



EIPC

Entrepreneurship & Innovation Programme Committee

**CIP Implementation Report
2012**

**CIP Joint Committee
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1. SUMMARY

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) is a key programme in addressing the challenges EU industry is facing now and in the years to come. Its objectives are broadly in line with the flagship initiatives of the EU 2020 Strategy, where smart and sustainable growth is a key priority for EU intervention to strengthen the EU economy. More than EUR 3.6 billion has been set aside for these goals over the period 2007 to 2013. For 2012, the budget allocated was roughly EUR 621 million.

In 2012, the CIP:

– Improved SME access to finance and provided personalised and professional services particularly oriented to SMEs:

- In the period 2007–2012 the financial instruments guarantee scheme enabled more than 210 000 SMEs to receive loans.

- Nearly 600 partners in the Enterprise Europe Network provide services all over Europe and beyond in support of business and innovation (54 countries in total). Among other services, the Network provides information on EU matters. It has contacted more than 2 million SMEs via weekly newsletters. In 2012, the Network took also a new task on board: recruiting SMEs for Missions for Growth, Vice-President Tajani's initiative to stimulate closer cooperation between the EU and the countries concerned as a means of generating growth and jobs for both sides.

– Reinforced support for innovation in SMEs:

- Actions in this area, as set out in Article 13 of the CIP Decision, included fostering sector-specific innovation, clusters, networks, and the use of innovation management.

- The EIP also supported national and regional programmes for business innovation, the take-up of innovative technologies and concepts, and the innovative application of existing technologies.

- In addition, it supported actions for developing and exploring new types of innovation services.

– Increased the number of pilot projects funded in the area of eco-innovation, one of the main CIP thematic priorities along with ICT-based services and sustainable energy:

- The first application and market replication projects are concerned with the first application or market replication of eco-innovative techniques, products, services or practices of EU relevance, where these have already been technically demonstrated with success but, owing to residual risk, have not yet penetrated the market. Supporting such innovative eco-technologies should contribute to removing obstacles to the development and wide application of eco-innovation, creating or enlarging markets for related products and improving the competitiveness of EU enterprises on world markets. The projects should also aim to reduce environmental impacts or improve the environmental performance of enterprises, in particular SMEs.

– Supported pilot actions to solve interoperability issues and validate innovative ICT-based services in real settings, along with networking actions to develop experience sharing and

consensus building. Those actions were complemented by benchmarking of the development of the information society in Europe and support for policy development and coordination through analysis and awareness raising actions.

- Financed market replication projects in the field of sustainable energy, an integral part of the implementation of the IEE II programme.

- Tackled non-technological barriers to energy efficiency and renewable energy:

- Under the Intelligent Energy–Europe Programme, new dissemination and information projects were recommended for funding in 2012, involving an impressive variety and number of market actors, including a high proportion of SMEs. This is a confirmation of the 2011 trend.

- In December 2009, the European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) facility was established in cooperation with the European Investment Bank to help local and regional public authorities to structure and implement bankable, sustainable energy projects. In 2012, about EUR 19 million were allocated to this facility as well as other actions.

Overall, in 2012, the execution rate for the total budget allocated to the three different programmes was above 99 %. The report shows that the CIP instruments have successfully reached final beneficiaries and that the actions implemented so far have delivered encouraging results as in 2011.

2. INTRODUCTION

The 2012 Implementation Report on the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) describes activities under the three CIP specific programmes during the fifth year of the programme's implementation:

- The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme;
- The Information and Communication Technology Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP);
- The Intelligent Energy–Europe Programme.

These three programmes have their own specific implementation reports where more detailed information is provided on the activities carried out. Some examples of the projects funded have been included in this document to illustrate the different initiatives. More examples can be found on the specific websites.

The actions listed in this report are those whose budget was committed during 2012. Some actions are multiannual, so results are only visible after several years. In other cases, measures start close to the end of the year and implementation is in the following year. Consequently, even though such actions are included in this document, results will only be known later on and cannot be reported here.

This report is based on Articles 8(1) and 8(5) of the Decision establishing the CIP. Additional information on the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme can be found on the CIP website: <http://ec.europa.eu/cip>.

3. OVERVIEW OF CIP BUDGET EXECUTION IN 2012

The CIP Decision stipulates that the total budget for the CIP is EUR 3.6 billion for the period 2007-2013. The EIP represents the largest expenditure component of the CIP, with 60 % of the budget allocation, of which approximately one-fifth is allocated to promoting eco-innovation. Each of the other two programmes, ICT-PSP and IEE, are allocated around 20 %. The table below gives an overview of the budget allocated and the amount committed during the 2007-2012 period.

Budget lines	Concept	Amount (in '000 €)	Budget committed (in '000 €)	Budget committed (%)
01 04 04	EIP — Financial Instruments	188 500	188 500	100
02 02 01 and 02 01 04 04	EIP — Competitiveness of SMEs, innovation (of which, eco-innovation market replication projects)	165 460 42560	164 203 42560	99.4
09 03 01	ICT-PSP	136 000	136 000	100
06 04 06	IEE	132 000	132 000	100
	Total	621 960	620 703	99.7

4. ACTIVITIES UNDER THE CIP SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES IN 2012

The main aim of the CIP is to encourage the competitiveness of European enterprises, in particular SMEs, by supporting innovation activities (including eco-innovation), providing better access to finance and delivering business support services in the regions. It encourages 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 objectives of the CIP are pursued through three specific programmes. This section describes the main actions funded during 2012.

4.1. The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme

The main EIP objectives, as set out in Article 10 of the CIP Decision, are to support, improve, encourage and promote:

- (a) Access to finance for the start-up and growth of SMEs and investment in innovation activities;
- (b) The creation of an environment favourable to SME cooperation, particularly across borders;
- (c) All forms of innovation in enterprises;
- (d) Eco-innovation;
- (e) Entrepreneurship and innovation culture;
- (f) Enterprise- and innovation-related economic and administrative reform.

Several instruments are used to achieve these objectives: CIP financial instruments for SMEs; services in support of business and innovation; eco-innovation first-application and market replication projects; policy analysis, development of policies and coordination of innovation policy actors. Other actions focus on promoting entrepreneurship and innovation culture or reducing administrative burden.

- The High Growth and Innovative SME Facility (GIF) has been operational since November 2007 and is implemented by the European Investment Fund (EIF) on behalf of the Commission. By the end of 2012, 36 GIF transactions with venture capital funds targeting investments in 26 participating countries had been approved, of which 5 in 2011, with EU commitments amounting to EUR 462 million (including eligible costs for financial intermediaries). Eight of these venture capital funds are investing fully in eco-innovation across Europe and, in addition, two funds are investing at least 30% in eco-innovation, supported by EU commitments of about EUR 147.9 million.

