

A N N E X I I :
I N T E R G O V E R N M E N T A L
S T R U C T U R E S B E T W E E N E U A N D
N O N - E U M E M B E R S T A T E S

C o n t e n t s

This annex lists other intergovernmental administrative bodies (often small and regional) that operate in the field of cultural cooperation and include within their membership both European Member States and non-European Member States. These alliances tend to take place within the European continent or with its immediate neighbours, though there are some exceptions.

They are legal structures that work together in a significant way in developing cultural cooperation programmes and extending external cultural relations beyond national interests.

The documents collected from each of these organisations suggest and demonstrate a willingness to develop cultural cooperation initiatives together and with third countries. These are the ones that will be described:

1 5 7	Visegrád
1 6 0	Baltic Sea States
1 6 3	Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers
1 6 6	Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)
1 6 8	Mediterranean Forum
1 7 0	Central European Initiative

*This annex provides selected key reading materials. The Literature Research Tool - LRT (www.labresearchonline.org), which is complimentary to this report, provides additional references and links to all digital documents and websites. The LRT will continue to be updated for the coming year.

Visegrád

The Visegrád Group consists of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The Visegrád Group was formed on 15th February 1991 at a meeting of the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Václav Havel, the President of the Republic of Poland, Lech Walesa, and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary, József Antall.

The Visegrád group set up the International Visegrád Fund to support exchanges and scholarships. The budget of the Fund is created by equal annual contributions of all Member States, currently amounting to EUR 600.000 each, providing a total of almost EUR 2.000.000. Chairmanship of the International Visegrád Fund rotates on yearly basis.

The cooperation maintained between these four new Member States of the EU consists of mutual contacts at all levels – from highest-level summits to various forms of meetings and activities of Visegrád non-governmental associations, art ensembles, or teams of scientists.

Cooperation between individual ministries constitutes an important part of activities within the framework of V4, whether at ministerial level or in the work of joint teams of experts or groups. A number of joint projects are currently being implemented, in particular in the field of culture, environment, internal security, defence, science and education. Cooperation in the fields of justice, transport, tourism, energy and information technology is intensifying.

The Member States of the Visegrád Group demonstrate in several websites their desire to cooperate with their closest neighbours, with the reforming countries in the broader region, and with other countries, regional formations or organisations which are interested and with which specific areas of cooperation can be found. The Programme for the Hungarian presidency of the Visegrád Group for 2005/2006 very significantly demonstrates this:

“The member countries of the Visegrád Cooperation, now members of the EU, are able and willing to shape common foreign and dimensions of neighbourhood policies in relation to the neighbouring regions – Ukraine, other CIS states and the Western Balkans – which are undergoing tremendous political and social transformation. Such a contribution could help these regions to get closer to European values. Enhancing democratic processes is a shared interest of both EU-members and NATO-allies. In this context, the role of the Visegrád Cooperation in the processes of mediation of values, stabilisation and in sharing experience is being given further added value. By making use of the political frameworks of Visegrád Cooperation, the Hungarian Presidency will seek suitable forms to carry out the above responsibilities, harmonising the national ambitions of the member countries.”

S e l e c t e d k e y r e a d i n g

Visegrad Group, (2004) Visegrad Declaration 2004,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.visegradgroup.org/documents/visegraddeclaration2004.pdf>
Declaration of the Prime Ministers of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic on cooperation of the Visegrad Group countries after their accession to the European Union. “The Visegrad Group countries are strongly determined to jointly contribute to the fulfilment of the European Union’s common goals and objectives and the successful continuation of the European integration. They reiterate their commitment to the enlargement process of the European Union. They are ready to assist countries aspiring for EU membership by sharing and transmitting their knowledge and experience. The Visegrad Group countries are also ready to use their unique regional and historical experience and to contribute to shaping and implementing the European Union’s policies towards the countries of Eastern and South Eastern Europe. The Visegrad Group countries are committed to closely cooperating with their nearest partners in the central European region. They are also ready to cooperate in specific areas of common interest with

countries within the wider region, with other regional groupings in Europe as well as with third countries and international organisations.”

