



Competitiveness and Innovation Programme

Enterprise Europe Network Business Support at Your Doorstep

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SMEs facts and figures

- SMEs: independent businesses with less than 250 persons
- 23 million SMEs in European Union
- 99% of all EU enterprises
- 57% of the Union's total economic added value
- 75 million jobs (67% of private employment)

à SMEs = highly flexible structures
but Europe still lacks entrepreneurship



CIP Implementation

- Enterprise Europe Network
 - Providing information on EU legislation
 - Facilitating access to EU programmes (FP7)
 - Promotion of business cooperation
 - Supporting innovative SMEs
 - Feedback to the Commission

Enterprise Europe Network : a network of excellence

- The largest European network offering high quality services, mainly to the benefit of SMEs
- For the first time ever, all major players of the business support community join forces to offer a one-stop service for enterprises
- Implementation of the 'No-wrong-door' principle
- The broadest range of tailored services for SMEs in the EU and beyond



Business Support at Your Doorstep

Key facts in a nutshell

- Start: January 2008, long-term perspective until 2013
- Over **550** organisations involved in the EEN (a good mix of regional chambers of commerce and industry, technology and innovation agencies, sector associations and host organisations for cluster initiatives)
- In EU27, European Economic Area, Candidate Countries, other third countries

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



Key facts in a nutshell

- More than 4.000 experienced staff
- 30-35.000 technology visits expected to be performed yearly
- 4.000 local events expected to be organised on SME-related topics
- 320 million € Community contribution for the supported projects till 2013



Why this network?

- Many SMEs have only limited resources to search for EU-related information, to explore new business opportunities and embrace the newest technologies – hereby the network offers active support at the doorstep of business
- Business support with an integrated aspect (innovation/technology services and business information/development services) are brought together to enterprises

Why this network?

- Proximity and the 'No-wrong-door'-principle are distinctive and decisive factors for the Enterprise Europe Network
- Integration of the Network also into the Commission's overall policies and communication strategy towards the SME-Community



Objectives

- Integration of innovation and business development support for SMEs, relying on the strengths of the former EIC network (since 1987) and the former IRC network (since 1995)
- Increase synergies among all network partners through the « one-stop-shop concept » and by reducing the administrative burden for all parties



Objectives

- Complementarities with other relevant service providers
- Becoming ‘The Network’ for the whole EC to communicate and work with SMEs.
- Two-way communication; information towards and feedback from the SMEs will be a valuable contribution to form the Commission’s SME-policy.



Services

- Facilitating SMEs' awareness raising and access to information on Community legislation and programmes and promotion of SMEs' participation in them
- Making SMEs the sounding board for future EU policies through feedback functions
- Disseminating best practices, innovative ideas



Services

- Helping SMEs to expand to new markets, to find cooperation partners, to fully exploit the opportunities of the internal market and abroad
- Facilitating technology and knowledge transfer, partnership building between the various actors, innovation services
- Stimulating the capacity of firms to innovate