- The SME Guarantee Facility (SMEG) has been operational since September 2007 and, by the end of 2012, 52 transactions with 46 financial intermediaries from 23 countries had been approved, of which 16 in 2011, including extensions of existing contracts. The EU

commitments amount to EUR 482.9 million (including eligible costs for financial intermediaries). Most of the SMEG 07 deals are under the Loan Guarantee window. There are 12 deals under the Microcredit window (in France, Ireland, Spain, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovakia and 3 deals in Turkey), one Equity window deal (Spain), and one Securitisation window deal (Italy).

By the end of 2012, 202.526 SMEs had received financing supported by SMEG 07 Guarantee Facility, through nearly 234 199 loans.

– The Capacity Building Scheme (CBS) was set up under the CIP legal basis. However, it has seen no response from the market. Therefore, the Commission has been using the budget originally earmarked for the CBS to support mainly eco-innovation and technology transfer under the GIF.

With a view to raising awareness of these financial instruments among SMEs, a website has been developed (<http://www.access2finance.eu>) to help SMEs identify financial intermediaries cooperating within the CIP in their country.

For additional information on the financial instruments, see the following website: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/finance>.

4.1.1. Enterprise Europe Network: business support in the regions

The second main instrument of the EIP is the Enterprise Europe Network, a network of partner organisations providing services in support of business and innovation. The Network is the key action under the objective of creating a favourable environment for SME cooperation, particularly in across borders.

The Network offers support and advice to businesses across Europe and helps them make the most of the opportunities offered by the Internal Market. The Network's partners offer services specifically designed for SMEs. They provide information and practical advice on market opportunities, European legislation and policies relevant to individual companies or sectors. They help SMEs find suitable business partners by using either business or technology transfer cooperation databases, and provide information on EU funding opportunities and international networking.

The Network's main policy priorities for 2012 were: Tourism, Industrial Innovation, Global Opportunities, Sustainability, Chemicals (Reach), Space, Health and Safety at Work, Research Framework, Regulatory Environment, Skills and Consumer Protection.

In 2012, various training sessions have been organised with special attention to the newcomers' trainings. About 551 Network staff participated to one of the centralised, local training sessions or e-learning in 2012.

A communication strategy, guidelines and graphical material were made available and promoted throughout the Network. New Network brochures, newsletters and promotion packs and edited distributed. Six promotion videos were produced on Network success stories and disseminated on EU (Euro News) and local TV channels. Network partners received about 40 Services Bulletins informing them on the latest EU programmes, legislation and initiatives which were taken up by Network staff and further disseminated to their client SMEs. About 30 success stories were produced and used for example in success story videos to demonstrate the benefit of

the Network's services.

Some success stories from the Enterprise Europe Network in 2012

France – Rolling into new markets

Yann Dermigny, based in southeast Menton, stumbled into the business after losing his job as an industrial creative designer. With no money to buy his kids skateboards, he suggested building something from scratch using cardboard and wheels from an old pushchair.

Inspired by the enthusiastic response of friends and neighbours he went into business for himself, designing a plastic land-luge he calls the Speedelstar.

He found interested distributors in France and Austria, but before he could start selling he needed to make sure that the new devices complied with 'CE' marking rules. By placing the CE mark on a product, a manufacturer declares that the product conforms with all the requirements of the relevant EU directives. He enlisted the Enterprise Europe Network, with nearly 600 business support organisations in more than 50 countries for help.

"It's not easy for SMEs to find this kind of information on their own, so we do the leg-work for them," says Dominique Dévé, a Network expert at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for France's Provence-Alps-Cote d'Azur region.

After contacting the relevant authorities, she informed her client that he would not need the CE marking in Austria as long as his product is not classified as a toy, but could go either way in France where the logo is mandatory for toys but not for sports products. Backed up by this new legal certainty, Dermigny signed distribution agreements in both countries with plans to roll out more models.

For additional information on the Network, see the following website: <http://een.ec.europa.eu/>

4.1.2. Support for entrepreneurship and SMEs

In 2012, several actions focused on supporting entrepreneurship and innovation culture.

Reaching SMEs all around the EU and beyond: 1500 events under the European SME

One very successful action attracting an impressive number of citizens and businesses is the European SME Week. In 2012, 1 562 events and activities took place across the 37 participating countries. The events addressed a wide range of topics regarding SMEs.

More information can be found on the website <http://ec.europa.eu/sme-week>.

Erasmus for Entrepreneurs

Another successful action has been that of Erasmus for Entrepreneurs.

The total number of registrations and exchanges of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is steadily growing. So far, more than 6000 entrepreneurs are registered and over 1500 exchanges have been established. Out of this, nearly 2000 entrepreneurs (both new and host) have registered in 2012 and slightly over 400 exchanges (involving a new and a host entrepreneur) have been organised for the same period. There are currently intermediary organisations in all EU member states except Luxemburg, plus two in Croatia, two in Turkey, and one in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The feedback from entrepreneurs who have participated in an exchange was extremely positive, and shows significant benefits for all the entrepreneurs having participated: 94 % of the new entrepreneurs and 85 % of the experienced host entrepreneurs state that the programme helped them develop their business idea. In addition, 89 % of the new entrepreneurs considered that their participation contributed to their ambition to start their own business; 83 % thought that they gained knowledge about foreign markets and 26 % expected to engage in business cooperation with their host entrepreneur; 83 % of the entrepreneurs having hosted a young entrepreneur were willing to renew the experience. Some have already hosted 4, even 5 entrepreneurs so far.

More information on the programme, including various success stories and how to participate, can be found on its dedicated website at the following link: <http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/>

4.1.3. Support to Internationalisation

The ASEAN IPR SME Helpdesk was launched in 2012, based on experience with the China IPR SME Helpdesk, which has been running since mid-2008 offering first-line advice on China IPR issues to European SMEs both in China and around Europe. These services, focused on the ASEAN region, will offer practical business advice from experienced professionals in person, on-line, and through workshops, e-learning materials, and training. The service would cover the ASEAN region, with focus on markets within this region where there is high-growth, high interest from European SMEs or where there are particular IPR problems of importance to European SMEs. It will be a pilot of IPR helpdesk activities covering more than a single country. In this case the entire region is covered to include several key countries for EU firms' interests and benefit from geographical proximity. The services will be provided both 'on the ground' to European SMEs already 'in country' and 'at home' in Europe, so that the relevant information on IPR in the region can be delivered where it is of most use, to serve European SMEs efficiently and effectively.

The services should be offered in coordination with and in direct response to requests from European SMEs, SME federations and similar groupings of SMEs. In addition, the service should maintain contacts with the relevant countries administrations to 'signpost' needed contacts there.

