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ANNEX 2

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

on the financing of the Programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed and European Statistics and the adoption of the work programme for 2022

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	6
2.3. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	6
2.4. Enterprise Europe Network – annual conference	7
2.5. EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation	8
2.6. Business Planet	11
2.7. Sustainable growth and building resilience in tourism – empowering SMEs to carry out the twin transition	13
2.8. Promoting trans-European tourism products in third countries	14
2.9. SME policy-Analysis related to scale-up enterprises	15
2.10. Greening SMEs in the proximity and social economy ecosystem through transnational co-operation	16
3. Procurement	18
3.1. Access to the Single Market: Your Europe Business	18
3.2. SME Policy	19
3.2.1. Supporting the enforcement of the Late Payment Directive	19
3.2.2. SME Policy: Outreach (SME Assembly/Single Market Forum, IT tools)	19
3.2.3. SME Performance Review-studies	20
3.3. European Construction Sector Observatory	21
3.4. International Intellectual Property SME Helpdesks	22
3.5. Pact for Skills	24
3.6. Enterprise Europe Network – animation	25
3.7. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs – Support office and IT support	27
3.8. Fostering innovative, smart and inclusive solutions in tourism SMEs through the European Capital of Smart Tourism and European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN) awards	28
3.9. European portal to provide integrated support for tourism SMEs and stakeholders	30
3.10. Renewal of the 100 Intelligent Cities Challenge initiative	31
3.11. Socially responsible public procurement	32
3.12. Improving the socio-economic knowledge of the proximity and social economy ecosystem	34

3.13.	Fit for Future: Engaging SMEs and Stakeholders on policy design and implementation/strengthening of the Better Regulation Agenda	37
3.14.	Setting up of a Big Public Buyers collaboration network for strategic public procurement.....	39
3.15.	Supporting actions	41
4.	Actions implemented in indirect management.....	43
4.1.	European Union Chemicals Legislation Finder (EUCLEF)	43
4.2.	European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials (EUON)	44
5.	Other actions or expenditure	46
5.1.	Administrative arrangement	46
5.1.1.	SME Policy - SME Performance Review	46
5.1.2.	Social Economy Canvas – follow-up	46
5.2.	Remunerated experts; reimbursement of experts	47
6.	Supplementary information	48

ANNEX II

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

1. INTRODUCTION

In its second work programme, the SME pillar of the Single Market Programme continues implementing the SME strategy in the context of industrial ecosystems and the SME components of the updated Industrial Strategy, with a strong focus on supporting SMEs' recovery and the green and digital transition while helping them achieve success in an increasingly competitive and fast moving environment. The work programme sets out actions in all objective areas of the SME pillar: facilitating access to markets, fostering entrepreneurship and the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills, and promoting the modernisation of industry and addressing global and societal challenges.

The SME pillar 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 EU. The SME pillar actions aim at fostering entrepreneurship and access to skills, in particular technological, entrepreneurial and managerial skills and mentoring schemes for SMEs, such as Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs.

The policy objectives will also be addressed through facilitating access and communicating information on 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.

The pillar will provide effective support for SMEs throughout their life-cycle, notably through 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. Clusters are a strategic tool for supporting the competitiveness and scaling-up of SMEs as they offer favourable and resilient business environments facilitating the green and digital transition. The Joint Cluster Initiative seeks to connect specialised industrial ecosystems, creating new business opportunities for SMEs and integrating them better in European and global strategic value chains.

The 2021 work programme introduced multiannual calls, allowing larger budgets and longer duration to be combined. This alleviates some of the administrative burden and ensures that the flagship actions are funded in an efficient way. The calls for the Enterprise Europe Network, the Joint Cluster Initiative, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs and the Intellectual Property voucher for post-COVID-19 recovery and green and digital transitions were included in the 2021 work programme. The budget contributions for these calls are included in the 2022 work programme as foreseen.

The 2022 projects combine projects appreciated for their pragmatic assistance to SMEs as well as those providing tailored help due to the COVID-19 consequences. It also renews the funding for the IP helpdesks, the European Construction Sector Observatory, and extends the contract for the Intelligent Cities challenge.

¹ [EUR-Lex - 32021R0523 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

The programme contributes to the objectives of the Commission's Gender Equality Strategy, such as empowering women to thrive as entrepreneurs, via the Women Entrepreneurship portal WEgate.

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 Regulation (EU) 2021/690².

On the basis of the objectives given in the Article 3(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2021/690, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for years 2022-25 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) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 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) 2021/690 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

² [EUR-Lex - 32021R0690 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

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 2022 is EUR 104 950 000.

The actions (2.1, 2.2 and 2.3) were adopted in annex 2 of the previous (2021) work programme³ and are included here for information purposes only. The multiannual instalment for 2022 for these three actions is included in the total budget allocation for 2022.

2.1. Enterprise Europe Network⁴

Budget

Indicative total amount call for proposals (2022 appropriations only): EUR 47 000 000

2.2. Joint Cluster Initiatives (EUROCLUSTERS) for Europe's recovery⁵

Budget

Indicative total amount (2022 appropriations only): EUR 9 000 000

Table of multiannual commitment budget for this action (corrigendum)

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Budget EUR	16 800 000	9 000 000	13 200 000	3 000 000	42 000 000

2.3. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

Budget

Indicative total amount (2022 appropriations only): EUR 10 000 000

Table of multiannual commitment budget for this action (corrigendum)

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL
BUDGET EUR	10 700 000	10 000 000	5 000 000	9 300 000	5 000 000	40 000 000

³ [Commission Implementing Decision of 6 May 2021 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 | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁴ [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁵ [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](#)

2.4. Enterprise Europe Network – annual conference

Type of applicants targeted by the grant awarded without a call for proposals

An ad-hoc grant will be awarded without an open call for proposals under Article 195(c) of the Financial Regulation to the government (or its representative) of the country that will hold the 2022 EEN annual conference to cover part of the tasks related to the organisation of the event. The host country holds the EU Council Presidency in the second half of the year 2022 (Czech Republic).

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

Description of activities:

The Enterprise Europe Network provides business support services to SMEs and startups 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 SMP and Horizon Europe programmes as well as internationalisation services beyond the Single Market and informs SMEs on access to finance and funding opportunities, including those under the European Structural and Investment Funds. 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 and updated Industrial Strategy. 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, the updated Industrial Strategy and the Small Business Act.

Each year, the Commission (usually with the rotating Presidency of the European Union) organises a conference with up to 800 participants to link together EU Institutions with SME support organisations on the ground and to allow EEN members to network and exchange knowledge, know-how and useful contacts. For the year 2022, the aim is to organise an hybrid Annual Conference for the Network with strong presence onsite (possibly up to 800 people) and the possibility to connect the rest of the Network members and other relevant stakeholders virtually through a dedicated conferencing platform.

The budget is needed for all practical aspects of the conference (logistics of physical and virtual meetings, opening session, parallel workshops, closing session, catering etc.).

The expected results are:

- Increased networking between EEN partners to improve access to knowledge and know-how;
- Increased number of SMEs linked with other entities across Europe and beyond through EEN members;
- Increased cross-border business cooperation, technology and knowledge transfer and technology and innovation partnership opportunities;
- Increased number of stakeholders aware of SME challenges and opportunities, and particularly of the benefits of using EEN services;
- Better understanding from European SME support organizations of EU legislation and of opportunities offered by EU programmes and financial instruments;
- Better visibility of the EEN by promoting success stories;

- Increased synergies with other networks and programmes such as the clusters network, European Digital Innovation Hubs, National Contact Points of Horizon Europe, and the European Innovation Council;
- Better knowledge in EU institutions of SMEs feedback, difficulties and expectations.

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

- Number of participants onsite and online;
- Number of sessions and workshops organised;
- Satisfaction rate of virtual and physical participants.

Implementation

EISMEA

Additional information

- Total amount of the action: EUR 150 000
- Rate of co-financing: Up to 90 %
- Indicative implementation timetable: signature of the grant agreement: Q2/2022

2.5. EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Action grant directly awarded according to Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation and Article 4 of the Council Decision 92/278/EEC⁶ due to the competence and specialised nature of the Centre as well as its expertise in Japan.

The Centre is a joint venture established in 1987, funded and managed by both the European Commission (DG GROW) and the Japanese Government (METI). It has its head office in Tokyo and an office in Brussels.

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

Total amount of the action: EUR 7 000 000

Rate of co-financing: up to 90%.

Description of activities:

The Centres activities will build on previous actions and develop new ones.

