme (KEP)**, supported by Italy through the CEI Fund at the EBRD and Austria. Through this administration and management function of the Secretariat, the CEI has developed an important aspect, i.e. programme management, and gained an additional role in the trans-national and cross-border context. This represents an added value, in particular for the design, implementation and management of large projects, such as the **EU-funded projects**. To carry out this task, the Secretariat has established a special unit through which it actively participates in various EU programmes, both as Lead Partner and Partner—thus enhancing the involvement of its countries in EU-funded projects.

The activities of the CEI Secretariat and its staff are financed by the Italian Government (*the budget for the year 2013 is outlined in Annex 3*), while the activities and the staff of the Unit for EU-funded projects are financed out of the budget of the projects funded through EU Programmes.

This year has witnessed a number of changes at the executive level of the CEI Secretariat. As of 15 March, the Secretary General is Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri, Italy. From 1 January to 15 March, this position was temporarily covered by Giorgio Rosso Cicogna, as Acting Secretary General. Ambassador Margit Waestfelt, Austria, started her mandate as Alternate Secretary General on 1 January. Zoran Jovanović, Serbia, who finished his mandate as Deputy Secretary General in July, was succeeded by Erik Csernovitz, Hungary. He took over this position as of 1 October. *The permanent office staff and their tasks are outlined in Annex 4.*

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

1. Institutional Activities

Official Visits and Bilateral Meetings

With the aim to exchange views and opinions on the activities in the framework of the Hungarian Presidency, a **meeting between the CEI Secretary General, Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary, János Martonyi**, was held in Budapest on 9 April. On that occasion, Ambassador Caracciolo expressed his appreciation for the rich and creative programme and calendar of events of the Presidency, while Minister Martonyi confirmed the strong commitment and support of Hungary to the Organisation. During his visit to Budapest the Secretary General also had a meeting with the President of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension (PD), Richárd Hörcsik, who is the Head



Ambassador Caracciolo and Minister Martonyi

of the Hungarian Parliamentary delegation to the CEI. They exchanged views on the Hungarian activities in the framework of the CEI PD.

At the beginning of the year CEI Acting Secretary General, Giorgio Rosso Cicogna had a number of visits and meetings with high-level state and government representatives. A **meeting with the President of Macedonia, Gjorge Ivanov**, was held in Skopje on 15 February. President Ivanov expressed deep appreciation for CEI's contribution to regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and for the excellent collaboration between his Government and the Secretariat. On that same day, he also had a **meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Macedonia, Nikola Poposki**. Minister Poposki expressed convinced appreciation for the way the CEI was carrying out its mission: fostering regional cooperation to facilitate European integration while providing a bridge between Macro-regions. In that context, he fully endorsed the project-oriented strategy of the Secretariat. During his stay in Skopje, Rosso Cicogna also had a meeting with the President and the Governing Board of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, as well as several meetings with representatives of other international organisations active in the field of regional cooperation in Rural Development, Public Health and Local Administration. On that occasion, he also had the chance to meet Ambassador of Italy, Fabio Cristiani.



Mr. Rosso Cicogna and Minister Poposki

Furthermore, CEI Acting Secretary General, Giorgio Rosso Cicogna, had a **meeting with the Hungarian Minister of State for Infrastructure, Pál Völnerm**, in Budapest on 20 February, 2013 for an in-depth consultation on the activities promoted by the Hungarian Presidency in the field of transport. More specifically the implementation of the European Strategy on the Corridors was reviewed. Special attention was paid to the still persisting bottlenecks, delays and difficulties, after an accurate evaluation of the contribution of Hungary in

terms of rail and road infrastructure being realised on its territory, and as a complementary contribution to the plans of the other surrounding countries. Minister Pál Völner emphasised the prime strategic role of transport and logistics for the overall development of the European Union and expressed sincere appreciation for many activities of regional cooperation carried out by CEI in this field. Rosso Cicogna made a detailed inventory of the latest projects implemented by the CEI, mentioning its remarkable multiplier effects in terms of resources and mobilisation and illustrating a few other projects still in pipeline. They both agreed on the opportunity for the CEI to establish at its headquarters in Trieste a Permanent Observatory on the implementation on the above Corridor Strategy, in view of the in-house expertise built by the Secretariat during the last year.

Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology

The **CEI Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology** was held on 29 October, with the participation of Ministers for Science and Technology, State Secretaries, Deputy Ministers and High officials from the 18 Member States of the CEI, as well as representatives of the EC. The meeting was organised back to back with the **Global Forum “Driving the Digital Future: Strategies to Grow Stronger Communities and Business”**, held in Trieste on 28-29 October, where the Ministers had the opportunity to attend various sessions. On top of the Agenda of the ministerial meeting were the activities in the field of advanced biofuels and the related development of a Bio-based Economy. In this context, the Ministers expressed full appreciation for the approval of the three projects concerning the promotion of technological development related to Advanced Biofuels, the optimisation of supply and logistics of bio-mass resources and a policy dialogue on research/innovation in the Danube Region. Special focus was also put on the progress achieved with regard to the establishment of the C-ERIC Consortium aimed at facilitating access of Scientific Communities of CEI Member States to the Synchrotron Radiation Laboratories (Elettra) and to the Free Electron Laser Laboratories (Fermi) located in Trieste. Ministers expressed appreciation for the two calls already launched, which will enable ten fellows from CEI Member Countries to be immediately involved in C-ERIC-related scientific activities. The CEI Secretariat’s efforts in promoting scientific research and innovation especially in the Balkans, the Danube Region and the Eastern Neighbourhood, through the CEI Science and Technology Network, were also highlighted.

Only a few days before the ministerial meeting the Special Advisor to the CEI Secretary General, Giorgio Rosso Cicogna, had a **meeting with the Serbian Minister for Education, Science and Technological Development, Tomislav Jovanović**, and his Assistant Minister, Radomir Žikić, on 17 October in Belgrade. Discussions focused on the activities of the CEI

and on Serbia’s position with regard to regional cooperation in the field of Science and Technology. Minister Jovanović confirmed that for his country an intense cooperation with the CEI Science and Technology Network based in Trieste was one of the priorities. In this context, he specifically mentioned the participation of Serbia in the C-ERIC. He also confirmed Serbia’s interest in the activities of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) paying special attention to the activities in the field of advanced biofuels, a priority research area for his country. Finally Jovanović confirmed a strong support to the current activities of the CEI promoting Science, Technology and Innovation through a more intense regional cooperation in this field.

Meetings of CEI Focal Points

The **meeting of the CEI Focal Points on Science and Technology and Prominent Scientist** was held in Trieste on 8-10 July. The objective was to provide an in-depth analysis of three project-ideas to promote research and innovation through centres of scientific excellence in the Western Balkans, the Danube Region and other CEI countries. These project-ideas, which will involve the 18 CEI countries, envisage 10 advanced research programmes, interdisciplinary by nature, based on the world recognised strengths of the institutions belonging to the CEI Science and Technology Network based in Trieste. Some of the institutions making up the Network are international by statute: International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). Others are international by vocation: the Elettra-Sincrotrone and the Fermi Free Electron Laser Laboratories; the International School for Advanced Scientific Studies (SISSA); the Institute for Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (OGS) and Area Science Park.

The **meeting of the CEI Focal Points on Human Resource Development (HRD)** was held on 21 November in Prague, back to back with the Human Resources Development Forum. On this occasion, the Focal Points mainly introduced the activities of their institutions in the field of research, development and innovation and provided interesting information in the field of education and HRD.

Cooperation with International Organisations

The CEI Secretariat has further continued cooperation with other international organisations. In this context, a **meeting between the CEI Secretary General, Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri, and CEI Alternate Secretary General, Ambassador Margit Waestfelt, with the OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier**, was held in Trieste on 19 April. It was a second official meeting after the visit in February in Vienna by the then CEI Acting Secretary General, Giorgio Rosso Cicogna. It aimed at identifying areas

of cooperation between the two intergovernmental organisations. Cooperation in areas such as minority rights and renewable energy was one of the topic on the agenda. It was underlined that there were real prospects of cooperation in areas related to economic and environmental dimensions as well as in minority rights, civil society, human rights and combating border crime and media. In particular, it was pointed out that the OSCE experience in the field of minorities could highly contribute to the scientific evaluation of the CEI Instrument for the Protection Minority Rights, elaborated almost twenty years ago. In the field of renewable energy, a possible cooperation has been envisaged in view to enhance the CEI experience in promoting the advanced bio-fuels. As a follow up of the meeting, a set of long-term joint actions will be defined involving the two Secretariats and the member countries of both organisations.



Ambassador Waestfelt, Ambassador Zannier and Ambassador Caracciolo

In the framework of the cooperation with the OSCE, the CEI participated in the **21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum**, held in Pargue on 11-13 September.

Cooperation with Regional Organisations

As to cooperation with the regional organisations, which is essential for the accomplishment of the CEI's mission, the exchange of agendas of meetings and planned activities as well as mutual participation in various high-level events has continued. In this regard, CEI Secretary General, Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri, participated in the **XV Adriatic and Ionian Council** held in Brussels, on 27 May, under the Slovenian Presidency of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII).

CEI Deputy Secretary General, Zoran Jovanovic, participated in the **5th Annual Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Council** on 30 May in Ohrid (Macedonia). He also took part in the formal Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the SEECP on the next day, 31 May, also in Ohrid.

The **Ministerial Conference of the South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC)** took place in Sarajevo on 21 November. Under the co-chairmanship of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations and the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat (RCC) the main goal of the meeting was to adopt the South East Europe 2020 Strategy (SEE 2020). Besides SEE

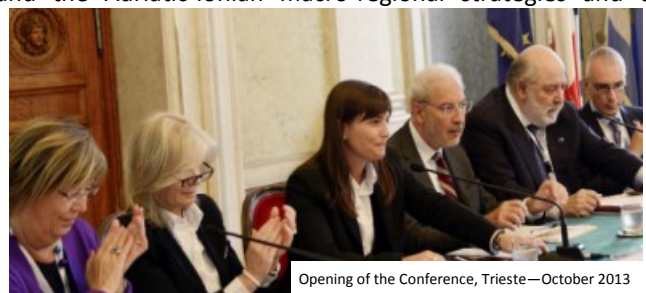
ministerial delegations, representatives of the EU and other regional and international partners and initiatives as well as donor community, attended the conference and gave their support to the endorsement of this strategic document for development of the Region. The CEI was represented by the Deputy Secretary General, Erik Csernovitz.

Csernovitz also participated in the **EMI (European Movement International) Montenegro Congress** on 21-23 November in Budva. He acted as moderator in the Session on Regional Cooperation as a Framework for Fostering of European Integration and Protection of Human Rights. The Congress provided a good opportunity to discuss how civil society development, European Integration and national economic reforms could be made more effective and cohesive.

The CEI, represented by Alternate Secretary General, Ambassador Margit Waestfelt, participated in the **Vienna Economic Forum (VEF)**, held on 24-25 November. Under the motto "Visions and Visionaries – The Economy is the Motor", this important gathering was attended by a number of Presidents of States, Prime Ministers and other high-level governmental representatives and representatives of international organisations as well as numerous participants from the VEF region and beyond.

CEI Contribution to EU Macro-regional Strategies

As a contribution of the CEI to its role as a bridge between macro-regions, a **Stakeholders' Conference towards Adriatic-Ionian Macro-region: "Connecting Macro-regions and Strengthening Regional Cooperation on the Eve of the New Cohesion Policy of the European Union"**, was organised on 11 October in Trieste by the Friuli Venezia Giulia (FVG) Autonomous Region and the CEI, in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs,. The Conference aimed at promoting a high-level exchange of views on the synergies and coordination between the EU Macro-regional strategies. Special focus was put on the existing EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the evolving one for the Adriatic-Ionian basin. The gathering gave participants the chance to exchange views on opportunities and initiatives - within institutions and the business community - for improving competitiveness in the Danube and Adriatic Regions. In particular, special attention was paid to pinpointing ways of jointly coordinating national and regional policies between the Danube and the Adriatic-Ionian macro-regional strategies and to



Opening of the Conference, Trieste—October 2013

exploiting the lessons learnt from the already established EUSDR. The event witnessed the participation of and contributions from high-level representatives of the Italian Government, Members of the Italian Parliament, Presidents of Regions, Ambassadors of the CEI Member States to Italy and other related authorities from CEI Member States, representatives of the European Commission, CEI National Coordinators as well as top-level representatives of the Italian business community.

The FVG Autonomous Region, together with the CEI and the Synchrotron Elettra Laboratory, organised in Trieste on 15 March a **Workshop on Prospects for Cooperation in Scientific Research and Innovation in the Adriatic-Ionian Region**. Several concrete proposals of cooperation were presented and discussed with representatives of the countries involved in the future relevant Strategy.

A number of events in the framework of the EUSDR were attended by CEI representatives. The CEI is actively involved in the implementation of a number of priority issues of the Strategy. It holds the status of observer within the **Steering Group of Priority Area 7 (knowledge society) of the EUSDR** and was present at its last meeting held in Ulm on 24 September. Thanks to this, the CEI was invited to join the FP7 consortium for the project Danube Region INCO-NET, approved in 2013. The implementation phase of the Project will start in January 2014. The CEI plays an important role, acting as Leader of Work Package 3 "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in a Bio-based Economy".

On 15-17 October, CEI Alternate Secretary General, Ambassador Margit Waestfelt, participated in an International Conference "**Evaluating the EU Strategy for the Danube Region: Experience and Perspectives**" in Budapest and addressed the participants on the CEI role in the implementation of this Strategy under the fifth panel titled "Macro-regional Strategies in the Context of other regional institutions in Central Europe".

The CEI Secretariat also attended the **2nd Annual Conference of the EUSDR**, held in Bucharest on 28-29 October. The event, characterised as a high-level multilateral event, was attended by representatives of Governments from the Region and of the European Commission, as well as a relevant number of stakeholders (representatives of the sub-national level, NGOs, businesses, etc.). Most attention focused on transport, energy and energy infrastructure, as well as investments (finance); other topics included job creation and skills development, environment and Roma integration. It is of extreme importance that CEI participates to future Annual Conferences in order to highlight the activities and instruments of the Organization, as well as the potential of CEI in bridging the EUSDR and the future strategy on the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-region.

CEI Participation in EU Events

In strong connection to the EU-funded projects, the CEI participated and had an active role in numerous events organised in the framework of the various EU Programmes or events closely linked to the subjects of these projects. Namely, the **Adriatic Sea Forum** was held in Trieste on 21-22 March. It was the first major international event dedicated to maritime tourism on the Adriatic, gathering representatives from 7 countries, 25 regions and more than 150 destinations involved in the tourism development and tourism industry. The CEI, as a supporting organisation of the Forum, promoted the meeting with central and regional authorities, in particular in the Eastern Adriatic area.

