



## WHAT IS CIP?

## Increasing competitiveness through innovation

## What is CIP?

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) aims to encourage the competitiveness of European enterprises. With small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as its main target, the programme supports innovation activities (including eco-innovation), provides better access to finance and delivers business support services in the regions. It encourages a better take-up and use of information and communications technologies (ICT) and helps to develop the information society. It also promotes the increased use of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

The CIP will run from 2007 to 2013 with an overall budget of € 3.621 million.

## Three specific programmes focusing on Competitiveness and Innovation

The CIP is divided into three operational programmes. Each of them has its specific objectives, aimed at contributing to the competitiveness of enterprises and their innovative capacity in its own areas, such as ICT or sustainable energy:

**The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP),** with a budget of € 2166 million, has as objectives:

- Better access to finance for SMEs through venture capital investment and loan guarantee instruments
- Business and innovation support services delivered through a network of regional centres: The Enterprise Europe Network
- Promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation
- Support for eco-innovation
- Support for policy-making that encourages entrepreneurship and innovation

**The Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP)**, with a budget of € 728 million, aims at:

- Developing a single European information space and strengthening the European internal market for ICT and ICT-based products and services



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- Encouraging innovation through the wider adoption of and investment in ICT
- Developing an inclusive information society and more efficient and effective services in areas of public interest and improving quality of life

**The Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE),**  
with a budget of € 727 million, aims at:

- Fostering energy efficiency and the rational use of energy sources
- Promoting new and renewable energy sources and energy diversification
- Promoting energy efficiency and new energy sources in transport

## CIP specific programmes: toolbox of activities

The three specific programmes under the CIP encompass a variety of instruments and activities to fulfil their objectives such as:

- Financial instruments to provide better access to finance to SMEs through financial intermediaries
- Annual calls for proposals for intelligent energy and ICT projects
- Pilot and market replication projects on eco-innovation, sustainable energy or ICT
- Analytical studies on sustainable energy, ICT, competitiveness and innovation policy
- Networking activities (private and public partners) to facilitate the exchange of best practices in order to improve innovation policies

## Want to know more about CIP?

For more information please visit the CIP portal where you can access the websites of each specific programme and initiative, as well as finding relevant news and details of events and calls related to CIP:

[http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm)

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# ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME

## What is this programme about?

The EIP is one of the specific programmes under the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). With a budget of € 2.17 billion for the period 2007-2013, the EIP seeks to support innovation and SMEs in the EU, focusing on:

- Facilitating access to finance for the start-up and growth of SMEs and encouraging investment in innovation activities (total budget of € 1.1 billion)
- Creating an environment favourable to SME cooperation, particularly in the field of cross-border cooperation
- Promoting all forms of innovation in enterprises
- Supporting eco-innovation
- Promoting an entrepreneurship and innovation culture
- Promoting enterprise and innovation-related economic and administrative reform.

## Instruments and actions

### 1. Access to finance for SMEs through “CIP financial instruments”

These financial instruments target companies in different phases of their lifecycle: seed, start up, expansion and business transfer; and will support investments in technological development, innovation (including eco-innovation), technology transfer, and the cross border expansion of business activities.

They are managed by the European Investment Fund in cooperation with financial institutions in the different Member States.

SMEs that would like to know more about these instruments should consult the list of financial instruments in their countries on the website [www.access2finance.eu](http://www.access2finance.eu)

### 2. “Enterprise Europe Network”: a network of business and innovation service centres

Enterprise Europe Network is a “one-stop shop” for the innovation and business needs of SMEs in the EU and beyond. It provides enterprises with a range of quality and free-of-charge business and innovation support services to help make them more competitive, such as:

- Information, guidance and customised assistance on EU funding opportunities, including in the Research area (FP7)
- Technology audits and technology transfer
- Business partner finding

For more information on the Enterprise Europe Network, please consult the following website:

[http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm)

### 3. Support for initiatives to foster entrepreneurship and innovation

Support is given to encourage the trans-national networking actors in the innovation process (public bodies, cluster managers, business incubators, enterprise associations, etc.), to exchange good practice on innovation policy; identify scope for pooling or improving innovation support.



