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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the Commission Implementing Decision concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2015 and the financing for the implementation of Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises

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The annual work programme for the implementation of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises for 2015

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INTRODUCTION

Improving the competitiveness of enterprises is essential if the Union is to deliver on its Europe 2020 priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. COSME – the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) – is the Union’s programme established by Regulation (EU) No 1287/2013 hereafter the “COSME Regulation” to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of the Union’s enterprises and to encourage an entrepreneurial culture and promote the creation and growth of SMEs. These objectives will be met by:

- improving access to finance for SMEs in the form of equity and debt;
- improving access to markets, particularly inside the Union but also at global level;
- improving framework conditions for the competitiveness and sustainability of Union enterprises, particularly SMEs, including in the tourism sector;
- promoting entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial culture;

These are the four specific objectives of COSME and the Work Programme is structured upon them.

The Commission has committed to mainstream climate action into Union spending programmes and to direct at least 20% of the Union budget to climate-related objectives. In this view, the need of enterprises to adapt to a low-carbon, climate-resilient, energy and resource efficient economy shall be promoted in the implementation of the Programme.

COSME actions will also seek to optimise synergies with other programmes such as Horizon 2020, the Partnership Instrument and the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), in particular as regards: internationalisation, entrepreneurship, the economic exploitation of new ideas, the creation of new firms, new business models, advanced capacities for product and service development, the capacity of SMEs to engage in growth in regional, national and international markets, developing ICT products and services, e-commerce, e-skills, investment in innovation and research, technology transfer, networking, clusters and Key Enabling Technologies.

In particular, applicants for Enterprise Europe Network grants and cluster support actions are therefore invited to explore the potential for synergies with the relevant Managing Authorities in charge of the ESIF in their territory¹.

The Europe 2020 flagship initiative "An integrated industrial policy for the globalization era, putting competitiveness and sustainability at centre stage"², complemented in 2014 by the Communication “For an Industrial Renaissance”³ and the “Small Business Act for Europe”⁴ (SBA) provide the necessary policy framework and form the key policy priorities for COSME.

1

See for more details on ESIF on: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/

2 COM (2010)614 final of 28 October 2010.

3 COM(2014)14 final of 22 January 2014.

4 COM (2008)394 final of 25 June 2008.

While the Commission remains responsible for the implementation of COSME, some implementing tasks are delegated to an executive agency, the European Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), while the financial instruments are entrusted to the European Investment Fund (EIF).

COSME implementation requires the adoption of annual work programmes. Nevertheless, while certain actions have to be repeated and supported every year, in other cases, it is more efficient to concentrate the funding on one year, looking for a critical mass, reducing the administrative costs such as calls publication and evaluation while increasing the impact and visibility. This Work Programme sets out 27 actions to implement COSME in 2015, with a budget of EUR264 million to be financed under the four objectives of COSME. A large number of these actions are directly continuing actions of the 2014 Work Programme, ensuring continuity and coherence in the support provided to SMEs and entrepreneurs.

More than EUR160 million will be mobilized to financial instruments under the objective access to finance. Improving SMEs access to new markets is supported by 6 actions with a budget superior to EUR55 million but it should be noted that a number of actions under the other objectives, such as the Cluster for SME internationalisation or the Erasmus for Entrepreneurs exchange scheme, contribute as well to this objective. Under the objective 3, SME policy and administrative burden reduction continue being supported, as well as actions aimed at providing concrete services to cluster organisations and to the Tourism and Creative industries. New actions supporting SME access to KETs technology platforms or helping them to be more resource efficient are launched. Under the objective on entrepreneurship, the Erasmus for Entrepreneurs exchange scheme will continue growing.

The Commission will draw up an annual monitoring report on the efficiency and effectiveness of supported activities, on the basis of a set of indicators set out in the COSME Regulation and in this work programme.

Eligibility criteria

Applicant organisations must be established:

- in EU Member States;
- or in countries participating in the COSME programme under Article 6 of the COSME Regulation.

When relevant, additional eligibility criteria are indicated in the action description and in the call text.

Selection and award criteria:

As regards all grants envisaged in this work programme, each proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the selection criteria specified in the respective calls for proposals. Essentially, these criteria are based on the following:

- Financial capacity to complete the proposed operation;
- Stable and sufficient sources of finance to ensure the continuity of the organisation throughout the project and to play a part in financing it;
- Operational (technical and management) capacity to complete the operation;
- Capacity to manage activities corresponding to the size of the project for which a grant is requested;

- Adequate professional qualifications and experience of the team responsible for the project/operation.

An evaluation of the quality of proposals, including the proposed budget, will be based on the following award criteria:

- Relevance of the actions proposed in view of the objectives established in the call;
- Quality of the proposed actions;
- Impact on target audience;
- Budget and cost-effectiveness.

All actions under the first objective – Access to Finance will be funded on budget line 02 02 02. All other actions will be funded on budget line 02 02 01.

A. ACCESS TO FINANCE

The first specific objective of COSME, is “*to improve access to finance for SMEs in the form of equity and debt*” as described in Article 8 of the COSME Regulation. Specific provisions for the financial instruments are provided for in Article 16 – 19, with the Equity Facility for Growth covered by Article 18 and the Loan Guarantee Facility by Article 19.

In 2015, there will be up to three actions to be financed under this specific objective with a budget of around EUR 162.9 million.

ENT/SME/15/A/N01 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS - LOAN GUARANTEE FACILITY INCLUDING THE SME INITIATIVE

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

Provide enhanced access to finance for SMEs in their start-up, growth and transfer phases through debt instrument.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

The financial instruments under COSME provide a debt instrument and build upon instruments established under the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme - CIP (2007 – 2013). Based on the experience gained under CIP and in line with requirements formulated for financial instruments under the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom N° 966/2012 of October 2012) the terms and conditions for the financial instruments have been adjusted.

In addition, COSME contributes to the financial instruments that are deployed under the joint SME initiative as endorsed by the October 2013 European Council.

The implementation of the financial instruments is entrusted to the European Investment Fund (EIF). A continuous open call for expression of interest will be published by the EIF to which financial intermediaries may apply at any time until the end of 2020. The call will set out the terms and conditions for the different implementing mechanism under the debt instrument (capped guarantees, securitisation or, if applicable, SME initiative).

LGF - Single EU debt financial instrument for EU enterprises' growth and R&I

Within the single EU debt financial instrument, COSME provides under a **loan guarantee facility (LGF)**:

- Counter-guarantees and other risk sharing arrangements for guarantee schemes including, where appropriate, co-guarantees;
- Direct guarantees and other risk sharing arrangements for any other financial intermediaries.

The characteristics of the LGF are:

- Guarantees for debt financing (including via subordinated and participating loans, leasing or bank guarantees) which shall reduce the particular difficulties that viable SMEs face in accessing finance either due to their perceived high risk or their lack of sufficient available collateral;
- Up to an amount of EUR 150,000 all types of SMEs (regardless of sector or size) will be eligible for financing under the LGF. Above the threshold financial intermediaries will have to verify that the SME is not RDI driven and therefore not eligible for financing under the Horizon 2020's SME & small midcaps debt financing window. As regards the level of the guarantee, the entrusted entity will provide guarantees to financial intermediaries which will cover a portion of the expected losses of a portfolio of newly generated SME transactions.
- The portfolios shall be composed of transactions which the financial intermediary would not have supported in the absence of the guarantee. The range of financial products which can be supported through the guarantees is intended to be broad so as not to discriminate amongst the SME population and to allow financial intermediaries to tailor products according to the specific needs of the market in which they operate.
- Individual guarantee agreements to be signed by the entrusted entity with a financial intermediary will have a maximum duration of 10 years, whereby it shall be permissible that individual financing transactions have maturities exceeding 10 years.
- Securitisation of SME debt finance portfolios, which shall mobilise additional debt financing for SMEs under appropriate risk-sharing arrangements with the targeted institutions. Support for transactions shall be conditional upon an undertaking by the originating institutions to use a significant part of the resulting liquidity or the mobilised capital for new SME lending in a reasonable period of time. The amount of this new debt financing shall be calculated in relation to the amount of the guaranteed portfolio risk. This amount and the period of time shall be negotiated individually with each originating institution by the entrusted entity.

The LGF is demand-driven meaning that the allocation of funding takes place based on the demand expressed by financial intermediaries also taking into account the need for a broad geographical distribution (e.g. through incentives to be provided from the Commission to the entrusted entity).

Relationship with Horizon 2020:

- As part of the single EU debt financial instrument for EU enterprises' growth and Research and Innovation (R&I), the LGF will be complemented by the Horizon 2020 InnovFin SME Guarantee for R&I which will provide financing to SMEs and small midcaps with significant RDI potential or investments in RDI activities, both with significant technological and financial risk provided that these are eligible under the InnovFin SME Guarantee R&I criteria⁵.
- As for the COSME LGF, this facility will be implemented by the same entrusted entity (the

⁵ The Horizon 2020 InnovFin SME Guarantee will provide guarantees for loan amounts between EUR 25,000 AND 7,5 million extended to RDI driven SMEs and small midcaps.

European Investment Fund), through calls for expression of interest to which financial intermediaries will apply. Financial intermediaries will be free to apply either for one or both facilities under COSME and Horizon 2020 in line with their business objectives and possibilities to reach the potential target group of the different facilities.

COSME contribution to the SME initiative

The proposed initiative is conceived as an anti-crisis measure with budget commitments over 3 years, building on the EU financial instruments that support lending to SMEs (COSME and/or Horizon 2020). It is proposed as a “joint instrument”, i.e. – a mechanism allowing Member States (MS) to allocate European Structural and Investment funds (ESIF) under their responsibility to programmes managed directly by the Commission, with disbursement geographically linked to contributions. This mechanism is provided for by the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) governing the implementation of ESIF and the principle of such combination is endorsed by both COSME and Horizon 2020.

Participation by Member States will be entirely voluntary.

The SME Initiative may take the form of uncapped portfolio guarantees or securitisation operations using funds from COSME, Horizon 2020 and ESIF combined with resources from EIB and EIF. COSME and Horizon 2020 will provide the legal basis for actions under the SME initiative. Under both uncapped guarantees and securitisation, ESIF will guarantee the most junior tranche of the portfolio (i.e. the highest risk) and a combination of ESIF, EU (i.e. COSME and/or Horizon 2020) and EIF resources will cover the mezzanine tranche. The senior tranche will be covered by EIB and, if possible, national promotional banks. In the case of securitisation, the senior tranche should achieve high credit rating and could be sold to institutional investors.

The contribution of COSME to the SME initiative can be estimated at this moment to an amount of around EUR 15 million for 2015.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The EU added value will lay in the fact that financial intermediaries are encouraged to finance transactions which they would not finance in the absence of the guarantee due to the risks involved. In addition, the expertise of the EIF allow dissemination of best practices to less developed SME financing markets via dedicated information tools and can support product innovation (e.g. facilitating the creation of mezzanine products).

It is expected that over the lifetime of the programme between 220,000 and 330,000 SMEs will receive financing for a total value ranging from EUR14 to 21 billion.

This will have to be adjusted depending on the actual contribution of COSME to the SME initiative which is not known at this moment. The corresponding values for the COSME contributions to the SME initiative will depend on the actual amounts of ESIF resources mobilised as well as on the actual targets set in the funding agreements between participating Member States and the EIF.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Indirect Management	Loan Guarantee Facility including SME Initiative	90 891 958

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Delegation Agreement signed with the entrusted entity	Q3 2014
Call for expression of interest launched by the entrusted entity	Q3 2014
<p>Total duration (months): The Delegation Agreement shall be valid until the last of the transactions under the programme is fully completed (2034).</p> <p>The call for expression of interest shall be open for application by the financial intermediaries throughout the lifetime of the programme with a latest date for application most likely to be set for 30 September 2020.</p>	

INDICATORS

Indicators for 2015 budget:

Volume of financing made available and number of firms benefitting from financing: Value of financing mobilised ranging from EUR 1.8 billion to EUR 2.7 billion; number of firms receiving financing which benefits from COSME guarantee ranging from 28,000 to 42,000.

The above values have been computed based on the leverage targets of COSME which calls for a leverage of 1:20 - 1:30 for the debt instrument. They refer to new SME loan portfolios built during the whole availability period of individual deals with financial intermediaries authorised in 2015.

