



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN ARAB COUNTRIES INITIATIVE

CURRENT AND FUTURE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ADMINISTRATIVE SIMPLIFICATION

Outline

I. Creation of a **network of experts on administrative simplification** among OECD and Arab countries

II. Identification of **priorities in the field of administrative simplification**:

- Policies for administrative simplification
- Institutional arrangements for administrative simplification
- Policy tools for administrative simplification
- Simplification of the legal system
- Simplification of administrative procedures for citizens and businesses: one-stop shops, licences, re-engineering of procedures.
- Administrative simplification inside government
- Cultural change to attain results for administrative simplification programmes

III. This network has identified different **modalities for future work on administrative simplification**

- Regional capacity building seminars
- Peer review activities
- Study visits for Arab practitioners

IV. Self-assessment in Arab countries on administrative simplification

Background

Following the discussion during the High Level Seminar on “Strategies, Tools and Capacities for Administrative Simplification” hosted by the Egyptian Ministry of Administrative Development on 20 and 21 June 2007 in Cairo, this document presents some of the conclusions and ideas for the future programme of work regarding administrative simplification in the framework of the GfD Initiative (www.oecd.org/mena/governance):

I. The seminar has given the opportunity to create a network of experts on administrative simplification among OECD and Arab countries.

This network needs to be refined in those cases of Arab countries in which the representative is not responsible for administrative simplification programmes inside his/her administration. The OECD Secretariat would work in order to expand the network to those Arab countries that could not attend the seminar, but would be interested in joining it. Arab countries are invited to confirm to the OECD Secretariat the right name of the delegate to the network.

II. This seminar was an opportunity to exchange views on different approaches to administrative simplification and the use of tools.

This network has identified priorities in the field of administrative simplification that cover the following issues:

1. Policies for administrative simplification:
 - Policy design: from deregulation to a whole-of-government approach for regulatory quality
 - Strategy formulation: administrative simplification as a way to reduce regulatory burdens on citizens and businesses
 - Measuring and evaluating progress
2. Institutional arrangements for administrative simplification:
 - Institutions in charge of administrative simplification (single purpose entities, oversight bodies with responsibility for regulatory reform, external committees and taskforces, etc)
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Challenges for institutional set up and long-term consolidation
3. Policy tools for administrative simplification:
 - Simplification of the stock and flow of regulations
 - Impact analysis of administrative burdens
 - The use of ICT for administrative simplification
4. Simplification of the legal system:
 - Increasing transparency in the legal system (plain language, consultation)
 - Use of electronic means (registries for laws) and legal techniques (codification, review of existing regulations, silent-is-consent rule)
5. Simplification of administrative procedures for citizens and businesses. Practical cases such as:
 - One-stop shops
 - Licences
 - Re-engineering of procedures
6. Administrative simplification inside government
7. Cultural change to attain results for administrative simplification programmes

III. This network has identified different modalities for future work on administrative simplification.

These options follow the ones used in the framework of the Good Governance for Development (GfD) in Arab Countries Initiative:

1. **Regional capacity building seminars.** The policy exchange gained through capacity building seminars has proved to be essential to deepen knowledge and good practices. Arab and OECD countries are invited to select specific topics of interest which could be the subject of a regional seminar.
2. **Peer review activities,** in particular on Administrative Simplification. An OECD Review on Administrative Simplification is unique because of the independence of the analysis. The assessment and proposals for action are provided by the OECD Secretariat, based on large experience with comparative analysis. The review process is transparent because the detailed project plan and review timeframe are agreed by the reviewed country and the OECD. The review methodology and analytical framework build on OECD countries' continuous work on administrative simplification. The results of the review are presented and discussed in official OECD bodies, e.g. the OECD Working Party on Regulatory Management and Reform, in which the final results are discussed by lead reviewers from other countries.
3. **Study visits for Arab practitioners.** One of the main goals of the GfD Initiative is to facilitate policy exchange among Arab and OECD countries. One way to attain this goal is to invite Arab policy-makers to undertake study visits to a selected OECD country to deepen knowledge and experience on a particular subject that could improve the implementation of administrative simplification strategies. This activity would be subject to specific funding.

IV. Information on the general status of administrative simplification in Arab countries is essential to better adapt the GfD Initiative to the needs of Arab countries and to facilitate policy dialogue.

The OECD Secretariat will shortly send a brief questionnaire to the Arab delegates of this network to get this basic information. Arab delegates are invited to provide replies to the OECD Secretariat.

Please feel free to send suggestions and concrete proposals to the OECD Secretariat. The main contacts for administrative simplification are: Ms. Delia Rodrigo, Policy Analyst, Regulatory Policy Division (delia.rodriago@oecd.org) and Mr. Pedro Andrés Amo, Policy Analyst, Regulatory Policy Division (pedro.andresamo@oecd.org).