



Trieste, 14/03/2019

**Subject: Inputs by the Central European Initiative (CEI) to the 2019 HLPF**

Dear President,

I would like to thank you for your letter in which you invite Intergovernmental bodies to provide an input to the thematic review of the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF). I believe it is a very relevant exercise and I would, therefore, like to present the activities and the contribution of the CEI towards the 2030 Agenda and to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As you may know the CEI, celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, is the oldest and the largest regional intergovernmental forum composed of 17 countries of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe. The CEI has always placed cooperation with the UN among its priorities. Indeed, it has obtained an Observer Status in the UN General Assembly in 2011, and resolutions are regularly presented at the biannual meetings between the UN and regional organisations. Furthermore, the CEI contributed - with a joint statement in 2015 - to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

In this context, our main strategic document, i.e. the CEI Plan of Action (PoA) 2018-2020, adopted by the Heads of Government of the CEI Member States in December 2017, was developed in line with the SDGs. The rationale behind each goal embedded, stems from the main challenges faced by our countries, and the CEI regions in general. The document sets out some of the ways in which our Organisation could deliver, among other issues, the SDGs. During the first year of its implementation in 2018, a number of issues were tackled through a structured approach and many positive results were achieved. In particular, as to the SDGs (4, 8, 10, 13 and 16) to be discussed at the 2019 HLPF, you will find here-with enclosed our objectives established in the CEI PoA 2018-2020 and activities implemented in 2018, thus contributing to the implementation of these Goals. Moreover, please find attached the CEI PoA 2018-2020 in its integrity, as well as its implementation report for the year 2018.

In addition, let me inform you that, as I have recently been appointed CEI Secretary General, I am currently focusing on meeting representatives of all the capital cities of the CEI Member States, in order to learn which are our countries' main concerns and what our focus should be. A number of issues are persisting in the countries and the regions the CEI membership covers. Interlocutors have identified youth, education, entrepreneurship and environment as transversal topics to be pursued.

Dear President, let me assure you that the CEI will continue playing its role, putting all its instruments at the disposal of the implementation of the SDGs. In doing so, the CEI will continue cooperating with the United Nations in the design, development and delivery of our sustainable future.

We would be happy to contribute to the preparations of the July HLPF, and thus to the September SDG Summit 2019.

  
Roberto Antonione  
Secretary General

H.E. Ms Inga Rhonda King  
The President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

## CEI Objectives and activities contributing to SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16

### SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

In order to tackle this goal the CEI within its PoA has established the following objectives and implemented a number of activities in 2018:

- **Implementing life-long learning and developing competencies through mobility**

#### RATIONALE:

The CEI will continue fostering high-quality education at all levels by facilitating the participation and the recognition of qualifications. Exchange of best practices between different education and training systems is of crucial importance. Efforts will also be made to counter the unfavourable effects of early school leaving, thus contributing to increasing the inclusiveness in life-long learning. Mobility is an important instrument for supporting high quality education at all levels. Cooperation among universities and institutions of higher education will be encouraged in order to support joint post graduate-level courses, seminars, workshops or summer courses. Major attention will, therefore, be devoted to enhancing the involvement of universities and institutions of higher education from the non-EU CEI Member States. In this context, mobility will be enhanced through university and research programmes such as Erasmus+ and Horizon H2020 MSCA, with the final goal to promote brain circulation and mitigate the negative effects of “brain drain”. Mobility should also be provided for young professionals and vulnerable groups. E-learning has also enormous potential to equalise opportunities and promote social mobility through access to quality higher education.

#### EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS:

- Promote cooperation among Higher Education Institutes with a focus on mobility/exchange of students, teachers and staff;
- Expand opportunities for learning mobility by vocational education institutions;
- Set up e-learning and distance learning facilities.

