Contribution ID: 7939b551-ce5d-4626-8a2a-9d88ae61e488

Date: 31/05/2024 11:45:48

## Single Market Programme – interim evaluation

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

#### Introduction

The Single Market Programme (SMP), established by Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of 28 April 2021, is the EU funding programme under the multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027 that funds EU action to help the single market reach its full potential and ensure Europe's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

With a EUR 4.24 billion budget for the period 2021-2027, it provides an integrated package to support and strengthen the governance of the single market.

The SMP builds on six predecessor programmes: (i) COSME; (ii) programmes on consumer protection; (iii) programmes on consumers and end-users in financial services; (iv) specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing standards; (v) measures that contribute to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants along the food chain and in related areas; and (vi) European statistics. It also integrates several former prerogative budget lines.

The SMP addresses six objectives, which form the "pillars" of the programme:

- 1. Make the internal market work better with measures including improved market surveillance, problemsolving support to citizens and business, and enhanced competition policy
- 2. Boost the competitiveness of businesses, in particular SMEs
- Develop effective European standards and international financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards
- 4. Give even higher protection to consumers
- 5. Maintain a high level of food safety
- 6. Produce and disseminate high-quality European statistics.

The programme brings many activities together under one coherent umbrella to exploit synergies, simplify and improve flexibility.

In accordance with Article 18 of Regulation (EU) 2021/690, the Commission shall perform an interim evaluation of the 2021-2027 programme by four years after the start of the implementation of the programme. The evaluation will assess the performance of the Programme, including aspects such as effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and Union added value.

The present consultation will inform the interim evaluation of the SMP.

## About you

Bulgarian

Croatian

Czech

Danish

Dutch

\*1 Language of my contribution

	English
	Estonian
	Finnish
	French
	German
	Greek
	Hungarian
	Irish
0	Italian
	Latvian
	Lithuanian
	Maltese
	Polish
	Portuguese
	Romanian
	Slovak
	Slovenian
	Spanish
0	Swedish
*2 I ar	m giving my contribution as
	Academic/research institution
	Business association
	Company/business
	Consumer organisation
	EU citizen
	Environmental organisation

Non-E	EU citizen
Non-g	overnmental organisation (NGO)
Public	authority
Trade	union
Other	
*3 First nam	0
5 Tilst Halli	
*4 Surname	
*5 Email (thi	s won't be published)
*6 Scope	
Intern	ational
Local	
Nation	nal
Regio	nal
*9 Organisa	
255 character	
Netherland	ds Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy
*10 Organis	ation size
	(1 to 9 employees)
	(10 to 49 employees)
Mediu	ım (50 to 249 employees)
Large	(250 or more)
11 Transpa	rency register number
Check if your o	organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to ecision-making.

### \*12 Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.

 ontitude montrement it ie e		innormodilori or ortori divor	90,	it note and practices.	
Afghanistan	0	Djibouti	0	Libya	Saint Martin
Åland Islands		Dominica		Liechtenstein	Saint Pierre and
					Miquelon
Albania		Dominican	0	Lithuania	Saint Vincent
		Republic			and the
					Grenadines
Algeria		Ecuador		Luxembourg	Samoa
American Samoa		Egypt		Macau	San Marino
Andorra		El Salvador	0	Madagascar	São Tomé and
					Príncipe
Angola		Equatorial Guinea	0	Malawi	Saudi Arabia
Anguilla		Eritrea	0	Malaysia	Senegal
Antarctica		Estonia		Maldives	Serbia
Antigua and		Eswatini	0	Mali	Seychelles
Barbuda					
Argentina		Ethiopia		Malta	Sierra Leone
Armenia		Falkland Islands		Marshall Islands	Singapore
Aruba		Faroe Islands	0	Martinique	Sint Maarten
Australia		Fiji	0	Mauritania	Slovakia
Austria		Finland	0	Mauritius	Slovenia
Azerbaijan		France	0	Mayotte	Solomon Islands
Bahamas		French Guiana	0	Mexico	Somalia
Bahrain		French Polynesia	0	Micronesia	South Africa
Bangladesh		French Southern		Moldova	South Georgia
		and Antarctic			and the South
		Lands			Sandwich
					Islands
Barbados		Gabon	0	Monaco	South Korea
Belarus		Georgia	0	Mongolia	South Sudan
Belgium		Germany		Montenegro	Spain
Belize	0	Ghana	0	Montserrat	Sri Lanka