On 15-16 May the **Central Europe Programme Annual Conference** took place in Padua (Italy). The programme authorities took this opportunity to collect inputs from stakeholders and project partners under the motto "Cooperating across borders to make our cities and regions a better place to live and work". The CEI attended the event dedicated to Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and participated in transport workshops as partner of Central Europe EDITS Project. Together with the partners of other projects under this Programme, the results, benefits, gaps to be bridged and the definition of new priorities were discussed.

The CEI also participated in the **South East Europe Programme (SEE) Annual Event 2013**, which took place on 19 June in Bucharest. The aim was to sum up SEE achievements for the period 2007-2013 in view of the new Programmes in the area. The CEI was invited as Pole Leader and led the discussions of the largest Thematic Working Group on Multimodal Accessibility to Primary Networks. The aim was to continue establishing synergies and cooperation (exchange of results, capitalisation, development of future partnerships), based on past achievements, where three EU-funded projects were presented by the CEI: ACROSSEE, SEETAC and AT-TAC. The CEI will draft a Road Map on Multimodal Accessibility to Primary Networks in cooperation with partners.

On 28 June the CEI participated in the **EU Conference "Improving passengers' mobility through ICT enabled multimodal information provision"**, organised in Thessaloniki. The conference gathered local and national stakeholders and experts, representatives of national railway operators, the South-East Europe Programme representatives etc. On this occasion, the CEI presented the Rail4SEE Project.

The **European Culture Forum**, which took place in Brussels on 4-6 November 2013, is a flagship event organised by the EC Directorate-General for Education and Culture. The Forum brought together more than 1.000 cultural policy makers, stakeholders, artists and cultural professionals, and addressed some of the key topics for the sector along three thematic pillars: 1. Measuring the true value of culture; 2.

Exploring new funding models for culture; 3. Audience development and making cultural participation a reality. The Officer in charge of culture within the CEI Secretariat attended the Forum and had the opportunity to collect direct and broad information about the new EU framework programme "Creative Culture" 2014-2020 officially presented by the Commission during the Forum. Creative Culture replaces three existing programmes (Culture –MEDIA – MEDIA Mundus) and creates a new financial facility to guarantee bank loan programmes. The aim of the Programme is to face the real state-of-the-art in creative economy today, in which audiovisual and cultural products are overlapping, following a strong digital shift. Specific objectives of Creative Europe are: fostering the transnational circulation of cultural and creative works; supporting operators, artists and organisations; cross-border mobility; reaching new audiences in Europe and beyond. As for eligibility, for the first time countries taking part in the European Neighborhood Policy might also fully participate in the Creative Europe Programme. The first calls for proposals were envisaged by December 2013.

Feature Events, Prizes and Awards

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

Trieste Film Festival

The **24th Edition of Trieste Film Festival** was held on 17-23 January. The CEI has established a long-standing cooperation with the Festival, recognising the merits of this initiative which promotes and supports with great attention the cinematography of the countries of the CEI region. In particular, the CEI supports the "Eastweek project" that fosters collaboration with schools and academies of Central and Eastern European countries and brings to Trieste young directors, producers and writers, giving them the opportunity to participate in the Festival, and in a series of meetings, seminars and special events. As part of its commitment to supporting Central and Eastern European cinema, the CEI is also among the supporters of the meeting of the co-production "When East Meets West", organised by the Regional Fund for Audiovisual Friuli Venezia Giulia and the Trieste Film Festival.

CEI Prize at Trieste Film Festival

This year the **CEI Prize at Trieste Film Festival** (€3.000) was bestowed upon the Hungarian filmmaker György Pálfi on 23 January, by CEI Deputy Secretary General, Zoran Jovanović. The Festival's programme included two of his last works: "Final Cult – Ladies and Gentlemen" and "There Is No Film", one of the segments of the collective film *MAGYARORSZÁG 2011 (HUNGARY 2011)*, produced by Béla Tarr. As underlined in the motivation of the selecting jury, "the work of György

Pálfi, one of the most original Hungarian filmmakers of the last few years, can denounce with sharp and biting irony the most dramatic and unsettling aspects of today's Hungary".



Awarding Ceremony, Trieste—January 2013

Dubrovnik Diplomatic Forum

"Innovations and Changing Roles of Diplomacy and Diplomatic Training" was the main focus of the **16th Dubrovnik Diplomatic Forum**, held in Dubrovnik on 23-25 May. High-state officials and other experts, both practitioners and academics, as well as young diplomats from the CEI Region and beyond gathered to have discussions on innovation and its influences and consequences, the changing role of diplomacy, diplomatic techniques and diplomatic training. The Annual Dubrovnik Diplomatic Forum started as an international conference in the field of diplomacy and diplomatic training, which over the years has grown into an annual event, unique of its kind in this part of Europe.



Participants at Forum, Dubrovnik— May 2013

Vilenica International Literary Festival – CEI Round Table

Featuring numerous literary and cultural events, round-table discussions, including the **CEI Round Table**, literary readings, a book fair, symposia, presentations of contemporary literatures and literary publications, the **28th Vilenica International Literary Festival** was held on 10-15 September. The CEI Round Table took place on 12 September in Koper (Faculty of Humanities of the University of Primorska) with the participation of the panelists Rodica Draghinescu (Romania/France), Tania Malyarchuk (Ukraine/Austria) and Milan Rakovac (Croatia). The meeting was moderated by Vesna Humar (Slovenia). The theme of this year's Vilenica Festival – "Inspiration of Borders" - has also provided inspiration for the debate held during the CEI Round Table.

CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence

On the occasion of the official opening of the 28th Vilenica International Literary Festival on 11 September in Koper (Slovenia), the **CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence** was presented to Artem Chapeye from Ukraine by CEI Alternate Secretary General, Ambassador Margit Waestfelt. The CEI Fellowship winner was selected by the Fellowship Jury with the following motivation: "Artem Chapeye's project spreads a topical, socially committed message, endeavoring to shed a light on the critical problem of economic migration in Eastern Ukraine". The story speaks about loneliness and damnation... the project is oriented towards the future and the book is based on the acute problem of a globalised world. Since 2006, the CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence has been presented by the CEI in collaboration with the Slovene Writers' Association, as part of the Vilenica Festival. 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 cash award of €5.000 is to be used for a three-month residence in any CEI Member State of the candidate's choice. During this period, the author is expected to work on his winning project.

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

Another long-lasting CEI Feature Event, i.e. the **19th CEI International Summer School "Beyond Enlargement. The Wider Europe and the New Neighborhood"** was held on 2-15 September in Bertinoro, Forlì (Italy). CEI Secretary General, Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri participated in a workshop on "Managing Diversities. Democratic Challenges for a Plural Society on the Way to a European Citizenship" held on 12-13 September. The event focused in particular on: 1. Minorities and Majorities: Preventing measures against Bias and Policies of Integration; and 2. Minorities, Identities and Nation-States: Challenges and Opportunities for Reconciliation and Reconstructions of Historical Memories. On that occasion, Ambassador Caracciolo di Vietri strongly thanked the organisers for paying special attention to minority issues this year, especially in view of the intention of the CEI Secretariat to support an evaluation of the CEI Instrument for the Protection of Minority Rights and of eventually producing an updated



Lesson at the School, Forlì— September 2013

ed edition of the book on "Minorities and the Central European Initiative".

South East Europe Media Forum

Around 200 participants gathered in Sarajevo on 7-8 October at the **VII South East Europe Media Forum (SEEMF)**, the biggest media event in South East Europe. The Forum was organised by the South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO) in cooperation with the CEI and the German political foundation Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS). This year's event focused on "Journalism in South East Europe: monopolies, business models and the struggle for quality". Further topics of the panels and discussions were the transparency of the media markets and the media pluralism in the region. Relevant journalists from the region as well as representatives of media groups - such as Dogan Media International Istanbul, Axel Springer AG Berlin, Mediapart Paris - contributed to the discussions.

CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism

During the SEEMF, the "**CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism**" was presented by CEI Alternate Secretary General, Ambassador Margit Waestfelt, to the Bosnian-Herzegovinian reporter Mahir Šahinović (in the section "Professional Journalists") and to the Bulgarian journalist Rosen Tsvetkov (in the section "Young Professional Journalists"), with €4.000 and €1.000 respectively. A special mention was assigned to the Investigative Reporting Project Italy (IRPI). The SEEMF programme also included the projection of the documentary film "How do I see my neighbour?" realised by the European Association of Public Service Media (EAPSM) in SEE in the framework of the CEI-RCC partnership project, funded by the EC-IPA Multi-beneficiary Programme.



Awarding Ceremony, Sarajevo—October 2013

Human Resources Development Forum

The last CEI Feature Event organised this year was the **Human Resources Development Forum** under the title "Research, Development and Innovation through Education". It was held as usual in Prague on 22 November and gathered experts from Ministries of Education, universities and/or other specific organisations from the CEI Member States. During the event participants exchanged experience on relevant activi-

ties, specific programmes, problems and strategies existing in their countries, while having the chance to establish new contacts for future cooperation. Most participants highlighted the need to follow the "Triple Helix Model" where university-industry-government relations are enhanced. In this context, Tomáš Hruša, Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic highlighted how important quality is in innovation, thus calling for more support for PhD-level courses.

Activities on Enhancing the CEI Visibility

As a contribution to strengthening the **CEI visibility**, particular efforts have been made by the Secretariat to enhance its relations with the media. Appropriate actions - in particular in connection to the high-level meetings - have been developed and consisted in the dissemination of press releases, organisation of press conferences, involvement of specialised journalists in specific CEI events and other initiatives. Special attention was given to the launch of the **ANSA New Europe Web Portal**. This Portal was officially presented on 16 September in Trieste at the seat of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia with the participation of the EC Vice President Viviane Reding, the Italian Minister for European Affairs Enzo Moavero Milanesi, the CEI Secretary General Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri, the President of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia Debora Serracchiani, and ANSA editor in chief, Luigi Contu. The event took place in the framework of the final event of the "Citizens' Dialogue" initiative promoted by the European Commission. At the margins of the event, a meeting among CEI, ANSA and several news agencies from Croatia, Poland, Serbia and Slovenia took place at the CEI HQs in order to explore possible ways of cooperation in the framework of joint projects, possibly financed by the EU.



2. Projects, Programmes and Instruments

EU Funded Projects

Since 2004, the CEI has been developing specific expertise in the participation, design, management and implementation of projects either financed or co-financed by the European Union (EU) under various funding programmes. **EU-funded projects** represent one of the main activities of the CEI, and

one of the most dynamic in a future perspective: this is a unique feature of the CEI, if compared to other regional organisations. Member States cannot but benefit from further progress and expansion of this field of work perfectly in line with the CEI core mission of promoting "regional cooperation for European integration" acting as a "bridge between macro-regions".

In 2013, the CEI was involved in 13 **EU-funded projects**, both as Lead Partner and Partner (*the full list and description of the EU-funded projects under implementation is attached as Annex 5*).

In the time-frame 2004 –2012, the CEI participated in the successful implementation of 14 EU-funded projects funded by several EU programmes. With an initial investment of €280.000 on the CEI budget, these projects enabled the mobilisation of more than €16 million. **In 2013, the CEI has been involved in the implementation of 13 EU-funded projects** financed from several programmes, out of which 4 as Lead Partner, with a contribution on the CEI budget of €478.000. These projects, will mobilise more than €28.2 million.

Technical Cooperation Programme

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

In 2013, the CEI Fund at the EBRD has committed €946.850 for 6 **Technical Cooperation (TC)** projects (*the full list and description of the TC projects approved in 2013 is attached as Annex 6*).

Between 1993 and 2013, the Italian Government has committed through this Fund more than €23 million for 122 TC assignments. Of this total, about €22.6 million were used to implement projects directly or indirectly related to international investments. In the period 1993 to 2013 these TCs funded by the CEI Fund at the EBRD in the countries of operations were able to mobilise about €4.8 billion of international investments. The EBRD alone contributed to those investments about €2.9 billion. A Total Investment Ratio (TIR) can be calculated to show how many euro the international community invested for each euro invested by the CEI Fund for TC projects. Between 1993 and 2013 the TIR is expected to equal about 1:215. The EBRD, alone, is expected to invest about €129 for each CEI Fund euro dedicated to TCs, which represent the EBRD Investment Ratio (EIR).

65 KEP projects were approved under the KEP ITALY in the period 2004-2013 for a CEI Fund committed contribution of more than €1.7 million. Given its nature as a co-financing Programme, the total value of KEP projects supported by the CEI Fund so far is about €6 million. The projects targeted recipient institutions from all non-EU CEI Member States. The countries that have benefited the most from the KEP, since its establishment, are Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine, while the Western Balkan countries have mainly been addressed by region-oriented projects. The most active donor institutions were located in Italy and Poland, followed by Austria, Slovenia, and Hungary. Concerning the four areas of intervention: sustainable agriculture, capacity building, and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable energy and environment area, there is a rather balanced distribution among all of them.

Know-how Exchange Programme

Launched in 2004, the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP) is a development assistance instrument aimed to support transfer of experience from the EU to the non-EU countries within the CEI region. The Programme originates from the belief that economic development in non-EU CEI Member States can be strengthened by transferring good practices and introducing benchmarks already tested and established in countries that have gone through the EU accession process. As such, the KEP offers grants to institutions from EU countries willing to share their experience with their partners in the non-EU CEI countries in South-eastern and Eastern Europe. The Programme is financed from two sources: the CEI Fund at the EBRD, supported by Italy, and the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). In 2008 and 2011 the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs made two voluntary contributions of €25.000 each to support KEP activities.

The KEP, has also been promoted further by the CEI Secretariat at this year. Since its establishment the KEP Projects have been financed by the CEI Fund at the EBRD, financed by Italy (KEP ITALY), and managed by the Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD. In 2008 the Austrian Government joined Italy as a KEP financial donor through the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), and since then it has provided additional funds on an annual basis for projects managed by the CEI Secretariat (KEP AUSTRIA). The Programme operates through calls for proposals. In this context, under the call for proposals in the framework of KEP ITALY, closed on 17 July 2013, 44 applications for KEP projects were submitted requesting grant financing of more than €1.3 million for a total projects value of more than €4 million. Out of these applications, 8 projects were approved on 4 December to be co-financed for a total CEI contribution amounting to €220.515, with the resources made available by the CEI Fund at the EBRD, financed by Italy.

