

# Implementing the CEI Mission through EU Projects



# Introduction

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Since 2004, the participation in EU projects has proven to be an effective tool for fostering the CEI's main mission: European integration and sustainable development in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The 44 projects finalised so far, of either cross-border or transnational nature, have contributed to addressing the strategic and thematic priorities endorsed by the Heads of Government of our 17 Member States, thus implementing our distinctive methodology of turning shared political goals into regional projects.

2014-2020 was a productive period for the CEI in this field. In the context of 25 projects, of which 10 are still on-going, we have reached significant results for the ultimate benefit of our countries and their citizens.



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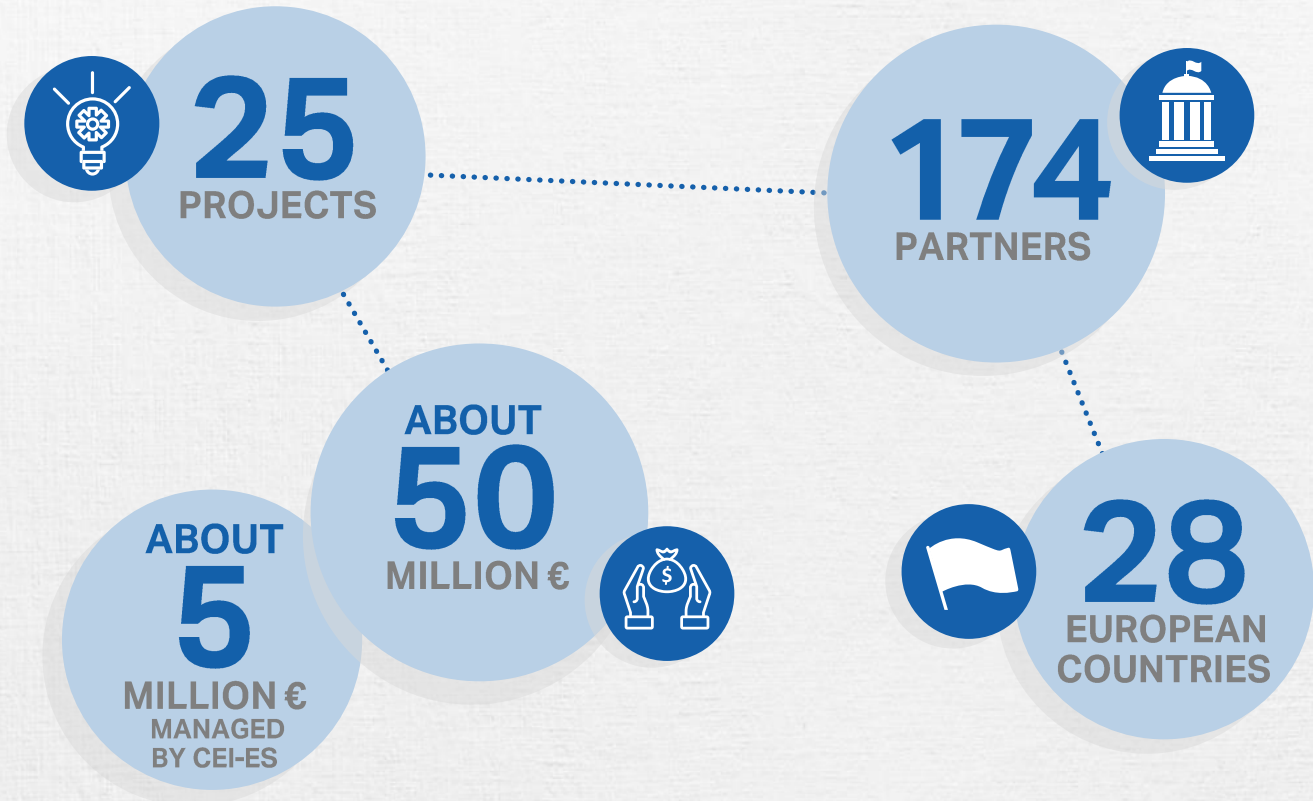
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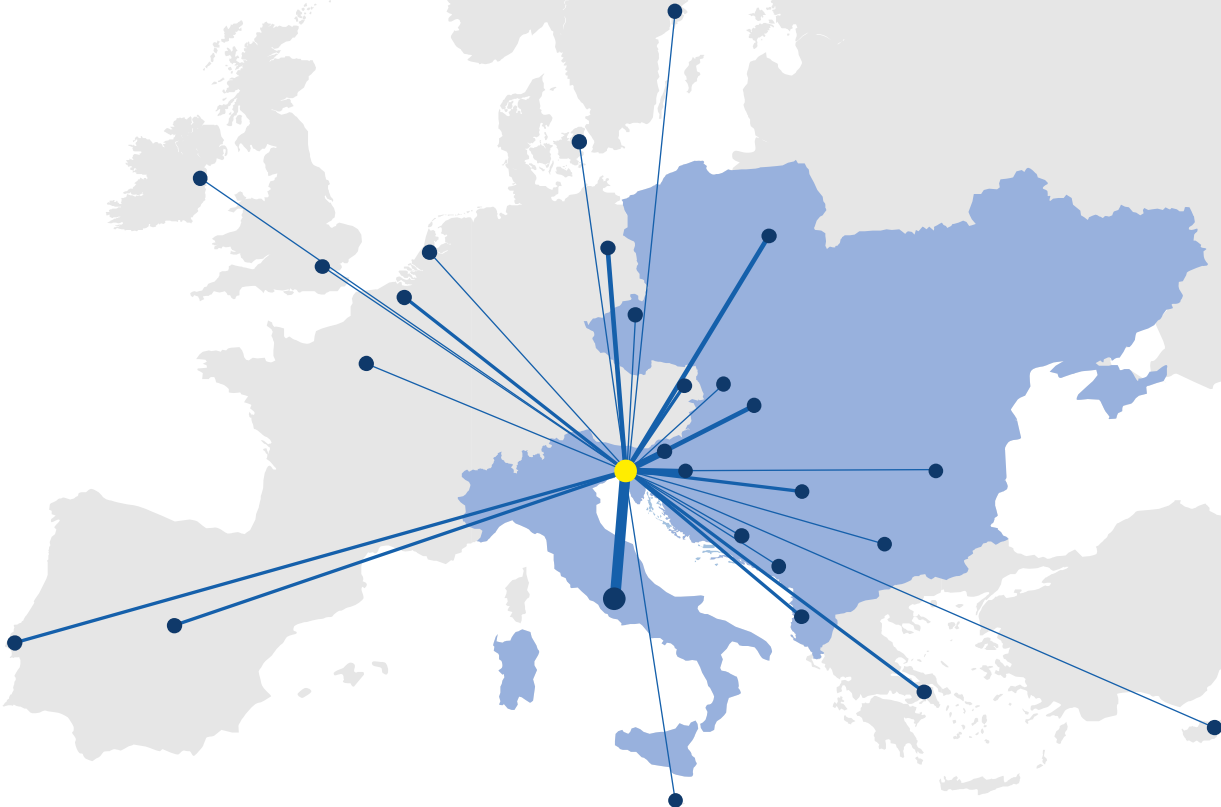
# 1 Facts & Figures 2014-2020