ENT/SME/15/A/N02 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS – EQUITY FACILITY FOR GROWTH

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

Provide enhanced access to finance for SMEs in their start-up, growth and transfer phases through equity instrument.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

The financial instruments under COSME provide an equity instrument and build upon instruments established under the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme - CIP (2007 – 2013). Based on the experience gained under CIP and in line with requirements formulated for financial instruments under the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom N° 966/2012 of October 2012) the terms and conditions for the financial instruments have been adjusted.

The implementation of the financial instruments is entrusted to the European Investment Fund (EIF). A continuous open call for expression of interest, including the detailed terms and conditions, will be published by the EIF to which financial intermediaries may apply at any time until the end of 2020.

EFG - Single EU equity financial instrument for EU enterprises' growth and R&I

Within the single EU equity financial instrument, COSME provides an **Equity Facility for Growth (EFG)** to enhance the supply of risk capital. Through the EFG risk capital funds can be supported which invest predominantly cross-border or which are essential for building a self-sustainable pan-European risk capital market.

Characteristics of the EFG are:

- The entrusted entity shall make direct investments in intermediary risk capital funds providing

investments for SMEs typically in their expansion and growth stage. These risk capital funds shall provide equity and mezzanine finance, such as subordinated or participating loans;

- Investments shall be long-term, normally involving 5 to 15 year positions, whereby the life of an investment shall not exceed 20 years;
- Investments may also be made into risk capital funds investing at the seed, start-up and early stage in conjunction with the Equity Facility for R&I (Research and Innovation) under Horizon 2020 whereby the investment from EFG shall not exceed 20% of the total Union investment.
- In the case of multi-stage funds, the COSME EFG and Horizon 2020's Equity Facility for R&I will contribute pro rata to the funding of the risk capital funds based on the fund's investment policy.

The EFG succeeds the GIF-2 equity facility under CIP.

The EFG is demand-driven meaning that the allocation of funding will take place based on the demand expressed by financial intermediaries also taking into account the need for a broad geographical distribution (e.g. through incentives to be provided from the Commission to the entrusted entity).

Relationship with Horizon 2020:

- As part of the single EU equity financial instrument for EU enterprises' growth and R&I, the EFG will be complemented by the Horizon 2020 InnovFin SME Venture Capital , which will focus support on risk capital funds investing in seed, start-up and early-stage SMEs and small midcaps that are RDI⁶-driven.
- As is the case for the COSME EFG, it is planned that this facility will be implemented by the same entrusted entity (the European Investment Fund), based on a call for expression of interest for which financial intermediaries will apply. Financial intermediaries will be free to apply either for one of the two facilities under COSME and Horizon 2020 or for both in line with the fund's investment policy. The Horizon2020 Equity Facility for R&I succeeds the GIF-1 equity facility under the CIP

EXPECTED RESULTS

The EU added-value will lay in the fact that support is provided for cross-border funds and those having a particular catalytic effect for the development of a pan-European venture capital market.

It is expected that over the lifetime of the programme between 362 and 544 firms will receive venture capital investment with overall volume invested ranging from EUR 2.6 to EUR 4.0 billion.

This will have to be adjusted depending on the actual contribution of COSME to the SME initiative which is not known at this moment.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Indirect Management	Equity Facility for Growth	70 750 000

⁶ Research, Development and Innovation

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Delegation Agreement signed with the entrusted entity	Q3 2014
Calls for expression of interest launched by the entrusted entity	Q3 2014
Total duration (months): The Delegation Agreement shall be valid until the last of the transactions under the programme is fully completed (2034).	
The call for expression of interest shall be open for application by the financial intermediaries throughout the lifetime of the programme with a latest date for application most likely to be set for 30 June 2020.	

INDICATORS

Indicators for 2015 budget:

Overall risk capital invested and number of firms being supported: Overall value of VC investments ranging from EUR 0.29 billion to EUR 0.4 billion; number of firms receiving COSME VC investments ranging from 39 to 58.

The above values have been computed based on the leverage targets of COSME which calls for a leverage of 1:4 - 1:6 for the equity instrument. They refer to investments made during the life-time of VC funds in which COSME investments were authorised in 2015.

ENT/SME/15/A/N03 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS- ACCOMPANYING ACTIONS

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

1. Survey on SMEs' access to finance

- to address a substantial lack of available information on the financial situation of SMEs especially with respect to timely information,
- to increase availability and quality of data on SMEs access to finance for policy-making purposes, particularly concerning the start-up and growth of SMEs,
- to limit the statistical burden imposed on enterprises by the data collection requirements imposed by the Commission and the ECB and by conducting only one comprehensive survey,
- to allow both institutions to fulfil their individual data collection task in a very cost-efficient manner by sharing the overall costs and through economies of scale by pooling the purchasing power and the resources.

2. Information to SMEs about access to EU sources of financing

- to provide easier access to reliable information on EU sources of SME financing through a single portal,
- to keep the information up to date
- to promote the use of the single portal.

3. Studies

- to support policy making initiatives,
- to monitor the recent developments of SMEs' access to finance in Europe.

4. Workshops

- to bring together all stakeholders (SME representatives, banks and other organizations),
- to improve policies on financing innovation and SMEs,
- to follow, discuss and make proposals concerning SME financing in the European Union,
- to monitor the SME financing environment, exchange good practices and communicate about European Union actions.

5. IT tool

- to support the monitoring and reporting obligations for the financial instruments under COSME

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

Accompanying actions for the COSME financial instruments are mostly based on the Action Plan on access to finance⁷.

1. Survey on SMEs' access to finance

Timely information on the financial situation of SMEs is necessary for evidence based policymaking. Taking into account our obligation to limit the burden that data collection places on SMEs, the Commission and the European Central Bank (ECB) designed a joint survey on the financial situation of SMEs. The Commission waves (the survey that is co-financed by ECB and Commission) will be conducted once a year. Survey provides comparable results across EU Member States and other participating countries.

Previous Commission waves of the survey were conducted in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2014.

2. Disseminating information to SMEs about access to EU sources of financing

The Commission will continue updating and promoting the single web portal on EU finance.

3. Studies

The studies will be carried out on SME financing, including evaluation and monitoring of the recent developments in Europe, in order to support policy making.

4. Workshops

Workshops with SMEs, banks and other financial institutions will be organised to monitor the market situation and to facilitate SMEs' access to finance. The workshops will be organised on an ad-hoc basis depending on interest/needs expressed by stakeholders, SME financing trends and political priorities. The latter include follow-up of actions initiated under the 2011 Action Plan on access to finance and the actions under the Communication⁸ on long-term financing of the European economy.

5. IT tool

The Commission will pursue the development and support of the IT tool for the operational and financial monitoring and reporting of financial instruments under COSME.

EXPECTED RESULTS

⁷ An action plan to improve access to finance for SMEs COM (2011) 870 final of 7.12.2011

⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Long-Term Financing of the European Economy – COM(2014)168 final of 27.3.2014

The expected results are:

- Improved understanding of SME access to finance issues and developments,
- Limited statistical burden on the SMEs and efficient use of resources for the statistical purposes,
- Input for the evidence-based policy making and identification of the needs to adjust policies on SME access to finance,
- Easier access by SMEs to relevant information about EU sources of finance;
- Effective and efficient monitoring of and reporting on financial instruments implemented under COSME

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Specific contract under a framework contract	Survey on SMEs' access to finance	600 000
Specific contract under a framework contract	Studies	400 000
Specific contract under a framework contract and experts reimbursement	Workshops	150 000
Specific contract under a framework contract	Single web portal	100 000
Specific contract under a framework contract	IT tool	30 000
Total		1 280 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Conferences/meetings/workshops/studies/material/IT tool	Q1 – Q4 2015
Studies	Q3 2015 – Q3 2016
Total duration: 12 months	

INDICATORS

1. Survey on SMEs' access to finance

- Timely carry-out of the survey
- Level of dissemination of results in media
- Geographical and thematic coverage of the survey

2. Studies

- Timely carry-out of the studies
- Positive feedback from the stakeholders on quality, relevance and added value of studies
- Geographical and thematic coverage of the studies

3. Workshops

- Organise 3 to 5 events on issues relevant to policy making
- Positive feedback from participants on quality, relevance and added value of workshops
- Number of proposals generated or further developed through the workshops

4. Single portal

- Improving web metrics regarding access to the single portal

5. IT tool

- Effective implementation at steady speed conditions

B. ACCESS TO MARKETS

The second specific objective of COSME is “*to improve access to markets, particularly inside the Union but also at global level*” described in Article 9 of the COSME Regulation. Specific provisions for the Enterprise Europe Network are provided in Article 10.

In 2015, there will be up to 6 actions financed under this specific objective with a budget of more than EUR57 million.

ENT/SME/15/B/N01 - ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The Enterprise Europe Network activities directly contribute to the overall Europe 2020 objectives of smart and sustainable growth, aiming at a competitive environment and stimulating the innovation capacity of businesses, especially SMEs. At the same time, the Network is a sounding board and a link between the Commission and the SME community in the implementation of the Think Small First principle and the Small Business Act. It aims at:

- Helping EU SMEs finding international business, technology and research partners in the EU, COSME participating countries and third countries;
- Develop and provide a balanced integrated service range to SMEs to become active in the Single Market and beyond (e.g. regarding EU legislation and programmes, EU funding, intellectual property rights IPR);
- Increase competitiveness of SMEs by internationalisation and innovation support services;
- Contribute to the SMEs feedback function to obtain SMEs opinion on Union policy options;
- Strengthen⁹ support for SMEs interested in participating in Horizon 2020 and corresponding calls for proposals, in particular encourage SMEs to participate to the SME Instrument; seek cooperation with Horizon 2020 national contact points.
- Provide support to enable SMEs to turn the resource efficiency challenge into opportunities, including providing information, assistance in participation in European-funded projects, and partnering and advice on resource efficient practices. Activities include establishing partnerships with other national or local SME support networks in order to exchange best practice and enhance SME support services (contributing to the future Climate Action and

⁹ Note that activities directly related to Horizon 2020 will not be funded under the COSME budget.

Green Action Plan);

- Improve SME's awareness on access to finance;
- Ensure visibility, recognition and local awareness about the Network.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

The **Enterprise Europe Network** provides business support services – in particular for SMEs – by offering information, feedback and partnering services, innovation, technology and knowledge transfer services. The Network provides services encouraging the participation of SMEs in the COSME and Horizon 2020 programme as well as internationalisation services beyond the Single Market and informs SMEs on funding opportunities under the European Structural and Investment Funds. The Network helps SMEs with regards to access to finance and EU funding and helps them to become more resource and environmentally efficient (e.g. Green Action Plan).

The Network is being renewed on the basis of the calls for proposals that were published in 2014. Applicant organisations must be established in EU Member States or in countries participating in the COSME programme under Article 6 of the COSME Regulation. Applicant organisations must be legal entities. They can be fully or partly public or private bodies; corporate bodies must be properly constituted and registered under the law.

The **Network animation** tasks include:

- Governing the Enterprise Europe Network, in particular by organising the launch conference, Steering Group, Working Group meetings or Network stakeholder meetings;
- IT tools and databases, in particular by operating, maintaining, improving and developing new IT tools and databases, ensuring data quality, and maintaining an IT helpdesk;
- Ensuring full operation of the Network in an efficient and proactive way;
- Helping the Network to provide its services in an efficient and effective manner and at the highest quality possible;
- Enabling Network partners to provide their services to European SMEs based on the "no wrong door principle".
- Network communication, information and support, implementation of the communication plan, prepare and make promotional material and infrastructure available, increase the Network visibility and facilitate networking;
- Training, implementing an operational training plan;
- Services to the Network, in particular managing knowledge contents, issuing a services bulletin, valorising practices and running sector groups;
- Assistance to and mentoring of Network partners where quality of activities and services needs to be raised; regularly report on Network achievements, weaknesses, quality and risks.

The budget for Network animation also includes the budget needed to facilitate the integration of EEN Business Cooperation Centres located in Third Countries (travel and subsistence costs for training, working groups, steering groups, launch conference or sector groups)

As this is the first year of the Network in the COSME programme, the aim is to organise a launch conference for the Network for about 800 participants. The action includes all practical aspects for the conference (consisting of national meetings, opening session, parallel workshops, closing session, exhibition areas, catering etc). EASME staff will be in charge of the organisation of the launch conference.