Regarding continuity:

- EPA, SPA and Connectivity Partnership: The Centre will continue to proceed and be in line with these 3 main EU-Japan Agreements, to which the recent EU-Japan Green Alliance will be added as well as the expected EU-Japan Digital Partnership. It will also continue to be in line with the priorities of DG GROW policy notably in terms of (i) industry strategy, (ii) industrial ecosystems, (iii) SME internationalisation, and (iv)

⁶ Council Decision 92/278/EEC of 18 May 1992 confirming the consolidation of the EC-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation (OJ L 144, 26.5.1992, p. 19).

international value chains.

- Economic diplomacy: the Centre will continue providing a coherent ‘package’ integrating various tools, support and services as it is actually the coherence, complementarity and synergies of multiple actions and supports that constitute on the ground ‘EU economic diplomacy’ and ensure the effectiveness and success of the overall support provided to SMEs for accessing Japan’s market.
- Trust: Although this is an intangible added value, the ‘trust’ that has been built by the Centre over three decades of cooperation with Japan is crucial for doing business, mobilising relevant stakeholders and delivering results in this country more than others.

Regarding change and evolution of the Centre’s activities, they correspond to three main business and policy trends, with focus on the green transition and digital transformation:

- EU-Japan business cooperation in third countries, where by Japan is, beyond its own market, increasingly considered by European businesses as a hub to access third markets, by partnering with Japanese businesses.
- Joint actions with the Member States Trade Promotions Organisations in a ‘Team Europe’ mindset for co-organising better business missions with an integrated approach with strong institutional, political and business ties, including with industrial clusters. The Centre will continue to make full use and to interact closely with European networks and actions such as the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP), European Business Organisations World Wide Network, Horizon Europe projects and EIC.
- Digitalisation of the business support to help SME internationalisation, providing opportunities to more EU SMEs, for internationalising in a cheaper, faster, greener, more global and flexible ways, and delivering higher productivity compared to the ‘usual’ physical practice.

The following table summarises the Centre’s activities, including the new ones:

Training and business culture	Japanese business culture and practices	2-week ‘Get Ready for Japan’ scheme in Tokyo https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/get-ready-for-japan-training-programme
	Cross cultural and market access workshops	Half-a-day cross-cultural workshops in the Union to introduce European companies to the basic principles of Japanese business culture. Done in cooperation with local members of EEN https://www.eu-japan.eu/tags/cross-cultural-workshop
	Japanese manufacturing expertise	5-day World Class Manufacturing training mission in Japan https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/world-class-manufacturing Lean management in Europe with in-depth one-day visits to world class European plants https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/lean-visits-europe
	Industrial internship in Japan	One-year Vulcanus programme in Japan https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/vulcanus-europe (companies) https://www.eu-japan.eu/ja/VIE-outline (students)
	Industrial internship in Europe	One-year Vulcanus programme in Europe https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/host-european-trainee-japan (companies) https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/vulcanus-japan (students)
Business services	How to benefit from the EU-Japan EPA	The EPA Helpdesk supports and guides Union SMEs in their search for relevant information. https://www.eu-japan.eu/epa-helpdesk
	Opportunities in Japanese public procurement	The Tax & Public Procurement Helpdesk provides a wide range of services in the areas of public procurement and tax issues in Japan https://www.eu-japan.eu/government-procurement

	Technology transfer and IP	The EU-Japan Technology Transfer Helpdesk supports Union and Japanese companies and individuals in their steps to search for and acquire technologies. http://www.eu-jp-tthelpdesk.eu/ . A new mobility scheme put in place for managers of EU industrial clusters to work in Japan in view of reinforcing existing or building new EU-Japan cluster cooperation.
	Cluster/Regions/Cities Cooperation	The EU-Japan regional cooperation Helpdesk promotes cooperation at the local level of industrial clusters, regions, prefectures and cities through best practices and matchmaking www.ejrc-helpdesk.eu
	EU-Japan business cooperation in third countries	A new helpdesk will be set up to promote EU-Japan business cooperation in third countries, notably, ASEAN, Africa and Latin America. Focus will be on guiding European SMEs finding the Japanese business partners for joint operations in third countries
	Business partnering in /with Japan	The Centre is the contact point in Japan of the Enterprise Europe Network. https://www.een-japan.eu/ and closely coordinates with ECCP and EIC to inform and mobilise EU SMEs. The Centre will also develop interaction with EEN members in third countries, notably ASEAN, Africa and Latin America with a view to promoting EU-Japan business cooperation in these third markets.
	Temporary office in Japan	"Step in Japan" is a support initiative for SMEs, offered free of charge. https://www.eu-japan.eu/logistical-support-step-japan
	Professional business plan	"Keys to Japan" offers a personalized market entry business plan https://www.eu-japan.eu/market-entry-business-plan-support-keys-japan
	SME partnering / matchmaking	Cluster support 3-5 days missions are organised every year in Japan for Union Clusters and SMEs in biotech, ICT and nanotech. Include market-specific business seminars, one-on-one meetings at a targeted trade fair. https://www.eu-japan.eu/business-missions-japan
		Joint actions with the Member States Trade Promotions Organisations for co-organising business missions to Japan an integrated 'team Europe' approach with strong institutional, political and business ties, including with industrial clusters. This action will build on the regular meeting and coordination organised by the Centre with all Member States TPOs in Japan
		SME partnering will also include the new dimension of EU-Japan business cooperation in third countries by organising business matchmaking such as the one initiated for EU-Japan business cooperation in Africa https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/b2b-matchmaking-eu-smes-third-japan-africa-business-forum
Business Information and Dialogue	Intelligence on markets and opportunities in Japan	The Union business in Japan project offers information and reports on a wide range of Japanese business sectors https://www.eubusinessinjapan.eu/
	EU and Japan policies seminars	The Centre's seminars and workshops both in Europe and Japan cover a wide range of issues including climate change, environment, energy, industry, SMEs, food safety... https://www.eu-japan.eu/policy-seminars
	6-month in-house research theme in Japan	"Minerva" is a 6-month in-house fellowship scheme in Japan, designed to support research and policy analysis of EU-Japan economic and industrial issues. https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/minerva-fellowship-programme
	EU-Japan Business Round Table	EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT) fosters communication between the Japanese and European industries, and submits recommendations to the Japanese and European authorities https://www.eu-japan-brt.eu/
Innovation cooperation	R&D partners in Japan	The Centre is the National Contact Point in Japan for the Union programme "Horizon Europe" to promote research cooperation and support participation from Japanese organisations in Horizon Europe. https://www.ncp-japan.jp/
	Space cooperation	Space Japan focuses on certain cooperation sectors such as Earth Observation https://www.eu-japan.eu/spacejapan

	Satellite navigation	Global Navigation Satellite systems (GNSS) https://japan.gnss.asia/
Communication	Newsletters	The Centre produces 5 newsletters https://www.eu-japan.eu/newsletter https://www.eu-japan.eu/news
	Social networks	Twitter: @EUJapanCentre Philippe de Taxis du Poët, General Manager: @PhilippePoet Facebook: EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation Linkedin : EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation Youtube : EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation
Expected results of the action: Improved information and services to SMEs.		

Implementation

Implemented by EISMEA

Additional information

Specific objective:

Promote all forms of industrial, trade and investment cooperation between the Union and Japan, facilitate SMEs market access both ways and look for business opportunities.

Indicative implementation timetable:

From 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2024.

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

- Utilisation of the EPA by European SMEs, and access of European businesses, in particular SMEs, to the Japanese market;
- EU-Japan business cooperation / alliance / partnership in third markets, notably ASEAN Africa and Latin America;
- Intelligence on the challenges and opportunities in Japan;
- Cooperation with the Member States' Trade Promotion Organisations and Japanese stakeholders; mobilisation of the relevant Union programmes and instruments;
- Number of seminars organised and attendance; Number of enquiries addressed to the Centre and satisfactory replies provided; Number of participants in Vulcanus and their level of competence.

2.6. Business Planet

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Specific grant agreement under the framework partnership agreement FPA 2021 -FP-00010974 (2021-24) concluded between the Commission and Euronews.

Description of the activities to be funded by the specific grant directly awarded under a framework partnership

Preparation of a series of short broadcasting emissions under the “Business Planet” magazine programme developed and broadcast by Euronews. Euronews, in co-operation with DG GROW, produces an agreed number of episodes, each of around 4 minutes. The content is broadcast on Euronews, translated into 13 languages as well as promoted via various social media channels.

The action aims at increasing awareness of EU programmes, initiatives and funding tools to support SMEs. The magazine promotes and informs viewers about relevant EU SME-related policies and funding support tools and how they are implemented by businesses around Europe.