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# 2 Our Network

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# 3 Success stories

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The following results have been achieved during 2014-2020, thanks to effective regional cooperation through EU project management either as Lead Partner and Partner. The projects fall within the priorities outlined in the CEI Plan of Action.



# Connecting cross-border public transport systems



TRANSPORT  
NETWORKS

In the framework of the CEI-led project CONNECT2CE, we facilitated bilateral exchange and joint planning between several stakeholders from Slovenia and Italy. This has resulted in the first experimental intermodal solution to link Ljubljana and Trieste via public transport: the CONNECT2CE integrated e-ticket combined and linked the bus service operated in Trieste with the Slovenian train services, thus ensuring a low cost and efficient solution applicable to other cross-border areas.



**Interreg**   
CENTRAL EUROPE European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund  
**CONNECT2CE**

# Supporting digitalisation of multimodal transport



TRANSPORT  
NETWORKS

Within AD RIPASS, led by CEI, the Port of Bar – an important node of the Adriatic-Ionian transport network – has been able to upgrade its ICT platform (Port Community System). This tool will streamline freight flows transiting through the port, improve the efficiency of the TEN-T corridor networks and support the development of green intermodal solutions, while enhancing maritime-hinterland freight connections in the Adriatic-Ionian region.



**Interreg**   
**ADRION** **ADRIATIC-IONIAN**  
European Regional Development Fund - Instrument for Pre-Accession II Fund

AD RIPASS





# Boosting blue economy through innovation and technology transfer

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Blue economy represents a great opportunity for CEI countries and their companies. BLUE\_BOOST selected 35 SMEs from Italy, Albania, Croatia and Greece, through a competitive transnational call, and awarded them with innovation vouchers of 10.000 Euros. Through specialized consultancy and technology transfer, the SMEs had the chance to innovate their business in areas such as digitalisation, sustainable use of marine resources and green boatbuilding.



BLUE  
ECONOMY



**Interreg**   
**ADRION** ADRIATIC-IONIAN  
European Regional Development Fund - Instrument for Pre-Accession II Fund

BLUE\_BOOST



# Ensuring accessibility to cultural heritage



INTERCULTURAL  
COOPERATION

No Special Needs, just culture FOR ALL: all people have the right to enjoy culture and take full part in the life of the society. The project COME-IN!, led by the CEI, developed transnational Guidelines to help museums and galleries organise accessible exhibitions and provide satisfactory services for all visitors. Museums ready to embrace these principles are welcome to apply for the COME-IN! Label through our annual call: <https://www.cei.int/the-come-in-label!>



# Strengthening preparedness in civil protection and marine pollution



CLIMATE  
RESILIENCE

The North Adriatic Maritime Incident Response Group – NAMIRG is the first transnational mechanism against fire incidents onboard ships in the North Adriatic and their devastating environmental consequences. It has trained and equipped a team of 27 firefighters from the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (Italy), Koper (Slovenia) and the Istria County (Croatia), ready to intervene according to protocols jointly developed by the three partner countries under the coordination of the CEI.



**NAMIRG**



European Union  
Civil Protection and  
Humanitarian Aid

# Promoting local development in marginal areas



SOCIAL  
INNOVATION

CEI stakeholders active in the field of local development can take inspiration from the “Atlas of the Mountain” (<https://www.coopcramars.it/atlante>), an online tool developed by the project SENTINEL. The Atlas includes data collection and analysis on the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region mountain area, aiming to identify local needs and business opportunities, while valorising the role of social enterprises and cooperatives as essential actors of local development in marginal areas.



# Fostering circular bioeconomy across the CEI region

With the ultimate goal to strengthen circular bioeconomy in Central and South-Eastern Europe, CELEBio, led by the CEI, carried out essential research on topics such as biomass availabilities, mobilisation costs, policy framework, infrastructure, logistics, and bio-based value chains. This allowed for the development of Guidelines for Bioeconomy Action Plans, particularly important vis-à-vis the opportunities coming from the EU Green Deal and the Next Generation EU.



CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY



CELEBio



# Supporting digitalisation of cultural heritage



INTERCULTURAL  
COOPERATION

Digitalisation of cultural heritage leverages humanities and cultural tourism. Tartini valorised the cultural and artistic legacy of Giuseppe Tartini, a great player of the Enlightenment born in Piran/Pirano. We contributed to the creation of a multilingual repository ([www.discovertartini.eu](http://www.discovertartini.eu)) hosting the digital archive of his music and writings, as well as of the touristic path of the Tartini Route on the cross-border area between Slovenia and Italy.



