

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR SME TRANSFER

Position paper : transfer of SMEs in COSME programme



The European Commission follow-up programme of the Competitiveness and Innovation programme (CIP) is called « Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs » (COSME). It will run from 2014 to 2020, with a planned budget of €2.5bn. COSME will, among others, support, complement and help coordinate actions by EU member countries. COSME will specifically tackle transnational issues that can be more effectively addressed at European level. The Commission's proposal will be submitted to the European Parliament and the Council, which must agree to adopt it.

Among the objectives of COSME, Transeo, the European Association for SME Transfer, **underlines the importance to take SME transfer into consideration** as part of its specific objective regarding the promotion of entrepreneurship, knowing that working towards more successful transfers of SMEs in Europe is crucial.

Indeed, as a reminder, according to the latest figures of the European Commission, « approximately 450.000 firms are being transferred each year in the EU – 27, affecting 2 million employees and every year, there is a risk of losing approximately 150.000 firms and 600.000 jobs due to inefficiency in transferring businesses »¹. SME transfers play an important role in the growth and development of SMEs, which are often bought by younger and dynamic entrepreneurs, and enable to give new life to the company and maintain value and employment.

Furthermore, the promotion of business transfer is one of the recommendations of the “Small Business Act” review where Member states are reminded of the need to support business transfers and launch a campaign to promote these practices.

In this respect, Transeo is preparing proposals to adapt the programme text in order to promote the awareness of SME transfer among European institutions.

More information on COSME?

- European Commission : <http://ec.europa.eu/cip/cosme>
- COSME Factsheet:
http://ec.europa.eu/cip/files/cosme/cosme_factsheet_final_en.pdf

More information on Transeo? www.transeo-association.eu

¹ EC Business Dynamics Study, - http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/business-environment/files/business_dynamics_final_report_en.pdf