If possible, the topics of the episodes should be aligned with the topics of DG GROW’s promotional campaigns for EU support tools to SMEs (including promotion of YEB, EEN, IPR, Access2Finance, Access2Markets, Erasmus for young entrepreneurs, Cassini, digital transition tools, European Innovation Council, skills, public procurement, R&I support, Start-up Europe initiative, European Cluster Collaboration platform and many more.)

DG GROW aims at reaching the large number of viewers of Euronews, improving our reach and boosting the interest in GROW policies.

At the same time, DG GROW aims at increasing the number of visits to the Your Europe Business website (reach indicator), and at an increased use of GROW support tools by SMEs (impact indicator).

Business Planet magazine will contribute to a better informed public and to the creating of a general positive attitude towards EU policies.

Implementation

DG GROW

Additional information

BUDGET: EUR 600 000

Rate of co-financing: up to 95%

Indicative implementation timetable: award Q2/2022

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

- Number of episodes produced
- Variety of topics covered (tbd)
- Geographical balance of episodes filmed
- Views of broadcast material on TV
- Social media reach

2.7. Sustainable growth and building resilience in tourism – empowering SMEs to carry out the twin transition

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, data collecting and managing bodies, 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

This call for proposals will be part of the overall COVID-19 recovery strategy for a sustainable tourism ecosystem and in particular aim at equipping and empowering SMEs in their twin transition efforts in line with the Tourism Transition Pathway (under the Industrial Strategy Update (COM(2021)350 final)).

The action aims to guide the forward-looking 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 and B2B matchmaking.

Expected results

1. enhanced resilience and competitiveness of tourism SMEs through better uptake of sustainability principles (including by making use of existing tools such as the EU Ecolabel for tourist accommodation services), innovation, digital tools and data and through improved capacity to consider, assess and follow the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of tourism services and activities;
2. new business models in tourism building on digitalisation, new technologies, sustainability, circularity, authentic and cultural experiences, and engagement of local communities;
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 developing and sharing best practices for recovery investments with long-term effects for green and digital transition.

Implementation

EISMEA

Additional information

- **Total amount of the action:** EUR 20 500 000
- **Rate of co-financing:** The maximum 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

- **Indicative implementation timetable:** Publication of the call: Q2/2022; Signature of agreements: Q1/2023
- **Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:**
 - Number of countries participating in transnational cooperation projects;
 - Number of SMEs directly supported;
 - The diversity of support actions organised.

2.8. Promoting trans-European tourism products in third countries⁷

Type of applicants targeted by direct award

An ad hoc grant will be awarded to the the European Travel Commission (ETC) under article 195(f) of the financial regulation. 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. It is the only organisation mandated by these countries for promoting Europe as a tourist destination in non-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

The overall objective of the grant is to contribute to: (i) rebuild the image of Europe as a safe and secure tourist destination, (ii) support the recovery of EU tourism, (iii) maintain its share of the world market and better disperse and diversify (in terms of geography and seasons) traveller flows while taking into account residents' aspirations.

Its specific objective is to contribute to a series of large marketing campaigns, carried out in cooperation and with contributions from national/regional tourism promotion bodies, by supporting the "Joint Promotion Platform for Destination Europe" (JPP) set up by ETC, with EU support⁸. These campaigns would combine among other things digital campaigns on the web and social media, broad outreach and public relations through cooperation with media, attendance to travel trade exhibitions and familiarisation trips. The action may in addition support the production of market intelligence reports pointing at opportunities for the recovery of the European tourism ecosystem and contributing to training EU actors on how to enter new markets or increase their presence in traditional markets.

Expected results: contribute to the resilience of the EU tourism ecosystem post-COVID-19 by supporting the recovery of intra-EU tourism and attracting extra-EU travellers back to Europe by priority off-season and off the beaten tracks.

Implementation

⁷ 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 the programmed budget may be used to support other actions in the area of tourism included in this Work Programme

⁸ 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

DG GROW

Additional information

- **Total amount of the action:** EUR 3 500 000
- **Rate of co-financing:** Maximum co-financing rate of 80% of the eligible costs
- **Indicative implementation timetable:** Publication of the call: Q3/2022; Signature of agreement: Q4/2022
- **Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:**
 - 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 cross-border and transnational thematic tourism offers (survey of key stakeholders).

2.9. SME policy - Analysis related to scale-up enterprises

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

An ad hoc grant will be awarded, without a call for proposals, to the OECD under article 195(f) of the financial regulation, due to its specialised nature and technical competence.

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

This action aims to develop a framework to collect new evidence and improve understanding about enterprise (and in particular SME) scale-up trends, drivers and barriers. Identification of effective policy approaches to unleash SME scale-up potential will also form part of the action. The project is an extension of an earlier successful pilot phase which is to be completed in 2021. The new phase will apply the concept to at least 10 more countries and also widen the scope of the data to be compiled per firm. In addition the project will carry out additional work related to the policy analysis, including related to industrial ecosystems, digitalisation and sustainability.

Implementation

DG GROW

Additional information

- Total amount of the action: EUR 1 200 000
- Rate of co-financing: Up to 90%
- Indicative implementation timetable: Signature of the ad hoc grant in Q1 2022
- Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:
Thematic studies published in due time. 27 EU MS covered plus other countries if needed. Information on SMEs and in particular on scaling-up firms, taking into account the ecosystem approach, to be provided.

2.10. Greening SMEs in the proximity and social economy ecosystem through transnational co-operation

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Applicants must be legal persons forming a consortium. The following is a list of non-exhaustive types of legal persons that may apply:

- non-profit organisations (private or public);
- public authorities and their networks or associations at European, international, national, regional and local level, or organisations acting on behalf of a public authority, responsible for or active in the fields of social economy, economic affairs, industry, business support or related fields;
- social enterprises /economic actors active in the field of social economy, including SMEs;
- training and educational institutions active in social economy;
- business support organisations and entities with experience in supporting SMEs and start-ups (i.e. accelerators, incubators, chambers of commerce).

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

The action will support transnational partnerships to boost the capacity of SMEs in proximity and social economy ecosystem to green their operations to innovate their products, services and processes.

The aim is to enable in particular social economy SMEs to turn environmental challenges into opportunities. Green growth can offer significant benefits but many SMEs active in this ecosystem still face barriers regarding the greening of their production processes, business practices and services.

Activities will be carried out, for example, via training, coaching, capacity building, peer learning, incubation, job shadowing or awareness raising activities.

Business support or project proposals could fall under at least one of the following themes (not exhaustive)

- Improving Social economy enterprises (SEEs) environmental footprint;

- Boosting Social Economy contribution to circular economy;
- Scaling up innovative green solutions launched by SEEs;
- Capacity building on measuring environmental impact of SEEs;
- Fostering SEEs capacity and skills to improve their use of new digital technologies for green purposes resulting in new business models.

Implementation

EISMEA

Additional information

- Total amount of the action: EUR 6 000 000
- Rate of co-financing: 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
- Indicative implementation timetable:
 - Lauch of the call: Q3 2022
 - Starting of the action: Q2 2023
 - Indicative duration of the action: 24 Months

Indicators (indicative):

- Number and geographic spread of countries and actors participating in transnational cooperation projects;
- Number and geographic spread of SMEs in the ecosystem involved in transnational cooperation projects.

3. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2022 is EUR 46 773 395.

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

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 as part of the 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 SMEs in terms of information and assistance linked to cross-border operation in the Single Market. Your Europe links up with national portals covering country-specific rules and provides access to business support, assistance and problem-solving services accessible via the assistance service finder.

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 and SOLVIT, 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 up to 5%

Budget: EUR 550 000

Indicative implementation timetable: Q2-Q3/2022

3.2. SME Policy

3.2.1. Supporting the enforcement of the Late Payment Directive

General description of the contracts envisaged

The aim of the action is to support the Member States in enforcing the Late Payment Directive (2011/7/EU) and foster prompt payment in commercial transactions. As laid down in the SME Strategy⁹ and in the Updated Industrial Strategy¹⁰, prompt payment is a key objective to promote the green and digital transition of SMEs, and make them more resilient.

Contractors will be selected to assist the Commission to follow up the projects on the Late Payment Observatory and the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR)/Mediation in solving B2B payment disputes.

Implementation

EISMEA

Additional information

- Description of action or actions

Building on the current projects, the actions will take the form of pilot projects to expand the Late Payment Observatory to new pilot ecosystems and implement the recommendations of the 2020-2021 study on the use of ADR/Mediation in solving B2B payment disputes.

- Expected results

The action is expected to support Member States in enforcing prompt payment obligations in commercial transactions, and helping businesses and SMEs to get paid on time. Reliable and timely payments provide SMEs with much-needed liquidity to become more resilient and transition towards more green and digital business models.

- Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action

Indicators: EU Payment Observatory set-up and running (with new sectors added); timely dissemination of the results; effective dissemination of the tool. ADR and mediation schemes implemented.

