



BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS & SMEs
PROGRAMME

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COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR THE PROGRAMME (2014-2020)



Business Competitiveness and SME programme

Aims at improving the business environment and competitiveness of European enterprises.

Main targets:

entrepreneurs, Business Support Organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

- Support for entrepreneurship: citizens who want to become self-employed and face difficulties in setting up or developing their own business.
- Better access to finance for enterprises.
- Business support services: the Enterprise Europe Network as a network of business services centres.

Key actions:

1. Access to finance for SMEs through dedicated financial instruments: a planned equity facility for growth-phase investment will provide commercially oriented reimbursable equity financing primarily in the form of venture capital (VC) and a loan facility will provide risk sharing arrangements with financial intermediaries to cover loans for SMEs.

2. Enterprise Europe Network: “one-stop shop” for business needs of SMEs in the EU and beyond. It provides enterprises with a range of quality and free-of-charge business support services to help make them more competitive: information, guidance and customised assistance. It facilitates business expansion in the EU Single Market and beyond.

3. Support for initiatives to foster entrepreneurship: to ease difficulties in setting up business; encourage trans-national networks, to exchange good practices and identify scope for expanding business activities.

4. Access to markets: the programme will provide SMEs with business support in markets outside the EU. International business cooperation will be supported, in particular, to reduce the differences in regulatory and business environments between the EU and its main trading partners.