#### CEI PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2018:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Type of activity</b>	<b>Organising Institution</b>	<b>Implementation Date and Place</b>
Advanced Training Programme for Young Professionals from non-EU CEI Member States	Institutional Activity	CEI-ES	2018, Regional (beneficiaries from Albania, North Macedonia, R. Moldova and Montenegro)
<a href="#">XIX Summer Seminar for Young Public Policy Professionals from South Eastern Europe and the Black Sea Region</a>	Cooperation Activity	Economic Policy Institute, Bulgaria	28 May-1 June 2018, Albena - Bulgaria
<a href="#">11<sup>th</sup> National Selection Conference of the European Youth Parliament Serbia “Young Europe – Europe of opportunities”</a>	Cooperation Activity	European Youth Parliament Serbia	4-9 July 2018, Novi Sad - Serbia
<a href="#">Straniak Academy for Democracy and Human Rights</a>	Cooperation Activity	Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights	2-15 September 2018, Saranda - Albania
<a href="#">Young Bled Strategic Forum BSF 2018 – Sustainable security: the role of youth in bridging the divide</a>	Cooperation Activity	Center for European Perspective (CEP), Slovenia	7-11 September 2018, Bled - Slovenia
<a href="#">Winter School “Creating territorial cooperation: the impact of intercultural dialogue and migration flows in South East Europe”</a>	Cooperation Activity	Jean Monnet Network Consortium	12-19 December 2018, Cesenatico - Italy

- **Enhancing scientific literacy and technological knowledge and capacity**

#### RATIONALE:

The CEI has always attached great importance to strengthening educational institutions and building expert capacity. This calls for strengthening the capacities of higher education institutions in teaching, research and management. Well-educated people meet the local need for a qualified workforce and are prepared to face the demands of the global knowledge society. The CEI will continue to support the modernisation of the education systems, as it needs to be in line with the requirements of the fast changing job market and business innovation. Challenges posed by globalisation, demographic changes, rapid technological development require better performance of education systems and highly skilled people. This includes enhancing cooperation with education and training institutions, promoting learning at the workplace, etc. To increase capacities of the labour force and enhance employability, cooperation between education, academic and research institutions and employers (private and public bodies) should also be fostered. The CEI will pay particular attention to facilitating links between academia, business, government and community in line with the “Quadruple-Helix Model. Enhancing entrepreneurial literacy through education and training for the vulnerable groups will also be promoted. In particular, the activities will aim at promoting the dissemination of the concept and

contemporary methodologies in the field of lifelong learning, including vocational training and adult education and training for innovation, economic growth and job creation. Furthermore, development of instruments / mechanisms to monitor the employment of graduates after graduation is also necessary.

**EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS:**

- Promote collaboration among education, employment and industry stakeholders in order to improve work-based learning experience;
- Organise training activities on skills and competences needed for the 21st century job market, with a special focus on enhancing entrepreneurial and innovation-oriented mind-sets and skills for all;
- Promote the inclusion of ICT in all learning systems;
- Promote actions to facilitate the transfer of scientific knowledge to the civil society.

**CEI PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2018:**

Title	Type of activity	Organising Institution	Implementation Date and Place
<a href="#">SEENET-MTP Balkan School and Workshop</a>	Cooperation Activity	SEENET-MTP Centre, the Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics, University of Niš, Serbia and the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Craiova, Romania, CERN TD and ICTP	3-14 June 2018, Nis - Serbia
<a href="#">International Conference DisCo 2018: Overcoming the challenges and the barriers in Open Education</a>	Cooperation Activity	Centre for Higher Education Studies and West Bohemia University, Czech Republic	25-26 June 2018, Prague - Czech Republic

**SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**In order to tackle this goal the CEI within its PoA has established the following objectives and implemented a number of activities in 2018:**