Visegrad Group, (2005) International Visegrad Fund,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.visegradfund.org>

The official website of the International Visegrad Fund which gives grants to projects that promote closer cooperation between the V4 countries through supporting common cultural, scientific and educational projects, exchanges between young people, cross-border cooperation and tourism promotion. The applicant for financial support has to be a resident of a V4 state however the Fund may also fund projects with partners outside the V4 countries.

Visegrad Group, (2005) Official Website,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

This website provides key documents pertaining to the history and development of the Visegrad group, including conventions, policy statements and declarations. It also gives a clear picture of the V4 group today. For the purpose of this research it should be noted that: “The member states of the Visegrad Group also desire to cooperate with their closest neighbours, with the reforming countries in the broader region, and with other countries, regional formations or organisations which are interested and with which specific areas of cooperation are found in the common interest and in the spirit of European cooperation.”

Visegrad Group, (2004) Report on Activities of the Czech Presidency of the Visegrád Group (2003-2004),

E-Doc Link: <http://www.visegradgroup.org/main.asp?MainObIID=15733&ObIID=15912>

“The Visegrád countries are still interested in promoting cooperation with other regional groupings or countries that express their interest in this. During the discussions of the future of the V4 working contacts were established with the structures of the Nordic Council of Ministers and Benelux, from whom the Visegrád countries drew inspiration in questions concerning the functioning of regional cooperation within the European Union. An interesting discussion was developed about the possibilities of cooperation between the Visegrád countries and Japan. The Visegrád Group also welcomed the declared interest of the Ukraine in cooperation, but for the moment it has not yet achieved in relation to the Ukraine a practical level of cooperation.”

Visegrad Group, (2005) Programme for the Hungarian presidency of the Visegrad Group 2005/2006,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.visegradgroup.org/main.asp?MainObIID=15734&ObIID=16473>

“The member countries of the Visegrád Cooperation, now members of the EU, are able and willing to shape common foreign and dimensions of neighbourhood policies in relation to the neighbouring regions – Ukraine, other CIS states and the Western Balkans – which are undergoing tremendous political and social transformation. Such a contribution could help these regions to get closer to European value...”

Visegrad Group, (2005) Joint declaration of the prime ministers of the Visegrad group countries Kazimierz Dolny 10th June,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.visegradgroup.org/main.asp?MainObIID=15738>

“The Prime Ministers of the Visegrad Group fully agreed that it is in our common interest to make EU-Ukraine AP implementation a success. They expressed hope for the positive outcome of the review of the progress made in political and economic reform in Ukraine and in strengthening EU-Ukraine relations during forthcoming EU-Ukraine Cooperation Council meeting and EU-Ukraine Summit.”

Baltic Sea States

The Council of the Baltic Sea States comprises of Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden and the Ukraine.

The Council of the Baltic Sea States was established in March 1992, although Iceland did not become a member until 1995. The Council consists of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs from each Member State and a member of the European Commission. Chairmanship of the Council rotates among the Member States on an annual basis.

The Council does not have a general budget or project fund however, since 1998, the CBSS Member States have jointly financed the Permanent International Secretariat of the CBSS.

The Council of the Baltic Sea States serves as an overall regional forum for intergovernmental cooperation, focusing on the need for intensified coordination of activities in virtually every field of government, (with the notable exception of military defence), among the Baltic Sea States. Council of the Baltic Sea States Ministerial meetings have been held in many areas including culture.

The organisational framework of the Council of the Baltic Sea States is based on its Terms of Reference. The clearest evidence of cultural cooperation amongst these states is the setting up of the Baltic Sea Heritage Cooperation and Ars Baltica.

Baltic Sea Heritage □ The Baltic Sea Heritage Cooperation started with a declaration by the Ministers of Culture in Lübeck in 1997: 'The Ministers agreed that special attention should be given to cultural heritage, which is an important part of the environment and an important factor for economic and social development.'