Progetto finanziato con il contributo del Fondo europeo di sviluppo regionale  
Standardski projekt sofinanciran Evropski sklad za regionalni razvoj

# 4 The way ahead

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Our participating in EU projects has efficiently complemented the other funds and programmes at the CEI's disposal (Cooperation Fund, Fund at the EBRD, Know-how Exchange Programme), thus making a valuable contribution to the implementation of our political mandate through tangible regional actions. We are confident these achievements will lay the foundations for the design and management of new EU projects promoting green growth and just societies, the main goals of the CEI Plan of Action 2021-2023. Bearing in mind the dramatic impact of COVID-19 on our countries' public health, economic performance, and social cohesion – we will keep our focus on strengthening EU integration across the CEI area, and on promoting sustainability in its economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Through the implementation of cross-border and transnational EU projects, the CEI will take an active role in the green, digital, and inclusive recovery of Europe, as well as in progressing towards the successful delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



# Supplement

## Ongoing projects

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- ACSELL
- DIGITAL HEALTH EUROPE
- ETIP-B-SABS-2
- FORTIS
- ICARUS
- ITHACA
- MIMOSA
- SUSTOURISMO
- TAAFE
- PRE-RIGHTS



# ACSELL

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## Accelerating SME innovation capacities with a Living Lab approach

*Interreg Europe*

Promoting open innovation towards expanding SMEs competencies following the living lab approach.



### WHY IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We support the public sector, innovation intermediaries and SMEs towards user integration in the early stage of the innovation process. Access to smart, integrated interregional policy instruments, a vibrant ecosystem and relevant competencies will pave the way towards demand-driven, effective and efficient innovation. This will be achieved through study visits, comprehensive self-assessments, knowledge exchange and mutual learning, as well as by identifying transferable good practices, hacking regional policy challenges and accelerating innovative capacities.

- ▶ **CEI Role:** Partner
- ▶ **Duration:** 48 months 01/08/2019 - 31/07/2023
- ▶ **Budget:** € 1.7 million
- ▶ **CEI share:** € 153,300
- ▶ **Partnership:** 8 partners from BE, DE, DK, IT, RO, SI, UK
- ▶ **Contributing to PoA 2021-2023:** Goal:1; Objectives: 1.2, 1.6
- ▶ **Contributing to UN Agenda 2030:** SDGs: 8, 17

# DIGITAL HEALTH EUROPE

Support to enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market

*Horizon 2020*

Supporting the digital transformation of health and care and the large-scale deployment of digital solutions for person-centred integrated care.



## WHY IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We will boost innovation in the health sector and feed the post-2020 EU Digital Single Market priorities by addressing three key topics: citizens' secure access to health data, innovation and personalised health care, digital tools for person-centred care.

This will be achieved by identifying, analysing and facilitating the replication of impactful best practices, twinning schemes and mobilisation of stakeholders.

- ▶ **CEI Role:** Partner
- ▶ **Duration:** 30 months 01/01/2019 - 30/06/2021
- ▶ **Budget:** € 3.1 million
- ▶ **CEI share:** € 41,400
- ▶ **Partnership:** 17 partners from DE, SE, PT, BE, IE, FR, ES, NL, IT
- ▶ **Contributing to PoA 2021-2023:** Goal 2; Objective 2.2
- ▶ **Contributing to UN Agenda 2030:** SDGs: 3, 17



Horizon 2020  
European Union Funding  
for Research & Innovation

Digital  
Health  
Europe 

# ETIP-B-SABS-2

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## European Technology and Innovation Platform Bioenergy – Support of Renewable Fuels and Advanced Bioenergy Stakeholders 2 *Horizon 2020*

Supporting ETIP Bioenergy in engaging with all relevant European stakeholders in the areas of renewable fuels, decarbonisation of transport, as well as bioenergy and biomass valorisation and bio-based value chains.