22 projects were approved under the KEP AUSTRIA Programme in the period 2008-2013 for a CEI committed contribution of about €550.000 and the total value of projects amounting to €1.25 million. The projects target recipient institutions from most of the CEI non-EU Member States. The beneficiary countries that have benefited the most from the KEP AUSTRIA, since its establishment, are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Serbia, together with Croatia, an eligible beneficiary country until 2012. The most active donor institutions were from Austria and Italy, followed by Slovenia, Slovakia and Romania. Concerning the four areas of intervention, most projects are implemented in the following areas: capacity building and European integration, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable energy and environment.

Under the KEP AUSTRIA Call for Proposals, closed on 28 December 2012, among 93 submitted proposals, three new projects were approved on 4 March 2013, and co-financed with a CEI contribution of €85.000. The full list and description of the KEP projects approved both through KEP ITALY and KEP AUSTRIA in 2013 is attached as Annex 7.

Evaluation of KEP AUSTRIA in View of 2014-2016

In view of upgrading KEP AUSTRIA in the programming period 2014-2016, an external evaluation of KEP AUSTRIA has been carried out by a team of independent consultants-evaluators. Several conclusions came out from the Evaluation Report. The CEI is considered an unambiguous catalyst for the European enlargement project and for facilitating European integration, based on regional co-operation. Due to the fact that many institutions are reducing their support in the Western

Austrian Development Cooperation

Balkans and bilateral donors are continuously limiting their engagement in that region, KEP AUSTRIA has the opportunity to receive an ever higher recognition, which in turn can be beneficial for political and development priorities of both the CEI and the Austrian Development Cooperation. The demand-driven approach of the CEI fully takes the EU integration process and the priorities of the high-political agenda into consideration. At the same time, this bottom-up approach aims at addressing the real needs of its beneficiaries. The evaluators also concluded that the current budget for the next programming period should be increased in order to have more impact and that, to this end, the Programme should be open for donors from other CEI-EU Member States. In this regard, ADA (Austrian Development Agency) has declared its willingness to offer the programme to other donors as well.

Cooperation Activities

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

In 2013, 57 CAs were approved. The total CEI contribution for these activities amounts to about €0.5 million, 17 % of the total cost of the projects representing a total value of around €2.8 million. In terms of areas, Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy has been the most tackled area, followed by Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities. As to the geographical context, the highest number of approved projects are organised by Serbia followed by Hungary and Italy. The full list *Cooperation Activities approved in 2013* is attached as Annex 8.

Since the start of its operations in 2002, the CEI Cooperation Fund has co-financed - with an amount of about €7.5 million - 785 Cooperation Activities for a total value of about €49 million. It is estimated that the overall mobility generated by the Cooperation Fund in its twelve years of activity is of about 30.000 people.

University Network

The CEI University Network (CEI UniNet) is a contribution of the CEI to higher education in order to enhance cooperation among universities and other institutions of higher learning in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe. This is carried out through the mobility of students and teaching staff attending post – graduate level Joint Programmes such as PhD and Master's courses, summer schools, seminars and workshops (financed through annual calls for proposals). The CEI UniNet - serviced by a unit of the CEI Secretariat, based in Trieste at the CEI Headquarters – mainly functions through the Executive Board. It is composed of a University selected in each CEI Member State and usually meets once a year, chaired by the Rector of the University of Trieste. The General Assembly gathering the Executive Board and coordinators of selected Joint Programmes usually meets every three years for an overall assessment of the activities of the Network.

In 2013, the activities of the CEI UniNet mainly focused on finalising the implementation of Joint Programmes approved under the Call for Proposals 2012.

Since 2004, more than 80 projects have been co-financed with a total allocation of around €1 million provided by Italy for more than 1000 beneficiaries (students, researchers, professors). The total fund mobilisation amounts to around €7 million.

Science and Technology Network

The CEI Science and Technology Network aims at strengthening scientific and technological cooperation and, at providing support to the organization of PhD courses, training programmes, workshops and research activities in fields such as theoretical and applied physics, biogenetics, neurosciences and applied mathematics. Moreover, young scientists from CEI countries, in particular from non-EU CEI Member States, are offered the opportunity to attend such activities and carry out scientific research in one of the Lead Institutions, creating the Network: the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), the International Centre for Science and High Technology of UNIDO (ICS-UNIDO), the International Centre for Theoretical Physics “Abdus Salam” (ICTP), the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA), the Synchrotron ELETTRA, the Consortium Area Science Park and the Cluster in Biomedicine (CBM). Their partner/affiliated institutions in other CEI countries also make part of the Network.

This year's activities of the **CEI Science and Technology Network** have been closely connected to the Meeting of the Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology, the Meeting of the CEI Network of Focal Points on Science and Technology and other events dealing with scientific research and innova-

tion especially in the Balkans, the Danube and Adriatic-Ionian Macro-regions as well as the Eastern Neighbourhood. Along with its partner institutions of the CEI Science and Technology Network, the CEI is finalizing the implementation of the CERES Programme, which will end in March 2014. All targeted objectives were achieved, with the distribution of 30 post-doctoral fellowships in the period 2009-2013 among highly skilled researchers from CEI Member States, with a very successful rate in terms of gender balance and geographical coverage (very good participation of researchers from non-EU CEI Member States).

Training Programmes of the CEI Secretariat

The CEI Secretariat launched a new Programme, **Advanced Training Programme for a Young Journalist**, in October. It is aimed at selecting a young journalist from a CEI country and have he/she cooperate with the CEI and ANSA staff for the development of the ANSA New Europe Portal focused on the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans in order to increase the volume and the quality of the news provided by the CEI. The selected candidate will also be involved in CEI communication and information activities. The training programme – addressed to young journalists (no more than 35 years of age) – will last for a period of seven months (renewable for another seven months). The selected candidate will be granted a (non taxable) fellowship of €1.500 per month.

This initiative has drawn on the success of the **Advanced Training Programme for Young Officials from CEI Member States on the Management of EC Funded Projects**, launched by the CEI Secretariat in May 2013. This Programme aimed at awarding up to four (non taxable) scholarships of €1.500 per month for a theoretical and hands-on advanced training programme on the management of EC (co) funded projects for the duration of eight months, renewable for another eight months, to four candidates up to 35 years of age. The main assignment of the candidates was in the following areas: institution building and strategic marketing, transport and logistics, bio-based sustainable energy and rural development. Elma Filipovic (*Bosnia and Herzegovina*), Ivana Ivkov (Serbia), Natalia Cataranciuc (Republic of Moldova), and Masa Jurin (Croatia), on secondment from their respective Governments, started their traineeship at the CEI Secretariat in Trieste on 2 May. The Programme consists of two parts: theoretical training and practical training. During the first four months of their traineeship, activities mainly focused on the practical training. They basically provided assistance and overall support to their supervisors i.e. the CEI officers, in the management and implementation of the projects the CEI is currently implementing. Therefore, the Young Officials have also had the opportunity to get familiar with respective EU Programmes and with overall CEI priorities in terms of participation in EU projects. Additionally, the Young Officials have been encouraged to elaborate a project on their own, con-

cept that should be in line with CEI priority areas of cooperation, as well as with the overall European framework and their own competences. Since the afore-mentioned part of the Training presents the most challenging one, for them as a trainees as well as for the CEI (in terms of supporting the CEI involvement in the EC Co-funded projects), during the next period of the Training Programme the Young Officials will continue to focus their activities on the realisation of the stated objectives.



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TRAIN FOR EUROPE





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ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. PRIORITIES OF THE HUNGARIAN CEI PRESIDENCY

Hungary agreed - as requested by the Government of Albania - to swap its turn in office. On 1 January 2013 Hungary assumed the Presidency of the Central European Initiative. On 1 July 2013 Hungary also took over the Presidency of the Visegrad Group. The Central European Initiative and the Visegrad Group are the two pre-eminent regional cooperation initiatives in Central Europe that have made important contributions to overcome the division of Europe by re-establishing intra-regional cooperation links, launching specific programmes and projects aiming at a gradual harmonisation of the socio-economic structures of their Member States, strengthening the process of European integration, and assisting economic transformation of their Member States in transition.

Regional cooperation is a cornerstone of Europe and is a key element for finding solutions to the pressing issue of efficient energy supply, for improving infrastructure and making better use of our competitive advantages. The security, stability and general well-being of Europe hinges on the quality of intra-regional interactions and good-neighbourly relations.

The fundamental objective of the Hungarian Presidency is to explore and exploit potentials of Central Europe by removing the obstacles hampering intra-regional economic cooperation. We intend to work towards relevant political understandings conducive to clearing the bottlenecks both in physical and human infrastructure. We will step up efforts to improve infrastructure and to link networks within the region. Further initiatives are required to enhance the level and intensity of direct contacts between and among our societies in general and the business communities in particular. Hungary will promote cultural exchange as an important vehicle for establishing mutual trust and understanding between and among the nations of the region still coping with their complicated historical past.

The strategic aspirations of Central Europe are mainly to be interpreted within the European framework as far as the EU plays the most important role in shaping of the political and socio-economic perspectives of the region. The Hungarian Presidency will strive to articulate the common interests and policy ideas important for Central Europe by emphasising the need of continued enlargement and an expanded neighbourhood policy, as well as by persistently advocating the need of adequate financial allocations for the developmental objectives of the region. In today's globalised world enhanced cooperation with overseas partners is an important aspect of regional stability and prosperity. New perspectives of economic interactions are gradually opening up for Central Europe in this context.

The Hungarian Presidency of the Central European Initiative intends to organise its practical activities around three major strategic objectives:

- Stepping up efforts in order to clear the regulatory and infrastructural bottlenecks hampering closer economic interactions and more extensive human contacts within Central Europe*
- Representing common aspirations and objectives of the wider Central European region within and towards the European Union, strengthening the process of economic transformation of the countries in transition*
- Encouraging increased commitments in the region of overseas stakeholders*

The Presidential Year is to cover four horizontal priorities:

Visibility – *is to be enhanced through an even closer cooperation with the relevant EU authorities, deeper involvement in EU programmes under CEI umbrella. The worldwide visibility is to be supported by programmes dedicated to global issues and possible invitations of global players interested in our region.*

Sustainable Growth – *is to be approached through programmes for dialogue and networking in the fields of business development through a revisiting of the CEI Business Dimension on the two-pillar approach, of green growth focusing on rural development, of healthcare sustainability and research of renewable energy.*

Mobility – *is about supporting a funded dialogue on better transport connections in the region, needed both for tourism and trade. The dialogue on the touristic potential should be continued on expert level in order to support programmatic development further.*

Inclusion – *the numerous identities and their cultural diversity in Central Europe are to be dealt as sources of creativity in the framework of special programmes exploring the depth of common understanding through art, intellectual debates on history and sociology.*

Hungary wishes to encourage pragmatic cooperation among the major stakeholders in the region in all CEI areas of activity, i.e. governments, industries, NGOs, organisations in both private and public sectors.

Through consistent efforts to put the creative energies of the region in motion, Central Europe is well positioned to become an engine of growth in the European continent. The Hungarian CEI Presidency - based on a close cooperation with all partners within the CEI and especially the V4, the enlarged Troika and the Executive Secretariat - will do its best to develop the impetus needed to achieve this goal and to step forward in countering the various issues standing before our Initiative.

ANNEX 2. CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF THE HUNGARIAN CEI PRESIDENCY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Event</i>
21-22 January	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	Official opening of the Hungarian CEI Presidency 2013, 1 st CNC Meeting
21-22 February	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	High level meeting of EGTC's Approval Authorities – "EGTCs as an EU's instrument for our common regional challenges"
22 February	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	"Multi-centre Central Europe - Cultural Relations in Central Europe" – international conference organized nised by the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs
21-23 March	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	"Multiculturalism – Trap or a Chance" workshop for pre-eminent university students from the CEI Member States
26-27 March	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	Meeting of the CEI Network of Design Schools
10 April	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	CEI Chamber Network Economic Forum and Brokerage Event for SMEs (CEICEF Budapest – First Pillar meeting of the CEI Business Dimension)
11 April	<i>Nyíregyháza, Hungary</i>	20 th Anniversary of the Carpathian Euro-region new opportunities in the frame of the CEI, V4
11 April	<i>London, UK</i>	International Conference on the Margins of the CNC Meeting: EBRD Activities in Central and Eastern Europe
12 April	<i>London, UK</i>	2 nd CNC and Steering Committee Meeting
15-16 April	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	Ministerial meeting: Green Growth – rural development in the foreground
23-25 April	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	CEI PD Parliamentary Committee Meeting: "Diversity provided creativity for the economic growth of our region"
25-26 April	<i>Bonyhád/Paks/Kalocsa, Hungary</i>	CEI PD Meeting of the General Committee on Cultural Affairs
24-25 May	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	Workshop on "Crisis Management and the Politics of Reform in East Central Europe"
6 June	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	Expert meeting on tourism: "Opportunities of transnational development in CEI countries"
10 June	<i>Vienna, Austria</i>	3 rd CNC Meeting
12 June	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	CEI-USA Meeting of Political Directors of MFA (CEI PoD): "Security in Central Europe and Beyond"
20-21 June	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	International conference on "Promoting EU Integration through Judicial Cooperation"
22 June – 7 July	<i>Kőszeg, Hungary</i>	International Summer University "Who is Sovereign? Citizenship in Europe and Beyond"
25–29 August	<i>Balatonalmádi, Hungary</i>	Fifth Central European Symposium on Plasma Chemistry – 5 th CESPAC
24 September	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	Meeting of CEI Ministers of Economy on "Growth potential in Central Europe"
24 September	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	High-level, international Business Forum for business leaders of large enterprises (Second Pillar meeting of the CEI Business Dimension – connected to the ministerial meeting)

24-26 September	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	CEI Parliamentary Dimension - Parliamentary Assembly Meeting: "The possible role of the CEI in strengthening regional co-operation in the context of the 2014-2020 budgetary period"
25 September	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	Meetings of all General Committees of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension
3-4 October	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	Guarantee Models in Europe – Focus on the Opportunities in CEI Country – expert meeting
10-11 October	<i>Trieste, Italy</i>	4 th CNC Meeting
10-11 October	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	High-level meeting on the modernisation of the health care systems in the region
30-31 October	<i>Gödöllő, Hungary</i>	MFA Meeting of CEI/V4
11 November	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	International conference on World War I entitled "The Loss of Europe"
29 November	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	Workshop on "Effective Public Administration as a Tool of Promoting Growth"
16 December	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>	5 th CNC Meeting, Handing over the CEI Presidency to Austria