Enterprise Europe Network partners will also provide services enhancing the innovation management capacity of SMEs, financed by Horizon 2020.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The expected results are:

- Increased number of SMEs linked with other entities across Europe for cross-border business cooperation, technology and knowledge transfer and technology and innovation partnerships.
- Higher rate of European SMEs exporting within the Single Market.
- Higher rate of European SMEs exporting outside Europe.
- Better understanding of European SMEs of EU legislation and of opportunities offered by EU programmes.
- Better knowledge in EU institutions of SMEs opinions, difficulties and expectations.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Grants – specific grant agreement under Framework Partnership Agreements	Enterprise Europe Network	47 790 000*
Specific contract under framework contract	Network animation	3 000 000
Total		50 790 000
*Grant agreements are signed to cover activities in 2015 and 2016 using COSME budgets 2014 and 2015. In 2014, EUR 46,050,000 were attributed ¹⁰ to the EEN grant agreements.		

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Signature of Specific Grant agreements for EEN members	Q1 2015
Signature of Specific contract for Network animation	Q1 2015
Launch conference	Q3 2015

INDICATORS

For the Network:

- Number of business/technology/research partnership agreements concluded;
- Number of SMEs reached via (digital) information services;
- Number of SMEs participating in brokerage events and company missions;
- Number of SMEs receiving support services (information, advice, events, IPR, business & technology reviews, financing, etc.);
- Impact on clients businesses: increased turnover, jobs created/maintained, new products or services developed, new markets accessed;
- Client satisfaction on the received services.

For the animation contract:

- Number of Network staff trained (centralised, de-centralised and e-learning);
- Number of Network staff having participated in staff exchange and mentoring activities;
- Number of visits to the public website of the Network

For the launch conference:

- Number of participants

¹⁰ See Commission Implementing Decision C(2014)4993 of 22.07.2014

- Satisfaction of participants

THE MAXIMUM RATES OF CO-FINANCING

60% for the Network grants

ENT/SME/15/B/N02 - YOUR EUROPE BUSINESS PORTAL

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

- Your Europe Business becoming a 'front-office' for SMEs and entrepreneurs who want to be better informed on their rights and obligations when starting/managing a business in a different country of the Union;
- Provide practical information on the EU-wide rights/obligations;
- Provide information on practical implementation of the EU rules through national legislation;
- Ensure easy access for SMEs: treatment, translation and publication of MS contributions;
- Build up synergies with the EU.Go¹¹ network and Enterprise Europe Network;
- Introduce innovative ways of content provision to streamline the process and improve user experience; in coherence with the citizens' section (e.g. content syndication systems with participating countries).

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

Your Europe Business Portal aims at being the reference public information portal for enterprises interested in cross-border activities within the European Union. Your Europe Business provides a multilingual practical guide that facilitates cross-border transactions. Your Europe Business Portal is part of the Your Europe Portal that includes a business and a Citizens section (financed outside the COSME programme). The portal offers all the information citizens and businesses need to exercise their single market rights in Europe. Its unique selling point is that it informs not only about the EU rules, but also how these apply in practice in each member state. In addition, the information is multilingual (in 23 official languages of the EU (all except Gaelic) and in Norwegian for EU-level pages and in the national language(s) and English for the country pages). Thus Your Europe offers businesses, public administrations and stakeholders a centralised and easy access to practical information on doing business in Europe, and signposts to more specialised information and help services, when relevant. The EU-level content was revamped in 2013 to better address user needs and we plan to follow it up with the revamp of the national content in 2014. This measure is the continuation of the actions financed in EIP under the objective of creation of an environment favourable to SME co-operation, particularly in the field of cross-border co-operation in 2011-2013.

¹¹ See http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/eu-go/

EXPECTED RESULTS

Through Your Europe Business the companies will be provided practical information on doing business in the Single Market. Your Europe Business will both complement and promote the services of the Enterprise Europe Network. The goal is to increase the number of page views and unique visitors by 5% per year each, as well as to constantly increase the visitors' loyalty.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Specific contract under a framework contract	Your Europe Business Portal	400 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Signature of the Specific contract	Q1 2015
Total duration: 12 months	

INDICATORS

- Number of unique visitors to the portal;
- Number of page views;
- Feed-back on user satisfaction based on a survey.

ENT/SME/15/B/N03 - SUPPORT TO SME INTERNATIONALISATION

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

Improve the efficiency of the existing measures for the internationalisation of European SMEs, as well as to build on the follow-up of the missions for growth¹² in the EU's main economic partners.

Help European SME to find international business partners in target markets by training, mentoring and organizing Business and Cluster matchmaking events.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

This measure will support further the internationalisation of European SMEs, as originally proposed in the Commission Communication 'Small Business, Big World - a new partnership to help SMEs seize global opportunities'. As it is evident from the mapping study, there are numerous measures to support SME internationalisation, but further improvement and coordination of those measures is necessary.

- 1) **Co-operation with Member States actors and agencies active in SME internationalisation** on common projects in the field of trade promotion and missions

¹² See <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/mission-growth/>

for growth. This includes inter alia: setting up a "real time" Map which allows a real time visualisation of destinations of all national and European Missions. Another core area of cooperation concerns joint projects (exchange of experience, training, seminars, and staff exchange schemes) on issues of common concern: economic analysis, impact assessment, monitoring of participating enterprises. This cooperation will be implemented via a call for proposals open to public organisations active in SME internationalisation or to private entities doing it on their behalf.

- 2) **Filling the Gap on SME Internationalisation:** This measure will support and increase EU SME's readiness to internationalize in target markets by providing training to the SMEs with an interest and potential prior to the participation in business events to learn about the target market opportunities and challenges to overcome.

As such, the SMEs will be better prepared for their participation in the business and cluster matchmaking events organized by selected consortia of business intermediaries and cluster organisations. The proposal is to capitalize on the experience, capacity and good practices available in the Enterprise Europe Network, the EU cluster matchmaking events initiative or other EU business networks to organize the matchmaking events in cooperation with EU SME support organisations in Third Countries such as SME Centers, EEN Business Cooperation Centres in third countries, the partners in third countries having signed MOUs on cluster cooperation with the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) or other EU support organisations in these markets. The Network and the European Cluster Collaboration Platform for example have a broad client base and tools available to support the events. Where needed, the project also includes mentoring of the organisations in Third Countries to ensure a successful event with the participation of well qualified local companies and cluster representatives. Target markets can be specific individual countries or regionally connected countries; examples are China, India, Brazil, Northern Africa or other EU strategic partner countries. Events could be organised in third markets as well as in Europe by inviting delegations of representatives from third countries to participate in a major European business event or in view to reinforce cooperation within Europe notably across sectors.

Financing will be needed to organize the training and mentoring of EU SMEs and, where needed, participating organisations in third countries. Financing will also be needed to organise all logistical aspects of the events. The final beneficiaries are the SMEs who can develop their businesses in third countries (travel and subsistence costs provided by their own means).

EXPECTED RESULTS

1) Construction of a "real time map" for international trade promotion missions.

2) Organisation of joint projects.

- increase internationalisation readiness of EU SMEs for selected target markets by training and mentoring
- EU SMEs and cluster organisations establish business relationships, cross-sectoral cooperation and conclude business and technology partnerships with companies and clusters in the target markets
- EEN Cooperation Centres acquire mentoring and are better integrated in the activities of the Network
- help SMEs in clusters to find easier access to global value chains and engage in long-term cooperation with strategic partners in target markets

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Call for proposals	Co-operation with national agencies	500 000
Call for tender (Service contract)	Filling the Gap on SME Internationalisation	1 000 000*
*In 2015; allocation of both 2015 and 2016 could be combined (See Work Programme 2016).		
Total		1 500 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Call for Proposals	Q1 2015
Call for tender	Q4 2015
Total duration: 24 months	

INDICATORS

1. Construction of a “real time map” for international trade promotion missions
2. Number of joint projects organized
 - Number of participating SMEs in the trainings and events
 - Number of meetings between EU companies/cluster organisations and strategic partners in third countries
 - Number of business cooperation activities and partnership agreements initiated through this action, as measured through ex-post surveys within two years after the events.

ENT/SME/15/B/N04 - EU-JAPAN CENTRE FOR INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

- The objectives of the EU-Japan Centre are to:
- Support the EU-Japan Centre to improve European competitiveness through the facilitation of access to the Japanese market for European enterprises and SMEs in particular ;
 - Support trade exchanges, investments and access to public procurements;
 - Develop a better knowledge of the business environment in Japan through executive training programmes, seminars and business information support and logistic support;
 - Consolidate the "Vulcanus in Japan" programme, which provides industrial placements for European engineering and science students in Japan;

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION TO BE FINANCED

In line with the EU and Japan’s growth strategies and the priority topics of mutual interest, in 2015 the EU-Japan Centre will continue and further expand its focus on the following main thematic areas: SMEs internationalization support (horizontal priority across all activities); “post-Fukushima” business opportunities (i.e. Clean Energy, Raw Materials, Construction Products, Smart Cities, Public

Procurement, Environmental Services; Healthy Ageing Populations; industrial innovation and business related R&D, including cooperation on yet unexplored high tech sectoral niches such as satellite navigation industry and services (GNSS), awareness-raising of on-going FTA negotiations and possible outcomes for European SMEs.

Meanwhile, policy seminars on horizontal industrial policy elements (standardization, ICT, KETS etc.) and market access will remain constant priorities, together with the more ad-hoc events proposed for joint organization by the EU Delegation in Japan, the Member States and/or the Japanese authorities. Collaboration with EURAXESS Links, linking European and non-European researchers in a global community, should be developed.

In terms of priority activities, the EU-Japan Centre primarily intends to significantly consolidate its business support relevance, particularly for SMEs, by an enhanced use of Enterprise Europe Network, in synergy with the training and industrial innovation/R&D activities, by expanding its cluster related activities and particularly by launching two new initiatives on business information support and logistic support. On information support the comprehensive web info portal “EU-Japan Business Bridge” will be operational targeted at SMEs in both EU and Japan. On concrete logistic support, “Step in Japan” will offer free “soft-landing” type of support (hotdesk, meetings/seminar space, info, interpretation support) for EU SMEs, within the Centre’s premises.

Furthermore, in order to consolidate its policy analysis/think tank activities and output, a competitive fellowship scheme (“Minerva Fellowship”) has been set up. The fellowship will be targeted towards younger EU and Japanese academics, trade/ economic analysts and civil servants, with an active interest in Japan and EU-Japan cooperation from multiple perspectives (trade/market access, economy, industrial policy, business, R&D, etc..).The fellows undertake policy analysis on priority topics and support the regular policy agenda of the Centre.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. At least 30 European participants for the “Vulcanus” in-company traineeships;
2. Improved information services and helpdesk to SMEs
- 3 -Successful Organisation of a new session of the training programmes.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Action grant directly awarded on the basis of Article 190 (1)(d) RAP	EU-Japan Centre	2 800 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Signature of the grant agreement	Q2 2015
Total duration: 12 months	

INDICATORS

1. Number of seminars organised and attendance
2. Number of enquiries addressed to the Centre and satisfactory replies provided
3. Number of students participating in Vulcanus and their level of competence
4. Level of awareness about the Centre

MAXIMUM RATE OF CO-FINANCING

90%

ENT/SME/15/B/N05 - INDUSTRIAL POLICY COOPERATION

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The objectives of the Industrial Policy Cooperation are:

- reducing barriers to trade and investment,
- helping European business gain better access to markets,
- improving the business environment with partner economies.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

The EU's principal partners for bilateral regulatory and industrial policy dialogues are Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Russia and the USA. These are important markets for trade and investment where there is a clear mutual interest to reduce regulatory disparities and obstacles to investment.

Industrial policy cooperation and co-operation on SME policies is also very important for the candidate countries, the potential candidates and the European Neighbourhood countries which will also be covered by this measure. Dialogues here have a strong regional co-operation component and a focus on SME issues. Countries, often characterized by certain oligarchic tendencies and/or state owned industries generally have a strong interest in developing the sort of policy measures for SMEs in which the European Union has good practice and policy guidelines as set out in the SBA in order to further liberalise and diversify their economies. In the candidate countries and the neighbourhood countries the EU's policy is to "export" the *acquis communautaire* in this field to develop greater policy affinity between the EU and its neighbourhood, which, for companies, also makes it easier to do business across borders.

