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Initiative on individual learning accounts

Fields marked with * are mandatory. Introduction 2 About you *2.1 Language of my contribution **English** *2.2 I am giving my contribution as Other *2.3 First name Sara *2.4 Surname Fasoli *2.5 Email (this won't be published) s.fasoli@hospeem.eu *2.9 Organisation name 255 character(s) maximum European Hospital and Healthcare Employers' Association (HOSPEEM) *2.10 Organisation size Micro (1 to 9 employees) 2.11 Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register

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*2.12 Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

Belgium

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3 Additional information about you

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3 7 What is Wal	r organisation's p	rimarv rold in :	rainina
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- Company providing training for its employees
- Education and training provider
- Accreditation or certification body/ provider of quality assurance
- Public or private employment services providing information, advice, guidance or training
- National or regional organisation with responsibilities for adult learning and training (including the funding of training)
- Other role in training

4 Problem Definition

In this section, we would like to gather your views about the **main barriers** that prevent individuals from accessing training.

4.1 To v	what extent do	you agree or	disagree that	following factors	s related to c	costs prevent i	ndividuals from
accessi	ng training?						

	Fully agree	Somewh at agree	Somewhat disagree	Fully disagre e	l don't know
*Direct cost of training (course fees, tuition)	0		0	0	
*Indirect cost of training (loss of income due to time taken up by training)		0		0	0
*Insufficient awareness of available financial support for training	0		0	0	0

4.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree that following factors **related to incentives and motivation** prevent individuals from accessing training?

	Fully agre e	Somew hat agree	Somewh at disagree	Fully disagr ee	l don't know
*Insufficient awareness of the benefits of training	0		0	0	0
*Uncertainty about which skills are needed to improve employment and income prospects	0		0	0	0
*Fragmented/ insufficiently transparent information on available training opportunities	0	0		0	0
*Uncertainty about the quality of training opportunities	0	0		0	0
*Uncertainty about whether training outcomes will be recognised by employers	0	0		0	0
*Insufficient tailoring of available training to individual needs	0	0		0	0

4.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that following factors **related to time** prevent individuals from accessing training?

	Fully agree	Somewha t agree	Somewhat disagree	Fully disagre e	l don't know
*Lack of time (including work, family and other commitments)				0	0
*Inflexibility of training time (when training can be undertaken)	0	0		0	0

4.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following factors are **obstacles to a higher training provision on the labour market**?

	Full y agr ee	Some what agree	Somew hat disagre e	Fully disa gree	l don' t kno w
*Employer's fear to lose a worker once he or she has acquired better skills	0			0	0
*A lack of instruments for an effective sharing of training costs (between companies, individuals, public authorities)		0	0		
*A lack of capacity by small, medium and micro- enterprises to organise training for their employees	0	0	0	0	
*A lack of support for workers with no links, or lose links, to an employer (i.e. atypical workers such as platform workers)	0	0	0	0	•

4.5 In your opinion, are there **other important barriers** to training participation or provision not previously mentioned? You can also use this space to elaborate on a previous answer:

500 character(s) maximum

Although the proposal successfully identifies a series of problems related to training take-up, HOSPEEM would like to see more clarity regarding the efficiency of the ILAs in tacking issues such as individual motivation and incentives to seek training, lack of professional guidance and the relevance of the training offers.

5 Need for EU action and policy objectives

5.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree that a European initiative on individual learning accounts could add value on the following topics?

	Full y agr ee	Some what agree	Somewh at disagree	Fully disag ree	l don't kno w
*Increased transparency about national training markets for companies operating on the single market		0	0		0
*Portability and recognition of training outcomes across Member States	0	0	0		
*Portability of training entitlements across Member States	0	0	0		

*More efficient use of EU funds for skills development					
*Development of registries of quality-assured training opportunities at national level	0				0
*Implementation of quality assurance also for non- formal training opportunities					
*Validation of non-formal and informal learning outcomes	0				
*Provision of career guidance		0		0	
*Provision of educational leave and its take-up by individuals	0				
*Other topic		0	0		

5.2 Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

In HOSPEEM' opinion, ILAs are one instrument among others, and they are pieces of a more complex institutional setting. Before considering such an instrument we advise the EC to look at a range of factors related to institutional obstacles, depending on the institutional context.

5.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that additional policy efforts are needed to **support the following types of learning among adults?**

	Fu Ily ag re e	Som ewh at agre e	Some what disagr ee	Full y dis agr ee	l do n't kn ow
*Short job-related training (e.g. for training within the current job)	0				
*More fundamental job-related training (e.g. for a professional transition)					
*Training in general transversal skills (basic skills, soft and inter-personal skills etc.)					
*Training in digital skills		0		0	0
*Training in skills relevant for the green transition (i.e. skills required in sectors that are growing as economies become more environmentally sustainable)	•		0	0	0
*Non job-related learning	0		0	0	0
*Other types	0	0	0	0	

5.4 Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

Training in transversal skills is of key importance for healthcare and hospitals professionals. The development of these skills has been proven essential during the pandemic and it will also be essential in the transformation of health systems and their transition to new care models, centred on people's needs, enabling a shift from a hospital-centre system to more community-based and integrated care structures.

