

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE EU SUPPORT TO COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION

FINAL REPORT

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1. SUMMARY

The public consultation on a possible successor to the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) was launched as a part of the Impact Assessment on the design of the EU funding schemes after 2013. It was addressed to public and private organisations or individuals who wished to give their views on the structure and priorities of the future programme, such as the enterprises, business and research and innovation support providers or national, regional and public administrations.

The public consultation process consisted of:

- an online survey (including specific survey on financial instruments), opened from 8 November 2010 to 11 February 2011. A total of 676 answers and 76 written contributions were registered;
- a public conference that was organised on 25 January 2011 and attended by more than 550 participants, representing a wide variety of stakeholders (associations of financial intermediaries, business organisations, companies, innovation agencies, universities, etc);
- meetings with the representatives of the Members States in the different CIP committees (meeting of the CIP Joint Management Committees meeting on 25 January 2011, meeting of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme Committee on 16 and 17 March 2011);
- a meeting with the members of the CIP Strategic Advisory Board on 2 February 2011.

Regarding the messages received, when it comes to the objectives of a possible future programme, a vast majority of the participants in the public consultation considered that it should be targeted at supporting the SMEs, as well as creating a favourable business environment. There was also a broad support for facilitating the access to finance and continuing and strengthening the actions related to innovation. It was also stressed that the future interventions should be visibly linked to EU strategic priorities such as the Europe 2020 flagship initiatives or the Small Business Act.

About the future instruments to achieve these objectives, direct support in the form of grants to pilot actions testing innovative solutions was seen as the top priority together with the financial instruments and the services provided to business. It was underlined by respondents that all instruments should have a clear EU added value.

On the programme management there was a general desire to simplify the structure of the programme and to continue to have experts on innovation on the management of the programme, both at the Commission services and at the Programme Committee for those actions. The need for a robust development of monitoring and evaluation, as well as increased co-ordination and exchange of best practices was also broadly supported.

As far as the relations with other EU programmes are concerned, respondents underlined the need to increase coordination and coherence with other EU instruments, in particular the Structural Funds and the Framework Programme for research and technological development (FP), to create synergies and avoid duplication.

With regard to the respective parts of the CIP, these are the most recurrent messages:

- Financial instruments: The financial instruments (both, risk capital and guarantees instrument) were seen as highly relevant and with impressive leverage effect. The Commission was asked to maintain different financial instruments addressing different needs and answering different market realities. In that sense, it was requested not to limit the support to the current financial instruments, but also consider other options such as the mezzanine funds or business angels support.
- Innovation: A recurrent message was to have a holistic approach to support innovation: to tackle organisational innovation, enhancing the support to skills and policy development. Regarding which kind of innovation should be supported, respondents would like to cover broad forms of innovation: both technological and non-technological, innovation in services and the one related to creative industries. To foster the demand of innovation, innovative public procurement needs to be continued and perhaps in cooperation with other funding schemes such as the Structural Funds. It was also underlined that the future EU support to innovation should be more oriented towards the societal needs.
- The pilot and market replication projects related to eco-innovation are very successful and should be strengthened and perhaps extended to other areas of the programme. Green public procurement for eco-innovative products and services should be stimulated.
- The business support services provided by the Enterprise Europe Network (the Network) were widely recognised and the main message recurring was that they need to be continued and reinforced with new actions such as support for internationalisation of SMEs. A part of the participants noted that this new task should be done in cooperation with existing mechanisms at national level to avoid duplication. Some participants went in another direction and underlined that the role and activities of the Network should remain focused and the number of services should not be extended without limit in order to be able to provide high quality services to businesses.
- Measures oriented to enhance business environment for SMEs and promote entrepreneurship were supported, but should have a clear European added value. The Think Small First principle should guide the design of the future programmes.
- The Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP) needs to be continued, especially the pilot projects type A. The specific objectives of this programme were recognised as key priorities: tackle interoperability issues, fight against market fragmentation, and support demand driven innovation. Some participants suggested having ICT as a horizontal priority for the whole new funding scheme as a key enabling technology.
- The current priorities of the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE) should remain: developing and implementing the European energy policy as well as supporting actions for fostering the energy efficiency and renewable energy use. The actions carried out by this programme were seen as well focused and relevant. The implementation of actions fostering the use of renewable energies came first in

terms of perceived priorities the EU should be focusing on as part of the IEE programme in the future.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. About the public consultation

The public consultation on a possible successor to the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme was undertaken in order to provide the Commission with public views on what the future priorities for an EU intervention in these areas should be, and what instruments should be used.

