



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 6.5.2021
C(2021) 3046 final

ANNEX 2

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

**on the financing of the Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises,
including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics and the adoption
of the work programme for 2021-2024**

Table of Contents

ANNEX II Improving the competitiveness of enterprises, particularly SMEs, and supporting their access to markets	3
1. Introduction	3
2. Grants	6
2.1. Enterprise Europe Network	6
2.2. Joint Cluster Initiatives (EUROCLUSTERS) for Europe’s recovery	9
2.3. Social Economy and local green deals supporting SMEs to become more resilient	12
2.4. Affordable Housing Initiative	15
2.5. SME friendly training for CPBs	18
2.6. COVID-19 Recovery – Sustainable growth in tourism – support to SMEs.....	19
2.7. Improving socio-economic knowledge of the EU tourism ecosystem.....	20
2.8. Promoting trans-European tourism products in third countries	21
2.9. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	23
2.10. EU SME Centre in China – phase IV 1	24
2.11. Sustainability Partnerships Platform for SMEs adopting more sustainable practices.....	25
2.12. Public procurement of Innovation development	27
2.13. Intellectual Property Licensing Intermediaries	27
3. Procurement	29
3.1. Access to the Single Market: Your Europe Business.....	29
3.2. Support to the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan 2.0 in construction	30
3.3. Support of the digitalisation of the built environment, public procurement and SMEs in construction	31
3.4. Single Digital Gateway	32
3.5. Monitoring the performance of EU industry and industrial ecosystems.....	33
3.6. SME Policy	34
3.7. Enterprise Europe Network animation tasks	36
3.8. Crisis management and governance in tourism.....	37
3.9. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs – IT support	38
3.10. Pact for Skills	39
3.11. Fit for Future: Engaging SMEs and Stakeholders on policy design and implementation/strengthening of the Better Regulation Agenda	41
3.12. Supporting actions	42
4. Actions implemented in indirect management.....	44
4.1. European Union Chemicals Legislation Finder (EUCLEF)	44

4.2.	European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials (EUON).....	45
5.	Other actions or expenditure.....	47
5.1.	Administrative arrangement.....	47
5.1.1.	SME Policy –(1) SME Performance Review & (2) Late Payment: Assessing the impacts of faster payments.....	47
5.1.2.	European Resource Efficiency Knowledge centre.....	47
5.2.	Remunerated experts;reimbursement of experts.....	48
6.	Supplementary information.....	49

ANNEX II

IMPROVING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF ENTERPRISES, PARTICULARLY SMEs, AND SUPPORTING THEIR ACCESS TO MARKETS

1. INTRODUCTION

Competitive sustainability is Europe's guiding principle for the future. The SME pillar of the Single Market Programme will first ensure the continuity of the implementation of the most impactful actions of the COSME programme, in particular supporting a better access to markets, a more favourable business environment and promoting entrepreneurship.

It aims to foster the competitiveness, capacity building and sustainability of enterprises, especially SMEs, including from the tourism sector. Achieving a climate neutral, resource efficient and agile digital economy requires the full mobilisation of SMEs.

Secondly, it implements the SME strategy in the context of industrial ecosystems, the SME components of the Industrial Strategy and the Small Business Act, taking due account of the context in which SMEs operate, captured by the SME Performance Review and the considerations of the SME Envoy Network.

SMEs are the engine of the European economy making up 99,8% of all businesses in Europe, providing two thirds of jobs, and contributing substantially to the creation of new quality jobs in all sectors. SMEs are instrumental in modernising industry and for the green and digital transformation of the economy.

SMEs share common challenges that do not affect larger firms to the same extent. Those common challenges include obtaining finance, recruiting a skilled work force, alleviating their administrative burden, taking up creativity and innovation, inter alia through public procurement, and accessing global markets and value chains in order to develop their internationalisation activities.

The pillar will support and promote a culture of innovation, developing industrial ecosystems capable of encouraging business start-ups and SME growth, focusing on all SMEs able to meet the challenges of the green and digital transition and an increasingly competitive and fast-moving environment. The Programme will seek to support the innovation uptake process by promoting new collaborative business models, networking and the sharing of knowledge and resources in synergy with the European Innovation Council, notably by sharing the same executive agency, EISMEA.

Lack of skills is a major obstacle to enterprise growth in the Union. To foster entrepreneurship in the Union and support the growth of SMEs and their digital and green transition, access to skills and mentoring schemes for SMEs should be promoted and facilitated, in particular the development of technological, entrepreneurial and managerial skills.

The policy objectives will also be addressed through facilitating access to financial instruments and budgetary guarantees under the SME window of the InvestEU Fund¹ and to advisory services under the InvestEU Advisory Hub. This will help overcome market failures and ensure that SMEs, including start-ups and scale-ups, continue to play their role as the foundation for the Union economy's competitiveness.

¹ Regulation [...] of the European Parliament and of the Council

The pillar will provide effective support for SMEs throughout their life-cycle, providing assistance ranging from helping SMEs to find partners for joint projects to commercialisation and access to markets, capacity-building and encouraging the cooperation along clusters and business network organisations. It will support the green and digital transition of SMEs and build on the unique knowledge and expertise developed with regard to SMEs and on a long experience in working with European, national and regional stakeholders. This support will build on the experience of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) as a one-stop-shop to improve SMEs competitiveness and develop their business in the Single Market and beyond, including in the outermost regions. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs will be the tool to enable new or aspiring entrepreneurs to gain business and managerial experience and strengthen their entrepreneurial talents.

Clusters are a strategic tool for supporting the competitiveness and scaling-up of SMEs as they offer favourable and resilient business environments. They can facilitate the green and digital transition of industry, including services, and strengthen the economic development of regions through the creation of growth and jobs. The Joint Cluster Initiative will seek to connect specialised industrial ecosystems, hence creating new business opportunities for SMEs and integrate them better in European and global strategic value chains.

The SME pillar will help to strengthen the relationship between businesses, especially SMEs, and universities, research centres and other institutions involved in knowledge creation and dissemination. This relationship could help improve firms' abilities to tackle the strategic challenges posed by the new international context.

The programme contributes to the Commission's Gender Equality Strategy and contribute to its objectives, such as empowering women to thrive as entrepreneurs, notably through the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs and the Women Entrepreneurship portal WEGate. And finally these actions will contribute to jobs and growth creation by strengthening the competitiveness and resilience of European SMEs, hence contributing to economic recovery.

The work programme is subject to a positive opinion by a committee referred to under Article 21 of the [SMP] Regulation [insert reference once adopted].

On the basis of the objectives given in the Article 3(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) **xx**, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for years 2021-24 as follows:

- a) for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2), including the multiannual instalments for the Enterprise Europe Network, Joint Cluster Initiative and Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs,
- b) for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 3),
- c) for actions implemented under indirect management (point 4),
- d) for other actions or expenditure (point 5).

These amounts include appropriations arising from the participation of EEA EFTA States to the programme and are therefore subject to the agreement on their participation.

Legal basis

Regulation (EU) No **XX/2021** of the European Parliament and of the Council of **XXXX** establishing the Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics and repealing Regulation

(EU) No 1287/2013.

Budget line

03 02 02

Objectives pursued

The Programme has the following specific objectives laid down in Article 3(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) XX[Single Market Programme] to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of SMEs and achieve additionality at Union level through measures that:

- provide various forms of support to SMEs as well as clusters and other business network organisations, including in the tourism sector, thereby fostering the growth, scale-up and creation of SMEs;
- facilitate access to markets including the internationalisation of SMEs;
- promote entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills;
- promote a favourable business environment for SMEs, support digital transformation and promote new business opportunities for SMEs, including for social economy enterprises and those with innovative business models;
- support the competitiveness of industrial ecosystems and sectors as well as the development of industrial value chains
- promote the modernisation of industry, contributing to a green, digital and resilient economy.

Expected results

The progress in implementing the specific objectives of Article 3(2)(b) will be measured with the following indicators:

- Number of SMEs, clusters and business network organisations, and business support organisations receiving support from the programme, in particular for internationalisation, digitalisation and sustainability.
- Number of companies supported having concluded business partnerships.
- Number of entrepreneurs benefitting from mentoring and mobility schemes, including young, new and female entrepreneurs, as well as other specific target groups.

2. GRANTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme for 2021 is EUR 98,100,000.

2.1. Enterprise Europe Network

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Typical applicants are organisations with a proven experience to provide business support services to SMEs. Organisations applying for the next EEN call for proposals 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.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The Enterprise Europe Network provides business support services – in particular for SMEs – by offering information, advisory services, feedback and partnering services, innovation, technology and knowledge transfer services. The Network provides services encouraging the participation of SMEs in the COSME pillar of the Single Market Programme and Horizon Europe programme as well as internationalisation services beyond the Single Market and informs SMEs on access to finance and funding opportunities, including those under the InvestEU Programme of the European Regional Development Fund.

The Enterprise Europe Network activities directly contribute to the SME Strategy and play an important role to help SMEs recover from the crisis as part of the COVID-19 exit strategy. The Commission will enhance and upgrade the EEN including with sustainability and digitalisation services, in close collaboration with other support services such as the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH), to provide SMEs with the necessary support in the twin transition. The Commission will fully integrate the dimension of sustainability in all EEN services, on top of the setup of Sustainability Advisors, starting as of 2022. 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 SME Strategy and the Small Business Act.

