



Framework Partnership Agreement

between

**the CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE
Executive Secretariat**

and

**the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of
Commerce (AIC Forum)**

The Central European Initiative – Executive Secretariat with headquarters at Via Genova 9, 34121 Trieste, Italy (hereinafter referred to as “CEI-ES”), represented by Giorgio Rosso Cicogna, CEI Alternate Secretary General

and

the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce (AIC Forum), with headquarters at Piazza XXIV Maggio, 1 – 60124 Ancona, Italy (hereinafter referred to as “AIC Forum”), represented by Ms Jadranka Radovanić, President

Taking into account that the Central European Initiative was established in 1989 as an intergovernmental forum for political, economic and cultural cooperation among its member states (now 18), in order to support transition countries in Central and Eastern Europe in their effort to integrate further with the European Union through business and investment promotion, scientific and technological exchange as well as transfer of know-how and best practises;

Taking into account that the AIC Forum, established in 2001, and gathering 38 Chambers of Commerce belonging to the coastal region of the Adriatic and Ionian basin, aims at supporting economic development and harmonize administrative rules for fostering commerce, mutual exchange and cooperation in the region;

Acknowledging the relevance and the potential for economical development of the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region for both the CEI and the AIC Forum;

Considering that on the occasion of the meeting held on 14th April 2011 in Trieste CEI-ES and AIC Forum, represented by their Secretaries, agreed on exploring the opportunity of joint projects in area of common concern, and particularly transport and logistics, tourism, SMEs development, sustainable agriculture, environment, women entrepreneurship;

Aware of the potential benefits which may result from further mutual cooperation in terms of increased impact and effectiveness of their respective activities and achievements of their common objectives;

The Parties have agreed as follows:

1. General Purpose

This Partnership Agreement is aimed to provide the parties with a general framework to strengthen their relations, in order to enhance project-oriented cooperation in areas of common interest. Under these conditions CEI-ES and AIC Forum intend to cooperate on projects and activities with the objective of attracting additional international resources (especially EU funds) to co-finance their projects and activities.

2. Modalities of Cooperation

Each party may submit to the other proposals for cooperation that will be subject to approval in accordance with the internal rules and regulations of each party.

The following types of cooperation will receive precedence:

- identification of possible joint development and implementation of projects in the framework of EU-funded programmes;
- interaction between pool of in-house and external experts of CEI institutional networks and of AIC Forum;
- participation of CEI-ES representatives in selected AIC Forum events and of AIC Forum experts in CEI events;
- exchange of information on current and planned activities of common interest;
- visibility and media coverage of joint events and activities;

- any other initiative considered of importance for an appropriate development of the cooperation envisaged in this Agreement.

3. Entry into Force, Duration and Termination

This Framework Agreement will enter into force upon signature by the parties and is open ended. In case one of the parties wishes to terminate this Agreement, it will formally inform the other party: termination will take place within sixty (60) days after the written notice of one of the parties is sent to the other party. Regardless of the reasons for termination, appropriate provisions will be negotiated in order to ensure the regular completion of ongoing projects.

4. Amendments

This Framework Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the parties, in writing.

5. Resolution of Dispute

Any dispute arising from or in connection with this Memorandum of Understanding, including interpretation or application of any provision herein, will be settled amicably by the parties.

The parties have signed this Memorandum of Understanding in the English language, in two original copies.

FOR CEI – ES

Signed by Mr Giorgio Rosso Cicogna, Alternate Secretary General

[signature] _____

[place] BUDVA_____

[date] 11 May 2011_____

FOR AIC Forum

Signed by Ms Jadranka Radovanić, President

[signature] _____

[place] BUDVA_____

[date] 11 May 2011_____