



FOSTERING RES THROUGH ENHANCED REGIONAL COOPERATION

Renewable Energy Hard Talk in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Sarajevo, 4 December 2018

The **Central European Initiative** is a regional intergovernmental forum committed to supporting **EU integration** and **sustainable development** through cooperation between and among its members and with the EU, as well as international and regional organisations, public or private institutions and NGOs.



18 Member States

10 EU MS, 5 Enlargement, 3 ENP



240 mln

population of the CEI area



4 EU Macro-Regional Strategies

overlapping the CEI area



€39 mln

allocated through CEI financing instruments

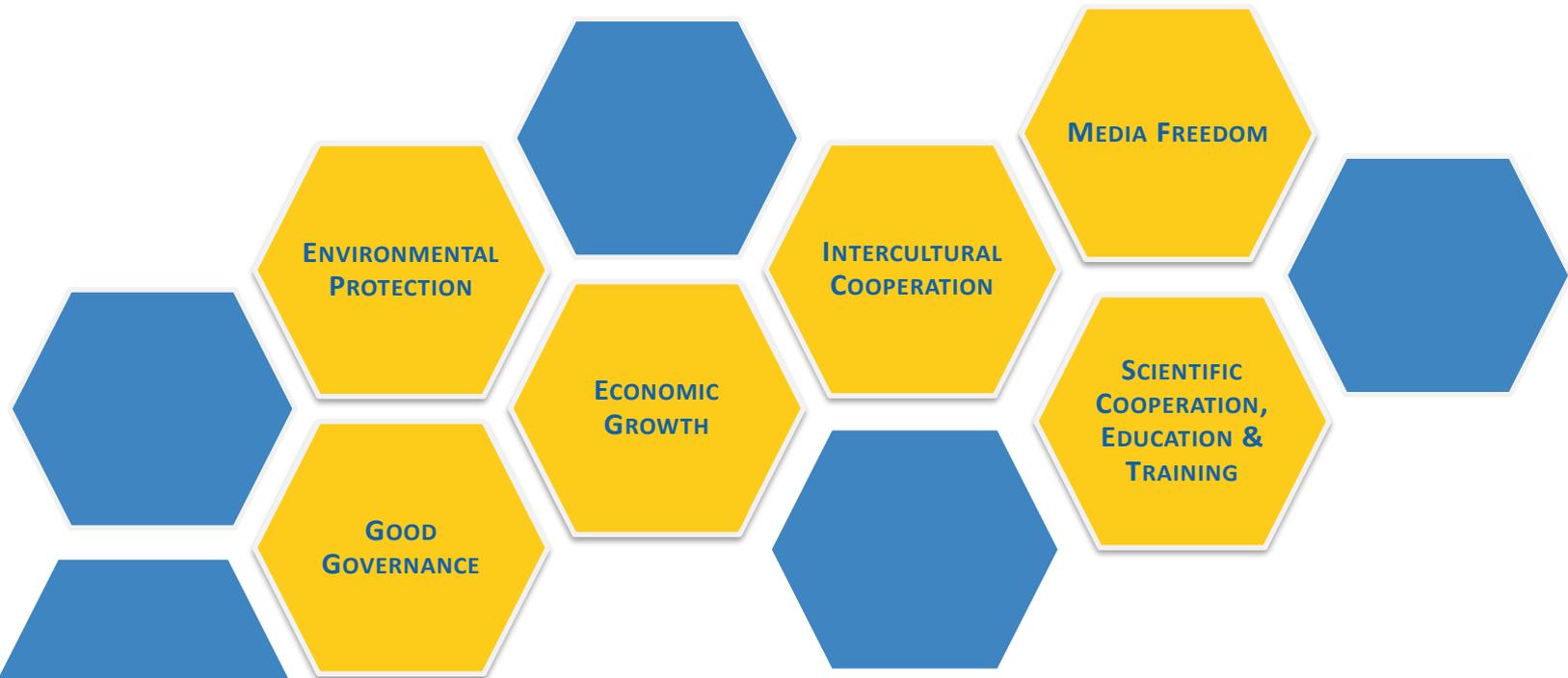


45 EU Projects

completed or under implementation since 2004

The CEI, founded in **1989** as the first intergovernmental forum promoting regional cooperation in **Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe**, has now **18 Member States**.

Everyday CEI activities are managed by the **CEI-Executive Secretariat** based in Trieste.



CEI interest in **Bioenergy and Circular Economy** is largely determined by its socio-economic potential, which is particularly relevant and meaningful for CEI Member States where related activities could foster rural development, strengthen the primary sector, valorise human resources and the ability of innovation, trigger industrial rejuvenation, etc.