The aim of the Baltic Sea Heritage Cooperation is to identify and carry out possible ways of safeguarding and developing the common cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea region, as declared in the report from the Ministers of Culture meeting in Gdansk, Poland in 1999. Participating countries include Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

A r s B a l t i c a

Ars Baltica is a forum for multilateral cultural cooperation with an emphasis on common projects within the Baltic Sea region. It gives priority to art, culture and cultural history. The intention is to enhance cultural identity in the Baltic Sea region and also to realise projects of European significance as demonstrated by this quote found on its official website:

"The intention is to enhance cultural identity in the Baltic Sea Region and also to realise projects of European significance. Its goal is to implement common projects, which in terms of structure and concept are more than the traditional form of bilateral cultural exchange and also to help these projects to become as existing networks of individuals and organisations."

Ars Baltica is made up of a committee with two representatives from each Member State. The members are Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation and Sweden.

S e l e c t e d k e y r e a d i n g

Council of the Baltic Sea States, (2005) Official website,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.cbss.st>

Official website detailing, history, organisation, structures, working bodies, summits, observers, special participants, strategic partners of the CBSS, CBSS Newsletter Baltinfo, documents, calendar and link directory.

Baltic Sea Heritage, (2005) Official website,

E-Doc Link: <http://balticheritage.raa.se/>

Four working groups cover different areas of the cooperation for the safeguarding and developing of common cultural heritage. Several seminars, meetings and workshops have been held with the aim to develop common policies and to spread and exchange knowledge and expertise. Networks between the countries have been established: Building Preservation and Maintenance in Practice; Sustainable Historic Towns; Coastal Culture and Maritime Heritage and Under Water Heritage. The first Cultural Heritage Forum on "Baltic Sea Identity" was held in Gdansk in April 2003.

Ars Baltica, (2005) Official website,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.ars-baltica.net/article/about/>

“The intention is to enhance cultural identity in the Baltic Sea Region and also to realise projects of European significance. Its goal is to implement common projects, which in terms of structure and concept are more than the traditional form of bilateral cultural exchange and also to help these projects to become as existing networks of individuals and organisations.”

Baltic Sea States, (2005) Terms of Reference of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (revised 2005),

E-Doc Link: <http://www.cbss.st/documents/foundingdocs/dbaFile7912.html>

Point 13 of the terms of reference is notable: ‘13. The CSO consists of senior foreign affairs officials representing the Member States and the European Commission. A senior representative of the CBSS Presidency chairs the CSO.’

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, (2005) Polish presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.msz.gov.pl/start.php?page=1310800001#3a>

The CBSS serves as an overall regional forum for intergovernmental cooperation, focusing on the need for intensified coordination of activities in virtually every field of government, (with the notable exception of military defence, which is explicitly excluded as a potential area of cooperation in the Council’s Terms of Reference), among the Baltic Sea States. CBSS Ministerial meetings have been held in the following fields: agriculture; children’s affairs; culture, economic affairs, education, energy, finance, health, information technology, interior, justice, labour, social affairs, spatial planning, trade and industry, transport, youth affairs.

Rotfeld, Professor Adam Daniel, (2004) The CBSS after EU enlargement – challenges and opportunities,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.msz.gov.pl/start.php?page=1310800001#3a>

“I hope that the secretariats of regional structures located in Gdansk – like Union of the Baltic Cities, Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation and Ars Baltica, which are exceptionally well suited to promote these activities, will continue their engagement in the new political environment. Membership of the three Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - and Poland in the EU, greatly facilitating contacts between people and business, may boost the activities of these structures, by further facilitating contacts and rendering access to new EU programs and projects.”

National Heritage Board, Sweden, (2003) Cultural heritage cooperation in the Baltic Sea states: report 3,

E-Doc Link: <http://balticheritage.raa.se/reports/cultural-heritage-co-op.pdf#search='Baltic%20states%20cultural'>

This report was produced with the mandate given by the Ministries of Culture in the Baltic Sea States, by the monitoring group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea with its working group, with representation from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation and Sweden.

