OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook 2015

Country profile

GREECE

Access links

- OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook 2015: www.oecd.org/publications/oecd-regulatory-policy-outlook-2015-9789264238770-en.htm
- Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance and the underlying data: www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/measuring-regulatory-performance.htm
- Regulatory policy in Greece: www.oecd.org/regreform/regulatory-policy/regulatory-policy-greece.htm
- Regulatory Policy Outlook country profiles: www.oecd.org/regreform/regulatory-policy/outlook-country-profiles.htm
- OECD regulatory policy website: www.oecd.org/governance/regulatory-policy/

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

Overview

The law on Better Regulation, “Regulatory Governance: Principles, Procedures and Tools of Better Law Making” adopted in 2012 sets an obligation for all ministries to apply the principles of Better Regulation to all legislative developments. Major challenges, however, still persist with its implementation.

Fragmentation of responsibilities regarding regulatory policy is an issue. Responsibility for various elements rests with the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, the General Secretariat to the Government through the Better Regulation Office (BRO), the Ministry of Finance or with individual ministries. The BRO which should co-ordinate regulatory policy across all administrations is under-resourced and does not have sufficient competences. In times of economic crisis, regulatory quality does not seem to be the major priority for the government.

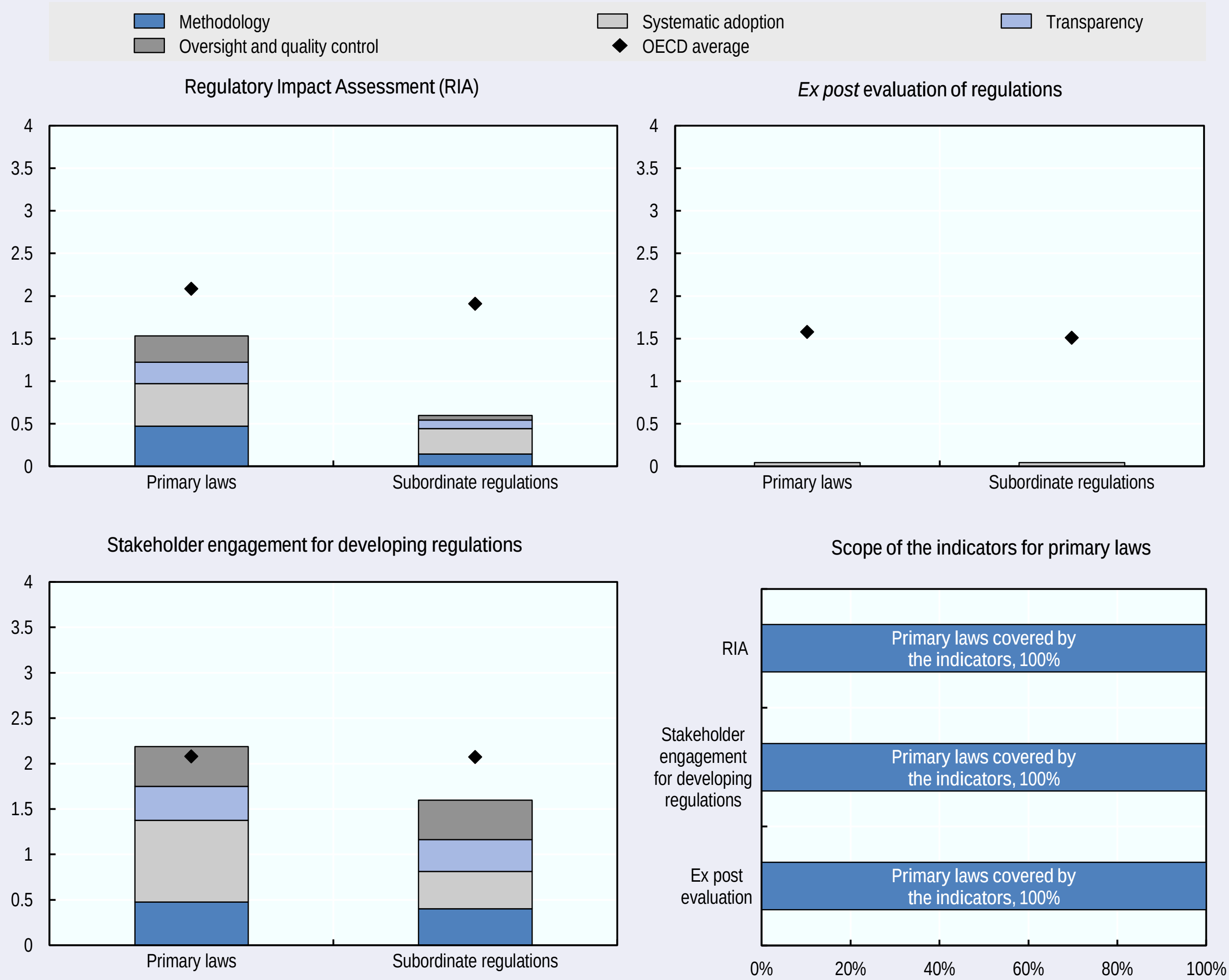
Regulatory Impact Assessment is obligatory for all primary laws, however the quality is poor due to the short period of time during which new drafts are developed. The BRO is responsible for overseeing the quality of RIA but it has no power to decline draft proposals that are accompanied by poorly developed RIA. Public consultations usually take place informally without formally set rules. Draft regulations are published on a consultation portal (www.opengov.gr). However, it is not clear to what extent comments received are taken into account.

