# Final evaluation of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME) (2014 -2020)

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

### Introduction

The Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME) built on previous programmes focused on supporting SMEs, in particular the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) 2007-2013. In this way, it ensured the continuous enhancement of several actions needed by SMEs to grow in competitive markets. Such actions include, for example:

- improving access to finance (via financial instruments)
- addressing SMEs' support needs through the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), and
- providing opportunities for entrepreneurs through Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE).

With a EUR 2.3 billion budget for 2014-2020, COSME supported the creation and growth of businesses and contributed to the Commission's key priority of promoting growth and jobs and stimulating investments in the EU during the 2014-2019 mandate.

These are still firmly integrated in the policy agenda of the current Commission as part of the keynote objective 'An economy that works for people' which refers in particular to investment, growth and quality jobs for small businesses.

The four specific objectives of COSME were:

- To improve access to finance for SMEs in the form of equity and debt (at least 60% of the budget, i. e. EUR 1.4 billion).
- To improve access to markets, particularly inside the EU but also at a global level, mainly through the Enterprise Europe Network (approx. 21.5% of the budget).
- To improve the framework conditions for the competitiveness and sustainability of Union enterprises, particularly SMEs, including in the tourism sector (approx. 11% of the budget).
- To promote entrepreneurship and an entrepreneurial culture (approx. 2.5% of the budget).

### About you

\* Language of my contribution

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Irish
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- \* I am giving my contribution as
  - Academic/research institution
  - Business association
  - Company/business
  - Consumer organisation
  - EU citizen
  - Environmental organisation
  - Non-EU citizen
  - Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
  - Public authority

### Trade union

Other

#### \* First name

Felix

#### \*Surname

HAAS VINÇON

### \* Email (this won't be published)

felix.haas@aecm.eu

#### \*Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

AECM - European Association of Guarantee Institutions

#### \*Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

#### Transparency register number

#### 255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the <u>transparency register</u>. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

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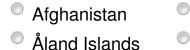
### \* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

Djibouti

Dominica

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.





Libya Liechtenstein Saint Martin

Saint Pierre and Miquelon

Albania	Dominican Republic	Lithuania	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Algeria	Ecuador	Luxembourg	Samoa
American Samoa	a <sup>©</sup> Egypt	Macau	San Marino
Andorra	El Salvador	Madagascar	São Tomé and
Annala		Malawi	Príncipe
Angola	Equatorial Guine		Saudi Arabia
Anguilla	Eritrea	Malaysia	Senegal
Antarctica	Estonia	Maldives	Serbia
Antigua and	Eswatini	Mali	Seychelles
Barbuda			
Argentina	Ethiopia	Malta	Sierra Leone
Armenia	Falkland Islands	Marshall Islands	
Aruba	Faroe Islands	Martinique	Sint Maarten
Australia	Fiji	Mauritania	Slovakia
Austria	Finland	Mauritius	Slovenia
Azerbaijan	France	Mayotte	Solomon Islands
Bahamas	French Guiana	Mexico	Somalia
Bahrain	French Polynes	a <sup>©</sup> Micronesia	South Africa
Bangladesh	French Souther	n <sup>©</sup> Moldova	South Georgia
	and Antarctic		and the South
	Lands		Sandwich
			Islands
Barbados	Gabon	Monaco	South Korea
Belarus	Georgia	Mongolia	South Sudan
Belgium	Germany	Montenegro	Spain
Belize	Ghana	Montserrat	Sri Lanka
Benin	Gibraltar	Morocco	Sudan
Bermuda	Greece	Mozambique	Suriname
Bhutan	Greenland	Myanmar/Burma	$\mathfrak{a}^{\circ}$ Svalbard and
		,	Jan Mayen
Bolivia	Grenada	Namibia	© Sweden

Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba	۲	Guadeloupe	0	Nauru	0	Switzerland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	Guam	0	Nepal	0	Syria
Botswana	$\bigcirc$	Guatemala	۲	Netherlands	۲	Taiwan
Bouvet Island	۲	Guernsey	۲	New Caledonia	۲	Tajikistan
Brazil	۲	Guinea	۲	New Zealand	۲	Tanzania
British Indian Ocean Territory	0	Guinea-Bissau	٢	Nicaragua	٢	Thailand
British Virgin Islands	0	Guyana	٢	Niger	٢	The Gambia
Brunei	۲	Haiti	0	Nigeria	0	Timor-Leste
Bulgaria	0	Heard Island and McDonald Islands		Niue	۲	Togo
Burkina Faso	0	Honduras	0	Norfolk Island	0	Tokelau
Burundi	۲	Hong Kong	0	Northern	0	Tonga
				Mariana Islands		
Cambodia	0	Hungary	0	North Korea	0	Trinidad and
	_		_		_	Tobago
Cameroon	0	Iceland	0	North Macedonia	0	Tunisia
Canada	0	India	0	Norway	0	Türkiye
Cape Verde	0	Indonesia	0	Oman	0	Turkmenistan
Cayman Islands	0	Iran	0	Pakistan	0	Turks and
-	_		_		_	Caicos Islands
Central African Republic	0	Iraq	0	Palau	0	Tuvalu
Chad	۲	Ireland	۲	Palestine	۲	Uganda
Chile	۲	Isle of Man	0	Panama	0	Ukraine
China	$\bigcirc$	Israel	۲	Papua New	۲	United Arab
				Guinea		Emirates
Christmas Island	0	Italy	0	Paraguay	0	United Kingdom
Clipperton	0	Jamaica	0	Peru	0	United States

Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Japan	Philippines	United States Minor Outlying Islands
Colombia	Jersey	Pitcairn Islands	Uruguay
Comoros	Jordan	Poland	US Virgin Islands
Congo	Kazakhstan	Portugal	Uzbekistan
Cook Islands	Kenya	Puerto Rico	Vanuatu
Costa Rica	Kiribati	Qatar	Vatican City
Côte d'Ivoire	Kosovo	Réunion	Venezuela
Croatia	Kuwait	Romania	Vietnam
Cuba	Kyrgyzstan	Russia	Wallis and
			Futuna
Curaçao	Laos	Rwanda	Western Sahara
Cyprus	Latvia	Saint Barthélem	y <sup>©</sup> Yemen
Czechia	Lebanon	Saint Helena	Zambia
		Ascension and	
		Tristan da Cunh	а
Democratic	Lesotho	Saint Kitts and	Zimbabwe
Republic of the		Nevis	
Congo			
Denmark	Liberia	Saint Lucia	

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. Fo r the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published. Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

### \* Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

# Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

# Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions

# Evaluation of the COSME programme

# 1 - Did you or your company/organisation receive financial or any other kind of support from the COSME programme?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

# \*1b - Why did you not participate in the COSME programme?

### Please tick all that apply

- I did not know about the COSME Programme
- Other European or international programmes were better suited to my needs
- Other national or regional programmes were better suited to my needs
- Participation procedures were too cumbersome
- Low probability of being successful in receiving support from COSME actions
- I had difficulties in finding project partners
- I could not find an action that met my needs
- I did not have the financial/human resources needed to prepare a proposal
- Other
- Don't know

## Please specify which other programmes

500 character(s) maximum

We are an association. 20 of our members were participating in COSME LGF

# 2 - In your view, to what extent did the COSME programme help you to achieve the following results?

	Not at all	To a limited extent	To some extent	To a great extent	Don' t know
<ul> <li>Provide easier access to finance for SMEs through loan portfolio guarantees/counter-guarantees</li> </ul>	0	۲	۲	۲	۲
<ul> <li>Provide easier access to risk capital through equity funds for SMEs</li> </ul>	0	۲	۲	۲	۲
* Support the creation of start-ups	0	0	۲	0	0
<ul> <li>Support the growth of SMEs, including start-ups and scale-ups</li> </ul>	0	۲	۲	۲	۲
* Encourage business transfers	0	0	0	۲	0
* Support cross-border and multi country financing	0	0	0	0	۲
* Provide integrated business support services to SMEs	0	0	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>Create opportunities for SMEs to access new markets in the EU</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	۲
<ul> <li>Create opportunities for SMEs to access markets outside the EU</li> </ul>	0	۲	۲	۲	۲
<ul> <li>Provide access to knowledge and information relevant for business development</li> </ul>	0	۲	۲	۲	۲
<ul> <li>Contribute to improving the business environment in the EU (by reducing administrative burden, simplifying rules for starting-up a business, obtaining licences, etc.)</li> </ul>	0	O	O	O	۲
<ul> <li>Support better regulation and evidence-based policies in the EU</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Encourage cross-sectoral partnerships and public- private collaborations through cluster activities</li> </ul>	0	0	۲	0	۲
* Support the competitiveness of industrial sectors /ecosystems and services (e.g. tourism, construction, chemicals, etc.) in which you are active	0	O	O	۲	0
<ul> <li>Support the uptake of new technologies and skills (e.g. digital skills, key enabling technologies, advanced manufacturing, etc.)</li> </ul>	0	O	۲	O	0

