



The CEI Cooperation Fund

- ✓ **Origin:** established in June 2001 by the decision of the CEI Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting in Milan. It is financed by annual allocations from all CEI Member States according to an agreed scale of contributions.
- ✓ **Annual budget:** the Member States contribute each year to the Fund a total of **365.030,00 €**
- ✓ **Objective:** facilitate the implementation of programmes and projects for the realisation of the CEI Pan of Action.

The Fund co-finances **CEI Cooperation Activities**, which take various forms, such as:

- ✓ seminars
- ✓ workshops
- ✓ training courses
- ✓ conferences

in all the areas of operations outlined in the CEI Plan of Action.

The Fund functions on the basis of annual **Calls for Proposals**.

A Call is launched at the beginning of the calendar year on the CEI website www.cei.int and is kept open for at least two months. The Call receives proposals for activities to be implemented in the next calendar year.

- ✓ The application needs to be submitted exclusively by email to applications.coopfund@cei.int putting the CEI National Coordinator in copy.
- ✓ Each applicant is entitled to submit only one application.
- ✓ Each applicant will receive a notification from the Secretariat with a Reference Number for following-up the result of the evaluation phases

- ✓ **Plan of Action compatibility.** Activities need to be in line with the CEI Plan of Action and contribute to reaching its goals.
- ✓ **Participation quorum.** Proposed activities need to involve at least half plus one of CEI Member States, and in no case less than one third, i.e. 6. This is a criteria that needs to be respected not only when drafting the application but also in the implementation phase of the activity.
- ✓ **Location.** Activities need to take place in the CEI region.

- ✓ **Maximum CEI contribution.** Applicants can request a CEI contribution up to 50% of the total cost of the project, within a ceiling established by the Call (in the last Calls 15.000 €).
- ✓ **Eligible applicants.** The Call is open to all public and private entities registered in CEI Member States. Individuals cannot apply. International and regional organisations can also apply.
- ✓ **Eligible activities.** Conferences, seminars, workshops, training activities. An applicant can submit one application only.

Eligible expenses

- ✓ The Fund is mainly supporting mobility within the CEI region, so the main budget lines to be reimbursed are **travel** and **accommodation** of participants and speakers of CEI Member States.
- ✓ Residually, the CEI can reimburse **catering** and **subsistence** expenses, **printing**, **translations** from/to English of publications and preparation of **conference kits**, rent of **conference rooms** and **audio-visual equipment**.

Non-eligible expenses

- ✓ Organisational or administrative costs (including human resources of the organising institution and all related national and international mission costs in preparation of, during and after the activity, overheads, bank fees, courier or postage expenses...),
- ✓ non-CEI attendees,
- ✓ translations from/to languages both different from English,
- ✓ purchase of materials and equipment,
- ✓ registration fees,
- ✓ in-kind contributions,
- ✓ simultaneous interpretation costs and rent of related equipment,
- ✓ web creation, design and maintenance as well as any human resource cost for design and implementation of promotional activities.

- ✓ **Administrative and eligibility check** on compatibility to the CEI Rules and Call for Proposals → eligible proposals are proceeding to second phase, non-eligible are rejected.
- ✓ **Merit and technical assessment** eligible proposals are screened according to an evaluation grid with scores. Proposals are grouped in a roaster from top to lower scores.
- ✓ On the basis of availability of resources **allocation proposals** are submitted to the Committee of National Coordinators for final decision.

The approved CEI contribution is normally disbursed in two instalments:

- ✓ **Advance Payment** (up to 50% of the approved amount)
- ✓ **Final Payment** (upon submission of final reports and budget)

- ✓ Activity: ***Modern times for Arbitration: Initiatives and perspectives - Strengthening the cooperation between business partners by enhancing arbitral resolution of disputes***
- ✓ Organised by the Permanent court of Arbitration attached to the Economic chamber of Macedonia
- ✓ Date and location: April 2018, Skopje
- ✓ Financing: total cost 28.317 €, CEI contribution 8.300 €
- ✓ Topics of discussion: situation and prospects of national and international arbitration, legal framework and efficiency of proceedings, arbitration in international business transactions
- ✓ Participants: 10 CEI countries (Austria 2, Bulgaria 2, Croatia 1, Italy 1, Macedonia 134, Montenegro 1, Poland 2, Romania 1, Serbia 1, Slovenia 2)

- ✓ Activity: **2018 Danube:Future Interdisciplinary School – Project Management and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development of the Regions in the Danube River Basin**
- ✓ Organised by University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev", Bulgaria
- ✓ Date and location: September 2018, Ruse (Bulgaria)
- ✓ Financing: total cost 37.037 €, CEI contribution 5.896 €
- ✓ Topics of discussion: project management and entrepreneurship as possible tools for overcoming the disparity. Specificity of regional developments within the Danube Macro-Region, strengths and weaknesses, identification of opportunities for cooperation.
- ✓ Participants: 9 CEI Countries (Albania 1, Austria 5, Bosnia and Herzegovina 1, Bulgaria 21, Croatia 6, Hungary 1, Italy 3, Romania 5, Serbia 3)



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Thank you!

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