ASEAN region member countries are the following: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

MERCOSUR member countries are the following: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

4.2. The Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) Policy Support

4.2.1. Approach and priorities for 2012

The ICT PSP aims to stimulate innovation and competitiveness and accelerate the development of a sustainable, competitive, innovative and inclusive information society. It supports activities to accelerate innovation and implementation of ICT-based services and systems through wider uptake and better use of ICT and exploitation of digital content by citizens, governments and businesses.

The uptake of ICT in businesses is in general addressed by the private sector, where public policies focus on creating optimum conditions for business development and raising awareness of the benefits of technology innovation, in particular for SMEs.

The uptake of ICT and the exploitation of digital content in areas of public interest like health, inclusion, cultural heritage, public sector information, learning, public administration and energy efficiency require more proactive policies. The major hurdles for wider and better use of ICT in those areas include the lack of ICT-based services, the poor interoperability of solutions across Member States, and market fragmentation affecting the information space and ICT-based solutions.

The ICT PSP helps overcome these obstacles to the development of an information society for all in support of EU policy goals. It helps develop markets for innovative ICT-based solutions and digital content, notably in areas of public interest. This opens up a wide range of new business opportunities, in particular for innovative SMEs that provide such solutions.

The ICT PSP mainly supports pilot actions aimed at solving interoperability issues and validating innovative ICT-based services in real settings. It also supports networking to develop experience sharing and consensus building. These actions are complemented by benchmarking of the development of the information society in Europe and support for policy development and coordination through analysis and awareness raising actions.

The total budget available for the ICT PSP work programme in 2012 was EUR 139.4 million.¹

The ICT PSP work programme for 2012 was based on the following five priority themes:

- Theme 1: ICT for a low-carbon economy and smart mobility;
- Theme 2: Digital content;
- Theme 3: ICT for health, ageing well, and inclusion;
- Theme 4: ICT for innovative government and public services;
- Theme 5: Open innovation for internet-enabled services.

Those themes have taken up the bulk of the budget. They have been addressed through specific objectives supported by a limited number of high-impact pilot projects and thematic networks.

¹ This amount includes additional contributions from third countries (Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey in 2012).

The pilots and the thematic networks have been selected through one open call for proposals for a total indicative budget of € 127 million. The call - ICT PSP Call 6 – was open from 3 February to 15 May 2012.

Implementation measures for the call for proposals

Two types of pilot actions are supported:

- Pilot type A: pilot building on existing national initiatives and aiming to develop interoperability and prepare for EU-wide implementation of ICT-based services,
- Pilot type B: pilot showcasing and testing innovative ICT-based solutions at real scale to demonstrate technical, organisational and legal feasibility.

In both cases, particular attention is paid to facilitating the scalability, further integration, replication or wider adoption of the piloted solutions.

Thematic networks gather relevant stakeholders in relevant areas for sharing experience, building consensus and preparing for further deployment of ICT-based services in those areas.

A fourth implementation measure — Best Practice Network (BPN) — concerned just Theme 2 “Digital Content”. Best practice networks promote the adoption of standards and specifications for making European digital libraries more accessible and usable. They combine ‘consensus building and awareness-raising’ with the large-scale implementation in real-life contexts of one or more concrete specifications or standards.

Other measures

Other implementation measures concern benchmarking, studies, and support for conferences and events. They have received a total amount of EUR 12.4 million through calls for tenders or the award of grants without calls for proposals.

4.2.2. Projects resulting from the Call for Proposals in 2012

The portfolio reflects excellent coverage of the five themes with all the objectives addressed.

It comprises high-quality projects supported by consortia bringing together public authorities, private companies — including SMEs — and other organisations.

Overall, public bodies represent 34 % of participants in the selected proposals. SMEs represent 19 % of participants, while 47 % are large enterprises or other private organisations such as user associations.

The selected projects were launched by the end of 2011 or during the first half of 2012 after negotiations. They address the various themes as follows:

For ‘*Theme 1: ICT for a low-carbon economy and smart mobility*’, 10 pilots (type B) are supported, including:

EPLACE aims to test and validate innovative ICT solutions for monitoring and controlling energy sources and increasing user awareness within public buildings and public lighting systems to demonstrate that a total reduction above 15% of the annual energy consumption is possible

TEDS4BEE aims at achieving 15-30% energy consumption reduction in 9 public building (pilots) with

different typologies, located in different EU Climatic Zones.

SUNSHINE aims at develop certain smart services (energy assessment, heating/cooling forecasts and alerts, optimisation of power consumption)

Compass 4D will jointly implement the globally prioritised cooperative services, Forward Collision Warning, Red Light Violation Warning and Energy Efficient Intersection service, in seven European cities with the objective of substantially improving road safety.

CROSS recognises unexploited opportunities for services and applications in the field of non-monetary economy

RADICAL is designed to provide an open platform, allowing for integration of new sensors, emerging social networks and the adaptation of services to specific environments as well as the development of smart cities services by SMEs.

SPECIFI capitalises on a key strength of European cities and professionals, i.e. their cultural and creative richness and diversity. It aims to link cities and regions through regional and European Creative Rings.

IES Cities aims to establish an open technological platform in different cities across Europe, allowing citizens to provide and consume internet services based on their own or external data.

The aim of **My Neighbourhood** is to help recreate a lost sense of neighbourhood in European cities via the creation of the MyNeighborhood Portal.

The **TV-RING** project is based around 3 pilot regions and seeks to devise and demonstrate advanced Connected TV scenarios based on HbbTV platforms and NGA network infrastructures.

For ‘Theme 2: Digital Content’, 6 best practice networks, 3 Thematic Networks, 2 Pilots A and 4 pilots B have been selected:

For target outcome 2.1.a “Content for Europeana”, **LoCloud**, **eCloud**, **EUscreenXL**, **AthenaPlus** and **EAGLE** aggregate archaeological and architectural heritage content across European Universities, libraries, data centres and publishers.

For target outcome 2.1.b, “Experimenting with the use of cultural material for creativity”, **Europeana Creative** will support and promote the re-use of cultural resources available via Europeana by establishing the Europeana open labs network of online and physical environments for experimentation and engagement.

The target outcome 2.1.c. “European rights Information management” is covered by **FORWARD** and **RDI** that address both its aspects, namely the registry for audio-visual orphan works and the need for standards facilitating the development of systems for online rights trading including automated licensing.

For target outcome 2.1.d, “Thematic Network on new business models for publishing in the digital age, the **Thematic Network TISP** will create a platform for discussion between publishers and technology providers on new business models for publishing in the digital age.