	Benin		Gibraltar		Morocco		Sudan
	Bermuda		Greece		Mozambique		Suriname
	Bhutan		Greenland	0	Myanmar/Burma	0	Svalbard and
							Jan Mayen
	Bolivia		Grenada		Namibia		Sweden
	Bonaire Saint		Guadeloupe		Nauru		Switzerland
	Eustatius and						
	Saba						
	Bosnia and		Guam		Nepal		Syria
	Herzegovina						
	Botswana		Guatemala	0	Netherlands	0	Taiwan
	Bouvet Island		Guernsey	0	New Caledonia	0	Tajikistan
	Brazil		Guinea	0	New Zealand	0	Tanzania
	British Indian		Guinea-Bissau	0	Nicaragua	0	Thailand
	Ocean Territory						
0	British Virgin		Guyana		Niger		The Gambia
	Islands						
0	Brunei	0	Haiti	0	Nigeria	0	Timor-Leste
	Bulgaria	0	Heard Island and		Niue		Togo
			McDonald Islands	3			
0	Burkina Faso	0	Honduras	0	Norfolk Island	0	Tokelau
	Burundi		Hong Kong	0	Northern	0	Tonga
					Mariana Islands		
0	Cambodia	0	Hungary	0	North Korea	0	Trinidad and
							Tobago
	Cameroon	0	Iceland		North Macedonia		Tunisia
	Canada	0	India		Norway		Türkiye
0	Cape Verde	0	Indonesia	0	Oman	0	Turkmenistan
	Cayman Islands		Iran		Pakistan		Turks and
							Caicos Islands
	Central African		Iraq		Palau		Tuvalu
0	Republic						
	Chad		Ireland		Palestine		Uganda
	Chile		Isle of Man		Panama		Ukraine

0	China	0	Israel	0	Papua New Guinea	0	United Arab
0	Christman Island	0	Italy	0		0	Emirates United Kingdom
	Christmas Island	0	Italy		Paraguay		United Kingdom
	Clipperton		Jamaica		Peru		United States
	Cocos (Keeling)		Japan		Philippines		United States
	Islands						Minor Outlying
							Islands
0	Colombia	0	Jersey	0	Pitcairn Islands	0	Uruguay
	Comoros		Jordan		Poland		US Virgin Islands
	Congo		Kazakhstan		Portugal		Uzbekistan
0	Cook Islands		Kenya		Puerto Rico	0	Vanuatu
0	Costa Rica		Kiribati		Qatar	0	Vatican City
	Côte d'Ivoire		Kosovo		Réunion		Venezuela
	Croatia		Kuwait		Romania		Vietnam
	Cuba		Kyrgyzstan		Russia		Wallis and
							Futuna
	Curaçao		Laos		Rwanda		Western Sahara
	Cyprus		Latvia		Saint Barthélemy		Yemen
0	Czechia		Lebanon		Saint Helena	0	Zambia
					Ascension and		
					Tristan da Cunha	ļ	
	Democratic		Lesotho		Saint Kitts and		Zimbabwe
	Republic of the				Nevis		
	Congo						
0	Denmark	0	Liberia	0	Saint Lucia		

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. Fo r the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published. Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

#### \*14 Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

#### Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

#### Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions

## Knowledge of / involvement in the SMP

- \*15 How familiar are you with the Single Market Programme?
  - Very familiar
  - Reasonably familiar
  - Have heard of it but do not know any details
  - Not at all
- \*16 Are you or your organisation involved in the SMP either as a beneficiary and/or providers of support services co-funded by the SMP?
  - Yes, as a beneficiary receiving funds from the SMP
  - Yes, as a user of services co-funded by the SMP
  - Yes, as a provider of a support service co-funded by the SMP
  - Other
  - O No
  - Don't know
  - 17 If other, please specify:

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy

- \*18 Which parts of the SMP are you or your organisation involved in? Select all that apply.
  - Pillar 1: A more effective single market
  - Pillar 2: Support to SMEs
  - Pillar 3: Effective European standards
  - Pillar 4: Consumer protection
  - Pillar 5: Food and feed
  - Pillar 6: European statistics

### Pillar 1: A more effective single market

The objectives of Pillar 1 are to:

- make the internal market work better including through:
  - improved market surveillance
  - problem solving support and advice to citizens and businesses
  - enhanced competition policy that contributes to a level playing field and empowers businesses
- implement and enforce current rules and develop them further in areas including:
  - company and contract law
  - anti-money laundering
  - the free movement of capital, goods and services
- ensure financial services meet the needs of consumers, civil society and end-users
- enhance the tools and expertise of the European Commission to effectively enforce competition rules in the digital economy
- strengthen cooperation with authorities in EU countries and enhance advocacy
- ensure better functioning of the single market on the ground by helping public buyers get better value for citizens' money

The SMP funds the following activities and tools:

- Your Europe, which provides on-line information, administration and assistance services for citizens and companies
- Internal Market Information System for information exchange between authorities involved in the practical implementation of EU law
- <u>FIU.net</u>, an IT system connecting financial intelligence units in EU countries to facilitate the crossborder fight against money laundering
- Actions to support the effective implementation and enforcement of competition policy
- Actions to support product market surveillance by national authorities.

See:

- <a href="https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programme/overview/more-effective-single-market-en">https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programmes/overview/more-effective-single-market-en</a>
- https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/single-market-programme/internal-market en
- \*19 To what extent are the objectives and activities of Pillar 1 relevant to the needs of the internal market?
  - Great extent
  - Reasonable extent
  - Slight extent
  - Not at all
  - Don't know
- \*20 During 2021-2023, have you used the <u>Your Europe platform</u>, which provides online information, procedures and assistance services for citizens and companies?
  - Yes: I have used Your Europe
  - No: I have not used Your Europe
- \*21 How useful have you found the Your Europe platform during 2021-2023?
  - Very useful
  - Reasonably useful
  - Slightly useful
  - Not useful at all
  - Don't know

22 Would you like to comment on the usefulness and digital functionality of the Your Europe platform?

Given the importance of the Your Europe for the SDG 2.0 and for a good provision of information for the Single Market in general it would be useful to use the SMP as well to raise the visibility of Your Europe Platform.

# Pillar 2: Support to small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs)

Pillar 2 of the Single Market Programme provides various forms of support to businesses, in particular SMEs. The aim is to boost their competitiveness and sustainability, including in the tourism sector.

#### In particular, the SMP:

- facilitates access to markets
- promotes entrepreneurship and the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills
- promotes the modernisation of industry and addresses global and societal challenges
- promotes the resilience, sustainability and digitalisation of businesses.

#### Tools include:

- The Enterprise Europe Network that provides an integrated package of advice to SMEs on how to innovate and grow internationally
- The SME envoy network promotes SME-friendly regulation and policy-making at EU and national level
- Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, providing cross-border exchanges and overseas stays between new or aspiring entrepreneurs and experienced entrepreneurs in other Participating Countries.
- Joint cluster initiatives a new generation of actions involving industrial clusters groups of specialised enterprises, often SMEs, and other related supporting actors in a location that cooperate closely
- Other actions covering this objective of the SMP and implementing the EU SME strategy

#### See:

- <a href="https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programme/overview/support-businesses">https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programme/overview/support-businesses</a> en
- https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/single-market-programme/support-smes en#featuredprogrammes--initiatives
- \*23 To what extent is EU support for SMEs of interest to you or your organisation?
  - Great extent
  - Reasonable extent
  - Slight extent
  - Not at all
  - Don't know
- \*24 To what extent are the objectives and activities of Pillar 2 relevant to the needs of SMEs?
  - Great extent
  - Reasonable extent
  - Slight extent
  - Not at all
  - Don't know

*25 Are you familiar with the Enterprise Europe Network which provides an
integrated package of advice to SMEs on how to innovate and grow internationally?
Yes, as a user of its services
Yes, as a (funded) implementing organisation
Yes, in a governance or advisory role
Yes, other role
Yes, I know it but I have no active role
Not familiar
*26 During 2021-2023, how effective and efficient has the Enterprise Europe
Network been in advising SMEs on how to innovate and grow internationally?
Very effective
Reasonably effective
Slightly effective
Not effective at all
Don't know
*27 Are you familiar with Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (a cross-border
exchange programme which gives new or aspiring entrepreneurs the chance to
learn from experienced entrepreneurs running small businesses in other
participating countries)?
Yes, as a participant (new/host entrepreneur)
Yes, as an implementing organisation
Yes, in a governance or advisory role
Yes, other role
Yes, I know it but no active role
Not familiar
*28 During 2021-2023, to what extent do you agree that Erasmus for Young
Entrepreneurs has helped supporting new or aspiring entrepreneurs?
Strongly agree
Agree
Disagree
Strongly disagree
Don't know