It aims to:

- Help EU SMEs finding international business, technology and research partners in the EU, Single Market Programme participating countries and third countries, and find alternative solutions for SMEs facing supply chain problems;
- Assist SMEs address sustainability challenges and opportunities and put EEN Sustainability Advisors in place in all EU regions;
- Provide support to enable SMEs to turn the climate resource efficiency and renewable energy challenge into opportunities, including providing information, assistance in participation in European-funded projects, and partnering and advice on resource efficient practices (contributing to the Climate Action, Green Action Plan and Eco-innovation Action Plan);
- Help SMEs digitalise by helping adapt their processes, use digital technologies to increase their competitiveness and develop new products and services using new digital means like AI or IoT; exploit synergies and provide a seamless service with the Digital Innovation Hubs and the new Network of European Digital

Innovation Hubs (EDIH) being set up under the Digital Europe programme (DIGITAL);

- Assist SMEs with assessments and capacity building services to address SMEs challenges on sustainability, digitalisation and innovation management;
- 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), linking up with regional actors and policies to ensure regional integration of the network's services;
- Improve SMEs awareness on access to finance including alternative sources of financing;
- Increase the impact and quality of services by broadly adopting the Client Journey approach and Hub and Spoke model (involving other relevant EEN partners and local stakeholders);
- Increase competitiveness of SMEs by internationalisation and innovation support services;
- Contribute to the Start-up Initiative by providing advisory services to help scale-ups develop their activities outside their own country, leveraging the services and support of Innovation Radar;
- Contribute to the SMEs feedback function to obtain SMEs opinion on Union policy options;
- Strengthen support for SMEs interested in participating in Horizon Europe and corresponding calls for proposals, in particular encourage and help prepare SMEs to participate in the European Innovation Council (EIC) actions;
- Develop a long term relationship and provide integrated services to the beneficiaries of the EIC and possibly those who got a Seal of Excellence; further enhance cooperation with Horizon Europe national contact points to help increasing participation of SMEs;
- Strengthen support for SMEs interested in participating in the LIFE Programme and corresponding calls for proposals;
- Improve SME's awareness about other EU initiatives such as the Your Europe portal, the network of EDIHs and the forthcoming Single Digital Gateway and connected assistance services;
- Ensure visibility, recognition and local awareness about the Network in all EU regions (including remote regions such as outermost regions, islands, rural areas);

The expected results are:

- Increased number of SMEs linked with other entities across Europe and beyond for cross-border business cooperation, technology and knowledge transfer and technology and innovation partnerships;
- Increased number of SMEs aware of sustainability challenges and opportunities and integrating them in their business processes;
- Increased number of SMEs integrating digitalisation to improve the business processes and developing new business opportunities;
- Higher rate of European SMEs exporting within the Single Market and outside the EU;

- Higher rate of European SMEs participating in EU programmes;
- Better understanding of European SMEs of EU legislation and of opportunities offered by EU programmes and EU access to finance;
- Increased number of companies reporting a successful outcome on their business in terms of turn-over and jobs created;
- Better visibility and use of the EEN, including in remote parts of the EU, by promoting success stories.

Better knowledge in EU institutions of SMEs opinions, difficulties and expectations.

Implementation

Executive Agency

Any essential criteria:

Applicant organisations have to be established in EU Member States or in countries participating in the COSME pillar under Article xx of Regulation (EU) No xxxx/2021; they are legal entities, fully or partly public or private bodies; corporate bodies must be properly constituted and registered under the law.

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action

- Number of unique SMEs receiving support services (information, partnering, advisory services on EU legislation, access to financing, etc.);
- Number of achievements (including business/technology/research Partnership Agreements and Advisory Service Outcomes);
- Unique clients supported by the Network through the EEN client journey, out of which unique clients related to sustainability and digitalisation respectively;
- Clients in feedback-related actions;
- Client satisfaction on the received services.

Budget & indicative duration

Indicative total amount call for proposals (2021 appropriations only): EUR 47,000,000

Indicative timeframe for launching the procedure: Q2 2021

Signature of grant agreements: Q1 2022

Estimated duration of grant agreements: 42 months

Rate of co-financing:

EEN grants: max. 100% for eligible staff costs related to coordination and networking tasks (lump sum); max. 60% for all other eligible costs; a flat rate of 25 % of the total direct eligible costs, excluding direct eligible costs for subcontracting, for the indirect eligible costs.

Table of multiannual commitment budget for this action

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Amount EUR	47.000.000	47.000.000	47.000.000	23.500.000	164.500.000

2.2. Joint Cluster Initiatives (EUROCLUSTERS) for Europe's recovery

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Consortia of cluster organisations² which team up with other types of organisations supporting green and digital transition and building social and economic resilience, each active in a specific industrial ecosystem, covering **critical value chains in their or across industrial ecosystems**, with a broad variety of actors from smallest start-ups in social economy to the largest companies in traditional industries, from basic research in academia to commercial uptake of research, from input providers to users.

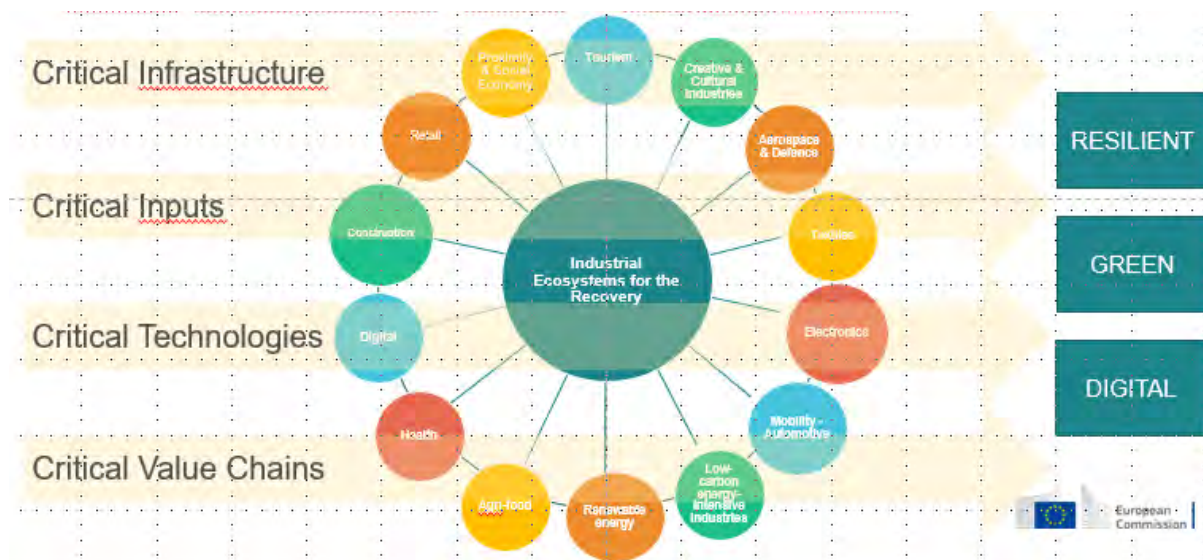
They will include a **balanced mix** of cluster organisations at different development stage i.e. potential, emerging, established or declining from more developed, transitional and less developed EU regions which operate across borders, inside and outside the EU and will contribute to greener and more digital and resilient EU economy.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

This measure will launch Joint Cluster Initiatives for Europe's recovery (EUROCLUSTERS) as organised efforts to:

- **improve the resilience of the EU industrial ecosystems** by developing value chains interlinkages in the EU single market;
- build capacity to increase strategic autonomy in the most critical supplies and technologies of their ecosystems, including upscaling of manufacturing facilities;
- reinforce transformation into a greener and more digital economy;
- foster up and re-skilling of the workforce whilst attracting talents;
- reconnect and boost access to global supply and value chains.

² Cluster organisations are the legal entities that support the strengthening of collaboration, networking and learning in innovation clusters and act as innovation support providers by providing or channeling specialised and customised business support service to stimulate innovation activities, especially in SMEs.



This action will incentivise the creation and development of Joint Cluster Initiatives (EUROCLUSTERS), one of flagship measures mentioned in article 8 of the Single Market Programme (SMP), building on the successful and inspiring experience of the COSME and the Horizon2020/INNOSUP-1³ cluster projects.

The European Commission will launch **around 30 cross-sectorial, interdisciplinary and transeuropean Joint Cluster Initiatives (EUROCLUSTERS)**, to improve the resilience of the European industrial ecosystems, while boosting their green and digital transformation.

The Initiatives will support cluster organisations and their members to strengthen their **interlinkages and collaborate to exploit** new resilient business opportunities and **anticipate and address challenges** they face in terms of critical infrastructure, inputs, technologies, skills and value chains.

The actions foreseen in this call for proposals will **focus on the EU recovery after Covid-19, to improve the resilience of the European supply and value chains** and especially **to better integrate SMEs within the industrial ecosystems**, in order to improve the SME's social and economic resilience, while supporting their green and digital transition. The resilience of value and supply chains, e.g. through the diversification of production inputs on different EU territories, pooling of supply or demand, joint investments in critical innovation and production facilities, development of alternative EU technologies, implementation of circularity measures, will be a priority. In addition, clusters and their companies shall explore new ways of rebuilding and reconnecting global supply and value chains in a joint strategy, reshape their global position to a new reality and take rational positions in risk exposure.

The Joint Cluster Initiatives (EUROCLUSTERS) will build on the EU cluster capacity to bring together a critical mass of firms and societies in geographical and functional proximities, which are economically and socially interdependent. Therefore potential projects will include all the following actions:

- A. **partnering** between European cluster organizations and key actors along the value chains within their ecosystem, as well as with other ecosystems, to enable the ecosystem's resilience, green and digital transformation
- B. **building complementarities** with the national/regional smart specialisation strategies and with the National Recovery Plans

³ See: strategic partnerships and EU initiatives at: www.clustercollaboration.eu/eu-initiative/innosup-calls

- C. mapping** of critical elements (material, knowledge, skills, technologies and applications) of the supply and value chains
- D. developing a common roadmap** (with milestones and KPIs) **for and implementing all the following cooperation actions:**
1. **sharing** complementary and tailored infrastructure, suppliers and technologies;
 2. **development and uptake of advanced technologies by the SMEs;**
 3. **implementing circularity measures across the ecosystems;**
 4. identification and exchange of **Best Practices** on boosting the resilience, green and digital transformation of SMEs;
 5. **matching and developing** skills and talents;
 6. **pooling SMEs with common resilience, green or digital transformation challenges**, to enable them to identify and implement the most competitive solutions;
 7. **boosting internationalisation of SMEs** by facilitating access and a new strategic positioning in global value chains (e.g. by shaping export consortia, promoting joint EU solutions in global markets) and by building a recognisable brand to attract talents and investments worldwide.
- E. preparing resilience related investment projects**, and exploring their financing through an optimum mix of private and public funding success e.g. when available the RRF funds, including business plan and market analysis for long-term investment strategy
- F. channelling business growth acceleration** funding directly to SMEs for boosting their resilience, green and digital transformation

The co-financing rate shall be up to 100% of the eligible costs for financial support to third parties, and up to 90% of the eligible costs for the other cost categories. The budget of each project should be split in the following way:

- 25% will cover joint activities between cluster organisations (A to E above),
- 75% of the grant will be directed to SMEs (action F above), to finance services in support of their resilience, green and digital transformation, e.g. vouchers for support services, or free access and support to use testing facilities (part of action D1 above) directly to SMEs of the partners engaged in the Joint Cluster Initiatives.

Target groups

A wide range of industrial ecosystem actors such as cluster organisations, industry associations, chambers of commerce scaling-up support organisations (such as technology centres, research institutes, fab labs, (digital) innovation hubs, creative hubs, resource efficiency service providers, incubators and accelerators) and other SME intermediaries, large companies, SMEs, consultancies, civil society bodies, cooperatives, associations, vocational and educational training providers, regional authorities.

The calls launched for third parties shall be open to the Single Market Programme participating countries.