The EU business community has developed a number of business-to-business dialogues which contribute to the business communities on both sides developing advocacy on issues of common interest for both business communities. Whilst these are business led, there may be cases where the EU wishes to provide project funding to some of the joint projects they undertake, or to provide support to initiate or strengthen a business dialogue when it is perceived as in our strategic interest to have the business communities communicate better.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- 1) **The implementation of all the Letters of Intent** on co-operation with third countries" signed during M4G. A consultant will organise meetings and seminars with the purpose to monitor and inform further implementation of the Letters of Intent.
- 2) A Scoping exercise to verify the need for/benefit of developing industrial and regulatory cooperation with G20 countries with whom the Commission has no industrial and regulatory dialogues, such as South Africa, India, Indonesia, and Australia.
- 3) **Regional dialogues within the Neighbourhood area.** Focusing on the Mediterranean countries and/or the Eastern Partnership countries. Following up at a bilateral fashion on what has been agreed in regional working groups

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
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IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Specific contract under framework contract	Implementation of all Letters of Intent on co-operation with third countries	500 000
Specific contract under framework contract	Scoping exercise to develop industrial and regulatory co-operation with certain countries	500 000
Specific contract under framework contract	Regional dialogues within the Neighbourhood area	500 000
Total		1 500 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Signature of contracts	Q2 2015
Total duration: 24 months	

INDICATORS

1. Number of seminars organised and attendance
2. Feasibility study on technical and policy areas with certain countries
3. Number of regional dialogues

ENT/SME/15/B/N06 - EXCHANGES OF GOOD PRACTICES IN THE AREA OF COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE AND COMPLIANCE SCHEMES

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

To improve companies' access to the single market for products by improving their compliance behaviour with the Union legislation on products by promoting systems of compliance assistance and compliance schemes.

A certain range of enterprises (and especially SMEs not having sufficient human resources available for example) is not fully aware of the product safety legislation or suffer from misunderstanding due to its technical complexity for certain categories of products. Consequently, they suffer financial costs and entry barriers due to market surveillance inspections and sanctions, as well as from a deteriorating reputation which may follow such sanctions.

Compliance assistance and available compliance schemes can improve the compliance behaviour of this range of enterprises.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

Collection and analysis of existing best practices among national market surveillance authorities responsible for the implementation of product safety legislation for industrial harmonized products, to ensure better compliance and easier market access. Recommendations to national authorities on best

practices which can be replicated and dissemination of information among companies via the EEN network.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Positive impact on the competitiveness of enterprises (and especially SMEs) due to improved compliance levels and lower entry barriers which can be observed after benefiting from compliance assistance and compliance schemes. This impact can be measured by the business' reputability in terms of safety, very low risk in terms of products recall and absence of sanctions from authorities.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
2 specific contracts under a framework contract	Exchanges of good practices in the area of compliance assistance and compliance schemes	150 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Signature of contracts	Q1 2015
Total duration : 9 months	

INDICATORS

-effectiveness of the measures identified
-transferability of the measures identified
-potential effects of the measures identified
-valorisation of results

C. FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS FOR ENTERPRISES

The third specific objective of COSME is “to improve framework conditions for the competitiveness and sustainability of Union enterprises, particularly SMEs, including in the tourism sector” described in Article 11 of the COSME Regulation.

In 2015, there will be up to 14 actions to be financed under this specific objective with a budget of more than EUR34 million.

ENT/SME/15/C/N01 - SME POLICY (SPR, SBA, outreach)

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

This measure includes:

- the **SME Performance Review**
- the **SBA implementation**
- **Outreach tools**

The general objective of the **SME Performance Review** is to provide an empirical tool to monitor SME performance and guide policy making. It will enable the Commission to effectively monitor the implementation of the ten SBA principles as well as the related SME policy elements of the EU2020 strategy.

The **SBA implementation** measure aims to support the implementation of the SBA by ensuring the follow-up and monitoring (including exchange of good practices).

The objective of the **Outreach tools** is to provide communication and information tools to promote the SME policy i.e. Small Business Act, its implementation in the Member States and inform SMEs / SME stakeholders / relevant public authorities about SME policy / economic developments/available support at EU and Member States level (including SME Performance Review).

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

The **SME Performance Review** is made up of annual reports and studies.

The 2015 annual report will include an overview of the size, structure and importance of European SMEs, outline the major trends and provide a summary of recent policy developments. The country fact sheets will be instrumental in the monitoring of the SBA implementation. In addition topical studies could be run.

The **SBA implementation** measure will follow-up the implementation of the SBA and in particular will improve its governance by monitoring EU and Member State activities, ensuring and organising the systematic exchange of best practice through events, online tools and experts meetings. In particular it will cover the SME Envoys network meetings, the implementation of the SME Envoys network work programme, the SME Week and the annual SME Assembly including the European Enterprise Promotion Awards (EEPA). It will furthermore cover meetings of the SBA National Contact Points (Sherpas to the SME Envoys), the SME Week coordinators and the EEPA Single points of contact.

Outreach tools (Business Planet or similar, SME Portal and other tools such as web-based, audiovisual and/or printed leaflets, social media campaigns) aim at communicating SME policy to SMEs and stakeholders, particularly regarding the SBA and its implementation, to SMEs and stakeholders. It will also cover communication activities linked to the SME Envoys network. It also includes the production of brochures and website tools for the promotion of the SME Performance Review.

EXPECTED RESULTS

SME Performance Review:

- Improved knowledge and understanding of the situation of European SME;
- Better awareness among target groups of the Small Business Act and its effects on the SME sector in EU's member states;
- High quality estimation and analysis provides a basis for evidence-based policy making;
- Comparison against the large enterprises sector and benchmarking against the EU average.

SBA implementation:

- Increased commitment of MS to implement the SBA through the good functioning of the SME Envoys
- Increased involvement of SME stakeholders in EU-level policy making through an annual forum as foreseen by the SBA (SME Assembly) and more frequent arrangements to collect feedback on future EU-initiatives.
- Maintain the SME week as a "vitrine" to allow Members States and other countries participating in COSME to showcase their SME policy instruments and activities

Outreach tools:

- Increased awareness of EU programmes and initiatives to support SMEs
- Increased awareness of the good practices in the area of SME policy

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Specific contract under Framework Contract	SME Performance Review	1 250 000
4 direct contracts	SBA implementation	2 650 000
5 specific contracts under existing Framework Contracts	SBA implementation	450 000
Remunerated experts	SBA implementation	100 000
Specific grant agreement under Framework Partnership Agreement	Outreach tools (Business Planet)	700 000
Total		5 150 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
SME Performance Review: Specific contract	Q4 2015
Meeting SME Envoys	One per quarter
Sherpa meetings	One per quarter
EEPA and SME Week coordinators	One per half year
2015 SME Assembly	Q3 2015
Business Planet	Q4 2015
Portal and other tools	Q4 2015

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Total duration: 12 months	

INDICATORS

SME Performance Review:

1. The annual report on European SMEs;
2. A complete set of SBA fact sheets (37 fact sheets for the individual countries of an average length of some 15 pages each);
3. Publication of the fact-sheets is to be accompanied by "satellite" documentation (press releases, technical notes, databases, website, etc.); there will also be a separate summary report summing up the main trends of the data compiled for the 37 individual fact sheets.
4. As regards the ad-hoc study, this will most likely be a new edition to the bi-annual Eurobarometer on SMEs and green markets

SBA implementation:

1. Number of meetings organised
2. Number of participants
3. Timely dissemination of the results
4. Progress achieved in the implementation of the measures in the 10 key areas of the SBA

Outreach tools

- 1 - Timely production of tools (web-based, audiovisual and/or printed leaflets, social media campaigns)
- 2 - Effective dissemination of tools and use in major events
- 3 - Impact on target public (number of impacts, number of visits for websites, number of videos viewed online)

ENT/SME/15/C/N02 - REGULATORY FITNESS FOR COMPETITIVENESS

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

Advise the Commission on issues concerning regulatory fitness, encouraging stakeholder input. Decisions on whether or not to launch this Group and its mandate will be taken by the next Commission.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

A High Level Group on Regulatory Fitness for Competitiveness (HLG RF) could support the EU2020 objective to foster smart growth by aiming to improve the regulatory environment.

The Commission needs to contract studies on issues of regulatory fitness, for example, on best methods to measure the impacts, costs and benefits of EU regulation; on testing these methods and on evaluation etc.

IT tools are needed to support these actions and stakeholder consultations in particular.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The HLG would advise the Commission based on issues raised by stakeholders on regulatory fitness at all levels of government in the EU. It would gather views from these stakeholders so as to suggest how the best results can be achieved in the most effective way.

Stakeholders include small businesses, public administrations, trade unions and others interested in the protection of public interest in a competitive economy.

A key theme of the Group would be the implementation of REFIT actions: gathering evidence and opinion on the practical impact on-the-ground of EU action.

Studies could correlate information from different sources and reinforce the understanding of the practical impact of the implementation of EU regulation, particularly for SMEs.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Experts reimbursements (Non remunerated experts) and costs for meetings	Meetings	150 000
3 specific contracts under a framework contract	Studies	200 000
Specific contract under a framework contract	IT Development	250.000
Total		600 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Conferences/meetings/workshops/studies/material	Q2 – Q4 2015
Total duration (months) 12 months	

INDICATORS

1. - Number of HLG RF plenary sessions and preparatory meetings (target: 7 plenary sessions and, if needed 6 preparatory meetings);
2. – Visits of the HLG RF members to Member States, EU institutions etc (target 6 visits)
3. – Studies to measure regulatory burdens and costs, the results of EU actions or implementation best practice.
4. – IT tool (REFIT/Scoreboard tool) to be developed.

ENT/SME/15/C/N03 - EUROPEAN COMPETITIVENESS REPORT

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The European Competitiveness Report, published annually since 1997, gives a quantitative assessment of the competitive performance of EU industries. It contributes to evidence-based policy-making by looking at knowledge gaps in industrial policy. Therefore it supports microeconomic decision-making at EU and national levels.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

European Competitiveness Report 2016 - The studies will translate the latest achievements of academic and applied research in microeconomics into concrete policy implications for achieving the Europe 2020 objectives in the area of industrial competitiveness.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. High-quality studies, delivered on time and corresponding to the requests of the Commission, inter alia so as to serve as background reports for the European Competitiveness Report 2016.
2. EU and MS policymakers taking the results into account when formulating new policy.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
7 specific contracts under a framework contract	European Competitiveness Report 2016	700 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Specific Contracts	Q3 2015
Final Reports	Q2 2016
Total duration: 12 months	

INDICATORS

1. Timely delivery of reports/activities (against set dates)
2. Number of visits/downloads of the reports from the websites
3. References to European Competitiveness Report 2016 in future EU and MS policy.

ENT/SME/15/C/N04 - EXCHANGES OF GOOD PRACTICES TO SUPPORT EUROPEAN COMPETITIVENESS

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

This project covers two exchanges in 2015. The themes of the exchanges were chosen on the basis of the consultation with Member States carried out in early 2014.. The main objective of each individual exchange is to:

- Identify the key factors that are conducive to best performance in the selected area;
- Allow stakeholders to exchange expertise and experience;
- Formulate recommendations that could serve as guidance for policy makers when designing reform measures.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

Each exchange will consist of the following stages:

- 1) Review of literature and existing surveys of best practice, overview of existing Member States' policies, identification of potential countries with the best performance or those that most-improved in the specific policy area selected (main output: inception paper feeding the work of the expert group);
- 2) Expert working group – an ad hoc working group (practitioners from national administrations, private sector, academics, OECD, etc.) will carry out an in-depth technical analysis of a selected number of countries to identify key factors, elements and institutional drivers that are linked to best performance in the specific area (main output: analytical follow-up paper outlining possible good practice recommendations and policy outlook); the participants of the working group are those Member States that want to participate and the relevant stakeholders from business and academic community (participant Member states will be consulted).
- 3) Technical seminar – the findings of the working group will be discussed at a seminar attended by representatives from the relevant departments of Member State administrations. The seminar will allow exchange of views on the challenges and lessons learned, and formulate draft policy conclusions (main output: discussion and exchange of views among Member States, feedback on the draft policy conclusions and recommendations).

