

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)	dmovaghar@europeanfamilybusinesses.eu
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)	2
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)	0
One stop shop for taxation and financial reporting (including advice and guidance) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Speed up and simplification of licensing and other permit procedures -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Tax and social contributions related to effective cash flow of business -single choice reply-(compulsory)	2
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)	2
Improve the quality and variety of business support advice for start-ups -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)	Generally, the recognition that the legal, fiscal, and administrative environment that matters for entrepreneurs, is the environment that arises out of the combined effect of legislation and regulation at the corporate and private level. An understanding of this combined effect should be starting point for impact assessments of policies, whether current or future.
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)	2
If you have comments on any of the above measures, please tell us here: -open reply-(optional)	The acquisition of an on-going business by a third party can be an attractive alternative for a would-be entrepreneur as well as the takeover of the on-going business by the well-educated and motivated next generation. Research shows that ownership and particularly management transfers that are delayed too long are associated with poorer post transfer business performance (for example: delayed transfers put strategic renewal at great risk). In addition, business transfers represent one of the defining features of family enterprises in Europe, and they can potentially pose many obstacles to business continuity. Regarding the above mentioned measure European Family Businesses would suggest the below as crucial: 1. Raise awareness among business owners to start early preparation for succession (for example: Success through Succession) 2. Eurostat should have accurate data on the types of business transfers in Europe, and Member States company registers should show it more clearly. 3. Aim to have a better implementation by the member states of already existing Commission recommendations 4. Promote education concerning the different types of business transfers and the exchange of best practices.
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)	0
Put in place faster and more affordable procedures for winding up businesses and discharging bankruptcies -single choice reply-	0

(compulsory)	
Awareness raising in business and finance community to remove stigma of failure -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
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)	
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)	
Increase and improve targeted business support services -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Offer dedicated support for SMEs to benefit from digital entrepreneurship opportunities -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Offer dedicated support for SMEs to 'go green' -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Improve implementation of the Digital Single Market -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Offer tailor-made assistance and advice for 'micro-multi-nationals' collaborating across distance, borders and markets -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Offer dedicated support for SMEs to benefit from European trainees (from vocational, technical to bachelor, master or doctoral level) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Targeted training, finance, internationalisation support programmes for high growth potential SMEs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Offer support for new businesses to innovate -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)	
Reinforce loan guarantee and venture capital facilities -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Improve financial advisory capacity of Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) -single choice reply-	0

(compulsory)	
Single multilingual online portal on EU finance for SMEs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Single national portals on national sources of SME finance -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Make tax environment more favourable to early stage financing -single choice reply-(compulsory)	2
If you have comments on any of the above measures, please tell us here: -open reply-(optional)	The tax environment should be favourable for early stage financing, but also throughout the life cycle of a 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)	As one of the key priorities of the AGS 2012 for growth friendly taxation, urgent action is needed to better the design of taxes. For example, corporate income tax systems in Member States lead to a 'debt bias' in the financing of investment. The welfare costs related to this debt bias might not be negligible. More importantly, excessive debt levels increase the probability of default and the recent financial crisis has proved that the costs of adjustment can be substantial. The debt bias leads to business financial decisions in favour of increased leverage being driven by tax incentives and not based on economic grounds. These distortions increase risk and volatility in the economy and can accentuate negative economic outcomes in cases where such risks materialise. A simple measure that can reduce this volatility is the introduction an Allowance for Corporate Equity (ACE) to level the playing field between debt and equity in both corporate and owner taxation.
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)	2
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 extra-curricular activity that is overseen by the school or a non-formal education body) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	2
Develop a guiding framework to encourage and support the development of entrepreneurial education institutions (vocational and higher education) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Increase entrepreneurship education supported via EU education funding programmes -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0

Increase entrepreneurial training in line with national job plans -single choice reply-(compulsory)	2
If you have comments on any of the above measures, please tell us here: -open reply-(optional)	1. Special efforts need to be made to better the relationship between universities and business. Family business owners and entrepreneurs need to be directly engaged in the learning process, since they bring practical expertise, passion, commitment and hands-on know-how into the class room. Family business owners or entrepreneurs can exemplify how crucial personal initiative is to the development of the EU economy and what corporate social sustainability means practically: doing business to generate shared value for society at large. 2. Coordinated action by MS and the Commission, is needed to utilise and promote the knowledge of thousands entrepreneurs to teach students, primarily in higher-education, of the benefits of starting a business, but also running it for the long-term.
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)	0
Tailored entrepreneurial training for women -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Create/foster female investors and networking among women entrepreneurs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Investment readiness training for women entrepreneurs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Same maternity rights for women entrepreneurs as for employees -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Adequate child/dependent care facilities available -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)	
Establish networks of volunteer seniors to counsel young inexperienced entrepreneurs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Tailored entrepreneurial training for seniors without previous business experience -single choice reply-(compulsory)	0
Offer grants for unemployed seniors to become 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)	
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)	<p>European Family Businesses believes that another potential initiative that focuses on helping family/non business successors could be a way of boosting the number of entrepreneurs in Europe. Family successors and non-family successors represent a massive pool of often untapped potential in Europe's existing SMEs and family businesses. Potential future successors have already been exposed to the business environment, and they often possess a detailed insight into the operations of their families' enterprises. If given the right tools, and working in the right environment, successors (including non-family members) have the potential to be the 'stewards' of their company. In addition, successors also represent a massive potential to start their own ventures with the financial backing of their relatives. In sum, Entrepreneurship must be promoted in existing businesses, who are the natural incubators of new entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Entrepreneurship is something that can be taught and there is no better school than your own family if they own a business. Indeed, 85% of all business start-ups are started with family money. Therefore, actions should be taken to encourage family business successors, either to continue with the business of their parents, or to start their own venture. Proposed Actions: 1. Raise awareness among policy makers that entrepreneurship is not exclusive to new business ventures, but in fact necessary throughout the life cycle of any business entity. Importantly, entrepreneurship education should promote entrepreneurial behaviour (including innovation) in existing businesses. 2. Family Business specific issues such as succession, responsible ownership, and governance should be included in Entrepreneurship curricula to better prepare future entrepreneurs to run their businesses responsibly. 3. Tax systems in Europe must be simple, and reward entrepreneurs and family businesses that run and grow their companies for the long term. In particular a business property relief when transferring the company to the next generation. 4. MS and the EU ensure that they possess robust data on family businesses.</p>