Expected results

- develop solutions and anticipate challenges for disruption in critical EU value

chains,

- accelerate transition towards greener and more digital SMEs,
- the industrial deployment of technologies, foster their markets and promote the EU as a global frontrunner in line with the objectives of the New Industrial Strategy for Europe,
- improve management, coordination and collaboration capacity of EU clusters among different industrial ecosystems in the EU single market,
- accelerate the development of more world-class clusters in all participating countries to better support SMEs from the European Union in global competition,
- encourage cluster consortia to work across sectoral boundaries, to exploit synergies and complementarities and develop a joint 'European' strategic vision resilient to external shocks,
- help EU SMEs access third markets and generate growth from international activities,
- contribute to the reskilling and upskilling of the cluster human capital across the EU.

Implementation

Executive Agency

Budget & indicative duration

Indicative total amount (2021 appropriations only): EUR 14,000,000

Indicative timeframe for launching the procedure: Q3 2021

Indicative number of contracts: 30

Estimated duration of agreements: 36 months

Table of multiannual commitment budget for this action

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Budget EUR	14.000.000	9.000.000	16.000.000	3.000.000	42.000.000

2.3. Social Economy and local green deals supporting SMEs to become more resilient

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Partnerships (consortia) that boost cooperation between regional or local public administrations and other economic operators such as: SME organisations, SMEs, Social economy organisations or single enterprises, NGO's, local urban development and innovation agencies, technology centres and service providers, digital innovation hubs, local industrial clusters, Fablabs, Citylabs, high-schools, knowledge institutions, academia, citizens communities/association, chambers of commerce, educational or vocational training organisations, etc.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

This call for proposals will build on the networks and best practices of the following COSME funded projects:

- **The 100 Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC) (COSME 2017 and 2019)** is an EU initiative that helps EU cities leverage advanced technologies to become greener, smarter, more resilient, and will thus support their recovery post COVID-19. It helps cities to improve the quality of life and create new opportunities for their business communities and their citizens. The **Intelligent Cities Challenge Flagship Actions** will provide support to European Cities for implementing actions aiming to reboot local economy, mitigate the socio-economic impact COVID-19 on cities and accelerate a new, green and fairer recovery. ICC created a network of 136 smaller European cities and provides them strategic advice and tailored guidance to:
 - Create a vibrant community linking all city stakeholders;
 - Map local strengths and shape ambitious vision, strategic goals and implementation roadmaps;
 - Leverage cutting edge technologies to find innovative solutions to the city's challenges;
 - Learn from peers and engage in long-lasting collaborations and investments.
- **The European Social Economy Regions Missions' – ESER - (COSME 2018 and 2019)** key objective is to enable SMEs and other regional and local actors such as regional/local governments, academia, NGOs, citizens etc. sharing good practices and mutual learning towards building resilience. The first ESER Missions addressed challenges such as building ecological and social sustainable clusters, sustainable agriculture, tackling unemployment and integration of migrant via social economy model etc. Enhanced cooperation, mutual aid, ecological impact and solidarity are indeed at the heart of the social economy. By supporting stakeholders that are largely SMEs (90% of social economy enterprises are SMEs), and as foreseen in the *SME Strategy* released in March 2020, ESER members will continue to respond to social needs and maintain economic activity in territories.

The actions supported with this call will build on the existing synergies between these two powerful initiatives and their communities as well as their unique potential in the field of sustainable development and resilient solutions, in order to contribute significantly to addressing current challenges linked to resilience and sustainability at regional and local level.

The ESER and ICC initiatives have already mapped the needs of regional and local actors for achieving social and ecological impact via innovative solutions, needs which should be combined with citizens rooted initiatives (bottom-up approach), in order to develop more sustainable regional/local strategies and resilient business models of local SMEs and businesses. An ecosystem approach (the Social and Proximity Ecosystem has been recognised as one out of 14 official industrial

ecosystems by the Recovery Plan for Europe) and pro-active engagement of all ecosystem players are crucial to reduce/prevent vulnerabilities caused by future crises.

Total amount of the action:	<p>EUR 4,000,000</p> <p>Theme 1: EUR 2,000,000</p> <p>Theme 2: EUR 2,000,000</p>
Rate of co-financing:	<p>Up to 100% of the eligible costs for financial support to third parties and up to 90% of the eligible costs for the other cost categories.</p>
<p>The overall action aims at building partnerships across regions and cities that will boost territorial resilience and transition to rethink and re-design economic growth. Those partnerships will focus on citizen’s empowerment, cities/local authorities’ involvement and social economy enterprises participation.</p> <p>There will be two thematic priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first thematic priority will focus on Local green deals. It will co-finance around 10 projects. • The second one will focus on Social economy Missions for Community resilience. The second topic will also co-finance around 10 projects. <p>Each partnership (consortium) in one of the two priorities will include a set of different collaborative activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic priority one will result in the implementation of Local Green Deals (LGDs) that contribute to boosting twin green and digital transition, sustainable and resilient development, such as green transformation of industry and SMEs, green procurement; circular economy actions, circular industrial waste; energy efficiency & renewable energy investments; sustainable local supply chains and food systems, sustainable mobility, green spaces, etc. • Thematic priority two will increase the capacity of regional/ local public authorities, social economy SMEs and civil society to face difficulties and crises (be it health-induced - pandemic, climate change related or economic just to name some of them). It will especially reflect on how social economy enterprises and organisations can be key in promoting the resilience in territories. Through this action, participants should exchange ideas and best practices/success stories to improve community resilience, boost social economy ecosystems and collaborate on their implementation. Each selected consortia under that thematic priority, will also be invited to produce policy recommendations/guidelines that will help European regional and local authorities to draft and implement social economy action plans/programmes as instruments to boost the twin transition and mitigate negative impacts of crisis. These recommendations will also be an important 'engine' for social economy enterprises to help the recovery, transition and the longer-term possible restructuring of the economy towards more resilience, fairness and sustainability. <p>The Commission intends to organise a conference during the course of the action and a concluding one to assess progress and summarise outcomes of the different projects run in the two different thematic priorities.</p>	

Expected results:

Implementation of projects with tangible improvements in the quality of life and inclusiveness by:

- Increasing better, high-quality employment (tackling regional/local unemployment);
- Mobilising the regional/local stakeholders towards a new, green, sustainable, inclusive and socially fairer post-COVID-19 recovery;
- Supporting the green, social and digital transition at local level;
- Supporting resilient and sustainable business models based on social economy;
- Boosting the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy;
- Ensuring more community resilience and better living conditions for the population;
- New ecosystem thinking based on active engagement of all actors.

Implementation

Executive Agency

Additional information::

Around 20 grants with an indicative budget of EUR 4,000,000 in total

- Number of new partnerships initiated by this call
- Number of green/social initiatives reflected in regional development strategies
- Number of citizens and civil society actors engaged in the process
- Number of new grassroots actions supported at local level and their impact in employment, social resilience and environmental sustainability
- Number of green and digital transition initiatives reflected in national, regional and local recovery plans.

Indicative implementation timetable	Month	Year
Publication of the call	Q2	2021
Signature of agreement(s)	Q4	2021

2.4. Affordable Housing Initiative

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

A consortium of organisations representing key stakeholders, experts and SME's for the innovative and sustainable renovation of social and affordable housing.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

This action will launch the first steps of the “Affordable Housing Initiative” as announced in the Renovation Wave communication⁴:

- Set-up a European level cross-sectoral partnership amongst key stakeholders, experts and SME representatives to support renovation of social and affordable housing.
- Support the first steps of project developers to deliver on the renovation of affordable lighthouse districts through promotion of local cross-sectoral SME partnerships
- Share expertise and good practices across public and private social and affordable housing service providers and support to start renovating their housing stock in an integrated manner.
- Reinforce such transformation towards a sustainable building stock and smart development of housing (in case affordable district areas) by supporting renovation projects to ‘go the extra mile’ in terms of technologic, green, social and digital innovative methods, tools and processes.
- Empower SMEs touching upon several industrial ecosystems to get access and apply cutting-edge technologies, innovations and services by focusing on re-skilling, access to tools, pooling of resources and joint investments.
- Allow SMEs to grasp significant opportunities offered by Member States recovery strategies focussing on social and affordable housing and to support their presence in the renovation market in general.

The concept of ‘lighthouse districts’ will be promoted by this partnership as it provides significant opportunities to exchange expertise across the EU that will directly benefit SMEs in different industrial ecosystems⁵.

Total amount of the action:	EUR 1,200,000
Rate of co-financing:	Up to 90% of eligible costs

To support SMEs and regional/local in the development of lighthouse renovation districts, the Commission will launch a **European level cross-sectoral consortium**. It will act as a central coordination and networking hub between the lighthouse districts, innovative SMEs; as well as a good practice hub to share blueprints for the replication of successful lighthouse districts. Actions will include

- Facilitation of collaboration and networking between SMEs, SME intermediaries from a variety of ecosystems together with public private partnerships, public authorities and financial institutions and intermediaries for delivery of social and affordable housing renovations;
- Sharing of expertise and act as a knowledge hub for:

⁴ announced under the “**Renovation Wave for Europe**⁴ - greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives” on 14 October 2020: “the Commission will launch the Affordable Housing Initiative. It will pilot 100 lighthouse renovation districts in a smart neighbourhood approach and provide blueprints for replication, setting liveability and latest innovations at the forefront. It will mobilise cross-sectoral project partnerships linking them to local actors, including from the social economy, to promote efficient, circular and modular processes, social engagement models to empower residents, inclusive and accessible developments and cultural innovation.”

⁵ SMEs active in (1) the construction ecosystem, (2) renewable energy ecosystem and (3) electronics ecosystem producing (advanced) Green, Digital and other technologies for the housing construction sector, (4) proximity and social economy ecosystem: social housing services and other social services that are active in housing districts, for example, incubation, and entrepreneurship support, but also (5) retail, green services, child-care etc. as well as SME’s belonging to the (6) creative industries.

- Investment and project pipelines in affordable housing renovation and explore financing options through an optimum mix of private funding (e.g. residents co-investing) and public funding, considering cost neutrality and affordability of renovated units.
- Use of advanced technologies, practices, innovations and smart solutions⁶ related to the wide construction aspects on the one hand and better integration of residents' needs in social and affordable housing units on the other hand.
- Innovative and performance-based procurement, SMEs participation to tenders, social clauses in tenders, sustainable financing, social innovation, better regulation and sustainable standards related to district renovations and social housing.
- Development of blueprints for the replication of the best district renovation approaches.
 - Setup a proper communication strategy for the Affordable Housing Initiative and the support for lighthouse districts.
 - Liaise with relevant EU policy actions, instruments, initiatives and projects relevant for the lighthouse districts⁷.
 - Build interlinkages with the **New European Bauhaus** and the Affordable Housing Initiative.

Target groups

Representatives of SMEs active in the wide area of social housing and construction such as construction, electronics, renewables, housing associations and cooperatives, social rental agencies and companies, creative industries together with public authorities and public private partnerships should be the core of the consortium. Other associated organisations can be scaling-up support organisations (such as technology centres, research institutes, fab labs, (digital) innovation hubs, creative hubs, social service providers and recognised architects), SME intermediaries, and social economy stakeholders, financial institutions, associations of tenants and residents, and New European Bauhaus associated actors.