- **Improving research and innovation systems**

**RATIONALE:**

In order to build knowledge-based societies and unlock their economic potential, CEI Member States need to invest in the improvement of their research and innovation (eco-) systems. Within the CEI membership, relevant differences exist between a few strong and several moderate/modest innovators (European Innovation Scoreboard 2017): regional cooperation initiatives promoted by the CEI will basically aim at reducing this gap, which will have an impact both on the economic growth of the CEI region and on the EU integration process of non-EU CEI Member States. The latter will be supported in the elaboration of their Research and Innovation Smart Specialization Strategies (RIS3), and in the removal of bottlenecks and barriers, including legal/regulatory ones, for their future implementation. Moreover, actions will be promoted in order to enhance the participation of non-EU CEI Member States in Horizon 2020, the main tool for the implementation of the Innovation Union (IU) and for the consolidation of the European Research Area (ERA). The CEI will act as a platform for policy dialogue and knowledge circulation, as well as for facilitating the design of joint actions in fields such as capacity building, benchmarking and transferring of best practices. Specific attention will be paid to research-industry collaboration, which will be facilitated through an open innovation methodology to make sure industrial challenges are properly met by scientific solutions. This will enable the diffusion of technological innovation, as well as the creation of new hi-tech enterprises and start-ups. At the same time, it will support the valorisation of research results through knowledge and technology transfer to the business and industrial sectors. Efforts will be undertaken to support activities contributing to the development of innovation centres (science and technology parks, pre-seed and seed incubators, etc.) in CEI countries and the integrated use of Research Infrastructures. Within a broader, “quadruple-helix” perspective, CEI cooperation will aim at encompassing all actors involved in innovation, from policy makers to researchers, from entrepreneurs to citizens, thus developing multi-stakeholder activities contributing to the enhancement of the CEI countries’ research and innovation systems.

**EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS:**

- Support technical assistance in the development and execution of Research and Innovation Smart Specialization Strategies (RIS3);
- Promote capacity building and training on technology transfer, valorisation of research results, innovation management and start-up generation, and support the development of innovation ecosystems in CEI Member States;
- Encourage the organisation of brokerage and open innovation events to facilitate interactions between scientific and business communities, including clusters;
- Enhance skills for successful participation of non-EU CEI Member States in Horizon 2020.

### CEI PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2018:

Title	Type of activity	Organising Institution	Implementation Date and Place
<a href="#">Young Developers and Entrepreneurs to Advance Start-ups (YDEAS)</a>	CEI-OSCE Joint Activity CEI Fund at the OSCE	OSCE and CEI through the CEI Fund at the OSCE	8-27 July 2018, Turin, Italy 8-9 November 2018, Tirana - Albania
<a href="#">Innovation in Health and Care for All (ITHACA)</a>	EU-funded Project	Partner consortium (CEI-ES subcontractor)	01/01/2017 - 31/12/2021
Development and regulation of the University of Belgrade laser-laboratory infrastructure for education and research	KEP Italy Project	European Laboratory for Non-linear Spectroscopy (LENS), Italy	January 2017 – December 2018, Serbia
Innovation Vouchers scheme for resource efficiency technologies and services in Serbia - Support to the implementation and marketing of the innovation vouchers scheme in the country	KEP Italy Project	Department of Management Engineering, Politecnico of Milan, Italy	Closed in 2018, Serbia
SAFEMEAT - developing a system for easy and accurate monitoring of gas in meat products during storage and distribution	KEP Italy Project	National Research Council - Institute of Photonics and Nanotechnologies, Italy	February 2018 - December 2019, Serbia
From startup to scaleup: Scaling up Europe's entrepreneurial future	Cooperation Activity	YES - Youth Entrepreneurial Service (YES) Foundation	7-8 June 2018, Skopje - North Macedonia
<a href="#">Conference on Radiation and Applications in various Fields of Research</a>	Cooperation Activity	RAD Association, Serbia	18-22 June 2018, Ohrid - North Macedonia
<a href="#">7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Logic and Applications</a>	Cooperation Activity	Inter University Center, Croatia	24-28 September 2018, Dubrovnik - Croatia

### SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

In order to tackle this goal the CEI within its PoA has established the following objectives and implemented a number of activities in 2018:

