

* CEI – Central European Initiative – Executive Secretariat

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The CEI – Central European Initiative – was the first regional cooperation forum in the political map of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe. Its membership arose during the years to the present number of 18 Member Countries embracing a territory of 2.4 million square kilometres and a population of nearly 250 million.

During the last years, the CEI has undergone a transformation from being predominantly oriented towards policy dialogue to an organization emphasizing transfer of know-how, transfer of technology, business facilitation, investment promotion, promotion of scientific research, post-graduate training and of civil society, especially in the fields of culture, media and youth affairs.

The International Archival Day organised by the International Institute for Archival Sciences (IIAS) of Trieste and Maribor was positively evaluated by the CEI, and it was found to be in line with the activities of the CEI Plan of Action in the sectors of human development, culture, education, conservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, know-how transfer in the field of cultural management, cross-border cooperation, building a network of cooperation for a horizontal flow of experience and know-how.

MONTEDURO, Antonio, CEI e le attività di cooperazione del CEI. Atlanti, Vol. 16, N. 1-2, Trieste 2006, pp. 15-17.

L'In.C.E. – Iniziativa Centro Europea – è stato il primo forum di cooperazione regionale nella mappa politica dell'Europa Centrale, Orientale e Sud-Orientale. Nel corso degli anni i Paesi Membri sono aumentati fino all'attuale numero di 18, che abbracciano nel loro complesso un territorio di 2,4 milioni di chilometri quadrati per una popolazione di circa 250 milioni di persone.

The CEI – Central European Initiative – was the first regional cooperation forum in the political map of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe. Its origin lies in the agreement signed in Budapest on November 11th, 1989 (just two days before the fall of the Berlin Wall) by Austria, Hungary, Italy and the former Yugoslavia for a mutual political, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation, called Quadrangular Cooperation. With the admission of the former Czechoslovakia in 1990 it became the Pentagonal Initiative, and the next year, following the adhesion of Poland, it was renamed Hexagonal Initiative. After the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia and the admission of its former republics as independent states, in 1992 the grouping was renamed Central European Initiative, and its membership arose during the years to the present number of 18 Member Countries: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Ukraine. These countries embrace a territory of 2.4 million square kilometres and a population of nearly 250 million.

During the life of the organization, a CEI Trust Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development was created, as well as a Secretariat for CEI Projects in London (established 1991) and the Centre for Information and Documentation in Trieste, later renamed CEI Executive Secretariat, based in Trieste from 1996. The latest milestone in the history of the organization was the accession of five Member States to the EU in May 2004.

One of the CEI main objectives is to bring the countries of Central, Eastern and South –Eastern Europe closer together, and to assist them in their preparation process for EU membership; in this regard, the CEI Plan of Action outlines the organisation's future intentions, focusing on core issues which are given priority in the CEI endeavours; they are grouped into three major areas, i.e. economic, human and institutional development. In each of these areas the CEI is trying to stimulate activities and come up with funding to the benefit of its Member States.

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from being predominantly oriented towards policy dialogue to an organization emphasizing transfer of know-how, transfer of technology, business facilitation, investment promotion, promotion of scientific research, post-graduate training and of civil society, especially in the fields of culture, media and youth affairs. Although the CEI is not a major donor organization, it disposes of several funds which are used to promote projects in its various sectors of activity, and constitute a sort of seed money that generates a much higher impact than the actual amounts made available would lead to believe.

The organisation works through various structures: the annual Summit of the Heads of Government, held parallel to the CEI Summit Economic Forum (SEF), the annual Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, other ministerial or sectoral events, monthly Meeting of the CEI National Coordinators (CNC), meetings and other activities of the CEI Working Groups covering various areas of economic, human and institutional development and numerous events (conferences, workshops, training courses, etc.) co-financed by the CEI. The CEI Executive Secretariat functions as organizational centre of the Initiative. It prepares the documentation needed for the decisions taken by the Heads of Government, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the CNC, the WG, collects, evaluates and follows-up the projects co-financed through the CEI funds and services the various CEI Networks.

Three other new instruments have been settled to respond to the changing European environment. The first is the CEI University Network (CEI UniNet), operative from 2003, aiming at facilitating cooperation among the universities and other institutions of higher learning through various types of post-graduate education programmes. The second is the CEI science and Technology Network (CEI S&TN), launched in 2004 and operating through the six lead scientific institutions in Trieste and partner/affiliated institutions in other countries, and through a call for proposals under the title "From Research to Enterprise". The third is the CEI Know-how Exchanging Programme (KEP), through which the CEI supports the transfer of specific knowledge.

The CEI activities, as defined in the CEI Plan of Action, are financed from different sources. The CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD, contributed by Italy, is managed by the CEI Project Secretariat, contributing to "seed money" for larger EBRD investments in the areas of infrastructure, small and medium-sized enterprises, agriculture, energy.

The Meeting of the CEI Ministers for Foreign Affairs held in Milan in June 2002 decided to establish a CEI Cooperation Fund in order to facilitate the implementation of programmes and projects organised or sponsored by the CEI. The Fund is financed by annual allocations of the CEI Member States according to an agreed scale of contributions (Italy has voluntarily doubled the Fund's volume). Sin-

Negli anni trascorsi L'In.C.E. ha cambiato il proprio raggio d'azione dal campo del dialogo politico a quello di un'organizzazione attiva nel trasferimento di know-how, trasferimento di tecnologie, semplificazione delle procedure commerciali, promozione di investimenti, promozione di ricerca scientifica, formazione post-lauream e nel campo della società civile, con particolare riguardo agli ambiti della cultura, delle comunicazioni e degli affari giovanili. L'attività di cooperazione presentata dall'Istituto Internazionale di Scienze Archivistiche di Trieste e Maribor è stato positivamente valutato dall'In.C.E., ed è stato giudicato in linea con le attività del Piano di Azione dell'In.C.E. nei settori della crescita delle risorse umane, della cultura, dell'educazione, della conservazione del patrimonio culturale tangibile e non tangibile, della cooperazione transfrontaliera, nonché della costruzione di una rete di cooperazione per un flusso orizzontale di esperienze e conoscenze.