Budget EUR 600 000

- EUR 400 000 for the Observatory pilot project and EUR 200 000 for the ADR/mediation pilot project
- Indicative implementation timetable (launch of the calls): Q3/2022

3.2.2. SME Policy: Outreach (SME Assembly/Single Market Forum, IT tools)

General description of the contracts envisaged

⁹ [EUR-Lex - 52020DC0103 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

¹⁰ [EUR-Lex - 52021DC0350 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

The aim of the action is to select contractors to assist the Commission (technical assistance) to implement and monitor SME Policy at European and national level.

In particular, the action will support the Commission in taking stock of the progress achieved, identifying new actions and priorities, promoting the exchange of good practices and reaching out to SMEs and relevant stakeholders.

Implementation

DG GROW (SME Envoys and other meetings, IT tools, studies)

EISMEA (SME Assembly)

Additional information

Please include in this section the following information:

- Description of action or actions

Different activities will be performed:

- the organisation of the annual SME Assembly,
- the Single Market Forum (SIMFO) events,
- the meetings of the SME Envoys network and other expert groups,
- the maintenance and update of the IT tools (SME Week, SME definition tool).

- Expected results

Increased commitment of Member States 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.

- Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action

Number of participants to the meeting

Timely dissemination of the results

Progress achieved in the implementation of the measures in SME Policy areas

- IT tools: Timely production of tools and impact on target public (number of events, number of visits for websites etc.)

Budget EUR 2 200 000

- EUR 1 100 000 for SME Assembly (one renewal, EISMEA), EUR 1 000 000 for SME Envoy/SIMFO, EUR 100 000 for IT tools
- Indicative implementation timetable (signatures of the specific contracts under framework contracts and renewal): Q 3/4 2022.

3.2.3. SME Performance Review-studies

General description of the contracts envisaged

The purpose of the studies will be to generate key data and economic and policy analysis related to SMEs and priority policy issues related to the EU SME strategy, the updated industrial strategy, including industrial ecosystems and the twin transition comprising of sustainability, digitalisation and resilience issues.

Implementation

DG GROW

Additional information

- Description of action or actions

The action will take the form of studies which will include the generation of original/primary and/or secondary data as well as policy-relevant information.

- Expected results

The action is expected to deliver crucial insights into SMEs and the policy issues mentioned above.

- Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action

One main report, one database, two ancillary background studies

Budget EUR 300 000

- Indicative implementation timetable (launch of call): Q4/2022

3.3. European Construction Sector Observatory

General description of the contracts envisaged

The current contract of the European Construction Sector Observatory (ECSO) will end on 1/5/2022. The new project will allow for a continuation of up to 4 years and its adaptation to the Ecosystem approach as introduced by the Industrial Strategy in 2020 and further detailed in the updated Industrial Strategy in 2021.

Implementation

EISMEA

Additional information

In order to create synergies and maximise the impact of various actions at EU, national and sectorial levels, there is a continuous need for the most recent analytical evidence of market conditions, policy developments and feedback on implementation of construction related policies. This analytical support would not only raise awareness of existing or planned policy measures but also help to improve understanding of why and how these measures have been developed, what the impacts on construction business and job

creation are, and how the experience gained with these measures could potentially be transferred to various socio-economic contexts. ECSO has served this purpose with the creation of a repository of information related to market trends, industry developments, policy impact and with analytical support.

The study would:

- gather and analyse data, policy developments and good practice relevant for the Construction ecosystem
- present these activities on the ECSO website via the Data Mapper, country and policy fact sheets and analytical reports
- disseminate these deliverables via newsletters and social media posts

Envisaged budget: EUR 1 100 000

Estimated contract duration: 24 months with possibility of one renewal for 24 months

Timetable: Launch of the call for tenders: Q2 2022

Contract signature: Q4 2022

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

ECSO analyses and comparative assessments, presented via various deliverables, will aim at supporting evidence-based decision making process, further policy development and sharing of good practice.

3.4. International Intellectual Property SME Helpdesks

General description of the contracts envisaged

To provide services for the IP SME Helpdesks in China, Latin America, South East Asia and India.

Via these contracts, the international IP SME Helpdesks offer first-line advice and support to European SMEs wishing to operate in or influenced by markets outside of the European Union. These services offer practical business advice from experienced professionals (lawyers, business executives, IP investigators) in person, on-line, and through workshops, e-learning materials, and training. The services cover countries and regions, focusing on markets offering high-growth and where there are particular IP problems of importance to European SMEs that such services can address, or where investors to Europe come from. The services are provided both 'on the ground' to European SMEs already 'in country' and 'at home' in Europe, so that the relevant information on IP in the regions can be delivered where it is of most use, to serve European SMEs efficiently and effectively.

The services are offered in co-ordination with and in direct response to requests from European SMEs and their representatives (e.g. sectoral, regional, local associations of SMEs, chambers of commerce). Services are also co-ordinated with relevant EU Member States SME support administrations, with EU and MS trade representations and with EU funded projects supporting SME internationalisation. The IP SME Helpdesks offer services that could not be easily provided individually by each Member State and allow to pool expertise to be available to any European SME. Such economies of scale also enable to customise the training or advice to specific sectors or business models. uplication of technical contacts with the relevant countries' administrations to 'signpost' SMEs is also

avoided.

Implementation

EISMEA

Additional information

By offering expert quality first line advice to individual business queries, e-learning tools, in-person workshops and awareness raising, it helps SMEs respond practically to challenges such as:

- how European SMEs should design business relations with partners from markets outside of the EU to protect valuable IP of European enterprises (e.g. when doing business in the EU with external partners, developing the markets outside of the EU for own products, when following outside of the EU a company to which they have traditionally been a supplier or in the context of supply chains involving partners from third countries);
- counterfeit products entering the European market and other markets affecting the concerned SMEs;
- how to find and constructively work with administrations or service providers to enforce their IP in such situations;
- other related actions to be defined.

Expected results:

The Helpdesks should contribute to significant capacity building of European SMEs operating on international markets or affected by them. This should be shown through a proactive approach of SMEs to the issue of protection of intellectual property on international markets.

The Helpdesks should also be highly visible among the EU and national constituencies of SME support services for doing business outside of the EU.

Ultimately this should lead to better business performance of the SMEs that relied on the Helpdesks, contributing to higher growth and improved jobs.

The overall budget requested is EUR 6 000 000 to continue the international IP SME Helpdesks (China, Latin America, South East Asia and India) for a 24-month period.

Indicative implementation timetable

Publication of the call: Q2/2022

Signature of the contract: Q1/2023

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action

1. number of inquiries from EU SMEs answered
2. SME satisfaction and feedback on quality
3. number and quality of training and awareness events, including virtual events organised together with a number of SMEs and business support organisation participants
4. number of visits and hits on the website and SME user satisfaction of the website
5. number and quality of guides, factsheets, e-learning modules and other publications targeted at SMEs and business support organisations
6. improved performance of beneficiaries in relation to targeted issue
7. clients performance assessment (growth of sales, jobs created/maintained, new products or services developed)

3.5. Pact for Skills

General description of the contracts envisaged

The contract envisaged will cover a series of actions (technical assistance in the form of creation of high-level groups, workshops, networking events, etc., and studies, measurements).

Implementation

EISMEA

Additional information

The Pact for Skills was launched in November 2020 with the aim to increase private and public investments in up- and reskilling and to incentivise and mobilise stakeholders to take actions for up- and reskilling the workforce in major European industrial ecosystems. While the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on employment has been severe, there is a shortage highly skilled people and a global competition for talent. It is estimated that 100 million people would need to be reskilled/upskilled in Europe in the next five years. At the same time, there is a strong consensus over the fact that a competitive and innovative industry depends on recruiting, training and retaining a highly skilled workforce. The Pact will work towards this by supporting and providing the frame for large-scale skills partnerships between relevant key stakeholders, benefitting all businesses, especially SMEs, in all ecosystems.

Several specific dimensions directly related to industrial and SME policies can be boosted by targeted complementary actions. In particular, the specific green dimension of each industrial ecosystem, as well as the specific needs of SMEs and the wider industrial dimension of the entire 14 ecosystems.

These actions will be green and industry oriented. They will range from:

- High-level groups for each of ecosystem (in close relationships with policy makers in relevant Member States and regions) and targeted studies addressing and supporting the green and SME dimensions of the skills partnerships (case studies of specific actions, cross-ecosystems fertilisation, strategy and policy refining etc.), to be fed also into the knowledge hub already envisaged;
- Policy oriented workshops, seminars and networking events both intra-ecosystem and between ecosystems to foster the uptake of “green skills” and to ensure a strong participation of SMEs to maximise the benefit from the Pact for Skills.