### WHY IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We contribute to the activities of ETIP Bioenergy by means of enhanced networking and liaison with stakeholders from the CEI constituency, promoting mutual understanding and better knowledge of the opportunities and bottlenecks that hinder full-scale development of bioenergy businesses in the CEI region. The project supports ETIP Bioenergy to maximise the impact of its activities and outreach, including the elaboration of scientifically sound and unbiased information about the developments in policy, research, technology, and markets.

- ▶ **CEI Role:** Partner
- ▶ **Duration:** 36 months 01/09/2018 - 31/08/2021
- ▶ **Budget:** € 997,720
- ▶ **CEI share:** € 93,750
- ▶ **Partnership:** 5 partners from IT, AT, DE, SE
- ▶ **Contributing to PoA 2021-2023:** Goal: 1; Objectives: 1.4, 1.5
- ▶ **Contributing to UN Agenda 2030:** SDGs: 7, 11, 17

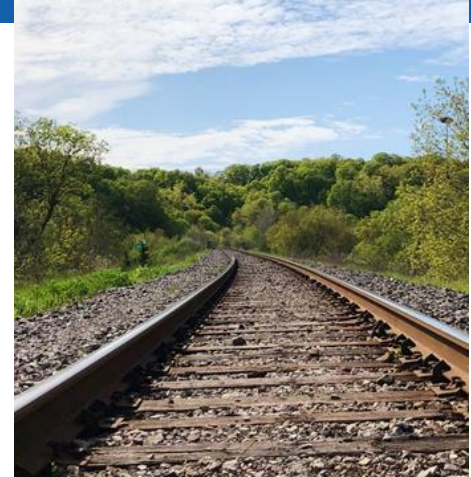
# FORTIS

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Strengthening institutional cooperation in the cross-border area through innovative solutions in public transport and civil motorisation procedures

*Interreg Italy – Slovenia*

Improving Italy-Slovenia cross-border public transport connectivity and identifying measures to harmonise licensing and registration vehicles procedures.



## WHY IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We will promote institutional dialogue among key national, regional and local stakeholders to identify joint solutions and support a better understanding of the problems affecting public transport connectivity in the cross-border area. This will be achieved by testing specific pilot actions to improve passengers' mobility; and by promoting the setting up of a cooperation network involving the key decisions makers in both countries.

- ▶ **CEI Role:** Lead Partner
- ▶ **Duration:** 24 months 01/03/2020 - 28/02/2022
- ▶ **Budget:** € 759,290
- ▶ **CEI share:** € 225,815
- ▶ **Partnership:** 5 partners from IT and SI
- ▶ **Contributing to PoA 2021-2023:** Goal: 1; Objective: 1.1
- ▶ **Contributing to UN Agenda 2030:** SDGs: 1, 9, 11, 13

# ICARUS

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## Intermodal Connections in Adriatic-Ionian Region to Upgrowth Seamless solutions for passenger *Interreg Italy – Croatia*

Improving Italy-Croatia cross-border passenger transport services connecting coast to its hinterland.



### WHY IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We will improve passenger intermodal transport connections by easing coast-hinterland sustainable accessibility.

This will be achieved by testing smart mobility solutions using pilot activities, based on territorial analysis of current gaps and needs; and by promoting behavioral change campaigns and fostering the development of local authority planning capacities.

- ▶ **CEI Role:** Partner
- ▶ **Duration:** 36 months 01/01/2019 - 31/12/2021
- ▶ **Budget:** € 2.2 million
- ▶ **CEI share:** € 170,000
- ▶ **Partnership:** 10 partners from IT and HR
- ▶ **Contributing to PoA 2021-2023:** Goal: 1; Objective: 1.1
- ▶ **Contributing to UN Agenda 2030:** SDGs: 9, 10, 13

# ITHACA

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## Innovation in Health And Care for All *Interreg Europe*

Refining smart health regional policies to support innovative business opportunities, create growth and scale up the deployment of innovative health and care solutions for the benefit of European citizens.



### WHY IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We will enhance the efficiency of regional ecosystems by supporting the development of effective and innovative health-related solutions for an active and healthy ageing population. This will be achieved by incorporating interregional collaboration activities, involving a wide range of expert stakeholders which include exchange of good practices, mutual learning, peer assessment, knowledge transfer, targeted coaching and collective, co-designed policy development.

