



European Commission
Enterprise and Industry Directorate-General

Enterprise Europe Network

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A new European Network for SMEs

Launched in February 2008 with a long-term perspective until 2013

Building on the experience & know-how of two previous support Networks: the **Euro Info Centres (EICs)** and the **Innovation Relay Centres (IRCs)**



Services are provided within 3 main areas of activity:

- a) Information, feedback, cooperation between enterprises and internationalization services (ex EIC-type services since 1987)
- b) Innovation and Transnational Technology Transfer services (technology as well as knowledge) (ex IRC-type services since 1995)
- c) Services to support the participation of SMEs to the seventh RTD framework programme of the European Commission



Business Support:

Support to SMEs in expanding to new markets and provision of information on EU activities and funding opportunities

Identification of potential commercial partners for companies

Advise to companies on EU legislation and policies, as well as technical issues such as frontline assistance on IPR.

Support the full exploitation of the opportunities of the Internal market

SMEs as the sounding board for future EU policies through feedback functions



Innovation & Technology Transfer:

Innovation services

Provide information and raise awareness on innovation policy and legislation

Identify obstacles for innovation

Disseminate of good practices

Transnational Technology and knowledge transfer services

Identify needs for new technologies in SMEs and provide assistance in technology transfer processes leading to the conclusion of Technology Transfer Agreements between companies

Support sector-specific innovation and professional association

Provide IPR frontline assistance and advice



Network services are Fully Integrated

The services mentioned within the 3 main areas of activity are **fully integrated**

For the first time ever, all major players of the business support community joined forces to offer a one-stop service for enterprises

The whole range of support services are provided according to a « **no wrong door principle** »



The Network in numbers

More than 100 consortia including over 500 organisations (i.e. chambers of commerce, regional development agencies, university technology centres).

More than 4000 experienced professionals carrying out/documenting/organising “inter alia” on a yearly basis:

approx. 50.000 technology audits

approx. 1.000 technology agreements

approx. 4.000 local events on SME-related topics:



Geographical coverage

EU-27

Candidate Countries: Croatia, FYROM, Turkey

EEA Countries: Iceland, Norway

More than 10 Countries beyond the EU including China, the US, Russia, Swizerland, Israel, some Arab and Latin American Countries



Eligibility of Network partners

Legal entities established in EU 27 EEA member countries, the Western Balkan countries and other Third countries as defined under Article 4 of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme

Legal entities established in third countries according to provisions under Article 21.5 of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme
(no EU Funding possible under Article 21.5)



Associate Membership

Allows an interested organisation, belonging to specific categories for example to:

- be presented on the Network website
- have access to main Network information services
- be invited to events of the Network, when appropriate
- have a representative invited to working and thematic groups of the Network

The Associate members do not receive EU funding



Management of the Network

DG Enterprise and Industry

coordination of Commission policies for the benefit of the network
based on Commission's priorities, formulation of strategies and policy
guidance for the Network

Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation

management of contracts

quality aspects, IT tools, training and other network animation services