

## OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators – Spain

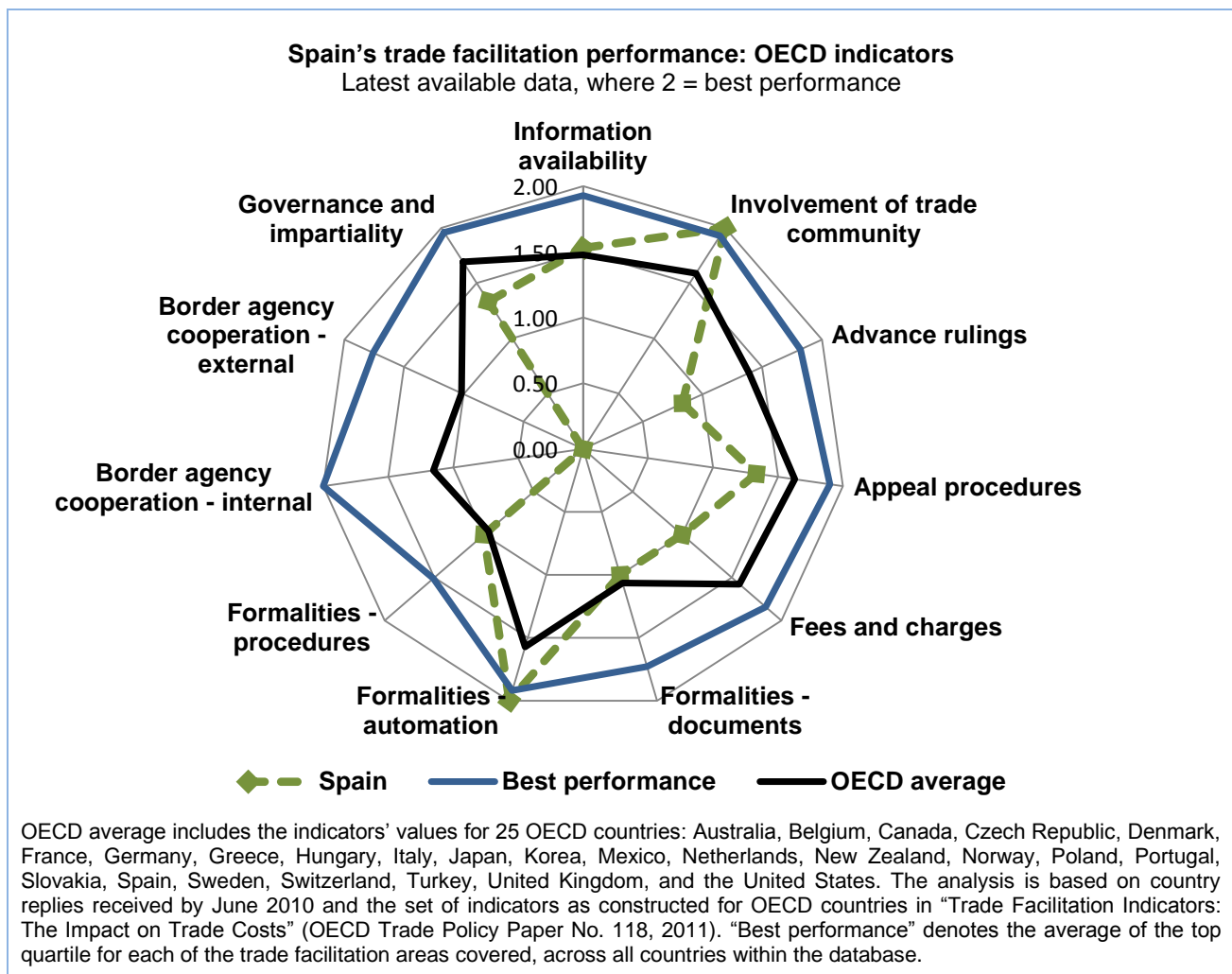
To help governments improve their border procedures, reduce trade costs, boost trade flows and reap greater benefits from international trade, OECD has developed a set of **trade facilitation indicators** that identify areas for action and enable the potential impact of reforms to be assessed.