Article 173 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provides for the monitoring of Member States' actions addressing industrial competitiveness and invites the Commission to promote their policy coordination. The Communication "For a European Industrial Renaissance" confirms the need for a more effective European governance structure to be achieved by the means of closer cooperation with Member States.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Based on the outcome of the first 3 steps, final policy/good practice/policy recommendations will be drawn up.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
3 specific contracts under a framework contract	Exchange of good practices to support European Competitiveness	310 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Exchange 1	Q1 - Q4 2015
Exchange 2	Q3 - Q1 2016
Total duration : 10 months (each exchange)	

INDICATORS

The monitoring of take up of good practices will be done within the framework of the Article 173 TFUE Report.

- Number of events
- Number of participating countries/stakeholders
- Feedback from stakeholders on usefulness of exchange
- Policy development at EU level
- Uptake of best practices by Member States

ENT/SME/15/C/N05 - CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY RISK CHECK TOOL

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The action will support the implementation of the revised European strategy on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), to be adopted in the beginning of 2015.

For most European companies the question is no longer whether, but how, they conduct CSR activities. In particular for companies that are internationally active many questions arise with regard to the risks they might face in a particular country – for example regarding corruption, human rights violations or environmental concerns.

This action will provide companies, and in particular SMEs, with a practical tool, the ‘CSR risk check’, to help them address the CSR risks that they might face when purchasing internationally produced products, exporting products or producing products abroad.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

The CSR risk check tool will be a practical and easily understandable online tool. It will allow companies to receive a succinct report on the potential CSR risk on the countries they operate in. There will be no naming and shaming of specific countries and/or companies, but an analysis of the respective risks with regard to CSR.

The information collected for these reports will be based on collaboration agreements with international NGOs and other relevant sources (UN, reputable institutes, etc.).

A similar tool exists currently in the Netherlands, with a successful track record and well received. This action will expand the scope of this tool and to create an EU-wide CSR risk tool that is accessible to all European companies.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Contribution to better CSR performance of EU businesses in general
- Assisting EU companies, in particular SMEs, in complying with international due diligence requirements (in particular OECD guidelines, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, UN Global Compact)
- Making CSR more accessible to companies, in particular SMEs

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
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IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Call for Proposals	CSR Risk Check tool	300 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Call for proposals	Q1 2015
Signature of grant agreements	Q3 2015
Total duration 18 months	

INDICATORS

- Visitors per year
- Reports downloaded
- Feedback provided online

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The action will be implemented via Call for Proposals. Applicant must be legal entities. They can be public or private bodies entities and also they can be both profit and not for profit entities. Applications can be submitted by one entity or by several entities that create a consortium. Several applicants, submitting a joint proposal should choose within their midst a lead organisation, referred to as the coordinator. The coordinator and other applicants must satisfy the same eligibility criteria.

MAXIMUM RATE OF EU CO-FINANCING

70%

ENT/SME/15/C/N06 - PROMOTION OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

Promotion of social entrepreneurship and family businesses according to the Social Business Initiative Communication of the Commission and the Small Business Act

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

- Support for a European Fair of Social Enterprises in Bulgaria:

The Social Business Initiative SBI proposes three groups of key actions including increasing the visibility of social enterprises by developing tools to gain a better understanding of the sector. As the European Fair for Social Enterprises provides for a large visibility of the sector, it will contribute to the implementation of SBI. The Fair will be organised by the Commission, Bulgarian Government and European Confederation of Social Workers' Co-operatives, Social Co-operatives and Social and Participative Enterprises (CECOP). It will take place in Plovdiv. More than 30 000 visitors are expected. At the same time a conference will be run with participants from Member States and candidate countries.

-Collection of data in the area of family businesses in at least 6-7 countries. It will take the form of a call for proposals open to national statistical offices.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Awareness raising about the role of social enterprises in the EU economy
 Exchange of good practices in the area of social enterprises
 Improvement of evidence bases in area of family businesses

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

Implementation mode	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Call for proposals	Collection for statistics in family businesses.	300 000
Direct contract	European Fair of social enterprises in Bulgaria	30 000
Total		330 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

Milestone description	Indicative quarter
Collection of statistics:	
- Call for Proposals	Q2 2015
- Signature of grant agreements	Q4 2015
Fair BG	Q1 2015
Total duration: 18 months	

INDICATORS

Completion on time of all the above projects
 Number of MS official statistical offices that will make proposals for the collection of data.
 Use of information from proposals to further develop policy.
 Support for a European Fair of Social Enterprises in Bulgaria:
 -Number of participants in the conference;
 -Number of visitors.
 -Number of social enterprises and cooperatives presented in the Fair;
 -Number of countries from which the exhibitors and participants are coming from

MAXIMUM RATE OF EU CO-FINANCING

90%

ENT/SME/15/C/N07 - CLUSTERS EXCELLENCE

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

Programme promoting cluster excellence across COSME participating countries based on a broad spectrum of benchmarking methodologies and training schemes as reflected in the Commission's Communication on SME Internationalisation. The programme will assist cluster organisations, business networks (and their managers) to provide high quality services to SMEs in different areas.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION TO BE FINANCED

The action will implement benchmarking and training activities addressed to consortium of cluster organisations and business networks in COSME participating countries (minimum 3 countries, among which 1 EU MS), willing to engage into strategic collaboration on a joint industrial project with specific challenges, in order to help them:

1. improve their management practices and market, competitive advantages and value-chain analysis capacities;
2. provide top quality services to their SMEs, especially on partnering, creativity integration, internationalisation, exploitation of key enabling technologies (KETs), IPRs protection and resource-efficiency.

These activities will focus on the implementation of benchmarking activities and trainings on those themes. The provision of the benchmarking and training services to the selected projects will be done through Call for tenders organised by each project. Any competent European organisation (or individual experts) working in those areas will be eligible to apply.

Eligible partners are cluster organisations and business networks that provide or channel cluster and network support services to local businesses, in compliance with the definition given in the section 5.8 of the "Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation". Applicant organisations must be legal entities. They can be fully or partly public or private bodies; private bodies must be properly constituted and registered under national law.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The programme will contribute to further promote cluster excellence and develop more world-class clusters in COSME participating countries. The support to strategic collaboration of clusters on joint industrial projects will contribute to the reindustrialisation of the EU. Through this action, it is expected that a high number of SMEs in clusters and business networks will receive more professional business support services from their respective organisations.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
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IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Call for proposals	Cluster Excellence Programme	1 000 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Call for proposals	Q1 2015
Signature of grant agreements	Q3-Q4 2015
Total duration: 30 months	

INDICATORS

1. Number of cluster organisations, business networks and their managers from different COSME participating countries having been involved and benefited from the supported actions;
2. Number of SMEs from different COSME participating countries having indirectly benefited from the high quality services provided by the cluster organisations involved in the projects.

THE MAXIMUM RATE OF CO-FINANCING

95%

ENT/SME/15/C/N08 - CLUSTER INTERNATIONALISATION PROGRAMME FOR SMEs

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

This action is re-enforcing an action of the COSME Work Programme 2014. The call for proposals to be published in Q4 2014 will make use of budget allocation from COSME Work Programmes 2014 and 2015.

The main objectives of the programme are:

- to intensify cluster and business network collaboration across borders and sectoral boundaries;
- To promote the pan-European Strategic Cluster Partnerships to lead international cluster cooperation in new areas;
- To better support SMEs in global competition.

By reinforcing cluster and business network cooperation and supporting the shaping of pan European cluster consortia in a more strategic manner at European level, the action will help SMEs to contribute to the emergence of new value chains and take a leading position globally.

This programme will focus on the promotion of cluster internationalisation where interested consortia will have the opportunity to develop a joint international strategy and support SME internationalisation beyond Europe, especially in emerging thematic areas.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION TO BE FINANCED

Cluster Go International:

Strand 1) Supporting preparatory actions for the establishment and shaping of new European Strategic Cluster Partnerships (ESCPs). The ESCPs shall be composed of cluster and business network organisations from EU Member States and from countries participating in the COSME programme under Article 6 of the COSME Regulation. They shall develop and implement a joint strategy to promote cross-sectoral cooperation and to facilitate SME internationalisation in emerging industries, to support growth and employment in Europe. The partnerships are expected to develop a joint 'European' strategic vision with a global perspective and common goals towards specific third markets. This strand could include support services for the identification of strategic partners across Europe, the development of a legal representation, the preparation of a joint branding and marketing strategy and a roadmap for cooperation.

Strand 2) Supporting the further development and running of established European Strategic Cluster Partnerships (e.g. as identified through the European Cluster Collaboration Platform or similar existing pan-European alliances of cluster and business network organisations). This strand could include further preparatory actions such as tailored analysis and fact-finding missions or assistance for opening of a joint office abroad, operational actions involving the cluster SMEs such as the organisation of international cluster matchmaking missions as well as follow-up actions providing assistance for preparing joint business plans and bankable proposals.

The action would be implemented through a call for proposals. Eligible applicants shall be consortia that are composed of minimum one legal entity representing a cluster or a business network organisation established in minimum three EU Member States or countries participating in the COSME programme under Article 6 of the COSME Regulation. Each cluster and business network organisation would have to demonstrate that it is involved in offering or channelling cluster and network support services to businesses in compliance with the definition given in the section 5.8 of the "*Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation*" and is registered on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform¹³.

The action will seek synergies with the inter-regional activities for cluster cooperation funded under the European Territorial Cooperation Regulation (INTERREG) and the European Structural and Investment Fund, e.g. in the context of smart specialisation strategies and the cluster animated projects for new industrial value chains in the "Innovation in SMEs" H2020 Work Programme. To this end, applicants will be asked to demonstrate how their approach has the potential to act as a catalyst by contributing to and/or leveraging other activities supported under H2020 and European regional funds.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Establishment and further development of Pan-European strategic cluster partnerships, to support SMEs in global competition.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Grant - call for proposals	Cluster Go International	1 500 000*

*to complement the budget allocated in Work Programme 2014.

¹³ See at: www.clustercollaboration.eu

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Call for proposals	Q4 2014
Signature of grant agreements	Q2-Q3 2015
Total duration: 30 months	

INDICATORS

1. Number of cluster organisations and business networks from different COSME participating countries having benefited from the supported actions
2. Number of partnership agreements resulting from the supported actions;
3. Impact of the supported actions to be measured in the number and volume (i.e. amount) of resulting cooperation projects between international cluster and business network partners
4. Number of SMEs having directly or indirectly benefited from the supported actions, resulting in cooperation projects, as measured through an ex-post survey within one year after the end of the supported actions
5. Increase in the percentage of the turnover from international activities, and employment in Europe, of the SMEs having benefited directly and indirectly from the supported actions, compared to a similar group of SMEs not benefiting.

THE MAXIMUM RATE OF CO-FINANCING

75 %

ENT/SME/15/C/N09 - THE EUROPEAN RESOURCE EFFICIENCY EXCELLENCE CENTRE

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

European SMEs often need to improve their resource-efficiency, in order to increase their competitiveness and contribute to a greener economy. For that purpose, the Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre will provide info to SMEs, directly and through partners, on:

1. The SMEs' resource efficiency performance, compared to the sector benchmark;
1. Technological options to increase the resource-efficiency performance in their sector;
2. Cost-effectiveness of those options, with a view to financing them.

The European Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre will become a reference for interested companies and resource-efficiency intermediaries on the latest state-of-the-art in the domain, and on the competitiveness impact of different resource efficiency measures (cost savings, returns on investments), based on EU wide statistics.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

The European Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre will progressively develop databases and assessment tools in those 3 domains, with a modular approach, and using the EEN agreed terminology provide support services, directly or via partners such as the EEN to help SMEs to be more resource

efficient.

The Resource Efficiency Self-Assessment Tool for SMEs (COSME 2014) is conceived as the first module towards the setting of a European Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre, and will be further developed and integrated in the Centre. The Resource Efficiency Self-Assessment Tool for SMEs will be developed to provide SMEs with an easy way to assess their resource efficiency performance and which measures could be taken to increase their efficiency. This three-year service contract will further develop the tool and methodology, as well as test it on SMEs, and develop a European Information Database on the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of different types of resource efficiency improvements, collected both from SME self-assessments and from its direct and intermediated support services to SMEs.

The European Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre will integrate data and encourage data provision from the EEN sectoral groups, as well as from other relevant EU initiatives.