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## ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME

Under the EIP, analytical work is also undertaken to facilitate evidence-based policy-making by national and regional policy-makers. Such work includes the compilation and analysis of data on innovation potentials, performances and policies of the Member States and regions, as well as other main economies.

Free-of-charge services, such as those offered by the IPR Helpdesk, help managers of EU-funded projects to manage the intellectual property rights and related issues.

A broad range of specific actions are organised every year in the EU to support SMEs or specific target groups, such as young or women entrepreneurs.

### 4. Eco-innovation - making sustainable development become a business reality

Under the EIP first application and market replication projects are supported on innovative products, processes and services aimed at reducing environmental impacts, preventing pollution or achieving a more efficient and responsible use of natural resources.

For more information, consult this site:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/etap/ecoinnovation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/etap/ecoinnovation/index_en.htm)

### 5. Support for policy-making

The EIP supports policy-makers with analytical activities: the latest trends and developments in certain sectors, as well as European and global markets are analysed in studies and the results disseminated. Examples include the annual EU Competitiveness Report and the analysis on reducing administrative burden in EU legislation affecting SMEs.

Under the EIP, a number of conferences and other public events are organised to assemble and publicise sectoral knowledge, inform policy-makers, and make policy suggestions to increase the coherence and cooperation between EU Member States.

### Want to know more?

More information on all of the aforementioned initiatives can be found on the EIP website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/cip/eip\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/cip/eip_en.htm)



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# CIP FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme

**N**early one third of the budget of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) is allocated to financial instruments that aim to facilitate SMEs' access to finance. They complement financial schemes at national level.

With a **total budget of over € 1.1 billion** for the period 2007-2013, the CIP Financial Instruments should enable financial institutions to provide about **€ 30 billion of new finance** for up to 400 000 small and medium businesses in Europe.

More than 360 000 SMEs have benefited from predecessor programmes.

These instruments, which are part of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme under CIP, address SMEs' needs for financing at various stages of development. They cover areas of the market where there are few private investors, mainly the seed, start-up, expansion and business transfer phases. These instruments increase the investment volumes of risk capital funds and provide guarantees for lending to SMEs.

## The financing process

The CIP financial instruments are not directly available to SMEs but implemented by the European Investment Fund (EIF) and selected financial institutions.

EIF manages the programme on behalf of the Commission with the aim reaching as many growing SMEs as possible.

Small businesses can contact selected national financial institutions to get access to investments or guaranteed lending.

For **venture capital**, EIF invests in funds focused on early and expansion stage of specialised sectors, particularly eco-innovation. In these cases, EIF is usually a cornerstone investor.

For **guarantees**, the EIF establishes risk-sharing arrangements with intermediaries that provide finance directly to SMEs, such as banks, or with intermediaries that issue guarantees for the benefit of lending institutions.

A list of the **CIP financial intermediaries by country** can be found at: [www.access2finance.eu](http://www.access2finance.eu)

European funding brings added value because the CIP financial instruments allow national financial institutions to invest in or lend to small businesses that otherwise might not get the financing they need due to their riskiness or their lack of collateral.

## CIP financial instruments

The CIP provides different types of instruments depending on the SME's stage of development and its particular financing needs:

High Growth and Innovative SME Facility (GIF1 & GIF2)	SME Guarantee Facility (SMEG)
GIF1: early stage (seed and start-up) investments	Loan guarantees
GIF2: expansion stage	Microcredit
	Equity and quasi-equity guarantees
	Securitisation
€ 550 m	€ 506 m

## Links

For an overview of the EU initiatives and actions to improve SMEs' access to finance and further details on the CIP financial instruments, please visit our websites:

- **DG Enterprise and Industry:**  
<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/finance>
- **DG Economic and Financial Affairs:**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/financial\\_operation\\_instruments/index\\_en.htm?cs\\_mid=87](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/financial_operation_instruments/index_en.htm?cs_mid=87)
- **European Investment Fund (EIF):**  
<http://www.eif.europa.eu>



