Bolstering the Business of Liberal Professions

Summary of Actions

Brussels, April 2014

DG ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY
1. Education and Training for Entrepreneurship (1/2)

- Support the integration of Entrepreneurship Education into the initial professional education and training of Liberal Professionals:
  - Connect Liberal Profession Organisations with universities and other institutions providing professional education to participate in curriculum and teaching methodology development.
  - Explore the creation of online / e-learning courses for the dissemination of basic entrepreneurial knowledge.
  - Explore the (co)financing and organisation of entrepreneurship education initiatives or chairs for liberal profession students.

- Support the integration of Entrepreneurship Education into the continuing professional development of Liberal Professionals (same points as above)
1. Education and Training for Entrepreneurship (2/2)

- Support the development of Common Professional Frameworks – to be discussed.

- Support and strengthen the use of the programme Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE) for the professional training and development of liberal professionals

- Connect Liberal Professions with Actors and Projects in general Entrepreneurship Education
2. Access to Markets

- Explore - together with professional bodies, organisations and pension scheme providers - the needs for new skills for new jobs and mobility on the labour market

- Facilitate the access to markets in third countries

- Invite Member States to provide business support services for liberal professions
3. Reduction of Regulatory Burden

- *Invite representatives of the liberal professions to contribute to the reduction of the regulatory burden*

- *Work with representatives of the liberal professions on the development of a common framework of professional standards*
4. Access to Finance

- Reinforce the access to the financing instruments of the Competitiveness and SME (COSME) and other programmes by liberal professionals

- Strengthen the provision of financial and investment readiness training for liberal professionals

- Ensure participation of representatives of the liberal professions in the Round Table on improving SME financing

- Explore the development of alternative forms of financing
5. Strengthening representation and Participation at European Level

- Formalise the representation of the European Liberal Professionals in DG Enterprise and Industry's conferences, fora and other meetings

- Create a Liberal Profession Forum

- Explore the creation of work groups for specific themes
6. Further Open Questions / Proposals to Discuss (1/2)

- Elaborate a study to analyse the state of entrepreneurship in the professional services? (exact scope and objectives?)

- Enhance the elaboration of articles and reports as well as the dissemination of initiatives / examples / best practices.

- Creation of a specific category for the support of Liberal Professions in the European Enterprise Awards?

- Introduce a "concise and homogenous definition of the CPD concept".

- Include the professional organizations in the provision of advisory services including a core document or guide, an e-platform. – E.g., integrate them into the offers of the Enterprise Europe Network?
6. Further Open Questions / Proposals to Discuss (2/2)

- Promotion of business incubators and co-working spaces.
- Foster senior entrepreneurs as
  - Buyers of liberal profession firms
  - Advisors / mentors to new entrepreneurs in liberal professions
- Promote distinguished liberal professionals as role models – integrate it into the entrepreneurship education or go further?
- Provide for mitigation / management of longevity risk, active ageing, break events of life cycle etc. – inclusion of other DGs like DG EMPL into the envisaged Forum?
- Usage of the Youth Guarantee for new liberal professionals?