The European Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre will provide information services as follows:

- Integration, maintenance and development of the Resource Efficiency Self-Assessment Tool for SMEs, adapted to a Europe-wide context. It will have to assess the effectiveness, competitiveness impact and cost-efficiency of resource efficiency measures. Cost savings and return on investments are key data that the tool should be able to quantify and collect.
- Development of technological fiches explaining in a user-friendly way the available resource-efficiency technologies, listing the sectoral applications, and providing when available and agreed examples.
- Liaising with national and regional partners and with the EEN partners, which will develop advisory services in that domain, building on the information services of the Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre.
- Provide training to its partners and to the EEN experts 4 times per year, by providing 3 training sessions in a central location, and one back to the EEN Annual Meeting, in order to get the maximum impact of such trainings.
- Put at the disposal of financial institutions reliable data on the Return on Investments (RoI) of specific resource efficiency investments, to facilitate access to finance in that domain. SMEs asking for financing will also have this information at their disposal to support their demand.

The successful consortium will be formed by a network of officially recognised partners with proven record of working on improving resource efficiency in SMEs. Partners should guarantee large territorial coverage for their activities, ideally at national level or at regional level. The consortium needs to actively seek new officially recognised partners in those Member States where support for SMEs on resource efficiency is at early stages of development or still missing, building also on the EEN network. The consortium will be open to new members up until 6 months before the end of the project. The objective is to gather partners that cover at least 80% of the EU economy.

The successful proposal will contain a series of monitoring objectives and indicators that will measure if the objectives of the tool have been achieved. The monitoring system should capture the impact of the European Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre on the basis of a series of input indicators (for example, number of SMEs and intermediaries that have benefited from the support of the European Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre), but also on the basis of outcome indicators that measure change in behaviour as a result of the support received from the Excellence Centre (for example, percentage of SMEs that after receiving the support from the European Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre have improved their understanding on resource efficiency, identified how to reduce resources' use and save money, estimated cost savings, benefited from improved skills on resource efficiency within the company, etc.)

EXPECTED RESULTS

It is expected that the European Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre will become a reference tool on resource efficiency at European level, with information on:

1. SMEs' resource efficiency performance, compared to the sector benchmark;
2. Technological options to increase this resource-efficiency in their sector;
3. Cost-effectiveness of those options, with a view to financing them.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

Implementation mode	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Call for tender	European Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre	2 000 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

Milestone description	Indicative quarter
call for tender	Q1 2015
Total duration: 3 years	

INDICATORS

- Number of SMEs and intermediaries helping SMEs that have benefited from the support (self-assessment tool, trainings, etc) of the European Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre
- % of SMEs that having received the support from the European Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre have changed their behaviour as regards as resource efficiency
- Number of users of the European Information Database on the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of different types of resource efficiency improvements
- % of satisfied users of the European Information Database.

ENT/SME/15/C/N10 - KEY ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES (KETS)

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

KETs are a key source of innovation. They provide indispensable technology bricks that enable a wide range of product applications. The actions will support the implementation of the European Strategy for KETs. The strategy will help reversing the trend of de-manufacturing and accelerate the rate of transfer, use and exploitation of KETs by businesses in the EU, in order to stimulate growth and jobs.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

Ongoing actions to be supported are notably: the KETs Observatory, implementation of actions to promote cooperation between EU KETs centres of excellence and actions to promote KETs multidisciplinary skills in the EU.

For 2015 the actions will consist in launching a call for proposals aiming at favouring pan-European access for SME's to KETs technology platforms, possibly via a voucher schema. This latter action will be built on a feasibility exercise to be carried out in 2014 to identify the appropriate actions and test their relevance.

Furthermore, if for important projects of common European interest (IPCEI) in the area of KETs are notified to the Commission, specific studies on the market relevance will be launched through existing framework contracts.

EXPECTED RESULTS

For the SME's access to KETs technology platforms, a financial contribution (grant) will be available to encourage owners of such platforms to give access to SME's from other Member States.

One or more studies in market relevance will be done, depending on proposals for IPCEI received by the Commission.

A number of meetings/workshops with industry, the business and academic community and national and regional experts will be organised to shape a pan-European vision and coordinate relevant policy actions.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
3 Specific contracts under a framework contract	Market relevance for KETs IPCEI's	200 000
Call for proposals	Access of SMEs to KETs technological platforms	700 000
Reimbursement of experts	KETs	60 000
Two specific contracts under a framework contract	Relevant IT development and social media	40 000
Total		1 000 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Signature of specific contracts	Q1 - Q4 2015
Call for proposals (Access to technological platforms)	Q2 2015
Signature of grant agreements	Q4 2015
Total duration : 12 months	

MAXIMUM RATE OF EU CO-FINANCING

75 %

INDICATORS

1. Degree of awareness of EU KETs policy between stakeholders
2. Percentage of Regional Smart Specialization Strategies mentioning KETs
3. Number of participants to events organized on KETs-related subjects
4. Number of initiatives joint launched by EU KETs technological centres of excellence
5. Number of SME's that have access to KETs technology platforms via the proposed scheme

ENT/SME/15/C/N11 – DESIGN-BASED CONSUMER GOODS

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The objective of the action is to reinforce the competitiveness of the European SMEs active in the design-based consumer goods area.

By encouraging the market uptake of new and creative solutions in the design-based consumer goods area, the action aims at multiplying the effects of foreseen solutions by mobilising a wide market uptake and reaching a critical mass and self-sufficiency during the project duration or in the short/medium term.

The measure therefore seeks to bridge the gap between research and innovation on the one hand and market on the other hand by supporting scale-up, market replication and/or first application of projects related to novel products, services, techniques or processes. By doing so, it will limit to a large extent the residual risk and will contribute to stimulating competitiveness among EU SMEs of the targeted value chains.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

Design-based consumer goods SMEs are continuously reinventing their business models by changing production and distribution patterns to match the demand expressed by consumers and capture new market trends. In order to remain competitive, these companies have to continue moving towards higher added value products, processes and services. To take advantage of demographic changes and rapidly emerging new market trends, they need market-ready and consumer-oriented solutions.

Promising solutions may already exist but often they do not reach the market due to commercialisation obstacles and residual risks linked to scaling-up. They may also result from the fragmented structure of the activities involved, constituted typically by a large number of SMEs, with difficulties to attract the necessary skills and finance (“valley of death”).

In this context, the action aims to support projects related to market uptake of creative and novel products, services, techniques or processes, which feasibility has already been demonstrated but due to existing difficulties have not yet penetrated the market. It seeks to shorten the time-to-market of innovative solutions, remove obstacles to wider application of creative solutions, create or enlarge markets for related products (or services) and finally improve the competitiveness of European companies in world markets. Moreover, there is an important potential to replicate the innovations not only in participating SMEs but also across the supply-chain while generating important spill-overs.

The call will specifically target SMEs that can participate alone or lead a consortium (including for example academia, other research and technology organisations (RTOs) and relevant support services).

The methodology and performance indicators will follow best practice and mainly focus on business impact.

The typical size of the EU contribution will be between EUR 800 000 and 1 million per selected project: the grant can amount up to 50% of eligible costs. The action will not fund research, development and technological demonstration.

The action will be evaluated before subsequent actions are foreseen.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Approximately 12 to 14 projects will be financed

New solutions will reach the market

Increased turnover resulting from additional sales and/or cost savings

Entry in the new markets/increase in market share

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Call for proposals	Design-Based Consumer Goods	11 200 000

MAXIMUM RATE OF CO-FINANCING

50%

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Call publication	Q2 2015
Grant agreements	Q1 2016
Total duration: 33 months	

INDICATORS

1. Number of SMEs benefitting from the measure
2. Number of new solutions resulting from the measure
3. Market potential (market size)
4. Percentage of business concepts reaching the market two years after the end of the project
5. Entry in the new markets/increase in market share
6. Number of jobs expected to be created

ENT/SME/15/C/N12 - TOURISM

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

In line with the Lisbon Treaty, the actions proposed under COSME 2015 will contribute to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, especially by focusing on the enhancement of the competitiveness and sustainable growth of the tourism sector in Europe. The actions proposed will implement the Commission Communication on Tourism¹⁴ of 30 June 2010, taking also into account discussions on COSME in the Council and the European Parliament and input from Member States in the COSME and Tourism Advisory Committees. These actions aim at:

- Encouraging, directly or indirectly, the creation of a favourable environment for the development of undertakings in this sector;

- Promoting trans-national cooperation, particularly by the exchange of good practice;

Five operational objectives will be pursued: (1) increasing tourism demand, (2) diversifying tourism offer, (3) enhancing tourism quality sustainability, accessibility, skills, information and innovation, (4) Improving socio-economic knowledge of the sector and (5) increasing Europe's visibility as a tourist destination as well as of its diverse destinations.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

The following types of activities will be implemented under the five operational objectives:

1) Increasing tourism flows in low season

Under this objective, calls for proposals will allow the co-funding of project partnerships which facilitate the increase of tourism flows during the low and medium seasons, between EU Member States and/or non-EU inbound countries. The target will be in particular specific groups, such as seniors (notably through specific active and healthy ageing activities) and the youth.

Applicant organisations must be established in EU Member States or in countries participating in the COSME programme under Article 6 of the COSME Regulation. Applicant organisations must be legal entities. They can be fully or partly public or private bodies; corporate bodies must be properly constituted and registered under the law.

Applicants should act in consortium with partner organisations and composed of public authorities and private stakeholders (e.g. SMEs, associations, federations, organisations...) who are active in the related-fields of the call.

2) Diversifying the EU tourism offer and products

Under this objective, project partnerships will be co-funded under dedicated calls for proposals. The focus will be on transnational thematic products, amongst others, in the field of common heritage, maritime tourism, business tourism, rural tourism, sport and tourism, cultural and industrial heritage tourism, including exploiting synergies between cultural and creative industries and tourism, as well as the promotion of already selected European Destinations of Excellence.

For all the grants under this action, applicant organisations must be established in EU Member States or in countries participating in the COSME programme under Article 6 of the COSME Regulation and

¹⁴ COM(2010) 352/3 final of 30.06.2010

applicant organisations must be legal entities. In addition to those, essential eligibility criteria for each grant is given below:

"Transnational thematic tourism products", applicant organisations shall be fully or partly public or private bodies; corporate bodies must be properly constituted and registered under the law. Applicants should act in consortium with partner organisations and composed of public authorities, federations or organisations or SME's who are active in the fields of the call.

"European Destinations Of Excellence – Awareness Raising and Promotion 2015", applicants must be National Administration in charge of tourism of the countries specified above. If the responsibility for the tourism sector is decentralised, then the proposal may be submitted by the competent regional administration. National Tourist Offices or other public bodies in charge of tourism can submit an application, provided that the competent National Administration gives its consent in writing.

3) Enhance tourism quality, sustainability, accessibility, skills, information and innovation

Under this objective, the main actions for accessibility will be the maintenance and expansion of the "Tourism for All" principle embedded in the EU Treaties, providing accessible tourism services for all; visibility and awareness raising actions; a call for proposal for developing accessible tourism itineraries (exploiting synergies with the actions for senior and low season tourism) to improve the facilities and services for tourists with special access needs. As far as innovation is concerned, the main priority will be the maintenance and the addition of new contents to the ICT and Tourism Business Support Portal following the factual needs of the users.

Furthermore, awareness-raising activities targeting Commission tourism initiatives (e.g. the European Tourism Indicator System (ETIS), the destination management tool which can help destinations to measure and monitor their sustainable tourism performance), as well as tourist destinations across Europe, will be organised. Other dedicated events, such as the European Tourism Forum and the European Tourism Day or EDEN Network meetings, and communication activities will be also organised within the EU.

4) Improving socio-economic knowledge of the sector

The main actions will be (a) the production of the annual Eurobarometer survey on "Preferences and Attitudes of Europeans towards tourism" taking into account the Commission Work Programme 2015; (b) the provision of contents for the "Virtual Tourism Observatory" portal and related socio-economic content, and (c) focussed cooperation activities with the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) in the context of an ad-hoc grant.

5) Increasing Europe's visibility as a tourist destination as well as of its diverse destinations

The actions under this objective will consist of a number of activities undertaken in close cooperation with the European Travel Commission in order to promote Europe as a unique set of very different destinations in third countries and increase the number of arrivals to Europe. These actions and activities will be complementary to the actions and activities of the European Commission aiming at promoting Europe as top world tourism destination, notably, in selected countries within and outside the European Union.

EXPECTED RESULTS

In general, the tourism initiatives will contribute to strengthening the competitiveness of the European tourism sector.