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### CIP financial instruments in detail

#### 1. RISK CAPITAL FOR INNOVATIVE AND HIGH-GROWTH SMEs

The **HIGH GROWTH AND INNOVATIVE SME FACILITY (GIF)** contributes to the establishment and financing of SMEs and reduces the lack of equity capital in the markets. GIF provides:

- **Risk capital for innovative SMEs in their early stages (GIF1)** - EIF can usually invest 10-25% of the total funds raised by the intermediary venture capital fund. Co-investment in funds and investment vehicles promoted by business angels, may also be available.
- **Risk capital for SMEs with high growth potential in their expansion phase (GIF2)** - EIF can invest 7.5-15% by the total funds raised of the intermediary venture capital fund.

The EIF can invest, exceptionally, up to 50% in GIF1 and up to 25% in GIF2 for new funds likely to have a particularly strong catalytic role. In both cases, the maximum commitment for a single fund cannot exceed € 30 m and the funds have to make investment decisions based on normal commercial criteria. A part (more than € 160 million) of the overall budget of this facility is specifically earmarked for the support of eco-innovation oriented investment funds.

For further information, please consult:

[http://www.eif.org/venture/resources/european\\_commission/index.htm](http://www.eif.org/venture/resources/european_commission/index.htm)

**SMEs wishing to apply** for an equity investment need to contact the funds or the financial institutions that have signed an agreement with the EIF.

The list is available at: [www.access2finance.eu](http://www.access2finance.eu)

**Venture and risk capital funds** aiming to raise funds may submit their investment proposal or questions to: [cip.venturecapital@eif.org](mailto:cip.venturecapital@eif.org)

#### 2. MORE DEBT FINANCE FOR SMES (LOAN GUARANTEES)

The **SME GUARANTEE FACILITY (SMEG)** provides guarantees to encourage financial institutions to make more debt finance available to SMEs by reducing their exposure to risk. SMEG provides co-, counter- and direct guarantees to financial intermediaries providing loans, mezzanine finance and equity to SMEs. SMEG covers:

- **Guarantees for debt financing via loans or leasing:** the goal is to support SMEs with growth potential. The aim is to reduce SMEs' difficulties in accessing finance either due to the perceived higher risk or to the lack of sufficient collateral.



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- **Guarantees for microcredits:** guarantees for loans of up to € 25 000 to micro-enterprises with up to 9 employees, particularly for entrepreneurs starting a business. Financial intermediaries may also receive some support to partially offset the high administrative costs of microloans.
- **Guarantees to cover equity and quasi-equity investments in SMEs:** they guarantee investments providing seed capital, capital in the start-up phase, mezzanine financing or risk capital operations to support businesses with up to 249 employees. The aim is to reduce particular difficulties encountered by SMEs with a weak financial structure, or those arising from business transfers.
- **Guarantees to support securitisation structures:** guarantees can also be provided to support securitisation structures to assist financial intermediaries in mobilising debt finance for SMEs. The financial intermediary is obliged to use a significant part of the freed resources for new SME financing.

	LOAN	MICROCREDIT	EQUITY	SECURITISATION
Guarantee rate	≤ 50%	≤ 75%	≤ 50%	≤ 100% (except first loss piece: ≤ 50%)

For further information, please consult:

[www.eif.org/guarantees/cip\\_portfolio\\_guarantees/index.htm](http://www.eif.org/guarantees/cip_portfolio_guarantees/index.htm)

**SMEs wishing to apply** for an equity investment need to contact the funds or the financial institutions that have signed an agreement with the EIF.