*29 Are you familiar with Euroclusters ( <u>Joint Cluster Initiatives</u> ), cross-sectoral,
strategic initiatives of industry clusters to implement industrial policy: green and
digital transition and resilience building?
Yes, as a participant
Yes, as a (funded) implementing organisation
Yes, in a governance or advisory role
Yes, other role
Yes, I know it but no active role
Not familiar
*30 During 2021-2023 to what extent do you agree that the Euroclusters Initiative has helped supporting SMEs to be more innovative, resilient, digital and sustainable?  Strongly agree Agree
Disagree
Strongly disagree
Don't know
31 Would you like to comment on the effectiveness and efficiency and the relevance of support provided by the SMP for SMEs?

## Pillar 3: Effective European standards

Pillar 3 of the SMP supports European standards that ensure that products and services meet an agreed level of quality and safety.

The SMP provides financial support to:

- European standardisation organisations:
  - European Committee for Standardization (CEN)
  - European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (Cenelec)
  - European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)
  - European stakeholder organisations representing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- Societal stakeholders in standardisation activities
- Organisations developing auditing and financial and non-financial reporting standards

See:

- <a href="https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programme/overview/supporting-development-standards-and-reporting-en-">https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programme/overview/supporting-development-standards-and-reporting-en-</a>
- https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/single-market-programme/standardisation en
- \*32 To what extent are European standards of interest to your or your organisation?
  - Great extent
  - Reasonable extent
  - Slight extent
  - Not at all
  - Don't know
- \*33 To what extent are the objectives and activities of Pillar 3 relevant to the needs for effective European standards in the internal market?
  - Great extent
  - Reasonable extent
  - Slight extent
  - Not at all
  - Don't know

34 To what extent do you agree that the work of these European standardisation organisations has contributed to the development of European Standards that are relevant to the needs of the internal market?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
* European Committee for Standardisation (CEN)	•	0	0	0	0
* European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (Cenelec)	•	0	0	0	0
* Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)	•	0	0	0	0

35 To what extent do you agree that the work of these European stakeholder organisations representing SMEs and other stakeholder interests has contributed to a stronger participation of stakeholders in the standardisation process, and in the development of standards relevant to the needs and priorities of the internal market?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don' t know
--	-------------------	-------	----------	----------------------	-------------------

* Small Business Standards (SBS) representing SMEs	0	•	0	0	0
* European consumer voice in standardisation (ANEC), representing consumers	0	•	0	0	0
* Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS), representing environmental interests	•	0	0	0	0
* European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), representing workers' interests	0	•	0	0	0

36 To what extent do you agree that the work of these organisations has been instrumental in the development of standards aligned with needs and interests of EU stakeholders?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don' t know
* International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation (IFRS Foundation)	0	•	0	0	0
* European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG)	0	•	0	0	0
* Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB)	0	0	0	0	•

37 Would you like to further comment on the effectiveness, efficiency or relevance of support provided by the SMP for European standards?

No		

### **Pillar 4: Consumer protection**

Pillar 4 of the SMP promotes the interests of European consumers and end-users, including in financial services. The programme aims to:

- make sure that products on the market are safe
- empower, educate and assist consumers to make sustainable and informed choices
- ensure that all consumers have access to redress mechanisms
- protect vulnerable consumers in order to enhance fairness and transparency in the internal market
- support competent enforcement authorities and consumer organisations.

#### **Tools**

- European online dispute resolution platform (ODR) that helps consumers who shop online
- Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) that helps consumers solve disputes out of court

- A consumer protection cooperation network to tackle illegal EU-wide practices (e.g. misleading advertising campaigns)
- Safety Gate: the EU rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products
- European consumer centres providing assistance to consumers to help them exercise their rights and obtain access to redress mechanisms
- Grants to two European organisations representing the views of users of financial services and small investors

#### See:

- <a href="https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programme/overview/consumer-protection">https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programme/overview/consumer-protection</a> en
- https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/single-market-programme/consumers en
- \*38 To what extent is EU support for consumer protection of interest to you or your organisation?
  - Great extent
  - Reasonable extent
  - Slight extent
  - Not at all
  - Don't know