The initiatives dedicated to the increase of senior and young tourists' flows will generate an extension of the tourism season, which is fundamental for the industry to gain competitiveness. The transnational thematic tourism offer will be enlarged and diversified and public-private partnerships will be consolidated. The participation of small and micro enterprises in tourism partnerships will be increased. The visibility of European Destinations of Excellence will be improved, which will trigger higher numbers of potential tourist arrivals and local spill-over revenues. Awareness-raising activities and events will generate a better visibility and up-take of tourism initiatives, such as the ETIS, quality principles or tourism services, innovation, skills, etc.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
call for proposals	Increasing tourism flows in low/medium seasons - Encouraging tourism flows of seniors and youth target groups	1 700 000
call for proposals	Diversifying the EU tourism offer and products – Promoting transnational thematic tourism products	1 700 000
call for proposals	Diversifying the EU tourism offer and products – Awareness raising of the EDEN initiative and promotion of the EDEN destination and network	600 000
8 specific contracts under framework contracts	Enhance tourism quality, sustainability, accessibility, skills, information and innovation – Information on tourism initiatives and activities, promotion and communication, awareness raising actions, and organisation and participation in dedicated events and ceremonies	1 400 000
4 Direct Contracts	Enhance tourism quality, sustainability, accessibility, skills, information and innovation – Information on tourism initiatives and activities, promotion and communication, awareness raising actions, and organisation and participation in dedicated events and ceremonies	100 000
Reimbursement of experts	Enhance tourism quality, sustainability, accessibility, skills, information and innovation – Information on tourism initiatives and activities, promotion and communication, awareness raising actions, and organisation and participation in dedicated events and ceremonies	100 000
Call for proposals	Enhance tourism accessibility - improving facilities and services for tourists with special access needs	900 000

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Specific contract under framework contracts	Enhance tourism quality, sustainability, accessibility, skills, information and innovation – management, promotion and content provision for ICT and Tourism Business Support portal;	250 000
Direct contract	ICT tools for accessible tourism	50 000
Specific contract under a framework contract	Improving socio-economic knowledge of the sector – Eurobarometer Survey	500 000
Ad-hoc grant Article 190(1)(f) RAP	Improving socio-economic knowledge of the sector – co-operation with the UNWTO	400 000
Specific contract under a framework contract	Improving socio-economic knowledge of the sector – “Virtual Tourism Observatory” content provision and management	300 000
Ad-hoc grant Article 190(1)(f)	Promotion of Europe as a tourist destination as well as of its diverse destinations – co-operation with the European Travel Commission	1 000 000
Total		9 000 000

European Travel Commission (ETC)

The European Travel Commission (ETC) is the only European organisation bringing together the national tourist offices of the Member States giving it a high degree of specialisation in the promotion of EU tourism products, which justifies the award of a grant without an open call for proposals pursuant Article 190(1)(f) RAP.

United Nations – World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. No other organisation can match UNWTO in terms of its expertise and its geographical coverage. This special status is recognised in the Commission’s Communication on tourism -“Political Framework for tourism in Europe” - COM(2010)352 of 30.06.2010). UNWTO's unique expertise in the fields chosen for ad-hoc cooperation with the Commission justifies the award of a grant without an open call for proposals pursuant Article 190(1)(f) of the rules of Application.

INDICATORS

1.	Percentage of SMEs benefitting from the measure
2.	Number of new solutions resulting from the measure
3.	Market potential (market size)
4.	Percentage of business concepts reaching the market two years after the end of the project
5.	Entry in the new markets/increase in market share
6.	Number of jobs expected to be created

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Direct contracts	Q1-Q4 2015
Specific contracts	Q2-Q4 2015

1. ENCOURAGING TOURISM FLOWS OF SENIORS AND YOUTH TARGET GROUPS

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Publication of call	Q1 2015
Outcome of the evaluation	Q2 2015
Signature of Grant Agreements	Q3 2015
Total duration : 18 months	

MAXIMUM RATE OF EU CO-FINANCING

75%

2. PROMOTING TRANSNATIONAL THEMATIC TOURISM PRODUCTS

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Publication of call	Q1 2015
Outcome of the evaluation	Q4 2015
Signature of Grant Agreements	Q4 2015
Total duration: 18 months	

MAXIMUM RATE OF EU CO-FINANCING

75%

3. EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS OF EXCELLENCE – Awareness raising and Promotion 2015

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Publication of call	Q1 2015
Outcome of the call	Q3 2015
Signature of Grant Agreements	Q4 2015
Total duration: 18 months	

MAXIMUM RATE OF EU CO-FINANCING

75%

4. IMPROVING FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR DISABLED, FAMILIES, ELDERLY

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Publication of call	Q1 2015
Outcome of the evaluation	Q3 2015
Signature of contract	Q4 2015
Total duration: 12 months	

MAXIMUM RATE OF EU CO-FINANCING

75%

5. AD-HOC GRANT WORLD TOURISM ORGANISATION (UNWTO)

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Publication of call	Q1 2015
Outcome of the evaluation	Q2 2015
Signature of Grant Agreements	Q3 2015
Total duration: 18 months	

MAXIMUM RATE OF EU CO-FINANCING

75%

5. AD-HOC GRANT EUROPEAN TRAVEL COMMISSION (ETC)

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Publication of call	Q2 2015
Outcome of the evaluation	Q3 2015
Signature of Grant Agreements	Q4 2015
Total duration: 12 months	

MAXIMUM RATE OF EU CO-FINANCING

75%

6. FOSTERING ACCESSIBLE TOURISM ITINERARIES

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Publication of call	Q1 2015
Outcome of the evaluation	Q3 2015
Signature of Grant Agreements	Q4 2015
Total duration: 24 months	

MAXIMUM RATE OF EU CO-FINANCING

75%

6. ICT TOOLS FOR ACCESSIBLE TOURISM – Maintenance and enhancing of the ICT Register of accessible tourism facilities

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Publication of call	Q1 2015
Outcome of the evaluation	Q3 2015
Signature of contract	Q4 2015
Total duration : 12 months	

INDICATORS

1. *Increasing tourism flows in low season*

- Number of co-financed projects
- Number of countries participating in transnational cooperation projects

- Number of created public-private partnerships and number of stakeholders participating in transnational cooperation projects

- Number of schools or youth associations involved in an exchange mechanism

- Increase of nights spent by EU tourists in other Member States during the low season

2. *Diversifying the EU tourism offer and products*

- Number of co-financed projects

- Number of countries participating in transnational cooperation projects

- Number of SMEs involved in the development of transnational cooperation projects

- Number of emerging destinations selected as destinations of excellence

- Increased awareness about and visibility of lesser known/emerging destinations and transnational thematic tourism offers (survey of key stakeholders)

3. *Enhance tourism quality, sustainability, accessibility, skills, information and innovation*

- Number of best accessible practices identified - Number of ICT portal hits and feedback from tourism stakeholders on the usefulness of content - Uptake of (ICT) solutions and services into the business tools of SMEs (number of SMEs)

- Clients/users' assessment of the accessibility and user-friendliness of the proposed solutions and tools

- Number of events, conferences, workshops, expert meetings organised

- Increased awareness about and visibility of the key opportunities, policy initiatives and other actions developed for the benefit of the sector (survey of key stakeholders)

4. *Improving socio-economic knowledge of the sector*

- Feedback from tourism industry stakeholders / national tourism administrations on quality, relevance and added-value of documents produced (through a survey or collected through meetings/other exchanges)

- Number of data/reports/studies (co-)produced and included in the VTO knowledge base

- Feedback from stakeholders / national tourism administrations on the degree to which the data and research results directly or indirectly benefited policy makers at European, national and/or regional level and to SMEs (through a survey or collected through meetings/other exchange)

5. *Increasing Europe's visibility as a tourist destination as well as of its diverse destinations*

- Number of web pages referencing EU communication materials

- Number of communication events

- Number of portal hits during the low season months

- Number of portal hits during the high season months

- Increased number of non EU tourists from third countries

- Increased awareness of EU as a unique set destination

ENT/SME/15/C/N13 - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN "CONSTRUCTION 2020"

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

Implementation of the Action Plan Construction 2020, as defined in the Communication on the Sustainable Competitiveness of the construction sector¹⁵ and taking into account the recommendations from the related High Level Forum, in order to:

- Facilitate a more rapid adaptation of the construction sector to the evolution of the markets through a better human capital basis;
- Promote a more rapid uptake of innovative approaches and research results;
- Create a coherent policy and regulatory framework for the development of the enterprises and the cooperation amongst them, the Internal Market for construction products and services and industrial cooperation including with developing countries.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

The measure will be implemented through a series of capacity building measures, roadmaps, market analyses and collection/dissemination of good practices and an annual review of the results achieved with the Action Plan implementation. It foresees also the technical secretariat support for the High Level Forum and the Thematic Groups set up with the context of Construction 2020. It includes:

- Capacity building measures: promote exchange of good practice at policy level that could support Member States in the implementation of the strategy and establishing links with platforms, think-tanks and forum at national level to ensure commitment and capacity building of the different actors;
- Road maps for implementing the different parts of the strategy tailored to the state of development in the various Member States and sector organisations;
- Market analysis and collection/dissemination of good practices relating to different elements of the strategy and recommendations from the High level Forum. These activities would deal with specific domains or measure of the Action Plan Construction 2020 related to financial mechanisms for boosting building and infrastructure renovation, the anticipation of future sector skills needs, the uptake of innovative solutions in the construction sector, performance tests of the compliance of different pieces of the EU legislation, the Internal market access by non EU operators;
- Gathering a strong factual basis on market conditions and competitive pressures on various market segments (residential, non-residential, infrastructure including for transport), employment and the level of skills in construction enterprises, the access to finance and delays of payment, investments in R&D, the cost of energy and raw materials, insurance and liability related matters, the access to non-EU markets and the competition with non-EU operators on the EU Internal Market; a state of play of national regulatory measures with respect to sustainability in construction (energy efficiency, water consumption, waste, natural resources);
- The monitoring of the impact of national fiscal and financial measures for energy efficient renovation (public investments, number of loans/grants, number of project undertaken, jobs creation, energy saved and profitability);
- Initiatives related to skills/traineeship on new working practices, resource efficiency, key-enabling technologies, new materials, etc. in connection with “Green” Jobs, Sector Skill Councils and Sector Skill Alliance initiatives;
- An annual review reporting on a set of indicators about the objectives, findings and results achieved with the implementation of the Action Plan. This review will be presented and discussed during an annual conference of the Construction 2020 High Level Forum.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Setting up and operation of an EU Observatory on Construction to keep good track on the competitiveness and sustainability aspects related to the construction sector and its enterprises in the EU-28 member states;

¹⁵ COM(2012)433 of 31.7.2012

- Increased attractiveness of the construction sector for new talents;
- Increased investment in low energy buildings in renovation;
- Easier access to non-EU construction markets.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Direct contract	Implementation of the Action Plan "Construction 2020"	200 000
Specific contract under Framework contract	Implementation of the Action Plan "Construction 2020"	620 000
Total		820 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Signature of contracts	Q1-Q4 2015
Total duration: 12 months	

INDICATORS

- Number of sectoral organisations participating in the initiatives
- Feedback from stakeholders and participants concerning the added value of the initiatives
- Increased level of investment in energy efficient renovation and resource efficiency
- Number of equipment installations and retrofitted buildings
- Amount of energy saved, percentage of energy used from renewables, reduction in CO₂ emissions
- Number of jobs safeguarded and jobs created in related industries
- Number of new staff entered in the sector
- Increased level of credit support for the internationalisation of the sector

ENT/SME/15/C/N14 - BIO-BASED PRODUCT MARKETS

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The objective is the development of a robust and user-friendly guidance that should address bio-based products in public procurement, encouraging the active change of information on bio-based products (availability and capabilities) including experiences of public procurers, allow for procurement criteria development based on available standards and finally facilitating the up-take of bio-based products. Moreover, different publication materials such as brochures and leaflets shall be prepared to further promote the dissemination of the prepared guidance document at different event types including training meetings, workshops and conferences for different target audiences. The aim would be to obtain a successful uptake of this guidance by as many as possible national, regional and local procurement bodies.

To contribute to EU reindustrialisation facilitating chemical companies the transit to a low carbon economy and the structural change.

