



Public consultation under the Start-up Initiative

Single Market Strategy

ACE response to the public consultation

Date: 18 July 2016 Ref: 159/16/PO

Dear all,

The European Commission has issued a public consultation as part of the “Start-up” initiative to seek direct feedback from all relevant stakeholders, including entrepreneurs and start-up communities, with the aim of improving the environment for start-ups in Europe.

It is important that through its answers, ACE assist the COM to move in the right direction.

The main issues in the questionnaire that are of interest to ACE relate to the life-cycle of a company and are divided into three primary phases:

- *Stand-up phase* when individuals or groups are equipped with the entrepreneurial attitudes and skills to attempt the creation of new company;
- *Start-up phase* when resources are mobilised and regulatory requirements fulfilled to start a new company;
- *Scale-up phase* when successful companies expand their businesses to new markets or in innovative ways.

These are the questions we consider to be of most important questions for architects:

2.1 - In your view, how important are the following policies/actions to support potential entrepreneurs in Europe?

Under that point we feel that answers should be mostly score at the high end (maximum importance).

3.2 - In your experience, to what extent is each of the following an obstacle to start a company? Please rank each option below from 1 being a minor obstacle to 5 being a major obstacle.

Under that point, it is important to bring out all the obstacles experienced in any Member State especially registration costs, minimum capital requirements, permits, lack of single point of contact, tax problems etc. if they exist.

3.5 - In your experience, how important are the following policies/support measures for start-ups?

Here (cf. 2.1), we think that almost all answers could be “most important”. Stress the importance of the various support measures available (networks, match-making



platforms, training/advisory/mentoring services, promoting exchanges through ERASMUS for Young Entrepreneurs) is significant.

3.6 - In your view, what else could be done at EU level to foster the creation and survival of start-ups in the EU?

Here COM could support digital solutions in administrative work, in various countries, to make cross-border work easier and widen the market for survival of start-ups.

3.7 - In your experience, to what extent is each of the following important to boost innovation?

Here again, answers could be nearly all “maximum importance”.

At part 4 is important to bring out, to the COM, all the possible difficulties one has experienced during the scale-up phase of the company.

4.2 - In your experience, to what extent is each of the following an obstacle to expand (scale-up) a company within the EU?

It would be good to give feedback considering the particular country in which one expanded.

We hope you'll find time to give COM the feedback to give COM a chance to change the rules easier for us.

Thank you!