* Support the uptake of green and / or sustainable solutions, technologies, and/or skills	۲	0	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>* Support the emergence of new business models and concepts (social economy, innovative practices etc.)</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>Promote entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial culture (e.g. through education, mentoring etc.)</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>Create learning and new business opportunities for entrepreneurs through Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs</li> </ul>	0	O	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Develop entrepreneurship in specific target groups (young people, women, senior entrepreneurs, migrants, people at risk of social exclusion, etc.)</li> </ul>	0	0	O	۲	0

### 2a - Please explain your replies or add further information below

500 character(s) maximum

Most AECM members were using COSME LGF as a counter-guarantee. Their experiences with the programme are generally positive.

The requirements as well as the conditions under COSME were largely easier and more favourable as under InvestEU. The good usability of COSME contributed to its success in terms of accessability, outreach and impact.

# \*3 - Is the support provided through the COSME programme still bringing about positive effects based on your experience?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

### 3a - Please explain your replies or add further information below

500 character(s) maximum

Yes, COSME brings about positive effects. The COSME LGF was an efficient tool to address market failure in the area of SME financing. Its positive impact has been proven in several studies, such as the pan-European evaluation of the EIF from 2019 or national studies such as the evaluation on our member BGK's COSME guarantee in Poland.

# 4 - Were the following forms of funding and actions provided by COSME relevant for your specific needs?

	Not	To a	To	To a	Don'
	at	limited	some	great	t
	all	extent	extent	extent	know
* Grants	0	0	0	0	۲

* Loan portfolio guarantee financial instruments	0	0	0	۲	0
* Equity financial instruments	۲	0	0	0	۲
* Public procurement (calls for tenders)	0	0	0	0	۲
* Studies (strategic information, guidance documents, policy support, monitoring tools, etc.)	۲	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>* Outreach support actions (videos, campaigns, portals, etc.)</li> </ul>		O	O	O	۲
* Support for events (workshops, conferences, etc.)	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Capacity-building actions (training, mobility schemes such as Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, etc.)</li> </ul>	۲	O	O	O	۲
* Observatories	0	0	0	0	۲
* Networks of service providers to SMEs (such as the Enterprise Europe Network)	۲	O	۲	O	0
* Networks of national/regional policymakers	0	0	0	0	۲
* Cooperation and network-building actions for clusters	0	0	0	0	۲
* IPR (intellectual property rights) SME Helpdesks	0	0	0	0	۲
* Actions supporting SME internationalisation	0	0	0	0	۲

# 5 - To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Not at all	To a limited extent	To some extent	To a great extent	Don' t know
* COSME's objectives reflected the needs, problems and issues that SMEs were facing	0	0	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>It was easy to find the appropriate action/support addressing my needs under COSME</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	0
* Activities under the COSME work programme were clearly defined	0	0	0	۲	۲
* The annual programming for COSME was transparent	۲	0	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>The description in calls for proposals/tenders of activities funded under COSME was clear</li> </ul>	O	0		۲	0
* The conditions for receiving support through the COSME financial instruments (loan portfolio guarantees and counter-guarantees and equity funds) were clear and transparent	0	0	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>COSME communication activities reached potential programme beneficiaries</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	0

<ul> <li>The level of administrative requirements to participate in the COSME actions was high</li> </ul>	O	۲	۲	0	0
* It took a lot of time to prepare an application		۲	$\odot$	0	0

# 6 - To what extent were there adaptation mechanisms in place to ensure that the programme meets new needs in response to political, economic, technological, and scientific and social developments?