- ▶ **CEI Role:** Partner
- ▶ **Duration:** 60 months 01/01/2017 - 31/12/2021
- ▶ **Budget:** € 2.3 million
- ▶ **CEI share:** € 98,300
- ▶ **Partnership:** 9 partners from FR, ES, DE, IT, NL, SI, PL, UK
- ▶ **Contributing to PoA 2021-2023:** Goal: 1, 2; Objectives: 1.6, 2.2
- ▶ **Contributing to UN Agenda 2030:** SDGs: 3, 8, 10, 17

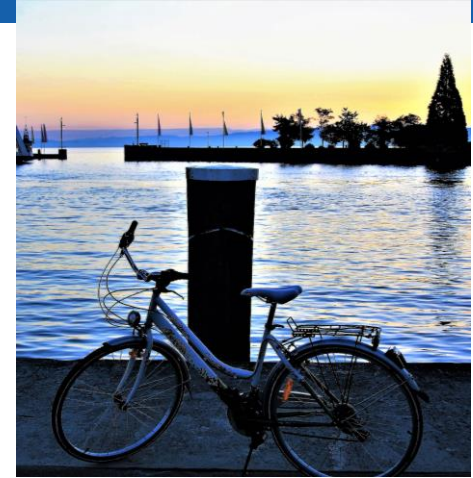
# MIMOSA

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## Maritime and Multimodal Sustainable passenger transport solutions and services

*Interreg Italy – Croatia*

Promoting sustainable cross-border passenger transport services to improve connectivity between Italy and Croatia.



### WHY IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We aim at enhancing cross-border connectivity by developing visible outputs, ranging from multimodal solutions to innovative and smart tools and technologies. We will tackle the common challenge of increasing multimodality and reducing the impact of transport on the environment.

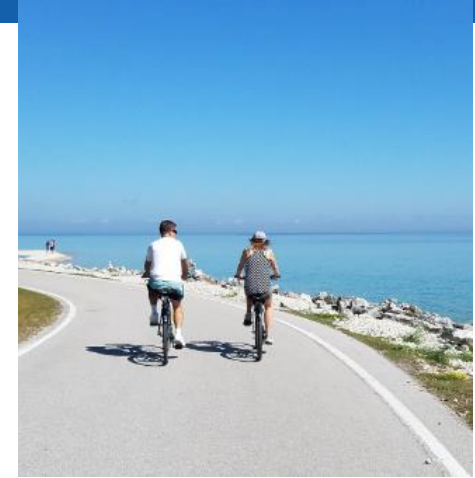
This will be achieved by increasing the knowledge of passenger transport and fostering a change in travellers' behaviour; and by improving multimodal sustainable passenger connections as well as harmonising / standardising services; establishing a cross-border network to foster a steady dialogue at cross-border level.

- ▶ **CEI Role:** Lead Partner
- ▶ **Duration:** 36 months 01/01/2020 - 31/12/2022
- ▶ **Budget:** € 7.1 million
- ▶ **CEI share:** € 477,000
- ▶ **Partnership:** 18 partners from IT and HR
- ▶ **Contributing to PoA 2021-2023:** Goal: 1; Objective: 1.1
- ▶ **Contributing to UN Agenda 2030:** SDGs: 3, 9, 11, 13

# SUSTOURISMO

## Sustainable Tourism & Mobility Hand-by-Hand Development *Interreg ADRION*

Fostering innovative and eco-friendly mobility choices to mitigate tourism's environmental impact by promoting sustainable transport and alternative destinations.



### WHY IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We aim at enriching the touristic offer in six areas of the Adriatic-Ionian region which are popular among travellers. This will be achieved by providing tourists with a guide to the main points of interest, thus reducing the use of private cars and decreasing congestion and pollution; and by offering tailored information, dedicated itineraries and a reward scheme, through the SUSTOURISMO app, to valorise undiscovered sightseeing or leisure options, thus contributing to enriching the attractiveness of the city or region.

