



The CEI Fund at the EBRD contributed by Italy

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➤ Why the “CEI”

The **Central European Initiative** , is an intergovernmental forum founded in **1989** to promote regional cooperation among its **17 Member States in central and southeastern Europe**. Based in **Trieste**, it supports European integration and sustainable development combining multilateral diplomacy and financing.

➤ Why the “EBRD”

The **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development** is an international financial institution that opened for business in **London** in **1991**. It is committed to furthering progress towards “market-oriented economies and the promotion of private and entrepreneurial initiative”. It is currently active in **nearly 40 countries** from **central Europe to central Asia and the southern and eastern Mediterranean**.

The **CEI-EBRD partnership** is one of the oldest partnerships in the Bank's history, primarily thanks to Italy, a founding member and an important contributor of both institutions.

The CEI Fund at the EBRD is a strategic tool in the CEI framework.

- Established in 1992 and **fully financed by the Italian Government** with a total cumulative contribution amounting to **€53 million**.
- It is administered by the **Italian MFA** with the support by the **Office for the CEI Fund at the EBRD**.

- **Mandate:** supporting the CEI transition countries in their integration process with the EU.
- **Countries of operation:** non-EU CEI Member States (Albania, Belarus*, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine).
- **Sectors of operation (CEI Plan of Action):** agribusiness, energy, finance and business, institutional development and capacity building, small and medium-sized enterprises, municipal infrastructure and services, and transport.

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It performs its mandate through two **grant-type financing programmes**:

Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme

Provides grant-type assistance in support of the EBRD investments and operations targeting EBRD's clients in non-EU CEI Member States

Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP)

Provides grant co-financing for institution-to-institution transfers of good practices from EU to non-EU Members States of the CEI

- Constitutes the largest part of the activities financed by the CEI Fund.
- **1993-2022:** around **€33.5 million** for a total of over **200** TC assignments.
- **Technical expertise** to help design or implement EBRD's investments, including support related to policy/legal reforms and capacity building.
- Beneficiaries: EBRD's clients in the **non-EU CEI Member States** in sectors such as **energy, transport, capacity building, and SME development.**
- TC projects mobilize significant EBRD investments opportunities: up to **€7 billion** of investments by the EBRD and its financial partners (€230 for each € committed by the CEI Fund for TC projects)

CEI Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP)

- Is one of the CEI's **flagship instruments**.
- It co-finances projects focusing on the **transfer of know-how and best practices** from EU to non-EU CEI Member States.
- It operates through **Calls for Proposals**.

- Launched in **2004**, it is a **development tool** fostering cooperation and integration by supporting the advancement of CEI countries towards **EU standards and policies**.
- It is focused on areas of intervention where CEI EU countries demonstrate **strong-rooted experience**, and where beneficiary states exhibit the **strongest need for assistance**.
- To date, over **130 projects** have been financed for a total CEI Fund contribution of over **€4 million** with an overall project value amounting to over **€16 million**.

Projects target the **non-EU CEI Member States** in various areas of intervention **covering the CEI Plan of Action**

- Objective 1.1: Strengthening **Transport** Networks
- Objective 1.2: Boosting **Innovation** and **Entrepreneurship**
- Objective 1.3: Enhancing **Climate** Resilience
- Objective 1.4: Promoting Clean **Energy**
- Objective 1.5: Supporting **Circular Economy**
- Objective 1.6: Encouraging **Smart Communities**
- Objective 2.1: Advancing **Good Governance**
- Objective 2.2: Fostering Better **Health**
- Objective 2.3: Supporting **Intercultural Cooperation**
- Objective 2.4: Safeguarding **Media** Freedom
- Objective 2.5: Pursuing **People Empowerment**
- Objective 2.6: Furthering **Science Diplomacy**

- Projects can be **bilateral or multilateral**
- Partnerships must include at least **one know-how provider** from an EU Member State, and **one recipient** from a non-EU Member State.
- Both can act as **project applicant**.
- **Public** and **private sector** bodies (not individuals) registered in a CEI country.
- Including **regional/international and non-governmental organisations**.

- KEP projects address the needs for assistance **expressed directly by the beneficiary countries.**
- The **knowledge transfer** is carried out through capacity-building and technical assistance activities, including:
 - Workshops, trainings, study tours and peer review missions
 - Staff secondments
 - Assistance in the preparation of strategic documents
 - Technology transfers and technical assistance
- Project activities often support the **adoption of national strategies, new regulations and legislation.**

- The **CEI contribution** to a single project can be up to **€40,000**:
 - Any grant shall **not exceed 50%** of the total cost of a project.
 - The remaining 50% of the budget must be **provided by project partners**.
 - Both in-kind and cash co-financing resources are accepted.

- It is disbursed in two instalments:
 - **Advance Payment** (up to 50% of the approved amount after the signing the grant agreement)
 - **Final Payment** (upon submission of final reports)

Selection and awarding procedure:

- Applications undergo an **administrative and eligibility check** on compatibility to the Call for Proposals requirements.
- **Evaluation:** according to a merit point system published within the text of the Call.
- **Co-financing:** highest ranked project proposals up to the available resources of the Call.
- Contracting: signing of a **Grant Agreement**.

**Through our KEP
we create cooperation opportunities for
European integration and sustainable development.**

**Thanks to the transfer of know-how and best practices
we contribute to developing synergies and new
partnerships throughout the CEI region.**

We look forward to supporting you!



Thank you!

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