

EVALUATION ROADMAP				
TITLE OF THE EVALUATION/FC	Interim Evaluation of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME)			
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	GROW.H1	DATE OF THIS ROADMAP	16/01/2017	
TYPE OF EVALUATION	Evaluation, Interim Mixed	PLANNED START DATE	12 / 2016	
		PLANNED COMPLETION DATE	10 / 2017	
		PLANNING CALENDAR	http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/evaluation/index_en.htm	
This indicative roadmap is provided for information purposes only and is subject to change.				

A. Purpose
(A.1) Purpose
<p>COSME is a programme for EU actions to improve competitiveness of enterprises, with special emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). "SMEs" mean micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as defined in Recommendation 2003/361/EC.</p> <p>COSME builds on the previous programmes focused on supporting SMEs, in particular the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) from which it ensures the continuity of some important actions: the Financial instruments and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), as well as Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE).</p> <p>With a € 2.3 billion budget for 2014-2020, COSME supports the creation and growth of businesses and contributes to the Commission's first priority to create more growth and jobs and to fill the gap in investment in the EU.</p> <p>The purpose of the interim evaluation is defined in the legal base of the COSME programme, Regulation (EU) No 1287/2013. It will assess the programme at its mid-term point, contribute to improving the implementation and provide a solid evidence-base for designing future activities and initiatives.</p> <p>The interim evaluation is an important instrument to inform the European Parliament and the Council, Member States and other stakeholders about the progress of COSME towards the achievement of the objectives, the effectiveness of the programme, the relevance of measures and their coherence, the efficiency and use of resources, as well as the EU added value.</p> <p>The evaluation will also provide valuable information for the reflections on the future of the programme under the post-2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework.</p>
(A.2) Justification
<p>Article 15.3 of Regulation No 1287/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing a Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME) (2014 - 2020) and repealing Decision No 1639/2006/EC.</p>

B. Content and subject of the evaluation

(B.1) Subject area

The interim evaluation of COSME will cover the specific objectives and initiatives launched under the yearly COSME Work Programmes between 2014-2016. It builds on the impacts and results of the previous Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), in particular the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP) from which it has inherited the continuity of most of its actions, except innovation that is part of Horizon 2020.

(B.2) Original objectives of the intervention

The COSME regulation sets out two general objectives:

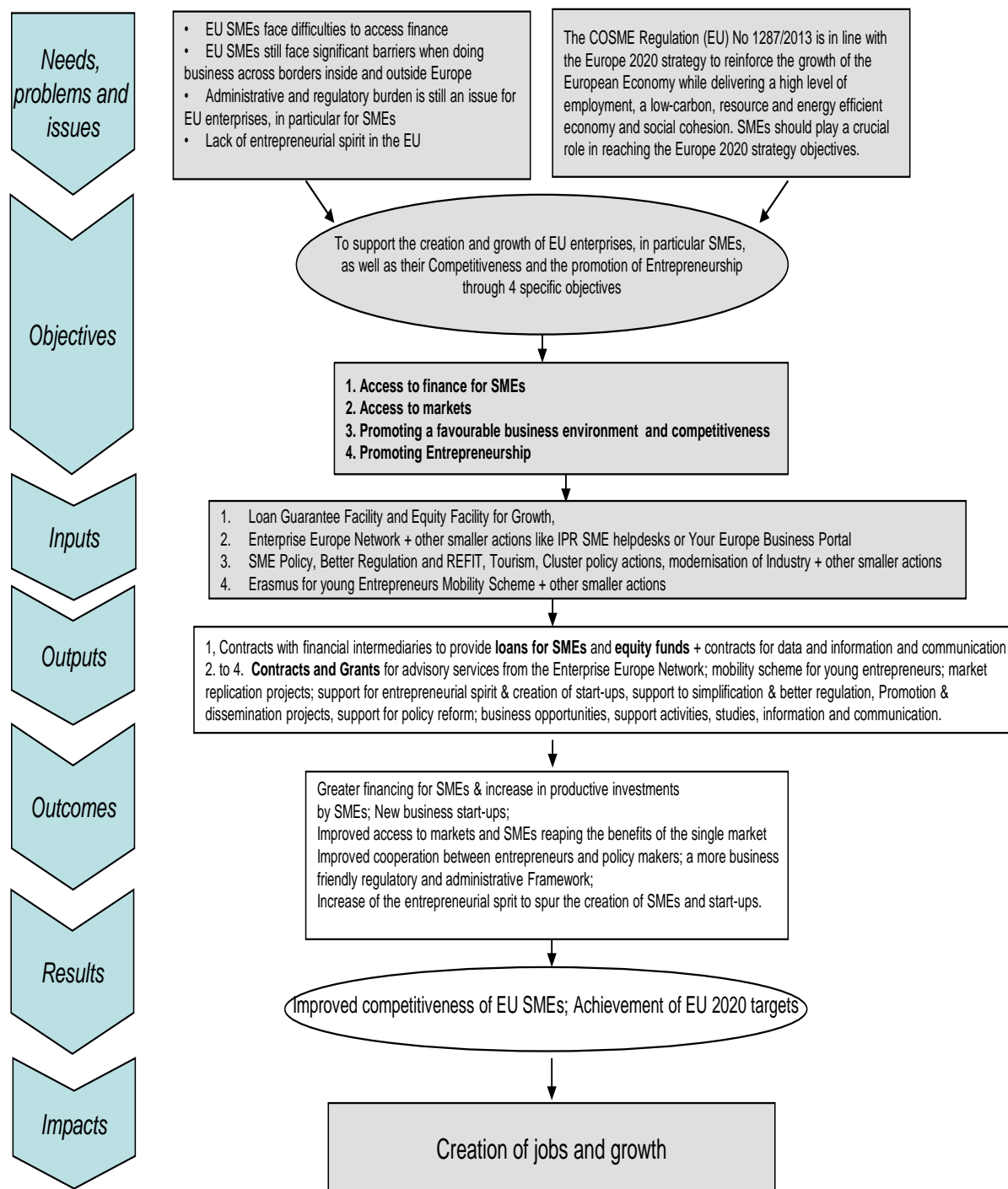
1. To strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of the EU's enterprises, particularly SMEs and
2. To encourage entrepreneurial culture and promoting the creation and growth of SMEs.

