

Consultation on the Entrepreneurship2020 Action Plan

Respondent's profile	
Please describe yourself: -single choice reply- (compulsory)	Business support organisation
Please indicate type of your organisation -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Private
Where are you located? -single choice reply-(compulsory)	BE - Belgium
If need be, may we contact you in regard to this questionnaire and consultation? -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Yes
Please provide your contact details. -open reply-(compulsory)	European Small Business Alliance, Clos du Parnasse 3A, 1050 Brussels, Belgium. Secrateriat@esba-europe.org, +32 2 274 25 04, Patrick Gibbels
Do you agree to your name being published on the European Commission's website along with your contribution? -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Yes
Questionnaire	
Cutting red tape (reducing the number of administrative procedures, simplifying them, and avoiding duplication of tasks) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Abolish legalization and other administrative formalities when using public documents cross-border within the EU -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
One stop shop and relationship managers in business support organisations for businesses that are starting out -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
One stop shop for taxation and financial reporting (including advice and guidance) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Speed up and simplification of licensing and other permit procedures -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Tax and social contributions related to effective cash flow of business -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Same social security protections available to entrepreneurs as to employees -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0

Raising awareness of government administrations and their staff about entrepreneurial and SME challenges -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Improve the quality and variety of business support advice for start-ups -single choice reply-(compulsory)	2
If you have comments on any of the above measures, please tell us here: -open reply-(optional)	We all know that the first three years are the toughest for new businesses, and many businesses fail within this timeframe. The start-up phase of a company goes beyond filling out the initial paper work. It really does not matter whether it takes 3 days to set up a company or two weeks, what is truly important is the level of support available to businesses once they are actually in business.
If there are other types of measures not mentioned above which you would consider moderately or very important/impactful, please briefly describe here: -open reply-(optional)	Here we would like to include the possibility for exemptions of social contributions in the first 2-3 years of a business, as well as tax breaks in the same timeframe.
Improve legal, administrative and tax provisions for business transfers -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Improve information and advice provision for business transfers -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Develop, publicise, and improve platforms and marketplaces for successful business transfers -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
If you have comments on any of the above measures, please tell us here: -open reply-(optional)	
If there are other types of measures not mentioned above which you would consider moderately or very important/impactful, please briefly describe here: -open reply-(optional)	
Develop and expand programmes to mentor, train, advise, and support second starters -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Put in place faster and more affordable procedures for winding up businesses and discharging bankruptcies -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Awareness raising in business and finance community to remove stigma of failure -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Specific financial instruments available for second starters -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
If you have comments on any of the above measures, please tell us here: -open reply-(optional)	The issue of 'second chances for entrepreneurs is a particularly important one. In the US, where the climate for entrepreneurs is much more evolved, having gone bankrupt once is almost seen as a 'badge of merit'. One knows what it is like to fail in business, and this is all part of a learning curve. The entrepreneur who comes

	<p>out of a bankruptcy and has the courage to start over is more experienced and better equipped during his second attempt. US figures regarding the success rate of second-round entrepreneurs are favorable. In the EU this climate is, unfortunately, non-existent. Bankruptcy has the stigma of defeat and bankrupt entrepreneurs are viewed by banks as 'tainted'. This goes completely against the European Commission's goals to stimulate innovation and risk-taking. After all, who dares to be innovative in a climate where an unsuccessful attempt is punished? To become truly innovative and competitiveness, we need to embrace risk-takers and support those honest entrepreneurs who have failed once, to re-start and get it right at their second attempt.</p>
<p>If there are other types of measures not mentioned above which you would consider moderately or very important/impactful, please briefly describe here: -open reply-(optional)</p>	<p>Point 2.7.3 should be more detailed. There must be a structured dialogue with the European Banking community, they must be on board 100% regarding second chances for entrepreneur. Without a significant change in the mindset of the EU banking sector regarding bankruptcies, there will be no real change.</p>
<p>Increase and improve targeted business support services -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	2
<p>Offer dedicated support for SMEs to benefit from digital entrepreneurship opportunities -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	2
<p>Offer dedicated support for SMEs to 'go green' -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	2
<p>Improve implementation of the Digital Single Market -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	3
<p>Offer tailor-made assistance and advice for 'micro-multi-nationals' collaborating across distance, borders and markets -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	3
<p>Offer dedicated support for SMEs to benefit from European trainees (from vocational, technical to bachelor, master or doctoral level) -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	3
<p>Targeted training, finance, internationalisation support programmes for high growth potential SMEs -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	2
<p>Offer support for new businesses to innovate -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	2
<p>If you have comments on any of the above measures, please tell us here: -open reply-(optional)</p>	<p>2.10.6: It must be noted that not all EU Member States have a culture of stages and traineeships. Whereas countries such as the Netherlands and Belgium are fully familiar with the concept of traineeships and make ample use of the opportunities, other countries, such as the UK do so much less. There is a role for the Commission to change this.</p>
<p>If there are other types of measures not mentioned above which you would consider moderately or very important/impactful, please briefly describe here: -open reply-(optional)</p>	
<p>Reinforce loan guarantee and venture capital facilities -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	3