Greece is lagging behind in *ex post* reviews of existing regulations. Evaluating or repealing old laws which are no longer necessary is not common practice. Reducing administrative burdens is not as widespread as in other OECD countries.

Spotlight: Law on Better Regulation

The law on Better Regulation adopted in February 2012 states the principles of Better Regulation including: necessity; proportionality; effectiveness and efficiency of the regulation; transparency; accessibility and the avoidance of controversial regulations, and mandates the regulator to comply with these principles. In addition to *ex ante* RIA for every legislative draft or amendment to existing regulations, it requires an *ex post* impact assessment of the regulation’s cost, benefit and impacts. This must take place after three years and no later than five years after implementation. It also defines steps and deadlines of public consultation procedures for new legislation, describes procedures for the transposition of the EU law and reinforces the institutional framework for regulatory policy through the establishment of the Office for the Support of Better Regulation in the General Secretariat of the government.

Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance 2015



1. The figures display the aggregated scores from all four categories giving the total composite score for each indicator. The maximum score for each category is one and the maximum score for each aggregated indicator is four.

2. Although members of parliament can initiate primary laws in theory in Greece, in practice all primary laws are initiated by the executive. Hence, the information presented in the indicators for primary laws on RIA, stakeholder engagement and *ex post* evaluation covers processes in place for all national primary laws in Greece.

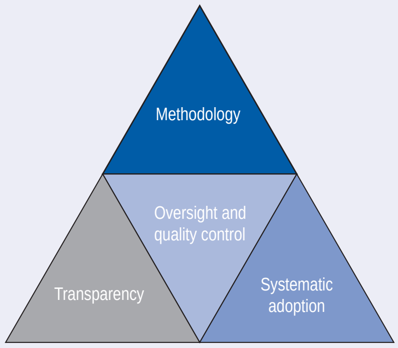
Source: 2014 Regulatory Indicators Survey results, www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/measuring-regulatory-performance.htm.

Statlink: http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933263162

Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance (iREG)

The three composite indicators provide an overview of a country's practices in the areas of stakeholder engagement, Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) and *ex post* evaluation. Each indicator comprises four equally weighted categories:

- Systematic adoption which records formal requirements and how often these requirements are conducted in practice.
- Methodology which gathers 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 records the role of oversight bodies and publically available evaluations.
- Transparency records information from the questions that relate to the principles of open government, e.g. whether government decisions are made publically available.



The composite indicators are based on the results of the *OECD 2014 Regulatory Indicators Survey*, which gathers information from all 34 OECD countries and the European Commission as of 31 December 2014. The survey focuses on regulatory policy practices as described in the 2012 *OECD Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance*. The more of these practices a country has adopted, the higher its indicator score. Further information on the methodology is available online at www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/measuring-regulatory-performance.htm.

Whilst the indicators provide an overview of a country's regulatory framework, 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.

OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook 2015

The *OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook* (www.oecd.org/publications/oecd-regulatory-policy-outlook-2015-9789264238770-en.htm) provides the first evidence-based, cross-country analysis of the progress made by OECD countries in improving the way they regulate. Findings are based on the results of the *OECD 2014 Regulatory Indicators Survey*.

Key findings:

- Laws and regulations are essential instruments, together with taxes and spending, in attaining policy objectives such as economic growth, social welfare and environmental protection. OECD countries have generally committed at the highest political level to an explicit whole-of-government policy for regulatory quality and have established a standing body charged with regulatory oversight.
- Implementation of regulatory policy varies greatly in scope and form across countries. While RIA has been widely adopted, few countries systematically assess whether their laws and regulations achieve their objectives. Stakeholder engagement on rule making is widespread in OECD countries, taking place mostly in the final phase of developing regulation.
- The national executive government has made important progress over the last decade to improve the quality of regulations. Parliaments, regulatory agencies and sub-national and international levels of government need to be more engaged to ensure that there are evidence-based and efficient laws and regulations for stimulating economic activity and promoting well-being.
- The impact of regulatory policy could be further improved by addressing shortcomings in the implementation and enforcement of regulations and by considering new approaches to regulatory design and delivery such as those based on behavioural economics.

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