Expected results

The results of these actions are expected to:

- Support the implementation of the **Affordable Housing Initiative** by supporting development of the lighthouse districts as announced under the Renovation Wave.
- Newly created project pipelines calling on collaboration capacity of SME's with the social housing sector for example through public-private partnerships.
- SMEs producing advanced Green, Digital and Social Service technologies adaptable for social/affordable housing sector applications, for example improving accessibility.
- An efficient replication method (blueprints) considering key elements in the development of lighthouse districts such as financial, regulatory, technical and participatory elements.
- Accelerate the twin (green and digital) transition of SMEs in the wide construction

⁶ Such as: resource efficiency, smart home equipment, smart mobility, modular renovation tool-kits, eco/green architecture, horticulture, collective energy generation and district batteries system, sustainable renovations, and construction, proposed by European SMEs, and their uptake in the lighthouse districts;

⁷ Such as the and ELENA facility as setup by the Commission and EIB , energy poverty observatory , energy communities , Sustainable Energy Investment Forums , Urban Agenda Partnership on Housing, New European Bauhaus, EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture (in particular awarded housing renovation projects), URBACT ,

URBIS , Urban Innovative Actions , Intelligent Cities Challenge , Sustainable Energy Investment Forums High level forum on construction , ERHIN Blueprint for sectoral skills on construction , EEN and ECCP as well as actions in other programs than SMP that are supportive for the delivery of district renovations, such as Horizon Europe, New Cohesion, and with national, regional, local and private initiatives in the field.

ecosystem, but also in the proximity and social economy, renewables and creative industries ecosystems.

- Accelerate the use of the newest technologies related to renovation and make these accessible for local SME's from a skills and investment point of view.
- Contribute to the overall improvement of quality of social and affordable housing stock and where appropriate allowing for the safeguarding of the built heritage.

Implementation

Executive Agency

Additional information

Indicative implementation timetable	Month	Year
Publication of the call	Q2	2021
Signature of agreement(s)	Q4	2021
Indicative implementation timetable – 36 months		

2.5. SME friendly training for CPBs

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Consortium including a well established Central Purchasing Body operating at national level and an organisation specialised in training.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Total amount of the action: EUR 2,000,000

Rate of co-financing: Up to 90%

Organisation of several editions of the training programme for staff working for Central Purchasing Bodies (CPBs), or staff working in regulatory or policy making departments in charge of public procurement in Member States.

The objective of this initiative is to improve the administrative capacity of the staff with key procurement functions in the Member States. The initiative is expected to generate a significant impact, given the procurement volume of CPBs operating in Europe at national, regional or local level. Increasing the administrative capacity will also facilitate access of SMEs to public procurement and foster the use of strategic procurement (procurement of innovation, green procurement and social procurement).

This initiative follows the successful implementation of the pilot training course in 2018-2019 and its follow up in 2020-21.

Implementation

Executive Agency

Additional information

- Indicative implementation timetable: 2021-2023
- Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:
 - number of applications received for the training course, per country and year
 - evaluation of the quality of the training course by participants
 - number of participants in the training course

2.6. COVID-19 Recovery – Sustainable growth in tourism – support to SMEs

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Tourism SMEs or consortia of organisations of, among others, the relevant tourism ecosystem industry stakeholders, innovation hubs, incubators, accelerators, as well as competent public authorities and public bodies at local, regional or national level.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Total amount of the action:	EUR 10,350,0000
Rate of co-financing:	The co-financing rate shall be up to 100% of the eligible costs for financial support to third parties and up to 90% of the eligible costs for all other cost categories
<p>This call for proposals will be part of the overall COVID-19 recovery strategy for a sustainable tourism ecosystem and remain in line with the priorities of SME strategy and industrial strategy.</p> <p>This action is to guide the recovery of the tourism ecosystem by providing support, including with the intermediary of consortia of organisations of the relevant tourism industry stakeholders, to the digital and green transformation of tourism companies, particularly SMEs, and boosting innovation, resilience, sustainability and quality along the tourism value chain. The activity may also include provision of financial support to third parties, e.g. SMEs.</p>	
<i>Target groups:</i> tourism ecosystem SMEs	
<p><i>Expected results</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. enhanced resilience and competitiveness of tourism SMEs through better uptake of sustainability principles, innovation, and digitalisation (i.e. use of new technologies, greening, data); 2. new business models in tourism building on digitalisation, new technologies, sustainability, circularity; 3. enhanced cooperation along the tourism value chain; 	

4. improved transnational and cross-border cooperation, knowledge transfer and peer learning;
5. support to recovery of the tourism ecosystem from COVID-19 crisis by providing best practices for recovery investment.

Implementation

Executive Agency

Additional information

Indicative implementation timetable	Month	Year
Publication of the call	Q2	2021
Signature of agreement(s)	Q4	2021

2.7. Improving socio-economic knowledge of the EU tourism ecosystem

Type of applicant targeted by direct award

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

In line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation: Activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers.

The main objective of this action is to benchmark the socio-economic performance of the EU tourism ecosystem in a global context. The OECD is the only organisation dedicated to this kind of benchmarking and encompassing all EU strategic partners and competing travel markets.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation

Total amount of the action:	EUR 450,000
Rate of co-financing:	Maximum co-financing rate of 80 % of the eligible costs
<p>OECD Tourism Trends and Policies publication / scoreboard instrument feeding tourism policies analysis;</p> <p>A paper/tool providing benchmarking possibilities / an analysis/broad overview of tourism policy trends in the EU, based in particularly on the country profiles of EU Member States included in the publication since 2012; policy reports / data examining Post-Covid tourism recovery and development; workshops feeding this work.</p> <p>The general objective of the action is to further develop evidence-based tourism policy and ensure greater coherence between tourism and other policies. Such integrated approach should in turn contribute to the development of sustainable, innovative, resilient and competitive tourism.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the action are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the knowledge base, in order to enrich the public policy debate on tourism; 	

- bring forward-looking analysis and provide new ideas to support the development of better public policies for tourism;
- monitor tourism's recovery in the full geographical scope of the Union in the COVID-19 crisis context, in particular in parts of the EU most affected/more reliant on tourism..

Target groups

EU and Member States' tourism administrations, central statistical offices, and other governmental agencies active on tourism. Additional target groups are industry federations at international and national levels, researchers and experts, academics and students.

Expected results

Contribute to faster, and balanced recovery of the tourism ecosystem.

Implementation

DG GROW

Additional information

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action

- Timely delivery of quality publication/scoreboard tool
- Timely delivery of quality reports
- Sound and transparent methodological approach for data collection
- Sound and transparent methodological approach for benchmarking the effectiveness and efficiency of post-COVID-19 recovery measures
- Concrete and applicable recommendations for post-COVID-19 recovery

Indicative implementation timetable	Month	Year
Publication of the call	Q2	2021
Signature of agreement(s)	Q3	2021

2.8. Promoting trans-European tourism products in third countries⁸

Type of applicant targeted by direct award

The European Travel Commission (ETC). This is due to the activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers.

ETC was set up in 1948 by European countries' National Tourism Offices. These countries have mandated ETC with promoting Europe as a tourist destination in non

⁸ Subject to the evolution of the COVID pandemic, the timelines of a promotional campaign towards third countries may be reviewed resulting in a shift of the focus of the campaign towards intra-EU tourism or by using the programmed budget to support other actions in the area of tourism, e.g. action 2.6

European countries.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation

Total amount of the action:	EUR 1,500,000
Rate of co-financing:	Maximum co-financing rate of 80 % of the eligible costs
<p>Production of market intelligence reports for EU actors willing to export their services on long haul markets; promotion actions through attendance to travel trade exhibitions; familiarisation trips; digital campaigns on the web and social media; public relations through cooperation with media (such as Euronews); and training modules for EU actors on how to enter new markets or increase their presence in traditional markets.</p> <p>The overall objective of the grant is to contribute to: (i) rebuild the image of Europe in the COVID-19 context as a safe and secure tourist destination, (ii) maintain its share of the world market and better disperse and diversify (in terms of geography and seasons) travelers flows while taking into account residents' aspirations.</p> <p>Its specific objective is to contribute to a series of large marketing campaigns, by supporting the "Joint Promotion Platform for Destination Europe" (here-after JPP) set up by ETC, with EU support.⁹</p>	
<p><i>Target groups:</i> Travellers from third countries</p>	
<p><i>Expected results:</i> contribute to the recovery of the tourism ecosystem post-COVID-19 by attracting extra-EU travellers back to Europe by priority off season and off the beaten tracks.</p>	

Implementation

Executive Agency

Additional information

Qualitative and quantitative indicators

- Number of promotion/marketing events;
- Potential number of travellers targeted by the activities;
- Number of web pages referencing promotion/marketing materials;
- Number of portal hits;
- Media coverage;
- Increased number of travellers from targeted long-haul markets;
- Increased awareness of Europe as a unique, safe and secure set destination in targeted long-haul markets;
- Increased awareness about and visibility of lesser known/emerging destinations and

⁹ The JPP is designed as a 'marketplace' to develop cooperative marketing programmes initiated at a European level to be jointly funded by public authorities, destinations and private partners.

cross-border and transnational thematic tourism offers (survey of key stakeholders).

Indicative implementation timetable	Month	Year
Publication of the call	Q4	2021
Signature of agreement(s)	Q1	2022

2.9. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Applicants can be public or private entities whose core activity is in the field of business support.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Erasmus for Young 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 (IOs) 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.

The specific objectives 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 European Market;
- 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;

- Promote the participation of entrepreneurs from the EU outermost regions referred to in article 349 TFEU and from their neighbouring third countries.¹⁰

The expected results are:

- Circa 12,000 entrepreneurs matched;
- Circa 14,000 entrepreneurs registered;
- Between 70 to 100 Intermediary Organisations involved in the implementation of the programme;
- Circa 30 countries covered;
- Rate of successful exchanges above 90% (entrepreneurs' feedback).

Implementation

Executive Agency

Additional information

Budget & indicative duration

Indicative total amount (2021 appropriations only): EUR 10,000,000

Indicative timeframe for launching the procedure: Q4 2021

Estimated duration of agreements: 48 months

Rate of co-financing: up to 75 % of the programme management costs and 100 % to third parties (sub-grantee. i.e. 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 per month for the maximum duration of 6 months stay abroad per entrepreneur.