How to become part of the Enterprise Europe Network

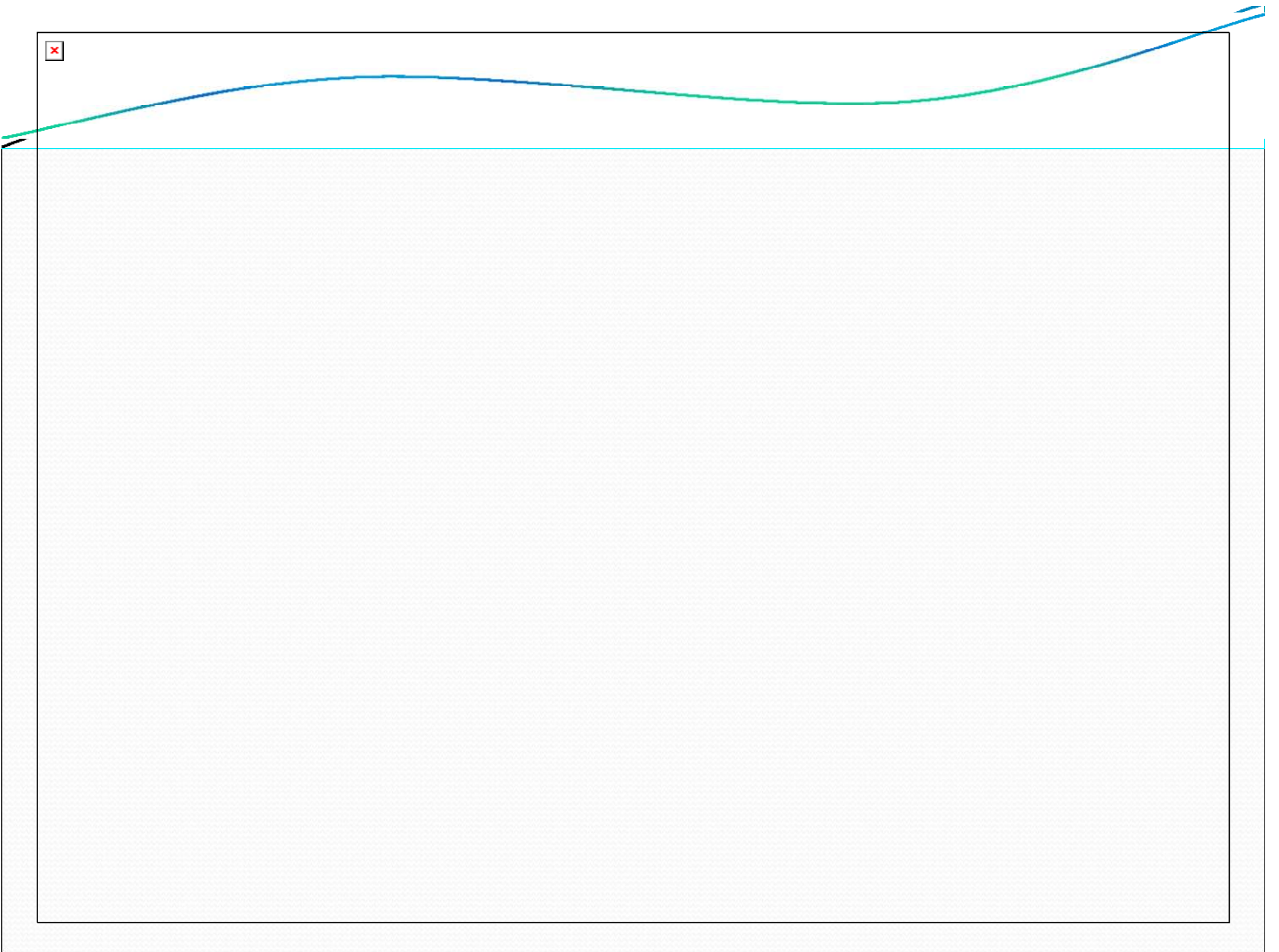
- 1) Entering the EIP/CIP programme (« art 4 procedure »)
- So far: EEA countries, Western Balkans (Croatia, fyro Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro), Turkey, Israel