	Not at all	To a limited extent	To some extent	To a great extent	Don' t know
* The programme adapted well to new and emerging political priorities. Example - the new Single Market Strategy and its objective of supporting Start-ups and Scale-ups	0	0	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>The programme adapted to deal with major new challenges affecting businesses, e.g. the COVID-19 crisis</li> </ul>	۲	O	0	۲	O
* COSME actions addressed market failures, including new deficiencies	0	0	0	۲	0

# 7 - If your organisation is established in a non-EU country participating in the COSME programme, to what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Not at all	To a limited extent	To some extent	To a great extent	Don' t know
Communication activities on COSME in my country helped me find out about the programme	O	O	O	O	۲
It was easy to find calls which were open to participation from my country	O	0	O	۲	0
It was easy to find calls that encouraged participation from non-EU COSME participating countries	0	0	0	۲	0

# 8 - The European Commission implemented several support programmes in 2014-2020. How would you describe the linkages between COSME and the following programmes?

	There are very strong linkages	There are some linkages	They overlap in many areas	They overlap slightly	There are no linkages	Don't know
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<ul> <li>* European regional development fund (ERDF)</li> </ul>	0	۲	0	۲	0	0
* European Fund for Strategic Investment	۲	O	0	O	0	۲
* European Social Fund	0	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Common Agricultural Policy and European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD)</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	0	0
* Erasmus+	0	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>LIFE programme (EU programme for environment and climate action)</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	0	۲
* Connecting Europe Facility	0	0	0	۲	0	0
<ul> <li>Horizon 2020 (research and innovation)</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>* EASI (EU programme for employment and social innovation)</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	0	0
* Creative Europe (EU programme for support for the culture and audiovisual sectors)	Ø	©	©	۲	0	0

# 9 - In your view, to what extent did the COSME Programme contribute to the following European Union (EU) priorities?

	Not at all	To a limited extent	To some extent	To a great extent	Don't know
* Supporting jobs, growth and investment	0	0	0	۲	0
* Promoting an Energy Union with a forward- looking climate policy	0	0	۲	0	0
<ul> <li>Promoting the role of the European Union as a stronger global actor</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Helping to create a connected digital single market</li> </ul>	0	0	۲	۲	0
<ul> <li>Achieving a deeper and fairer internal market</li> </ul>	0	0	۲	O	0
* Supporting sustainable development	0	۲	0	۲	0
* Promoting gender equality	0	0	0	0	۲

\*10 - To what extent did COSME provide support compared with national and /or regional SMEs and entrepreneurship support programmes?

- Higher
- Similar
- Lower
- Don't know

# 11 - How did COSME compare to similar national and/or regional SMEs and entrepreneurship support programmes for the different potential benefits listed below?

	COSME much more beneficial than national and regional programmes	COSME more beneficial than national and regional programmes	COSME equally beneficial to national and regional programmes	National / regional programmes more beneficial than COSME	National / regional programmes much more beneficial than COSME	Don't know
* More cooperation with partners from other countries	۲	O	0	O	0	0
* Improved international visibility	۲	0	O	0	0	0
<ul> <li>Strengthened critical mass to address pan-European challenges in a given area</li> </ul>	0	O	O	O	0	۲
* Strengthened cooperation between academia and the private sector	0	O	0	O	o	۲
* Strengthened interdisciplinary cooperation	0	O	0	O	0	۲
<ul> <li>Projects financed (which otherwise could not have been supported at national and/or regional level)</li> </ul>	0	©	۲	©	©	0
* Sharing out of business risks	0	0	۲	0	O	0
<ul> <li>Reimbursement of costs at a higher level than in national and/or regional programmes</li> </ul>	0	O	O	O	0	۲

* Strengthened capacities,						
competences and skills inside	0	0	۲	0	0	$\odot$
the company						

# 12 - Do you have any comments on the benefits of COSME or shortcomings /gaps in comparison to national and/or regional programmes?

500 character(s) maximum

see attached position

# 13 - Do you have any other views which have not been covered in the consultation?

500 character(s) maximum

see attached position

Regarding question 10: this depends on the country. Some of our members do not receive a comparable national counter-guarantee and others receive one with similar or better conditions.

# 14 - You may upload below any document which you would like to share in relation to the final evaluation of the COSME programme.

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

fe6d4ac5-f42e-45c1-97f5-03b5187e2c93/202304\_AECM-on-the-COSME-evaluation.pdf

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