Estimates based on the indicators provide a basis for governments to prioritise trade facilitation actions and mobilise technical assistance and capacity-building efforts for developing countries in a more targeted way.

OECD analysis shows that trade facilitation measures can benefit all countries in their role as exporters as well as importers, allowing better access to inputs for production and greater participation in the international trading system.

### Spain's trade facilitation performance

- Spain's performs significantly better than the OECD average in the areas of **involvement of the trade community** and **automation**, and on par with the OECD average for **information availability**, **simplification and harmonisation of documents** and **streamlining of procedures**, according to OECD trade facilitation indicators.
- Spain's performance for **advance rulings**, **appeal procedures**, **fees and charges**, **border agency co-operation (internal and external)** and **governance and impartiality** is below the OECD average.



## Areas for action in trade facilitation

OECD quantitative analysis for the group of developed countries, which includes Spain, shows that the areas impacting the most trade flows and trade costs are: **information availability, advance rulings, fees and charges, automation and streamlining of procedures**. Taking into account the trade flow increase and costs reduction potential of the policy areas highlighted by the quantitative analysis, Spain would see increased trade volumes and reduced trade costs from continued improvements in the following areas:

### Information availability:

- Introduce a full time hotline (24/7) for addressing enquiries to Customs.
- Increase the period of time between the publication of regulations and their entry into force.
- Provide information on appeal procedures on the Customs website.
- Publish penalty provisions for breaches of import and export formalities.

### Advance rulings:

- Improve the predictability on the issuance time for advance rulings.
- Publish advance rulings of general interest.

### Fees and charges:

- Provide necessary information on fees and charges on a dedicated page on the Customs website.
- Increase fees transparency.

### Formalities – Procedures:

- Pursue efforts in view of a full implementation of a Single Window.
- Publish the average clearance time in a consistent manner and on a periodic basis, for all major Customs offices.
- Decrease the percentage of physical inspections, which is high compared to the OECD average.
- Provide a different treatment for perishable products versus non-perishable goods with respect to physical inspections (i.e. accelerated controls for perishable goods).
- Continue overall simplification of procedures in terms of both time and costs.

## OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators

OECD has developed the following indicators to assess trade facilitation policies.

- *Information Availability*: Publication of trade information, including on internet; enquiry points.
- *Involvement of the Trade Community*: Consultations with traders.
- *Advance Rulings*: Prior statements by the administration to requesting traders concerning the classification, origin, valuation method, etc., applied to specific goods at the time of importation; the rules and process applied to such statements.
- *Appeal Procedures*: The possibility and modalities to appeal administrative decisions by border agencies.
- *Fees and Charges*: Disciplines on the fees and charges imposed on imports and exports.
- *Formalities-Documents*: Simplification of trade documents; harmonisation in accordance with international standards; acceptance of copies.
- *Formalities-Automation*: Electronic exchange of data; automated border procedures; use of risk management.
- *Formalities-Procedures*: Streamlining of border controls; single submission points for all required documentation (single windows); post-clearance audits; authorised economic operators.
- *Internal Co-operation*: Co-operation between various border agencies of the country; control delegation to Customs authorities.
- *External Co-operation*: Co-operation with neighbouring and third countries.
- *Governance and Impartiality*: Customs structures and functions; accountability; ethics policy.

### Further reading

Read about the methodology, sources and findings from the OECD trade facilitation indicators in these two papers, available on our website: [oecd.org/trade/facilitation](http://oecd.org/trade/facilitation)

- **Trade Facilitation Indicators: The Potential Impact of Trade Facilitation on Developing Countries' Trade** (OECD Trade Policy Paper No. 144, 2013)
- **Trade Facilitation Indicators: The Impact on Trade Costs** – covering OECD member countries (OECD Trade Policy Paper No. 118, 2011)