These actions will cover and be carried out in **each of the 14 ecosystems**, as well as in few cross-sectoral pilot actions where mobility from one ecosystem to another is desirable and feasible (building on the proposal of the European Roundtable of Industrialists, for example).

Expected results include the successful creation and implementation of the Pact for Skills partnerships, in-depth knowledge of how and why these partnerships and their actions function, the increase of the numbers and percentages per ecosystem of European citizens and businesses undergoing re-/upskilling.

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action

- number of pact for skills actions and their size,
- number of days of reskilling/upskilling,
- percentage and numbers of citizens undergoing reskilling/upskilling,
- number of businesses reached (including SMEs), energy-efficiency related indicators such as consumption per produced item and other indicators used to measure carbon footprint.

Budget requested: EUR 4 500 000

Indicative implementation timetable:

- Publication of call for tenders: Q2/2022
- Signature of contract: Q4/2022

3.6. Enterprise Europe Network – animation

General description of the contracts envisaged

To provide the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) 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 as EEN annual conference etc.

Implementation

EISMEA

Additional information

The specific objectives of the Network animation tasks include:

- Helping run the EEN, in particular by organising the annual conference, Steering and Advisory Groups, Sector Group and Thematic Group meetings or other EEN stakeholder meetings as needed;
- 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's 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 creating assessment tools to help EEN members provide sustainability, digitalisation, innovation services, and to improve resilience and help address supply chain disruptions or weaknesses);
- 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;
- 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).

Each year, the Commission (usually with the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union) organises a conference with up to 800 participants to link together EU Institutions with SME support organisations on the ground and to allow EEN members to network and exchange knowledge, know-how and useful contacts. For the year 2022, the aim is to organise a hybrid Annual Conference for the Network with strong presence onsite (possibly up to 800 people) and the possibility to connect the rest of the Network members and relevant stakeholders virtually through a dedicated conferencing platform. The required budget is needed for all practical aspects of the conference (logistics of physical and virtual meetings, opening session, parallel workshops, closing session, catering etc. not covered by action 2.4).

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;
- Greater synergies with other networks and programmes such as the clusters network, European Digital Innovation Hubs, National Contact Points of Horizon Europe, and the European Innovation Council;
- The annual conference and training activities help EEN staff to increase skills, knowledge and efficiency.

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 exchanges and mentoring activities;
- Number of visits to the public website of the Network and social media followers;
- Efficient management of the Network intranet, IT tools and databases.

For the annual conference:

- Number of participants onsite and online;
- Number of sessions and workshops organised;
- Satisfaction rate of virtual and physical participants.

Budget: EUR 3 000 000

The exact budget distribution between the different actions will be known at a later stage.

Indicative implementation timetable and payment timetable:

Specific contracts using framework contracts (IT, communication, rooms, catering, ...):
Q1-Q4 2022.

3.7. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs – Support office and IT support

General description of the contracts envisaged

The support office works to ensure coordination and coherence in the programme and particularly supports the Intermediary Organisations (IOs) in their work.

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 in 2008. Due to technology changes the IT tool database had been redeveloped during 2020 and 2021. Regular maintenance and updates need to be carried out in 2022.

Implementation

Support office: EISMEA

IT support: DG GROW

Additional information

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme is implemented by a network of local contact points (IOs), which are selected on the basis of a 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 coordination of the IOs' network, the day-to-day support as well as promotion of the programme is ensured by programme Support Office.

The purpose of this contract is to select a programme Support Office that will coordinate and support the activities of the Intermediary Organisations (IOs) of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs Programme.

The current contract runs from May 2021 for 24 months and can be renewed. Should the performance of the current Support Office be of good quality no call for tenders will be launched but rather renewal of the current contract will be pursued.

Any private or public entity active in the field of business support, consulting, public affairs and public relations and with experience and knowledge on EU affairs can participate in the call for tenders.

Expected results:

The initiative expects to have achieved the following results by April 2025:

- 4 Network Meetings Organised;
- 8 Summary evaluation Reports submitted;
- participation at or organisation of 8 promotion events
- creation of 4 promotional video success stories
- 12 Programme newsletters published

- continuous management of the programme communication channels

Budget requested: EUR 800 000

Indicative implementation timetable *(if the current contract is not extended):*

- publication of call for tenders: Q2/2022

- signature of contract: Q1/2023

IT Support:

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

This redevelopment and maintenance will be implemented using specific contract(s) with a budget of **EUR 52 500**.

3.8. Fostering innovative, smart and inclusive solutions in tourism SMEs through the European Capital of Smart Tourism and European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN) awards

General description of the contracts

This initiative is a follow-up of the European Parliament preparatory action “European Capital of Tourism”.

The contractor would provide technical assistance/evaluation/communication services to the Commission and would have the following main tasks:

- Implement two Union-wide competitions for the selection and award of destinations (2024 and 2025).
- Ensure the secretariat of the action.
- Organise the work of the external panel of experts evaluating applications and the work of the Jury.
- Organise events, including the Award Ceremony, exhibitions, and meetings necessary for the implementation of the action.
- Implementing Union-wide dissemination and communication activities, including management of the website of the action and other communications channels (social media, newsletters etc.).
- Designing and implementing promotional activities for the destinations during the year when they hold the title.
- Implementing activities to foster the exchange of best practices in innovative, smart and inclusive tourism among participating destinations.

Implementation

DG GROW

Additional information

Specific objective:

- Achieving the Union tourism policy objectives to foster innovative development of tourism (directly by tourism destinations and indirectly by tourism SMEs) which is accessible, sustainable and using digital tools and creative industries to enhance the visitor experience;
- Foster exchange of best practices between destinations participating in the competition, including mutual learning and networking, creating opportunities for cooperation and new partnerships;
- Additional visibility for the awarded destinations throughout the Union, but also in selected third countries.

Expected results:

- Fostering innovative, smart and inclusive solutions in tourism, by cities as tourism destinations and by tourism SMEs through consolidated exchange of good practices at Union level.
- Implementation of two selection cycles/two Union-wide competitions to select the European Capitals of Smart Tourism and, for smaller destinations, European Destination of Excellence, holding the title in 2024 (up to 3 destinations) and 2025 (up to 3 destinations).
- Showcasing exemplary practices by destinations as tourism destinations in implementing innovative and intelligent solutions within four categories: 1) sustainability, 2) accessibility, 3) digitalisation, 4) cultural heritage and creativity.
- Union wide visibility and targeted promotional and dissemination activities for the action in general and for the awarded destinations
- Contributing to the green and digital transition of the tourism ecosystem in line with the Tourism Transition Pathway.

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

- Number of applications received in each selection cycle/competition.
- Attractiveness and impact of the communication and promotional actions.
- Effectiveness of the communication and dissemination activities (number of clippings in media, number of stakeholders reached, visitors, views etc.).
- Quality of deliverables, including reports, guides, communication materials, website, videos, etc.
- Number and relevance of good practices identified.
- Quality and relevance of evaluation and policy recommendations.
- Participant satisfaction of events through satisfaction surveys.

Budget EUR 2 000 000

Indicative implementation timetable:

- Publication of the call for tenders (service contract): Q3 2022.
- Signature of contract Q1 2023.
- Total duration of the contract: up to 36 months.

3.9. European portal to provide integrated support for tourism SMEs and stakeholders

General description of the contracts envisaged

The EU-level tourism portal would provide the tourism industry and other stakeholders easy access to the resources that support them in their transition towards more green and innovative services and operations in order to enhance the position of the EU as the leading tourist destination globally.

The portal would provide a gateway to the existing networks and support mechanisms in the Member States and at regional level and provide a structured way to facilitate interactions and best practices exchanges within stakeholder groups across Europe on thematic issues for tourism services development. It would maintain one-stop-shop access for stakeholders to resources and information on the key EU actions, initiatives and measures that can support their efforts for the twin transition and rebuilding resilience. Furthermore, being actively moderated, it would facilitate thematic discussions which would encourage the stakeholders to share their experiences and questions with relevance to broader groups of stakeholders. In this way it would work both as a support and learning platform, and communication tool for the tourism SMEs and destinations. It would also support the stakeholders in surveying the progress of the transition pathway.

Establishing this portal would support the transition efforts, resilience and competitiveness of European tourism and meet the requests of the Member States to better facilitate information and best practice exchange, provide learning support for tourism stakeholders and monitor the progress of the evolution of the tourism ecosystem.

Implementation

EISMEA

Additional information

The purpose of the action is to establish a portal that would support tourism stakeholders with information and resource flows from all EU-supported tourism activities and with active updating mechanisms to consider contributions of national and regional actors (together with the steer of DG GROW and EISMEA).