Baltic Sea States, (1999) Safeguarding and developing the common cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea region,

E-Doc Link: <http://balticheritage.raa.se/reports/report1.pdf>

Report agreed upon in Gdansk, Poland, May 27-29 1999.

Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers

Official Nordic cooperation is channelled through two organisations: the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers. Both organisations are working to build relations with the EU and propose measures in relation to the EU and the Northern Dimension plan.

The Nordic countries comprise of three EU countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden and two non-EU countries, Iceland and Norway.

T h e N o r d i c C o u n c i l

The Nordic Council formed in 1952 as a forum for inter-parliamentary cooperation. The Council has eighty-seven members, representing the five countries and three autonomous territories.

T h e N o r d i c C o u n c i l o f M i n i s t e r s

The Nordic Council of Ministers, formed in 1971, is a forum for Nordic governmental cooperation. The Nordic Council of Ministers arranges seminars and diplomatic briefings that promote Nordic cooperation, culture and values outside the Nordic countries. Within the framework of the programme, priority is given to cooperation with Nordic institutions and Nordic representation abroad.

The Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers operate in close cooperation with several international, regional and national organisations outside the Nordic countries. The Adjacent Areas Programme, which is directed at Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the three autonomous territories - Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland – includes also Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Northwest Russia and the Arctic, as high priority areas within Nordic cooperation.

According to the Norden official website, Nordic cultural projects also represent an area of major focus which presents a broad view of Nordic art and culture both in and beyond the Nordic countries. The aim is “to achieve a high profile, both within and outside the Nordic region, for the achievements of works of professional artists in the fields of art and culture.”

The Nordic Council of Ministers intends, over the next three years, to emphasise meeting the objectives of the strategies for a gradual shift of the centre of gravity towards Northwest Russia. They shall utilise the experience from projects completed in the Baltic region, while also starting up new projects targeted specifically at Russia, and last but not least, work is going on continuously with a view to opening a Point of Information in Kaliningrad.

This policy is complementary to the European Commission, which, in reference to the second Northern Dimension action plan states:

“Cross-border cooperation must contribute to promoting regional economic development and integration of the whole Northern Dimension area.”....”The relevant EU financial instruments must support this cooperation as efficiently as possible. There is also a need to coordinate EU and bilateral funds to facilitate cooperation across the border with Russia within the Northern Dimension area.

S e l e c t e d k e y r e a d i n g

Norden, (2005) Official Website,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.norden.org>

The official website of the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers. Gives details of the history and organisations. The website includes an extensive section on culture. “ For the coming years the Nordic Ministers of Culture have adopted a strategy which emphasises the following objectives: to prioritise measures for children and young adults, with a view to reinforcing Nordic kinship and promoting increased international understanding; to achieve a

high profile, both within and outside the Nordic region, for the achievements of professional artists in the fields of art and culture; to prioritise cultural activities capable of increasing interest in, knowledge of and respect for the different cultures that together form Nordic kinship; to reinforce grassroots involvement in Nordic cooperation through closer cooperation with the NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations) sector.”

Nordic Council, Nordic Council of Ministers (2004) Nordic Council of Minister's cooperation programme with the Arctic: action plan 2004,
E-Doc Link: http://www.norden.org/naromraaden/arktisk/uk/2004_Arctic_action_plan_eng.pdf
Link

The report details all areas of cooperation between the Nordic countries and the Arctic area. With regard to cultural cooperation, the report outlines that cultural interaction across national borders enjoys a long tradition in the Arctic areas of the Norden. These are traditions that should be pursued, intensified and which should be perceived in the context of the cultural cooperation, taking place under the auspices of the Barent's Cooperation.

Northern Dimension Information System, Action plan priority Sector: Human resources, Education, Scientific Research and Health: Country reports,
E-Doc Link:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/north_dim/nis/human_resources/index.htm

Details on action plans by individual and regional members to the Northern Dimension.