The list is available at: [www.access2finance.eu](http://www.access2finance.eu)

Prospective **financial intermediaries** can obtain detailed information on the SMEG from: [cip.guarantees@eif.org](mailto:cip.guarantees@eif.org)  
More information: [www.eif.org/guarantees/cip\\_portfolio\\_guarantees/application-procedure.htm](http://www.eif.org/guarantees/cip_portfolio_guarantees/application-procedure.htm)

### Other EU Financial Instruments

In addition to the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, other EU initiatives aim to facilitate SMEs' access to finance as well:

- **JEREMIE (Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises):** promotes increased access to finance for the development of SMEs at regional level through the Structural Funds. More information: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/funds/2007/jjj/jeremie\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/2007/jjj/jeremie_en.htm) or <http://www.eif.org/jeremie/activity/index.htm>
- **European Investment Bank's loans for SMEs.** More information: <http://www.eib.org/about/news/eib-loan-for-smes.htm>





# THE ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK

## Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme

Business Support at Your Doorstep

### What is it?

Enterprise Europe Network is the largest European business support network offering a broad range of services tailored for SMEs in the EU and beyond.

The Network consists of highly specialised organisations with a proven capacity in business support that have been chosen for their strong links with SMEs and their expertise.

Partner organisations include mainly Chambers of Commerce, Innovation Agencies, Regional Development Agencies and Technology Centres at Universities.

The Network is financed by the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme under the CIP and the total Community contribution for the period 2007 – 2013 is € 320 million.

### What services are offered?

Built on the experience of two long-running predecessor networks (Euro Info Centres and Innovation Relay Centres), Enterprise Europe Network acts as a business support network and an innovation facilitator.

It is a 'one-stop shop' for the innovation and business needs of SMEs which promotes business cooperation, internationalisation of SMEs, awareness of Community funding opportunities, technology cooperation, technology transfer and innovative technologies.

### How can SMEs benefit in practice?

- By getting information on EU legislation, standards and major policies at European level;
- By being guided to funding opportunities and EU programmes;
- By having their access to EU Research programmes (most notably FP7) facilitated;
- By being informed about business cooperation opportunities within the Single Market and in Third Countries;
- By receiving comprehensive innovation support through advanced technology transfer services, trans-national technology cooperation and brokerage services;
- Furthermore, the Network allows European SMEs to have their voices heard early on in the decision-making process. A dedicated feedback tool enables SMEs to register their experience with the application of existing and forthcoming EU legislation and programmes. The Commission regularly consults this feedback.

### Geographic Areas covered: The Network in your region

Enterprise Europe Network is active in 44 countries, including already all EU27 countries, the European Economic Area (Iceland, Norway), Candidate Countries (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey), Switzerland and other third countries, including China (part), Russia and the USA.

For the complete list of countries covered by the Enterprise Europe Network and to find the centre nearest to you, please check this website:

<http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu>



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# ECO-INNOVATION

## Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme

The key to Europe's future competitiveness

Eco-innovation helps changing consumption and production patterns by developing technologies, products and services that reduce our impact on the environment. This concept merges business and innovation to create sustainable solutions that make better use of precious resources and reduce the negative impacts of the economy on the environment.

But it is not just the environment that stands to gain from eco-innovation. The world market for environmental products and services is growing every year. So from a business standpoint, it is also a great time for Europe to step up its investment in this relatively new sector.

### What is eco-innovation?

Eco-innovation is the innovation process to develop and bring to the markets new environmental technologies, products and services that reduce the overall impact on the environment so that business and innovation can, together, create sustainable solutions.

Eco-innovation refers to all forms of innovation (technological and non-technological), new products and services and new business practices, which create business opportunities and benefit the environment by preventing or reducing their impact, or by optimising the use of resources (including energy use).

Practical examples of eco-innovation include processes to recover valuable substances from waste water, more efficient food packaging, production of construction materials from recycled waste, eco-products and new management methods.

### Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP)

ETAP is the European action plan to stimulate eco-innovation and the take-up of environmental technologies on a broad scale. Launched in 2004, the plan maps out action at European level, by Member States, and stakeholders.

It is composed of 3 groups of actions: Getting from Research to Markets (e.g.: technology platforms), Improving Market Conditions (e.g.: Financial instruments to share the risks) and Acting at Global level (e.g.: supporting Eco-technologies in developing countries).