The contractor would be responsible for designing, setting up and maintaining the portal for 3 years. The contractor would actively update the content, propose and execute improvements, and facilitate thematic stakeholder interactions which support developing tourism services in a sustainable and innovative manner to meet the changing tourism demands.

The services also include yearly reporting on the progress of the transition pathway co-implementation based on thematic meetings and surveys implemented with the stakeholders.

The services cover organising tourism SME events in Member States, in their local languages, to steer co-operation between the groups of SMEs, enable sharing of good practices and techniques, and to promote the resources of the portal and the available EU support to tourism SMEs. It may also support organising yearly “Tourism SME” week as a combination of physical and online events across the EU (possibly linked with the annual EU SME week) highlighting the availability of the learning resources, giving

visibility to local success cases and helping to engage more SMEs in the green and digital transition.

Expected results:

- Active online portal which integrates resources in particular from ongoing EU actions and initiatives which can support tourism stakeholders and from relevant networks and resources on MS, regional and sectoral levels
- Actively supported and facilitated thematic discussions and forums to support stakeholders on key themes for green and digital transition towards more resilient practices
- Yearly reports on the progress in transition made by the stakeholders (sectoral, destinations, SMEs), with key challenges and good practices to be followed

Budget requested: EUR 3 250 000

Indicative implementation timetable:

- publication (use of framework contract or call for tenders): Q2/2022
- signature of contract: Q1/2023

3.10. Renewal of the 100 Intelligent Cities Challenge initiative

General description of the contracts envisaged

The current contract of the Intelligent Challenge is finishing in November 2022. A renewal period of 30 months is foreseen in the current contract to ensure the continuity of the action.

The renewal of the contract builds on the successful results achieved so far as well as on the consequent need to counterbalance the impact of the pandemic on local economies and strengthen support to cities with the implementation of their recovery plans. The Intelligent Cities Challenge v2, will be its successor.

Implementation

EISMEA

Additional information

- Description of action

The Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC) aims to speed up the digital and green transformation of SMEs and industry, through policy intervention at the level of cities. ICC supports 136 smaller European and 10 international cities to leverage cutting-edge technologies to drive a green and digital recovery and societal resilience. It mobilises cities to set up local green deals, support their local businesses, better engage with citizens, reskill their workforce and strengthen their supply chains.

The services range from information on EU policies, awareness raising, communication campaigns, one-to-one strategic guidance and expert support (high-level conferences, workshops, webinars, etc.) access to advisory services (e-learning, on-line toolkits, thematic action group discussions and city networks meet ups (stakeholder engagement events and peer to peer learning) and capacity building tools (transversal services on access to finance, procurement and open data).

- Expected results of the action

Expected results are to sustain and expand the existing network of cities; to ensure implementation of the strategies and actions conceived through ICC, amongst others, under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, and with support of other EU, national and regional funds. Improve, expand and spread the use of the methodology already developed in the previous phase, deepen cooperation among urban centres less or more advanced digitally (mentors and mentees), reinforce the power of the network beyond the EU¹¹.

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action

- Number of proximity and social economy SMEs engaged in the process
- Number of new partnerships initiated by this call
- Number of green/digital initiatives reflected in regional development strategies
- 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.
- Budget EUR 7 435 915
- Indicative implementation timetable
30 months – starting 1 December 2022

3.11. Socially responsible public procurement

General description of the contracts envisaged

This action has the following objectives:

- stimulate the integration of social considerations in public procurements, including raising awareness of incentives for social investments in public service provision;
- promote the involvement of social economy actors in tendering procedures and in value chains processes;
- boost awareness raising for mainstream businesses to work more with social enterprises.

It will be based on the successful results of the project *Buying for social impact* that took place in 2019/2020¹²

Implementation

EISMEA

Additional information

Social economy is mainly composed of local SMEs. Social enterprises have recently emerged as an effective tool to deliver objectives in two key areas of social and economic policy: goods and service delivery, and social inclusion.

¹¹ [Communication "Updating the 2020 New Industrial Strategy: Building a stronger Single Market for Europe's recovery"; Proximity, Social Economy and Civil Security Ecosystem](#), p. 152

¹² [Social procurement | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

If provided with specific guidance, social enterprises will get better access to markets and boost their growth, their capacity to create jobs and innovation. They are agents of resilience in regions and help the economy towards industrial transformation.

Strengthening the motivation for social investments in public service will further serve to increase demand for social value creation in markets for SMEs.

The call will be divided in four lots:

- (1) training public policy officers in national administrations and social economy organisations in the 12 Member States that have not been covered by the former project “ Training in the field of Social Public procurement”(COSME WP 2018)

Amount requested: EUR 1 200 000

- (2) an awareness-raising campaign in EU 27 on the published “Buying Social guide” and the Guide “71 good practices”

Amount requested: EUR 500 000

- (3) supporting policy initiatives to improve collaboration in EU 27 between social enterprises and mainstream businesses in their supply chain strategies

Amount requested: EUR 1 300 000

- (4) An analysis and publication of the return on social investments in public service provision of social services for children and families, education, labour market integration and elderly care across three member states.

Amount requested: EUR 500 000

The proposed action will strengthen the resilience of the proximity and social economy ecosystem.

The expected results are:

Lot 1/ Lot 2

- to raise contracting authorities’ awareness and social economy stakeholders of the potential benefits of socially responsible public procurement;
- to explain to public authorities, in a practical way, the opportunities offered by the 2014 Directive on public procurement;
- to facilitate the understanding of the Directive by social economy actors and non-profit social and health service providers so that they can participate in the exercise more easily.

Lot 3:

- to raise mainstream enterprises’ awareness of the potential benefits of integrating social enterprises in their value chain processes;
- to boost mainstream enterprises’ engagement with local communities and develop a more integrated CSRs policies.

Lot 4:

- to test and provide a union backed assessment of the socioeconomic potential and economic return on select themes of social investments.

- to provide the first common point of reference for SMEs and member state authorities to assess the potential of social investments and drive policy- and procurement development, expanding the “buying social” agenda with a prerogative to “invest for socioeconomic returns”.

-to increase the motivation of SMEs and public authorities to strike up dialogue about the potential for social investments and related public procurement initiatives.

Other information on the call for tenders or specific contract under framework contract:

Estimated publication of the call : Q2/2022

Award : Q4/2022

Signature of the contract Q1/2023

Estimated duration of each lot: 18 months

Expected results:

Increase in the number of socially responsible public procurements in the EU.

Increase number of mainstream enterprises working with social enterprises in value chains.

Indicators:

- Number of workshops and number of experts trained in workshops for socially responsible public procurement in the 12 Member States;
- Quality and outreach of the awareness-raising campaign: percentage of public purchasers and social economy actors that know about the importance of socially responsible public procurement;
- Number of new partnerships created in the field of private procurements;
- Number of public procurements including assessments of economic returns on social investments.

3.12. Improving the socio-economic knowledge of the proximity and social economy ecosystem

General description of the contracts envisaged

The main objective of this action is to benchmark the socio-economic performance of the EU *proximity and social economy* ecosystem.

The action will further develop evidence-based policies and ensure greater coherence between the proximity and social economy ecosystem and other policies. Such an integrated approach should in turn contribute to the development of a sustainable, innovative and resilient ecosystem. The action will deliver policy reports/gather data examining post-COVID recovery and development; organise workshops feeding this

work.

The specific objectives of the action are to:

- increase the knowledge base, in order to enrich the public policy debate on the ecosystem;
- bring forward-looking analysis and provide new ideas to support the development of better public policies for the ecosystem;
- monitor the ecosystem recovery in the full geographical scope of the Union in the COVID-19 crisis context.

In particular, the call will:

- Map, collect and analyse information on the recent evolution of the social economy in the participating countries¹³. The objective is to have an overall picture of the weight and role of these enterprises in European growth (Lot 1);
- Map, collect and analyse information on the proximity economy in the participating countries. The objective is to capture the presence of proximity-based businesses and services in the different industrial ecosystems and the added value of the “last mile” delivery of goods and services that cut across many other ecosystems.
(Lot 2).

Implementation

EISMEA

Additional information

1. Lot 1 :

Over the last decades, European national statistical agencies and researchers (academic and institutional) have done significant work to develop methodologies and gather data for the social economy. Despite these achievements, many countries and regions lack statistical information/data about social economy in their territories.

There is an urgent need to develop a better knowledge (quantitative/qualitative) of enterprises and organisations that are part of the social economy sector in order to co-create public policies that will deliver impact. It is key to understand their evolution and prepare dedicated actions for those that will lead to more sustainable economic growth and social cohesion.