- ▶ **CEI Role:** Partner
- ▶ **Duration:** 30 months 01/02/2020 - 31/07/2022
- ▶ **Budget:** € 1.6 million
- ▶ **CEI share:** € 226,650
- ▶ **Partnership:** 10 partners from IT, AL, GR, HR, SI, RS, ME
- ▶ **Contributing to PoA 2021-2023:** Goal: 1; Objectives: 1.1, 1.6
- ▶ **Contributing to UN Agenda 2030:** SDGs: 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15



# TAAFE

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## Towards an Alpine Age – Friendly Environment *Interreg Alpine Space*

Building a participatory framework – the TAAFE model - for developing an age-friendly environment and an improved delivery of services in the Alpine Space area.



### WHY IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Based on the WHO concept of sustainable Age-Friendly Environments (AFE), we aim at using an inclusive approach optimising social and physical environments and promoting active and healthy ageing. This will be achieved by providing a multi stakeholders' team in each partner country, with a toolkit to develop a pilot action, ranging from assessment of needs to consensus building, participatory planning and action implementation. Co-creation methods will involve local elderly, as well as other relevant stakeholders such as NGOs, research institutions, service providers, political actors.

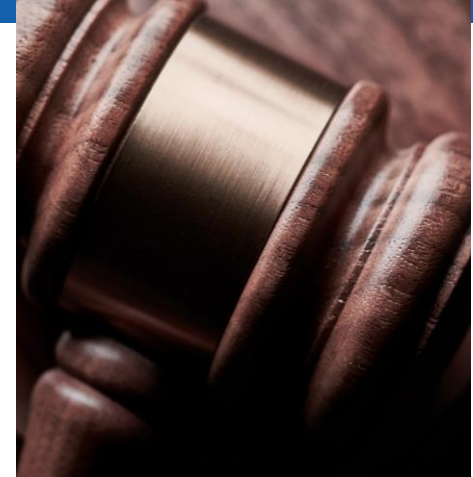
- ▶ **CEI Role:** Partner
- ▶ **Duration:** 32 months 01/10/2019 - 31/12/2022
- ▶ **Budget:** € 2.2 million
- ▶ **CEI share:** € 135,400
- ▶ **Partnership:** 13 partners from AT, DE, FR, IT, SI
- ▶ **Contributing to PoA 2021-2023:** Goal: 1, 2; Objectives: 1.6, 2.2
- ▶ **Contributing to UN Agenda 2030:** SDGs: 1, 3, 11, 12, 17

# PRE-RIGHTS

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## Assessing impact and performance of preventive measures on EU Directives and Framework Decisions *Justice Programme*

Reaching a better judicial cooperation on the legal prevention of crime; a more efficient application of EU mutual recognition instruments in criminal matters; and higher level of "juridicalisation" of preventive measures.



### WHY IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Through research, co-creative Living Labs and training, we will contribute to: increasing the capacity of legal practitioners and authorities to address issues related to judicial prevention in criminal investigations (better implementation of the European Investigation Order and European Arrest Warrant); enlarging the competences of prison judges and police to address prevention from a legal and procedural point of view, by better balancing security needs with rehabilitation purposes; reinforcing cooperation between EU institutions, Member States and Third Countries towards a more coherent use of Mutual Legal Assistance and International judiciary instruments to address management of suspects and radicals from a preventive perspective.

- ▶ **CEI Role:** Lead Partner
- ▶ **Duration:** 30 months 01/10/2019 - 31/03/2022
- ▶ **Budget:** € 806,673
- ▶ **CEI share:** € 207,152
- ▶ **Partnership:** 8 partners from BG, DE, IT, GR, MT, PT, RO
- ▶ **Contributing to PoA 2021-2023:** Goal: 2; Objective: 2.1
- ▶ **Contributing to UN Agenda 2030:** SDGs: 16, 10



## 17 MEMBER STATES

Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine.

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