Ojanen, Hanna, Dr., (2004) Evaluation of the Nordic Council of Ministers' activities in the adjacent area,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.norden.org/naromraaden/uk/naer-m-app.pdf>

Throughout 2004, the Nordic Council of Ministers will continue to develop cooperation with Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Northwest Russia, in the light (inter alia) of the accession of the three former countries to the European Union. As a result, relations with the Nordic countries and Nordic cooperation have also changed. The report forms part of the background material for the Council of Minister's work to develop guidelines for continued cooperation with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and Northwest Russia respectively. It should be regarded as an internal working document. (Copenhagen 13 May 2004)

Mangset, Per, (1997) 'Cultural divisions in international cultural cooperation' IN: (1997) The international journal of cultural policy

In many countries the policy of international cultural cooperation is marked by conflicts between the worlds of foreign policy, cultural policy and artistic life. At the same time this field of policy calls for more public attention, because of the general internationalisation of the arts field. This article analyses the international cultural cooperation between Norway and other countries particularly the conflicts of values and interests that characterises this field of policy.

European Commission, (2003) The second Northern Dimension Action Plan 2004-2006,
E-Doc Link:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/north_dim/ndap/com03_343.pdf

“Cross-border cooperation must contribute to promoting regional economic development and integration of the whole Northern Dimension area.”...“The relevant EU financial instruments must support this cooperation as efficiently as possible. There is also a need to coordinate EU and bilateral funds to facilitate cooperation across the border with Russia within the Northern Dimension area.

European Commission, (2005) 2 0 0 4 Annual Progress Report on the Implementation of the Northern Dimension Action Plan,

E-Doc Link:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/north_dim/doc/rep2004_annual_action_plan_report.pdf

The second Action Plan established five priority areas: economy, business, social, environment and natural and nuclear resources. The Action Plan underlines the need to pay particular attention to two geographical zones covered by the Northern Dimension where specific development gaps or sectoral problems exist, such as the Arctic and Sub-Arctic region and the Russian Kaliningrad Oblast sectors.

European Council, Full Report on Northern Dimension Policies,

E-Doc Link: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/north_dim/doc/full_report.pdf
The Feira European Council in June 2000 endorsed an Action Plan for the Northern Dimension. The Action Plan was prepared by the Commission, which was also invited to take a leading role in its implementation. This report reviews ongoing activities and initiatives on the Northern Dimension. It also outlines appropriate proposals for follow-up.

Finnbogadottir, Vigdis, (2004) Nordic identity does it still exist?,

E-Doc Link:

<http://www.norden.org/internationalt/berlin2003/sk/finnbogadottir031030.asp?lang=6> Link
Can the five Nordic nations, which have always worked together on the basis of respect for differences of opinion and emphasis, maintain their identity at the same time as their commitment to Europe as a whole subjects them to increasing uniformity within a much larger power bloc?

Nordic Council, (1998) Coming to terms with cultural globalisation, essay on Nordic cultural policy,

ISBN: 92-893-0169-4,

What are the full implications of concepts such as globalisation, commercialisation, IT and multiculturalism? Are the Nordic languages threatened by the bombardment of Anglo-American films and TV programmes? These are among the questions addressed in this essay on Nordic cultural policy. The essay is based on discussions of the related issues during the Nordic Council's Conference on The Impact of Globalisation on Nordic Culture – held in Oslo in March 1997: A report on the conference is included as an appendix.

Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)

The Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) is a forum for intergovernmental cooperation in the Barents Region (Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia).

The BEAC was established in 1993 in order to 'provide impetus to existing cooperation and consider new initiatives and proposals' (Kirkenes declaration of 11th January 1993).

In March 2001, the Cultural Committee was converted into a permanent Regional Working Group on Culture. The Regional Working Group on Culture has decided on the following long-term objectives for cooperation in the Barents Region, to:

- strengthen the regional identity in the Barents Region and ties between the counties;
- promote the attractiveness of the living environment;
- unite forces and organisations in cross-border cultural cooperation in order to promote peace and stability, security and integration by means of united cultural forces;
- promote culture as a tool for regional and economic development;
- view the Barents Region as a cultural centre in a European context;
- establish new networks in order to develop better skills and knowledge in the fields of art and culture;
- promote and develop cultural diversity.

