



Regulatory Reform in the Czech Republic

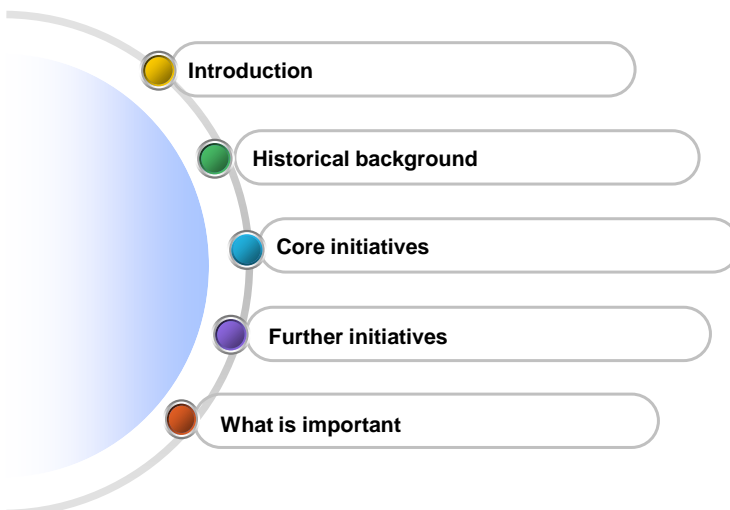


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Content

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Introduction

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- ❖ Department of Regulatory Reform and Public Administration Quality, Ministry of Interior (since November 2006)
 - Transfer of competences from the Government Office (all reform agendas under one roof)
 - Department's Competencies:
 - Regulatory Impact Assessment
 - Simplification of regulatory environment
 - Strategies and conceptions in Public Administration

Historical background

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- ❖ Transition to a market democracy
- ❖ Preparation for the EU accession
 - 'Huge' regulatory reform as such

- ❖ OECD review of regulatory reform
- ❖ EU Better Regulation agenda
 - Focus on regulatory Quality

Core Initiatives 1 - Regulatory Impact Assessment

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- ❖ Regulation drafting in the Czech Republic:
 - Traditional legal approach
 - Primary focus on the quality of legal texts
 - General requirements for drafting defined by the Legislative Rules of Government
 - Review by the Legislative Council of the Government

Regulatory Impact Assessment

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- ❖ Formal adoption of RIA as a tool: Government approval of the Plan for incorporation of RIA into the Czech legislative system (April 2005)
 - (Draft Guidelines for regulatory impact assessment)
- ❖ Pilot phase (2005-2006):
 - Application of the Draft Guidelines for conducting the impact assessment on selected pilot projects
 - On the basis of the gained experience – completion of the Guidelines

Regulatory Impact Assessment

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- ❖ On 13th August 2007 Government incorporated RIA fully into the legislation making process
- ❖ The obligation set by the Legislative Rules of the Government
- ❖ RIA Guidelines adopted by the Government as part of the Resolution
 - More detailed handbooks for measuring administrative burden, costs of state administration, etc.

Institutional arrangements for RIA

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- Finding the balance between centralistic and decentralized approach – division of roles:
- **Carrying the impact assessment** of a legislative proposal – the responsibility of the body elaborating such a proposal
- **Methodological assistance** - entrusted to a specialized unit
- **Control of quality** – the interministerial coordinating body
- **Training** provided by the Institute of State Administration (in cooperation with Charles' University)

Consultations

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- ❖ Important part of decision-making mechanisms
- ❖ Methodology of Public Consultations approved by the Government (not obligatory – pilot phase)
- ❖ Database of consulted organisations (so-called “DataKO”) published on the Internet

Core Initiatives 2 - Reducing Administrative Burden

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- ❖ Baseline measurement finished, analysis and further plan approved by the Government
- ❖ Total AB – 86 billion CZK, approx. 3% GDP
- ❖ Plans for reduction should be ready next year – action plans for 6 ministries
- ❖ 20% reduction by 2010

Further initiatives

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- ❖ '10 minutes' initiative – web-based form for citizens' complaints on regulations
- ❖ Further simplification projects being prepared – reviewing of existing regulations
- ❖ ...

What is important?

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- Political support!!!
- Awareness raising
- Appropriate institutional structures
- Skilled and trained civil servants



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