The target outcome 2.2.a. on “Geographic Information” is covered by two Pilots A that will develop a reference model that will facilitate access to geo-information regardless of country of origin (**ELFI**) and integrate public and private environmental data (**eENVplus**).

Under target outcome 2.2.b. “Open access to scientific information”, the retained proposal focuses on exploring novel paradigms for discovering, querying, linking, aggregating, filtering, enriching, visualising and publishing scientific data (**OpenScienceLink**)

Under the target outcome 2.2.c. the call for a Thematic Network on “Legal aspects of public sector information and standards for open data” is covered by **LAPSI 2.0** which focuses on identifying legal barriers and obstacles to access and re-use public sector information in the European content market.

Under the target outcome 2.2.d. “Organizing competitions for using open data”, **Apps4EU** focused on

conducting annual Pan-European open data competitions, local and related activities to support stakeholders in developing prototypes into viable business plans.

Under target outcome 2.3 “eLearning for mathematics, sciences and technology”, **InspiringScience** plans to engage a significant number of schools, teachers, and students in a large scale pilot bringing into the classroom a unique collection of digital resources and tools sharing best practices in using ICT for science learning.

For ‘Theme 3: ICT for health, ageing well, and inclusion’, 2 pilots A, 2 pilots B and 4 thematic networks are supported:

SmartCARE aims to define a common set of standard functional specifications for an open ICT platform enabling the delivery of integrated care to older European citizens.

ReAAL plans to deploy innovative ambient assisted living solutions. The aim is to provide relevant services for older people in seven different countries incorporating around 7000 users.

SEACW will create an Ecosystem for training, informing, raising awareness and providing tools for ICT and active and healthy ageing.

ProFouND aims at setting a network for fall prevention, supported by a digital platform to share experience and to give tailored advice to the individual users.

E-NO FALLS aims on building an open Thematic Network for all stakeholders within the value chain (such as industry, users organizations, informal and formal care providers, public authorities, investors, housing and insurance companies and service providers across Europe)

United4Health aims to deploy innovative telemedicine services.

The **ANTILOPE Thematic Network** is composed of core European national organizations supporting the adoption and testing of existing eHealth standards and specification defining an eHealth interoperability framework

The **ENGAGED** Thematic Network focuses on active and vigorous community building.

For ‘Theme 4: ICT for innovative government and public services’, 3 pilots A pilot have been selected.

eSens aims at integrating the results of the previously launched pilots A in different public service areas (STORK, epSOS, PEPPOL, eCodex and SPOCS) and at consolidating the building blocks these pilots have been and are still delivering.

eCODEX aims at extending the current project by adding several Member States (Bulgaria, UK, Lithuania, Poland, and Norway).

HeERO Pilot A to New Member States or associated countries will demonstrate the scalability of the HeHero solution and widen the acceptance of the eCa

For ‘Theme 5: Open innovation for internet-enabled services’, 3 B pilots and 2 Thematic Networks have been selected:

For target outcome 5.1, the Pilot B **ACDC** addresses the identification, measurement, prevention, detection, mitigation, recovery and analysis of botnets, and proposes five services to cover the end-to-end approach.

For target outcome 5.2, **MobiCloud** addresses business-critical applications in the city transit, rail, field service and construction industries. Additionally proposal MO-BIZZ will improve an existing technology framework allowing businesses to rapidly develop and make available services to their customers using cloud-based mobile services.

*For target outcome 5.3; both retained proposals focus on bringing together experiences that regional and national authorities have made, analyse the experience and then develop guidelines for sharing the best practices to disseminate information to regions in need. Both of them will also investigate potential deployment schemes and non-technological roadblocks. **SABER** has a very good coverage of regions and good overall time-wise focused approach towards the task. **BRESAT** has also a good approach to achieve the objectives.*

Activities such as dissemination and experience sharing are particularly important for the above pilot and networking actions, with a view to stimulating wider adoption, replication or deployment of such innovative ICT-based services across Europe.

4.2.3. Participation

Overall, public bodies represent 43 % of the participants in the proposals selected under the Call. SMEs represent 22 % of participants, while 35 % are large enterprises or other private organisations such as user associations.

Additional information on the ICT-PSP programme can be found at:
http://ec.europa.eu/ict_psp.

4.3. The Intelligent Energy–Europe Programme

4.3.1. Objectives and thematic priorities

With the participation of more than 5 000 public and private organisations across the EU, this programme has become the main EU instrument in the field of energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energy sources. It supports the development and implementation of policies and Directives, helps create favourable market conditions, prepares the ground for investments, builds capacities and skills, and keeps the key stakeholders informed and engaged.

The main objective of the IEE II Programme as set out in Article 37 of the CIP Decision is to contribute to secure, sustainable and competitively priced energy for Europe, through action to:

- Foster energy efficiency and the rational use of energy resources;
- Promote new and renewable energy sources and support energy diversification;
- Promote energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energy sources in transport.

These objectives apply to the entire period of the programme, i.e. from 2007 to 2013. Each annual work programme, including the one adopted for 2012, sets a number of more specific, action-related objectives.

Most of the IEE II budget is implemented through the competitive allocation of financial support to independent parties submitting proposals in line with the Programme's priorities (grants for projects). IEE II provides most of its financial support to projects on the basis of annual calls for proposals. Projects funded under the IEE II programme are of a "soft" nature: they aim to work in a catalytic way, by triggering market mechanisms or inducing third parties to take action in line with the Programme's objectives. Communication and dissemination of the results are an inherent part of IEE II projects and are at the core of the management of the programme. The impact of IEE II projects thus extends far beyond the results of each individual project.

The operational budget of the IEE II Programme for 2012, not including contributions from third countries, amounted to EUR 129.813.600 in commitment appropriations. Contributions from EFTA countries totalled EUR 3.375.154 whilst Croatia's contribution came to EUR 796.616 and the contribution from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was EUR 288.430. A total of EUR 6.542.000 was provisionally allocated to cover the operating expenses of the EACI for 2012, and EUR 1.017.792 was earmarked for administrative expenditures. The annual IEE work Programme for 2012 was established by Commission Decision C(2011)9451 of 20 December 2010. The 2012 Call for Proposals was published on the IEE website on the same date, 20 December 2011. The deadline for submission of proposals were 9 February 2012 (for BUILD UP Skills Pillar I only); 8 May 2012 (Main call).

More than 500 pre-proposal check requests were answered by the EACI, with an average response time of less than a week. 424 eligible proposals were received (plus 9 for BUILD UP Skills). Nearly a hundred independent experts supported the evaluation, about half of them taking part for the first time. 57 projects (plus 10 reserve list proposals) were recommended for funding, together with the 9 BUILD UP Skills projects.

