



Overview and recent developments

As part of its broader strategic objective of consolidating a well-functioning democracy, the current Government Programme in place since 2019 pledges to strengthen the role of Finland's regulatory oversight body, introduce government-level system for *ex post* assessments, and draw up a comprehensive action plan for Better Regulation. The government-wide instructions for drafting bills were renewed in 2019 to provide more and clearer information to rule-makers, and reforms on regulatory impact assessment (RIA) and *ex post* evaluations are underway.

RIA is formally required and conducted for all primary laws and for some subordinate regulations. A renewal of the Finnish RIA Guidelines was initiated in 2020, and new guidance is expected to be available in 2021-22. In 2019, a study by the Parliament's Audit Committee on the development of RIA was carried out. It included extensive consultations with stakeholders and parliamentary committees. While *ex post* evaluation of regulations is not mandatory across the government, the government has commissioned a research project on the current use of *ex post* evaluations within the government to gain a better overview on their scope and methods across regulatory authorities.

The Finnish Council of Regulatory Impact Analysis (FCRIA) is Finland's only regulatory oversight body (ROB). It is an arms-length body set up in 2015. The

FCRIA reviews selected RIAs based on the criteria of significance and representativeness before approval of the final version of the regulation, and provides advice as well as a formal opinion on the quality of the RIA. The FCRIA has no sanctioning power. The Council also has a mandate to review *ex post* assessments of legislation. In addition to the country's ROB, there is a government-wide co-operative working group for improving law drafting that aims at enhancing co-ordination across ministries and promoting the uptake of best practices. Exceptionally, in the context of COVID-19, oversight functions were partially shared with the Ministry of Justice as far as fundamental and human rights were concerned. The review and use of RIA in Finland could be further strengthened by the introduction of an oversight function that allows for returning proposed rules for which impact assessments are deemed inadequate.

Several stakeholder engagement platforms exist in Finland to inform the public of current draft legislations and to solicit feedback. These include lausuntopalvelu.fi launched in 2015, as well as the Governments Registry for Projects and Initiatives which was revamped in 2017 (<http://valtioneuvosto.fi/hankkeet>). The COVID-19 pandemic brought an increase in the number of consultations taking place via phone or internet, confirming the importance of these platforms.

Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance (iREG): Finland, 2021

● Methodology
 ● Systematic adoption
 ● Transparency
 ● Oversight and quality control
 ■ Country total, 2018
 — OECD average, 2021



Notes: The more regulatory practices as advocated in the [OECD Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance](#) a country has implemented, the higher its iREG score. The indicators on stakeholder engagement and RIA for primary laws only cover those initiated by the executive (100% of all primary laws in Finland).

Source: Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance Surveys 2017 and 2021, <http://oe.cd/ireg>.

Finland: Transparency throughout the policy cycle



Inform the public in advance that:

A public consultation is planned to take place	Major
Regulatory impact assessment (RIA) is due to take place	No
Ex post evaluations are planned to take place	Never



Consult with stakeholders on:

Draft regulations	All
Evaluations of existing regulations	Some



Publish online:

Ongoing consultations*	Some
Views of participants in the consultation process	Yes
RIAs	All
Evaluations of existing regulations	Yes



Policy makers use:

Interactive website(s) to consult with stakeholders	Yes
Website(s) for the public to make recommendations on existing regulations	No



Policy makers provide a public response to:

Consultation comments	No
Recommendations made in ex post evaluations	Never

* Publish on a single central government website.

Note: The data reflects Finland's practices regarding primary laws initiated by the executive.

Source: Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance Survey 2021, <http://oe.cd/ireg>.



THE OECD REGULATORY INDICATORS SURVEY AND THE IREG COMPOSITE INDICATORS

The data presented in the 2021 Regulatory Policy Outlook are the results of the 2014, 2017 and 2021 Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance (iREG) surveys.

The iREG survey investigates in detail three principles of the 2012 OECD Recommendation of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance: stakeholder engagement, regulatory impact assessment (RIA) and *ex post* evaluation. Three composite indicators were developed based on information collected through the surveys for these areas. Each composite indicator is composed of four equally weighted categories:

- **Systematic adoption** comprises formal requirements and how often these requirements are conducted in practice;
- **Methodology** presents 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** reflects the role of oversight bodies and publicly available evaluations; and
- **Transparency** comprises information which relates to the principles of open government e.g. whether government decisions are made publicly available.

The data underlying the composite indicators reflect practices and requirements in place at the national level of government, as of 1 January 2021. The indicators for stakeholder engagement

and RIA relate to regulations initiated by the executive, while the indicator on *ex post* evaluation relates to all regulations. Whilst the indicators provide an overview of a country's regulatory policy 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. A full score on the composite indicators does not imply full implementation of the Recommendation. To ensure full transparency, the methodology for constructing the composite indicators and underlying data as well as the results of sensitivity analysis are available publicly on the OECD website (<http://oe.cd/ireg>).

Related links:

- [Regulatory Policy Outlook 2021](#)
- [Indicators and underlying data and methodology](#)
- [2012 Recommendation of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance](#)
- [OECD Measuring Regulatory Performance Programme](#)
- [OECD work on regulatory policy](#)

Contact:

Measuring Regulatory Performance programme

mrp@oecd.org