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

Profit

N°	Item	Law/Agreement/Reason	Amount
1.	Balance carried forward from 2012	N/A	1.166.544,10
2.	Contribution from Italian MFA	law 286/1997 and 142/2003	1.393.053,00
3.	Contribution from the Austrian Development Agency	GA 8180-01/2011-12-LR2010	30.000,00
4.	EU Grants and Refunds	SEE/A/071/3.3/X	1.191.447,42
		002-1/B/0004/3.1/X	
		229660	
		2011/278-252	
		IEE/11/951/SI2.615948	
		SEE/C/0005/3.1X	
		4CE433P2	
		SEE/D/0093/3.3X	
		0015928/P	
		1C-MED12-94	
		333720	
		608622	
609607			
609497			
	SEE/B/0004/3.1X		
5.	Contribution from Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region	LR 11/1996 and 18/2011	55.772,91
6.	Contribution from Member States to CEI Cooperation Fund	CEI MFA decision 22.06.2001	296.972,29
7.	Sponsorships and reimbursements*	see footnote below	262.546,06
8.	Accrued interests on CEI bank accounts**	see footnote below	322,05
Total A			4.396.657,83

Loss

N°	Item	Amount
1.	EU projects (including staff and travels)	1.451.134,74
2.	KEP-ADA projects	92.065,74
3.	Cooperation Fund projects (including Advance Training Programme for Young Officials)	339.091,33
4.	Events, meetings, sponsorships	86.935,42
5.	Infrastructural costs (HQs)	171.873,07
6.	Salaries and allowances	1.017.024,59
7.	Consultants	103.697,50
8.	Travel expenditures	63.613,53
9.	Auditing, insurances, miscellaneous	23.514,28
10.	Banking costs**	2.650,92
Total B		3.351.601,12

Balance carried forward to 2013 (TOTAL A - TOTAL B)

1.045.056,71

* out of which: 26.488 EUR from local donors to support the organisation of meetings and events in Trieste; 236.058,06 EUR as reimbursements for CEI expenses in connection with the realization of EU projects; CEI Fund at the EBRD, KEP Austria, TELECOM

**not including the accounts of EU projects

ANNEX 4. CEI SECRETARIAT'S STAFF

CEI Executive Secretariat

Executive Level

Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri <i>Secretary General</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities.
Ambassador Margit Waestfelt <i>Alternate Secretary General</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities.
Erik Csernovitz <i>Deputy Secretary General (as of 1 October)</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities. CEI Parliamentary and Business Dimensions.
Zoran Jovanovic <i>Deputy Secretary General (until 15 July)</i>	Overall management of the CEI activities. CEI Parliamentary and Business Dimensions.
Giorgio Rosso Cicogna <i>Acting Secretary General (until 13 March)</i> <i>Special Advisor to the SG (as of 1 July)</i>	Advisor to the Secretary General.

Professional Staff

Barbara Fabro <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities, Media and relevant CEI Feature Events; CEI Awards; Communication and media relations, including publication of news on website; Liaison to Italian Delegation to CEI Parliamentary Assembly
Paola Plancher <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Coordination of ministerial and other high-level meetings organised at CEI Headquarters; Liaison to local, regional and national authorities; Supervision of procedural requirements and administrative evaluation of CEI Cooperation Activities
Slavena Radovanovic <i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Executive assistance to Special Advisor to CEI Secretary General. Management of EU projects. Coordination of Young Officials from CEI Member States seconded to CEI Secretariat. Coordination of intern recruitment.
Lidija Arsova <i>Executive Officer (on maternity leave until 11 July)</i>	External relations, in particular liaison to the CNC, CEI Presidency and other governmental bodies, regional and international organisations; Preparation of CNC meetings, MFA Meetings and CEI Summits; Coordination of Annual Report.
Izabela Gostisa Pasic <i>Executive Officer</i>	Management and administration of KEP AUSTRIA programme; Coordination of activities within SEDRI (Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative); Climate and Environment, Tourism. Management of EU-funded project "SEEMORE".
Tania Pibernik <i>Executive Officer</i>	Coordination of CEI activities in the field of Human Resource Development including CEI University Network and relevant CEI Feature Events; Editing and updating of website and publications. <i>Until 16 August:</i> External relations, in particular liaison to the CNC, CEI Presidency and other governmental bodies. Preparation of CNC meetings.
Alessandro Lombardo <i>Executive Officer</i>	Responsible for administrative and financial matters; Coordination of CEI participation in EU Projects and Programmes; Coordination of CEI activities in the field of Science and Technology, including CEI Science and Technology Network.

General Staff

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

Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD

Executive Level

Guido Paolucci
Programme Manager

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

Professional Staff

Elisabetta Dovier
Senior Executive Officer

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

Daniela Biadene
Junior Executive Officer

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

Vlad Olievshi
Associate Manager (until 31 July)

Support to the Programme Manager in the Technical Cooperation project cycle; assistance to Programme Manager in the implementation of CEI Fund strategies.

General Staff

Tea Stibilj
Secretary

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

Office for EU Projects

Anna Marconato
Project Manager

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

Carlo Fortuna
Head of Transport and Regional Cooperation Unit of the Office for EU Projects

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

Ugo Poli
Project Manager

Project Manager of the SRC RCC project.

Ana Sinkovic
Project Officer

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

Peter Canciani
Project Officer

Part time seconded at the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region; day-to-day project management and communication activities in the ATTAC, EBTP-SABS and S2BIOM projects.

Ivan Zupan
Junior Project Officer

Reporting, day-to-day project management, technical assistance and communication activities in the ACROSSEE, ADRIA A and RAIL4SEE projects.

Sara Baronio
Project Assistant

Assistance to communication, administration and reporting activities, as well as organization of meetings and events in the context of the projects ADRIA A, ECHOS and SEEMORE.

Marina Juricev
Project Assistant

Assistance to communication, administration and reporting activities, as well as organization of meetings and events in the context of the projects ACROSSEE, ATTAC and DESIGN-MTS (as of 16th September 2013).

ANNEX 5. EU-FUNDED PROJECTS

CEI Research Fellowship Programme (CERES)

EU Programme: 7th Framework Programme

CEI role: Lead Partner

Participating countries: All CEI Member States

Area: Science & Technology – Mobility of Post Doctoral Researchers

Duration: 04/2009 – 03/2014

Total cost: €1.008.000,00

Budget administered by the CEI: €1.008.000,00

The CEI Research Fellowship Programme - CERES is meant to promote transnational mobility (incoming) of scientists from CEI Member States.

CERES envisages 30 post-doctoral fellowships to be distributed over a period of 60 months. The Programme is promoted by the Central European Initiative in cooperation with 5 partner institutions which cover a large spectrum of highly relevant fields of scientific research such as physics, maths, genetics, biotechnology, neurosciences, nano-sciences, bioinformatics: in line with the bottom-up approach pursued by all Marie Curie Actions, fellows will be given the chance to choose the topic of their research projects, as well as their host institution.

Highlights:

- The fourth call for applications, launched in 2012, was finalised during this year, with 5 researchers from CEI countries, namely from Slovenia, Bulgaria (2) and Ukraine (2), completing their one-year fellowships. These were carried out at the host institutions composing the CERES Network (International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology; International Centre for Theoretical Physics, International School for Advanced Studies; Cluster in Biomedicine; Synchrotron ELETTRA).
- The CERES Programme awarded all fellowships at its disposal (30) in the period 2009 - 2013 and will be concluded in March 2014.

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

Accessibility and Development for the Re-launch of the Inner Adriatic Area (ADRIA A)

EU Programme: Cross-border cooperation programme Italy-Slovenia

CEI role: Lead Partner

Participating countries: Italy, Slovenia

Area: Transport and accessibility

Duration: 01/2010 – 10/2014

Total cost: €3.289.000,00

Budget administered by the CEI: €3.289.000,00

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

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

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

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

Highlights:

- On 11 May the project participated in an event organised together with the Municipality of Monfalcone in the framework of the cooperation with the SETA project (South East Europe Cooperation Programme), named “Train for Europe”. The aim of this initiative was to foster the spirit of cooperation and friendship among citizens, institutions of the project and the railroad operators of Italy, Slovenia and Croatia.
- An interactive multi-media exhibition was realised and it will be travelling the project area during 2014.
- The project design of the missing links on the Italian side was finalised.
- The Slovenian part will be completed within spring 2014.
- The project conclusion has been postponed from December 2013 to October 2014.

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

Attractive Urban Public Transport for Accessible Cities (ATTAC)

EU Programme: South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme

CEI role: Partner

Participating countries: Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Germany, Greece

Area: Improvement of the accessibility – Urban mobility

Duration: 01/2011 – 03/2014

Total cost: €2.342.128,28

Budget administered by the CEI: €171.160,00

The overall objective of the ATTAC project is to improve the coordination in promoting, planning and operating urban/agglomeration public transport networks in order to better integrate ATTAC cities and regions into South East Europe transport backbone and to reduce bottlenecks in European transport corridors. Effective and quality urban Public Transport (PT) is one of the key factors of fighting congestion, and the stimulation of the use of PT must be facilitated by making it a competitive alternative for private car use. The specific objective of the project is to introduce attractive and sustainable PT solutions and services in ATTAC cities, which will significantly contribute to raising the share of public/collective transportation modes at ATTAC locations, creating a framework for a seamless journey to all passengers, with special regard to commuters and long distance travellers.

Main CEI responsibility is the coordination of the Extended Transfer Programme to the wider South East Europe area aiming at promoting knowledge sharing and dialogue between partners and stakeholders, thus ensuring dissemination and transfer of ATTAC results to other SEE locations.

Highlights:

- In the above context, the CEI organised the ATTAC Ministerial Conference on "Sustainable urban transport perspectives in South East Europe. Building upon common solutions and best practices" (Trieste, 12.11.2013), with the participation of more than eighty representatives of relevant Line Ministries from SEE countries, Regional and Local Transport Agencies, Public transport operators, Universities and Research Organisations. The event contributed to raising awareness among decision-makers on the potential of innovative public transport solutions as drivers for change, with particular regard to the beneficial impact deriving from the implementation of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP). The event enabled disseminating to a wider audience project results and outputs, in particular the Mobility Toolbox.
- In order to further strengthen the impact of ATTAC and its long-term sustainability, the CEI contributed to setting-up a network of ATTAC Contact Points in the Countries participating to the project. A dedicated Workshop was organised in Trieste (13.11.2013) focusing on the project long-term sustainability, capitalisation of project results and internal communication.
- All Project activities are under completion. The Project has been prolonged to March 2014 when the Final Conference will be organised in Hungary.

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

Rail hub cities for South East Europe (RAIL4SEE)

EU Programme: South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme

CEI role: Partner

Participating countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Greece

Area: Transport – Rail passengers mobility

Duration: 05/2012 – 10/2014

Total cost: €4.826.900,00

Budget administered by the CEI: €390.000,00

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

Highlights:

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

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

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

EU Programme: IPA Regional Programme 2010

CEI role: Lead Partner

Participating countries: All CEI Member States

Area: Regional Cooperation

Duration: 12/2011 – 03/2014

Total cost: €890.000,00

Budget administered by the CEI: €890.000,00

The overall objective of the project is to enhance regional cooperation in South-East Europe (SEE), thus contributing to a further EU integration of the Western Balkans (WB). The CEI is managing this EC funded action for the benefit of the Regional Cooperation Council (www.rcc.int) in its capacity as operational arm of the SEE Cooperation Process. It is also the pivotal actor of the new SEE 2020 Strategy for Jobs and Prosperity, shaping the common framework of all sectoral strategies including the six Western Balkan countries and Croatia.

The CEI activities supported by the DG ENLARGMENT are:

1. capacity building of the RCC staff in the programming and monitoring techniques;
2. promotion of innovative inputs to the regional strategies through bottom-up consultations;
3. design and feasibility study for the development of e-RCC;
4. CEI and RCC common delivery of communication outputs enhancing awareness of SEE public and private actors on the potential of recovering the growth of the region on its path towards the European Union.

The CEI in particular is in charge of providing the SEE region and RCC with connections to other regional organisations, macro-regional strategies and the governing authorities of the Operational Programmes for European Territorial Cooperation of the Cohesion policy. In this framework, a technical workshop of representatives of all the above-mentioned entities took place in Sarajevo on 19 – 20 September 2013, achieving consensus on final “shared opinions of the participants”. This paper provides recommendations for: - better bridging regional strategies from the Baltic to the Adriatic Ionian, to the Black Seas, where the Danube River remains the backbone of the region; - harmonising national development plans of EU Member States, of IPA Countries and of Eastern Partners within the Europe 2020 targets.

Highlights:

- After the successful kick-off meeting held on 16 March in Sarajevo, the CEI – RCC partnership fine-tuned the foreseen operations starting a cycle of training seminars on programming techniques of the cohesion policy relevant for the IPA implementation (July and November 2012 – March and September 2013). Two Study Tours at the institutions of the Baltic Cooperation (September - Stockholm) and at the bodies implementing the Objective European Territorial Cooperation – ETC in Central and South East Europe (November – Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest) were also finalised.
- The CEI staff provided substantial inputs for the finalisation of the RCC Action Plan 2014 - 2016, such as the endorsement of the SEE 2020 Strategy by the Ministerial Conference held in Sarajevo on November 21, 2013.
- Four sector consultations working on a bottom-up approach [Stakeholder Meetings at national level and final regional conferences (SSC)] have been delivered on agreed topics:
 - cultural heritage and tourism development,
 - advanced bio-fuels and rural innovation,
 - networking of ombudsman offices and relations with CSOs,
 - making the most of creative industries’ regional assets.
- A two-day interactive seminar on e-RCC potential and a feasibility study were delivered to the RCC.5. The first common production of the public broadcasters of the region (9 Countries), i.e. a 90-minutedocumentary entitled “How do I see my neighbour?” was edited and aired in all Participating Countries.
- The Closing Conference of the project is envisaged on Tuesday, 18 March, 2014 in Sarajevo and all CEI CNCs will be invited.

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

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

EU Programme: Central Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme

CEI role: Partner

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

Area: Transport - ICT

Duration: 07/2012 – 12/2014

Total cost: €2.424.272,15

Budget administered by the CEI: €244.972,50

The EDITS project focuses on the improvement of the accessibility to interoperable and multimodal Real Time Traffic and Travel Information (RTTI) services with the goal to support the single traveller before and during his journey within a region, as well as across different regions. The project will ensure the easy access to all traffic related information via several consistent information channels. By bringing together partners from different governmental levels throughout Central Europe, EDITS will develop common transnational solutions for the exchange of transport related information and the improvement of interoperable and multimodal RTTI services. To meet this challenge, transnational cooperation is essential, since all partners are confronted with the similar need to inform their customers, i.e. travellers in an accurate way.