Highlights are provided for each field, describing specific projects or activities which were particularly noteworthy in 2012.

4.3.2. Details of IEE II 2012 activities related to promotion and dissemination projects

Energy efficiency and rational use of energy (SAVE)

Energy-efficient products: for action to help transform the market towards more energy-efficient products and systems, supporting and complementing the legislation in this area.

This action was not open in the IEE II Work Programme 2012.

*The **ATLETE II** project looks at washing machines, the second most frequently occurring household appliance. It follows on from ATLETE, which focuses on energy labelling for fridges and freezers, testing the energy label compliance of 80 models and showing the real need for market surveillance. ATLETE II assesses manufacturers' compliance with the energy labelling requirements and helps national authorities to cooperate on this issue. Fifty washing machine models will be tested during the project.*

*The **ComeOnLabels** project has a broader scope. Its aim is to enhance the visibility and credibility of the EU energy label in order to push for better checks on market compliance and the constant improvement of the energy efficiency of household appliances. More than 75 000 products from 330 shops in 13 countries were checked during the project.*

Consumer behaviour: for action to help consumers adopt an energy-efficient behaviour and choose the most energy-efficient products among those covered by the Eco-Design Directive.

A total of 5 projects were funded on consumer behaviour in 2012. One project aims to increase the involvement of civil society in market surveillance activities related to compliance with ecodesign and energy labelling legislation, whilst another addresses the compliance of television to the energy efficiency legislation. Regarding behaviour change programmes, 3 projects were funded: 1 project aiming to achieve energy saving in 500 schools in 16 countries and return half of the energy costs saved as extra money for school activities, 1 (useITsmartly), addressing the specific and growing energy-consuming ICT sector (Information and Communication Technology); and 1 developing a smart phone application to help consumers choose the most energy efficient products.

Energy services: for actions to improve the market conditions for energy efficiency services and energy performance contracts.

Overall 4 projects were selected on Energy Services from the Call for proposal 2012. Of these, one addresses smart metering and aims at involving, informing and helping end-consumers to take measure to save energy on the basis of information provided by their smart meters and energy bills. Two other address the need to support the development of the energy services market in Europe. The remaining project will provide homogeneous and reliable data on energy consumption and energy efficiency in Europe and will monitor the effectiveness of energy efficiency policies.

*The **European Energy Services Initiative (EESI)** contributed to the market development of the Energy Performance Contracting Market in the EU. It achieved this ambitious objective by establishing helpdesks in 10 Member States, by developing model contracts, by training decision makers in local authorities, by initiating new types of energy performance contracting projects or by organising the popular European Energy Saving Award, which rewards each year the most outstanding energy performance contracting projects in Europe.*

Industrial excellence in energy: for action empowering European Industries, in particular SMEs, to save energy.

Overall 6 projects have been funded in 2012 under the industrial excellence in industry. These projects aim at improving energy efficiency in the agro-food sector, in particular targeting the food and beverage sector and the Mediterranean Agro-food industry, as well as single industrial sectors like the chemical industry, the retail sector and the musical industry. A further project addresses more than one sector.

*The **EINSTEIN II** project which was completed in October 2012, supported decision-making related to the thermal energy demand of businesses. Industrial thermal energy contributes about 28% of the total final energy demand and produces about 21% of the CO2 emissions in Europe.*

Energy efficient buildings: for action raising the energy performance of new and existing buildings, in both residential and tertiary sectors.

A total of 29 projects have been supported in both the domestic and the non-residential sectors. They are complemented by a wide range of activities under other key actions which support interventions in the building sector.

*The on-going **SHELTER** project analyses the design and construction of 20 completed construction projects and embeds integrated energy design in the daily working practices and future planning of 5 social housing operators by applying tailored cooperation models (with all actors along the value construction chain) on on-going construction works.*

*The **ISERV** project is exploring how the automatic monitoring and feedback of information on energy use of heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems could work and what benefits of such an approach could be.*

New and renewable energy resources (ALTENER)

Electricity from renewable energy sources (RES-e), for action to increase the share of renewable electricity in Europe's final energy consumption.

Grid development is a key factor for any further expansion of renewable electricity production, both large- and small-scale. The key action also covered topics such as simplification of regulatory and administrative procedures and increasing social acceptance by involving the relevant market actors, local communities and other interested parties.

A total of 7 projects were funded in 2012.

***GP WIND** aimed to address barriers to development of onshore and offshore wind by developing good practices in reconciling objectives on renewable energy with environmental objectives and actively involving local and regional communities.*

***SHP STREAMMAP** aimed at defining a clear and consistent future market strategy for the small hydropower (SHP) sector in Europe. The main outcome of the project has been a roadmap for the EU-27 SHP sector, analysing upcoming trends and prospects for the future.*

Renewable energy heating/cooling (RES-H/C), for action to promote the use of RES for heating and cooling applications.

Renewable heating and cooling projects have an impact at three levels. At EU level, they have contributed to the development and implementation of EU-wide legislation. At national level, they have assisted in addressing the non-technological barriers that impede the uptake of RES H/C technologies. At local level, the programme has supported local actors by providing them with the knowledge needed to use best-practice RES H/C systems in towns and cities.

*Solar district heating is now a fully mature technology and it is ready to deliver. The project **SDHtake-off** (ended in June 2012), brought together countries with advanced know-how in Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and Austria to encourage others to follow them.*

***UrbanSolPlus** (2011-2014) is about renovating urban residential areas with solar thermal heating. The project aims to provide sustainable solutions to overcome the market barriers to the integration of solar thermal in renovation activities in existing buildings and in particular in older parts of cities, including areas that might be protected.*

RES in buildings: to expand the renewable energy systems integration in buildings and to support the implementation of the RES in buildings component of the RES Directive.

Although the call was closed for 2012, a number of projects was launched with previous calls had an important impact in 2012. Most of the projects facilitated the implementation of Article 13 of the RES Directive as well as the implementation of Article 14.

***PVVTRIN** (2010-2013) implemented 8 training courses in 6 countries addressed to PV installers, for a total of 180 people trained. With **INSTALL+RES** (2010-2013), “train the trainer” courses were implemented for a total of 128 trained trainers. **PATRES** (2010-2013) supports the heads of department and technical officers working in local authorities, public utilities and social housing bodies via customised training, coaching and field visits, which help them to introduce effective RES policies for the public and private buildings.*

***EnergizAIR** (ended in June 2012) set up Renewable Energy Weather Forecasts on TV, radio and in newspapers in 5 European countries (Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, and Slovenia).*

Bioenergy, for action to promote the increased production and use of biomass, bio-liquids and biogas in energy markets.

