

**Conference on “Strengthening Cooperation Towards a Knowledge-based
Society in CEI Region”
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CEI’s cooperation in the Science and Technology and ICT

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The Central European Initiative (CEI)



The oldest and largest intergovernmental forum founded in 1989 and gathering 18 Member States from Central Eastern Europe:

- **9 EU Members**
- **2 EU Candidate Countries**
- **4 EU Potential Candidate Countries**
- **3 Eastern European Countries**

CEI Areas of Activity

- **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**

CEI Science and Technology Network (S&TN) - FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS

- Trieste, a favourable destination for scientists and researchers from Central and Eastern Europe, particularly from the Western Balkans;
- Presence of many international research centres traditionally willing to promote transnational scientific cooperation;
- High ratio researchers / inhabitants.



CEI S&TN - PRELIMINARY STEPS

- Main goal: to stimulate scientific and technological cooperation among the CEI Member States, focusing on know-how transfer towards the 9 non-EU CEI Member States;
- Created in 2003, operational since 2004, on the basis of Cooperation Protocols between the CEI and the following Trieste-based institutions.

CEI S&TN – “LEAD INSTITUTIONS”

1. The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (www.icgeb.trieste.it);
2. The International Centre for Science and High Technology of UNIDO (www.ics.trieste.it);
3. The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (www.ictp.trieste.it);
4. The International School for Advanced Studies (www.sissa.it);
5. Synchrotron “ELETTRA” (www.elettra.trieste.it);
6. Consortium “AREA DI RICERCA” (www.area.trieste.it).

CEI S&TN – ROLE OF “LEAD INSTITUTIONS”

- These “Lead Institutions” (LIs) constitute the so-called “Primary Network”;
- Along with the CEI-ES, each LI prepares an annual Joint Work Programme (JWP) including activities to be co-financed, when suitable, by the CEI;
- The CEI co-funding is meant to enable scientists from its Member States (particularly from the 9 non-EU CEI Member States) to take part in the proposed activities.

CEI S&TN - ACTIVITIES

CEI co-financed activities in the context of its S&TN take the form of:

- Seminars;
- Meetings;
- Training Courses;
- Summer Schools;
- Workshops;
- Support to research projects.



CEI S&TN - ACTIVITIES

Due to the various fields in which the Network's Lead Institutions operate, co-financed activities cover a large spectrum of highly relevant scientific research such as:

- Physics;
- Maths;
- Genetics;
- Biotechnology;
- Neuroscience;
- Nano-science;
- Bioinformatics.



S&TN – EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED IN 2007 (1)

- Summer School on “Fiat Lux – Formation and Evolution of Cosmic Structures”;
- 14th Young Neuroscientists meeting;
- Supporting research on “Quantum field theory and conformal invariance”;
- Supporting research on “Study of Quantum Phase Transitions with Metadynamics” and “Applications of Metadynamics to Surface Phase Transitions and to Cluster Melting”;
- Preparatory school and Winter college on fibre optics, fibre lasers and sensors;
- School on wireless networking for scientific applications in developing countries;
- Workshop on X-ray emission techniques for forensic applications;

S&TN – EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED IN 2007 (2)

- School of nuclear knowledge management;
- Theoretical Course “RNA Structure and Function”;
- Practical Course: “Bioinformatics: Computer Methods in Molecular Biology”;
- DNA Tumor Virus Conference;
- SYNCRO2007 School on radiation and FEL techniques and applications;
- BINASP – Bio Nano European Infrastructure in AREA Science Park;
- NOVAREGIO – Innovative Network for Coordinated Actions on RTD Policies at Regional Level;
- Workshop on “Supporting tools for Eastern and Central European National Cleaner Production Centers”.

S&TN – THE SECONDARY NETWORK

- Main future challenge: expansion of the CEI S&TN across the CEI area;
- Each “Lead Institution” should establish links and strengthen cooperation with partner institutions in the CEI Member States, thus implementing and developing the so-called “Secondary Network”.



S&TN – EUROPEAN UNION FUNDING

- The CEI S&TN as a basis to build partnerships and create consortia for promoting EU-funded activities;
- EU funding as an opportunity to strengthen the CEI S&TN in terms of both membership and number of co-financed activities;
- Opportunities offered by the FP7: support to mobility of researchers (“Marie Curie Actions”).



SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

- Through the FP7, the CEI-ES has the opportunity to strengthen its activities in the field of scientific cooperation;
- Namely, its **CEI Research Fellowship Programme**, created in 2005 to support researchers' mobility across the CEI area;
- In 2008, the CEI-ES has prepared and submitted to the FP7 call "Cofund" a proposal titled "**CERES**";
- CERES was positively evaluated by the EC which invited the CEI to negotiate the details of its proposal.



CEI Research Fellowship Programme (“CERES”)

- Strengthening of the CEI Research Fellowship Programme: more fellowships and better conditions offered to selected researchers;
- Fellows will be given the opportunity to choose among 5 partner institutions, already members of the CEI S&TN, covering various scientific sectors;
- 30 Fellowships to be distributed in the time-frame 2009-2012;
- Each fellowship lasts 12 months;
- Fellows will be selected by an *ad hoc* Selection Committee whose composition is in line with the “*European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for their Recruitment*”.



“WINS-ICT” – Partner role

- Strengthening S&T cooperation between the EU and the Western Balkan countries by deepening regional strategic relations in the field of ICT and promoting the participation of Western Balkans ICT research actors in FP 7.
- Main expected output of the project: an improved policy dialogue in the field of ICT, reflecting the WBCs needs and priorities in future ICT Work Programmes, thus providing the ground for enhanced participation from the target region.

“WINS-ICT” – Objectives

Specific objectives of the WINS-ICT project:

- To provide comprehensive understanding of the current framework of EU-WBC ICT RTD policies and RTD collaboration;
- To optimize the current policy framework and establish strategic partnerships with other projects, such as WBC-INCO.NET;
- To support building of sustainable networks between innovative WBC ICT researchers and their EU counterparts;
- To enhance the capacities and capabilities of WBC researchers to successfully participate in the FP7 ICT research activities.

CEI AWARD “FROM RESEARCH TO ENTERPRISE”

- launched in 2004 under the aegis of the CEI S&TN (2 calls completed so far);
- to stimulate the spirit of entrepreneurship among scientists and researchers in the CEI Member States;
- to facilitate the establishment of new SMEs by scientists willing to commercialise knowledge from research (spin-off from research);
- selected researchers are granted seed money to finance a feasibility study of their business ideas.

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