

Citizens' summary

Entrepreneurship 2020 – EU action plan

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- Europe needs more entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs create jobs, growth and a more competitive economy.
- In Europe, just over a third (37%) of workers prefer to be self-employed, whereas in the USA and China more than 50% feel that way.

WHAT EXACTLY WILL CHANGE?

The EU is proposing an action plan, with ideas for:

- including entrepreneurship education and experience in **school curricula**
- **reducing the time** it takes to start up a business, obtain the necessary licenses and permits and complete bankruptcy procedures
- **mentoring, advice and support** schemes for women, seniors, migrants, the unemployed and other potential entrepreneurs.

WHO WILL BENEFIT AND HOW?

- Potential and existing entrepreneurs would be offered greater support and face fewer bureaucratic burdens when starting, selling, handing on, or re-starting a business.
- Advice, mentoring, and training for those in business or who want to be in business will be better designed and delivered.
- Young people will enjoy entrepreneurship education and at least one entrepreneurial experience before leaving secondary school.

WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

- European countries already cooperate under the [Small Business Act](#) to reduce the burden of bureaucracy on businesses. The new action plan will make this process even more effective.
- The situation for entrepreneurs varies tremendously across Europe. Sharing best practice and comparing different solutions to problems can be more helpful than each country working alone.

WHEN IS THE PROPOSAL LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

- The Commission and EU governments will start joint work on these issues in 2013.