Amongst the priorities of the Finnish Chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) is cultural development, though culture is only briefly mentioned and there is no clear indication of how this will be implemented in practice.

S e l e c t e d k e y r e a d i n g

Voices in the Barents Region: action programme for cultural cooperation in the Barents region 2003 - 2006,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.beac.st/default.asp?id=2778>

This action plan is based on the experience gained from cultural cooperation in the Barents region since its beginnings in 1993, i.e. 10 years. This action programme defines the objectives of cultural cooperation for the coming four-year period, prioritises commitment areas and a certain number of projects where all the countries undertake to participate in the implementation.

Barent's Euro-Arctic Region, (2005) Regional working group on culture,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.beac.st/default.asp?id=135>

The Regional Working Group on Culture has decided on the following long-term objectives for cooperation in the Barents Region: Strengthen the regional identity in the Barents Region and ties between the counties; - Promote the attractiveness of the living environment; - Unite forces and organisations in cross-border cultural cooperation in order to promote peace and stability, security and integration by means of united cultural forces; - Promote culture as a tool for regional and economic development; - View the Barents Region as a cultural centre in a European context; - Establish new networks in order to develop better skills and knowledge in the fields of art and culture; - Promote and develop cultural diversity.

Barents Euro-Arctic Council, (2005) Official website,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.beac.st/>

This website provides extensive information about the history of the cooperation, its organisational structure, terms of reference and basic documents, as well as information about the Region itself, maps, photos etc. There is a special section devoted to indigenous peoples and Barent's cooperation in human resources, which includes a section on culture.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Finland, (2005) Priorities of the Finnish Chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) 2005-2007,

E-Doc Link: <http://formin.finland.fi/english/>

The Finnish Chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) will build on the work of earlier Finnish and other Chairmanships, and on the success of the outgoing Norwegian

Chairmanship as well as on the commonly accepted general principles of the Barents cooperation and its strategic priorities. Priorities include Culture.

Ministry of Education, Helsinki, Finland, (2003) Ten years of cultural cooperation under the Northern Lights. The third conference of Minister's of Culture in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region 9-10 September 2002, Oulu, Finland, Helsinki, Multiprint, ISBN: 952-442-465-7, This report contains materials of the Third Conference of the Ministers of Culture in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region. It considers that a future challenge is to integrate Barents cultural activities into other cultural cooperation in Europe. According to the Communiqué, cultural questions must be taken into account in the preparation of the new Northern Dimension Action Plan in the European Union. The Northern Dimension takes a concrete form in the numerous cultural projects undertaken in the Barents Region. The Conference also endorsed a proposal for creating a portal to present Barents culture and facilitates communications between stakeholders. The portal will also help to make cultures in the region known outside the region.

Mediterranean Forum

The Mediterranean Forum is an informal cooperation among eleven Mediterranean countries (Greece, Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Malta and Turkey), without financial support from the EU budget for its programmes.

The Forum, which began in 1992, has gradually taken on, particularly after the creation of the Barcelona Process, the status of an 'ideas workshop' and a means of exercising Mediterranean policy complementary to the mechanisms of the Barcelona Process, or even an antechamber for producing and working out ideas to be implemented within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue.

The main goal of the forum is to provide constant analysis of the political, economic and socio-cultural situation of the Mediterranean region in order to consider long and short-term implications for Western, in particular European, politics towards the region.

The geographical area considered by the Mediterranean Forum does not only cover Mediterranean countries but takes into consideration other European countries and their sub-regional areas such as North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, Libya), the Near East (Egypt, Sudan, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey), the Persian Gulf (Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and other countries from the Arabic Gulf) and the sub-regional areas such as the African Horn, the Black Sea area and the Indo-Pakistan region.

The role of the Forum in developing Euro-Mediterranean policies is not to be underestimated. The Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Barcelona on 27-28 November 1995, marked the starting point of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Process), which has brought this region under the umbrella of official EU policy.

