



Norway

Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance 2021





Overview and recent developments

Norway has made efforts to tackle the challenges raised by emerging technologies and strengthen its regulatory assessment system. In 2018 and 2019, Norway implemented regulatory testbeds and sandboxes in several sectors, with the objective of encouraging innovation while increasing the country's understanding of the potential risks and fostering the development of relevant guidance for regulated parties. Moreover, an updated version of the Guidance Notes on the Instructions for Official Studies was published in 2018. Regulators are encouraged to quantify the impact of proposed regulations to inform decision making. While some RIAs are publicly available, transparency could be enhanced by publishing them more systematically for consultation and informing the public in advance that they will have the opportunity to comment.

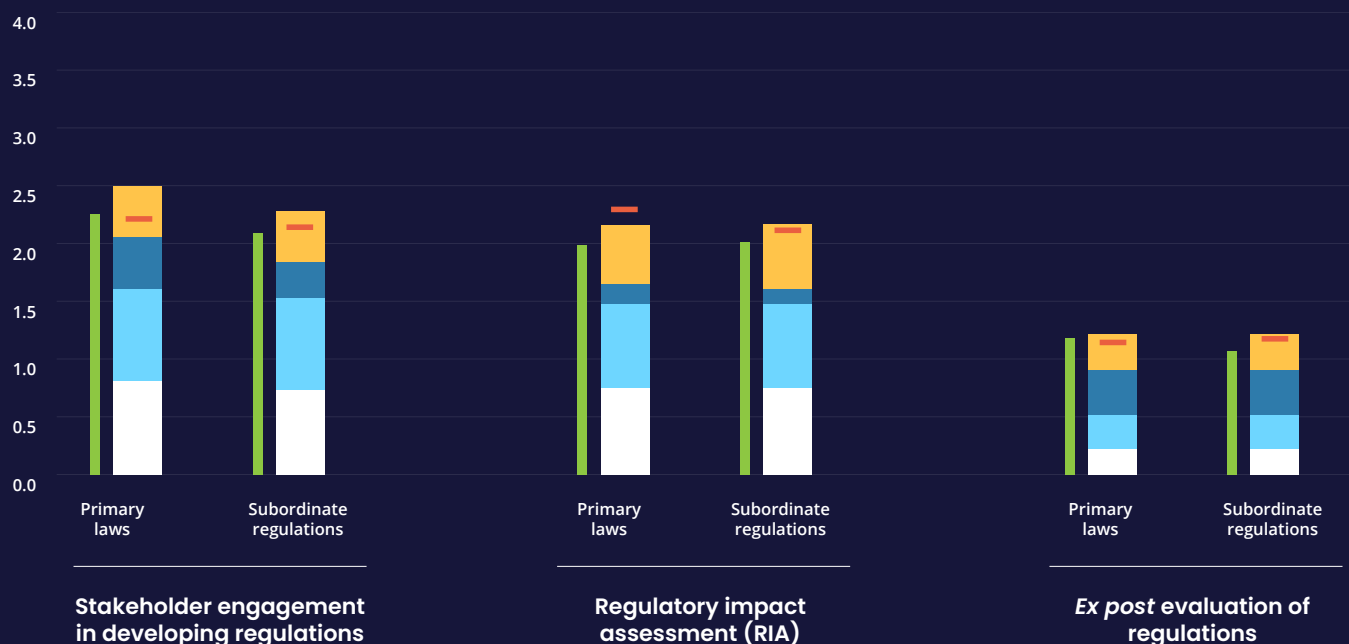
The Ministry of Finance, is responsible for the Instructions for Official Studies, which sets the requirements on the preparation of regulatory proposals, RIA, stakeholder engagement and *ex post* evaluation. The Ministry of Finance has delegated responsibility for the administration of the Instructions and for providing guidance on its provisions to the Norwegian Government Agency for Public and Financial Management (DFØ). All ministries may initiate efforts for improving the effectiveness of regulations. The Ministry of Justice and Public Security is responsible for providing guidance on those provisions of the Instructions that are specific to the preparation of laws and regulations, and has the main responsibility for scrutinising the legal quality of regulations under

development. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for providing guidance on those provisions of the Instructions that relate to EEA and Schengen matters. The Better Regulation Council is an arm's length oversight body that reviews selected RIAs and proposals for new or altered regulations that have consequences for businesses. It is overseen by the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Fisheries and responsible for promoting good regulatory practices and reducing burdens. The Council publishes formal opinions on the quality of RIAs and can make suggestions for revision. Its tasks have evolved to capitalise on experience acquired over the years, for example by focusing more strongly on scrutinising whether regulatory proposals are innovation-friendly, putting forward proposals for regulatory improvement such as the report on enhancing RIA quality in the European Economic Area, and conducting advocacy work across government through meetings and seminars with the main producers of regulatory proposals. Its mandate was expanded accordingly in 2020.

In recent years, the Norwegian Better Regulation Council has gained experience and has strengthened its capabilities to scrutinise and provide comments on stakeholder engagement activities. While public consultation is conducted for all draft laws, Norway could increase the frequency of consultations early in the process, before a decision to regulate has been made. *Ex post* evaluations are initiated by ministries. In important policy areas, ministries normally appoint official commissions to evaluate existing laws and regulations.

Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance (iREG): Norway, 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.

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

Norway: Transparency throughout the policy cycle



Inform the public in advance that:

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



Consult with stakeholders on:

Draft regulations	All
Evaluations of existing regulations	Major



Publish online:

Ongoing consultations*	All
Views of participants in the consultation process	Yes
RIAs	Some
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	Sometimes

* Publish on a single central government website.

Note: The data reflects Norway'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](#)

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