

## ROADMAP

Title of the initiative: **Commission proposal for benchmarks on mobility and employability**  
Type of initiative (CWP/Catalogue/Comitology): major initiative, CWP 2010  
Lead DG/contact person/details: DG EAC  
Expected date of adoption of the initiative (month/year): November 2010  
Date of modification: 25/03/2010  
Version No: 2

### Initial IA screening & planning of further work

#### A. Context and problem definition

(i) What is the political context of the initiative? (ii) How does this initiative relate to past and possible future initiatives, and to other EU policies?

Council Conclusions of 13 May 2009 on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training ("ET 2020") adopted five education and training benchmarks and gave the Commission a mandate to develop proposals of new benchmarks in the area of employability and mobility.

The Commission Communication *"An updated strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training"* (December 2008), which was subject to an impact assessment, was the Commission proposal for this strategic framework.

This initiative corresponds to the setting of educational benchmarks in relationship to the original Lisbon Strategy in the beginning of the century and should be seen in the context of the Open Method of Co-ordination. The possible adoption of benchmarks in these two areas will complement the already existing five benchmarks in the ET 2020 thereby further enhancing its role within the Europe 2020 strategy.

What are the main problems identified?

Employability and mobility are two major policy challenges/priorities for Member States identified in the new strategic framework. Member states are supported in improving performance in key policy areas through the Open Method of Co-ordination, OMC. The OMC uses indicators and benchmarks to inform evidence-based policy making and to monitor progress. Hence, specific benchmarks will further enhance the political focus on these areas as well as the exchange of information, experiences, and peer-learning with the intention to induce policy actions.

Who is affected?

Potentially the whole EU population may be affected by these initiatives as employability concerns the whole workforce including both employed and unemployed citizens.

(i) Is EU action justified on grounds of subsidiarity? (ii) Why can the objectives of the proposed action not be achieved sufficiently by Member States (necessity test)? (iii) As a result of this, can objectives be better achieved by action by the Community (test of EU Value Added)?

The proposal of educational benchmarks was requested by the (Education) Council. It is entirely in line with the subsidiarity principles as it leaves action to the appropriate level of concern.

The setting of goals in the areas of employability and mobility at the European level (as compared to the doing the same thing at the national level) establishes a common understanding and framework. That enables Member States to work on their individual improvements by consulting and comparing with other Member States. This collaboration on the exchange of best policy practice is defined by the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) that provides the EU value added by allowing for international comparison and ensuring that appropriate action is defined within the individual Member States. The OMC is the appropriate working method for the exchange of best policy practice in these areas.

## **B. Objectives of EU initiative**

What are the main policy objectives?

The objective is to make the instruments of the OMC (see above) support policy actions in this field. In this context indicators and benchmarks inform evidence-based policy making and support the exchange of information and experiences including on best policy practices.

Do the objectives imply developing EU policy in new areas or in areas of strategic importance?

Importance of education and training is emphasised in Europe 2020 strategy.

## **C. Options**

(i) What are the policy options? (ii) What legislative or 'soft law' instruments could be considered? (iii) Would any legislative initiatives go beyond routine up-date of existing legislation?

Policy options have been discussed in the framework of the strategic proposal that, as described above, builds the basis for the initiative. Establishing indicators for OMC is a very soft instrument.

Does the action proposed in the options cut across several policy areas or impact on action taken/planned by other Commission departments?

Should specific benchmarks be adopted in these two fields they could have an impact on policies in the fields of DG EMPL and DG RTD.

Explain how the options respect the proportionality principle

The option implemented with this initiative is, as explained above, in line with a former Commission decision that was endorsed by the Council.

## **D. Initial assessment of impacts**

What are the significant impacts likely to result from each policy option (cf. list of impacts in the Impact Assessment Guidelines pages 32-37), even if these impacts would materialise only after subsequent Commission initiatives?

The purpose of proposing benchmarks on mobility and employability would be to add policy impetus to EU work in these fields. Through the OMC the objective is to inspire national policy initiatives to enhance mobility and employability. Hence, the expected impact would be to enrich national policies in these two fields.

Could the options have impacts on the EU-Budget (above 5 Mio €) and/or should the IA also serve as the ex-ante evaluation, required by the Financial Regulation?

No

Could the options have significant impacts on (i) simplification, (ii) administrative burden or on (iii) relations with third countries?

No

## **E. Planning of further impact assessment work**

When will the impact assessment work start?

N.A.

(i) What information and data are already available? (ii) Will this impact assessment build on already existing impact assessment work or evaluations carried out? (iii) What further information needs to be gathered? (iv) How will this be done (e.g. internally or by an external contractor) and by when?

(v) What type and level of analysis will be carried out (cf. principle of proportionate analysis)?

N.A.

Which stakeholders & experts have been/will be consulted, how and at what stage?

Two specific expert groups involving all Member States have been set-up to follow and contribute to the discussions on possible benchmarks in these two fields.