

## **SEE Kick-Off Event**

**27-28 March 2008**

**Intercontinental Hotel, Budapest**

# ***Opportunities of Regional Cooperation in the SEE Area***

*Presentation by Amb. Harald Kreid,  
Alternate Director General  
Central European Initiative - Executive Secretariat*

## The Central European Initiative (CEI)

The oldest and largest intergovernmental forum:

- Founded in 1989
- Gathering 18 Member States from Central Eastern Europe
- CEI membership:
  - 9 EU Members
  - 2 EU Candidate Countries
  - 4 EU Potential Candidate Countries
  - 3 Eastern European Countries

Jointly for our common future

*Harald Kreid, CEI – Executive Secretariat*



## The CEI and the SEE areas



15 out of 16 SEEP countries are CEI Member States

Jointly for our common future

## The CEI institutional structures

- **Meeting of the Heads of Governments**
- **Committee of National Coordinators**
- **Networks of Focal Points** in several areas of activities:
  - *Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy*
  - *Enterprise Development including Tourism*
  - *Human Resource Development*
  - *Information Society and Media*
  - *Intercultural Cooperation including Minorities*
  - *Multimodal Transport*
  - *Science and Technology*
  - *Sustainable Agriculture*

Jointly for our common future

## The CEI instruments

### ➤ **CEI Funds**

Cooperation Fund, CEI Trust Fund at the EBRD, CEI Solidarity Fund

### ➤ **CEI Academic Networks**

CEI UniNET, CEI S&T Network, Business network - CECCI

### ➤ **CEI Programmes**

Know-How Exchange Programme, From Research to Enterprise

### ➤ **CEI Feature Events**

SEF, Energy Forum, Youth Forum, Forum of Journalists, Forum of Diplomats

Jointly for our common future

*Harald Kreid, CEI – Executive Secretariat*

## The CEI Secretariat for EU Projects

- Created in 2004 to promote the CEI participation in EU projects and programmes, since several CEI countries have become eligible for EU funding
- Offers assistance to CEI Member States seeking cooperation at EU level
- Successful experiences as Project Partner in projects funded under different EU programmes (Interreg IIIB CADSES, FP6, INTERACT, ANNP, EIE, Culture 2000)
- New applications submitted mainly as Lead Project Partner

Jointly for our common future

*Harald Kreid, CEI – Executive Secretariat*



## The CEI Secretariat for EU Projects

Operating as main financial and organisational link  
between EU and CEI MS through:

Facilitating links with authorities from Central and Eastern Europe

- Enhancing know-how transfer
- Disseminating project activities and results throughout the CEI region
- Promoting participation of CEI Member States, particularly non-EU ones, in EU programmes

Jointly for our common future

*Harald Kreid, CEI – Executive Secretariat*

## The CEI regional cooperation: benefits

- To take advantage of the geographic proximity
- To cross national borders and overcome barriers
- To bring people together for an effective intellectual exchange
- To share experiences and values to foster dialogue
- To encourage a regional identity
- To promote the establishing of institutional frameworks for a well-organised and well-structured cooperation

Jointly for our common future

*Harald Kreid, CEI – Executive Secretariat*

## **SEE objectives and meanings**

Given the difficulties faced in the SEE Programme Area, the SEEP has the following overall objectives:

- To reestablish trust and confidence
- To promote a genuine spirit of cooperation
- To implement projects meeting the implicit political, economic and socio-cultural aims of the transnational cooperation in the SEE area

Jointly for our common future

*Harald Kreid, CEI – Executive Secretariat*

## Benefits for the SEE area

The SEEP will bring several fringe-benefits:

- To broaden people's world-view and look beyond their borders
- To acquire a sense of common European destiny, accepting cultural diversity
- To help people to relate to each other in a pragmatic, non-ideological manner
- To become self-reliant and develop a sense of civic responsibility

Jointly for our common future

*Harald Kreid, CEI – Executive Secretariat*



**Thank you for your attention**

**CEI – Central European Initiative  
Secretariat for EU Projects**

**Via Genova 9, 34121 Trieste – ITALY  
Tel. +39 040 7786 777  
Fax. +39 040 7786 783**

**[EU.projects@cei-es.org](mailto:EU.projects@cei-es.org)**

**[www.ceinet.org](http://www.ceinet.org)**

Jointly for our common future

***Harald Kreid, CEI – Executive Secretariat***

