

Enlargement countries (Turkey, Serbia, Montenegro, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo)

Montenegro has signed the International Agreement to participate in COSME on 25 June 2014. In order for the Agreement to enter into force, Montenegro has to notify the Commission that its internal legal requirements for its entry into force have been completed. This procedure is expected to be short in Montenegro's case.

Albania, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia could follow in the course of the year.

Due to further discussions between the Commission and Serbia, the latter is expected to fully participate in COSME in 2015.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has expressed an interest in joining COSME and the negotiations will start soon.

For Kosovo, for the time being, there is no legal basis allowing the country to join the programme.

Eastern neighbourhood countries (Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Belarus)

Moldova is expected to take part in COSME during the second semester of 2014. The country has formally expressed interest and the Commission is negotiating an agreement.

Armenia has (informally) expressed interest in participating in the programme in 2015.

Ukraine' is interested in joining COSME and negotiations are ongoing, but depend on the evolving political situation.

Other countries: no other candidates currently.

Southern neighbourhood countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia)

No formal expression of interest to join COSME from any of the southern neighbourhood countries. Currently, only three countries could legally join COSME: Israel, Jordan and Morocco.

Algeria, Lebanon and Tunisia are in different phases of negotiating or approving the legal basis which would give them the possibility to apply to join European Union programmes, including COSME. It is possible that this year or next, some of these countries could express their interest in joining COSME.

EFTA countries

Norway wishes to participate in 2015, but not in 2014.

The Council Decision allowing for participation of Iceland in the COSME programme was adopted on 27 June 2014. Therefore, Iceland is fully participating now in the programme.

Liechtenstein will not participate. Switzerland is unable to participate as there is currently no legal basis under which it could do so.

Other countries

At present, there is no legal basis for other countries to join the programme as a whole. However, COSME's legal basis allows entities from other countries to participate in COSME projects on a self-financing basis.