You can read more about ETAP here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/etap/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/etap/index_en.html)

### How is eco-innovation supported in CIP?

Eco-innovation is a horizontal priority of the CIP Framework Programme. During the period 2007-2013 roughly € 433 million have been set aside for eco-innovation to support projects under the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme.

Support is available through three different channels:

- **Financial instruments**  
(specific support to eco-innovation oriented investment funds) with an indicative budget of € 228 million
- **Pilot and market replication projects,**  
with an indicative budget of € 195 million
- **Networks**  
of national and regional actors, with an indicative budget € 10 million



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### Who can apply for funding?

- Are you a **venture or risk capital fund** investing in SMEs involved in eco-innovation initiatives?

See section related to Risk Capital for innovative High-growth SMEs under CIP Financial Instruments or visit the website of the European Investment Fund (EIF) to find more information about the financial instruments:

[http://www.eif.org/venture/resources/european\\_commission/index.htm](http://www.eif.org/venture/resources/european_commission/index.htm)

- Are you a **company** that has an innovative eco-innovation solution that has already been developed and tested, but needs support with the first application or market replication of your product or process?

In the context of CIP Eco-innovation First application and Market replication projects, support is given to the application and further market uptake of some of the best eco-innovative products and services in Europe helping to overcome those critical barriers that still hamper their commercial success.

Visit the website for information on how to apply, priority areas, examples of some successful projects and Frequently Asked Questions at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/ecoinnovation/>

- Are you interested in **networks** for eco-innovation?

With specific calls we are seeking to exchange best practice schemes for eco-innovation policy and to build up a networked observatory on eco-innovation, providing a strategic insight into this thriving sector. Calls are usually published within the framework of Europe INNOVA and PRO INNO Europe, which are also two initiatives of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme.

For more information see the fiche “support for innovation” in this folder or consult this website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/index_en.htm)



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# SUPPORT FOR INNOVATION

## Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme

The EU's innovation strategy aims to overcome market failures and remove the market barriers which prevent innovative businesses from expanding and flourishing across Europe. In order to achieve this objective, the EU adopts policy measures to improve, in partnership with Member States, the framework conditions for innovation.

The support for innovation actions financed under the **CIP Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme** closely reflect the recommendations of the Communication "Putting knowledge into practice: A broad-based innovation strategy for the EU", notably in relation to making the EU more innovation-friendly through wide partnerships involving consumers and citizens and by promoting cooperation between public and private stakeholders.

### Support for Entrepreneurial Innovation

The Commission's support for innovation essentially takes the form of financial support for market replication, commercial innovation activities (through financial instruments), direct business support services (the Enterprise Europe Network), support for capacity building of potential innovators and innovation support providers such as business incubators, financing intermediaries, cluster managers and development agencies, etc.

An important instrument is the **Europe INNOVA** initiative that aspires to become the laboratory for the development and testing of new tools and instruments in support of innovation in Europe in order to help innovative enterprises innovate faster and better.

**European Innovation Platforms**, made up of public-private partnerships with both a sectoral and transversal focus, are the chosen mechanisms for these activities in the field. So far, Innovation Platforms (IP) have been set up in three high priority policy areas: transnational cluster cooperation, eco-innovation and knowledge intensive services (KIS).

In the **KIS-IP**, three sectoral partnerships currently address the specific needs of innovative service companies in ICT services, renewable energy and satellite based applications. They design, test and validate improved support mechanisms for KIS start-ups, with the aim of facilitating access to finance and networking with clusters.

As a transversal action, the **"KIS 100 CLUB"** of young innovative service companies in Europe with high growth potential has been established, providing a platform for mutual learning and exchange of practical experience.

The work of the Innovation Platforms is underpinned by two analytical actions that also support the development of innovation policy:

- **Sectoral Innovation Watch** makes cross-industry comparisons of sectoral innovation patterns and performance in order to offer policy-makers, innovation professionals and others a better and deeper understanding of the drivers and barriers to innovation activities and performance within specific sectors.
- The **European Cluster Observatory**, which through quantitative analysis and mapping of business clusters across the EU, rates them according to size, specialisation and focus thus providing crucial information for enterprises and investors on what cluster organisations can offer.

