

OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook 2015

Country profile

FINLAND



Access links

- [OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook 2015: www.oecd.org/publications/oecd-regulatory-policy-outlook-2015-9789264238770-en.htm](http://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](http://www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/measuring-regulatory-performance.htm)
- [Regulatory policy in Finland: www.oecd.org/regreform/regulatory-policy/finland.htm](http://www.oecd.org/regreform/regulatory-policy/finland.htm)
- [Regulatory Policy Outlook country profiles: www.oecd.org/regreform/regulatory-policy/outlook-country-profiles.htm](http://www.oecd.org/regreform/regulatory-policy/outlook-country-profiles.htm)
- [OECD regulatory policy website: www.oecd.org/governance/regulatory-policy/](http://www.oecd.org/governance/regulatory-policy/)

Overview

Finland's policies for Better Regulation have been continuously developed over the last 40 years. The basis for the current system is the 2006 Better Regulation Strategy which laid out key policy measures for improving the quality of legislation including: measures to improve transparency, stakeholder engagement and analysis of impacts. This strategy was adopted as part of the 2007 Government Programme and commitment to the programme was reiterated as part of the 2011 Government Platform.

In Finland, Regulatory Impact Analysis is formally required and conducted in practice for all primary laws, and must include the assessment of alternative regulatory and non-regulatory options. According to guidelines, RIA for subordinate regulations is only required "when applicable" and takes place in practice for some regulations. Due to the fact that subordinate regulations originate from delegated powers written in primary legislation their impacts are, however, often assessed alongside those of primary legislation.

Stakeholder engagement is required for all primary and subordinate regulation. The use of interactive websites and social media are well established, as well as public meetings and formal consultation with social partners, business, consumers, human rights organisations and other authorities. Comments from consultations are made available on-line and regulators are formally obliged to consider them when developing the final regulation.

Finland would benefit from introducing some form of oversight body and quality control mechanism to ensure the requirements for RIA and consultation are consistently fulfilled.

Finland has conducted ad hoc reviews of existing regulation in particular sectors and has recently introduced sunset clauses for some primary laws. A possible area of further regulatory development could be to introduce a process of systematic evaluation of existing regulations, including an assessment of whether the underlying policy goal has been achieved, in order to help judge if regulations are being effective in practice.