Table of multiannual commitment budget for this action

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Budget EUR	10.000.000	10.000.000	10.000.000	10.000.000	40.000.000

2.10. EU SME Centre in China – phase IV 1

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

¹⁰ In line with the 2017 Commission Communication COM (2017) 623 final whereby the Commission commits itself to promoting the participation of entrepreneurs from the outermost regions in Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, and to considering its extension to outermost regions' neighbouring third countries

Business support organisations offering services for promoting trade and investment between Europe and China (e.g. bilateral or European Chambers of commerce, sector specific trade organisations, business intermediary non-governmental organisations, agencies supporting SMEs in their trade, investment or international activities...)

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Total amount of the action: EUR 2,400,000

Rate of co-financing: 90%

The action will improve the access of European SMEs to the Chinese market by providing them with a first line and comprehensive range of hands-on support services (publications, practical training, ask-the-expert service, webinars...) getting them ready to do business in China.

The action will further develop its audience and activities in order to:

- assess European SMEs' readiness towards establishing and developing their commercial presence in the Chinese market (through exports and/or investments) by providing EU added-value support services;
- improve synergies with other EU projects and best practice sharing at the European, national and regional EU business association levels, with the ultimate goal to support European business advocacy in China and benefit EU SMEs that intend to do business in China.

Through an online platform, SMEs will have access to:

- relevant publications giving practical advice on how to develop their presence on the Chinese market,
- an 'ask-the-expert service' providing a first line of answer to more specific questions (legal, standardisation and distribution issues, notably through e-commerce...),
- webinars,
- practical business trainings.

Expected results are:

- Improved information services and helpdesk to SMEs on new business opportunities in China
- Development of awareness-raising and knowledge of EU SMEs on China's large and complex market
- Larger access of SMEs to publications, webinars and trainings on how to develop business in China

Implementation

Executive Agency

Additional information

The project will be implemented for an estimated duration of 36 months from April 2022, with a call for proposals launched in the 2nd half of 2021.

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action are as follows:

- Number of SMEs' enquiries (breakdown per country and sector) and contacts of the

EU SME Centre for information and advice purpose;

- Number of persons/SMEs trained through webinars and workshops;
- Number of online publications (and number downloaded);
- Number of recipients of EU-SME Centre’s newsletters;
- Number and audience of events organized in both the EU and China to inform EU SMEs.

2.11. Sustainability Partnerships Platform for SMEs adopting more sustainable practices

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

SME support organisations, NGOs/Civil Society Organizations

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Total amount of the action: EUR 400,000

Rate of co-financing: 90%

This project aims at launching a matchmaking platform through which SMEs can form partnerships with NGOs/CSOs to engage in sustainable business projects. The matchmaking platform can reduce the costs for SMEs to engage in such projects and facilitate the initiation of partnerships. Importantly, NGOs can support SMEs with technical assistance, knowledge, and networks. Furthermore, partnerships can counterbalance the negative reputation of self-regulation and increase a SMEs’ responsiveness to a broader range of stakeholders.

At the moment, these partnerships are formed on an ad-hoc basis and mostly involve large companies. There is no institutional framework to promote NGO/CSO partnerships with SMEs at national or EU level, disadvantaging SMEs.

The call for proposals aims at selecting a consortium that develops, launches and manages the platform.

The expected result of the action is a functioning beta version of the matchmaking platform.

Implementation

Executive Agency

Additional information

Applicants should form a consortium with a minimum of six entities from four different participating countries. The estimated duration of the action is 12 months.

Indicative implementation timetable:

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE QUARTER
------------------------------	---------------------------

Publication of the call for proposals	Q2 2021
Signature of the grant agreements	Q4 2021
Start of implementation of the project	Q1 2022

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

Short term indicators:

1. Number of SMEs registered in the portal;
2. Number of NGOs/CSOs registered in the portal;
3. Number of matches/contacts made through the portal;
4. Number of countries covered.

Long term indicators:

1. Number of resulting joint projects/cooperation agreements;
2. Quality of the impact of resulting joint projects/cooperation agreements in terms of sustainability.

2.12. Public procurement of Innovation development

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Public procurers

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Total amount of the action: EUR 4,000,000

Rate of co-financing: 50% of eligible costs

Description of activities: The Commission wishes to develop further the potential of public procurement of innovation across the EU. This is possible if public buyers with practical experience of PPI can pass their knowledge to others with no or limited experience. The action will allow to build an extensive reference base for innovation procurement activities and a network of procurers, which would then be open to newcomers. In addition to the costs associated with the setting up of the workshops and network, participants will receive financial support for their purchases of innovative solutions.

Implementation

Executive Agency

Additional information

- Consortia should include a minimum of two public buyers from two different participating countries;
- Acquisition costs of innovative solutions shall be maximum 70% of total eligible costs;
- The call for proposals is expected to be published in Q3 2021.
- The grants are expected to be signed in Q1 2022;

Indicators

- Number of public procurers involved (both as trainers and trainees), volume of innovative solutions procured, adequacy with Green Deal/Public Health priorities

2.13. Intellectual Property Licensing Intermediaries

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Intermediaries (being themselves start-ups or SMEs) that provide services for the commercialisation of Intellectual Property (IP) assets of SMEs.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Total amount of the action:	EUR 800,000
Rate of co-financing:	50 % of the eligible costs

A feasibility study on a collaboration system for commercialisation of intellectual property in the EU published in November 2019 demonstrated that SMEs are not able to exploit the opportunities IP creates for them inter alia because they cannot find a trusted partner. The study also shows that there is a very limited number of professional intermediary companies able to assist companies finding a partner.

It follows that in order to stimulate the commercialisation of IP held by start-ups and SMEs, we have to invest in the uptake of successful intermediary services. For the purpose of the action IP refers to all intangible assets, including copyright, patent, trade mark, design right, plant variety right, geographic indication and semiconductor topographies, as well as trade secrets

Funded activities:

- The development of new technology (IT & AI) tools to “match” enterprises. This will help identifying successful business models and reduce transaction costs, which are currently substantial. Consequently, it will help developing sustainable businesses for both intermediaries and SME clients.
- The provision of related complementary services to the parties involved (e.g. analysing IP needs and IP offers, creating, maintaining and expanding a network of trusted partners, ensuring knowledge exchange opportunities in a “safe” environment based on standard non-disclosure agreements, etc.). The study showed that simple digital platforms have so far been unsuccessful because of lack of trust between potential business partners. These complementary services will help developing a new way of building the required trust.
- Compiling feedback on the market barriers and challenges (why do licensing negotiations fail and what are the difficulties that intermediaries face?) and identification of good practices (techniques and practices that intermediaries used successfully and reasons for that success). This will help the policy makers to take follow up measures, if necessary.

At least 75% of the matching activities should refer to intangible assets owned by client SMEs relevant for the 14 (industrial) ecosystems identified as priority for the EU policies, such as the Green Deal and Digital Strategy. The participating intermediaries are invited to cooperate with existing SME support structures (especially in relation to IP and research and innovation) when appropriate.

Licensing out of technology is in particular relevant for SMEs that would like to expand in foreign markets. Therefore, the intermediary services will by their nature cover a number of EU Member States and possibly other countries.

Target groups: start-ups and SMEs relying on new business models and technological advances, providing IP licensing services and matchmaking between technology providers and technology users.

Expected results: the development of a number of new IP licensing intermediaries or concepts so that they could increase their visibility on the market and they could increase their business operations.

Implementation

Executive Agency.

Additional information

Essential criteria

- Experience in IP licensing (short but successful) e.g. at least 2 years of personal experience with examples of successful deal(s)
- Knowledge of at least one technology area of priority to the EC/EU
- Being created not earlier than 10 years ago or (if established SME intermediary) the concept being launched not earlier than 7 years ago

Amount of specific grants

Up to 10 grants of up to EUR 200,000

Indicators

- Increase the visibility of such services among the relevant communities (clusters, sector, SME associations etc.) [checked by ex-ante and ex-post surveys - quantitative]
- increase the turnover of the supported start-ups [quantitative]
- minimum turnover in the technology areas of priority to the EC/EU [quantitative]
- refined business models of the support start-ups [qualitative]

Indicative implementation timetable	Month	Year
Publication of the call	Q2	2021
Signature of agreement(s)	Q4	2021

3. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2021 is EUR 18,171,000.

3.1. Access to the Single Market: Your Europe Business

General description of the contracts envisaged

Existing framework contracts and/or low value contracts and/or negotiated procedure: acquiring services for editorial work, online content management and promotion

Communication services (editorial work, promotion) and IT (front end development for the Your Europe website; connections to other Commission websites and databases)

Implementation

DG GROW

Additional information

Your Europe Business

The Your Europe Business portal acts as an enabler for European companies to carry out business across the Union's Single Market. This action aims to further develop and improve content for Your Europe Business, in line with its enhanced role in the future single digital gateway, and to ensure its visibility via promotion.

Further work is needed to enhance the quality of the portal and to match the needs of micro-businesses and SME's in terms of information and assistance linked to cross-border operation in the Single Market. Your Europe links up with national business portals covering country-specific rules and provides access to business support, assistance and problem-solving services (such as Enterprise Europe Network, Your Europe Advice, SOLVIT, EDIH network).

Expected results:

- Companies will get quality online information on doing business in the Single Market adapted to their needs and expectations.
- Synergies with other services, such as the Points of Single Contact, the Enterprise Europe Network, SOLVIT and the EDIH network,, are exploited in the best possible way to improve the overall service offer to businesses.
- The target audience finds the portal more easily.
- The number and loyalty of visitors will further increase.

Indicators for the action:

- Number of visits: increase by 10%
- User satisfaction: above 90%

Indicative timetable: Q2-Q4 2021

Budget for the actions: EUR 550,000

3.2. Support to the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan 2.0 in construction

General description of the contracts envisaged

This call for tender will have three lots. Possible domains to be supported will be agreed with DG ENV. This could include:

- (a) follow to the study on "Circular economy principles for buildings design;
- (b) develop quality assurance and other enabling measures to increase the high-quality recycling of the construction and demolition waste stream;
- (c) assessment of the life-cycle environmental impacts of the EU construction value chain;
- (d) options to enhance the contribution of the construction value chain to climate neutrality objectives.

Implementation

Executive Agency

Additional information

Description of the action and expected results:

The Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) 2.0 adopted on 10 March 2020 foresees a series of actions to promote circularity principles throughout the life cycle of buildings and infrastructure, which will be part of a broader comprehensive new strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment (SBE) planned for Q2-2021.

The action concerns 3 studies that will support the implementation of certain actions of the CEAP 2.0 in the remit of GROW responsibility and the monitoring of the future SBE strategy.

The first study is a follow up to a study already launched in 2020 to identify policy options to promote circular economy principles for buildings design¹¹. The follow-up study will analyse the feasibility of the most relevant policy identified in the ongoing study.

The second study is related to a possible revision of material recovery targets set in EU legislation for construction and demolition waste and its material-specific fractions. In this context, the study will identify measures to strengthen quality assurance for high-quality recycling of the construction and demolition waste stream. It should complement ongoing work of JRC to identify specific material recovery targets.