The public consultation was addressed to organisations or individuals who wished to give their views on the structure and priorities of the possible successor programme to the CIP, and particularly to enterprises; business and innovation support providers; national, regional and public administrations and financial organisations.

The public consultation consisted of several parts:

- an online survey, including an specific survey on the CIP financial instruments;
- written contributions;
- a public conference;
- meetings with the representatives of the Members States in the different CIP committees;
- meetings with other stakeholders groups such as the Strategic Advisory Board on CIP.

The main messages underlined by participants in the above meetings or surveys are summarised in this report.

2.2. The way forward

The public consultation focused on the future of the actions funded by the CIP programme, their relevance to achieve the objectives set and their efficiency.

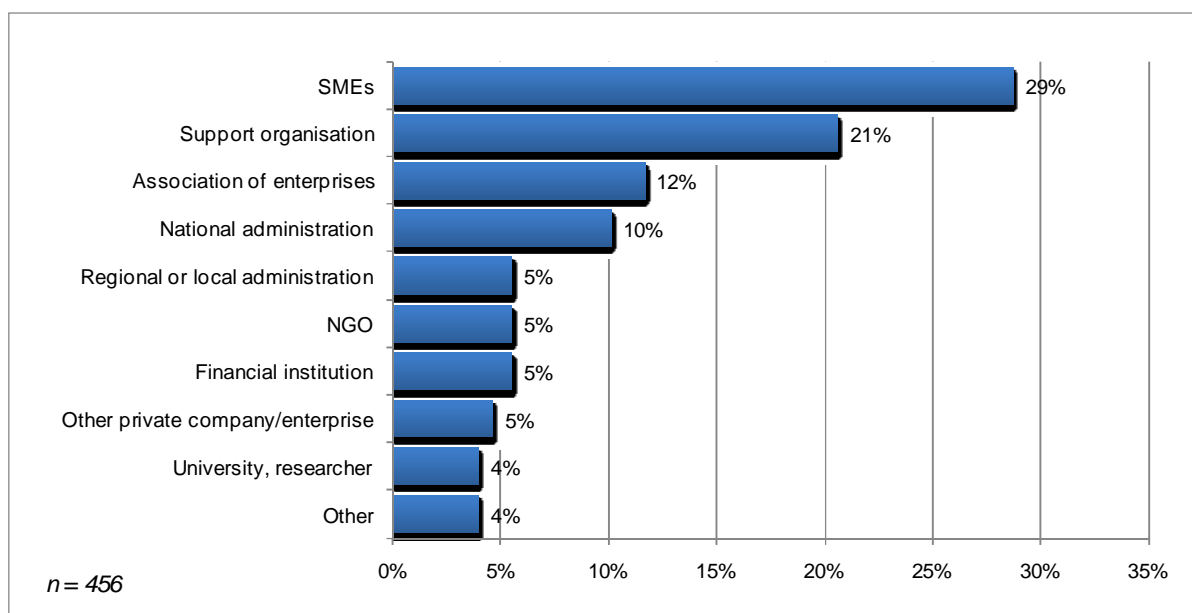
Complementing this, the European Commission also conducted another consultation on the future of the research and innovation funding. A Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for future EU research and innovation funding was adopted on 9 February 2011. It proposed major changes to the structure of the EU research and innovation funding after 2013. The main idea of the CSF was that it would cover the current Framework Programme for research and technological development, the innovation part of Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme and the European Institute for Innovation Technology in order to increase their impact and simplify access to them.