From Call 2010 onwards, Bioenergy is a comprehensive key action integrating three previous key actions: “Biofuels”, “Bio-Business” and the bio-energy supply part of the “Renewable Heating and Cooling”.

Within the call 2012, the focus has been on further expanding supplies and triggering of increases in demand for solid biomass for heating and CHP, and biogas/bio methane for CHP, transport

*The **AgriForEnergy II** project (ended in June 2012) promoted sustainable biomass production from forestry and agriculture for energy production in 7 European regions in Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Germany, Bulgaria, Sweden, and Finland.*

*Activating private forest owners to increase forest fuel supply (**AFO**)’s main objective was to increase wood fuel supply and use at both regional and local levels. The **AFO** project boosted wood supply by establishing clusters and forests owners.*

Energy in transport (STEER) to promote energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable

energies sources in transport

Energy-efficient transport: for action to reduce the demand for car travel and transport by road freight, and to shift travel and transport to more efficient transport modes.

Of the five proposals for 2012, 3 projects support the preparation of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans for urban areas, 3 projects apply behaviour change approaches that have shown to be effective in changing the travel behaviour of the public and one further project improves the attractiveness of urban freight terminals.

Cycling is the most energy efficient urban transport mode with a high potential to reduce transport energy consumption and to enhance the liveability of European cities. However, while cycling is already a serious transport mode in some countries there is significant potential for cycling in other cities.

*The **PRESTO** project, which ended in 2012, collated Europe's know-how on three thematic areas that are crucial to fostering cycling: cycling infrastructure planning, cycling promotion and pedelecs (bicycles assisted by an electric motor).*

Clean and energy-efficient vehicles: for action to help transform the market towards more energy-efficient vehicles, supporting and complementing the recent legislation in this area:

The two proposals, which were selected from Call 2012, will support the introduction of non-conventionally fuelled vehicles in urban areas

*Public authorities are required to take emissions into account in procurement, either by setting minimum standards or by weighing them against the costs of the vehicle. This is something partners in the **CLEAN FLEETS** project, launched in 2012, help with. The cities of Rotterdam, London and Zagreb are among those taking part. Practical actions to help the procurement processes include direct support to public authorities in developing tender documents, market consultation, contract management and tools for implementation including training modules and good practice guides. By the end of the project, in 2015, the aim is to have 20 operators running newly commissioned fleets that meet standards for the 21st century.*

Integrated initiatives

Actions combining several of the specific fields (SAVE, ALTENER and STEER) or relating to specific EU priorities, which may include:

(a) Integrating energy efficiency and renewable energy sources within several sectors of the economy;

(b) Combining various instruments, tools and actors within the same action or project.

Local energy leadership: action to foster the integration of sustainable energy policies in the work of public authorities and to facilitate cooperation between public authorities and other local actors.

Two funded projects in 2012 aim at good practice models for multi-level governance fostering effective and concerted collaboration between public authorities on the local and regional and/or national level. The other two cover the second call priority which looked at capacity building for national and/or regional town planning associations.

Engage (2010-2012) is a participative communication initiative action implemented by European cities. This campaign invites citizens and stakeholders to play their part in building a sustainable energy future.

Cascade (2011-2014) is a networking and mutual learning project on local energy leadership, which supports cities to deliver the European Union 2020 targets for energy and climate change. **Cascade** aims to generate knowledge on the implantation of local energy policies that will then be transferred to the organization (city administration) and to society as a whole.

Mobilising local energy investments: project development assistance for the preparation of local investments in energy efficiency and/or renewable energy. This new funding area was opened for the first time in 2011.

Building on the experience of ELENA (see below), the MLEI was introduced in the IEE Call 2011, with the aim to support project development assistance for local or regional public authorities to prepare, mobilise financing for, and launch investments in sustainable energy projects.

The MLEI PDA facility addresses in particular the capacity gap of public bodies for the development and launch of bankable, small to medium-sized investments at the local and regional level. It supports the acquisition of necessary expertise related to feasibility studies, stakeholder and community mobilisation, financial engineering, business plans, technical specifications and procurement procedures. A particular emphasis in the selection process is given to organisational innovations such as bundling of small projects or innovative financing schemes, as well as to high replication potential to ensure uptake of the solutions across Europe. The investment projects must be led by a public body and must be embedded in a wider local energy or climate strategy, thus making PDA also interesting for signatories in the European Commission's Covenant of Mayors initiative. Projects must mobilise a minimum of six million euros and they must achieve a minimum leverage factor of 15, i.e. every euro in PDA costs must generate an investment of EUR 15. A strict requirement is that at the end of the project, evidence must be provided that the investments have been launched unconditionally

Energy efficiency and renewable energy in buildings: to promote the integration of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy consumption in new and existing buildings (e.g. nearly-zero energy buildings).

Under the integrated initiative on energy efficiency and renewable energy in buildings a total of 14 projects have been funded. These projects support all actors along the sector value chain in the transition towards Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings in the coming years, as well as in the use of energy performance certificates as a driver for renovation and improving quality and compliance in construction. Local authorities, developers, financiers, owners, users, designers, engineers, contractors and suppliers are all either direct, or indirect, beneficiaries of these actions. Additionally, from stakeholder forums, networking activities and broad awareness resulting from the projects, the entire value chain is benefitting, as well as the regulatory authorities which are setting the framework for the market transformation. During the period 2012-2015, these projects are expected to accelerate the implementation of the national action plans towards nearly zero- energy buildings. The first suite of projects was launched in the second quarter of 2012. To build synergies amongst these projects and those starting in 2013, and to support EU Member States in defining their approach to nearly zero-energy buildings, a Contractors' Meeting is scheduled in May 2013.

Building Workforce Training and Qualification Initiative in the field of energy efficiency and

renewable energy (BUILD UP Skills): for the continuing education and training of “blue-collar” workers in the construction sector. This new funding area opened in 2011 for the first time.

The BUILD UP Skills initiative successfully mobilised projects in 30 countries (27 EU Member States as well as Norway, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). 21 projects – funded within the Call 2011 - started in November 2011 and 9 additional national projects started in June 2012. The creation of national qualification platforms has allowed a substantial mobilisation effort in all countries, with more than 500 organisations involved (public authorities, industry and trade associations, trade unions, continuing education organisations)

4.3.3. Market Replication Projects

Market replication projects are an integral part of the IEE II programme implementation which was not open prior to the work programme 2009. Article 44 of the CIP Decision sets out the category of projects for which Community funding can be provided for the implementation of action under Market Replication Projects. "The Community shall provide support to projects concerned with the market replication of innovative techniques, processes, products or practices of Community relevance, which have already been technically demonstrated with success. These shall be designated to promote broader utilisation of such techniques, processes, products or practices within the participating countries and facilitate their market uptake."

