



Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) in the Czech Republic and Other OECD Countries

*Workshop organized by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic
in cooperation with
the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and
Charles University in Prague*

1 June 2012
Lichtenstein Palace, U Sovových mlýnů 506/4, Prague 1

Goals

Making public services more efficient, reducing administrative burdens for citizens and business and improving and simplifying regulatory environment represent altogether dynamic processes from which benefit not only businesses and citizens, but also both public sector and governments themselves. Countries with a high rate of growth and innovation benefit from better tools, processes and policies just as much as those with low productivity and fiscal constraints despite the differences in concrete measures applied by these countries. OECD has been leading this agenda globally and identifying examples of good practice since the early 1990s.

Regulatory Impact Assessment is one of the key tools of regulatory management enabling evidence-based decision-making in the regulatory process. The Czech Republic is in a position to benefit from the latest insights into the experiences of other countries, and from the forward-looking perspective of the OECD Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance. It explicitly recommends to the OECD member countries to “integrate Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) into the early stages of the policy process for the formulation of new regulatory proposals. Clearly identify policy goals, and evaluate if regulation is necessary and how it can be most effective and efficient in achieving those goals. Consider means other than regulation and identify the tradeoffs of the different approaches analysed to identify the best approach”.

The goal of the workshop is to present recent developments in implementing Regulatory Impact Assessment in the Czech Republic as well as to enable an exposure to different approaches in some leading OECD countries with the goal of learning from their experience.

Target Audience

The conference is geared towards those responsible for regulatory quality in the Czech Republic: members of the Legislative Council of the Government and its Regulatory Impact Assessment Board, members of the Parliament, directors of legislative departments from the ministries and those in key positions in the regulatory fields.

Proposed Agenda

The agenda promotes learning among experts from the Czech Republic and from the OECD community in the field of regulatory impact assessment. It includes presentations of the processes taking place in the Czech Republic and abroad, with scope for questioning and discussion.

The two main topics are of an utmost importance not just for the Czech Republic but also for many other, especially EU countries. The first one deals with the emergence of the so-called “independent watchdogs” which is a relatively new trend in the institutional set up for RIA among the OECD countries. The Czech RIA Board is the newest institution of its kind among the OECD countries. The workshop will be a good opportunity to compare the Czech practice with the functioning of other similar institutions across Europe.

The second main issue to be discussed is the implementation of EU legislation into the national regulatory framework and exploiting of regulatory impact assessment in this process. This topic is relevant especially as regards the fact that an increasing proportion of national regulations, in some countries up to 70 per cent, originate at EU level. As a result, EU legislation accounts for roughly 50 per cent of the overall regulatory burdens in the individual Member States. The workshop should provide insights into the regulatory interface between Member States and the European institutions, especially into the process of preparation of impact assessments by the European Commission, and possibilities of their use not only by the Member States when implementing EU measures into national law orders, but also already in the phase of negotiations on the level of the EU institutions.

The conference will be opened by the Vice-Prime Minister of the Czech government Ms Karolína Peake.

Agenda

8:30-9:00

Welcome, registration

9:00-9:30

Opening remarks by the Vice-Prime Minister Ms. **Karolina Peake**

Mr. **Greg Bounds**, Deputy Head of the Regulatory policy Division, OECD

Mr. **Michal Mejstřík**, Chairman, RIA Board, Czech Republic

9:30-10:30

Mr. **Petr Mlsna**: "RIA in the Czech Republic: Policy goals and recent developments", Deputy Vice-Prime Minister and Director General of the Government Legislative Council Section

Mr. **Greg Bounds**: "Recent trends in RIA implementation", Deputy Head of the Regulatory policy Division, OECD

Mr. **Michal Mejstřík**: "Quality review of the RIAs in the Czech republic", Chairman, RIA Board, Czech Republic

Discussion

10:30-10:45

Break

10:45-12:30

Institutional set up for RIA – a role of independent watchdogs

Moderator: Mr. **Daniel Trnka**, Policy Analyst, OECD

Mr. **Wolf-Michael Catenhusen**: "The Tasks of Nationaler Normenkontrollrat", Deputy Chairman, Normenkontrollrat, Germany

Mr. **Lennart Palm**: "Regelrådet - an independent watchdog", Deputy Chairman, Regelrådet, Sweden

Mr. **Riccardo Maggi**: "Impact Assessment Board of the European Commission", European Commission, Secretariat General, Deputy Head of the Impact Assessment Board Secretariat

Mr. **Michael Gibbons**, Chairman, Regulatory Policy Committee, United Kingdom

Discussion

12:30-13:30

Lunch

13:30-15:00

Implementing EU legislation – Less goldplating, more efficiency

Moderator: Mr. **Petr Mlsna**, Office of the Government, Czech Republic

Mr. **Pavel Telička**, Member of the Stoiber group, Vice-Chairman of the RIA Board, Czech Republic

Mr. **Julian Farrel**: “The United Kingdom's Guiding Principles for EU Legislation”, Deputy Director and Head of Europe Team, Better Regulation Executive, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, United Kingdom

Mr. **Eric Marin**: “Best practice on impact assessments in DG SANCO”, Deputy Head of the Unit on Innovation for Health and Consumers, European Commission, DG Health and Consumers

Discussion

15:00-15:30

Break

15:30-16:00

Conclusions from the Workshop

Michal Mejstřík, Petr Mlsna, Zuzana Rusňáková, Greg Bounds, Daniel Trnka

16:00-17:00

Cocktail