## 39 To what extent are the objectives and activities of Pillar 4 relevant to the needs of consumers?

	Great extent	Reasonable extent	Slight extent	Not at all	Don' t know
* Make sure that products on the market are safe	0	•	0	0	0
* Empower, educate and assist consumers to make sustainable and informed choices	0	0	0	0	•
* Ensure that all consumers have access to redress mechanisms	0	0	•	0	0
* Protect vulnerable consumers in order to enhance fairness and transparency in the internal market	0	0	0	0	•
* Support competent enforcement authorities and consumer organisations	0	•	0	0	0

#### 40 How effective is the EU support for the following?

Very effective	Reasonably effective	Slightly effective	Not effective at all	Don' t know

* Alternative Dispute Resolution bodies	0	0	•	0	0
* National consumer enforcement authorities (Consumer Protection Cooperation Network)	0	•	©	0	0
* Safety Gate: the EU rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products	0	•	0	0	0
* European Consumer Centres	0	0	•	0	0
* The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC)	0	0	0	0	•
* Organisations protecting the interest of users of financial services and small investors	0	0	0	0	•

41 Would you like to comment on the effectiveness, efficiency or relevance of support provided by the SMP for consumer protection?

No
----

#### Pillar 5: Food and feed

Pillar 5 of the SMP aims to ensure a high level of health for humans, animals and plants throughout the food chain.

Actions under Pillar 5 have the following objectives:

- prevent, control and eradicate animal diseases and plant pests, including by means of emergency measures
- support the improvement of animal welfare, the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- develop sustainable food production and consumption
- stimulate the exchange of best practices between stakeholders.

#### Relevant activities and tools include:

- Veterinary and phytosanitary emergency measures and programmes, including programmes for the control of pests in the outermost regions and other related activities
- Animal welfare improvement activities
- Coordinated control programmes and organisation of information and data collection
- Sustainable food production and consumption support, prevention of food waste and fraud and information and awareness raising initiatives
- Support for EU Reference Laboratories (EURL) and Centres (EURC) and accreditation of national laboratories
- Training of staff for official controls (BTSF)
- Development of databases and information management systems such as Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), TRACES, ADIS, EUROPHYT and involvement of experts

#### See:

- https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-marketprogramme/overview/food-safety en
- https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/single-market-programme-food\_en
- \*42 To what extent is EU support for food safety of interest to you or your organisation?
  - Great extent
  - Reasonable extent
  - Slight extent
  - Not at all
  - Don't know
- \*43 To what extent are the objectives and activities of Pillar 5 relevant to the need to ensure high food safety standards in the internal market?
  - Great extent
  - Reasonable extent
  - Slight extent
  - Not at all
  - Don't know

### 44 To what extent have the activities in these thematic areas been implemented effectively in 2021-2023?

	Great extent	Reasonable extent	Slight extent	Not at all	Don' t know
* Veterinary and phytosanitary emergency measures and programmes, including the implementation of phytosanitary programmes for the control of pests in the outermost regions and other related activities	0	•	0	0	0
* Animal welfare improvement activities	0	•	0	0	0
Coordinated control programmes and organisation of information and data collection	0	•	0	0	0
* Sustainable food production and consumption support, prevention of food waste and fraud and information and awareness raising initiatives	0	0	•	0	0
*					

Support for EU Reference Laboratories (EURL) and Centres (EURC) and accreditation of national laboratories	0	•	0	0	0
* Training of staff for official controls (BTSF)	0	•	0	0	0
* Development of databases and information management systems and involvement of experts	0	0	•	0	0

- \*45 How effective is the <u>Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed</u> (RASFF) in ensuring the flow of information between its members 24 hours a day to enable swift reaction when risks to public health are detected in the food chain?
  - Very effective
  - Reasonably effective
  - Slightly effective
  - Not effective at all
  - Don't know
- \*46 How effective are IT systems in animal health, plant health, food and feed domains (e.g. RASFF, TRACES, EUROPHYT) in ensuring adequate management of information?
  - Very effective
  - Reasonably effective
  - Slightly effective
  - Not effective at all
  - Don't know
- \*47 How effective are the <u>EU Reference Laboratories for Animal and Plant Health,</u> <u>Food and Feed and Reference Centres for Animal Welfare and Zootechnics</u> in contributing to public, animal and plant health, to food safety, to animal welfare and to the quality of animals, plants and goods produced and traded in the agri-food chain?
  - Very effective
  - Reasonably effective
  - Slightly effective
  - Not effective at all
  - Don't know

48 To what extent has progress been achieved towards the following objectives of the Food Safety Pillar of the SMP during 2021-2023?

