The regulatory policy of the Dominican Republic is mainly oriented towards administrative simplification and the reduction of administrative burdens

In 2018, the Dominican Republic established its first regulatory policy agenda. This agenda includes a program for the simplification of administrative procedures, which is coordinated by the Ministry of Public Administration. It also includes the assessment of costs of existing subordinate regulations issued by agencies of the executive with the aim of reducing their administrative burdens, which is led by the Executive Directorate of the National Council of Competitiveness (CNC). The two programs were set by presidential Decrees 229-18 and 258-18, respectively. Considering the foregoing, the Dominican Republic currently has two administrative simplification efforts ongoing. Coordination among these initiatives is advisable to make sure that resources are used efficiently and efforts are not duplicated.

Stakeholder Engagement is formally required for the development of all subordinate regulations

The Constitution of the Dominican Republic establishes mandatory stakeholder engagement for the drafting of all subordinate regulations. In that sense, all ministries and agencies of the executive are formally required to engage with stakeholders before the enactment of all subordinate regulations. However, stakeholder engagement is not yet systematic in practice and is used to inform the development of only some subordinate regulations. Ministries and agencies that do engage with stakeholders normally use their own website, social media and/or newspapers to invite stakeholders to participate. This participation happens during physical public meetings or online, whilst some regulators also have formal consultations with select groups or industry stakeholders. In the Dominican Republic, regulators would benefit from engaging with stakeholders at an earlier stage of the regulatory-making process. In addition, regulators could use interactive online spaces to engage with stakeholders where comments are not only received, but are also publicly available for discussion with other stakeholders, and where regulators respond to said received comments.

The Dominican Republic is planning to adopt a RIA framework

Currently, the Dominican Republic is planning to introduce a RIA system to support the development of subordinate regulations, as signaled by Decree 258-18. However, this is yet to be formally established and implemented in practice. The country could develop mandatory guidelines for regulators that will conduct RIA, to ensure that they will have a standard and consolidated practice. Likewise, the system should contemplate an oversight body to check the quality of the RIAs performed.

Ex post evaluation should be part of the regulatory policy of the Dominican Republic

As part of the efforts for administrative simplification, as of April 2018, the CNC assessed the costs of all existing subordinate regulations of 42 entities of the executive and is currently creating a strategy to reduce the identified administrative burdens. It would be advisable to complement these efforts with the introduction of ex post evaluation of existing regulations to determine whether they are achieving their intended objectives.

Spotlight: RD+Simple

The Executive Directorate of the CNC created RD+Simple, an initiative for improving administrative processes, and identifying and assessing the costs of regulations. As part of the initiative, the country launched rdmassimple.gob.do, a website for public consultation where businesses and the general public can provide feedback on existing subordinate regulations or administrative procedures that create unnecessary burdens or affect their rights. This is set up to identify burdensome regulations and develop plans for the reduction of administrative burdens. The website also contains an inventory of existing regulations for 42 entities of the executive, where users visitors can search based on type of regulation, economic sector and other criteria.
**Administrative simplification and review of existing regulations, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative simplification processes in the last four years</th>
<th>Conducted reviews that include an analysis of whether the objectives of the regulation have been achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary laws</td>
<td>For subordinate regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>10 2 3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance (iREG) for Latin America 2019 provide an up-to-date overview of regulatory systems in selected Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, by which they develop, implement and evaluate regulations. The indicators partially cover three principles of the 2012 OECD Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance: 1) stakeholder engagement; 2) regulatory impact assessment (RIA); and 3) ex post evaluation and administrative simplification.

The composite indicator on stakeholder engagement for developing regulations measures the adoption of good practices to engage with interested parties when developing new regulations, including different methods and openness of consultations as well as transparency and response to comments received. It consolidates information into four equally weighted categories.

- **Systematic adoption** records formal requirements and how often and at what stage in the rulemaking process these requirements are conducted in practice.
- **Methodology** gathers information on the methods used to engage with stakeholders, e.g. forms of consultation and documents to support them.
- **Oversight and quality control** records the role of oversight bodies and publicly available evaluations of the consultation system.
- **Transparency** records information from the questions that relate to the principles of open government, e.g. whether consultations are open to the general public and if comments and responses by authorities are published.

The LAC iREG is based on the results of the 2015 and 2019 Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance Survey jointly conducted by the OECD and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The survey gathers information from 7 countries for 2015 and 10 countries in 2019 in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a particular focus on stakeholder engagement. The data underlying the composite indicator reflect practices and requirements put in place at the national level of government, as of 31 March 2019.

Whilst the indicators provide an overview of a country’s regulatory system, 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.

Further analysis based on the LAC iREG and other indicators to benchmark government performance in the region can be found in the Government at a Glance - Latin America and the Caribbean 2020 publication.

An in-depth analysis of regulatory practices amongst OECD countries including composite indicators in the areas of stakeholder engagement, RIA and ex post evaluation can be found in the OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook 2018.

**LINKS**

- Indicators and underlying data
- Regulatory policy in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Regulatory Policy Outlook 2018
- OECD work on regulatory policy
- Government at a Glance - Latin America and the Caribbean 2020

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