The results of these two consultations, among others, will feed into the European Commission's proposal on funding schemes in the field of competitiveness and SMEs, and research and innovation after 2013.

3. THE ONLINE SURVEY

A total of 676 participants took part to the online survey. 32% of all participants were individuals, while 68% represented an organisation. Of these, nearly 30% were SMEs, the majority of which (60%) were micro-enterprises. France- and Spain-based individuals and entities were the most represented among all participants, each accounting for 11% of all responses. A large majority of participants had been involved in an EU programme or initiative at some point.

Figure 1: Whom participants responded on behalf of



Source: Public Consultation about a possible successor to the CIP, 2011

Regarding the objectives of the possible successor programme to the CIP nearly all participants considered that an EU intervention designed to improve the business and innovation environment was needed. 75% agreed on the need for EU SME-targeted instruments. Direct support in the form of grants to pilot actions testing innovative solutions was seen as the top priority to achieve this. Improving access to finance (venture capital and loans) for start-ups, growth of SMEs and innovation came second in the list of priorities, while the improvement of framework conditions targeting the business environment came just behind. The improvement of business support services through intermediaries received the lowest support among the objectives that a future programme should pursue.

As far as the instruments of the future programme are concerned, business and innovation support, whether in the form of hands-on support or in the form of grants, seemed to be the most popular area of intervention. Support for eco-innovation and clean technologies, as well as support for the internationalisation of SMEs, were also high amongst all categories of participants.

Enthusiasm for pushing through the ICT agenda for Europe was expressed by the respondents. Each of the ten areas for intervention presented in the questionnaire as ones the Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme should be focussing on in the future was highly rated by all categories of participants.

The implementation of actions fostering the use of renewable energies came first in terms of perceived priorities the EU should be focusing on as part of the Intelligent Energy Europe programme in the future, with nearly a half of the respondents rating the idea as very relevant. Actions designed to help implementing a sustainable energy policy and supporting the use of renewable energies also received vast support from the participants.

The statistics and a detailed report from the result of the online survey can be consulted in Annexes 1 and 1a.

4. MESSAGES FROM WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS

73 written contributions were submitted to the public consultation from a wide variety of organisations and different governmental bodies. All contributions are available on: http://ec.europa.eu/cip/public_consultation/public-consultation-written-responses_en.htm.

In the following paragraphs the recurring messages of these written contributions are summarised.

4.1. On programme aims and objectives

With regard to the future orientation of the programme aims and objectives, respondents pointed out that future funding scheme should concentrate on activities with real EU added value.

In a vast majority of contributions support to SMEs was mentioned as important for a successor programme. Furthermore, the creation of a favourable business environment, amongst others by internal market, standardisation, better regulations, was underlined by many.

When it comes to support actions, it was suggested that these might focus on: 1) access to finance, in particular for SMEs; 2) supporting innovation and commercialisation (some mention explicitly commercialisation of R&D results, demonstration activities and market replication).

There was a general agreement that the thematic areas covered by the current pillars of CIP as important and with cross-cutting relevance, such as ICT, energy efficiency and eco-innovation. Given that a majority of the existing measures of the CIP work well, it was recommended to base the future programme on current achievements.

Several respondents also mentioned the need to continue and improve mutual learning activities and exchange of best practices.

Additional comments from Member States

Member States were in addition concerned that future interventions should be visibly linked to EU strategic priorities such as the related Europe 2020 flagship initiatives or the Small Business Act.

With regard to sector-specific measures, some Member States advised explicitly against it, while others were in favour.

Regarding support for new actions, some Member States underlined the need to focus on fewer actions and measures which work; others were open to new actions.

Additional comments from other stakeholders

Several stakeholders agreed that a future programme should foster innovation and competitiveness. However, when it comes to which measures are important in achieving this, the contributions were more divided.

Naturally, different stakeholders gave their support and suggested strengthening the different parts of the current CIP relevant to them. In addition to the above mentioned points, several contributors mentioned support to clusters and business support services like the Enterprise Europe Network (including support for internationalisation of SMEs), different intermediaries and IPR assistance.