The four specific objectives of COSME are:

1. To improve access to finance for SMEs in the form of equity and debt (at least 60% of the budget, i.e. 1.4 billion).
2. To improve access to markets, particularly inside the Union but also at global level, mainly through the Enterprise Europe Network with contact points in more than 50 countries through its 535 local contact points (indicatively 21.5% of the budget).
3. To improve framework conditions for the competitiveness and sustainability of Union enterprises, particularly SMEs, including in the tourism sector (indicatively 11% of the budget).
4. To promote entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial culture (indicatively 2.5 % of the budget).

(B.3) How the objectives were to be achieved

The diagram below shows the intervention logic of the COSME programme:



C. Scope of the evaluation

(C.1) Topics covered

Art. 15.3 of the COSME regulation stipulates that:

- By 2018 at the latest, the Commission shall establish an interim evaluation report on the achievement of the objectives of all the actions supported under the COSME programme at the level of results and impacts, the efficiency of the use of resources and its European added value, with a view to a decision on the renewal, modification or suspension of the measures.

- The interim evaluation report shall also address the scope for simplification, its internal and external coherence, the continued relevance of all objectives, as well as the contribution of the measures to the Union priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- It shall take into account evaluation results on the long-term impact of the predecessor measures and shall feed into a decision on a possible renewal, modification or suspension of a subsequent measure.

The evaluation will cover the initial period of implementation of the COSME programme, from 2014 to 2016. It will comprise the analysis of the 5 evaluation topics (efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, coherence and EU added value) in conformity with article 15.3 of the COSME regulation.

Measurement of the key performance indicators as included in the COSME regulation as well as an analysis of the contribution of the programme to climate mainstreaming and gender mainstreaming objectives will be included.

The evaluation will also include measurement of the performance of the entities to which parts of the programme have been delegated, the European Investment Fund (EIF) and the Executive Agency for SMEs (EASME).

The geographic coverage is the 28 EU Member States and the COSME participating countries (<http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/17143/attachments/1/translations>).

(C.2) Issues to be examined

The evaluation will cover the actions implemented to reach the 4 specific objectives of the COSME regulation with special emphasis on the main actions:

1. The Loan Guarantee Facility for Growth and The Equity Facility for Growth
2. The Enterprise Europe Network
3. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

To reach full coverage of all specific objectives of the programme, the evaluation will also consider smaller actions with due account taken of proportionality.

As stated in the legal base, the COSME programme should give high priority to the simplification agenda, in accordance with the Commission Communication "A simplification agenda for the MFF 2014-2020". Therefore, the evaluation will also include a specific section on the potential for regulatory simplification and burden reduction.

As mentioned, the evaluation will focus on the 5 essential criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and added value and the following questions are indicative to evaluate these criteria:

Effectiveness: How effective was the measure in achieving its objectives?

1) How has the measure been implemented and how has it evolved since the start of the measure in 2014?

2) To what extent has the COSME programme achieved the objectives of improving access to finance and to markets, promoting a more favourable business environment and increasing the entrepreneurial spirit in the EU?

3) What are the factors driving or hindering progress and how do they link with the different actions of the programme?

