



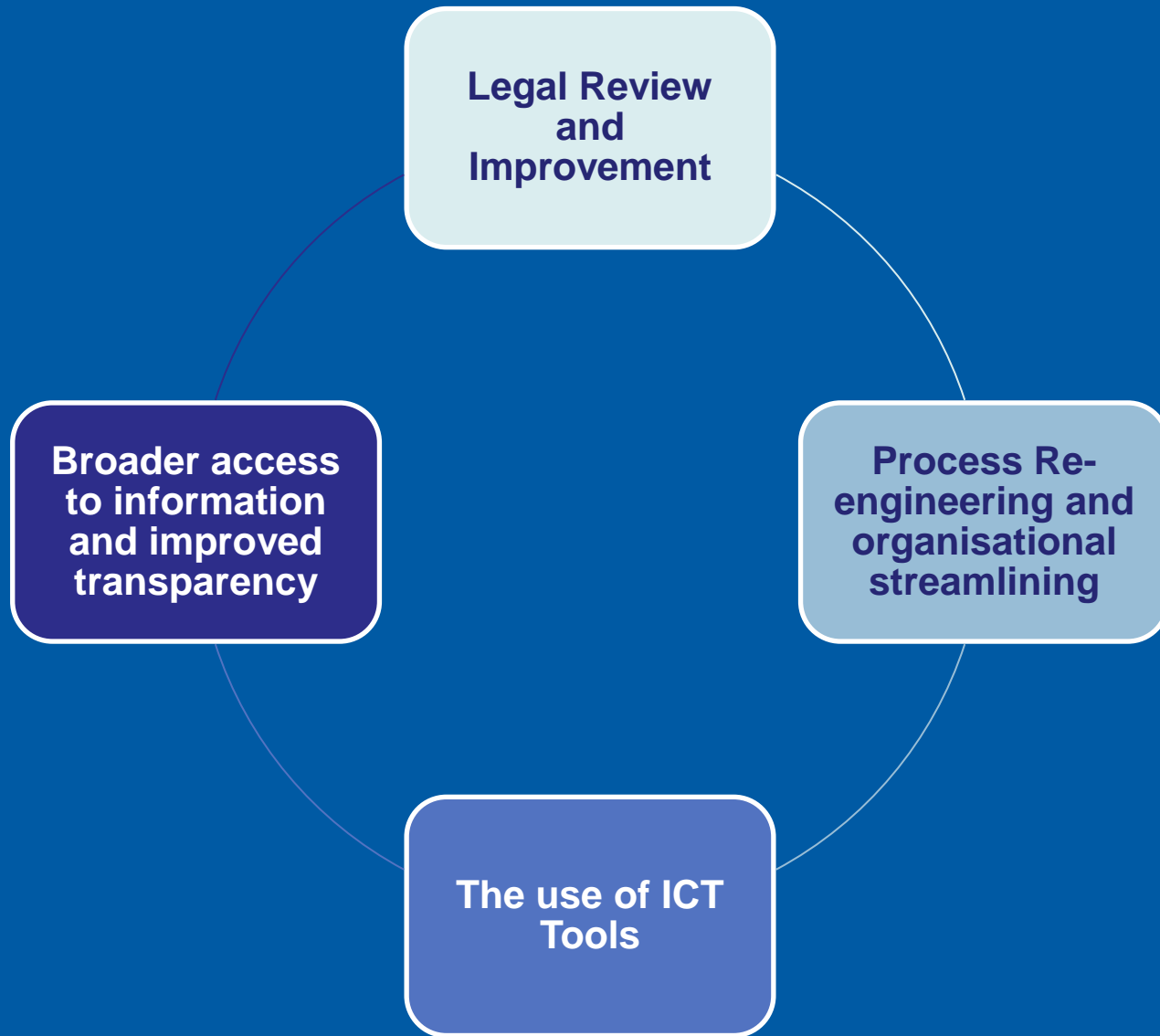
International Practices in Administrative Simplification