For more information about cooperation in the Mediterranean area, see chapter II and annex III, which explains and gives literature references concerning EU policies in the Mediterranean.

S e l e c t e d k e y r e a d i n g

European Institute for Research on Mediterranean and Euro-Arab Cooperation, (2005) Mediterranean Forum,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.medeia.be/?page=2&lang=en&doc=273>

Besides a short introduction to the Mediterranean Forum, this website provides the conclusions of the Mediterranean Forum Meetings including forums convened in: Alexandria in July 1994, in Sainte-Maxime (France) in April 1995, in Ravello (Italy) in May 1996, in Algiers in July 1997, in Palma de Mallorca (Spain) in April 1998 and in St Julians (Malta) in March 1999, Funchal (Portugal) in March 2000, Tanger (Morocco) in May 2001 and in Mykonos (Greece) in May 2002 and two extraordinary sessions, in Tabarka (Tunisia) in July 1995 and in Agadir (Morocco) in October 2001.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Morocco), (2005) Mediterranean Forum - Foromed,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.maec.gov.ma/en/forum/mediteraneEN.htm>

This website outlines the members, a brief the history of the Forum, structure, ministerial meetings to date, objectives and presidency conclusions.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and cooperation (Morocco), (2005) Oral conclusions of the tenth ordinary session of the Mediterranean Forum Foreign Ministers,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.maec.gov.ma/en/forum/antalya10October2003.htm>

The Tenth Ordinary Session of the Mediterranean Forum Foreign Ministers was held in Antalya on 9-10 October 2003 with the participation of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Egypt, Greece, Malta, Spain and Turkey; the Minister Delegate for European Affairs of France, the State Secretary for Maghreb and African Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs of Italy, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco and the Director-General for Bilateral

Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal. Includes agreements on 'cultural and social issues'.

□

Central European Initiative

The Central European Initiative (CEI) is composed of seventeen Member States: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Ukraine. They embrace a territory of 2.4 million square kilometres and a population of nearly 260 million. As of 1st May 2004, the CEI has seven EU and ten non-EU Member Countries.

The CEI was established in 1989 as an intergovernmental forum for political, economic and cultural cooperation among its Member States. Its main aim was to help transition countries in Central Europe come closer to the EU. In the second half of 1990's, the extension of its membership to South Eastern and Eastern Europe refocused its priorities on countries in special need.

The origin of the CEI lies in the agreement signed in Budapest on 11th November 1989 (only a few days after the dramatic events in Berlin) by Italy, Austria, Hungary and Yugoslavia, establishing a platform for mutual political, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation called Quadrilateral Cooperation. In May 1990, with the admission of Czechoslovakia, it became the Pentagonal Initiative, and in 1991, following the admission of Poland, it was renamed the Hexagonal Initiative. Following the dissolution of former Yugoslavia, the Vienna Summit in July 1992 admitted the Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia, and approved the renaming of the group as the Central European Initiative. With the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in 1993, both its former parts, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, were admitted to the CEI. At the Budapest Summit in 1993 a proposal for the admission of Macedonia (tenth member of the Initiative) was approved. In 1993, the Secretariat for CEI Projects started operating at the EBRD in London.

S e l e c t e d k e y r e a d i n g

Central European Initiative, (2005) Official website,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.ceinet.org>

Gives details of history, structure and key documents associated with the initiative.

Central European Initiative, (2003) CEI Plan of Action 2004-2006,

E-Doc Link: http://www.ceinet-download.org/download/2003summit_warsaw_PoA.pdf

The action plan spells out the CEI's programme for all seventeen areas of activity - of which Culture forms just one. The plan states that, " key element of CEI cultural cooperation in the next years will be the development of projects in the field of conservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage as well as the transfer of know-how in the field of cultural management..."

Central European Initiative, (2003) Working Group on Culture and Education: terms of reference,

E-Doc Link: http://www.ceinet-download.org/download/2003_WG_C&E_ToR.pdf

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