6 Policy Options

In this section we would like to have your views on **possible building blocks** of policies to ensure that all people have the opportunity to keep building skills throughout their working life, including on individual learning accounts and other forms of providing individual training entitlements.

The European Commission's working definition of "**individual learning account**" is as follows: a personal account where individual training entitlements can be accumulated over time, possibly funded by different sponsors. Training entitlements from the account can be spent on training independent of the employment status and when requested by the individual.

The working definition of "**individual training entitlement**" is as follows: a personal budget to spend on training. Also guidance and validation offers may be eligible for funding from this budget.

We will ask for your views on the **effectiveness of the different building blocks** for addressing the three **main groups of barriers to training introduced in section 4:** costs/financial constraints, incentives and motivation and a lack of time.

6.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following approaches are effective for **tackling the financial constraints** influencing participation in training?

	Fu Ily ag re e	Som ewh at agre e	Some what disagr ee	Full y dis agr ee	l do n't kn ow
*Establish individual learning accounts	0	0	0		0
*Establish individual training entitlements in other forms (training vouchers, individual budgets etc.)					
*Tax incentives for individuals				0	0
*Tax incentives for companies				0	0
*Subsidies to education and training providers		0	0	0	0
*Increase overall public funding available to support training (i.e., sum of funding provided to individuals, companies and education & training providers)			0	0	0
*Facilitate the sharing of training costs between companies, public authorities and individuals		0	0	0	0
*Other approach	0	0	0	0	

6.2 Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

HOSPEEM believes that a social partners' led approach is preferable to an individualized one. The approaches to training funds are varied across the EU and they should be taken into consideration to respect the specificity of national industrial relations systems. We support a more inclusive environment and a more integrated approach.

6.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following approaches are effective **for increasing incentives and motivation** influencing participation in training?

	Ful ly agr ee	Some what agree	Somew hat disagre e	Fully disa gree	l don 't kno w
*Establish individual learning accounts		0	0		0
*Establish individual training entitlements in other forms (training vouchers, individual budgets etc.)	0	0	•	0	0
*Public registry of quality-assured training opportunities	0	0		0	
*"One stop shop" digital platform and smartphone app that link a registry of quality training opportunities to financial support	0	0	•		0
*Publication of training course evaluations of past participants in the registry of quality-assured training opportunities	0		0		0
*Tax incentives for individuals		0	0		
*Tax incentives for companies			0	0	0
*Subsidies to education and training providers		0	0	0	0
*Awareness raising campaigns		0	0	0	0
*In-person advice and guidance on training opportunities			0	0	0
*Opportunities for the validation of informal and non- formal learning outcomes	0	0	0	0	0
*Increase modularisation of the training offer (opportunities to acquire a certification on completion of short courses)	0	0	0		0
*Other approach		0	0	0	

6.4 Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

 ${\tt HOSPEEM}$ stresses how the availability of suitable training supply and adequate information are key elements for taking up further training.

6.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following approaches are effective **for helping to address time constraints** to participation in training?

	Full y agr ee	Some what agree	Somew hat disagre e	Fully disa gree	l don' t kno w
*Establish individual learning accounts		0	0		0
*Establish individual training entitlements in other forms (training vouchers, individual budgets etc.)	0	0	0		0
*Increase modularisation of the training offer (opportunities to acquire a certification on completion of short courses)		0	0		
*Paid educational leave (granted by employer for employees)	0	0	0		0
*Allowance to cover the costs of living during training (open also to non-employees)	0	0	0		0
*Other approach	0	0	0	0	

6.6 Please explain

500 character(s) maximum		

6.7 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following options for **targeting individual training entitlements?**

	F ul ly a gr e	So me wh at ag re e	So me wha t disa gre e	F ull y di sa gr e	l d o n' t k n o
*Universal support: Give training entitlements to all working-age individuals, no matter their current position on the labour market	0	0			0
*Universal, but differentiated support: Give training entitlements to all working-age individuals, and a higher amount to individuals with particular training needs	0	0		0	0
*Targeted support: Give training entitlements only to individuals with particular training needs (such as those in industries undergoing significant structural change, the unemployed, atypical workers or the low-qualified)	0	0	0	0	
*Other approach					

6.8 Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

In many EU Member States, the training entitlement are set in the framework of a bilateral negotiation process between employers and employees. The proposed initiative should take this aspect into account. Further, the initiative should respect the autonomy of decision of the two parts in relation to how the training entitlements can be used.

