

Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance 2021







Slovak Republic

Overview and recent developments

The Slovak Republic currently works on implementing the RIA 2020 – Better Regulation Strategy adopted in 2018 that represents a comprehensive approach towards a whole-ofgovernment regulatory policy focusing, among other issues, on improving both *ex ante* and *ex post* evaluation of regulations. So far, a draft methodology for *ex post* evaluation was approved in 2019 and underwent pilot testing, whilst a methodology for stakeholder engagement is currently being developed. In 2021, the government introduced a one-in, two-out approach for regulatory offsetting.

The obligation to conduct regulatory impact assessments has been in place since 2008 with reforms introducing a solid methodology for assessing economic, social and environmental impacts, including an SME Test and impacts on innovation in 2015. Despite these improvements and the analytical resources available to decision makers, in many cases Slovak ministries still struggle with the quantification of wider impacts, focusing mainly on budgetary impacts and impacts on businesses.

Procedures for public consultations in the later stage of the regulatory process are well developed, with automatic publication of all legislative documents on the government portal. The 2015 reforms made early-stage consultations more prominent, especially those with business associations. *Ex post* reviews of existing regulations have so far focused mostly on administrative burdens, with three "anti-bureaucratic packages" aimed at reducing administrative burdens for businesses in 2017, 2018 and 2019. In 2020, 115 measures were introduced to reduce administrative burdens, for businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The publication of the final methodology for *ex post* evaluation planned for later this year will introduce the requirement for more comprehensive reviews of existing legislation.

The Permanent Working Committee of the Legislative Council of the Slovak Republic at the Ministry of Economy (RIA Committee), established in 2015, is responsible for overseeing the quality of RIAs. Part of its mandate is guality control of stakeholder engagement. Several ministries, including the Ministry of Economy as a co-ordinator, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of the Interior and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investments and Informatisation, are represented in the Committee, as are the Government Office and the Slovak Business Agency. They share competencies for checking the quality of RIAs focusing on their respective area of competences.

Slovakia would benefit from further strengthening regulatory oversight by appointing one body close to the centre of government responsible for evaluating integrated impacts, rather than spreading the responsibility across several ministries, as is currently the case with the RIA Committee. This body could also take on the responsibility of evaluating the quality of *ex post* evaluations, once more comprehensive reviews will be mandatory with the introduction of the new methodology for *ex post* evaluation. Finally, the new *ex post* evaluation methodology could serve as a gateway to introducing targeted, in-depth reviews of existing regulations.

Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance (iREG): Slovak Republic, 2021



Notes: The more regulatory practices as advocated in the OECD Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance a country has implemented, the higher its iREG score. The indicators on stakeholder engagement and RIA for primary laws only cover those initiated by the executive (68% of all primary laws in Slovak Republic).

Source: Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance Surveys 2017 and 2021, http://oe.cd/ireg.

Slovak Republic: Transparency throughout the policy cycle

Inform the public in advance that:		Consult with stakeholders on:		Publish online:	
A public consultation is planned to take place	All	Draft regulations	All	Ongoing consultations*	
Regulatory impact assessment (RIA) is due to take place	No	Evaluations of existing regulations	Some	Views of participants in the consultation process	Y
<i>Ex post</i> evaluations are planned to take place	Never			RIAs	1
				Evaluations of existing regulations	7
		-(···)			
Policy makers use:		Policy makers provide a publ	lic response to:		
Interactive website(s) to	Voc	Consultation comments	Ves		

consult with stakeholders	Yes
Website(s) for the public to make recommendations on	Yes
existing regulations	

Consultation comments	Yes
Recommendations made in ex post evaluations	Never

* Publish on a single central government website.

Note: The data reflects Slovak Republic's practices regarding primary laws initiated by the executive. Source: Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance Survey 2021, http://oe.cd/ireg.

Ongoing consultations*	All	
Views of participants in the consultation process	Yes	
RIAs	All	
Evaluations of existing regulations	No	



THE OECD REGULATORY INDICATORS SURVEY AND THE IREG COMPOSITE INDICATORS

The data presented in the 2021 Regulatory Policy Outlook are the results of the 2014, 2017 and 2021 Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance (iREG) surveys.

The iREG survey investigates in detail three principles of the 2012 OECD Recommendation of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance: stakeholder engagement, regulatory impact assessment (RIA) and *ex post* evaluation. Three composite indicators were developed based on information collected through the surveys for these areas. Each composite indicator is composed of four equally weighted categories:

- Systematic adoption comprises formal requirements and how often these requirements are conducted in practice;
- **Methodology** presents information on the methods used in each area, e.g. the type of impacts assessed or how frequently different forms of consultation are used;
- **Oversight and quality control** reflects the role of oversight bodies and publicly available evaluations; and
- **Transparency** comprises information which relates to the principles of open government e.g. whether government decisions are made publicly available.

The data underlying the composite indicators reflect practices and requirements in place at the national level of government, as of 1 January 2021. The indicators for stakeholder engagement and RIA relate to regulations initiated by the executive, while the indicator on *ex post* evaluation relates to all regulations. Whilst the indicators provide an overview of a country's regulatory policy system, they cannot fully capture the complex realities of its quality, use and impact. In-depth country reviews are therefore required to complement the indicators and to provide specific recommendations for reform. A full score on the composite indicators does not imply full implementation of the Recommendation. To ensure full transparency, the methodology for constructing the composite indicators and underlying data as well as the results of sensitivity analysis are available publicly on the OECD website (http://oe.cd/ireg).

Related links:

- <u>Regulatory Policy Outlook 2021</u>
- Indicators and underlying data and methodology
- 2012 Recommendation of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance
- OECD Measuring Regulatory Performance Programme
- OECD work on regulatory policy

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