	Great extent	Reasonable extent	Slight extent	Not at all	Don' t know
* Prevent, control and eradicate animal diseases and plant pests, including by means of emergency measures	0	•	0	0	0
* Support the improvement of the welfare of animals	0	0	•	0	0
* Fight against antimicrobial resistance	0	0	•	0	0
* Develop sustainable food production and consumption	0	0	0	•	0
* Stimulate the exchange of best practices between stakeholders in these fields	0	•	0	0	0

## 49 To what extent has the food safety pillar had a positive impact on the following SMP priorities during 2021-2023?

	Great extent	Reasonable extent	Slight extent	Not at all	Don' t know
* Functioning of the internal market	•	0	0	0	0
* Competitiveness of the food and feed industry and creation of jobs at the EU/global level	0	0	•	0	0
* Trade between/within Member States	0	•	0	0	0
* Trade between EU and non-EU Member States	0	0	•	0	0
* Consumer protection and confidence	0	•	0	0	0

## 50 Would you like to comment on the effectiveness, efficiency or relevance of support provided by the SMP for food safety?

- a) The matter is that during the period 21-23, little improvement was achieved as standards were already high.
- b) No support is available for validation of tests and acquiring and maintaining the accreditation required for Official Laboratories and National Reference Laboratories Validation (and accreditation) of all tests for official controls remains a major challenge in plant health. Financial support could improve this.
- c) A support programme is fundamental for new initiatives such as the EURLs. However the large fluctuation in SMP financial means (by reasons out of control of the Commission) renders the impact of SMP limited.

## Pillar 6: European statistics

Pillar 6 of the SMP supports the development, production and dissemination of high-quality European statistics by the <u>European Statistical System</u>. It constitutes the equivalent of the European Statistical Programme for 2021-2027.

#### **Tools**

- Enhanced partnership between Eurostat, the EU Statistical Office, national statistical institutes and other national statistical authorities, as well as relevant external parties
- Development of new European statistics using multiple data sources, advanced data analytics methods, smart systems and digital technologies
- Funding to improve the comparability and quality of European statistics for monitoring the economic, social, environmental and territorial situation of the EU

See: <a href="https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programme/overview/high-quality-european-statistics">https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programme/overview/high-quality-european-statistics</a> en

*51 Do you or your organisation use or produce European statist	rdanisation use or produce European sta	atistics
---	---	----------

- Yes
- O No

## 52 To what extent have European statistics (produced between 2021-2023) displayed the following characteristics?

	Great extent	Reasonable extent	Slight extent	Not at all	Don't know
* accessibility	0	0	0	0	0
* availability	0	0	0	0	0
* accuracy	0	0	0	0	0
* relevance	0	0	0	0	0
* coherence and comparability	•	0	0	0	0
* timeliness	0	0	0	0	0
* impartiality	0	0	•	0	0
* user-friendliness	0	•	0	0	0

#### 53 Have you faced any challenges while producing or using European statistics?

Reduced response rates to statistical surveys relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples.

*54 Has there been any notable change in statistical quality during 2021-2023
compared with previous years?
Notable improvement
Notable decline
No change
Don't know

#### 55 Would you like to comment on the change in quality?

Although our quality is already of a very high standard, Statistics Netherlands strives for continuous quality improvement.

## 56 To what extent has progress been achieved towards the objectives of the European Statistical Programme during 2021-2023?

	Great extent	Reasonable extent	Slight extent	Not at all	Don' t know
* Development, production, dissemination and communication of high-quality European statistics in a timely, impartial and cost-efficient manner	0	•	0	0	0
* Strengthen the European Statistical System	0	•	0	0	0
* Enhance partnerships within the system and with all relevant external parties through the use of multiple data sources, advanced data analysis methods, intelligent systems and digital technologies, and by providing a breakdown by country and, where possible, by region	0	•	0	0	•
* Use multiple data sources, advanced data analytics methods, smart systems and digital technologies	0	0	•	0	0
* Provide a national and, where possible, regional breakdown of statistics	0	0	•	0	0

*57 How effective has the European Statistical Programme been in introducing
innovations or measures in statistical processes to adapt to emerging technologies
and digital transformation during 2021-23?

	Very effective
0	Reasonably effective
0	Slightly effective
0	Not effective at all

#### Don't know

58 Would you like to comment on th	e effectiveness,	efficiency	or relevance	of the
European Statistical Programme du	ring 2021-23?			