Market replication projects (MRP) introduce as a major definition element the focus on replication effects, justified by leverage (multiplication) factor (leverage effect of 1 EUR provided from IEE II to the total of the sustainable energy investments mobilized). IEE- MRP area is implemented through the ELENA Facility.

The ELENA Facility was launched in December 2009. It is being implemented by the EIB (since 2009), the KfW (since 2011), the CEB (since 2011) and the EBRD (since 2012) according to a sub-delegation agreement between the European Commission’s DG ENER and DG ECFIN, and consequent Contribution Agreement between DG ECFIN and the banks. The underlying principle of the facility is the leverage factor of 1:20 (each Euro of IEE support has to lead to at least 20 Euro of the induced investment).

The ELENA Technical Assistance Facility provides grant co-financing to eligible final beneficiaries (local and regional public authorities and/or entities acting on their behalf) of up to 90 % of eligible costs related to technical assistance for the development of bankable sustainable energy investments. These eligible costs include personnel costs of additional staff hired by the beneficiary in order to prepare, launch and manage the investment programme in question, technical and economic studies related to the investment programme, preparation and management of the public tendering procedures associated with the investment programme, financial structuring costs of the investment programme, etc. Investment programme means an investment project or a bundle of investment projects prepared/launched by a final beneficiary targeting energy efficiency and/or renewable energy sources utilisation over the respective territory, in line with rules set up by the IEE Programme.

ELENA is implemented on a first-come, first-serve basis, with no deadlines for calls for proposals. The important task of the EIB, KfW, and CEB and EBRD staff in charge of

the ELENA Facility is to provide support to local authorities (or intermediary banks in case of KfW) in the preparation of their application and the submission of the subsequent Requests for Approval.

The ELENA added value includes aspects such as:

- Scaling-up energy efficiency and renewable energy investments, realising economies of scale: this is clearly the case for most signed and approved projects, particularly for the ‘regional’ projects (i.e. Province of Barcelona, Province of Milan, Greater London Authority-RE-FIT), but also for the city of Paris, implementing a global approach to undertake energy savings in 300 schools;
- Higher investment levels can also be achieved by grouping several municipalities (e.g. Province of Barcelona, Province of Milan or Malmö);
- Improvement of the bankability of sustainable energy investments by focusing on technically and financially viable projects that are attractive to the banking sector and to Energy Service Companies (ESCOs);
- The ELENA Facility provides the financial and technical resources for local authorities to implement the projects and programmes included in the existing Sustainable Energy Action Plans supported by the Covenant of Mayors Initiative: The use of these plans in the elaboration of ELENA proposals can be witnessed in many applications.

Budget committed:

EUR 97 million has been allocated for the Facility from the IEE Programme’s budget line in the period from 2009 to 2012. These resources have to be committed to projects at latest by the end of 2014.

Projects supported:

By the end of 2012, under the ELENA Facility, 21 projects were approved and signed. These projects correspond to an amount of ELENA contribution of EUR 38 million.

According to the information available at this stage, the 2009 projects should generate approximately EUR 554 million worth of investments, while for the 2010 and 2011 projects the level of expected investments is EUR 660 million and EUR 947 million respectively.

Results according to the information available at this stage:

According to the beneficiaries’ reports, the implementation of these ELENA projects in terms of committed, contracted or implemented investments is under way. The total investments already committed through calls for tenders or contracted/implemented comprise almost EUR 262 million.

The cumulated energy savings for all 21 projects could reach 2300 GWh/y when fully implemented; the generation of energy through renewable sources could be estimated at 528 GWh/y. These projects are expected to allow at least 593,365 t of CO₂ emissions to be avoided annually during the project life. The average expected leverage factor for the signed projects is 57, i.e. almost three times the currently requested minimum level (20).

The current pipeline of projects shows a list of 14 potentially eligible projects. This pipeline will be subject to changes during discussions with the applicants; however it currently represents a potential use of ELENA funds of approximately EUR 40.8 million. The investment

that could be leveraged through this support could amount to EUR 2.4 billion.

Furthermore, discussions have already been initiated with 19 applicants. Although figures regarding the level of technical assistance required and the investment induced are changing, these projects could represent an additional EUR 27 million in TA support for estimated investments of EUR 1.078 billion.

More information at:

On **ELENA-EIB**: <http://www.eib.org/products/elena/index.htm>

On **ELENA-KfW**: <https://www.kfw.de/KfW-Group/About-KfW/Auftrag/Sonderaufgaben/Förderkredite-EU/ELENA---European-Local-ENergy-Assistance/index.html>

On **ELENA-CEB**: <http://www.coebank.org/Contenu.asp?arbo=161&theme=2>

On **ELENA-EBRD**: n/a, under construction, as the Contribution agreement was signed in December 2012.

4.4. Grants to specific target groups

CA EPDB III (2012 activities):

Properly implemented, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) could result in as much as 96 Mtoe/yr of energy savings in 2020, or 6.5% of EU final energy demand, without even taking account of the impact of its recast.

To help make that a reality, a Concerted Action (CA EPBD) was launched in 2005 as a joint initiative of the EU Member States and the EC. Organised around meetings between national teams, regularly bringing together over 120 participants from 29 countries, experiences are shared amongst those preparing the technical, legal and administrative aspects for the EPBD in each country.

With the launch of its third phase from 2011-2015, participation in the CA goes from strength-to-strength. The continuation is an important step for maximising the impact of the recast, particular regarding market transformation to nearly zero-energy buildings. It can help in reaching the additional estimated savings of 60-80 Mtoe/yr by 2020, or 5-6% of the EU's energy consumption.

In 2012, one cycle of collaborative work (including 1 study tour), and one full meeting (with a total of 18 technical sessions), was carried out. Participant surveys show that the CA is highly effective: indicating a >90 % satisfaction rate in terms of the usefulness of the information for effective policy implementation at national level. Also during 2012, the service provider for the Commission's study "Towards nearly zero-energy buildings: Definition of common principles under the EPBD" participated in the CA EPBD meeting to interact directly with the representatives from the Member States.

The CA EPBD continues to underpin the work programme for implementation of the co-operation agreement between DG Energy and the Chinese Ministry of Housing, Urban and Rural

Development. A workshop on "Best Available Technologies for Nearly-Zero Energy Buildings", was held in Beijing in March 2012. The CA was the core contributor from the European side. Later in the year, a delegation of administrators from the Chinese ministry attended the CA EPBD meeting to share experiences on energy performance certification schemes.