MONTEDURO, Antonio, Osrednja Evropska Pobuda (OEP) in njene aktivnosti sodelovanja. Atlanti, Zv. 16, Št. 1-2, Trst 2006, str. 15-17.

OEP - Osrednja Evropska Pobuda - pomeni prvo združenje za regionalno sodelovanje na političnem zemljevidu osrednje, vzhodne in jugovzhodne Evrope, katerega članstvo je od začetkov do danes naraslo na 18 držav članic in obsega področje 2,4 milijona kvadratnih kilometrov z 250 milijoni prebivalcev.

Zadnja leta je OEP razvil v organizacijo političnega dialoga, v organizacijo znanja, prenosa tehnologij, v razvijanje investiranja, razvijanje znanstvenega raziskovanja, podiplomskega študija, obenem pa tudi razvija civilno družbo, še posebej na področju kulture, družbenih občil in mladostnih zuden. Mednarodni arhivski dan (MAD), ki ga organizira MIAZ Trst in Maribor, je OEP pozitivno ocenil in ga je uvrstil v svoj akcijski program na področju človeškega razvoja, kulture, vzgoje, varovanja kulturne dediščine, prenosa znanja na področju upravljanja s kulturnimi dobrinami, na področju med mejnega sodelovanja, na področju izgradnje medmrežij, itd.

SUMMARY

The CEI – Central European Initiative – was the first regional cooperation forum in the political map of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe. its origin lies in the agreement signed in Budapest on November 11th, 1989 by Austria, Hungary, Italy and the former Yugoslavia for a mutual political, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation. Its membership arose during the years to the present number of 18 Member Countries: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania,

Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Ukraine. These countries embrace a territory of 2.4 million square kilometres and a population of nearly 250 million.

One of the CEI main objectives is to bring the countries of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe closer together, and to assist them in their preparation process for EU membership. During the last years, the CEI has undergone a transformation from being predominantly oriented towards policy dialogue to an organization emphasizing transfer of know-how, transfer of technology, business facilitation, investment promotion, promotion of scientific research, post-graduate training and of civil society, especially in the fields of culture, media and youth affairs.

The CEI Cooperation Fund facilitates the implementation of programmes and projects organised or co-sponsored by the CEI. These cooperation activities take various forms, such as seminars, workshops, training courses, conferences, meetings, etc.; they have to be compatible with the CEI Plan of Action, consisting of three main branches, i.e. economic development, human development and institutional development; in addition the Plan of Action covers horizontal issues such as cross-border cooperation and local development.

The Cooperation Activity submitted by the International Institute for Archival Sciences (IIAS) of Trieste and Maribor was found to be in line with the activities of the CEI Plan of Action in the sectors of human development, culture, education, conservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, know-how transfer in the field of cultural management, cross-border cooperation, building a network of cooperation for a horizontal flow of experience and know-how.

ce its establishment nearly 200 cooperation activities (seminars, workshops, training courses, conferences, meetings) in various fields and in all the CEI Member Countries, amounting to a sum total of about 2 Million Euro have been co-financed through this Fund. In view of the relevant number of applications an Evaluation Unit has been set up in the Executive Secretariat focusing on the administrative monitoring and budgetary control of the projects.

The cooperation activities take various forms, such as seminars, workshops, training courses, conferences, meetings, etc. The CEI contribution, complementing other financial resources available to the organizers of a cooperation activity cannot exceed the 50% of the total budgetary costs and the 10% of the Fund. The applications originating from institutions of the CEI Member States, together with the result of the evaluation by the competent Working Group and a recommendation by the CEI Secretariat are to be submitted to CEI National Coordinators, which meet monthly, for approval. When authorized by the CNC the CEI contribution is then disbursed in two instalments as advance and final payment (both subject to conditions set out in the CEI Rules for Allocation of Resources). Preference is given to activities involving the largest possible number of CEI Member Countries, and in particular those countries having the greatest need for accelerated development and recovery. The cooperation activities have to be compatible with the CEI Plan of Action, consisting of three main branches, economic development (agriculture, energy, environmental protection, small and medium-sized enterprises development, tourism, transport), human development (culture, education, human resource development and training, science and technology, youth affairs) and institutional development (civil protection, combating organized crime, information and media, migration, minorities); in addition the Plan of Action covers horizontal issues such as cross-border cooperation and local development.

At this considering, the International Archival Day organised by the International Institute for Archival Sciences (IIAS) of Trieste and Maribor was positively evaluated by the CEI, and it was much appreciated the project of the realization, maintenance, and development of a free of charge and downloadable handbook on basic archival science to be translated in all the languages of the IIAS member countries, of a multilingual dictionary of archival terminology also edited in all the languages of the member countries of the Institute, and a digest of the European Union and local present legislation concerning the field of archives. This project was found to be in line with the activities of the CEI Plan of Action in the sectors of human development, culture, education, conservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, know-how transfer in the field of cultural management, cross-border cooperation, building a network of cooperation for a horizontal flow of experience and know-how.