6.9 Giving individuals training entitlements goes hand-in-hand with the establishment of a **registry of training opportunities that are eligible** for funding from these training entitlements. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the selection of eligible training opportunities/the **governance of this registry?**

	Full y agr ee	Somew hat agree	Somewh at disagree	Fully disagr ee	l don't kno w
*Strong role of employer organisations		0			
*Strong role of trade unions		0			0
*Strong role of public authorities		0	0		0
*Strong role of skills intelligence/ research (information on skills in shortage on the labour market)	0	0	0		0
*Other		0	0	0	0

6.10 Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

We have some concerns regarding the possibility to select the training offer. Preserving the cost efficiency of the training funds supposes agreements between social partners at the national level for what would be eligible training provision within this learning accounts.

6.11 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following possible **rules on how individuals can spend their individual training entitlements?**

	Fu Ily ag re e	Som ewh at agre e	Some what disagr ee	Full y dis agr ee	l do n't kn ow
*Free selection from the registry of eligible training offers. For employees, training may take place during working hours with the agreement of the employer	0	0			0

*Free selection from the registry of eligible training offers. For employees, training is required to take place outside of working hours	0	0	0		
*Restricted freedom in selection of training on the basis of compulsory prior guidance (e.g. by Public Employment Services)		0			
*Other		0	0	0	

6.12 Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

The individual decisions' is an element of the decision process, but it cannot be the main decision-makers while training funds are in large percentage provided by the employers.

6.13 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following **sources should be used to increase available funding** for training?

	Fully agree	Somewh at agree	Somewhat disagree	Fully disagre e	l don't know
*Individual contribution					0
*Employer's levy (e.g. on payroll)	0				0
*Member States public funding				0	0
*EU funds (including the European Social Fund, Recovery Funds etc.)	0		0	0	0
*Other		0	0	0	0

6.14 Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

The costs and mobilization of additional skills investments should be a shared responsibility involving public funds, employers', and employees' funds. Additional levies for employers would not be fair without compensations from public funds. Any expenditure should be cost-efficient, based on the added value that this tool could bring. The social partners should play a key role in managing the training funds as they are contributing massively to these funds.

6.15 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following **policy instruments would be suitable/effective** to ensure a sufficient access to and uptake of training opportunities across the EU?

	Full y agr ee	Some what agree	Somew hat disagre e	Fully disa gree	l don 't kno w
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*No additional instrument, the existing EU-level framework is sufficient				
*Strengthen EU level monitoring and exchange of best practices (e.g. European Semester, Open Method of Coordination)	0		0	
*Introduce EU legislation to be adhered by Member States on a voluntary basis (e.g. Council Recommendation)	0		0	
*Other instrument		0	0	

6.16	Please	exp	lair
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500	character	(s)	maximu	m

7 Expected impacts

In this section, we welcome your opinions on the **potential impacts of an individual learning accounts initiative**. The specific content of the initiative will depend on the impact assessment and stakeholder consultations, and possible recommendations would concern the building blocks covered in the previous sections of this questionnaire.

7.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following impacts related to **fundamental and social rights** could result from an EU initiative on individual learning accounts?

	Fu Ily ag re e	Som ewh at agre e	Some what disagr ee	Full y disa gre e	I do n't kn ow
*Making it easier for individuals to manage transitions in the labour market (between different jobs or sectors, or from unemployment to employment)			0	0	0
*Improving employment prospects for unemployed by tailor made assistance				0	
*Improving access to secure and adaptable employment regardless of the type and duration of the employment relationship	0	0		0	0
*Tackling discriminations on all grounds regarding access to training, employment prospects and career progression			0		
*Improving health and wellbeing	0				
*Promoting active citizenship and political participation	0	0	0	0	

7.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following impacts related to the **labour market and the economy** could result from an EU initiative on individual learning accounts?

	Full y agr ee	Somew hat agree	Somewh at disagree	Fully disag ree	l don't kno w
*Supporting an efficient reallocation of labour in light of structural changes or economic downturns					
*Reducing skills gaps and mismatches		0			
*Improving productivity and competitiveness of companies	0	0		0	
*Supporting geographical labour mobility	0	0	0	0	

7.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following impacts related to the **society and the environment** could result from an EU initiative on individual learning accounts?

	Fully agree	Somewh at agree	Somewhat disagree	Fully disagre e	l don't know
*Supporting digital and green transitions by providing relevant skills			0		0
*Improving cohesion in society			0	0	
*Leading to upward convergence between Member States		0	0		

7.4 Are there any other expected impacts – positive or negative - you would like to indicate?						
500 character(s) maximum						

8 Concluding Questions

8.1 If you have any additional comments and/or suggestions, feel free to use the open answer box below 1,500 character(s) maximum

We think that that this initiative should have a dual approach, improving the collaboration between in-company training and training offered by education providers. This approach could be beneficial for improving the employability of certain categories such as NEETs. For this, we need a clarification on which stakeholder will be responsible for providing the individual learning accounts and the training content. Strong institutional support is mandatory in this sense.

8.2 If you wish to upload position papers please do so here

15/07/2021 EUSurvey - Survey

Contact

Contact Form (/eusurvey/runner/contactform/dd5a4a59-e283-4f01-562f-1d0780375599)