The study will focus in particular on three areas:

- the concept of social economy and emerging movements in the field in the participating countries;
- increase the knowledge base of public policies that have been framed at Union level and in the Member States in recent years to improve the development of the social economy sector in particular in the field of twin transition;
- monitor the recovery of the social economy in the different countries;
- the size of the social economy in each country, including the presence of social economy

¹³ countries participating in the SME pillar of the Single Market Programme

enterprises in the different industrial ecosystems.

2. Lot 2:

The call aims at developing a model for measuring and scoping the proximity ecosystem through mapping and collecting information, research activity and analysis of statistical and real time data. The measurement will focus on capturing the added-value of the “last mile” delivery of goods and services and will cut across other ecosystems. It should be closely associated with other initiatives such as Intelligent Cities Challenge, Living-in.EU, Green City Accord, Mission on 100 climate neutral and smart cities and more.

The action to be carried out will focus in particular on two areas:

- the concept of proximity economy and emerging trends in the field;
- the size of the proximity economy in each country, including the presence of proximity based businesses and services in the different industrial ecosystems.

Statistical data on economic added value, employment and climate impact at local level are poor. The call will seek to develop a new monitoring methodology, based on **real-time data, collected from sensors around a city and any physical infrastructure** (Earth observation data, smart energy grids, mobility, heating/cooling, smart water management, smart circularity, waste management, etc.). The analysis will also allow for granular spatial data (e.g. per neighbourhood, income, social status, etc.) to help identify and address divides and inequalities and enable efficient planning (e.g. approach social services in neighbourhoods that need them most).

Examples of KPIs to be monitored:

- KPIs for economic performance
- KPIs for a green, climate-neutral proximity economy
 - o Circular activities, e.g. companies involved in a circular economy network
 - o Green economy (Local Green Deal strategy; emissions; energy mix; buildings retrofitted; green jobs, jobs in energy-intensive sectors, green local production, etc.)
 - o Proximity value chains/food systems: volume produced, on time delivery, revenue per employee, overall equipment effectiveness
 - o Mobility (walking/biking scores, accessibility scores, availability/affordability/safety of clean public transport, etc.)
- KPIs for social inclusiveness and resilience
 - o Citizen engagement
 - o Neighborhood equity: % access to affordable housing, supply and demand of social services, social cost, etc.

Publication of the call: Q3/4-2022

Award: Q1/2023

Signature of the contract(s): Q2/2023

Estimated duration of the contract(s) for Lot 1 and for Lot 2 : 12 months

Budget: EUR 500 000 for the call, expected to be divided equally between both lots

Expected results:

Contribute to faster, and balanced recovery of the proximity and social economy

ecosystem.

Indicators:

Lot 1 :

- Number of countries mapped during the exercise
- Number of industrial ecosystems mapped and quality of data/information received.

Lot 2:

- Number of countries mapped during the exercise
- Number of industrial ecosystems mapped and quality of data/information received.

3.13. 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.

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 advises the Commission on how to simplify and reduce burden stemming from existing EU legislation and make the legislation fit for the 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 SMEs in the Commission’s better regulation agenda.

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

Implementation

Secretariat General

Additional information

The actions include:

Platform Meetings - Members of the Platform will work to identify potential for cutting red tape. While face to face meetings will be reduced to the minimum, preparatory and plenary meetings will be carried out in Brussels to adopt the opinions of the Platform. In addition, sub-groups of participants will meet in Brussels to prepare these opinions. Participation of external experts will be required, and events may be organised.

Studies to support the Platform – the Platform can request studies to support its work. Specific events to support burden reduction and simplification and increase knowledge and understanding of REFIT activities.

Platform web presence and publications:- A new web page will include all activities of the Platform, videos explaining 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 platform secretariat and Commission departments and it will be a common repository of documents. The Have your say simplify! portal will allow citizens and businesses to voice their concern regarding burdensome EU legislation.

'One in-One out Calculator' IT tool:- The tool will allow the Commission to track the administrative burdens of new legislation in order to quantify their impact on businesses and citizens. The 'One In, One Out Calculator' IT tool will streamline the collection and reporting on administrative costs to support decision-making and evaluate the impact of changes to legislation.

Adaptations to IT and Digital working tools will make them easier to use (particularly for businesses), and to obtain data on the role played by EU networks such as EEN for generating responses to individual consultations.

Better Regulation Portal:- The Better Regulation Portal (BRP) allows SMEs, businesses 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 businesses 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 be targeted at key audiences such as SMEs providing messages tailored according to their specific interests and communication preferences. The communication campaign will inform citizens, SMEs and other stakeholders about the available tools and policies enabling them to contribute, notably the 'Have Your Say' portal and the better regulation agenda.

- Budget EUR 807 000 (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	300 000

- 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
 - Number of events
- IT and Digital working tools
 - timely development of the tools
 - 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
- 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

3.14. Setting up of a Big Public Buyers collaboration network for strategic public procurement

General description

The main objective of this call for tenders is to improve the business environment of innovative SMEs and make public procurement an attractive option for these economic operators through an enhanced uptake of strategic public procurement¹⁴ in Europe. Such uptake is achieved through partnership between big public buyers such as cities, regions, hospitals, central purchasing bodies, or utilities working on concrete projects and similar challenges. This objective will be achieved by promoting collaboration between big buyers in strategic public procurement with a view to driving the market for innovative goods, services and works. This also aims at contributing to the economic recovery of the EU, stimulating innovation and start-ups. The activities carried out in this project should be fully consistent with the overarching aims of the Green Deal¹⁵, and any strategy related to a green, digital and resilient recovery.

Implementation

EISMEA

Additional information

This action builds on the pilot project “Big Buyers and Networks Initiative” and the subsequent “Big Buyers for Climate and Environment (BBCE)”¹⁶ project.

The pilot “Big Buyers and Networks Initiative” was successfully launched in April 2019 and supported three big buyers’ working groups in the field of:

- Zero emissions construction site
- Circular construction materials
- Heavy-duty electric vehicles.

Some of these working groups resulted in the preparation and implementation of joint market engagements with the suppliers, and have coordinated some aspects for the preparation of the relevant procurement procedures. In other cases, innovative procurement pilot projects have been replicated by participating buyers. The feedback received from the participating parties was very positive in terms of knowledge gained in

¹⁴ For the purposes of this document, "strategic public procurement" is understood as leveraging public procurement as a strategic tool to achieve objectives related to sustainability (green procurement), goals related to innovation, and social goals.

¹⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions. The European Green Deal, [COM\(2019\)640 final](#)

¹⁶ See: www.bigbuyers.eu

this project, potential development of innovative solutions, attracting new suppliers to the market, etc.

The subsequent project 'Big Buyers for Climate and Environment' (BBCE) was launched in November 2020 and will end in November 2022. Four working groups were set up responding to specific needs of the participants:

- Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicles - focusing on vehicles for waste collection, street cleaning & maintenance, and their recharging infrastructure
- Zero Emissions Construction Sites - focusing on the use of emission-free construction machinery
- Circular construction - focus still to be precisely determined at this point in time. Topics under consideration include circular road construction, using recycled products in construction and renovation, low carbon concrete and the use of plastics in construction)
- Healthcare - focus on digital healthcare, with the focus still to be more precisely determined.

The new project will build on these previous projects, scaling-up the activities under the Big Buyers for Climate and Environment with the addition of new working groups to be structured in three work streams (social procurement, digital and green procurement and health procurement) and specialised training activities. The latter will target public buyers' staff and decision makers at both technical and political levels in order to build knowledge and capacity for innovation at all levels of the public organisations.

Expected results

From a policy point of view, it is a necessary step to continue expanding PPI strategies and practices, which represent a huge potential for improving the business environment of innovative SMEs and shaping markets. The overarching goal of this action is to contribute to the economic recovery of the EU after the COVID-19 crisis, by stimulating the development of start-ups and SMEs and the creation of new markets.

Public procurement can be a key tool in driving the development of innovative goods and services on the European market. The project is meant to stimulate and support collaboration between big buyers in Europe in terms of strategic procurement and strategic engagement with the innovation ecosystems. By working together and by pooling their resources, cities, central purchasing bodies, and other major public procurers can maximise their market power and impact.

With a growing number of procurers, across the EU, involved in such a network and in various cooperative projects, public buyers will foster the development of innovative SMEs and economic operators.

In order to increase the multiplier effect of this initiative, a dedicated platform is currently being set up, to be hosted by the European Commission.

Budget EUR 4 400 000

Indicative implementation timetable

Lauch of the call – Q1/2022

Contract start – Q3/2022

Duration 4 years

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action

- Number of procurers involved in the network
- Combined innovation procurement volume
- Contribution of procured solutions to the public policy objectives to be validated by the Commission
- Relevant sustainability indicator(s) (depending on the nature of the innovation e.g. CO² emissions).