Improve financial advisory capacity of Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Single multilingual online portal on EU finance for SMEs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Single national portals on national sources of SME finance -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Make tax environment more favourable to early stage financing -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
If you have comments on any of the above measures, please tell us here: -open reply-(optional)	<p>Next to administrative and regulatory burden, access to finance is the most important problem SMEs are facing today. Particularly in a time where businesses are recovering from the crisis, financing is a key issue. ESBA believes that too much attention is given to highly innovative and high-growth companies. Yes, these are important and innovation must be stimulated and supported. However, doing so must not put 'mainstream' SMEs at a disadvantage. Let us not forget that the great majority of all SMEs are neither highly innovative, nor high growth oriented. Yet, SMEs are responsible (according to the Commission's own figures) for 85% of all new employment. Question 2.13.1. is unfairly phrased, as loan guarantees are much more accessible to mainstream SMEs than equity financing like venture capital, which is much more geared towards highly innovative SMEs. Venture Capital is by nature high-risk-high-return oriented. Most small businesses are neither high risk, nor high return. Rather, they are focused on keeping a healthy turnover and, by doing so, supplying employment opportunities. These companies need at least as much support as the highly innovative ones. To be able to really foster innovation and become truly competitive on a global market, a strong base of healthy 'maistream' SMEs is crucial.</p>
If there are other types of measures not mentioned above which you would consider moderately or very important/impactful, please briefly describe here: -open reply-(optional)	
Create a European platform or hub for entrepreneurial learning to share best practice and develop common models for policy, implementation and measurement -single choice reply-(compulsory)	1
Entrepreneurial behaviour, skills and mindsets to be embedded in national/regional curricula at all levels - primary, secondary, vocational, higher education and non-formal education and training, alongside integration of work-based teaching and learning in all disciplines and curricula -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
All young people to have one entrepreneurial experience before leaving secondary school (either as a formal part of the curricula or as an	3

extra-curricular activity that is overseen by the school or a non-formal education body) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	
Develop a guiding framework to encourage and support the development of entrepreneurial education institutions (vocational and higher education) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	2
Increase entrepreneurship education supported via EU education funding programmes -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Increase entrepreneurial training in line with national job plans -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
If you have comments on any of the above measures, please tell us here: -open reply-(optional)	Fostering entrepreneurship starts with embedding the concept in the mindset of young people. Particularly in the the new EU Member States becoming an entrepreneur is not yet necessarily a logical step. Embedding entrepreneurial training in education systems is a good idea. Whether entrepreneurial learning should be coordinated at European level (2.16.1), however, is questionable. Cultures and educational systems very greatly accross Member States, Entrepreneurial training should be supported by the EU but carried out at national level.
If there are other types of measures not mentioned above which you would consider moderately or very important/impactful, please briefly describe here: -open reply-(optional)	
Continue/expand networks of women entrepreneurship ambassadors and mentors networks -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Tailored entrepreneurial training for women -single choice reply-(compulsory)	1
Create/foster female investors and networking among women entrepreneurs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Investment readiness training for women entrepreneurs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Same maternity rights for women entrepreneurs as for employees -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Adequate child/dependent care facilities available -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
If you have comments on any of the above measures, please tell us here: -open reply-(optional)	The question is whether 'tailored' entrepreneuil training for women is a good idea. Would it not be better to stimulate more women entering into 'entrepreneurial training' instead? It seems contradictory to say that the differences between male and female entrepreneurs should dissappear and we should have more women in board rooms, etc. whilst at the same time making a distinction in the way male and female entrepreneurs should be trained.
If there are other types of measures not mentioned above which you would consider moderately or very important/impactful, please	

briefly describe here: -open reply-(optional)	
Establish networks of volunteer seniors to counsel young inexperienced entrepreneurs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Tailored entrepreneurial training for seniors without previous business experience -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Offer grants for unemployed seniors to become entrepreneurs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
If you have comments on any of the above measures, please tell us here: -open reply-(optional)	ESBA fully supports this initiative. People live much longer than they did only half a century ago, why should that not be reflected in the business community. Whilst the dynamism of young people is an asset and will undoubtedly foster innovation, the added value of the experienced senior entrepreneur must not be underestimated. Furthermore, the demographic aspect (Europe is ageing rapidly) really does not leave much choice but to make more use of our seniors.
If there are other types of measures not mentioned above which you would consider moderately or very important/impactful, please briefly describe here: -open reply-(optional)	
Tailored support for other specific groups of potential entrepreneurs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
If you have comments on any of the above measures, please tell us here: -open reply-(optional)	
If there are other types of measures not mentioned above which you would consider moderately or very important/impactful, please briefly describe here: -open reply-(optional)	
If you have any further comments on aspects of encouraging greater entrepreneurship which are not elsewhere addressed in this consultation, please use this space: -open reply-(optional)	