

OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook 2015

Country profile

Norway



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 Norway: www.oecd.org/regreform/regulatory-policy/regulatory-policy-norway.htm](http://www.oecd.org/regreform/regulatory-policy/regulatory-policy-norway.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

Norway has a well-developed standard procedure for developing regulations based on the 2005 Instructions for Official Studies and Reports. This procedure includes preliminary assessments of the consequences of the proposed new regulation and internal consultations with affected ministries on the mandate of the RIA prior to a full impact assessment being drafted. The Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation is responsible for the interpretation of the 2005 Instructions and is in the process of revising them in co-operation with the Ministry of Finance. Full impact assessments are however only conducted for some primary laws and subordinate regulations. These completed RIAs are circulated for general review to the general public and private institutions and organisations affected. The process of developing RIAs could potentially be made more transparent by publishing all RIAs on-line and, in the cases where a full impact assessment is not conducted, making this decision and reasoning behind it open to the public.

Public online consultation is conducted for all primary laws. Norway also places great emphasis on consultation and co-ordination between national and sub-national levels. An agreement was established in 2000 to conduct regular consultative meetings between the central government and the local authorities. These consultations improve local autonomy and provide a better foundation for central government decision making, and framing of rules and regulations aimed at municipalities and counties.

Ex post evaluation is not mandatory for all laws, but has been carried out for certain regulations in recent years in response to requests from parliament, external groups or as part of a government programme. Norway is currently conducting a review of existing regulations as part of the Simplification for Business programme which aims to reduce the cost of administrative burdens by 25% from the 2011 level before the end of 2017. Almost 60 actions have already been taken including bringing in new regulation, changes to existing regulation and adopting new ICT solutions.

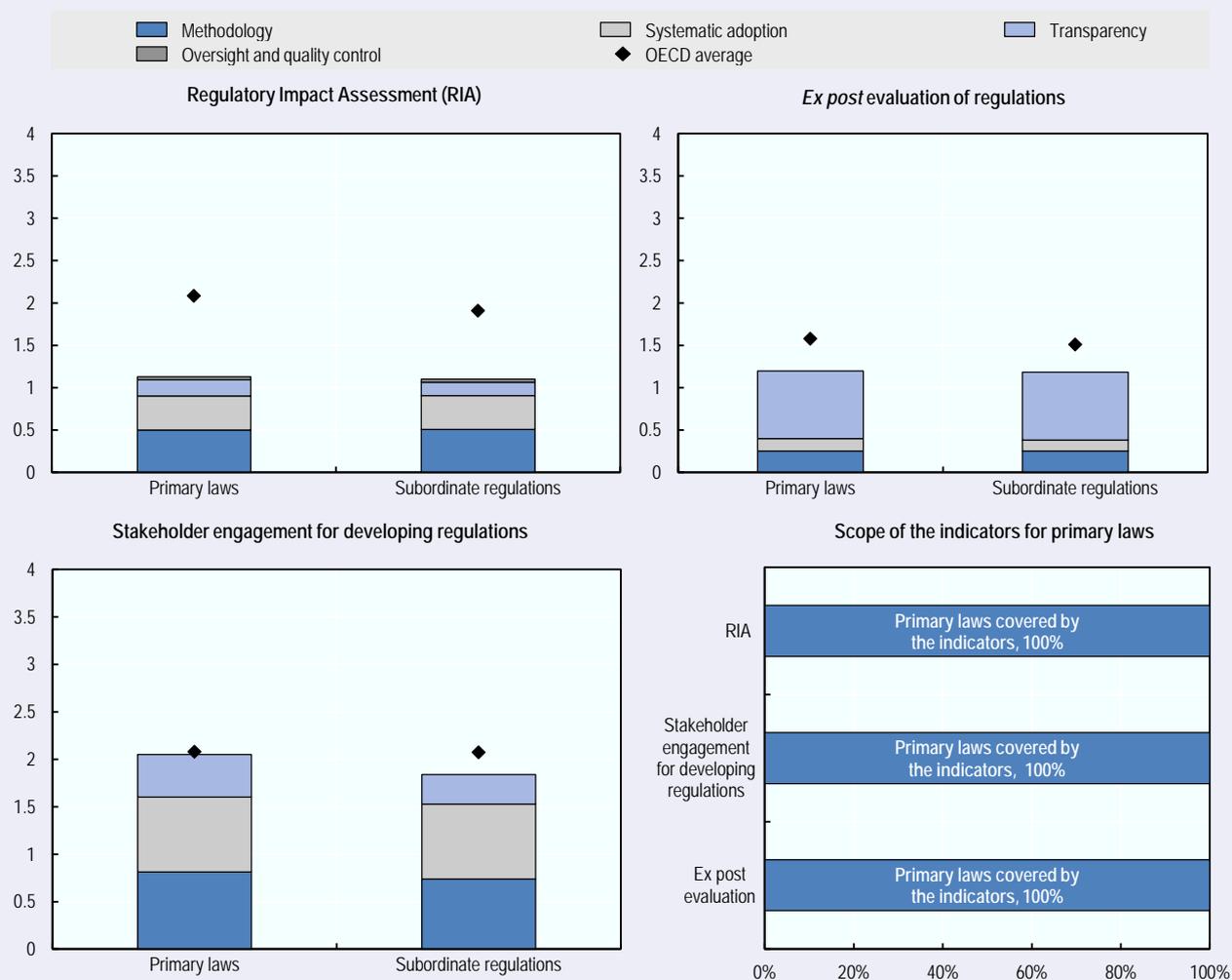
Norway does not currently have any regulatory oversight bodies. Introducing methods of systematic quality control should be considered as part of any future regulatory reform programmes.



Spotlight: Consultations between central government and the Sami Parliament

In Norway, the indigenous peoples' right to participate in decision-making processes was formalised in 2005 by an agreement on procedures for consultations between the state authorities and the Sami Parliament. The numerous consultations (30-40 a year) have strengthened Sámediggi as a representative voice for the Sami people, and enhanced the awareness and knowledge of Sami issues in government ministries and agencies. The state authorities must inform Sámediggi as early as possible about the commencement of relevant matters that may directly affect the Sami, and identify those Sami interests and conditions that may be affected. The initiative may also come from Sámediggi or other Sami representatives. The scope of the consultation procedures is extensive; the procedures apply to all ministries and state agencies and cover a wide array of governmental acts, including legislation, regulations, measures and specific or individual administrative decisions.

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 Norway.

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

Statlink: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933263283>

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