

# OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook 2015

Country profile

## SLOVAK REPUBLIC



### 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 the Slovak Republic:** [www.oecd.org/regreform/regulatory-policy/regulatory-policy-slovak-republic.htm](http://www.oecd.org/regreform/regulatory-policy/regulatory-policy-slovak-republic.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

The Slovak Republic lacks an actual overarching, whole-of-government regulatory policy. The institutional responsibility for regulatory quality is not clearly set, with a very limited role of the Centre of Government. Four ministries (Ministry of Economy as a co-ordinator, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Ministry of Environment) share competencies for overseeing the quality of Regulatory Impact Assessments which makes the integrated approach to RIA difficult.

Even though the obligation to conduct Regulatory Impact Assessments according to the “Unified Methodology for the Assessment of Selected Impacts” has been in place since 2008, so far, Slovak ministries have been focusing mostly on budgetary impacts as part of the Regulatory Impact Assessment. The recent amendments to the “Unified Methodology for the Assessment of Selected Impacts” are an important step forward, providing strong methodology for assessing economic, social and environmental impacts and strengthening the quality of oversight through establishing a new Permanent Working Committee of the Legislative Council of the Slovak Republic and introducing early consultations with businesses.

Procedures for public consultations in the later stage of the regulation-making process are well developed (see the spotlight box). Before amending the RIA guidance, there was no systemic policy on conducting early consultations, however, these sometimes took place through informal consultations with non-governmental stakeholders, the creation of ad hoc working groups and advisory committees, ongoing or ad hoc co-operation with academics, think tanks, NGOs, etc. The new Unified Methodology should provide a stronger incentive for early consultations, especially with businesses.

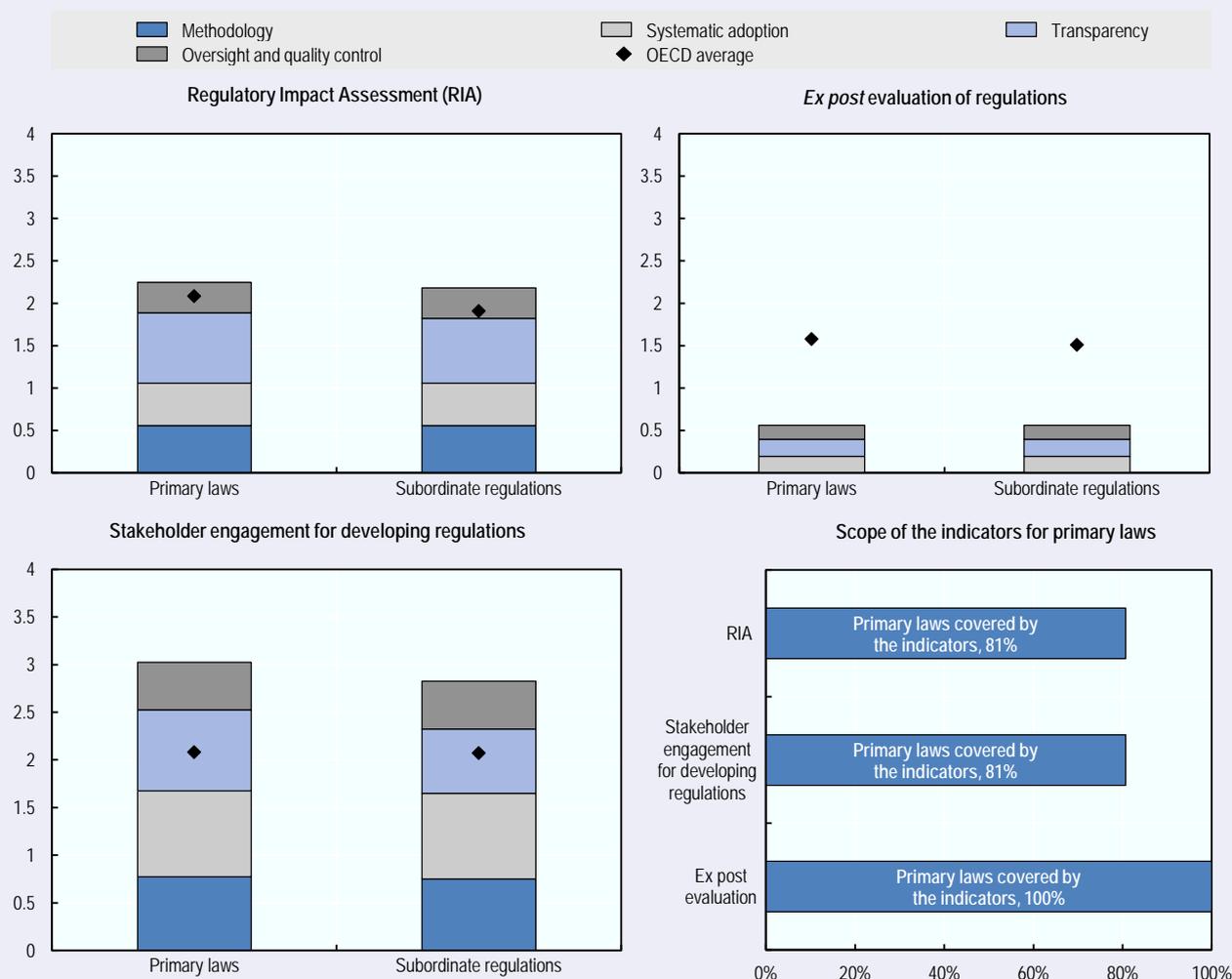
*Ex post* reviews of existing regulations have so far focused mostly on administrative burdens. More systemic use of targeted, in-depth reviews would be advisable. Some improvements in this area are expected following the establishment of the Centre for Better Regulation within the Slovak Business Agency which will be responsible also for the SME test.



### Spotlight: The notice and comment procedure

Public consultations are required for every legislative proposal submitted to the government including legislative intents. All legislative drafts are automatically published on the government portal at the same time as they are sent for the inter-ministerial comment procedure. The deadline for comments is usually 15 working days. Whenever a comment receives support from 500 individuals or organisations, ministries are obliged to provide written feedback on the comment that is then part of the dossier submitted to the government for discussion.

# 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 and stakeholder engagement only covers processes of developing primary laws that are carried out by the executive branch of the national government. As in the Slovak Republic approx. 81% of primary laws are initiated by the executive, the indicators on RIA and stakeholder engagement cover approx. 81% of primary laws. There is no formal requirement in the Slovak Republic for consultation with the general public and for conducting RIAs to inform the development of primary laws initiated by parliament. The information presented in the indicators for primary laws on evaluation covers processes in place for both primary laws initiated by parliament and by the executive. The percentage of primary laws initiated by parliament is an average between the years 2011 to 2013 and present the number of laws submitted to government.

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

Statlink: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933263313>

# 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](http://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](http://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.

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