Promoting Regulatory Impact Analysis in the Gulf Region

24 -26 October, United Arab Emirates

Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) is one of the most important tools to assist policy makers in developing efficient regulation. RIA is a key policy instrument for collecting information about the potential effects of regulatory measures and assessing likely benefits and costs before the adoption of a new regulation. As illustrated by the figure on the right, the use of RIA has expanded over the past 30 years to become universal across OECD countries.

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme delivered a capacity building seminar for countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council on “Building a Framework for Regulatory Impact Analysis”. The seminar was organised in cooperation with the Gulf Standardisation Organisation (GSO) on 24-26 October 2016 in Dubai. The objective of the seminar was to build knowledge and familiarise public officials from the GCC with the concept and the steps necessary to build a practical framework for RIA.

RIA is highly relevant for standardisation organisations as it helps consider the potential of "alternatives to regulation" as other ways to reach the substantive policy objectives that an agency or ministry is pursuing. Among these alternatives, standards occupy a key position as they can greatly contribute to an efficient business regulatory environment.