

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) 2007-2013

2005/0050(COD) - 15/01/2013 - Follow-up document

In accordance with Decision No 1639/2006/EC, the Commission presents a report setting out the interim and final evaluations of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme 2007-2013 (CIP) and its sub-programmes. It formulates the Commission's response to the evaluations' recommendations and sets out follow-up measures.

The report recalls that the CIP is divided into three operational programmes: (i) the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP); (ii) the Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP); (iii) the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE).

The evaluations of EIP came to five main conclusions:

- the Programme was performing well and was on track to achieve the expected impacts;
- in most instances, the Programme was gathering momentum, as it was building on existing achievements;
- survey evidence demonstrated the 'utility' of the Programme, by confirming that it directly meets SME needs;
- evaluators found that interviews and other evidence point to a clear European value-added;
- the monitoring system is a valuable contribution to assessing the performance of the Programme on an on-going basis, but this system was still being developed in some areas and the data on indicators needed to be presented more consistently.

The report goes on to state that the Financial Instruments achieved the objectives of facilitating access to finance for the start-up and growth of SMEs. The evaluators found the Enterprise Europe Network to be well focused on its main objectives of promoting innovation, business co-operation and cross-border trading, and added that there is a high level of client satisfaction with the Network's services.

Lastly, the approach used for EIP eco-innovation related activities is found to be relevant in addressing existing market failures that restrict the sector, targeting both the demand and supply side of the market, as well as strengthening the operational environment. The evaluators found also that the scheme was likely to be significantly over-subscribed.

Recommendations: the evaluations made some recommendations on how to improve the implementation of the CIP and design a possible successor programme which have been taken into consideration when preparing the Commission proposals for successor programmes to the CIP, [COSME programme](#) and parts of [Horizon 2020](#).

- The CIP final evaluation report stated that **further synergies** between the three sub-programmes could be created by articulating new positions on central themes of the framework programme, for example on innovation policies. The report details actions to be taken in this regard.
- The CIP's **overall lack of visibility was identified as one of its main shortcomings**. However, it was also stressed that well-known brands such as the Enterprise Europe Network, Intelligent Energy Europe, and SME Week should not be renamed. Furthermore, better dissemination of information on successful activities supported by the Programme was recommended. The Commission actively uses the Enterprise Europe Network, which is funded by CIP, to distribute information on EU policies and services available under all programmes such as FP7 or Structural Funds. It details here

a number of actions that have been undertaken to reach the broadest number of potential participants.

- It was recommended that **a stable set of output, result and impact indicators be devised to help monitor the programme effectiveness** and the achievement of its objectives. The Commission's proposals on COSME and parts of Horizon 2020 are addressing most of these recommendations, introducing in the legal text general and specific objectives linked to result and impact indicators.
- The EIP final evaluation recommended that further developments in the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme need to take care to build on current achievements and avoid the risks of disruption inherent in any new departures. In the EIP annual work programme 2013 the Commission will propose a continuation of successful actions from previous years or new actions based on past experiences, while at the same time ensuring consistence with political priorities and economic developments.
- The evaluation recommends keeping under review **the extent to which European value-added is evident in the Financial Instruments**. The Commission has taken this into account in the preparation of the next generation of financial instruments. European added value will be a key element of the new debt and equity platforms, on whose principles all future financial instruments in the MFF for 2014-2020 will be based. The main purpose of the financial instruments under the COSME programme will be to improve access to finance for SMEs in market segments which are not covered by Member States' measures, which are restricted to investments and support within each country. The focus will be on financing expansion of growth-oriented enterprises that are aiming at international expansion and developing a cross-border SME finance market. Only an EU-level programme can fulfil this role. Similarly, in the proposal on Horizon 2020, the Equity facility for Research & Innovation will complement national schemes that cannot cater for cross-border investments in R&I.
- With regard to eco-innovation the evaluation notes that the scheme is likely to be significantly over-subscribed. The Commission has proposed to include eco-innovation as one of the priorities in the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation - Horizon 2020, and to expand EU intervention both in terms of budget and range of instruments.

The Commission invites the Council and the Parliament to make full use of these recommendations when amending the Commission's proposals in view of the final adoption of the programmes.