



THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE (CEI)

Trieste, 20 November 2009



The 20th Anniversary of the CEI

- Established in Budapest on 11 November 1989: the first forum promoting regional cooperation among the countries of Central and Eastern Europe
- Austria, Italy, Hungary and Yugoslavia are the founding countries

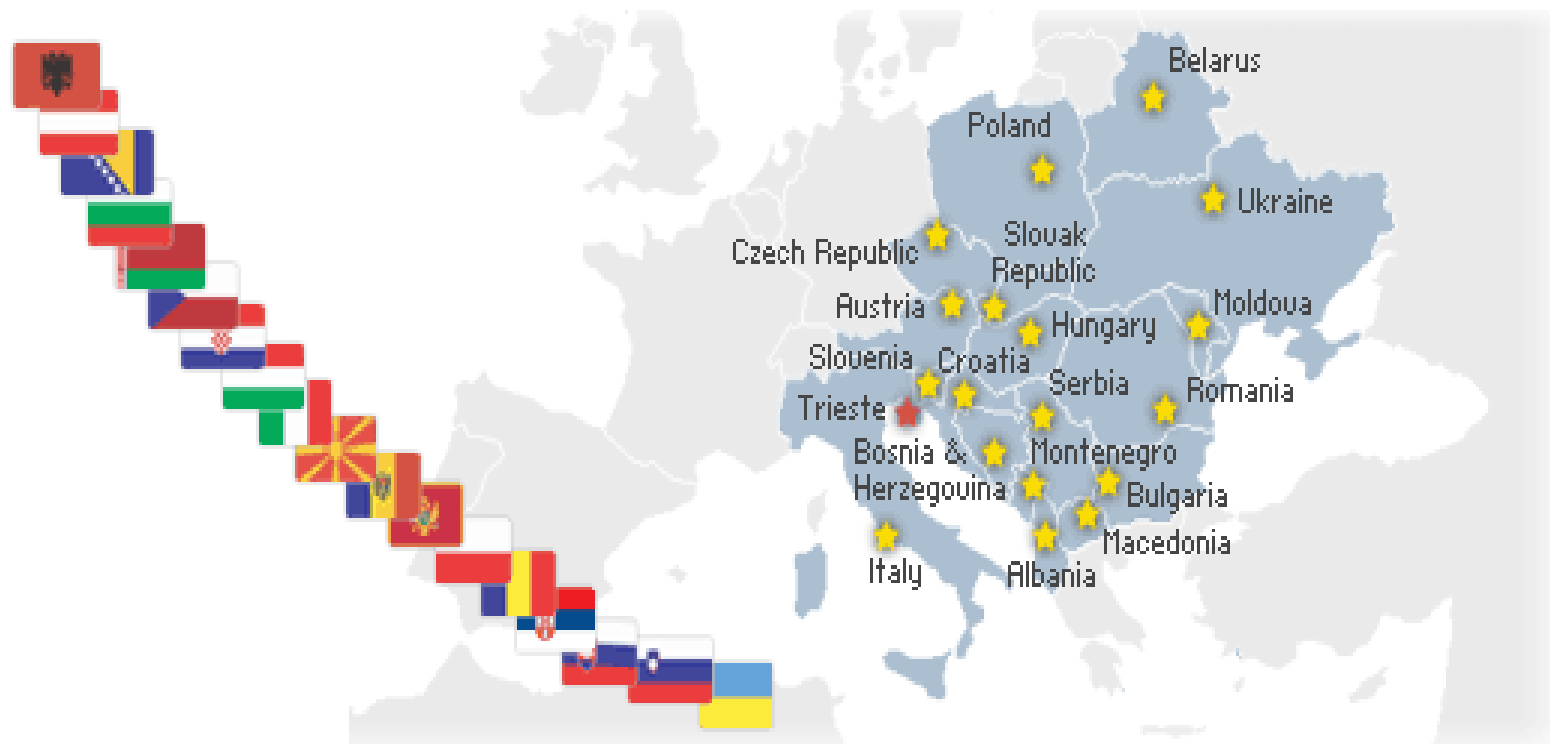


Evolution of the CEI

- over the years the CEI membership has increased to 18 CEI Member States, 9 of which currently belong to the European Union
- once predominantly oriented towards policy dialogue, the CEI has progressively developed a strong operational approach with a focus on economic growth, human development, capacity building, sharing of experience and know-how transfer



Current membership



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CEI Structures

- Annual Meeting of the CEI Heads of Government (CEI Summit)
- Annual Meeting of the CEI Ministers of Foreign Affairs
- Meetings of the Committee of National Coordinators (CNC)
- the Chairmanship of the CEI, i.e. the CEI Presidency which rotates annually and is currently held by Romania. (2010 Montenegro)
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The CEI Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES) and the Secretariat for CEI Projects (CEI-PS)

- both located in Trieste, Italy
- administrative and conceptual support to the decision-making and operational structures of the CEI
- management of CEI funds and instruments



Secretariat for EU Projects

- The CEI Funding Unit (later renamed Secretariat for EU Projects) was launched in 2004
- The aim was to support CEI participation in EU programmes
- Since the beginning, the Secretariat's action has been oriented to foster cross-border and interregional cooperation.



First Phase 2004-2007

9	Projects as partner <i>(CADSES ; 6thFP ; INTERACT ; CIP 2007; Adriatic New Neighborhood Programme)</i>
8.490.532,26 EUR	Total value of projects
718.877,56 EUR	Total share managed by the CEI
<p>IN SOME CASES, THE CEI-ES PROVIDED A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION EITHER BY EARMARKING SOME RESOURCES FROM ITS COOPERATION FUND, OR BY ASSURING THE EMPLOYMENT OF INTERNAL STAFF.</p>	



Second Phase – Programming Period 2007- 2013

13	Applications submitted
5	Applications Approved
3	As Lead Partner
2	As Partner
Sectors: Transport; Science & Technology; ICT; City Logistics; Culture/Youth Affairs.	
Programmes: 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development; CULTURE 2007 - 2013; Central Europe Programme; South-East Europe Programme; INTERREG IV C.	



CEI Funds

- The CEI Cooperation Fund
- The CEI Climate Fund
- The Italian Trust Fund at the EBRD
- The CEI Know-How Exchange Programme (KEP)



The CEI Cooperation Fund

- established in 2002 upon decision of the CEI Member States
- all countries participate to the Cooperation Fund according to an agreed scale of contributions (Italy is the major donor)
- between 2002 and 2009, more than 500 Cooperation Activities have been co-financed for an overall amount of 5,5 Mio €



CEI Cooperation Activities

- are generally small in scale, limited in time and usually take the form of seminars, workshops or training courses
- all public and private bodies in CEI Member States as well as international organizations and other regional bodies are eligible to apply
- need to be in line with the CEI Plan of Action where the CEI priorities are clearly outlined
- must take place within the CEI Region and involve at least one third of CEI Member States (multilateral projects)



CEI Cooperation Activities

- The CEI financial contribution, which can reach a maximum of 50% of the total cost of the project (within a ceiling of 30.000 EUR), has to be complemented by other sources of financing
- two deadlines for submitting project proposals: 1st February (for implementation from July to December) and on 1st September (for implementation from January to June)



Thank you for your attention!

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