In addition, several stakeholders suggested expanding the scope of the current CIP to new thematic areas or increase effort in certain areas. Some suggestions were sector-specific such as transport, food, health and security, film industry, cultural and creative industries and leasing. Other contributions mentioned more cross-cutting issues such as tailored support for service businesses, key enabling technologies, technologic initiatives and platforms, support to exhibitions and campaigns, social innovation, and innovative procurement.

There were also suggestions to use "open priorities", to be able to provide funding to relevant projects that may not fit general themes.

Others were concerned that a future programme should also focus on non-technological innovation and open innovation. Yet others were concerned that a future programme should foster entrepreneurship culture and innovation culture. Some mentioned the need to focus on societal challenges.

4.2. On programme management and relations with other EU programmes

Respondents underlined the need to increase coordination and coherence with other EU instruments, in particular Structural Funds and Framework Programme for research and technological development, to create synergies and avoid duplication. Some explicitly suggested merging parts of CIP with the FP.

Many respondents thought that it was important to have a user-centred design of instruments in a future programme. The programme should be accessible and simple to understand for participants and have simple procedures.

Several respondents were concerned about finding the adequate balance between support instruments and direct support to projects/beneficiaries. Some thought that the main bulk should be allocated to direct support to projects.

There were also suggestions to enhance online information and IT systems to improve accessibility of the programme and to provide timelier and better information on calls.

Some were concerned about the visibility of the programme, and one contributor suggested having an annual CIP conference.

Additional comments from Member states

In addition to the above, several Member States also underlined the need to ensure real EU added value and measures with high impact. In this context, several contributions underlined the need for a robust and improved monitoring, reporting and evaluation system. Some underlined the need to conduct critical analysis before launching new initiatives.

Some suggested more flexibility in terms of budget allocation in views of fast changing conditions and emerging needs to be tackled in due time.

4.3. Comments regarding the different parts of CIP

4.3.1. Financial instruments

The financial instruments (both risk capital and guarantees instrument) were seen as highly relevant and with impressive leverage effect. The Commission was asked to maintain different financial instruments addressing different needs and answering different market realities. In that sense, it was requested not to limit the support to the current financial instruments, but also consider other options such as the mezzanine funds or business angel support.

Several respondents pointed to the lack of seed capital in EU and the remaining market failures to create an EU Venture Capital market.

Additional comments from Members states

Some respondents stated that there was limited EU added value of the guarantees instrument at European level.

In addition to the current instruments, other kind of financial instruments were seen as required: Support for debt financing (mezzanine) and individual investors (business angels).

Other comments stated that the potential new instruments must be well justified and impacts assessed in advance.

Some respondents asked for financial instruments serving both "traditional" and innovative SMEs, while others argued that the future CIP financial instrument should focus on improving market of private capital for seed and start-up innovative SMEs.

Additional comments from other stakeholders

It was underlined that the counter-guarantee allows targeting specific areas, which are European policy concern (ecological investments, business transfers, start-ups etc) and multiply the impact at national level considerably.

It was also suggested to increase the efficiency of the financial instruments by: a) increasing the risk level taken in the SMEG loan guarantees (up to 50%), b) simplifying the legal and administrative procedures for the financial intermediaries (reporting) and c) shortening the time from application to an agreement with EIF.

Since the instruments are not addressed directly to entrepreneurs but co-managed by EIF and the intermediaries, the companies do not perceive the EU support. To raise awareness about the fact that these instruments are funded by the EU, statistical information about impact on SMEs should be increased and spread (data on the demand volume for EIP instruments, numbers of contracts signed, regional distribution, etc)

Specific survey on financial instruments:

In parallel with the CIP survey covering all CIP actions, a specific survey on financial instruments was conducted. Some of the messages extracted are the following:

- The EU financial instruments are relevant in developing competitiveness and a single market in innovation.
- About the areas that were deemed more important in order to promote competitiveness and innovation under a follow up programme of the CIP, those were research and development and in particular, technology and knowledge transfer.
- Early stage (seed, start up) and expansion stage companies were considered the most relevant ones as beneficiaries of the EU financial instruments to promote innovation.