The innovation management action, **IMP<sup>3</sup>rove**, offers SMEs the possibility to assess their innovation management performance online and benchmark themselves against similar companies in other countries, to help them improve their business performance. The free-of-charge online assessment is accompanied by a benchmarking report and the offer of support from specially trained consultants and intermediaries.

The **IPR Helpdesk** provides free-of-charge information and resources to help EU-funded projects manage Intellectual Property Rights and related issues. It offers online training modules, a helpline and a comprehensive collection of relevant documents.



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### Support for Innovation Policy Making

The Commission supports the development or improvement of national and regional innovation policies and their impact, notably through analytical activities to facilitate evidence-based policy-making, by fostering synergies between EU and national or regional innovation policies and programmes and through mutual learning and transfer of good practices,

A key instrument in this respect is the **PRO INNO Europe**® initiative which aims to become the focal point for innovation policy analysis, learning and development in Europe, by learning from the best and contributing to the development of new and better innovation policies in Europe. The initiative brings together public actors responsible for innovation fostering transnational cooperation on support for innovation.

Analytical tools in support of evidence-based policy-making include:

- The **European Innovation Scoreboard** (EIS) is published yearly and provides a comparative assessment of the innovation performance and progress in the EU, by grouping Member States according to their levels of performance as innovation leaders, innovation followers, moderate innovators or catching-up countries. Comparisons are also made with the key competitors in the global market.
- **Innobarometer** is an annual survey of 3,500 randomly selected companies in the EU that complements the results of the EIS by analysing specific aspects of innovation such as the role of clusters in facilitating innovative activity or innovation transfer.
- **INNO-Policy TrendChart** describes and analyses major innovation policy trends at national and regional levels across Europe with a view to contributing to policy assessment and to identifying examples of good practice, thus improving the basis for decision making in innovation policy. A policy monitoring network tracks developments in innovation policy measures in 39 countries in Europe, the Mediterranean region, North America and Asia. The information collected is used to run and maintain an inventory of innovation policy information and policy measures, and also feeds into annual country reports and an annual **European Innovation Progress Report**.
- **INNO-Appraisal** contributes to the creation, consolidation and strengthening of an evaluation culture in Europe, through the collection, analysis and further dissemination of evaluation results and impact assessments of innovation programmes.
- **INNO-GRIPS** compiles and further analyses existing studies worldwide as well as information on innovation policy-making, business innovation, and academic discussions.



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In addition, the Sectoral Innovation Watch and the European Cluster Observatory under Europe INNOVA provide analytical evidence for innovation policy-making.

The Commission also supports closer cooperation between public innovation policy-makers and actors at different levels:

**INNO-Views** explores new or better innovation policy instruments by establishing a dialogue between public authorities, analysts, industry and academia on innovation policy matters.

**INNO-Nets** develops and tests new innovation policy concepts helping to improve their efficiency and to speed up their implementation throughout Europe in specific priority areas, including clusters, eco-innovation and services.

The **INNO-Learning Platform / Partnering Forum** is an open platform where public innovation support providers from across Europe meet to exchange experience and mutual learning in order to improve their efficiency in providing innovation support services to innovative SMEs.

The Forum also looks at how to remove existing barriers for the use of “better practice” and how to adapt financial and budgetary rules to provide innovation support in a more tailored and customised manner, to better address the needs of innovative SMEs in Europe.

**INNO-Actions** are ‘joint ventures’ between public innovation agencies and private organisations which address innovation in a broader context:

- **European Innovation Weeks** are organised in parallel in different European regions and bring innovation to the citizens, showcasing regional excellence and highlighting the innovation potential of local companies. They contribute to building a strong regional innovation identity, stimulating dialogue between the different innovation players, and they help raise the international profile of the participating regions.
- The **European Initiative for Excellence of Cluster Organisations** promotes the professionalisation of cluster management in Europe in order to raise the quality of services provided by cluster organisations to enterprises and also to ensure the efficient use of public support for cluster organisations. It aims to create a community of cluster managers in Europe and to support the recognition of cluster management as a new profession.