<p>Efficiency: were the effects (benefits) achieved at a reasonable cost?</p> <p><i>1) What are the regulatory/administrative costs and the benefits for the different stakeholders?</i></p> <p><i>2) Are the costs (direct and indirect) generated by the programme proportionate to the benefits generated?</i></p> <p><i>3) How efficient is the implementation structure and governance of the programme and what is the potential for simplification and reduction of the administrative burden?</i></p> <p>Relevance: do the objectives correspond to the current needs?</p> <p><i>1) To what extent are COSME's initial objectives still pertinent to the needs, problems and issues it was designed to address?</i></p> <p><i>2) How has the programme adapted to political priorities, for instance to the new Single Market Strategy and its particular objective to support Start-ups and Scaling-ups?</i></p> <p><i>3) To what extent are the COSME actions addressing new market deficiencies?</i></p> <p>Coherence: Are there any issues of coherence within the measure or with others with similar objectives?</p> <p><i>1) How are the different COSME instruments overlapping/synergizing with the activities of ESI funds, Horizon 2020, EFSI, EASI and other EU programmes?</i></p> <p><i>2) To what extent has the internal and external coherence of the four specific objectives been maximised in view of other EU and National programmes? How could it be improved?</i></p> <p><i>3) Are the different actions of COSME implemented coherently within the programme?</i></p> <p>EU added value: what is the additional EU value added?</p> <p><i>1) What is the additional value resulting from the measure compared to what could be achieved on national, regional and/or local level?</i></p> <p><i>2) To what extent do the issues addressed by the measure continue to require action at EU level?</i></p>
(C.3) Other tasks
Not applicable

D. Evidence base
(D.1) Evidence from monitoring
<p>1. Art. 15.2 specifies that the Commission shall draw up an annual monitoring report examining the efficiency and effectiveness of supported actions in terms of financial implementation, results, costs and, where possible, impact.</p> <p>The monitoring reports for the years 2014 & 2015 will be available for the evaluation, while the monitoring report for 2016 will be ongoing at the time of the evaluation.</p> <p>2. The annual report on each financial instrument as required by Article 140(8) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.</p>

<p>3. The implementation reports of the European Investment Fund (EIF) on each of the financial instruments.</p> <p>4. The monitoring data of the Enterprise Europe Network and of Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs.</p>
<p>(D.2) Previous evaluations and other reports</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact Assessment for the proposal for a COSME regulation COM(2011)834 • CIP final evaluation report • EIP final evaluation • CIP performance report from 2007-2012. • Staff-Working Document on the impacts of the Enterprise Europe Network 2008 - 2014 <p>These reports will serve as a useful background and benchmarking as COSME has inherited its main instruments from CIP: the financial instruments and the Enterprise Europe Network.</p>
<p>(D.3) Evidence from assessing the implementation and application of legislation (complaints, infringement procedures)</p>
<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>(D.4) Consultation</p>
<p>The objective of the consultation is to gather feedback on the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and the perceived EU added value of COSME.</p> <p>The consultation will include an open, internet-based consultation which will be announced on the 'Your voice in Europe' website (http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index_en.htm). Feed-back from stakeholders will also be sought through other channels, including targeted consultations (e.g. on financial instruments), interviews and regular/specific meetings organized by the Commission. In addition, the input sent to previous public consultations (e.g. on SME policy and start-ups) could also be used.</p> <p>Main stakeholders to be consulted are final beneficiaries of the measure and persons (natural and physical) intervening in the implementation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMEs and entrepreneurs, as direct clients and targets of the intervention • Financial Intermediaries • Delegated entities (The Executive Agency for SMEs (EASME), the European investment Fund (EIF)) • Members of the Enterprise Europe Network and of Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs; • Member States' competent administrations (e.g. members of the COSME committee), national and regional beneficiaries • Business Support Organisations, Chambers of Commerce, Science and Industrial parks, Clusters, etc.
<p>(D.5) Further evidence to be gathered</p>
<p>To obtain cumulative results for the performance indicators in annex of the COSME regulation the following information sources will be useful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGF implementation status: http://www.eif.org/what_we_do/guarantees/single_eu_debt_instrument/cosme-loan-facility-growth/implementation_status.pdf • EFG implementation Status: http://www.eif.org/what_we_do/equity/single_eu_equity_instrument/cosme_efg/index.htm

- SME performance review: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/performance-review_en
- Eurobarometer on entrepreneurship: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_354_en.pdf
- SBA, database of good practices: <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/sme-best-practices/SBA/index.cfm?fuseaction=welcome.detail>
- SAFE (Survey on Access to Finance): http://ec.europa.eu/growth/access-to-finance/data-surveys_en and <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/money/surveys/sme/html/index.en.html>