Highlights:

- A pilot action will be implemented in the demonstration area among Italy, Slovenia and Austria.
- A Data collection related to the demonstration area was performed in 2013.
- An EDITS system and application for users will be tested and set up within the end of the project in December 2014.

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

Sustainable and energy efficient mobility options in tourist regions in Europe (SEEMORE)

EU Programme: Intelligent Energy Europe

CEI role: Partner

Participating countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, Poland, Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Sweden,

Area: Energy Efficiency - Tourism

Duration: 03/2012 – 02/2015

Total cost: €1.974.225,00

Budget administered by the CEI: €133.928,00

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

The project has the following specific objectives:

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

Visitors of tourist regions benefit from the improved traveller information, the increased choice in mobility options and the attractive integrated travel and leisure products.

At regional level a stronger co-operation between/among actors from the tourism and mobility sectors is being established with local working groups and the implementation of concrete activities like data exchange protocols.

Highlights:

- At the CEI Expert Meeting on “Opportunities of Transnational Tourism Development in CEI countries”, organised in Godollo (Budapest) on 6 June 2013 by the Hungarian Ministry for National Economy, links with experts from CEI Member States were established and SEEMORE presentations on actions implemented in the Dobrich Region (Bulgaria) were delivered.
- The core activity in 2013 was the “SEEMORE Central European Transfer Seminar”, organised at the CEI Headquarters in Trieste, on 24 October 2013. Local and regional authorities in charge of tourism and mobility attended the seminar, from 12 touristic areas in six CEI countries: Trieste, Grado and Lignano (Italy); Porec, Pula and Dubrovnik (Croatia); Koper and Bled (Slovenia); the Balaton region (Hungary); the Belgrade region (Serbia) and Kotor (Montenegro). Participants exchanged best practices on sustainable mobility in tourism areas, also by presenting innovative measures for promoting the use of public transport to reach tourist destinations and tourist attractions, as well as providing better on-line transport information. A similar seminar will be organised in Constanta (Romania) in autumn 2014.
- National SEEMORE Seminars were held in Gdansk (Poland) on 12-13 September 2013 and in Forlì (Italy) on 12 November 2013, gathering local authorities and organisations responsible for tourism and transport from these two countries.

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

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

EU Programme: South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme

CEI role: Lead Partner

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

Area: Transport – cross border bottlenecks

Duration: 10/2012 – 09/2014

Total cost: €3.025.246,64

Budget administered by the CEI: €3.025.246,64

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

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

Highlights:

- During 2013, the CEI – Lead Partner of the ACROSSEE project – met several times the European Commission and gained the full support of the DG MOVE.
- For the first time in South East Europe, EU and non EU member states performed the same integrated Surveys and Traffic Countings at Cross Border Points.
- Surveys at ports, interports and on transport commodities were also performed.
- The results of the above mentioned surveys contributed to the elaboration of a detailed transport model for South East Europe, focusing on Cross border issues.
- At the Ministerial Conference organised on November 12th, the 24 ACROSSEE partners and Associated Institutions approved and signed a Multi Level Memorandum of Understanding for the advancement of cooperation on Border Crossing Sections.
- The ACROSSEE results will be available in September 2014, closing date of the project.

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

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

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

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

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

Highlights:

- The first WIDER Innovation Fair took place in Barcelona on 20 November 2013. This networking event with 90 stakeholders from public, private, R&D entities, SMEs and end-users, all aiming to strengthen transnational cooperation on eco-smart housing for elderly, focused on the spatial context, examining what the barriers mean to an innovative emerging market of this kind and how they could be dismantled for new potential incomers.
- WIDER also offers concrete opportunities to companies and consultants from the Mediterranean area: currently there is an Open Call for the selection of *Knowledge Providers/Suppliers* for the constitution of a transnational list of experts that will support the implementation of WIDER *Innovation Voucher* scheme. A Call related to this latter will be launched very soon with the aim of helping SMEs to close the innovation gap. Both initiatives entail a financial opportunity for the selected participants.

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

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

The main aim of the DESIGN-MTS project is to enable European enterprises of Machine Tool Sector (MTS) across the EU to take a strategic approach to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in cooperation with relevant stakeholders. Integrating CSR into a company's core business is critical for its own competitiveness and growth, but also for increasing social trust and consumer confidence in business and economy in general.

This project will develop awareness of CSR in the sector by integrating a multi-stakeholder approach to CSR and developing socially responsible best practice cases to enhance the visibility and value of CSR in the MTS.

A permanent multi-stakeholder platform on CSR in the machine tools industry will be set up within the project. The platform will include a broad range of relevant European stakeholders that will:

- ⇒ Facilitate stakeholder dialogue
- ⇒ Build consensus on CSR issues in the sector
- ⇒ Foster the adoption of joint commitments
- ⇒ Provide multilateral support to CSR

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

Highlights:

- In the first five months of the project, two deliverables of the WP1 "Analysis and Exchange" were drafted by respective task leaders: the *Existing Situation Analysis Report* and the *European Best Practices Report*. The first one reviews and examines the information, knowledge and experience regarding the state of application of CSR in the European MTS, while the second one reviews and identifies best practices at European and national level, thus ensuring that there is no duplication with existing/past initiatives. Moreover, for each practice, it defines the specific problem/issue it wants to resolve, the level of innovation, financial/human resources, the implementation area, and how it can concretely be capitalised by the project.
- The CEI provided support in collecting information for the elaboration of the *Existing Situation Analysis Report*.

For more information: www.designmts.eu

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

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

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

The progress of the participants will be continuously monitored, before the beginning of the mobility programme through a test of evaluation and later during the mobility programme, through mentors at the host institutions and after the conclusion of the mobility with another test of evaluation. After the core of the project is over, a social event will be organised in order to present the results of the project and foster networking between mobility participants and Croatian stakeholders in order to introduce these new highly competent figures in the labour market.

Highlights:

- The first round of training will be launched in February 2014, during which the CEI will host two trainees from Croatian Institutions.

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

European Biofuels Technology Platform – Support for Advanced Biofuels Stakeholder (EBTP-SABS)**EU Programme:** 7th Framework Programme**CEI role:** Partner**Participating countries:** Austria, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom**Area:** Energy**Duration:** 09/2013 -08/2016**Total cost:** €499.685,00**Budget administered by the CEI:** €67.410,00

The European Biofuels Technology Platform (EBTP) supports the development of cost-competitive world-class biofuels value chains and the acceleration of their sustainable deployment in the EU.

The objective of the EBTP-SABS project is to provide support to all activities of EBTP that are of interest to the biofuels community as a whole and the public. This includes information about technological, market, political, regulatory and financial developments and deployment activities such as the set-up, commissioning and operation of pilot and demonstration facilities and surrounding research. EBTP-SABS will motivate discussion and interaction between various groups of stakeholders and the working groups of EBTP. Information will be provided at several levels of detail. Key instruments to achieve this aim will be the EBTP website, factsheets, reports, newsletters and networking events at different scales.

EBTP-SABS will continue from September 2013 until the summer of 2016, and aims to update the EBTP SRA and SDD, to help inform Horizon2020 priorities on advanced biofuels within European bioeconomy activities and the European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative (EIBI). The project will also establish and expand information about stakeholders, demonstration and flagship facilities, research on advanced biofuels across all Member States and other countries of interest, as well as events, reports, feedstock availability and stakeholders.

Highlights:

- Project started on 1 September 2013.
- Kick-off meeting held in Bruxelles on 15-16 October 2013.
- Owing to the nature of activities, the Project has no independent website, but uses EBTP's. It is planned to launch an updated version of the EBTP website in early 2014 with a community forum offering greater possibilities to comment and communicate on advanced biofuels R&D&D topics.
- Implementation on-going.

For more information : www.biofuelstp.eu

Delivery of sustainable supply of non-food biomass to support a “resource-efficient” bioeconomy in Europe (S2BIOM)**EU Programme:** 7th Framework Programme**CEI role:** Partner**Participating countries:** Austria, Croatia, Italy, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Spain, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom**Area:** Energy**Duration:** 09/2013 - 08/2016**Total cost:** €5.151.300,00**Budget administered by the CEI:** €267.600,00

The main aim of S2BIOM is to support the sustainable delivery of non-food biomass feedstock at local, regional and pan European level through developing strategies, roadmaps and a computerized toolset with updated harmonised datasets at local, regional, national and pan European level for EU28, western Balkans, Turkey and Ukraine.

The project fits under the overall umbrella of the Europe 2020 strategy for the building of a bioeconomy, as well as the targets for deployment of renewable energies and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The research work will cover the whole biomass delivery chain from primary biomass to end-use of non-food products and from logistics, pre-treatment to conversion technologies. All these aspects together will be elaborated to facilitate the integrated design and evaluation of optimal biomass delivery chains and networks at European, national, regional and local scale in order to support the development of strategies for best ways to realise a bio-based economy.

The project activities will be implemented in three individual but strongly interrelated Themes:

- ⇒ Theme 1 will focus on methodological approaches, data collection and estimation of sustainable biomass potentials, resource efficient pathways and optimal logistical supply routes as well as the development of a computerized toolset. The work outputs, apart from the toolset will include fully populated databases at local, regional and pan European levels as well as manuals for their operation, maintenance and updates.
- ⇒ Theme 2 will make use of the findings of Theme 1 and develop a Vision, Strategies and a R&D roadmap for the sustainable delivery of non-food biomass feedstock at local, regional and pan European level.
- ⇒ Theme 3 will validate the findings from Themes 1 and 2 and ensure the project outreach. This will be performed through selected case studies, which will efficiently capture the different scales of applications for biomass supply chains in a sufficient number of regions across Europe.

CEI is responsible for the implementation of Theme 3 in collaboration with FNR.

Highlights:

- Project started on 1 September 2013.
- Kick-off meeting held in Berlin on 18-20 September 2013.
- Implementation on-going.

For more information : www.s2biom.eu

ANNEX 6. TECHICAL COOPERATION (TC) PROJECTS

Institutional Capacity building sub-assignments under the Western Balkans Sustainable Energy Direct Lending Facility

Ref. No.: P201.004-13

Country: Serbia

Area: Energy

Duration: Six months

Total cost: €200.000,00

Expected investment related: €200 million

Since 2009, the EBRD has provided extensive capacity building support to most of the countries in the Western Balkans to support the development of the regulatory system for renewable energy. This would enable these countries to meet requirements of the EU pre-accession process through the Energy Community. Several technical assistance activities were, thus, undertaken as part of the WebSEDLF (Western Balkans Direct Lending Facility).

Relevant activities in Serbia include assistance in the development of the renewable energy component of the energy law; preparation of renewable energy power purchase agreement; preparation of economic incentives for support of electricity and heat production from renewable energy sources and from combined heat and power generation; and a study of the energy service companies (ESCO) market. Nevertheless, the EBRD would like to engage in further technical cooperation (TC), based on additional needs for adjustment/ development of the regulatory system. There are specific needs to support institutions like market operators and regulators to adequately provide legal and economic security to investors.

Serbia is progressing in the implementation of its obligations coming from its membership in the Energy Community. One of the key obligations, the country must fulfil, is the implementation of requirements of the European Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC. As a part of its obligations Serbia must deliver the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) which will set the priorities for meeting national renewable energy targets.

The country is also striving to create the regulatory, institutional and economic framework for the promotion of renewable energy sources (RES). As the NREAP is developed throughout 2013, Serbia will need support for the timely implementation of the NREAP requirements. The proposed technical assistance will specifically focus on helping Serbia in refining and improving the RES regulatory framework, specifically secondary regulations as it will be identified in the NREAP.

Serbia has a vast and unutilised renewable energy potential. The proposed technical assistance will help to create the market conditions for the utilisation of such potential. The proposed TC assignment will have a sustainable and high transition impact, as it would enable the proper functioning of the entire energy market.

This is also the reason, for which the TC would be linked to various investments, although their exact value is difficult to foresee. Expected investment potential as identified by the Market Demand Study for Serbia conducted by the EBRD estimated a potential of small renewable energy projects in the size of €442 million with a similar potential for large projects which makes the total investment potential close to €1 billion. The EBRD involvement in financing such projects will be done through a dedicated credit line facility (WebSEFF – Western Balkans Sustainable Energy Financing Facility), direct lending facility (WebDLF) and direct financing.

Kotor – Cetinje Cable Car – Technical Review and Preparation of PPP Tender Extension

Ref. No.: P201.007-13

Country: Montenegro

Area: Municipal infrastructure

Total cost: €39.850,00

Expected investment related: €30 million

This extension is related to a TC assignment approved in 2012 for a value of €200.000,00 in support of an EBRD investment amounting to €15 million which foresees the establishment of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) involving the Government of Montenegro. The total cost of the project, however, is estimated at around €29 million.

The investment is being carried out to further develop tourism in the south-western part of Montenegro by linking Kotor and other coastal towns to Cetinje, the historic royal capital of Montenegro, by cable car, and will help to fulfil one of the main objectives of the Government of Montenegro and the municipalities of Kotor and Cetinje, which is to develop high-quality tourism amenities.

The investment is expected to have significant several positive economic effects due to the high economic multipliers associated with cable car projects, counted as the additional spending and economic activity injected into the local and regional economy.

The original TC assignment and its extension will provide the following deliverables:

An update of the feasibility study, which will make available a technical, market and commercial assessment of the Project to enable the EBRD to assess the risks and opportunities presented by the investment. If the EBRD decides to pursue the Project, the feasibility study will identify the areas that will need to be further explored during the financial due diligence process.

Assistance in the tender preparation for the PPP to ensure that the process meets best international practice requirements as defined in the EBRD concession paper.

Road Rehabilitation and Safety project. Capacity Building on Road Safety Management (ISO 39001)**Ref. No.:** P201.003-13**Country:** Serbia**Area:** Transport**Duration:** Two years**Total cost:** €70.000,00**Expected investment related:** €100 million

The proposed technical assistance supports the Government of Serbia in improving the quality, sustainability and safety of the road network, in order to improve connectivity, stimulate economic growth, and reduce deaths and injuries from road accidents. All designs will be subject to a road safety audit, with mandatory inclusion of safety improvements into the design.

The EBRD is considering a loan to the Republic of Serbia to finance the rehabilitation and safety improvement works on the primary and secondary road networks in Serbia. The loan will consist of €100 million, with parallel financing provided by World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the Government of Serbia, to rehabilitate a large number of individual sections (a total length of 1,125 km) across the country.

This technical assistance will build on the substantial progress made in previous loans to develop Serbia's road network. The transition impact of previous loans was largely focused on the Serbian roads agency, now known as PERS, on which reforms have been introduced to ensure an adequate and stable source of funds, to adopt a new law and to introduce new road maintenance practices through performance based maintenance contracting.

