Dear Sir or Madam,

We would like to inform you that the European Commission has launched last week the following two public consultations:

- **“Micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability”**. The objective is to collect ideas for the development of a common definition of micro-credentials, EU standards for their quality and transparency, and further steps to be taken at institutional, national and EU level. The consultation is open until 13 July.

- **“Adult skills - Individual Learning Accounts: a tool to improve access to training”**. The objective is to collect the views of individuals and relevant stakeholders on the problem definition, as well as the objectives, content and impacts of the proposed initiative. The consultation is open until 16 July.

You can find more information on each consultation below.

We invite you to share the information about these public consultations widely among your stakeholders.

Kind Regards,

DG Agriculture and Rural Development

B-1049 Brussels/Belgium

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Notice légale CE DG-AGRI:
Ce message exprime uniquement les points de vue de son auteur et ne saurait en aucun cas être considéré comme une position officielle de la Commission. Il est destiné uniquement à la personne à laquelle il est adressé et pourrait contenir des informations confidentielles. Si vous avez reçu ce message par erreur, merci de m’en avertir le plus rapidement possible.
Public consultation on “Micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability”

The public consultation on the initiative “Micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability” is open until 13 July. The objective is to collect ideas for the development of a common definition of micro-credentials, EU standards for their quality and transparency, and further steps to be taken at institutional, national and EU level.

This joint initiative led by European Commissioners Mariya Gabriel (Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth) and Nicolas Schmit (Jobs and Social Rights) will support the quality, transparency, recognition and portability of short learning experiences leading to micro-credentials, substantially widening learning opportunities, making lifelong learning a reality across the EU and boosting employability chances. This is complementary to full degree programmes.

Within Europe a growing number of people need to update their knowledge, skills and competences to fill the gap between their formal education and the needs of a fast-changing knowledge-development society and labour market. The recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and the green and digital transitions require people to upskill or reskill, to maintain and acquire the competences that enable them to participate fully in society, ensure their personal, social and professional empowerment. Short learning courses and experiences are developing rapidly across Europe by a wide variety of public and private stakeholders, in response to the need for more flexible, learner-centred forms of provision of education and training. The potential role of and the interest in credentials that certify the outcomes of these short learning experiences is thus increasing. This is what we call ‘micro-credentials’.

Public consultation on “Adult skills - Individual Learning Accounts: a tool to improve access to training”

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on Individual learning accounts. The consultation is open until 16 July. Feedback is invited on the problem definition, need for EU action and policy objectives, policy options and expected impacts.

The twin digital and green transitions and the disruptions induced by COVID-19 bring about significant structural changes on labour markets and will fundamentally change the skills requirements of many jobs. This increases the importance of building skills throughout life to bridge skills gaps, support labour market transitions and foster social inclusion. At the
same time, a high and increasing share of workers are in atypical forms of work, including part-time work, temporary work, fixed-term work, casual and seasonal work, platform work and self-employment. Coupled with an increasing number of labour market transitions throughout one’s working life, this means that an increasing share of individuals are at risk of not receiving sufficient support for training from an employer.

**Could Individual learning accounts be part of the solution? What are they?**

**Individual learning accounts** are personal accounts in which training entitlements can be accumulated and spent on quality-assured training, guidance or validation services. They are one way of providing individuals with *training entitlements*. Related schemes that provide individuals with training entitlements without involving personal accounts also exist. This includes *training voucher schemes* (often for specific target groups and run by Public Employment Services), and *individual learning or personal development budgets*, which are sometimes also provided by companies for their employees or negotiated by social partners in the context of collective bargaining agreements.

**Can individual learning accounts help ensure that adults keep building the skills they need, regardless of their employment status?**

**What is your opinion?**