### Want to know more?

For more information, visit the innovation site:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/index_en.htm)





## ICT-POLICY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

ICT, boosting innovation for all

### Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

ICT has considerable potential to drive growth and jobs in Europe.

ICT plays an instrumental role in boosting innovation all in sectors and contributes to more than 40% of overall productivity growth.

Widespread use of ICT can result in new public and private markets, shorter innovation cycles and faster responses to key socio-economic challenges.

ICT fuels the delivery of new and better public services, brings efficiency gains and helps in cutting the rising costs related to global problems that Europe is facing. It brings unique responses e.g. to the growing needs for sustainable health-care and ageing well, for better security and privacy, for a lower carbon economy and for intelligent transport.

Europe can drive progress in developing and using ICT-based innovations in addressing such global socio-economic challenges.

ICT is therefore at the core of the **Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme** of the EU (CIP) through the specific programme: **Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP)**.

**ICT PSP** has a budget of about € 730 million and runs from 2007-2013. In 2009 the annual budget amounts to more than € 110 million. It will go beyond € 140 million in 2013.

### Objectives of ICT PSP

The ICT Policy Support Programme aims at a wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses, in particular SMEs.

It helps overcome technical but also organisational hurdles that hinder the advancement of an information society for all.

ICT PSP aims to develop pan-European, innovative ICT-based solutions and services, most notably in areas of public interest. It seeks in particular to strengthen the role that the public sector can play in actively driving uptake of innovative products and services in sectors with a potential for high-growth.



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Greater uptake of such ICT services will open a wide range of new business opportunities, in particular for innovative SMEs.

### Activities supported by ICT PSP

ICT PSP mainly supports pilot projects aimed at testing in real settings innovative ICT based services in areas such as:

- ICT for health
- ICT for ageing and inclusion
- Digital Libraries
- ICT for government and governance
- ICT for energy efficiency, environment and smart mobility
- Public Sector information
- Internet evolution and security

It also supports networking actions providing a forum for stakeholders for experience sharing and consensus building on such areas.

### Implementation

Pilot projects and networking actions funded by ICT PSP are selected through open calls for proposals launched each year. The exact themes and objectives addressed in each call are detailed in the ICT PSP annual Work Programme.

### Who can apply?

Participation in the programme is open to organisations from all EU member states and other countries having specific agreements for participation in ICT PSP.

Any proposal needs to be submitted by a consortium which should comprise the necessary stakeholders in the value-chain (e.g. service and content providers, technologies providers, users, legal authorities etc) to address one of the objectives of the annual work programme. It should also include a minimum number of organisations from different member or associated states.

For further details see the ICT PSP annual Work Programme and the guides for Applicants on the ICT PSP web site provided for each call.



### Other actions: support for policy making

ICT PSP monitors the development of the Information Society in Europe through benchmarking activities and surveys. It supports policy-making with studies and analytical activities on the latest trends and developments concerning ICT related areas and issues. It also supports high level policy conferences and coordination actions with member states representatives as well as wider dissemination and awareness raising actions.

### Example of actions already funded by ICT PSP:

#### Pilot project building on national initiatives:

The pilot project "PEPPOL" on electronic procurement aims to develop interoperability between national systems. This is crucial for allowing businesses to bid for public sector contracts anywhere in the EU, for facilitating the electronic cross border exchange of orders, invoices, and mutual recognition of electronic information concerning businesses. Eight member or associated states are directly involved and co-invest in the pilot and others should join them. All member or associated states can have access to the outcomes of the project.

#### Pilot stimulating the uptake of innovative services:

The pilot project "NEXES" responds to the need to unfold pilot experiences for integrated and innovative ICT based health-care services. It targets patients with chronic illnesses or citizens at risk and addresses four types of innovative ICT based services in wellbeing and physical training; care for fragile patients; home hospitalization and early discharge, and diagnostic and treatment support. NEXES fits with the European dynamic of adapting regional healthcare services to the challenges posed by demographic and lifestyle changes and the increased prevalence of chronic illnesses. The pilot plans to involve more than 5000 patients in three different countries.