The third study will provide evidence about the performance of the construction ecosystem with respect to its contribution to energy and climate targets and environmental protection and elaborate a monitoring framework to assess the life-cycle environmental impacts of the construction ecosystem to identify options to enhance its contribution to climate neutrality objectives.

Budget: EUR 450,000 euro (overall for the 3 studies)

Timetable: Launch of the calls for tenders: Q2 2021

Contract signature: Q4 2021

Interim report: Q2 2022

Final report: Q4 2022

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

The 3 studies will primarily contribute to the implementation of the CEAP

¹¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/39984>

2.0 and the future SBE strategy by providing evidence on:

- a) the appropriate level of policy intervention (EU, MS, industry) for specific domains of circular construction;
- b) potential improvement of the environmental performance of the construction ecosystem and of its resilience with respect to climate neutrality objectives.

3.3. Support of the digitalisation of the built environment, public procurement and SMEs in construction

General description of the contracts envisaged

Follow up to previous activities, in particular the implementation of recommendations from the digital building logbook study and the roadmap of the EU BIM Public Clients Group.

Implementation

Executive Agency

Additional information

This contract will carry out the following actions:

1. Actions to support the spread and development of buildings digital logbook: according to the recommendation of the study “EU Framework for Buildings digital Logbook” (ongoing- COSME 2020), we will implement 2 of the recommended actions in order to reinforce the common uptake, spread, operation of digital building logbooks across the Member States. The EC has committed to support digital building logbooks in the new CEAP and the Renovation Wave.
 2. EU BIM Task Group: GROW has been collaborating with the EU BIM Task Group since 2016 to support the uptake of the use of BIM in PP. The EU BIM Task Group has set its strategic and orientation roadmap in order promote the use of BIM under a European Framework and principles such as open standards. GROW will work with the EU BIM Task Group towards the accomplishment of the Objective B- reliable information and guidelines. To accomplish these objectives the following activities have been identified: 1. Develop guidelines for public procurement, 2. Advice the EC on PP, 3. Further develop the EU BIM TG website, 4. BIM Innovation Award.
- Through these workstreams, the aim is to support the digitalisation of the EU Built environment through the support to digital building logbooks, creation of demand for digital technologies in construction through public procurement and support to the sector to overcome barriers to digitalisation.
 - Budget: EUR 750,000 (approximately EUR 150,000 dedicated to BIM)
 - Indicative implementation timetable;
 - Launch of the call: Q4 2021
 - Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action
The success of the development of the above mentioned actions will be assessed based on the level of acceleration of the uptake and the improvement of quality

of building digital logbooks in an homogenous manner across the EU; the numbers of public procurers reached and the number of public tenders in construction requesting the use of BIM.

3.4. Single Digital Gateway

General description of the contracts envisaged

Continuing implementation, running, maintenance and further development of the single digital gateway.

Implementation

DG GROW, DG DIGIT

Additional information

Continuing the implementation of the single digital gateway, the development of a central exchange mechanism (once only) for cross-border procedure use will start in 2021. Further, the translation of the web pages of the Member States will continue. Costs in 2021 will be for:

- cross-border use of documents and data (procurement);
- translation (translation centre contract – as in 2020).

Information and assistance services as well as feedback parts of the gateway will be running as from 12/12/2020.

BUDGET: EUR 1,500,000

The action indicators will be the quality feedback from the users, the number of users, and (by 2023) the successful building of the data exchange for cross-border procedures.

3.5. Monitoring the performance of EU industry and industrial ecosystems

General description of the contracts envisaged

This action consists of a call for tenders for a service contract.

Implementation

Executive Agency

Additional information

Description of the action including expected results:

In line with and in order to support the new industrial strategy¹² and to support the monitoring of its implementation, this action will include tasks related to:

- 1) Analysing EU industry and EU industrial ecosystems, covering all relevant actors,

¹² COM(2020) 102 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0102>

including SMEs, focusing on:

- the difficulties and risks they are facing due to the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis and the investment strategies necessary for the recovery;
 - their needs and opportunities in the context of the green and digital transition and increasing resilience and strategic autonomy.
- 2) Monitoring the performance of EU Industry and EU industrial ecosystems. The monitoring will be underpinned by an analytical framework based on a robust methodology with specific key performance indicators.
 - 3) Support for the Industrial Forum, which was announced in the industrial strategy, including among others:
 - Performing analytical work to understand common challenges and opportunities and across-the-board solutions for all ecosystems;
 - Performing analytical work to support identifying areas for possible cross-border and cross-ecosystems collaboration, in particular with the aim to unlock the potential of new value chains and innovation-driven “locomotives” for the recovery;
 - Secretarial support with onsite and online meetings.
 - 4) Consolidating at least two of the outcomes of the Advanced Technologies for Industry (ATI) project, currently being supported via the service contract GRO-SME-17-C-041 Monitoring Digital Transformation and Key Enabling Technologies (ref.: EASME/COSME/2017/043), namely
 - measuring uptake of technologies by industrial ecosystems as well as the level of industrial modernisation in general and;
 - providing a mapping of Advanced Technology Centres, and of other EU innovation intermediaries, which offer technology services to industrial ecosystem players, including SMEs.

Expected results and qualitative indicators

- 1) Analysis of the EU Industry and its different industrial ecosystems, with the deliverables being reports,
- 2) Analytical framework (including the methodology) for monitoring the performance of ecosystems as well as of EU Industry, with the deliverables being reports as well as data (including key performance indicators) collection and delivery in structured format (where necessary),
- 3) Analytical work and technical/IT assistance to support industrial ecosystems and alliances in support of the Industrial Forum, with the deliverables being reports, organisation of online meetings and delivering minutes of onsite and online meetings.
- 4) Analytical framework (including the methodology) for measuring uptake of technologies by industrial ecosystems as well as the level of industrial modernisation in general and how this fits with the overall framework explained under point 2, with the deliverables being reports as well as data (including key performance indicators) collection and delivery in structured format.

Budget: EUR 1,500,000

Indicative implementation timetable	Month	Year
Publication of the call	Q2	2021
Signature of contract	Q4	2021

3.6. SME Policy

General description of the contracts envisaged

The aim is to select contractors to assist the Commission in supporting the implementation and monitoring of the SME Policy at European and national level with the aim to support the Covid-19 recovering phase.

Different activities need to be performed such as taking stock of the progress achieved, identifying new actions and priorities, promoting the exchange of good practices and outreaching SMEs and relevant stakeholders.

The work would consist of technical assistance/evaluation/communication services and would include in particular the following contracts:

- Calls for tender / specific contract(s) under a framework contract for (technical assistance) to ensure the **SME policy implementation and the follow-up of the SME Strategy**, and for IT tools (SME week, SME definition tool).

Implementation

Executive Agency; DG GROW

Additional information

Description of actions:

- The **SME Policy implementation** will cover the Single Market Forum (SMF) events, the meetings of the SME Envoys network, the SBA National Contact Points (Sherpas to the SME Envoys), the SME Week coordinators, the EEPA Single points of contact and other relevant experts meetings (SPR national experts, late payment directive national experts).
- The **IT tools** (SME Week, SME definition tool) aim at communicating SME policy to SMEs and stakeholders.
- The **follow-up of the SME Strategy** will support SME related actions by providing analysis, platforms, mapping and any other action such as the “Late Payment Observatory” or the entrepreneurship promotion projects needed to support the follow-up of the SME Strategy adopted in March 2020.

Expected results:

- SME policy implementation: increased commitment of MS to implement the SME Policy through the good functioning of the SME Envoys; relevant SME stakeholders involved actively in the events.

- IT tools: increased awareness of EU programmes and initiatives to support SMEs and of the good practices in the area.
- Follow-up of SME Strategy: increased awareness of EU programmes and initiatives and of the good practices in the areas.

Budget requested: EUR 1,435,000

Indicative implementation timetable:

- Q2/3 2021 calls
- Q4 2021-Q1/2022 signature of contracts

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

- SME policy implementation:
 - o Number of participants to the meeting
 - o Timely dissemination of the results
 - o Progress achieved in the implementation of the measures in the SME Policy areas
- IT tools:
 - o Timely production of tools
 - o Impact on target public (number of events, number of visits for websites etc.)
 - o improve the development of the entrepreneurship competence (EntrComp)
- Follow-up of SME Strategy:
 - o Timely dissemination of the results
 - o Effective dissemination of tools and impact on target public

3.7. Enterprise Europe Network animation tasks

General description of the contracts envisaged for IT, communication services, EEN annual conference, training and governance.

To provide the Enterprise Europe Network partners with the necessary tools and support to implement their work programmes. This includes IT hosting, maintenance, development of the IT tools and databases, the intranet and community building tools. It also includes budget needed for communication activities, training and governance, organisation of working groups, steering groups, events etc. Part of this budget will be used to organize the EEN annual conference.

Implementation

Executive Agency

Additional information

The specific objectives of the Network animation tasks include:

- Governing the EEN, in particular by organising the annual conference, Steering

Groups, 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;
- 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;
- Dissemination of information on Commission priorities and actions relevant for SMEs throughout the Network.
- Training and capacity building: implementation of the training plan with special attention for new priority areas (training, capacity building and possibly making assessment tools available to help EEN members provide sustainability, digitalisation and innovation services); such action is to be implemented in complementarity with innovation policy in supporting innovative SMEs in their deployment
- Services to the Network, in particular managing knowledge contents, the forums system, 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. Report on Network achievements and performance indicators on a regular basis as defined in the monitoring and reporting guidelines, using an automated (IT developed) reporting system to avoid administrative burden where possible.

The budget for Network animation may also include the budget needed to facilitate the integration of EEN members in Third Countries (travel and subsistence costs for training, working groups, steering groups, annual conference or sector groups)

It also includes budget to organise the Annual Conference for the Network for about 800 participants, including all practical aspects for the conference (consisting of national meetings, opening session, parallel workshops, closing session, exhibition areas, catering etc).

Expected results:

- EEN members are aware of new Commission priorities and ready to provide relevant services to SMEs, for example on sustainability and digitalisation.
- Reliable and performant IT tools are available to the EEN members to help them implement their activities;
- The visibility of the EEN is increased as a result of the communication activities;
- The annual conference and training activities help EEN staff to increase the skills, knowledge and efficiency.

Budget: EUR 3,000,000, implemented using a variety of contracts or specific contracts using framework contracts.

Indicative implementation timetable :

Specific contracts using framework contracts (IT, communication, rooms,catering, ...): Q2-Q4 2021.

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

For the animation contracts:

- 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 and social media followers

For the annual conference:

- Satisfaction of participants
- Number of participants

3.8. Crisis management and governance in tourism

General description of the contracts envisaged

Mapping the governance structures and processes that managed tourism during the COVID-19 pandemic and the data which was essential for the industry and administrations to navigate through the crisis and to inform possible corrective/remedy measures.