- Improving social integration of people from groups at risk of exclusion

#### RATIONALE:

Social integration is closely linked to the level of cultural growth and civic sense. In every society it is necessary to have a better understanding and respect for each other in order to move towards sustainable and inclusive societies through peaceful social relations of coexistence, collaboration and cohesion among people. In every country, certain groups of people face barriers preventing them from fully participating in the political, economic and social life. These groups are excluded through a number of practices due to a diverse gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, age, educational background, sexual orientation or disability status. In this context, the CEI will contribute to developing “diversity management” capacities, by identifying means and methods of integrating these groups into the society. A special focus will be placed on the creation of a multi-perspective environment through educational and training programmes promoting diversity, right-based conditions, affordable housing, gender-sensitive learning, etc. Even more so, diversity management activities and policies on equal opportunities should stress, in particular, the inclusion of vulnerable groups into the labour market. Furthermore, the CEI will share and promote the “age-friendly environment” principles, in line with the objective of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIPonHAH) that is to contribute to creating a more inclusive societies and communities across Europe by empowering the elderly through scaled-up solutions.

#### EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS:

- Contribute to initiatives and activities aiming at strengthening interethnic, intercultural and intergenerational solidarity and cooperation, as well as solidarity and cooperation with/between disabled people and other vulnerable groups across the CEI region;
- Foster disability-, ageing- and overall diversity-supportive environments at different levels, thus promote awareness raising and policy influencing activities aiming at enhancing the inclusion of vulnerable groups in all segments of life, work and society;
- Tackle the issue on the demographic changes and health.

### CEI PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2018:

Title	Type of activity	Organising Institution	Implementation Date and Place
<a href="#">COME-IN! Cooperating for Open Access to Museums – towards a wider inclusion</a>	EU-funded Project	Partner consortium (CEI-ES Lead Partner)	01/07/2016 - 30/06/2019
Professional intergovernmental know-how exchange on the implementation of large scale Secondary School Scholarship and Mentoring Program for Roma Students	KEP Italy Project	Roma Education Fund (REF), Hungary	January 2017 – June 2018, Regional
Social inclusion for Roma families - Strengthening the Toy Library Network	Cooperation Activity	Roma Education Fund, Hungary	September 2018, Hungary

- **Processing and exchanging experience on large-scale migration**

**RATIONALE:**

In order to tackle the economic and social impact of current migration on CEI countries, the challenge of organising effective reception capacity for asylum seekers, as well as assistance and active cultural and social integration of migrants should be faced on the basis of a structural approach while respecting the CEI Member States national competences. Emergency fuels anger among citizens and creates uncertainty among potential investors, which can be reversed only by responsible, concrete answers from the Member States and their transnational collaboration, thus improving the international response to large movements of people. Among its Member States, the CEI has registered different typologies of migration flows: i.e. the Balkan and Mediterranean Routes of asylum seekers and irregular migrants; but also the massive flow of mostly skilled young people leaving the Western Balkan countries, Italy and Croatia; and the sensitive situation in the CEI Eastern Members (Belarus, Ukraine, R. Moldova). Since mid-2015, on behalf of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the CEI Secretariat has deployed an action promoting the exchange of experience and networking among actors of its constituency, thus bringing together State Administrations, Civil Society Organisations and Local and Regional Authorities. The dynamics of knowledge sharing and that of setting new partnerships and initiatives has enhanced the understanding between the CEI and international organisations focused on migration such as the ICMPD, the IOM and MARRI and the relevant departments of the OSCE, the UNDP and the Council of Europe. The CEI commitment mostly focuses on institutional capacity building, in particular on fine-tuning the regulatory framework resulting from the cooperation between central and local public administrations. This is a result of the need to eventually help legally-arrived new comers to settle within the living conditions of local citizens and their cultural traditions. Also the challenges related to diaspora can be better dealt with in the framework of a comprehensive knowledge of migration governance. The role of civil society, a CEI priority since its inception, will also be supported to develop better frameworks for a public – private collaboration and to spread skills of social entrepreneurship.

**EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS:**

- Promote exchange of practice and knowledge among the public and non-governmental actors dealing with migration at central and local level;
- Support analysis and actions on demographic changes, brain-drain and diaspora feed-back, social entrepreneurship, rural depopulation recovery, etc.;
- Promote dialogue of the CEI Member States on the internal move of their people;
- Encourage cross-border cooperation of Public Authorities in combating trafficking in human beings, migrant exploitation and related crime and increase common understanding of integrated border management between CEI Member States;
- Encourage the development of partnerships between the main stakeholders in society – governments, civil society, private sector, members of the academia - within the framework devised by the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations.