*The new **CEI Plan of Action 2018 – 2020** includes Circular- and Bio-economy (and bioenergy as one of its fundamental components) as a cross-cutting topic, with its relevance highlighted in several lines of action:*

- **Goal 2 “Economic growth”; Objective 2.3 “Supporting the transition to Bioeconomy and promoting the Blue Growth”,** but also 2.4. “Improving the research and innovation systems”, 2.5 “Supporting innovative start-ups and SMEs, including social enterprises and cultural and creative industries”
- **Goal 3 “Environmental sustainability”, Objectives 3.2 “Promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency”, 3.3 “Strengthening rural and area-based development”, 3.6 “Research and development of climate friendly alternative fuels and fuel efficiency”**

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Everyday CEI activities are managed by the **CEI-Executive Secretariat** based in Trieste.

While acting as a **platform for political dialogue**, we developed a consistent result-oriented approach to **regional cooperation**, combining **multilateral diplomacy** with **programme and project management**.

CEI Cooperation Fund

Financed by all members, it supports small scale initiatives, such as seminars, workshops, training courses or other meetings. Since 2002, more than 1000 activities have been co-financed with around €9.4 million. Approximately 5000 participants from the region and beyond take part in these events every year.

CEI Fund at EBRD

Established by Italy in 1992, the Fund provides grants for TA supporting EBRD investments in the whole CEI Region. About €28 million have been committed for 180 technical cooperation projects able to mobilise €6 bln of international investments in the countries of operations. For each euro provided by the CEI Fund, the EBRD and other financiers have invested €215.

CEI KEP

The Know-how Exchange Programme provides grants for capacity building and transfer of good practices from EU to non-EU countries of CEI. Since 2004, over €3.5 million have been allocated by Italy through the CEI Fund at the EBRD as well as by the Austrian Development Agency and by Poland. So far, 135 projects for an overall value of over €15 million have been supported.

Cooperation with **over 50** regional and local authorities

20 non-profit organisations

20 companies and **12** research institutes and academy

Over 120 partners and **70** Associated partners
from **20** EU and non-EU European countries

29 implemented projects

with a total value of **€52.75 million**

16 projects under implementation

with a total value of **€25.6 million**

of which **€3 million** administered by the CEI

The CEI-Executive Secretariat fosters the involvement of CEI countries in **EU projects** focusing on transnational and regional cooperation for European integration.

Since 2004, 29 projects have been successfully completed, while another 16 are currently under implementation.

The CEI-ES participates as project partner, implementing specific tasks and activities, or as Lead Partner, directing the design of the project, coordinating the partnership and taking care of all managerial aspects.

The **ETIP-B-SABS 2 project** supports the **European Technology and Innovation Platform on Bioenergy**, which is an industry-led stakeholder forum recognised by the EC as a key actor in driving innovation, knowledge transfer and competitiveness in the field of Bioenergy and intermediates.

The mission of **ETIP Bioenergy** (www.etipbioenergy.eu) is to contribute to the development of cost-competitive, innovative bioenergy and biofuels value chains, to the creation and strengthening of a healthy European bioenergy industry and to accelerate the sustainable deployment of bioenergy in the EU through a process of guidance, prioritisation and promotion of research, technology development and demonstration.



The **ETIP-B-SABS 2 project** is funded under the Horizon 2020 Programme and capitalises upon the experience of the previous ETIP Bioenergy SABS and EBTP SABS projects. The **CEI** is involved to foster the establishment of linkages between stakeholders from EU Member States with counterparts from CEI area. In line with the CEI Mission, particular attention is devoted to informing policymakers and other stakeholders from Central, East and South-East Europe on most recent developments in policy and research in the field of advanced biofuels and energy carriers.

The deployment of new and highly innovative value chains is subject to intrinsic constraints deriving from their complexity, the related high CAPEX as well as the social or environmental impacts they often entail. It would be simplistic to draw a universal shortlist of hurdles, yet some aspects could be highlighted with regards to SEE (indeed, not pretending to be fully exhaustive):

- *objective socio-economic factors (limited investment capacity and small domestic markets, among others)*
- *(sometimes) different set of priorities, if compared to countries that are leading the shift to bioenergy*
- *regulatory frameworks and political constraints*
- *limited awareness and lack of market pull*
- *limited visibility and outreach of domestic R&D*
- *lack of understanding of the regional specificities among EU stakeholders*
- *predominant focus on the region as a “reservoir of biomass” in the current bioenergy discourse*
- *limited awareness on the environmental/naturalistic assets of the region*
- ...

Science Diplomacy is emerging as a useful tool to build bridges and strengthen relations.

The CEI aims at enhancing science education in its region as a contribution to the consolidation of the European Research Area (ERA). In order to increase employability, special attention will be paid to the life-long learning concept and to the implementation of EU educational and employment policies in non-EU CEI Member States. Education and training will also address groups at risk of exclusion to integrate them into the labour market, while focusing on youth unemployment as a growing problem the CEI region is facing.

Among other activities, the CEI-ES is actively involved in the activities related to the upcoming Euro Science Open Forum 2020 (ESOF2020) will be hosted from 4 to 10 July 2020 in Trieste, Italy. We will work to make ESOF2020 an opportunity for strengthening links with Central and Eastern European scientists, businesses, politicians and citizens.



www.cei.int

Thank you!

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