To facilitate the creation of new companies and new value chains related to: alternatives to fossil feedstocks, improvement of resource efficiency and to strength cooperation with other industrial or services sectors notably from agriculture, forestry, and recycling.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

1) Bio-based product markets - guidance documents and technical assistance to public procurers

At first the knowledge base needs to be prepared by collate and compile all relevant information from different sources useful for the preparation of robust and user-friendly guidance. This shall be performed on the basis of literary, questionnaire and web-sites review and interviews. The findings will be summarized in a documented report. In a second step an initial draft version of the guidance shall be prepared allowing for testing its robustness, user-friendliness and subsequent future use by a limited number of national, regional and local public procurers. The main purpose of this initial screening would be to boost clarity, robustness and user-friendliness for future its application. If, as a result of this initial screening, problems persists necessary updating will be performed and the findings will be summarized in a documented report. In the third step the final guidance as in paper and electronic form shall be prepared based on the results of the first two steps. In the fourth and final step different publication materials such as brochures and leaflets shall be prepared for allowing for further promotion and dissemination of the guidance at different event types including training meetings, workshops and conferences for different target audiences. The aim would be to obtain a successful uptake of this guidance by as many as possible national, regional and local procurement bodies.

2) Bio-based industries - implementation of outcome of the two “ideas-gathering” workshops.

The technical assistance will be provided, among others, to regions and clusters, which are engaged or interested in cross-border/cross-sectorial activities in support strengthening the bio-economy in Europe.

As a follow-up of the Workshops “Cross-sectorial and cross-border cooperation of clusters in support of green chemicals industries” (Brussels, Feb 2014) and “Regions at work for bio-economy” (Rennes, July 2014), advisory support will be provided to six model demonstrator regions that aim at stimulating investments in sustainable chemicals in their regions. These experiences will be shared with all European regions, with the objective to provide practical guidance on how to strengthen cross-sectorial cooperation between chemicals industries with other industries and sectors, notably from agriculture, forestry, and recycling. The objective is to better make available renewable or secondary feedstock for chemicals production, including bio-mass and waste.

Phase I: Development of a self-assessment tool on the bio-economy readiness of European region, taking into account a systemic approach (availability of bio-mass and secondary raw materials, technical infrastructure bio-refineries, entrepreneurial spirit, access to finance, etc.).

Phase II: technical assistance for the elaboration of “bankable” proposals for projects to be financed by initiatives such as: HORIZON 2020, INTERREG, other initiatives financed by Structural Funds, IEB, etc. The projects can be related to technologies such as use of biomass, CO₂, H₂ and waste; development of more efficient industrial processes: e.g. new catalysers, nanomaterials, different biorefineries types, better energy management; transport and logistics; new chemical solutions to other sectors: for example new polymers, substitution of toxic substances, among others; and chemical

SMEs Internationalisation.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Guidance material to promote public procurement of bio-based products.
- To increase cooperation projects in the chemical industry.
- Emerging of new companies in the chemicals sector.
- To increase employment in the chemicals sector.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Call for tenders	Guidance material	125 000
Call for tenders	Advisory support and dissemination	500 000
Total		625 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Calls for tenders	Q1 & Q2 2015
Contract signature	Q1 - Q3 2015
End of contract – Deliverables	Q4 2016
Total duration: 18 and 24 months	

INDICATORS

- Successful uptake of the guidance material on bio-based products by a large number of national, regional and local procurement bodies. Number of users of the self-assessment tool on the “bio-economy readiness” and the impact of the policy recommendations to the model demonstrator regions and other regions.

D. ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURIAL CULTURE

The fourth specific objective of COSME is “*to promote entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial culture*” described in Article 12 of the COSME Regulation.

In 2015, there will be up to 4 actions to be financed under this specific objective with a budget of more than EUR9 million.

ENT/SME/15/D/N01 - ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The objectives of the Erasmus for Entrepreneurs mobility scheme are:

- Helping new entrepreneurs acquire and build managerial skills and further develop their business plan/activity by learning from experienced entrepreneurs;
- Learning on the job by the new entrepreneurs by working with the host entrepreneur on concrete business projects;
- Supporting the host entrepreneur in researching, developing and testing or piloting new business concepts, products or services by the new entrepreneur's bringing in fresh ideas from another environment (in national, academic, market etc. terms);
- Raising entrepreneurs' awareness for the benefits from going international and, in particular, from exploiting the potential of the Single European Market by getting hands-on know-how about other national markets within the EU;
- Intensifying the networking and business relationship between entrepreneurs from different participating countries, especially laying the ground for further internationalisation of SMEs' businesses and for further spreading of innovative methods or products in the Single European Market.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

Erasmus for Entrepreneurs is a mobility scheme that allows potential or newly established entrepreneurs to spend a period of time collaborating with an experienced entrepreneur in another participating country. These mobility actions aim to help the entrepreneurs enrich their experiences as well as learn and network with entrepreneurs in other participating countries.

This measure will expand and strengthen the existing network of Intermediary Organisations (IO) which act as local contact points in participating countries. The IOs are in charge of recruiting and matching the entrepreneurs and facilitating the mobility actions. They also promote the programme and its benefits at local and national level.

Activities to support the network are carried out, including regular meetings with the IOs to foster networking. A Support Office assists the Commission in the promotion, the coordination of the IOs' network and the day-to-day support. This measure is a follow-up of the preparatory action carried out in 2009-2011 and under the EIP objective Entrepreneurship and Innovation Culture in 2012 and 2013.

The interim evaluation of the preparatory action has confirmed the added value of this action and the lack of similar schemes at national level. It also confirms the efficiency of the operational set up to fulfil the pursued objectives and the quality of the exchanges carried out. The cross-border nature of the action makes it unique as a way of promoting entrepreneurship and is directly relevant to a key EU policy objective of internationalisation and helping new and growing businesses to take advantage of the EU's Internal Market.

Promotion of the benefits and achievements of the Erasmus for Young entrepreneurs and technical support to users will be provided.

The initiative will be implemented via Call for Proposals. Expected applicants would be consortia composed of at least 5 entities from at least 4 participating countries. Entities can be public or private entities whose core activity is in the field of business support.

The rate of Union co-financing shall be up to 90 % of eligible costs incurred by the IO. The European Union contribution shall not exceed 75 % of the programme management costs but may be up to 100 % of the sum allocated to new entrepreneurs participating in a mobility action. Financial assistance to new entrepreneurs participating in a mobility action shall take the form of a scale of unit cost of maximum EUR 6 600 per entrepreneur within the limit of EUR 500 000 by grant.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The initiative expects to have achieved the following results by January 2018:

- Circa 650 new exchanges matched;
- Circa 2000 entrepreneurs newly registered;
- Circa 100 Intermediary Organisations involved in the implementation of the programme;
- At least 25 countries covered;
- Rate of successful exchanges above 90%.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Grant - call for proposals	Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs call for proposal	6 000 000
Remunerated experts for evaluation of call	Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs – evaluators	80 000
Total		6 080 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Call for proposals	Q1 2015
Signature of the grant agreements	Q4 2015
Total duration: 24 months	

INDICATORS

1. Number of entrepreneurs registered for the programme
2. Number of relationships achieved
3. Number of intermediary organisations involved in the implementation of the programme
4. Number of countries covered by the Intermediary Organisations
5. Index of satisfaction of the participants

Long term indicators:

1. Number of resulting joint projects/cooperation agreements;
2. Number of jobs created;
3. Number of start-ups created.

THE MAXIMUM RATE OF CO-FINANCING

90 %

INDICATORS

1. Number of helpdesk/support interventions
2. Quality of interventions
3. Quantitative and qualitative measuring of communications activities impact (contributions to press and social media)
4. Rate of satisfaction with the Network Meetings

ENT/SME/15/D/N02 - WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The objective of this measure is to update, upgrade, animate and maintain the European on-line e-platform for female entrepreneurs between 2016-2018

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

The measure consists of a follow-up to the establishment of the European on-line e-platform for female entrepreneurship, through a call for tender to update, upgrade, animate and maintain the platform. The platform will be an e-One-Stop Shop for female entrepreneurship which will bring together all relevant stakeholders as well as the European Network of Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors and Mentors.

EXPECTED RESULTS

E-platform to achieve and maintain a high level of interest from would-be women entrepreneurs as well as women entrepreneurs across business sectors and age groups. E-platform to be used as a tool to exchange good practices among stakeholders.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Call for tenders	e-platform for female entrepreneurs	400 000
Remunerated experts	Expert evaluators for call and stakeholders workshop	100 000
Total		500 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Call for tender	Q2 2015
Total duration: 30 months	

INDICATORS

Interest and satisfaction of stakeholders and would-be or actual women entrepreneurs, as demonstrated by webpage hits and usage, feedback questionnaires, results of the stakeholders' workshop, number of enquiries.

ENT/SME/15/D/N03 - DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN)

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The objective of this measure is to support the implementation of the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan as outlined in the Commission Communication¹⁶ of 9 January 2013. The action supports the implementation of the European Roadmap for Digital Entrepreneurship.

The objective of the action is to:

- Enhance the digital entrepreneurial culture by identifying and promoting digital entrepreneurs, *intrapreneurs* and their success or failure stories at pan European, national and local level;
- Catalyse the digital transformation of existing enterprises by sharing industry specific success stories of disruptive business and operating models;
- Spark and support new business ideas in the digital world and boost their successful commercialisation to the market;

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

This action will continue and reinforce the work of the Commission to:

- raise awareness on the new business opportunities and possibilities opened in today's technology-rich environment based on the intelligent use of novel digital technologies.
- reinforce a pan-European mentoring ecosystem to help spark, support and expand new business ideas in Europe. The action will expand and animate the European eMentors Network and industry specific mentoring and networking platform to join-up digital innovators, and European local digital "faces", local entrepreneurs within reach, that other potential entrepreneurs can "relate-to" and be inspired from their success stories.

A number of workshops with industry, the business and academic community and national and regional experts will be organised to shape a pan-European vision and coordinate relevant policy actions.

¹⁶ COM (2012)795

EXPECTED RESULTS

A series of events, conferences, training, mentoring sessions, awareness raising opportunities, on-line courses, both through conventional media and extended use of digital media (web sites, blogs, social networks, etc.), to fuel inspiration, spread knowledge, and targeted support to entrepreneurs.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Call for tenders	Awareness raising and eMentoring ecosystem on Digital Entrepreneurship	1 800 000
Specific contract under framework contract.	Relevant IT development and social media	100 000
Reimbursement of experts	Digital Entrepreneurship	95 000
Direct contract	Digital Entrepreneurship	5 000
Total		2 000 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Publication of the call for tenders	Q2 2015
Signature of the contract	Q4 2015
Total duration: 2 years	

INDICATORS

- Geographic coverage;
- Number of entrepreneurial case studies promoted;
- Number of mentors linked-up and offering their services;
- Number of events, training, mentoring sessions, match-making opportunities, etc.
- Number of entrepreneurs being supported;

ENT/SME/15/D/N04 - EUROBAROMETER ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The measure aims at assessing the situation of entrepreneurship, the willingness of EU citizens to become self-employed and the problems connected to such a choice in Europe. Moreover, it aims at comparing the results with the situation in other non-EU economies and with the previous editions of this Commission study. Its results are a key input for designing a relevant and targeted entrepreneurship policy.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE FINANCED

A Flash Eurobarometer on entrepreneurship is done regularly (every 2-3 years) to establish the attitudes of the European population regarding entrepreneurship, the willingness to become self-employed and the problems connected to such a choice. It is carried out through a framework contract. The previous Flash Eurobarometer on this subject was funded under the CIP 2012 work programme. The approach will be similar to that of previous surveys, which consisted of a telephone opinion survey regarding various aspects of entrepreneurship in the EU and major comparators, neighbours, and competitive economies, including EU-28, Iceland, Norway, Turkey, China, Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, Brazil, India, and USA.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Survey report including country results breakdown, for publication.

THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED

IMPLEMENTATION MODE	TITLE	BUDGET (EUR)
Specific contract under a framework contract	Flash Eurobarometer	1 100 000

INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
Publication of completed survey	Q4 2015
Total duration: 1 year	

INDICATORS

- Degree of comparability with previous Eurobarometers;
- Timeliness of the delivery;
- Impact on target population (national and regional governments), i.e.: indication that the data contained in the analysis is used by governments as an input on their policies on entrepreneurship.
- Transfer of business