Beirut, 28 September 2010

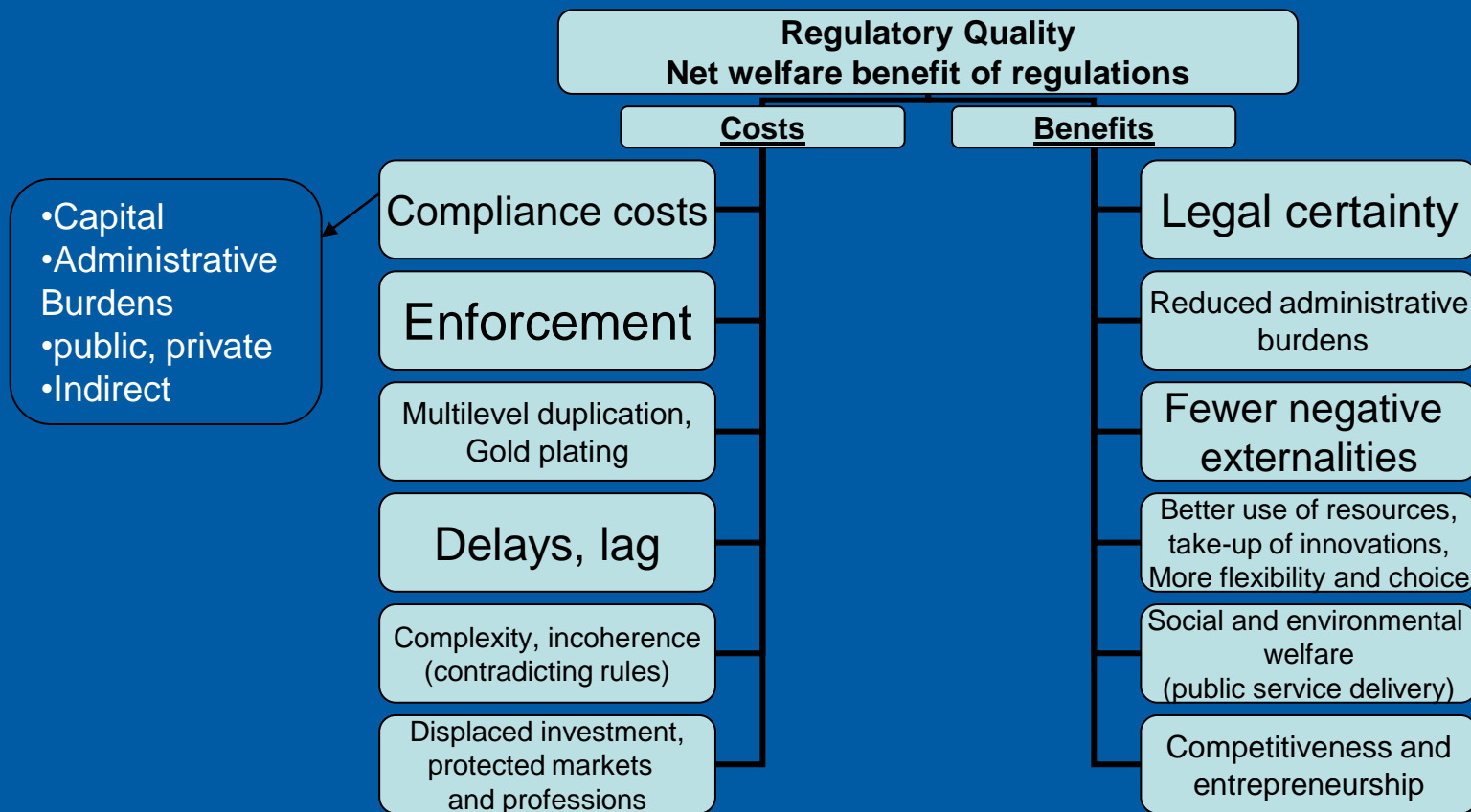
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What is administrative simplification?



Administrative Simplification and Broader Regulatory Reform



Procedures and tools *(how should it be done?)*



What are OECD Countries doing?

National programmes

Measurement

Targets

Sharing methods

Independant advisory boards

What are MENA Countries doing?

OECD Report: Progress in Public Administration in the MENA

National programmes

One-stop shops

Network of experts

Sharing methods

Monitoring administrative
simplification initiatives

Reduction of administrative burdens in the Netherlands

- The Netherlands has taken the place as world leader in reducing administrative burdens
- Remarkable results – the 25% reduction was achieved in the 2007
- Main features of the “Dutch Model” – explanations of success:
 1. Development and use of a method for measurement
 2. Establishment of quantitative target (time bound)
 3. Strong coordinating unit at centre of government (Regulatory Reform Group)
 4. Independent review body (Actal)
 5. Link to the budget cycle → reporting obligations
 6. Strong political support

Example:

Reduction of administrative burdens in Bahrain

- Administrative Simplification part of the **Economic Vision 2030 for Bahrain**
- Focus on promoting better business environment and encouraging investment
- Main institutional framework and features:
 1. Civil Service Bureau, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Municipalities, Bahrain Economic Development Board and E-Government Authority
 2. Streamlining administrative procedures for the public
 3. Streamlining administrative procedures within administration

Example:

Making Life Easy for Citizens and Businesses in Portugal

- Strengths:

- Inter-ministerial co-ordination, led by PM Socrates
- Public consultation
- Focus on business needs
- Strong links with e-government

- Challenges:

- Reduce digital divide
- Improve skills in civil service / change administrative culture
- Improve analysis of risk in regulation
- Joint funding of cross-cutting projects
- Action at municipal level

OECD Report: Overcoming Barriers to Administrative Simplification

Technical barriers

Legal complexity

Lack of staff skills, capacities

Lack of understanding

Lack of information, data

Digital divide

Non-standardized procedures

No measurement and evaluation

Do's Capacity Building

Provide guidelines and technical assistance

Training, training, training

Develop data collection strategies

Quantify costs and benefits, ex ante, ex post

Consultation

Do's Strategic and Policy Approaches

Establish a programme

Ensure political support

Define clear objectives

Adopt a user focus

Promote a reform attitude

Do's Support and sustainability

Use success stories: start small and build a constituency

Find champions to promote the simplification programme

Consider the set-up of a monitoring body, or watchdog

Indicators on performance: benchmarking, awarding

OECD Report: Cutting Red Tape: Still Uncut How Hard it is to Make Life Easier

Include the costs of regulation on citizens and public sector

Qualitative methods, especially to assess irritation costs, should complement quantitative ones

Co-ordinate simplification with other aspects of regulatory reform, especially ex-ante assessment

Integrate with e-government

OECD Report: Cutting Red Tape: Still Uncut How Hard it is to Make Life Easier

Create efficient institutional structures for co-ordination and monitoring; involve sub-national levels

Strengthen communication with stakeholders, who should be actively involved throughout the process of simplification

Evaluate simplification programmes for their “value for money”, including broader social and economic outcomes

Conclusions