The objective of this technical assistance is to assist PERS, in the preparation and certification of a road safety management system in line with the ISO 39001 requirements, assisting the company during the certification process.

The assistance will focus on the adoption of an integral road safety approach which goes beyond the insertion of safety improvements into the road rehabilitation design to cover also the preparation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) based road safety campaign and the adoption of better management practices, including the adoption of ISO 39001 standard by PERS.

The ISO 39001 "Road Traffic Safety Management" is an ISO standard for a management system for road traffic safety. Achieving the standard requires the development and implementation of an appropriate policy, development of objectives and action plans, which take into account legal and other requirements, enabling organisations to influence a cut in the number of road deaths and serious injuries in collisions.

By adopting the standard ISO 39001 (which was published in October 2012), PERS demonstrates their commitment to road safety, and pioneers the adoption of this in the region, becoming the first organisation to be ISO 39001 certified in the region, and the first road agency worldwide. The EBRD intends to support PERS in this effort by providing consultancy services in the form of capacity building implementation assistance.

Local Roads Reconstruction and Upgrade Project**Ref. No.:** P201.002-13**Country:** Montenegro**Area:** Transport**Duration:** Nine months**Total cost:** €274.000,00**Expected investment related:** €30 million

In a relatively short time, Montenegro has made significant progress in reforming its road sector and the EBRD wishes to build on these achievements. Road maintenance and improvement in road safety are two areas that still offer considerable challenges and the proposed technical assistance will seek to extend the earlier transition impacts in these areas.

Thus, the EBRD is considering a loan to the Republic of Montenegro to support the Local Roads Reconstruction and Upgrade Project, total financing of which is estimated at €30 million. This investment will be used to fund the reconstruction of two sections of the Berane to Kolasin road in northern Montenegro.

This will be EBRD's second project in the road sector of Montenegro. In its first project, EBRD, together with the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR), inter alia supported the creation of the new Transport Directorate (TD) of the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs (MoTMA). TD is responsible for administration and management of the national and regional road networks and is an implementing agency for the Project.

Montenegro embarked on its first Performance Based Maintenance contract (PBMC) in 2010. This contract was awarded following an international competitive tender, in which bids were received from one international contractor and two local contractors. This PBM contract covers basic routine and winter maintenance of the national and regional road networks totalling 1,880 kilometres of road. In the future, the aim is to: (i) expand the scope of PBMC to include a wider scope of treatments within the life cycle of the road assets, and (ii) increase competition from the local contracting market, to reduce costs and increase sustainability. The TD now wishes to develop and refine its PBM contracting strategy to improve the attractiveness of PBM contracts in the wider market and to optimise cost efficiency.

The MoTMA is committed to improving road safety and is willing to adopt the road safety management measures contained in the European Commission's Directive 2008/96/EC. This focuses on four key areas: (i) adoption of a road safety impact assessment at a strategic planning level, as well as at an individual project level; (ii) introduction of requirements for road safety audits to be carried out in a systematic manner through the planning stage, design stage and construction stage of a road infrastructure project; (iii) compilation road accident data across the network and the analysis of this data to identify accident black-spots; and (iv) carrying out further periodical road safety inspections across the network to identify defects that require additional maintenance works to improve road safety. The strengthened approach to road safety management, under the principles of the EU directives and ISO 39001, will require MoTMA and TD to arrange a new institutional and regulatory framework. More capacity and training in the area of road safety will be necessary.

There is now a need for an experienced consultant to assist the MoTMA and its TD to extend and improve the use of PBM contracts, and road safety practices.

Moldova Railways: Assistance in preparation and implementation of tender for rolling stock rehabilitation**Ref. No.:** P201.005-13**Country:** Moldova**Area:** Transport**Duration:** Thirty-six months**Total cost:** €250.000,00**Expected investment related:** €30 million

The Bank is considering to provide a sovereign guaranteed loan to the national railway operator Calea Ferata din Moldova ("CFM" or "Moldovan Railways"), a state owned company incorporated in Moldova, for the improvement of the overall performance of railway operations through rehabilitating life-expired rolling stock to offer higher service quality and energy efficiency benefits. CFM now seeks to engage a consulting company to provide support and assistance to the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to assist with the procurement process for the refurbishment of the existing rolling stock and the subsequent contract administration in accordance with the EBRD Procurement Policies and Rules.

CFM does not have sufficient experience and expertise (as it has never engaged with an IFI before) to implement the tendering process on its own, and therefore grant funding is sought to support this important infrastructure project in Moldova. The scope of services is broken down into two phases: (i) Supporting the PIU in the Procurement Process; (ii) Supporting the PIU in Contract Implementation. The proposed TC assignment will facilitate CFM with gaining access to international best practice on procurement, project management and project implementation as well as advice on specific technical and operational issues. TC assignment will also ensure external expert support for CFM to comply with the required operational / technical standards.

The TC is linked to an EBRD investment of €30 million. This is the Bank's first engagement in the railways sector in Moldova. The sector is unreformed but there seems to be momentum from a previous study for the preparation of the Transport and Logistics Strategy for the Government of Moldova funded by the World Bank. The Bank has an opportunity to conduct policy dialogue with the Government and agree on key reform milestones for the railway sector whilst building on macro-level recommendations provided by the WB consultants. Transition impact is expected to arise from the following areas: (i) institutional changes, including the establishment of a JSC with functionally separate business segments for infrastructure, freight and passenger operations; (ii) the introduction of contractual arrangements; (iii) account separation and further steps towards implementation of PSO; (iv) operational improvements including through the preparation of rolling business plans to best industry standards; (v) capacity building in the area of environment, health and safety; (vi) labour restructuring; (vii) energy efficiency and reductions of energy consumption/needs; (viii) procurement assistance. These reform efforts will significantly improve financial and competitive position of the CFM.

The investment, consisting on the refurbishment of Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) because the Moldovan railroads are not electrified, will result in improved fuel efficiency, reduced pollution and better passenger safety compared with the existing life-expired fleet. The company, with the assistance of the requested donor funded TC, will include energy efficiency requirements into the technical specifications for project procurement in order to ensure that modern and more efficient technologies are incorporated into the new fleet. As a consequence of the renovation programme, a preliminary assessment by an independent consultant revealed that the company will save more than €4.5 million per year in diesel, which represents over 15,000 tons CO₂ and 17% of their energy bill. Beyond this, the Bank has started a policy dialogue with the Government on energy efficiency as a strategic area for reducing operational costs, improving quality and reliability of service and mitigating environmental impact. Based on the findings of the Energy Efficiency Audit undertaken with funds from a previous CEI Fund assignment, CFM will implement an Energy Efficiency Action Plan which will include, inter alia, the establishment of dedicated energy management team, new procedures for energy monitoring and metering and information systems. The implementation of this Action Plan will have a considerable demonstration effect among the main energy users in the country.

Moldova Railways: Environmental, Health and Safety Management Support and Capacity Building**Ref. No.:** P201.001-13**Country:** Moldova**Area:** Transport / Energy Efficiency and Climate Change**Duration:** Six months**Total cost:** €73.000,00**Expected investment related:** €25 million

The EBRD is considering providing a sovereign loan to the Government of Moldova, to be on-lent to Calea Ferata din Moldova (CFM, the national railway operator) to finance the refurbishment of life-expired rolling stock offering higher quality and energy benefits to enhance the efficiency of passenger services. The rolling stock of CFM was mostly inherited from the Moldavskaya Railway and much of it is life-expired. The most pressing issue is the stock used for the domestic passenger services, which is largely life-expired and in a very poor condition and for which spare parts are difficult, if not impossible, to obtain (as wagon and spare parts manufacturing ceased in the 1990s). CFM needs to radically restructure to reflect the current economic situation, national needs and priorities, tariff policy and actual staffing needs (the workforce is far too large for the current and foreseeable task). An initial environmental, health and safety audit of CFM, carried out by independent consultants on behalf of EBRD, concluded that the company lacked systematic environmental or health and safety management systems. As part of the restructuring programme, EBRD is proposing to provide TC support for the development of a corporate environmental, health and safety management based on international best practice, including a corporate-wide environmental, health and safety action plan addressing corrective measures and guiding the Company's operations towards good international practice.

The TC assignment will improve CFM's corporate environmental, health and safety management, practices and performance; enhance CFM's competence and capacity to operate in compliance with good industry practice for railway safety and environmental performance; provide training for CFM staff to enable them to establish and operate an effective and efficient Environmental, Health and Safety Management System (EHSMS).

The TC is linked to an EBRD investment of €25 million. This is the Bank's first engagement in the railways sector in Moldova. The sector is unreformed but there seems to be some reform momentum, and continuity from the previous study for the preparation of the Transport and Logistics Strategy for the Government of Moldova funded by the World Bank. The Bank has an opportunity to conduct policy dialogue with the Government and agree on key reform milestones for the railway sector whilst building on macro-level recommendations provided by the WB consultants. Transition impact is expected to arise from the following areas: (i) institutional changes, including the establishment of a JSC with functionally separate business segments for infrastructure, freight and passenger operations; (ii) the introduction of contractual arrangements; (iii) account separation and further steps towards implementation of PSO; (iv) operational improvements including through the preparation of rolling business plans to best industry standards; (v) capacity building in the area of environment, health and safety; (vi) labour restructuring; (vii) energy efficiency and reductions of energy consumption/needs; (viii) procurement assistance. These reform efforts will significantly improve financial and competitive position of the CFM.

Master in Procurement Management at the University of Rome Tor Vergata - Second Edition

Ref. No.: P201.006-13

Country: Regional

Area: Institutional Development

Duration: Six months

Total cost: €40.000,00

Expected investment related: n/a

In 2013 the joint work between EBRD and the University of Rome Tor Vergata - whose Faculty of Economics is recognised worldwide as a centre of excellence for education in procurement - has produced the first edition of the International Master in Public Procurement Management. It was a challenge that both institutions together, have developed successfully. The Master has been supported by the CEI Fund at the EBRD with €40.000 through a capacity building technical cooperation assignment.

The first year experience has been also valuable to identify opportunities for improvement, based on feedback from students, professors and EBRD experts. Excellent results achieved with the First Master served as basis for the subsequent continuation and consolidation of Master's programme aimed at enhancing public procurement professionalism in EBRD's countries in transition.

In the framework of the second edition of the Master, the Bank will offer full sponsorship for an international group of up to fifteen senior public procurement managers/officials from the following EBRD countries of operations: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan and Ukraine. The contribution of the CEI Fund at the EBRD will support the participation of selected participants from non-EU CEI member states. The Master is under the direct management of the Director of the EBRD Procurement Department.

The main objective of the Master Programme is to raise the academic level and training of public procurement officials, from different background, to have the capacity to design and administer procurement solutions to resolve complex strategic, managerial and organisational problems. A special emphasis is placed on professional capacity, ethics, transparency and accountability.

Training takes the form of traditional class units for a total length of four consecutive months including traditional lectures and seminars covering specific topics of the procurement function such as abnormally low tender prices, negotiations, IT, vendor rating, etc.

The participants will learn more about good procurement practices: strategic tools for purchasing, international procurement law, PPP, ethical aspects involved in the procurement activities, economic analysis of markets. The course will also offer important insights on specific aspects of the procurement function, such as abnormally low tender prices, negotiations, e-procurement and vendor rating.

The whole programme consists of 10 modules and attendance of all modules is compulsory. At the end of each module, students must take the relative exam to verify the acquisition of skills. Each student must be involved in a stage project within his/her own organisation in which he/she puts in practice what has been learnt and during which the student has to write and complete the essay for the final dissertation. At the end of this Master's programme, students must submit a paper, which will be part of the final assessment. The final dissertation should be a case study on procurement issues related to their own organisations or countries and/or which refer to issues in EBRD's interest.

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

KEP ITALY

Supporting the Implementation of CEFTA 2006 in the Areas of Reduction and Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers, Trade in Services and in Relation to the Investment Related Clauses

Ref. No.: 1206.004-13

Know-how provider institution: CEI EU Member States - The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as coordinator

Know-how recipient institutions: Ministry of Economy, **Albania**; Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, **Bosnia Herzegovina**; Ministry of Economy, **Macedonia**; Ministry of Economy, **Montenegro**; Ministry of Economy, **Serbia**

Area: SME Development

Implementation date: January 2014 – September 2014

Project total cost: €615.000,00

CEI co-financing: €30.000,00

The overall objective of the project is to assist some of the member countries of the Central European Free Trade – CEFTA 2006 in implementing the free trade agreement negotiated in 2006 by the beneficiary economies. The target groups will be the policymakers, officials and government bodies responsible for formulating and implementing policies that have an impact with trade with other CEFTA Parties. It will focus on the reduction and elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), the progressive liberalisation of trade in services and the identification of policy measures leading to optimising the benefits of regional trade and investment liberalisation in the context of increasing European integration. The main output of project will be an inventory of regulatory barriers to trade in services and a report. In particular, the regulatory inventory will present information on the existence or absence of these regulations, the legal source of the regulation as well as comments providing more details regarding specific regulations. The report will describe the regulatory framework in CEFTA countries by priority sector highlighting the main trade barriers and the potential areas for negotiations among CEFTA Parties. Finally, based on the ongoing OECD work, a Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) will be calculated for each party and selected sectors to assess the extent of services trade restrictions. The STRI will allow comparing the degree of services trade openness in CEFTA countries relative to OECD countries.

Improving Environmental Monitoring and Disaster Prevention Capacity in Drina river basin – Phase II

Ref. No.: 1206.005-13

Know-how provider institution: Regional Environmental Protection Agency of Emilia Romagna, **Italy**

Know-how recipient institutions: Republican Hydro-meteorological Service, Republic Srpska, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**; Hydro-meteorological and seismological Service of **Montenegro**

Area: Sustainable energy and environment

Implementation date: March 2014 - December 2014

Project total cost: €80.830,00

CEI co-financing: €30.260,00

The Drina river, with its 346 Km of length, spreads over the borders between Republic of Srpska (Bosnia Herzegovina), Serbia and Montenegro, with a minor part in Albania. Lack of data exchange between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia makes almost impossible to foresee the arrival of disruptive events, thus adopting appropriate measures to contain damages and disruption. The assignment it's a follow-up of a study presently under implementation in the framework of a KEP project co-financed by the CEI Fund at the EBRD, which aims at reducing environmental risks and increase safety of population in the Serbian portion of the Drina River Basin. The present project will be compliant with the activities conducted by the Drina River Commission (DRC), and with the guidelines of Climate Change Framework Action Plan for Adaptation for South East Europe (CCFAP), giving new impulse to the process of permanent exchange of data and know-how among the Drina Countries. Sectors to be investigated under the present project include: water resource management, hydro-meteorological monitoring and forecast, risk reduction from natural events, air and water quality, energy and overall social and economic development.

