



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

**GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN ARAB COUNTRIES INITIATIVE
WORKING GROUP IV: PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
AND REGULATORY REFORM**

QUESTIONNAIRE ON ELEMENTS TO BUILD CAPACITIES FOR RIA

**Regulatory Policy Division
Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development**

ROAD MAP FOR RIA IMPLEMENTATION: KEY QUESTIONS

Introducing effective RIA

The following key elements are based on good practices identified in OECD countries:

1. **Maximise political commitment to RIA.**
2. **Allocate responsibilities for RIA programme elements carefully.**
3. **Train the regulators.**
4. **Use a consistent but flexible analytical method.**
5. **Develop and implement data collection strategies.**
6. **Target RIA efforts.**
7. **Integrate RIA with the policy-making process, beginning as early as possible.**
8. **Communicate the results.**
9. **Involve the public extensively.**
10. **Apply RIA to existing as well as new regulation.**

Source: OECD (1997) *Regulatory Impact Analysis: Best Practice in OECD Countries*, Paris.

1) Political Commitment to RIA

- Which are the institutions that will support and demand the introduction of RIA?
- How can they get and maintain support at a high political level?
- Would it be possible to make a public statement indicating that there will be an explicit, published policy in your country promoting government-wide regulatory reform or regulatory quality improvement, including the use of regulatory impact assessment?

2) Responsibility, Management and Coordination of RIA programmes

- Which Ministry or institution would be the one initiating and then taking a lead-role in the introduction of RIA? Would it be useful to define a cross-departmental steering group?
- Would it be better to select a regulatory policy programme that involves many departments or should it be confined to just one?

- What potential is there to establish a central body with broad responsibilities for regulatory reform and associated procedures that could later on be utilised to monitor the quality of RIA?

3) Needed Skills and Training for Regulators

- Does training for officials carrying out impact assessment exist? If so, who can participate, is it obligatory and how often those training sessions take place?
- If not, is there a governmental or academic body which could supervise the establishment of such courses?
- Who are the persons – besides those carrying out the RIA pilot projects, who would need such training?

4) The RIA model: structure and analytical method

- What kind of building blocks exist already in your country? Are there legal notes attached to legislative and regulatory proposals that justify the decision? Are budget and environmental impact assessments prepared? If yes, what is the methodology already in place to carry them out?
- How could this existing procedure become a “lite” approach for RIA? Which are the elements that should be improved?
- Do you consider a two-part approach appropriate for your country?
- The model proposed above suggests multiple criteria in the application of a “lite” RIA model. Please consider carefully whether the regulatory project chosen for the pilot project would be permitted to undergo an assessment against these criteria.

5) Data collection strategies

- Is economic data available to undertake a quantitative analysis on costs and benefits of the proposed regulation? Which institutions need to be consulted to provide such data?
- Are these institutions co-operating internationally to improve data availability and compatibility for international comparisons?
- How can governments make best use of the data available? Do they need to recruit specialists that can use the data?
- For the pilot project, what is the data that is needed? Who will be responsible for ensuring the data collection? Is there a need to integrate experts for this?

6) Target RIA efforts and prioritisation

- Which are the most challenging regulatory areas in your country? Which issues are listed in the priorities for regulatory policy?
- If impact assessment is to be introduced, how can it be appropriately targeted? Looking at specific groups that will be affected with the proposed regulation? Stressing the impact on businesses and SMEs in particular?

- For the pilot project, which are the groups that will be directly affected? Are there administrative burdens that will be added to citizens and businesses?

7) RIA in the policy-making process: integration as early as possible

- In the current legislative process in your country, what would be the best timing to undertake RIA? What are the benefits of integrating RIA in the early stages of the regulatory process?
- How can RIA make a relevant contribution to the decision-making process?
- Are there established mechanisms to facilitate communication between the different institutions involved in regulation?

8. Communicating the results

- What is the audience for governmental publications dealing with public policy issues? How do you communicate to the public the results of government action?
- Once the RIA pilot project is taken place and later on has been finished, does the government plan to communicate the results to the public?
- What means of communication do you think would be most useful and effective to disseminate RIA?

9) Consultation, Participation and Transparency

- Is consultation a part of the law-making process in your country? If yes, is it required by law?
- What forms of public consultation are used? Informal consultation? Public notice and invitation to comment? Public meeting and hearings?
- Who are involved in consultation? Experts in relevant areas? Representatives from other government departments upon which the proposed regulation has effects? Business representatives?
- At what stages in the regulatory process is consultation undertaken? Prior to outline proposals being made? Prior to detailed proposals being made? After detailed proposals are made?
- Are the views of participants in the consultation process made public?

10) Apply RIA to existing as well as new regulation

- Are there regulatory quality requirements put in practice in the creation of regulation? And in the revision of the existing regulations?
- Are there already programmes to review existing regulation? If so, who is responsible for the administration of these programmes?