



Sweden

Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance 2021





Overview and recent developments

Stakeholder engagement continues to be engrained into the law-making process in Sweden. Sweden now makes more systematic use of their central government portal where consultations and their relevant documentation are posted to receive feedback from authorities, organisations, municipalities, relevant stakeholders and the general public. Stakeholders can provide their feedback by email to the corresponding policy maker, which are then made publicly available on the same website. Sweden could benefit from moving towards a more interactive consultation website, where the public at large can publicly provide their feedback and react to the suggestions of other stakeholders.

When a committee of inquiry is appointed to investigate a policy issue, it normally includes a mix of policy makers, experts, and politicians, enabling consultation early in the process. The committee analyses and evaluates the proposal. The final report is sent to relevant stakeholders for consideration, before the joint draft procedure continues within the government offices.

Simplification remains a cornerstone of Sweden's regulatory policy. In 2020, the Committee for Technological Innovation and Ethics (Komet) created a forum to receive feedback from citizens and businesses on regulatory barriers for technological development. This was followed by feasibility studies on 11 of the received proposals regarding health, science and transport.

Ex ante evaluation is required for all primary laws and subordinate regulations by the 2007 Ordinance on Impact Analysis of Regulation. In 2018, the guidelines for conducting impact assessment were updated to provide more detailed guidance on assessing economic, social and environmental impacts, as well as on how consultations with relevant actors can be conducted. *Ex post* evaluation is normally conducted ad hoc by a ministry, government agency, or by a committee of inquiry, as there is no requirement to carry out *ex post* evaluations systematically. Individuals or interest groups can also make suggestions to conduct *ex post* evaluations by sending proposals directly to the responsible ministry or government agency. Sweden could consider expanding *ex post* evaluation through carrying out comprehensive in-depth reviews in particular sectors or policy areas.

The Swedish Better Regulation Council is a decision-making body responsible for reviewing the quality of impact assessments to legislative proposals with effects on businesses. Its secretariat is located within the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth. The Agency, in turn, is responsible for methodological development, guidance and training in regulatory management tools. It also develops and proposes simplification measures, participates in international activities aimed at simplifying regulation for businesses, and promotes awareness among other government agencies of how businesses are affected by the enforcement of regulations.

Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance (iREG): Sweden, 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/iereg>.

Sweden: 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	Yes
Ex post evaluations are planned to take place	Never



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	All
Evaluations of existing regulations	Yes



Policy makers use:

Interactive website(s) to consult with stakeholders	No
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 Sweden's practices regarding primary laws initiated by the executive.

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



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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