Setting up a pool of experts covering a wide geographic scope to provide support to national/regional/urban administrations, upon request, to help them improve tourism governance, including for crisis management.

Implementation

DG GROW/Executive Agency

Additional information

The action to consist of two elements: (1) Study/analysis to be commissioned to (a) map governance for tourism during the pandemic (including overview of mechanisms activated at different levels, collection of lessons learnt including in the area of effective crisis communication (on the level of destinations, regions, value chains within the tourism ecosystem and individual businesses), providing recommendations for the future, and to (b) map the data (and data sources) essential for the industry and administrations to effectively navigate through a crisis and to inform possible corrective/remedy measures.

(2) Call for tender to set up a pool of experts covering a wide geographic scope that can provide support to national/regional administrations (upon their request) to help them improve tourism governance, resilience and crisis preparedness. The experts will consult and assist the administrations or industry sub-sectors for a limited period of time and based on concrete deliverables.

Budget: EUR 900,000, implemented using several contracts or specific contracts using framework contracts.

3.9. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs – IT support

General description of the contracts envisaged

The application and matching of entrepreneurs within the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is carried out in an IT Tool database. This database was specifically developed for the programme in DG GROW. Due to technology changes the IT tool database has to be redeveloped in 2020 and 2021.

Implementation

DG GROW

Additional information

Erasmus for Young 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. The programme is implemented locally by a network of local organizations, which are being selected on the bases of call for proposals. 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.

The application and matching of entrepreneurs within the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is done in IT Tool database. This database was specifically developed for the programme in DG GROW, and now needs to be further developed and maintained.

This redevelopment and maintenance will be implemented using specific contract(s) with a budget of EUR 384,000.

3.10. Pact for Skills

General description of the contracts envisaged

The action is envisaged to be carried out through a service contract of an estimated duration of 12 months following a call for tenders.

Benchmarking re- and upskilling policies: unemployment increased swiftly in 2020 due to the severe economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, with some sectors and regions more impacted than others. At the same time, skills shortages, gaps and mismatches are increasing. By 2021 onwards, a series of important back to employment and skills related policies rolled out at EU level will start to have visible effect. In the European Union, they will be stemming from the European Skills Agenda adopted in July 2020 in response to the crisis. In the same time, Member States and large corporations have been taking action to re/upskill their workforces and foster investment in training and blended learning solutions in order to adapt to the twin digital and green transition and post-pandemic conditions.

This action aims to look at the implementation of these policies, and benchmark them to

policy initiatives addressing the same goals undertaken by large third countries, such as the United States, UK, Canada, China, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, India and South Africa.

Implementation

Executive Agency

Additional information

Description of action:

The Pact for Skills is a major policy initiative designed by DG GROW and DG EMPL to address the re/upskilling needs of the workforce, which has been launched by the Commission in November 2020. It is proposing as a new engagement and governance model to help meet the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis and of the green and digital transition and deliver on the ambitions of the EU Industrial Strategy and the European Skills Agenda.

This action will be carried out in synergy with the work on this issue of the World Economic Forum (WEF), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). In addition to benchmarking, this action will also identify and promote the most successful policy initiatives, programmes or policy traits, their implementations (especially in key industrial ecosystems and supply chains) and subsequently provide relevant policy recommendations for the EU and its Member States.

The action will be coordinated with the Blueprints for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills for the sectoral part and will have as its background the Pact for Skills. To ensure complementarity and avoid duplication, the action will fully take into account the work of the contractor for the Pact for Skills support services.

The different components of the action will aim to:

- Provide an overview of re/upskilling related policy initiatives for the workforce, with an accent on those involving businesses, in the EU and Member States as well as in the countries/areas mentioned above;
- Describe these initiatives from the industrial ecosystem and supply chains angle as well;
- Provide in-depth analysis of these initiatives, their scopes, stakeholders, financial and funding models, scalability and sustainability, envisaged outcomes, performance indicators and impact;
- Identify the best practices of the most successful actions;
- Test these practices with European stakeholders in sectors of the Blueprints for Sectoral Cooperation for Skills (priority given to the fourteen industrial ecosystems identified in the EU Industrial Strategy);
- Awards for the most successful implementations in order to create a positive feedback loop;

The tasks will include desk research, workshops, consultations with Member States policy makers and European businesses, conferences etc.

Budget: EUR 450,000

Qualitative and quantitative indicators:

- Completeness and depth of the overview of policy initiatives addressing similar goals undertaken by large third countries;
- Completeness and depth of the overview of policy initiatives addressing similar goals undertaken by Member States and at European level
- Comparison of implementation of the above initiatives and benchmarking: size, areas covered, effectiveness in terms of employment impact, trainings rolled out, numbers and size of partners involved etc.

Indicative implementation timetable	Month	Year
Publication of the call	Q3	2021
Signature of contract	Q1	2022

3.11. Fit for Future: Engaging SMEs and Stakeholders on policy design and implementation/strengthening of the Better Regulation Agenda

General description

The Commission’s policy on better regulation guides the overall burden reduction and simplification efforts under the regulatory fitness and performance (‘REFIT’) programme. To support the REFIT programme, a REFIT Platform was established by Commission Decision C(2015) 3261 of 19 May 2015 to support the Commission in those efforts to improve legislation. That Decision applied until 31 October 2019.

Tasked by President Von der Leyen to continue the work of the Platform, Vice-President Šefčovič will chair a new high-level group. The Fit for Future Platform will advise the Commission on how to simplify and reduce burden stemming from existing EU legislation and make the EU legislation fit for future. In particular, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) would benefit from reducing red tape, easing their access to the market and enabling them to make the most of digitalisation. The SME Envoy Network has the role of promoting the interests of small and medium-sized enterprises in this context.

Contracts include those for studies, technical assistance, IT and communication.

Implementation

Secretariat General

Additional information

The actions include:

Platform Meetings - SMEs, Member States and Commission dialogues aimed at identifying potential for cutting red tape. Face to face meetings will be reduced to the minimum but preparatory and plenary meetings will be carried out in Brussels to adopt the opinions of the Platform. In addition, sub-groups of participants will have to meet in

Brussels to prepare these opinions. Participation of external experts will be required.

Studies to support the Platform - Studies to support and report on the platform work.

Platform web presence & publications - A new web page will include all activities of the Platform, videos explain its work and a more dynamic and self-explanatory interface to ease the contribution of citizens and businesses and increase their participation.

Fit for Future IT collaborative tool - The tool will allow effective and efficient collaboration among the Platform's members, with the Secretariat and Commission departments and it will be a common repository of documents. Lighten the Load site will need adaptations to conform to the new way of working of the F4F Platform. This is a site where citizens and businesses can voice their concern regarding burdensome EU legislation.

"One in - One out" IT tool - To develop a tool allowing the Commission to track the administrative burdens in the Member States of the new legislation in order to quantify their impact on businesses and citizens implementing them. The 'One In, One Out' tool will streamline the collection and reporting on administrative costs.

Better Regulation Portal - The Better Regulation Portal (BRP) allows SMEs, business and citizens to contribute at an early stage to the decision-making process of new EU policies and reshape existing legislation. This is in line with one of the main objectives of the Single Market Programme (SMP), namely to increase effectiveness of the Single Market by boosting cooperation between stakeholders. BRP empowers individuals and business to have a say on EU legislation that underpins the functioning of the internal market.

Fit for Future communication - Campaign to promote consultations, feedback possibilities and success stories on regulatory topics. communication actions will better target key audiences such as SMEs and tailor messages according to the interests and communication preferences. Actively inform about the available tools and policies enabling citizens, SMEs and other stakeholders to contribute, notably the 'Have Your Say' portal and the better regulation agenda.

- Budget EUR 752,000 (using specific contracts under framework contracts or low value procurement)

Action	Amount (EUR)
- Fit for Future Platform	150,000
- Support action for platform	110,000
- IT and Digital working tools	247,000
- Fit for Future communication	245,000

- Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

- Fit for Future Platform:
 - Timely set up of the Platform including its rules of procedure
 - Timely delivery of the annual work programme
 - Number of plenary sessions, subgroup and preparatory meetings
 - Number of opinions adopted
- IT and Digital working tools
 - timely development of the tools
 - percentage of impact assessments using the tool
- - Annual Burden Survey
 - REFIT Scoreboard

- impact on target public (number of impacts, number of visits for websites etc.)
 - timely publication of factual summary report
 - Satisfaction survey on the possibilities to contribute to better law making?
-
- Timely production of tools , Effective use and dissemination of tools
- Communication:
- Development and maintenance of web sites.
 - Timely dissemination of communication materials
 - Effective dissemination and impact on target public

3.12. Supporting actions

General description of the contracts envisaged

Sectoral studies and reports, analytical work, studies analysing cross-sectoral issues and policy areas affecting European competitiveness. Impact assessments and ex-post evaluations will assess policy actions.

Conferences, workshops and expert meetings will be organised with participation of various stakeholders (national authorities, consumer organisations, SMEs representatives, non-governmental organisations, etc.) to discuss challenges facing the access to single market, and the resilience, green and digital transformation of SMEs. Particular attention will be devoted to recommendations on how to better address SMEs needs, how to support socially inclusive business models, how to support re/upskilling of the workforce and how to further foster European competitiveness. Information actions will be carried out.

The promotion, technical support and hosting of integrated and user-friendly online systems that provide information on programmes relevant for SMEs whilst ensuring that they do not duplicate existing portals.

Implementation

DG GROW, DG DIGIT, Executive Agency

Additional information

The studies covering the policy priorities outlined in the Single Market Strategy should lead to an enhanced understanding of European entrepreneurship and competitiveness, and should enable the Union to identify the main trends.

Furthermore, studies will combine analytical work of high academic standard with a policy outlook for the medium term. They will provide the analytical basis for the debate on economic reforms and the Europe 2020 agenda. Other studies will analyse cross-sectoral issues and policy areas affecting European competitiveness.

Impact assessments will focus on the analysis of possible reviews of existing legislation and impacts they might have on competitiveness and in particular on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Recommendations for possible new legislative proposals will be assessed as well, taking into account their economic and societal added value.

Ex-post evaluations will assess Union policy actions, in particular their overall economic impact, efficiency and effectiveness as well as their impact on reducing obstacles in the market.

Conferences, workshops and expert meetings will be organised with participation of various stakeholders (national authorities, consumer organisations, SMEs representatives,

non-governmental organisations, etc.) to discuss challenges facing the access to single market.

Technical support and hosting activities will also be included.

Budget: EUR 6,500,000

4. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

4.1. European Union Chemicals Legislation Finder (EUCLEF)

Implementing entity

The action is implemented by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) via a Contribution Agreement. ECHA develops and maintains the EUCLEF database according to the Contribution Agreement concluded with the Commission, represented by DG GROW. To perform these tasks, ECHA receives a budget via a Transfer of funds agreement.