Renewables' -Solutions: Transfer of Successful Renewables- and Bioenergy Know-how to Ukrainian Stakeholders (Res-Sol)**Ref. No.:** 1206.006-13**Know-how provider institution:** Austrian Energy Agency, **Austria****Know-how recipient institutions:** Scientific Engineering Centre "Biomass";State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine; Bioenergy Association of Ukraine; Renewable Energy Agency, **Ukraine****Area:** Sustainable energy and environment**Implementation date:** January 2014 – December 2014**Project total cost:** €39.756,40**CEI co-financing:** €15.377,00

This project will boost the Ukrainian capacities in the renewable energy sector and it will allow Ukraine to advance on its path towards EU standards and policies, as the Action Plan is demanded by the Article 4 of Directive 2009/28/EC. Experts from the beneficiary institutions will additionally be trained on the possibilities, needed framework-conditions, available technologies, financing needs, technical capabilities, implementation-issues and requirements of projects for the utilisation of bioenergy for heat production. In addition to the training a study-tour will be held to select sites of renewable energies and bioenergy utilisation in Austria. The target Ukrainian group will be composed of experts, officers and policy-developers from the Ukrainian administration. As a result of the project, the Ukrainian beneficiaries will be able to understand the political frameworks related to the development of renewable energies. Moreover they will acquire the necessary know-how in the identification and implementation of all the necessary elements for the realisation of such projects. After the completion of the project, experts from beneficiary institutions will follow the implementation of relevant frame conditions for the realisation of projects in the field of renewable energies in general and bioenergy projects in particular.

Balkan Food Hygiene Network**Ref. No.:** 1206.007-13**Know-how provider institution:** European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism, **Bulgaria****Know-how recipient institutions:** Convivium Slow Food Fishta (Albania); Convivium Slow Food Përmet (Albania); Vullnetarizmi Nderkombetar Per Zhvillim Ne Shqiperi, VIS Albania (**Albania**); Okusi Hercegovinu Youth Association for the Promotion of Traditional Products (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**); Sciences and Food (Macedonia); Slow Food Vodno (Macedonia), Slow Food Bitola (**Macedonia**); University of SS Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Food University of Montenegro, Biotechnical Faculty (**Montenegro**); Natura Balkanika Association (Serbia); University of Belgrade, Agriculture Faculty (**Serbia**);**Area:** Sustainable agriculture**Implementation date:** January 2014 – December 2015**Project total cost:** €79.990,00**CEI co-financing:** €39.995,00

This project aims at training the know-how beneficiaries on EU food hygiene regulations in countries still dominated by small producers, delivered at levels appropriate for technical and non-technical audiences by specialists with direct experience of best practice implementation. The project foresees in-country training courses and a study visit to gain know-how from related grassroots initiatives in Romania where the beneficiaries will get know-how on how they can get involved in the process through awareness-raising and training, including involvement in production of awareness-raising materials, approach to influencing policy, local labelling and markets, training of producers, fund-raising for facilities. The know-how providers will focus on: actions on-the-ground to give more value to traditional products and on EU policy relating to food hygiene issues. Lastly, one of the asset of this project is the project will complement and build on the DG Enlargement-funded Essedra project and it represents the first 'outward-looking' action by the Essedra partners in which the NGOs engage with others to spread know-how.

Capacity building and transfer of knowledge for increasing and improving professional skills in the field of secure, clean and efficient energy in Albania, Montenegro and Serbia**Ref. No.:** 1206.008-13**Know-how provider institution:** Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale, **Italy****Know-how recipient institutions:** Department of Energy Resources, Faculty Of Geology and Mining, Polytechnic University of Tirana, **Albania**; Geological Survey of **Montenegro**; Association of Geophysicists and Environmentalists of Serbia, **Serbia****Area:** Sustainable energy and environment**Implementation date:** January 2014 – December 2014**Project total cost:** €80.000,00**CEI co-financing:** €40.000,00

The project aims at increasing and improving professional skills in the field of secure, clean and efficient energy within the Region, with a particular focus on the real needs of beneficiary countries, through training courses, exchange of good practices, sharing of problems and finding solutions and other capacity building activities as required. As long-term objective, the project strives to prepare best conditions for countries engaged in the pre-accession process to the EU and will certainly support the decision of young scientists to remain in their home institutions/countries and discontinue the brain-drain process. Joint publications and co-authoring will be considered as priority and scientific products will be increased significantly. Transnational cooperation will be strengthened and network of scientific excellence will be further broadened. Partnership between the know-how provider and local beneficiary institutions will be reinforced and new project ideas will be conceived and formulated as follow-up action to the present project.

Implementation of Directive 2009/28/EC in the Field of Biofuels and Transport in Serbia - Transfer of Best Practices**Ref. No.:** 1206.009-13**Know-how provider institution:** Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Zagreb, **Croatia****Know-how recipient institutions:** National Petroleum Committee of Serbia – World Petroleum Council, **Serbia****Area:** Sustainable energy and environment**Implementation date:** January 2014 – October 2014**Project total cost:** €39.982,00**CEI co-financing:** €13.141,00

The aim of the project is transfer know-how in EU legislation implementation, particularly the 2009/28/EC Directive that is part of EU energy legislation providing a legislative framework for EU targets for greenhouse gas emission savings. It encourages energy efficiency, energy consumption from renewable sources (RES), the improvement of energy supply and stimulation of a sector in which Europe is setting an example.

The project is to be conducted through 3 modules:

Transfer of experience in the implementation of the legislative obligations as well as the current legislation in the field of biofuels in transport in Croatia, aiming at giving input for preparation of Policy Recommendations by the target group for the future legislative framework in Serbia. Location Belgrade.

Transfer of experience on practical regulation of the biofuels' market in Croatia, considering practical difficulties in the regulation of the biofuels' market and the necessity for investments in new technologies and storage capacities for biofuels in Serbia. Location Belgrade.

Study visit to the institutions and facilities in Croatia in charge of the regulation of the market of biofuels. Location Zagreb.

The project will provide support for of Policy Recommendations for the legislative and practical regulation of the biofuels market in Serbian transport sector, bringing closer to consumers the biofuels' market through brochure development, as well as gaining new technology inputs for the target group.

Development of Online Geodata Portal of Cultural Heritage in Novi Sad (GisNS)**Ref. No.:** 1206.010-13**Know-how provider institution:** Bruno Kessler Foundation, **Italy****Know-how recipient institutions:** Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad; Public Enterprise for City Construction and Development, Novi Sad; Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Novi Sad, **Serbia****Area:** Capacity building**Implementation date:** January 2014 – December 2014**Project total cost:** €42.427,00**CEI co-financing:** €15.142,00

The main objectives of the project are to develop and improve the existing public online GIS portal of Novi Sad, developed by Public Enterprise for City Construction and Development and to ensure the sustainability of the know-how transfer through collaborative work and student education. The project aims at improving the digitalisation of cultural heritage documentation as one of the main priorities in the Strategy for Information Society Development in Serbia. The project's contribution would make an important milestone for the city planning and construction land development organisation and updating of infrastructure utilities, urban-spatial documentation and technical documentation preparation and promotion of cultural values. The challenge that the project partners share is the need to improve the strategies for the development of the online public database representing the cultural heritage, targeted to the overall improvement of the city's municipal development planning. The project brings together major public authorities competent for infrastructure planning, cultural heritage protection and promotion experts as well as technical knowledge providers as experts in digitalization and preservation of cultural heritage. The result of this project will be the improvement of the GIS portal of Novi Sad so that it will become the main source for any planning involved with cultural heritage. The portal will be available online to all interested institutions and people.

Smallholders Farmers' Access to Markets in Eastern and Northern Bosnia and Herzegovina and Northern Albania**Ref. No.:** 1206.011-13**Know-how provider institution:** Oxfam Italia, **Italy****Know-how recipient institutions:** Nezavisni biro za razvoj NBR Modriča; Association Drina Euro region, Foča, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**; Cooperative "Rec Agripyjor", Shkoder Region, **Albania****Area:** Sustainable energy and environment**Implementation date:** January 2014 -June 2015**Project total cost:** €79.527,00**CEI co-financing:** €36.600,00

The project main goal is to empower local farmers' activities in Eastern Bosnia Herzegovina and Northern Albania in order to improve their possibility to access the markets. It aims at strengthening harvesting, processing quality and marketing of natural products, which have strong market potential in the area of intervention: Podrinje - berries in the municipalities of Bratunac, Srebrenica and Milici, apples and jams in Gorazde and Ustikolina; Posavina - plumbs in Modriča and medicinal herbs in the Region of Shkoder.

In the framework of the project several activities will be implemented among which: 6 trainings (seminars and workshops) to 200 producers/gatherers of berries in Bratunac, Srebrenica and Milici, 120 apple producers and 30 producers of marmalade, juices, and jams in Gorazde and Ustikolina, 30 producers of plumbs and plumbs products and 200 gatherers of medicinal herbs (women) in Shkoder and representatives from municipalities, regions and cooperatives associations operating in the sector and the area. The project action will be based on the new European Commission Regulation on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs (2013) and the European marketing standards which encourage EU farmers to produce products of given quality, in conformity with the consumers' expectations.

KEP AUSTRIA***Enabling economic independence for unemployed women through the collection and plantation cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants*****Ref. No.:** 1206.001A-13**Know-how provider institution:** Adult Vocational Institution Galbanum, Zagreb, Croatia**Know-how recipient institution/s:** Women Association „Podrinje1”, Skelani, Bosnia and Herzegovina**Area:** Social and Economic Development, Inclusion and Equality**Implementation date:** April 2013 – April 2014**Project total cost:** €52.700,00**CEI co-financing:** €24.000,00

The project is in line with the Agricultural Development Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina that calls for recovery of the Medical and Aromatic Plants sector. It aims to improve the production of Medical and Aromatic Plants in two districts in BiH and its exports, for which the potential market exists. At the local level, the project targets 100 women and their communities; it should increase the capacity of women by offering them both knowledge and a way to generate income, by creating staffing profiles, picker, producers and sellers of medicinal plants. Know-how provider is an adult vocational institution Galbanum from Croatia, active in educating on aromatic and medical herbs, a competent partner for the specific project field. The know-how recipient is a Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) “Podrinje” from Skelani, near Srebrenica, with 10 years of experience in working with women to strengthen their economic position, to enable their access to the market and to support vulnerable persons among them. The NGO functions as the coordinator of activities between the suppliers / collectors of herbs and the companies who will purchase them. 5 companies trading in these products are participating in project activities, as potential buyers of Medical and Aromatic Plants. The final impact of the project is income generation with consequent improvement of living conditions of the population in rural areas in two targeted communities, in line with the priorities of development cooperation.

Support to the Agency of Interventions and Payment for Agriculture (AIPA) of Moldova**Ref. No.:** 1206.003A-13**Know-how provider institution:** Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA), Vienna, Austria**Know-how recipient institution/s:** Agency of Interventions and Payment for Agriculture (AIPA), Chişinău, Moldova**Area:** Sustainable Agriculture**Implementation date:** April 2013 – December 2013**Project total cost:** €71.045,00**CEI co-financing:** €33.000,00

Moldova has recently negotiated the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) with the EU, as part of the Association Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Moldova. Preparations for the management of the new European funds for agriculture – ENPARD will start, and agriculture and rural development is one of the important policy and support areas. This KEP project contributes to strengthening Moldova’s Agricultural and Rural Development Policy implementation. The know-how provider is Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA), the Austrian Paying Agency for Agriculture and Rural Development since 1993, the designated Austrian body for all Direct Payments and payments under Rural Development. The know-how beneficiary is the Agency of Interventions and Payment for Agriculture (AIPA), created in 2010 to establish institutional structures necessary for the upcoming EU alignment process. AIPA is responsible for managing the financial resources aimed at supporting farmers, their distribution, monitoring and evaluating quantitative and qualitative impacts of state support measures for farmers. From 2010, AIPA manages subsidy funds for farmers, about 25 MEUR from the national budget. The access of Moldova to new European funds for agriculture and rural development (ENPARD) is planned for 2014. The funds will be disbursed and managed by the agency. This project transfers know how to AIPA’s staff through training on EU financial support schemes administration and implementation methodology. The trainings take place at AIPA’s premises with workshops and presentations carried out by AMA experts. The project will contribute to the development and better structuring of the agricultural sector in Moldova.

Assessment of the water quality of Erzen River in Albania and the impact of economic developments therein**Ref. No.:** 1206.002A-13**Know-how provider institution:** University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences - BOKU, Vienna, Austria**Know-how recipient institution/s:** Department of Chemistry, Polytechnic University of Tirana, Albania**Area:** Environment and Climate Change**Implementation date:** September 2013 – May 2014**Project total cost:** €57.836,00**CEI co-financing:** €28.000,00

The integrated management of water resources, including quality control of surface waters, is an emergent need for Albania, not only to satisfy basic human and ecosystem requirements, but also to guarantee the sustainable development of the country. The most problematic issue regarding surface waters in Albania still remains the pollution deriving from untreated wastewaters, which becomes more complex, due to the lack/insufficiency of monitoring capacities. This project aims to strengthen technical and scientific capacities of the Department of Chemistry, within the Polytechnic University of Tirana, by establishing monitoring programmes and implementation of proper methodologies for measuring the quality parameters needed for monitoring of surface water quality. As a further goal, the impact of the economic and social activities (industrial and agricultural impact, tourism, services, etc.), recently developed in the Erzeni river basin, will be assessed and evaluated. The know-how provider is BOKU - University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, from Vienna, whose Department of Water is one of the major Austrian research and educational organisations in the field of water quality management. The project seeks to cope with the priority objectives of the Albanian Strategies for an Integrated Water Management System. Meetings with the Ministry of Environment and the Albanian Environmental Agency will be organised, so that all responsible institutions are informed.