More details on statistics results of this survey are included in Annex 2

4.3.2. Innovation

When it comes to innovation, there was a broad support for the incorporation of the actions related to innovation in future funding schemes. Around 80 % of respondents underlined that the innovation-oriented measures should be continued or even strengthened. In addition, the future programme should strive to facilitate a better coordination between research, innovation and competitiveness actions.

According to two thirds of the respondents there was a strong need to promote broader forms of innovation, in all areas. One part of this group focused on the support towards non-technological innovation; the other part underlined the need to endorse innovation in the services sector. It was also stressed that the linkages between innovation and creativity should be strengthened in order to make the future programme more accessible to cultural and creative industries.

Innovative public procurement remained essential for about 40 % of respondents. A stronger support to innovative public procurement in the new programme was highlighted, especially in the area of eco-innovation and pre-commercial procurement.

Almost half of the respondents found that future actions should be more oriented towards the needs of society. They found it crucial to develop innovation aimed at tackling societal and social challenges.

4.3.3. Eco-innovation

With regard to support to eco-innovation, it was highlighted by a third of respondents that it plays an important role and should be continued and enhanced in future, especially the

pilot and market replication projects. Its success indicates that it could be considered to extend it to other areas.

Several respondents favoured a mixture of measures addressing both the demand and the supply for eco-innovation, paying special attention to public procurement in this area. Green public procurement for eco-innovative products and services was also supported.

10 % of respondents highlighted that exchange of practices on policies for supporting eco-innovation and green public procurement should be stimulated in order to improve the existing programme.

4.3.4. Enterprise Europe Network

The main message concerning the services of Enterprise Europe Network was that it should be continued and reinforced in the possible successor programme to the CIP. Almost all the contributions recognised the Network as a crucial business support service. A clear European added value of the Network has been appreciated by a vast majority of the respondents.

A third of respondents underlined that it is essential to continue delivering both business and innovation support services by the Network as this provides an integrated service to SMEs.

Another important priority of the Network was the support for the internationalisation of SMEs. 20 % of the respondents supported strengthening the Network's activities in that area.

Many of the respondents saw the Enterprise Europe Network's competitive advantage by the close proximity to SMEs. According to several Member States the Network should cooperate closely with NCPs and regional business centres. However, it should also avoid duplicating their role.

Some supported broader opening of the Network to third countries (e.g. it was proposed that certain calls should be open to non-Network partners as well). On the other hand, another part of the respondents stated the Network should not increase the number of branches outside the EU and that it should concentrate its activities in the CIP participating countries.

4.3.5. Promotion of entrepreneurship

With regard to the actions related to the promotion of entrepreneurship, a vast majority of respondents expressed support for their prolongation. Measures oriented towards improving the business environment and endorsing internationalisation were also widely appreciated.

Actions supporting entrepreneurial activities were often seen as the concrete application of the Small Business Act. According to a group of respondents the Think Small First Principle should guide the design and the implementation of the future programmes.

Several respondents suggested that efforts should concentrate on actions with EU added value, such as measures to improve the access to the Internal Market and cross-borders activities; the SME Week or Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs.

4.3.6. ICT Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme

As far as the ICT Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme is concerned, a need to enhance the programme was expressed by a majority of the respondents.

There was a general agreement that the programme should continue supporting and executing the Digital Agenda for Europe. Along this line, large scale pilot projects preparing for the deployment of Trans-European services were stressed as a very valuable for achieving of a single digital market.

ICT PSP approach to support pilot projects was greatly appreciated by around 70 % of respondents. It was underlined by a vast majority that the pilot type A projects were especially valuable and they should be continued.

Several respondents highlighted that the ICT PSP should better complement the Framework Programme for Research to help afford the commercialisation costs of digital content, for instance through innovative online distribution platforms.

There was also a large support for tackling interoperability issues, fighting against market fragmentation, and supporting demand driven innovation.