**CEI PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2018:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Type of activity</b>	<b>Organising Institution</b>	<b>Implementation Date and Place</b>
<a href="#">Third Annual Conference of the Western Balkans Migration Network "A search for that special place under the sun in modern Europe: migration in the twenty first century"</a>	CEI Presidency Event	The Institute of Economics Zagreb, Croatia	25-26 May 2018, Zagreb - Croatia
<a href="#">MIGRALONA Project - Strengthening collaboration between the local and the national tiers in the management of migrations</a>	Project funded by the ARFVG	CEI-ES implementing partner, with the support of NALAS, association of the SEE Municipalities; MARRI, the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative	Regional, six workshops in the Western Balkans between December 2017 and March 2018
<a href="#">Territorial and Urban Potentials Connected to Migration and Refugee Flows</a>	ESPON Targeted Research EU-funded Project	Consortium led by University of Bologna  (CEI-ES Partner)	01/07/2017 - 01/07/2018
<a href="#">International Symposium "Combating Illegal Migration and Illicit Human Trafficking"</a>	Cooperation Activity	Department for International Affairs of the University King Danylo, Ukraine	16 – 17 March 2018, Ivano-Frankivsk - Ukraine
<a href="#">"Fostering social inclusion and integration of asylum seekers and refugees in Western Balkan region and other CEI countries"</a>	Cooperation Activity	Asylum Protection Center, Serbia	5-7 December 2018, Belgrade, Serbia



## SDG 13: CLIMATE CHANGE

In order to tackle this goal the CEI within its PoA has established the following objective and implemented a number of activities in 2018:

- **Fostering adaptation to climate change**

### RATIONALE:

Climate change is a global challenge affecting people worldwide. Atmospheric gases, especially carbon dioxide are creating the greenhouse effect, which today has reached the highest level in history. It, therefore, influences climate changes contributing to the creation of extreme weather conditions, including powerful hurricanes and floods which have affected the Western Balkans in recent years as well. The abundant consumption of fossil fuels and the inefficient use of natural resources is also threatening our economic security. In order to address climate change, the countries need to adapt and become resilient to its current and future impacts and foster public and private investments in clean energy. Investments made today will result in future benefits both from a financial and environmental point of view. An efficient use of natural resources will save money and significantly contribute to economic growth. Considering the impact of daily life, this concept should be taken from a comprehensive point of view, covering all aspects of life, starting from early education to favouring cultural and sustainable habits in the daily life of all segments of population. Taking into account the increased frequency of the adverse effects of climate change, their consequences in CEI Member States and the need for appropriate policies and measures in all sectors, one of the CEI's priorities will be the assessment of vulnerability to climate change. It will also include support to the implementation of the results of the recent COP 23 of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn, 6 – 17 November 2017) and contribute actively to the good preparation and favorable outcome of COP 24 hosted by Poland, in Katowice.

### EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS:

- Foster the incorporation of the value of ecosystem services into socio-economic policy-making at local, regional and national levels across the CEI region;
- Contribute to the activities of ecological restoration, aimed at improving ecosystem services and ecological connectivity in the CEI Member States;
- Promote and support activities related to green infrastructure;
- Contribute to climate change vulnerability assessment in the CEI Region, focusing on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, disaster prevention and on the adaptation to climate change.

### CEI PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2018:

Title	Type of activity	Organising Institution	Implementation Date and Place
<a href="#">NAMIRG - North Adriatic MIRG (Maritime Incident Response Group)</a>	EU-funded Project	Partner consortium (CEI-ES Lead Partner)	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2019
Dams safety: a new approach for the monitoring of the dams with the use of remote sensing	KEP Italy Project	University of Padua - Interdepartmental Research Center of Geomatics (CIRGEO), Italy	January 2017 – June 2018, Albania
HYMEUR-HYdrometeorological Modelling for Environmental qUalitycontRol	KEP Italy Project	University of Brescia, Italy	Closed in 2018, Serbia
Improving Disaster Risk Reduction skills and Resilience-building Practices in the Western Balkans: EMS WeB	KEP Italy Project	Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy	January 2018 - December 2018, Regional