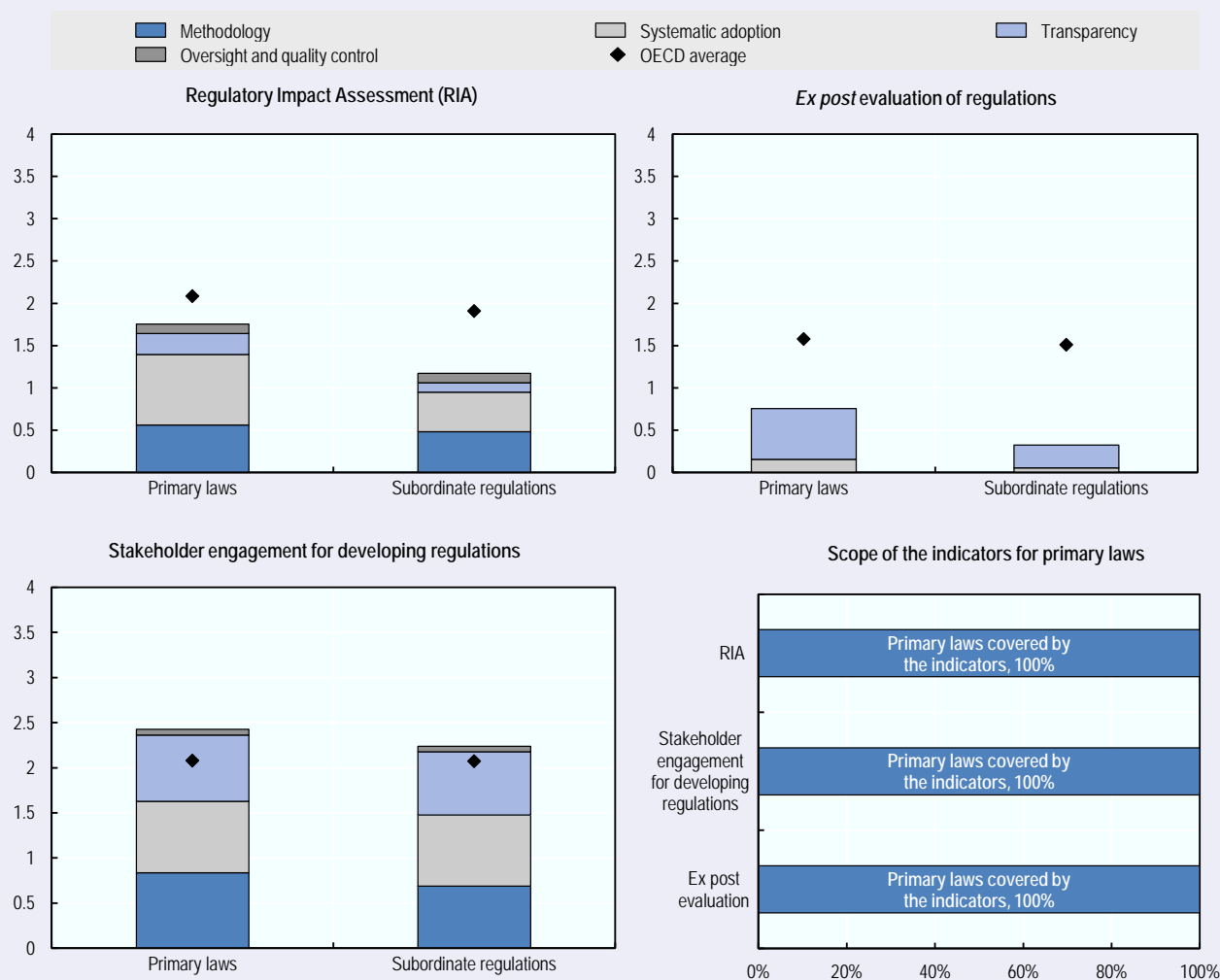


Spotlight: Stakeholder engagement platforms

The www.otakantaa.fi "Speak your mind" website is an online civic forum which allows members of the public to comment on legislative reforms and the administration of new and existing government projects. It collects information for opinion polls, asks open questions on a wide range of different initiatives and projects and also provides a platform for conversation. The forum allows for interactive stakeholder engagement to take place during the early stages of the project or legislative development.

In addition, a pilot project is underway for an online "opinions service": www.lausuntopalvelu.fi. This project aims to improve the formal consultation process, allowing representatives of ministries, agencies and organisations as well as citizens to browse and issue opinions, including commenting on the statements made by other users and allows for open discussions during a consultation. In addition the project aims to enable regulators to collate and analyse information received from stakeholders more efficiently.

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. The information presented in the indicators for primary laws on RIA, stakeholder engagement and *ex post* evaluation covers processes in place for both primary laws initiated by parliament and by the executive, hence all national primary laws in Finland.

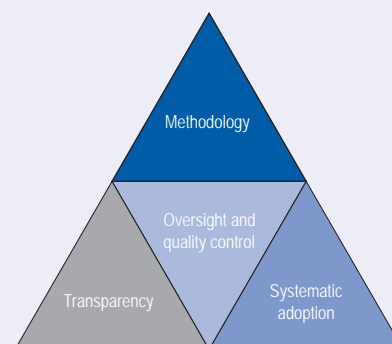
Source: 2014 Regulatory Indicators Survey results, www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/measuring-regulatory-performance.htm.

Statlink: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933263133>

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.

Contact information:

Christiane Arndt, Head of Programme, Measuring Regulatory Performance, christiane.arndt@oecd.org and Céline Kauffmann, Deputy Head of Division, Regulatory Policy, celine.kauffmann@oecd.org