Nο			
IN()			
1 10			

## Coherence and complementarity of the SMP overall

- \*59 In your experience, to what extent is there coherence and complementarity between activities supported by the different pillars within the SMP (i.e. potential synergies, interaction, consistency and alignment, as well as a minimum of duplication or overlap)?
  - Great extent
  - Reasonable extent
  - Slight extent
  - Not at all
  - Don't know

#### 60 Please explain your response

The topics covered by the SMP are quite diverse, but that is not really a problem, as all topics are linked to the functioning of the Single Market.

- \*61 Do you believe that having a single programme covering all priorities (pillars) of the internal market is preferable (compared with having different programmes for different priorities or pillars)?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know

#### 62 To what extent does the SMP complement and reinforce:

	Great extent	Reasonable extent	Slight extent	Not at all	Don't know
* European Green Deal	0	•	0	0	0
* A Europe fit for the digital age	0	•	0	0	0

63 Would you like to comment on the coherence and complementarity of the SMP with other EU programmes and policies or with any relevant national or regional programmes?

Nο		

### Relevance of the SMP to needs

64 To what extent do you believe there is a need for EU action to achieve the following objectives in the internal market?

	Great extent	Reasonable extent	Slight extent	Not at all	Don' t know
* Remove discriminatory, unjustified or disproportionate obstacles to the free movement of goods and services in the internal market	•	0	0	0	0
* Prevent unsafe or non-compliant products being made available on the internal market	•	0	0	0	0
* Strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	•	0	0	0	0
* Promote circular economy practices and circularity among SMEs	•	0	0	0	0
* Promote entrepreneurship and the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills	•	0	0	0	0
* Ensure a high level of product standardisation within the internal market	•	©	0	0	0
* Ensure high quality of financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards within the internal market	•	0	0	0	0
* Ensure a high level of consumer protection in the internal market	•	0	0	0	0
* Ensure a high level of protection for retail consumers of financial services in the internal market	•	0	0	0	0
* Ensure a high level of health and safety related to humans, plants, animals, food and feed in the internal market	•	0	0	0	0
* Produce and disseminate high quality European statistics	•	0	0	0	0

#### EU added value of the SMP

65 In your experience, to what extent do the activities funded under each Pillar of the SMP add value compared to what could be achieved at national level by Member States acting alone?

	To a great extent	To a reasonable extent	To a slight extent	Not at all	Don't know
* Pillar 1: A more effective single market	•	0	0	0	0
* Pillar 2: Support to SMEs	•	0	0	0	0
* Pillar 3: Effective European standards	•	0	0	0	0
* Pillar 4: Consumer protection	•	0	0	0	0
* Pillar 5: Food and feed	•	0	0	0	0
* Pillar 6: European statistics	•	0	0	0	0

- \*66 To what extent do you think having a programme like the SMP overall adds value compared to what could be achieved with national programmes/at national level alone?
  - To a great extent
  - To a reasonable extent
  - To a slight extent
  - Not at all

67 Would you like to comment on the EU added value of the SMP compared to what could be achieved at national level by Member States alone?

Nο		

#### **Future revision of the SMP**

68 How could the design and implementation of the SMP be improved within the current period (2021-27)?

No specific suggestions, but it would in any case be most useful to keep the possibility of funding research on the Single Market (as useful input to the Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report and e.g. by regular Eurobarometer surveys among entrepreneurs about barriers.

- \*69 In the post-2027 period, should the SMP continue as an integrated programme covering all policy fields (internal market; SMEs; European standards; consumer protection; animal, plant, food and feed safety; European statistics)?
  - Yes continue as a single integrated programme covering all current policy fields
  - Yes and it should be extended to cover more policy fields
  - No offer support through a number of separate programmes
  - No there is no need to continue the SMP beyond 2027
  - Don't know

72 How could the design and implementation of the SMP be improved within the next period (post-2027)?

No specific suggestions

73 Would you like to offer any other comments about the SMP?

No specific suggestions

#### **Survey conclusion**

As a follow-up to this survey, additional interviews will be undertaken relating to SMP. The interviews will be conducted in English and will last about 20 minutes.

74 Would you be willing to participate in further research to discuss your views in more detail? If so, please provide your email address. This enables us to contact you in order for you to receive further details relating to the research. This does not commit you to participation.

Not necessary

## Thank you for your contribution

#### Contact

grow-smp-coordination@ec.europa.eu