Description

The objective pursued by the 'EU chemical legislation finder' is to improve the business environment for companies and EU SMEs in particular with regard to access to information on several pieces of the EU legislation applicable to a given chemical substance.

A given chemical substance can be subject to several EU legislations pursuing different objectives (REACH, biocides, pesticides, cosmetics, fertilisers, drug precursors, etc). This information is however not accessible from one single entry point. This renders the access to information burdensome and costly, in particular for SMEs that have to deal with chemical substances as producers or downstream users. The creation of an EU chemical legislation finder addresses this issue.

Considering that compliance with EU legislations is often mandatory in order to sell and distribute substances, this initiative can facilitate access to markets for SMEs.

Expected results:

What are the achievements in terms of policy?

This will contribute to the creation of a better business environment for companies whose access to information will be greatly facilitated. There will be also positive consequences for EU and national administrations since this tool can also be used to verify to which extent a given substance is already regulated. This is in line with the principles of Better Regulation.

What will be the impact on SMEs?

The project will allow SME to reduce regulatory and compliance costs since access to information on a given substance will be possible without the recourse to costly services provided by commercial organisations.

Are there concrete deliverables?

The outcome of the project is:

- The implementation and maintenance of the first version of the tool as rolled out in March 2020 where companies are able to identify their EU legal obligations for a given substance. This is at no charge for SMEs.
- An additional helpdesk providing users support and advice on concrete questions concerning the pieces of legislation covered by the tool, scheduled for implementation in 2020.
- Integration of further pieces of legislation not yet covered by the current Contribution Agreement (in 2021).

When will they be available?

The first version of the portal was launched in Q1 2020 (2019 Budget);

The helpdesk and second version of the portal are planned in Q4 2020 (2020 Budget);

The integration of additional pieces of legislation is scheduled for 2021.

Where (internet address) will they be available?

The web service is available via ECHA's website: <https://echa.europa.eu/legislation-finder>

Budget: EUR 1,080,000

There is one procurement action.

Indicative implementation timetable:

- Signature of the Transfer of funds agreement: Q4 2021.
- 95% of the requested sum is provided as pre-financing.
- Tasks need to be completed within 18 months from the transfer of funds.
- A final financial report is expected early 2022 and may lead to the recovery of any unspent part of the 2021 allocation.

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

- Number of unique users
- Number of page views
- Yearly satisfaction survey

4.2. European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials (EUON)

Implementing entity

The action is to be implemented by ECHA via a Contribution agreement^(*). ECHA currently operates the EUON based on a Delegation Agreement concluded with the Commission, represented by DG GROW. Every year, a Transfer of funds agreement needs to be signed for the EUON tasks that ECHA needs to complete within 18 months from the transfer of funds (Article 4 of the Delegation Agreement). This arrangement should continue with a new Contribution agreement to be signed in 2021.

() NB: New Financial Regulation: Delegation agreement = Contribution agreement.*

Description

Specific objective:

The European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials provides businesses, SMEs, workers and consumers with relevant information concerning nanomaterials on the market by collecting data from both existing sources and new market studies. It contributes to improving framework conditions for the competitiveness and sustainability of EU businesses as follows:

- Nanotechnology is a recognised Key Enabling Technology (KET) and its applications will be increasingly essential for the competitiveness of a wide range of EU products in the global market. Therefore, it is important to ensure confidence in the application of the technology among users, consumers and the general public. Confidence can be improved by providing transparency of information concerning nanomaterials on the market. This is crucial in order to create an environment favourable to the growth of the nanotechnology field. In turn, the growing use of nanotechnology can unlock potential innovations, thereby contributing to the competitiveness of EU businesses across sectors.

- Furthermore, publicly available information on nanomaterials on the market can help businesses identify market trends across Europe. This will enhance market access for companies, in particular SMEs.
- In addition, the European Union Observatory on Nanomaterials constitutes an industry-friendly alternative (particularly for SMEs) compared to other legislative measures to increase transparency, which would introduce burdensome reporting obligations to industry.

Expected results:

What are the achievements in terms of policy?

- Increased transparency on the various nanomaterials on the market;
- Increased confidence in the use of nanomaterials in products;

What will be the impact on SMEs?

- An increased amount of information on nanomaterials will become available to industry, in general, and to SMEs, in particular.

Are there concrete deliverables?

- Pursuant to the Delegation Agreement, the work plan for 2022 will be discussed with the involved COM services. The deliverables will be in line with deliverables in previous years. An increased availability of data from registrations of nanomaterials in the ECHA database is expected.

When will they be available?

- The EUON platform is operational since several years. New results will become gradually available throughout the implementation period, ending on 1/7/2023.

Where (internet address) will they be available?

- On the ECHA website at <https://euon.echa.europa.eu>

Budget: EUR 600,000

There is one procurement action.

Indicative implementation timetable: 1/1/2022 – 1/7/2023

- Signature of the Transfer of funds agreement: Q4 2021.
- Full requested sum (EUR 600,000) is provided as pre-financing.
- Tasks need to be completed within 18 months from the transfer of funds.
- A final financial report is expected early 2024 and may lead to the recovery of any unspent part of the 2021 allocation.

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

- Maintenance and improvement of the European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials
- Publication of information clearly going beyond currently available tools
- Efficient system for the evaluation of information
- Clarity and user-friendliness of websites and information for workers and consumers
- Number of hits of the website

5. OTHER ACTIONS OR EXPENDITURE

5.1. Administrative arrangement

5.1.1. *SME Policy –(1) SME Performance Review & (2) Late Payment: Assessing the impacts of faster payments*

Amount

EUR 350,000

Description

Administrative arrangements with Joint Research Centre (JRC) to provide scientific support in the assessment of the performance of the EU countries in implementing the SME Policy areas and in drafting the SME Performance Review (SPR) Reports and country sheets. This could include a set of indicators to assess the SME Policy and any other data/analysis to be used as a basis for the SPR Reports and country sheets.

In addition, JRC will provide support to improve the enforcement of the Late Payment (set-up of the late payment observatory, additional data on costs and benefits). JRC performs the data quality controls (including missing data), normalization and weightings ensuring also the statistical coherence.

Expected results: Improved knowledge and understanding of the situation of SMEs at EU and national level to feed the SME-related parts in the European Semester exercise.

Support the set-up of the late payment observatory, additional data on impacts of late payment and on cost and benefits of faster payments.

Indicative implementation timetable:

Signature of agreement: Q2-Q3/2021

Qualitative and quantitative indicators:

Indicators/data/analysis provided in time to publish as planned the SME Performance Review reports and country sheets.

To assist set-up of the late payment observatory, and provide additional data on inputs.

5.1.2. *European Resource Efficiency Knowledge centre*

Amount

EUR 400,000

Description

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Undertake the management and operation of the Knowledge Base and the Database of the European Resource Efficiency Knowledge Centre – EREK 2) Further development and improvement of the EREK Knowledge Base and the Database 3) Synergies and coordination:
The contractor will be a Board member of EREK to ensure coordination of EREK activities and synergies with events, in particular capacity building events, organised by EEN and the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform ‘EU Circular Tasks’ or others. 4) Hand-over: Prepare at the end of the contractual period a hand-over file to ensure the smooth transition of the Knowledge Base, Database, and Tool. Website copyright and other ownership rights belong to the European Union |
|--|

5.2. Remunerated experts;reimbursement of experts

Amount

EUR 700,000

Description

<p>Remunerated experts: to provide expertise in the evaluation of larger calls for proposals, and for which no separate budget is foreseen.</p> <p>Reimbursement of experts: support to the conferences and expert meetings (including European Business Organisation meetings; meetings and conferences, dialogue with stakeholders).</p>
--

6. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Multiannual calls - 2021 Work Programme

TITLE	Action Ref.	Indicative date of publication	Indicative amount
Enterprise Europe Network	2.1	Q2/2021	47,000,000
Joint Cluster Initiative	2.2	Q3/2021	14,000,000
Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	2.9	Q4/2021	10,000,000

The above breakdown is indicative; therefore budget transfer between priorities, under the same budget line, is allowed (provided it is announced in the call for proposals)

Budget line	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total commitment appropriations 2021-2024
030202					
Action 2.1	47,000,000	47,000,000	47,000,000	23,500,000	164,500,000
Action 2.2	14,000,000	9,000,000	16,000,000	3,000,000	42,000,000
Action 2.9	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	40,000,000

List of Projects

REF	TITLE	BUDGET
GRANTS - SECTION 2		
2.1	Enterprise Europe Network - grants	47.000.000
2.2	Joint Cluster Initiatives	14.000.000
2.3	Social Economy and Local Green Deals supporting SMEs	4.000.000
2.4	Affordable Housing Initiative	1.200.000
2.5	SME friendly training for Central Purchasing Bodies	2.000.000
2.6	COVID-19 Recovery-Sustainable growth in tourism–support to SMEs	10.350.000
2.7	Improving socio-economic knowledge of the EU tourism ecosystem	450.000
2.8	Promoting trans European tourism products in third countries	1.500.000
2.9	Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	10.000.000
2.10	SME Centre in China	2.400.000
2.11	Sustainability partnerships platform	400.000
2.12	Public Procurement of Innovation	4.000.000
2.13	IP Licensing Intermediaries	800.000
PROCUREMENT - SECTION 3		
3.1	Access to the Single Market: Your Europe	550.000
3.2	Circular economy action plan (Construction)	450.000
3.3	Digitalisation of the built environment	750.000
3.4	Single Digital Gateway	1.500.000
3.5	Monitoring performance of EU industry and industrial ecosystems	1.500.000
3.6	SME Strategy and SME policy follow-up actions	1.435.000
3.7	Enterprise Europe Network (animation)	3.000.000
3.8	Crisis management and governance in tourism	900.000
3.9	Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (procurement for IT tool)	384.000
3.10	Pact for Skills 2021-2022	450.000
3.11	Fit for Future: BR agenda	752.000
3.12	Supporting actions	6.500.000
INDIRECT MANAGEMENT - SECTION 4		
4.1	EUCLEF (chemicals legislation finder)	1.080.000
4.2	EUON (observatory nanomaterials)	600.000

OTHER ACTIONS - SECTION 5

5.1.1	SME Performance Report & SME Strategy - Late Payments	350.000
5.1.2	European Resource Efficiency Centre	400.000
5.2	Experts and meeting support	700.000

TOTAL 119.401.000

Eligibility criteria and Selection and award criteria for grants

Eligibility criteria

Applicant organisations must be established:

- in Union Member States;
- or in countries participating in the programme under Article x of Regulation (EU) No xxxxxxxx.

Specific eligibility criteria may be set out in the call for proposals or invitation.

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. Indicatively, 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.