CA ESD I and II (2012 activities):

The Concerted Action on the Energy End-Use Efficiency and Energy Services Directive (CA ESD) continued enhancing and structuring the sharing of information and experiences relating to the implementation of the ESD Directive (2006/32/EC). It provided a forum for immediate and informal exchange of experiences and involved all Member States' national authorities responsible for implementing the Directive, or those bodies appointed and entrusted by them to do so.

Two Concerted Action plenary meetings were organised in 2012 which were both successfully organised and well attended. These meetings triggered valuable discussions as well as good contribution from many participants relating to the implementation of the ESD. Thanks to these meetings, participating Member States were able to learn from other countries, avoid pitfalls and build on successful approaches when implementing the Directive in their country. The first plenary meeting in Copenhagen (DK) had a specific in-depth session on public procurement which succeeded to attract more than 18 national experts and which successfully extended the scope and breadth of the CA ESD. The second plenary meeting in Paphos (CY) had also a specific in-depth session on how to make better use of European financing sources (SCF, EIB) in combination with national schemes for energy efficiency. This session succeeded to attract around 25 national experts and it also succeeded to transfer experiences and knowledge relating to the many projects and programme financing instruments available throughout Europe.

In 2012, the Concerted Action also succeeded to strengthen its unique network of European experts on ESD which has resulted in more long-term cooperation across Europe. Furthermore, it helped the European Commission better understand the national barriers related to ESD implementation and why there are still areas that despite the ESD are slow to take off and require for example capacity building, clear financing solutions or measurement and verification.

CA RES: 2012 activities:

This Concerted Action on the Renewable Energy Directive (CA-RES) aims at supporting the implementation of the 2009 RES Directive and the achievement of its national targets. It involves only the organisations in charge of the national transposition and implementation of this Directive, which are the responsible ministries and expert bodies nominated to work on them by those Ministries. The CA-RES provides a forum for confidential and structured discussions and cross learning between these organisations in all EU MS. This exchange of views, approaches and experiences concentrates on key requirements of the Directive according to the needs of Member States and the European Commission.

The CA-RES is focused on topics where coordination of approaches would be beneficial, for example cooperation mechanisms, implementation of the national renewable action plans (NREAPs), methodologies for the calculation of renewable energy shares, integration of RES supplies into electricity and gas grids, removal of administrative barriers and

incorporation of RES into planning processes, reducing information and training gaps, sustainability of biofuels, and biomass mobilisation. The CA-RES will run for 3 years. It started in July 2010 and is coordinated by the Austrian Energy Agency.

After more than 2.5 years, this Concerted Action is achieving its initial objectives.

- a. It involves 30 partners (National Authorities responsible for the implementation of the Directive) from 27 EU Member States plus Norway, Croatia, and Iceland;
- b. Following the successful CARES meetings already occurred in 2010-2011 (in Austria, autumn 2010; Lisbon, spring 2011; and Madrid, autumn 2011), two three-day meetings have been organised in 2012 in Tallinn (spring) and in Prague (autumn). Each meeting attracted around 200 participants from those authorities in Member States which are responsible for the implementation of the RES Directive, and EC officials (DG ENER, ENV, AGRI, and EUROSTAT);
- c. During these meetings, and in between meetings, these authorities work together to find the most effective ways to implement the EU Directive by identifying and disseminating good practices on RES policy implementation and by putting emphasis on topics that require common approaches and coordination between the MS. Ten working groups have been established covering implementation issues related to all of the articles of the Directive;
- d. CARES has become a major platform for structured confidential dialogue and exchange of experience and best practice among Member States on the implementation of the RES Directive. The confidentiality of this platform is a clear added value that differentiates this activity from other fora or conferences.

4.5. International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC)

The EU contributed EUR 60. 000 to IPEEC in 2012.

The International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) is a high-level forum “for enhancing and coordinating joint efforts to accelerate the adoption of sound energy efficiency improvement practices”, a multilateral Commission initiative in the G8 context, which focuses exclusively on energy efficiency. It was launched in 2009. The present 15 members are the G8, the EU and the emerging economies Brazil, China, India as well as Australia, Mexico and South Korea. Canada currently holds the chair of IPEEC’s Policy Committee.

The IPEEC provides a forum for discussion, consultation and exchange of information, but will not develop standards or efficiency goals for its members. Dedicated Task Groups are dealing with specific issues, such as energy management, the development of energy efficiency indicators, and training and capacity building. Other issues are certification of office buildings and industrial facilities (GSEP) and super-efficient equipment and appliance deployment (SEAD). Each Task Group is managed by a ‘lead country’; 3 EU Member States that are also G8 members (France, Italy and the UK) presently lead a Task Group in IPEEC.

4.6. International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

The EU contributed EUR 318 600 to IRENA in 2012.

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was founded in Bonn on 26 January 2009 on the initiative of Denmark, Germany and Spain. Its Statute came into force in October 2010 and has by now been signed by 148 States and the EU, and ratified by 84 States and the EU. Its mission is to promote the widespread and increased adoption and the sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy. It serves as a centre of excellence for renewable energy technology and act as a facilitator and catalyst, providing experience for practical applications and policies, offering support and helping countries to benefit from the efficient development and transfer of knowledge and technology. IEE II contribution ensures the EU's participation in IRENA.

The European Union is a member of IRENA and as such enjoys improved access to information about the activities of other members of the organisation in the field of renewable energies on a global level. Its membership increases the EU's ability to act in a coordinated way in this international cooperation framework, as envisaged in the Commission's communication on international cooperation in the field of energy.

4.7. Standards initiative

The aim of the initiative is to develop standards required for implementing the energy efficiency and renewable energy legislation and related EC policies. These standards will be prepared by the relevant European standards bodies (CEN/CENELEC) under specific agreements.

5. CONCLUSIONS

In 2012 all CIP instruments and actions were fully operational showing encouraging results. The execution rate of the total budget allocated to the three different programmes, like in 2011, was above 99%.

During the sixth year of implementation, some CIP measures extended the coverage of their actions and then the number of possible beneficiaries. This was the case of the financial instruments (more than 210,000 SMEs benefited from their support by the end of 2012).

Other actions, such as the European Enterprise Network increased the number of SMEs reached. By the end of 2012, and among other services, the partners of the Network contacted more than 2.3 million SMEs via newsletters every week. They have also involved more than 250.000 SMEs in local promotion and information events.

Successful initiatives which were initiated in 2011 and which proved to have an important impact on small and medium size enterprises (Build Up Skills initiative under the Intelligent Energy Europe programme) were continued also in 2012.

The response from the market to the grants published was very positive. Actions such as the pilot and market replication projects on ICT-based services and eco-innovation or the dissemination and information actions on sustainable energy had an increased number of applications and, in most cases, the number of projects funded during 2012 was higher than in previous years.