ANNEX 8. COOPERATION ACTIVITIES (CAs)

N.	Ref.N	Activity	Country	Applicant	Implementation date	Estimated cost €	Requested Funding €	CNC decision	Approved €	Sector
1	1202.002-13	12th Central European Symposium on Theoretical Chemistry (CESTC 2013)	Czech Republic	J.Heyrovský Institute of Physical Chemistry, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic	22-25 September 2013, Znojmo	33.600,00	15.230,00	Budapest, January 2013	4.840,00	Science and Technology
2	1202.006-13	New Generation Biofuels	Hungary	Department of Biotechnology, University of Szeged	September 2013	80.000,00	20.000,00	Budapest, January 2013	10.000,00	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy
3	1202.011-13	Vilenica	Slovenia	Slovene Writers' Association	3 September 2013, Trieste - 5 September 2013, Lipica	73.801,00	20.000,00	Budapest, January 2013	13.500,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
4	1202.017-13	Together for biodiversity: strengthening European cooperation to meet 2020 biodiversity targets	other	BirdLife Europe	11-15 November 2013, Vienna	132.775,00	19.925,00	Budapest, January 2013	11.600,00	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy
5	1202.018-13	IX International Forum of the Aquileia Euroregion "EUROPE: FROM AACHEN TO FRANKFURT: a 1213-Year Long Political Path for a Journey of 255 km"	Italy	Mitteuropa Association	18 October 2013, Udine	37.220,00	14.400,00	Budapest, January 2013	8.000,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
6	1202.044-13	Alpbach Summer School on European Integration - Belgrade 2013 (ASSEI-B 13)	Serbia	Club Alpbach Belgrade	12-22 September 2013, Belgrade	43.095,00	16.605,00	Budapest, January 2013	13.115,00	Human Resource Development
7	1202.046-13	Sixth Petrov International Symposium on High Energy Physics, Cosmology and Gravity	Ukraine	Bogolyubov Institute for Theoretical Physics (BITP) of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU)	5 - 8 September, 2013, BITP, Kyiv, Ukraine; 9 - 20 September, 2013, TIMPANI, Uzhgorod – Kosivska Poliana, Ukraine	35.000,00	10.000,00	Budapest, January 2013	6.000,00	Science and Technology
8	1202.048-13	43rd Kyiv International "Molodist" film festival	Ukraine	Molodist' Kyiv International Film Festival	19–27 October 2013, Kyiv, Ukraine	365.417,00	20.000,00	Budapest, January 2013	10.000,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
9	1202.050-13	Natural Hazards – Links between Science and Practice	Serbia	Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić" of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade, Serbia	10-13 October 2013	15.660,00	6.310,00	Budapest, January 2013	4.250,00	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy

10	1202.051-13	Experience sharing in public education and awareness of biosafety issues	Belarus	Institute of Genetics and Cytology , National Academy of Sciences of Belarus	1 October 2013, Minsk	24.000,00	12.000,00	Budapest, January 2013	5.175,00	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy
11	1202.052-13	Application of neural stem cells and mouse models in neuroscience, practical course and workshop	Croatia	Croatian Institute for Brain Research, School of Medicine, University of Zagreb	2-5 October 2013, Zagreb	30.945,00	11.760,00	Budapest, January 2013	7.460,00	Science And Technology
12	1202.058-13	CEI Prague Human Resources Development Forum 2013	Czech Republic	The National Training Fund (NTF)	21st and 22nd November 2013 in Prague	27.000,00	10.800,00	Budapest, January 2013	9.420,00	Human Resource Development
13	1202.068-13	International Business Forum (Budapest) Overcoming Boundaries in the West Balkans	Hungary	Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists	September-October 2013, Budapest,Hungary	38.100,00	19.050,00	Budapest, January 2013	9.420,00	Enterprise Development including Tourism
14	1202.073-13	Art as the communication of identity	Hungary	Former State Fostered Children's Association	July/Serbia September/ukraine November/Hungary reduced to one event on 11-15 August 2013 in Ukraine	45.219,00	20.000,00	Budapest, January 2013	6.000,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
15	1202.082-13	INFOSEK CEI 2013	Slovenia	Palsit Information Security, Palsit	20-22 November 2013, Nova Gorica	31.626,00	15.190,00	Budapest, January 2013	8.515,00	Information Society and Media
16	1202.088-13	Securing Sustainable Development through Good Governance – Turning Concerns into Opportunities	Hungary	The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)	September 2013 - November 2013 Zero Emission Conference Center, Szentendre, Hungary	34.394,00	17.120,00	Budapest, January 2013	6.500,00	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy
17	1202.090-13	Conference on Sustainable Energy Development in South East Europe	Serbia	Business Info Group (BIG), Serbia	18 October, 2013, hotel Hyatt, Belgrade, Serbia	34.475,00	17.237,50	Budapest, January 2013	8.512,00	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy
18	1202.104-13	2nd International Summer School "Policies and Practices in Access to Digital Archives"	Italy	Università degli studi di Macerata	22-31 July 2013, Macerata (Italy) postponed to 26 August - 3 September 2013	30.392,00	9.070,00	Budapest, January 2013	8.706,00	Information Society and Media
19	1202.121-13	Preparing a Central and East European Response to the implementation plan of EU post 2010 Biodiversity Strategy with special focus on the "No Net Loss" initiative and the "Restoration Target" of the European	Hungary	CEEweb for Biodiversity	24-26 October 2013	15.968,00	7.730,00	Budapest, January 2013	6.000,00	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy

20	1202.136-13	Hunting for a new, functional model in public service media in diversified societies	Serbia	Radio Television of Vojvodina	18-19 September 2013, Novi Sad POSTPONED TO DECEMBER 2013	73.130,00	19.930,00	Budapest, January 2013	10.260,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
21	1202.156-13	Closing the awareness gap on the Aarhus Convention and EU issues in the CEE countries	Czech Republic	Justice and environment	September/November 2013	20.010,00	9.900,00	Budapest, January 2013	7.000,00	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy
22	1202.161-13	Fostering scientific cooperation in CEI countries through research and training in renewable energies and nanophysics	Romania	UNESCO Chair at Horia Hulubei Foundation in partnership with the International Centre of Theoretical Physics (ICTP)	September 2013	43.200,00	19.980,00	Budapest, January 2013	10.000,00	Science and Technology
23	1202.188-13	From Myself towards Theatre as a Meeting Place of Cultural Diversity/ Two Open Weeks of PLAVO Theatre	Serbia	PLAVO theatre Belgrade, Serbia	July 22 – August 3, 2013, Belgrade, several venues: PLAVO theatre, Centre for Cultural Decontamination, Cultural centre REX	20.037,00	6.567,00	Budapest, January 2013	4.197,00	Intercultural cooperation including Minorities
24	1202.200-13	Straightening capacity of Belarusian universities to manage academic mobility	Belarus	Belarusian State University	12-14 September, Minsk	12.658,00	6.320,00	Budapest, January 2013	5.220,00	Human Resource Development
25	1202.202-13	South East Europe Media Forum 2013	other	SECEPRO SEEMO	October 2013	170.790,00	74.100,00	Budapest, January 2013	13.100,00	Information Society and Media
26	1202.162-13	CEI Network of Design Schools	Serbia	School of design Belgrade	First week of March 2013, Budapest	27.670,00	13.670,00	Written procedure February 2013	11.630,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
27	1202.021-13	5th Central European Symposium on Plasma Chemistry (5th CESPC)	Hungary	Research Centre for Natural Sciences (RCNS) of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences	25-29 August 2013, Balatonkenese	37.479,00	12.069,00	Written procedure February 2013	7.000,00	Science and Technology
28	1202.027-13	19th International CEI Summer School "Beyond Enlargement. The Wider Europe and the New Neighbourhood"	Italy	IECOB Institute for Central Eastern Europe and the Balkans (Istituto per l'Europa Centro-Orientale e Balcanica)	1-15 September 2013, Cervia	61.135,00	19.640,00	Written procedure February 2013	7.000,00	Human Resource Development

29	1202.206-13	Advanced Training Programme on EU Projects	Secretariat	Secretariat				Budapest, January 2013	42.000,00	/
30	1202.207-13	Advanced Training Programme Young Journalist	Secretariat	Secretariat				Trieste, October 2013	16.500,00	/
31	1202.010-14	Zagreb Forum 2014 – Future of cities and SMEs: Energy efficiency and green funding	Croatia	Development Agency Zagreb – TPZ Ltd. (RAZA)	12–13 March, 2014, Croatian Chamber of Economy	34.830,00	14.800,00	Budapest, December 2013	6.660,00	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy
32	1202.014-14	Summer School “Entrepreneurship Education and Training in CEI Countries for the 21st Century”	Croatia	Baltazar Adam Krcelic College of Business and Management	6-11 April 2014	36.220,00	14.260,00	Budapest, December 2013	7.000,00	Human Resource Development
33	1202.018-14	Organisation of a Central European Network for Retrospective Survival Studies in Molecular Pathology (CEN-RESS)	Italy	Department of Medical Science, University of Trieste	Graz, 28 March 2014	35.940,00	15.000,00	Budapest, December 2013	6.680,00	Science and Technology
34	1202.027-14	Improving energy efficiency in companies – doing and thinking green	Serbia	Regional Chamber of Commerce Novi Sad	5 March 2014, Novi Sad	14.661,50	6.916,50	Budapest, December 2013	6.916,50	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy
35	1202.030-14	WHEN EAST MEETS WEST – Trieste Coproduction Forum	Italy	FVG Audiovisual Fund	20-22 January 2014, Trieste	86.400,00	15.000,00	Budapest, December 2013	8.000,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
36	1202.033-14	Trieste Film Festival	Italy	Alpe Adria Cinema	17-22 January 2014, Trieste	303.000,00	15.000,00	Budapest, December 2013	13.700,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
37	1202.034-14	Winter School in Abstract Analysis, Section Set Theory & Topology	Czech Republic	Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague	25 January-1 February 2014	24.144,00	7.392,00	Budapest, December 2013	3.754,00	Science and Technology
38	1202.036-14	Science for youth – Exhibition of best student projects in Balkans Region	Macedonia	Assembly of Associations for Technical Culture of Macedonia-National Technique	April 2014, Skopje	23.850,00	11.840,00	Budapest, December 2013	5.910,00	Human Resource Development
39	1202.048-14	Knowledge Triangle – Research, Education, Innovation	Slovenia	IPAK Institute for Symbolic Analysis and Development of Information Technologies	25-26 April 2014, Velenje	29.535,00	14.735,00	Budapest, December 2013	7.545,00	Enterprise Development including Tourism
40	1202.051-14	Educational skills improvement in the dynamics of the integration of scientific research and production decisions	Belarus	Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics	12-17 March 2014, Minsk	46.560,47	14.163,80	Budapest, December 2013	6.000,00	Science and Technology

41	1202.054-14	First CEI Conference for building regional network of organizations for Rare Diseases	Macedonia	Association of citizens with rare diseases Life With Challenges	22-24 March 2014, Skopje	27.210,00	12.660,00	Budapest, December 2013	5.000,00	Human Resource Development
42	1202.060-14	CEI training modules "Perfection School – Roman Foundations of European Private Law"	Bulgaria	University of National and World Economy (UNWE), Sofia	28 April – 4 May 2014, Haskovo	19.509,14	7.598,75	Budapest, December 2013	3.000,00	Human Resource Development
43	1202.066-14	SME as Motor of the Development of Family Business	Austria	Vienna Economic Forum	28 April 2014, Vienna	95.200,00	15.000,00	Budapest, December 2013	12.350,00	Enterprise Development including Tourism
44	1202.075-14	Are Minority Rights Majority Interests? – Workshop on Minority Quest in the Balkan and Eastern Europe in the Light of the European Integration	Hungary	Antall József Knowledge Centre	20-21 February 2014, Budapest	8.886,95	4.269,50	Budapest, December 2013	4.000,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
45	1202.089-14	Zeldovich-100 International Conference	Italy	International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network (ICRANet), Pescara, Italy in the partnership with the Belarusian State University (BSU), Minsk, Belarus	11-14 March 2014, Minsk	49.725,00	14.800,00	Budapest, December 2013	8.000,00	Science and Technology
46	1202.093-14	Workshop for Strengthening Gestalt therapists in CEI region	Macedonia	Gestalt Training Center, Skopje	April - May, 2014, Skopje	27.430,00	12.270,00	Budapest, December 2013	4.000,00	Human Resource Development
47	1202.104-14	Cooperation in Rural Micro Societies – Final	Serbia	Centre for Social Stability	6-9 March 2014, Begec	48.050,00	12.750,00	Budapest, December 2013	4.500,00	Sustainable Agriculture
48	1202.119-14	Nauk nije bauk (Science is not a bugaboo) - 6.th Festival of Science Niš 2014	Serbia	Gimnazija "Svetozar Marković" Niš (grammar school)	28-29 March 2014, Faculty of Electronic Engineering Niš	42.750,00	15.000,00	Budapest, December 2013	5.810,00	Science and Technology
49	1202.123-14	Cleaning up the present – brightening up the future!	Serbia	Creativa Natura	8-10 March 2014, Backi Jarak, Sirig and Staro Djurdjevo	37.130,00	9.550,00	Budapest, December 2013	5.000,00	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy
50	1202.125-14	Green youth green Europe	Serbia	Resource centre Leskovac	research: february 2014, training: 17-23 March 2014, local initiatives April	17.999,00	8.725,00	Budapest, December 2013	6.750,00	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy
51	1202.127-14	Towards the integration of the physics community in CEI countries into the	Serbia	Physical Society Nis (PSN)	from February to July 2014	65.000,00	15.000,00	Budapest, December 2013	15.000,00	Science and Technology

52	1202.128-14	Life Long Learning for the elderly: enhancing their economic opportunities through the Universities of the Third Age in the CEI countries	Belarus	Brest State University	23 – 26 april 2014; Brest	16.748,75	8.370,00	Budapest, December 2013	7.155,00	Human Resource Development
53	1202.135-14	Youth Policy and Non-formal Education recognition: focus on CEI countries good practices for democratization of Republic of Moldova	Moldova	Youth Governing Institute from Moldova (YGI) NGO	10-12 February 2014, Chisinau	15.380,00	7.690,00	Budapest, December 2013	5.910,00	Human Resource Development
54	1202.137-14	Tomorrow STARTS Today	Serbia	Music Art Project (MAP) NGO	March-November 2014	28.760,00	13.070,00	Budapest, December 2013	3.500,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
55	1202.142-14	Women Initiative for Development of the Balkan Rural Tourism	Macedonia	Center For Women Entrepreneurs, Skopje	February – March 2014, Skopje and Berovo	25.630,00	12.400,00	Budapest, December 2013	7.000,00	Enterprise Development including Tourism
56	1202.146-14	Youth, Music and Action for a Sustainable World: Empowering Young People and Local Communities in CEI region to Connect Local Level Sustainable Development/Sustainable Energy Efforts with United Nations Programs	Austria	International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAI)	Workshop 17-18 February 2014, at Alps-Adriatic University (AAU) of Klagenfurt	31.575,00	15.000,00	Budapest, December 2013	7.000,00	Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy
57	1202.149-14	Performing Art Managers' Conference	Serbia	ArtLink	11-13 April 2014, Belgrade	33.695,00	14.775,00	Budapest, December 2013	5.000,00	Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities
57			57			2.820.615,81	792.639,05		472.060,50	57

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