4.3.7. Intelligent Energy Europe Programme

The main message regarding the Intelligent Energy Europe was that it should be continued. The programme was seen as valuable; more than half of the respondents supported the maintenance of the programme in the future.

For a third of respondents developing and implementing the European energy policy as well as actions for fostering the energy efficiency and renewable energy use should remain priorities of the IEE. However, a part of respondents suggested that the budget may be too small to achieve all of its goals.

20 % of respondents expressed a need to strengthen the synergies between IEE and other European initiatives such as the SET-Plan, NER300 and with the Enterprise Europe Network.

Several of the respondents suggested considering the future position of the IEE – some proposed to integrate it with the Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities.

5 % of the respondents proposed to provide consultancy services for SMEs in the area of energy management.

5. MESSAGES FROM THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF THE CIP ACTIONS: “READY TO GROWTH?”

The CIP conference "*Ready to Grow? Shaping future EU support for business*" took place on 25 January 2011 and was hosted by Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission. More than 550 participants attended this public event that was part of the public consultation on the future EU support to competitiveness and

innovation. Many others followed the event via web streaming facilities. The participants were innovation agencies, industries, NGOs, SMEs associations, universities, associations of financial intermediaries, public administrations and other key CIP stakeholders. The speakers of the event were CIP beneficiaries in different fields (M. Mark Rahn from venture capital fund, Ms Anastasia Constantinou representing a partner of the Enterprise Europe Network in Greece) and representatives of other EU institutions and organisations (M. Paul Rübig, a Member of the European Parliament and Marc Schublin Director at the European Investment Fund)

Some key messages from the participants and speakers were:

- "Don't fix what is not broken": Most measures of the current CIP work well.
- Relation between support for research and support for innovation: The differences were underlined as was the need to bridge the gap between research, innovation and market uptake in the case of technological innovation.
- Financial instruments: There is clear EU added value in the development of a European venture capital market, as well as in providing loan facilities and quasi equity measures (such as "mezzanine" credit) to support highly innovative SMEs. There should also be a place for support to more traditional SMEs and therefore the continued need for guarantees was underlined.
- Enterprise Europe Network: Different views were presented on its possible future focus: on one hand, concentration on core business was supported, on the other, the need to also expand its services, for example to support the internationalisation of SMEs, was highlighted.
- Simplification and flexibility: The CIP was perceived as already being relatively simple and flexible (compared with the research framework programme (FP) or Structural Funds).
- Synergies with Structural Funds: Synergies should be improved and the potential of regions as multipliers should be better used.
- Future priorities: The need to continue the exchange of best practices and general policy support was raised, as well as support to specific sectors such as eco-innovation, energy efficiency, space, audiovisual, cultural and ICT through market replication and pilot actions facilitating the users' involvement and the uptake of innovation. There was also much interest in new initiatives in the area of public procurement.

More detailed information on the conclusions from the conference, the speakers and the programme can be found on the website of the conference: http://ec.europa.eu/cip/cip_conference/index_en.htm

6. MESSAGES FROM MEETINGS WITH THE CIP PROGRAMME COMMITTEES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

6.1. Key messages from the CIP Joint Management Committees meeting

In parallel with the CIP conference on the future of the CIP on 25 January 2011, a meeting of the three Committees assisting the Commission in the management of the three specific CIP programmes was organised. About 100 national experts from all fields covered by the CIP discussed the needs and orientations of the future EU measures to support competitiveness and innovation under the next multiannual financial framework (i.e. post 2013). The main messages were the following:

- Almost all CIP actions should be reinforced and continued as they had proven to be successful and have clear European added value.
- Regarding the CIP guarantee financial instrument, it was suggested to differentiate the terms of the guarantee between portfolios of micro-companies with up to 10 staff and bigger companies (of around 200 staff); delegations saw the need for intervention at EU level regarding seed capital. The EU should also tackle barriers to funds investing in other Member States.
- EU should focus on “big measures” such as the Network, having an important budget and producing tangible impact and high European added value. Regarding the Network, it was said that strengthening its role would not mean to extend it without limit or adding services that do not offer a good value/cost ratio.
- It was underlined that CIP programmes should also include education and skills as well as internationalisation dimension. However, regarding support to internationalisation of SMEs, some delegations mentioned that the EU should avoid measures such as the creation of business centres abroad that might duplicate structures already in place by the regional/national authorities that offer that service.
- The links (further coordination and interaction) between the EU research and the innovation spending programmes should be strengthened. Such an approach would limit the possible overlaps between programmes, clarify the objectives and potentially allow resources to be used in a more flexible way. This could also facilitate the dissemination of the project results to national and regional authorities and stakeholders.
- It was suggested to differentiate between innovation and research support, and the need for dedicated instruments and evaluation criteria.
- Besides the focus on pre-defined priorities, there should also be room for a bottom-up part of the programme where proposals on any topic could be submitted. In addition, it was recommended that themes for future actions should be selected carefully in order not to disturb the competitiveness of private sector innovation.

6.2. Key messages from the CIP Strategic Advisory Board

This CIP Strategic Advisory Board met on 2 February 2011 to discuss the future EU support to competitiveness and innovation. This Board is composed of 20 representatives

of industry and business associations, including those representing SMEs. The expertise of its members is related to the sectors and issues addressed by the Framework Programme, including financing, ICT, energy and eco-innovation. These were the most recurrent messages from the meeting:

- Innovative SMEs should be assisted to find funding from research to innovation. Strengthen links with research actions is a clear need, but also support innovation not related to research, since the innovation process is not linear.
- Services are a clear strength of the EU that is underestimated at the moment. Therefore, support to innovative services should be enhanced and scaled up in future.
- Support to the creation of an EU brand could help competitiveness of European companies outside the EU market.
- It is important to have a holistic approach when supporting innovation (organisational innovation, technological and non-technological, skills (capacities) and policy development). The current CIP is missing some key aspects such as the education part (skills).
- Financial instruments are clearly a CIP success story, but the venture capital funds are not the unique solution to support innovative SMEs (this sector is already not well implemented in all EU countries). Other instruments such as the mezzanine or the business angels are options to be further developed.
- The future programme should include actions in coordination with national and regional innovation policies such as measures in the field of clusters.
- Relations with other programmes should be increased to identify the best funding for each measure (e.g. actions such as the green public procurement should be better supported by the Structural Funds than for the CIP successor).
- The new programme should not work in silos (themes) but reflect a comprehensive matrix between policies and instruments. In that sense, support to ICT is clear example of a sector that should be embedded in other different areas and then be strengthened.
- The importance of the ICT sector was recognised, as well as the pervasive, underpinning cross-cutting role of ICT in addressing EU socio-economic challenges.
- The Intelligent Energy Europe Programme already involves local authorities (e.g. “Covenant of Mayor” initiative) but more needs to be done in that area.
- To pursue the objectives of fostering and mainstreaming innovation in the area of energy efficiency, it is essential that there is an EU policy fixing long term objectives and that the future programme supports skills in this field.

6.3. Key messages from the meeting of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme Committee

This meeting took place on 16th and 17th of March once the consultation on a possible Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation was launched. Therefore, some comments were made under the assumption that the innovation actions of the CIP would be included in the CSF. Main issues raised by the members of the EIP Committee were:

- It is important when defining the governance of the future programme that innovation experts continues to be in charge of the management of the innovation actions, both at the Commission services and at the Programme Committee for those actions;
- The simplification of the procedures in the next programme is required to facilitate participation;
- Clearer definition of innovation is crucial; innovation and research should be looked at separately and give specific support for innovation that does not steam from research;
- SME's needs have to be taken into account in the future; actions targeting their growth must be continued.

7. LIST OF ANNEXES

- Annex 1: Report on the results of the online survey on the future EU support to competitiveness and innovation.
- Annex 1a: Statistics on the results of the online survey on the future EU support to competitiveness and innovation.
- Annex 2: Statistics from the online survey on CIP financial instruments.