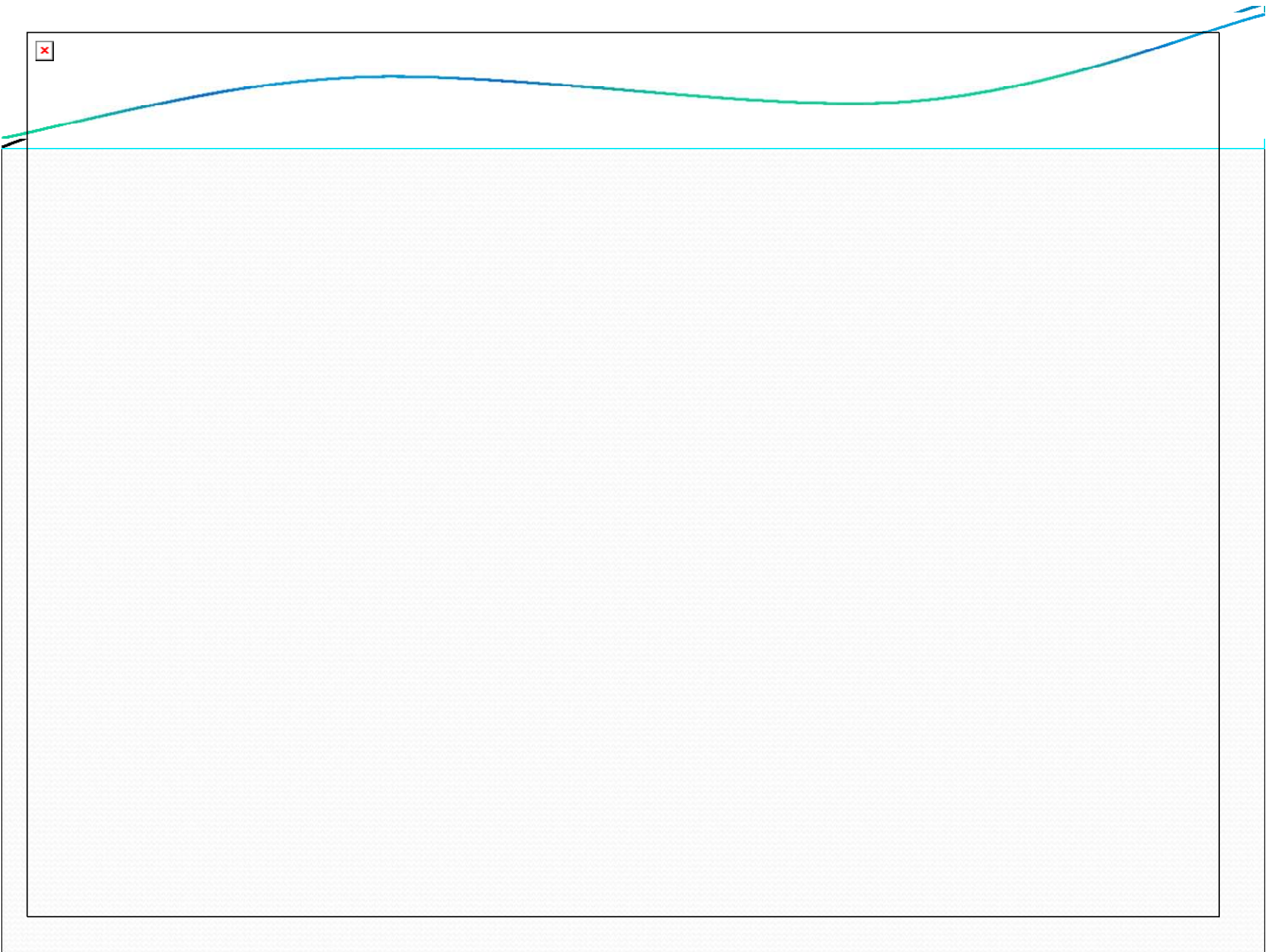
- 2) Without entering the EIP/CIP, i.e. on a self-financing basis (« art 21.5 procedure »)
- So far: US, China, Russia, as well as: Egypt, Syria, Armenia, Chili, Switzerland. Debated: Lebanon.