#### Thematic Network for sharing experience and developing common approach:

The "NESIS" network aims to promote the uptake of ICT solutions to address the fundamental problems faced by public authorities in providing information related to monitoring and reporting environmental impacts and threats. By supporting a shared vision to streamline current information and reporting systems and promote adoption of an interoperable informa-

tion infrastructure, the network aims to support the creation of a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS).

### For further information

**More information** on ICT PSP can be found on the website of the programme.

[http://ec.europa.eu/ict\\_psp](http://ec.europa.eu/ict_psp)

In particular, details on **calls for proposals**, based on the annual **Work Programme** are detailed on the ICT PSP website which also provides additional relevant information and guidelines for applicants to submit a proposal.

A call for independent experts to assist the commission for evaluating proposals and reviewing projects is also open and detailed on the website.

ICT PSP is managed by the DG Information Society and Media service of the European Commission

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/information\\_society/](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/information_society/)



Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme 2007-2013





# INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE PROGRAMME

The power to innovate

## What is the Intelligent Energy-Europe programme?

The Intelligent Energy – Europe (IEE) Programme is the Community's non-technological programme in the field of energy, focusing on the removal of market barriers, changing behaviour, creating a more favourable business environment for increasing energy efficiency and renewables markets, and making EU energy policy better understood and implemented in Europe's cities and regions.

With about € 730 million of funds available between 2007 and 2013, the IEE programme will help deliver on the ambitious climate change and energy targets that the EU has set for itself and at the same time boost the competitiveness of its economy while fighting climate change. The programme supports concrete projects, initiatives and policies. Specific actions to be supported in the framework of the IEE Programme are detailed in the annual IEE Work Programmes published each year.

The programme runs annual calls for proposals and funding covers up to 75% of the eligible project costs. From 2007, the programme has given financial support to more than 400 projects including 60 new local or regional energy agencies and involving over 3 000 organisations across Europe.

Examples of projects funded under this programme include training on new construction techniques that can lead to 50 percent or more energy savings compared with traditional buildings, improving the effectiveness of support schemes for electricity generation from renewable energy sources across Europe or help for transport in Europe's cities to become more energy intelligent and cleaner.

Part of the annual programme budget is allocated to actions of a strategic nature such as preparatory studies for efficiency and renewables policy initiatives including impact assessments, Concerted Actions, cooperation with the European Investment Bank, Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign, ManagEnergy initiative and the support for the Covenant of Mayors.



Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme 2007-2013

## What is "intelligent" energy?

Today, methods, tools and technologies towards smart production and consumption of energy, exist, but the knowledge and know-how required to make them work is not always available and differs significantly from country to country, and sometimes even from region to region.

When it comes to energy saving practices in the office or at home, it is the way people behave and act that makes the difference. Likewise, the installation of photovoltaic system into an existing building involves some specific expertise that is often hard to find.

The IEE programme puts the 'power to change' back in the hands of those people and organisations that are committed to a more rational use of energy and that believe in the potential of renewable energy sources. This programme brings them together and helps them cooperate better on a European level. In the future with intelligent energy, European businesses and consumers have a great role to play.

## Who can take part?

Any private or public organisation established in the European Union (plus Croatia, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland) can contribute to reaching the EU's energy and climate change objectives by applying under an annual IEE call for proposals or call for tenders.

Under calls for proposals, normally running for two to three years, projects need to involve at least three partners from three different countries. It is expected that projects funded under this programme will act as catalysts – inspiring other organisations to follow suit – and will continue to have a positive impact once the funding cycle is over.

## Want to know more?

A large part of the IEE programme is managed by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) on behalf of the European Commission, and seeks to bridge the gap between EU policies and their impact on the ground.

For more information on the programme, database of the projects, latest brochures and videos please visit the IEE website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/intelligentenergy>

For more information on the sustainable energy and calls for tenders, please visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/index_en.htm)

Increasing competitiveness through innovation

<http://ec.europa.eu/cip>