3.15. 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, SME representatives, non-governmental organisations, etc.) to discuss challenges for access to the single market, resilience, green and digital transformation of SMEs. This also includes dedicated training to boost the administrative capacity of SOLVIT centres to handle business cases, as well as the organisation of the EU Industry Days. 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. This includes access to finance communication activities.

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, including support for the Single Digital Gateway.

Implementation

DG GROW, DG DIGIT, EISMEA

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, SME representatives, non-governmental organisations, etc.) to discuss challenges for access to single market.

Technical support and hosting activities will also be included.

Budget: EUR 5 777 980

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.

Description

ECHA develops and maintains the EUCLEF database according to the Contribution Agreement concluded with the Commission, represented by DG GROW. To perform this task, ECHA receives a budget via a Transfer of funds agreement that needs to be signed.

Additional information

Specific objective:

The objective of 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 chemical substances.

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

Considering that compliance with EU legislation is mandatory in order to manufacture, sell and distribute chemical substances, this initiative contributes to facilitating access to markets for SMEs.

Expected results:

What are the achievements in terms of policy?

Enhanced access to information on chemical legislation will contribute to the creation of a better business environment for companies. EU and national administrations will also benefit from the tool as it will enable them to verify to which extent a given chemical substance is already regulated at EU level. These impacts are in line with the Better Regulation principles.

What will be the impact on SMEs?

The project will allow SMEs to reduce regulatory and compliance costs. Relevant chemical information will become available for free, without the need to consult commercial organizations.

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 which enables companies to identify their EU legal obligations for a given substance. This is free-of-charge for SMEs.
- Continued implementation of the additional helpdesk in place since 2020 providing users support and advice on concrete questions concerning the pieces of

legislation covered by the tool.

- Integration of further pieces of legislation not yet covered by the current Contribution Agreement (in 2022).

When will they be available?

These services are already available. The objective of the 2022 action is to continue the implementation of the tool, to carry on operating the helpdesk set up in 2020, and to integrate additional pieces of legislation and further data analysis. The web service is available via ECHA's website: <https://echa.europa.eu/legislation-finder>

Budget: EUR 1 519 000

There is one procurement action.

Indicative implementation timetable:

- Signature of the Transfer of funds agreement: Q4 2022.
- 100% 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 2023 and may lead to the recovery of any unspent part of the 2022 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 implemented by ECHA via a Contribution agreement with the EC.

Description

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 signed in 2021.

Additional information

Specific objective:

The European Union Observatory on 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 the competitiveness and sustainability of EU businesses as follows:

- Nanotechnology is one of the recognised Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) indicated in the 2020 New Industrial Strategy for Europe (COM(2020)102). Nanotechnology 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 and ecosystems.

- 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 to SMEs.

Are there concrete deliverables?

- Pursuant to the Contribution 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 has been operational for several years. New results will become gradually available throughout the implementation period of the current Delegation Agreement (ending on 1/7/2023) and during the implementation of the still to be concluded Contribution Agreement.

Where will they be available?

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

Budget: EUR 609 000

There is only one procurement action.

Indicative implementation timetable:

- Signature of the Transfer of funds agreement: Q4 2022.
- Full requested sum (EUR 609 000) is provided as pre-financing.
- Tasks need to be completed within 18 months from the transfer of funds.
- A final financial report is expected in early 2024 and may lead to the recovery of any unspent part of the 2022 allocation.

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

- Maintenance and improvement of the European Union Observatory on 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 - SME Performance Review*

Amount

EUR 500 000

Description

This action will provide an improved knowledge and understanding of the situation of SMEs at EU and national levels and feed into the SME-related parts in the European semester exercise and documents related to SME policy.

It will support the monitoring and assessment of countries' and EU's progress in implementing the SME related policies, provide relevant statistical information on SMEs such as compilation, update and calculation of a database of SME policy indicators. This will allow an assessment of SME policy and any other data/analysis/inputs to be used for the SME Performance Review reports and country sheets.

5.1.2. *Social Economy Canvas – follow-up*

Amount

EUR 200 000

Description

The Social Economy canvas was developed by a previous administrative arrangement (AA) between JRC and DG GROW. Within this AA, a prototype was developed and tested with over 300 social enterprises.

On the basis of the feedback, actions in the new AA should integrate the feedback and adapt the prototype towards a final version of the canvas.

The canvas prototype should be developed into a **digital tool** (application accessible via an online webpage) where supportive organisations and businesses themselves can use the canvas to picture their different business relations, transactions of values and generation of impact along the current triple bottom line structure.

The digital tool will also allow data processing and analysis of types of business models within the social economy.

The end result should be a user-friendly online application that delivers qualitative business model support for existing and starting social enterprises, as well as mainstream SMEs.

Implementation

Q2/2022

5.2. Remunerated experts; reimbursement of experts

Amount

EUR 700 000

Description

Remunerated experts: to provide expertise in the evaluation of larger calls for proposals, and for which no separate budget is foreseen.

Reimbursement of experts: support to the conferences and expert meetings (including European Business Organisation meetings; meetings and conferences, dialogue with stakeholders).

6. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Please note that the following multiannual calls have been launched under the 2021 Work Programme. This section is for information only.

The budget included in the 2022 work programme is as follows:

TITLE	Action Ref.	Date of publication	Indicative amount (EUR)
Enterprise Europe Network	2.1	11/05/2021	47 000 000
Joint Cluster Initiative	2.2	30/09/2021	9 000 000
Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	2.9	Q1/2022	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)

Planning of actions from the 2021 work programme

Budget line	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total commitment appropriations 2021-2025 EUR
030202						
Action 2.1	47 000 000	47 000 000	47 000 000	23 500 000	0	164 500 000
Action 2.2	16 800 000	9 000 000	13 200 000	3 000 000	0	42 000 000
Action 2.9	10 700 000	10 000 000	5 000 000	9 300 000	5 000 000	40 000 000
Action 4.3	1 000 000	0	500 000	500 000	0	2 000 000

List of Projects

	TITLE	Budget	sub-totals
GRANTS			
2.1	Enterprise Europe Network grants	47 000 000	
2.2	Joint Cluster Initiatives	9 000 000	
2.3	Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs grants	10 000 000	
2.4	EEN budget needed for the annual conference	150 000	
2.5	EU-Japan Center for Industrial Co-operation	7 000 000	
2.6	Business Planet	600 000	
2.7	Sustainable growth and building resilience in tourism – empowering SMEs to carry out the twin transition	20 500 000	
2.8	Promoting trans-European tourism products in third countries	3 500 000	
2.9	SME policy: Analysis related to scale-up enterprises	1 200 000	
2.10	Greening SMEs in the proximity and social economy ecosystem through transnational cooperation	6 000 000	104 950 000
PROCUREMENT			
3.1	YEB - Your Europe Business	550 000	
3.2	SME policy	3 100 000	
3.3	European Construction Sector Observatory	1 100 000	
3.4	International IP SME helpdesks	6 000 000	
3.5	Implementation of Pact for Skills	4 500 000	
3.6	EEN budget for Enterprise Europe Network animation	3 000 000	
3.7	Support to Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs - support office & IT tools	852 500	
3.8	Fostering innovative, smart and inclusive solutions in tourism SMEs through the European Capital of Smart Tourism and European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN) awards	2 000 000	
3.9	European portal to provide integrated support for tourism SMEs and stakeholders	3 250 000	
3.10	Intelligent Cities Challenge Initiative - renewal of contract	7 435 915	
3.11	Socially responsible public procurement	3 500 000	
3.12	Improving the socio-economic knowledge of the proximity and social economy ecosystem	500 000	
3.13	Fit for future: Better Regulation agenda	807 000	
3.14	Setting up of a Big Public Buyers collaboration network for strategic public procurement	4 400 000	
3.15	<i>Supporting actions</i>	5 777 980	46 773 395
INDIRECT MANAGEMENT			
4.1	Chemicals Legislation Finder	1 519 000	
4.2	European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials	609 000	2 128 000
OTHER			
5.1.1	SME policy – contribution to the European Semester	500 000	
5.1.2	Canvas for the social economy businesses (JRC)	200 000	
5.2	Remunerated experts; reimbursement of experts	700 000	1 400 000
	TOTAL		155 251 395

Eligibility criteria and Selection and award criteria for grants

Eligibility criteria

Applicant organisations must be established:

- in EU Member States;
- or in third countries participating in the programme under Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2021/690.

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 (including operational quality) of the proposed actions;
- Project design and implementation;
- Project team and cooperation arrangements;
- Impact.