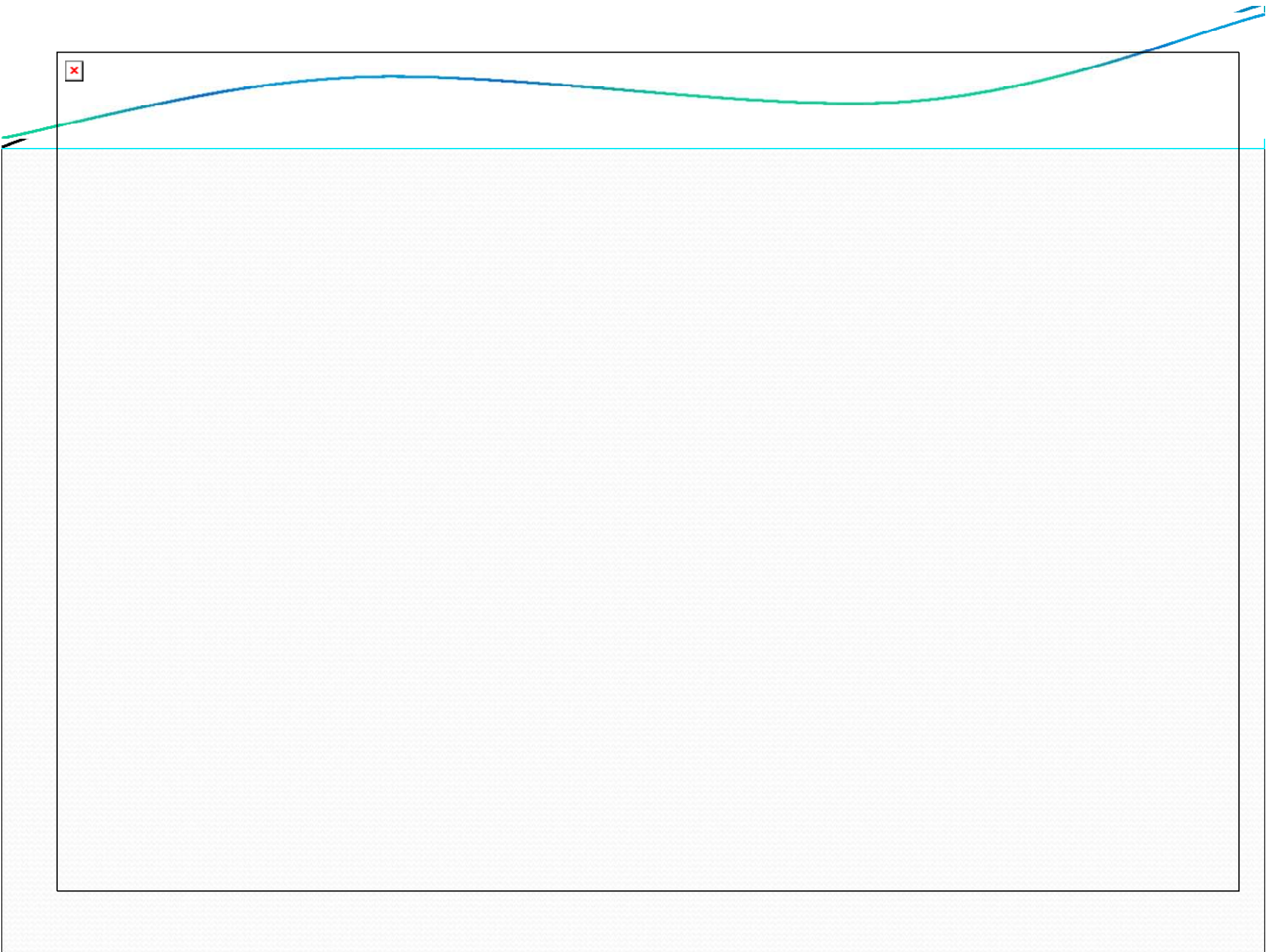
Role of the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI)

- Operational since 2005
(official lifetime until 2015)
- Manages four programmes/initiatives:
 - (a) Intelligent Energy Europe
 - (b) Marco Polo
 - (c) Eco-Innovation-support
 - (d) Business Support Network











On the Web

ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK:

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

SME Portal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sme>



Thank you for your attention!

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