## SDG 16: PEACEFUL SOCIETIES, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

In order to tackle this goal the CEI within its PoA has established the following objectives and implemented a number of activities in 2018:

- **Promoting safe and secure e-Government solutions**

### RATIONALE:

The basic role of this objective is to contribute to the development of sustainable societies based on knowledge in the CEI region by creating an environment for applications in a wide range of areas, including eGovernment, eTrade, eHealth etc. Indeed, the EU Digital Agenda envisages the promotion of the deployment and use of modern accessible online services. Modernisation of public institutions requires easier and faster access to public services and absence of bias, which will eventually lead to the improvement of the overall performance of the public sector. The focus has to be on governance reforms with the technological tools provided by ICT being utilised to bring about fundamental changes in

the governmental processes. E-Government will make public services faster, more efficient and more effective. Besides being cost effective, e-services are also transforming administration into a citizen-oriented one which will better align with citizens' needs. Furthermore, the development and harmonisation of interoperable eTrade systems, where relevant, among CEI Member States and with the related EU acquis, will be taken into account. ICT solutions for innovation & startup ecosystems and eHealth will also be considered. Special efforts will be encouraged for initiatives and programmes with particular regard to the delivery of modern teleinformatic services in rural areas and for the benefit of those population groups more at risk of digital divide (elderly, less educated, etc.). In order to extend the use of electronic services, the CEI will reinforce its role in the improvement of digital literacy skills. Moreover, the CEI will stress the importance of data security (cybersecurity) and high level of trust and confidence when delivering online service. The cybersecurity issue is of growing importance both on national and international level. There are many important players in the field including Governments, businesses, NGOs and academic institutions. A huge potential of national academic and public R&D centres is still underused. Fostering cooperation and information sharing between these entities would be beneficial also for national Governments. A more secure and resilient digital environment requires a wider risk awareness. Digital literacy initiatives will also be aimed at spreading a basic cyber hygiene attitude, thus avoiding a huge percentage of cyber-attacks.

**EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS:**

- Develop international cooperation in the field of e-governance and the exchange of good practices aimed at identifying the best examples for the implementation of e-governance solutions as well as supporting the improvement of activities of national stakeholders on eGovernment, eTrade, eHealth, etc.;
- Promote e-services and enhance awareness of its benefits in order to make public services more transparent, efficient and accountable, providing for digital-by-default standards, inclusiveness and accessibility;
- Promote cybersecurity, thus increase the security and integrity of electronic communications and support the development of right-based legislative and regulatory frameworks on data protection;
- Improve digital literacy, enhance the capabilities of the people to use electronic services and raise awareness on cybersecurity risks.

**CEI PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2018:**

Title	Type of activity	Organising Institution	Implementation Date and Place
<a href="#">CEI-HECE Spring School on "IoT, economic and management challenges for e-health integration in the enlarged Europe"</a>	Cooperation Activity	Higher Education in Clinical Engineering (HECE) of the University of Trieste, Italy	14-17 May 2018, Koper - Slovenia

- **Strengthening institutional capacities and promoting effective anti-corruption measures and open data**

**RATIONALE:**

A well-organised state organisation is the key element to achieve stability and security, ensuring a favourable environment where businesses and job can be created and investment confidence grow. Indeed, potential investors can only be attracted by transparent and responsible state organisations. Furthermore, the competitiveness of the private sector needs to be supported by enhancing value creation, improving access to finance, etc. On the contrary, weak institutions generate a lack of trust among potential investors, the business community and citizens. In particular, not only does corruption harm investments, but also the society as a whole. It undermines democracy and impedes overall economic growth. Fighting corruption contributes to democracy empowerment and improves competitiveness. Nevertheless, very often, public institutions do not have enough capacities to firmly enforce anti-corruption rules. In this context, the CEI will continue to support efficient and effective public administration through capacity building programmes and the inclusion of the civil society in this process. This will lead to more stable institutions able to implement anti-corruption agenda. Moreover, promoting open data, developing the re-use of public sector information (aiming at the “once only” principle), expanding public access to reliable and objective information will also be tackled. If appropriately balanced with privacy and correct processing of sensitive data, public sector information has a significant — still untapped — potential for the re-use of new products and services and for efficiency gains in administrations. Besides its economic value, opening up public data also fosters the participation of citizens in political and social life and contributes to various public policies. Actual openness of data is one of the key conditions for unblocking economic and social potential for a re-use of public sector information. Therefore, promoting good practice, facilitating coordination and experience sharing across the states is crucial for strengthening open data initiatives and the re-use of public sector information.

**EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS:**

- Support the establishment of common integrity standards of public administrations and the enhancement of institutional capacities/competences of public administration at the central, regional and local levels to implement key reforms (in non-EU CEI Member States);
- Support trainings for public administration officers on effective anti-corruption measures;
- Raise awareness on fair public procurement;
- Promote the expansion of public access to reliable and objective information and support for introducing simple, clear and transparent rules of access to public services.

CEI PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2018:

Title	Type of activity	Organising Institution	Implementation Date and Place
<a href="#">International Conference - "Knowledge sharing for building stronger partnerships in the process of European integration"</a>	CEI Presidency Event	<i>Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia</i>	25-26 April 2018, Zagreb - Croatia
<a href="#">Ministerial Conference "Fostering Cohesion and Competitiveness through Regional Cooperation"</a>	CEI Presidency Event	Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds of the Republic of Croatia	6 June 2018, Zagreb - Croatia
<a href="#">WBG Facility</a>	Project funded by the ARFVG	CEI-ES implementing partner	September 2018-September 2021, Western Balkans
Establishing of Origination and Execution Capacity Program for SME Direct Finance in Ukraine, R. Moldova, Belarus	TC Project	EBRD/CEI	Regional (Belarus, R. Moldova, Ukraine)
Albania Secretariat to the Investment Council	TC Project	EBRD/CEI	Albania
CEI Support to Small Business Initiative: Expansion of Origination and Execution Capacity Program for SME Direct Finance and Risk Sharing in Belarus	TC Project	EBRD/CEI	Belarus
Capacity building Programme for Enhancing Public Procurement Professionalism International Master in Public Procurement Management (IMPPM). 6th Generation (2018/2019)	TC Project	EBRD/CEI	Regional
Regional Western Balkans Master Programme in Public Procurement Management. 1st Generation, (2017/2018)	TC Project	EBRD/CEI	Regional
<a href="#">Support anti-corruption capacity building in Albania</a>	KEP Italy Project	OSCE - Governance in Economic and Environmental Issues Department (GEEID)International Academy of Anti-Corruption (IACA)	Closed in 2018, Albania
Strengthening governance through public procurement in the Western Balkans - "Regional Western Balkans Master Programme in Public Procurement Management"	KEP Italy Project	Department of Economics and Finance, University of Rome tor Vergata, Italy	September 2017 - June 2018, Regional
<a href="#">Regional Hidden Economy Forum</a>	Cooperation Activity	Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), North Macedonia	7 February 2018, Skopje - North Macedonia
<a href="#">International Conference on Enhancing arbitral Resolution of Disputes</a>	Cooperation Activity	Economic Chamber of North Macedonia	19-20 April 2018, Skopje - North Macedonia
<a href="#">Pre-Presidency Conference</a>	Cooperation Activity	Institute for Advanced Studies Vienna, Trans European Policy Studies Association TEPSA, Austrian Society for European Politics	7-8 June 2018, Vienna - Austria
"Building sustainable links in the Danube region" - citizen participation on local, national, macro-regional and EU level	Cooperation Activity	Citizen Participation Forum, Bulgaria	15-16 October 2018, Sofia - Bulgaria
International Conference European Integration through the Perspective of Cooperation between Civil Society and Local Authorities	Cooperation Activity	European Movement Republic of North Macedonia	6-7 November 2018, Skopje - North Macedonia