



## **Protocol for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Central European Initiative (CEI) and OGS (Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale) signed in Trieste**

The Central European Initiative (CEI) and OGS (Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale) signed a Protocol for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, on Friday 27 February 2015.

The protocol, focusing on Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans, aims at enhancing cooperation between the CEI and OGS, especially in fields related to blue growth. Priority will be given to activities promoting technology transfer, knowledge exchange, mobility, development of skills and public-private partnership in order to contribute to the scientific and technological advancement of the CEI Member States.

In particular, the CEI and OGS intend to strengthen their cooperation in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) and fully exploit the EU funding opportunities such as Horizon 2020 and on the Adriatic-Ionian Transnational Cooperation Programme 2014-2020.

“We are very satisfied with this result. The signing of this Protocol determines the strengthening of a cooperation which has been long active in the field of science and technology, innovation and advanced training in the pursuit of the Adriatic Ionian Macro-region”, said Maria Cristina Pedicchio, President of the OGS. “With the support of the CEI, OGS intends to promote joint activities in areas related to Blue Growth, a key sector for our Institute, favouring the exchange of scientific knowledge and the realisation of new research projects. Certainly, mobility and cultivation of talents are at the centre of our future joint activities, to be implemented through the promotion of advanced training activities and capacity building for the development of cross-sectoral skills”, Pedicchio concluded.

The Protocol, covering cooperation between the two institutions in 2015 and 2016, is in line with the CEI’s efforts for advancing the scientific and technological standards of its 18 Member States, a priority highlighted in the CEI Plan of Action 2014-2016. OGS, as a member of the CEI Science and Technology Network, already has a number of affiliated institutions in the CEI region with which it carries out scientific cooperation.

“We are pleased to enhance our cooperation with OGS. The CEI and OGS share the vision of “Europe 2020: a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth”, and share the same view on the necessity to strengthen the European Research Area (ERA)” said CEI Secretary General Amb. Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri. “The CEI and OGS deem it necessary to focus on the



international dimension also to build a bridge between the ERA and the non-EU CEI Member States in the field of scientific cooperation”, he added.