



European
Commission

The EU Perspective: Fostering Competition in Professional Services

**OECD Workshop on
Regulatory Barriers to
Competition in Professional
Services: Measurement and
Reform Experiences**

18-19 November 2021

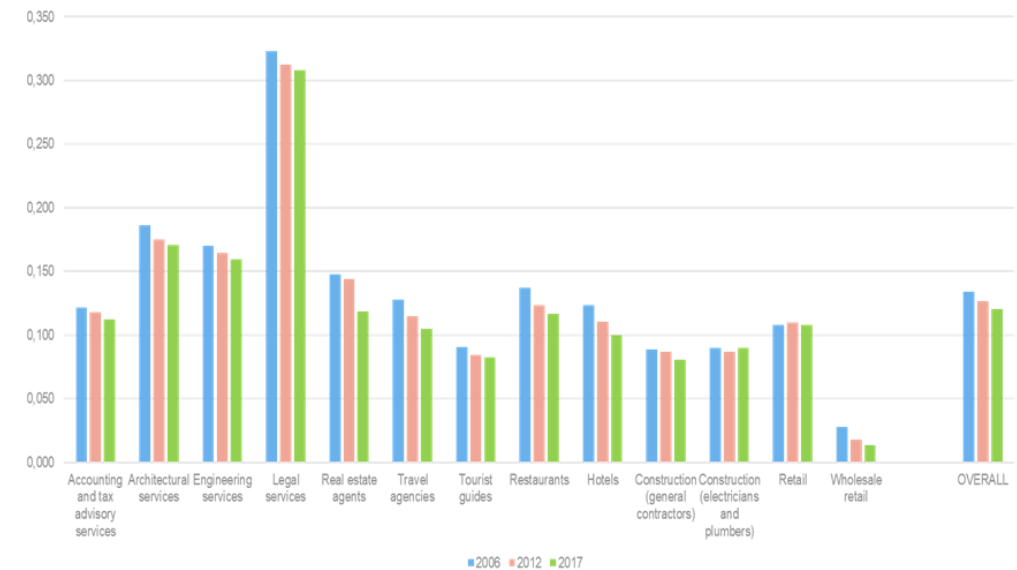
**Manol BENGYZOV
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG GROW**

Professional Services in the EU

- Importance of services for the EU economy
 - Services ~ 70% of EU added-value and employment / Business services ~ 13-14% of EU value-added and employment
- Importance of professional services and the Single Market
- Regulation / restrictions / competition / economic performance
 - Addressing market failures
 - May create barriers to competition and growth
- Initiatives aimed at:
 - Reducing unjustified barriers and enhancing the Single Market for services
 - Supporting MSs in creating regulatory environment conducive to growth and jobs

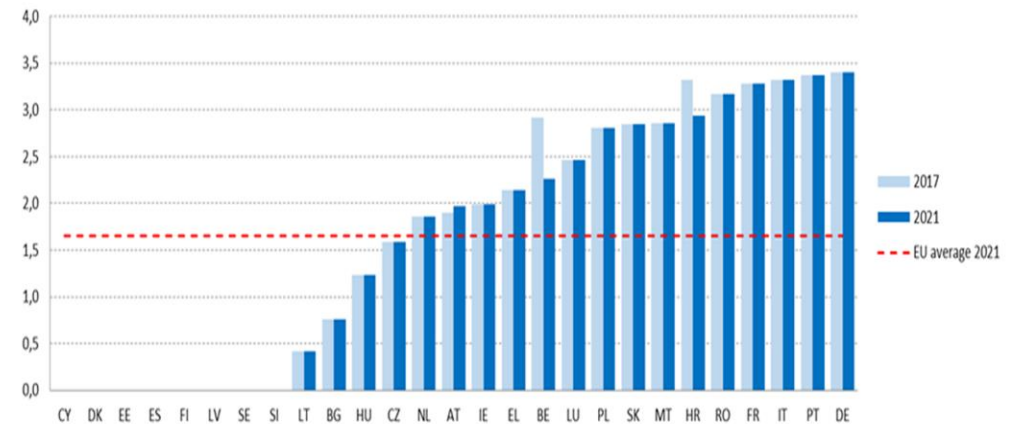
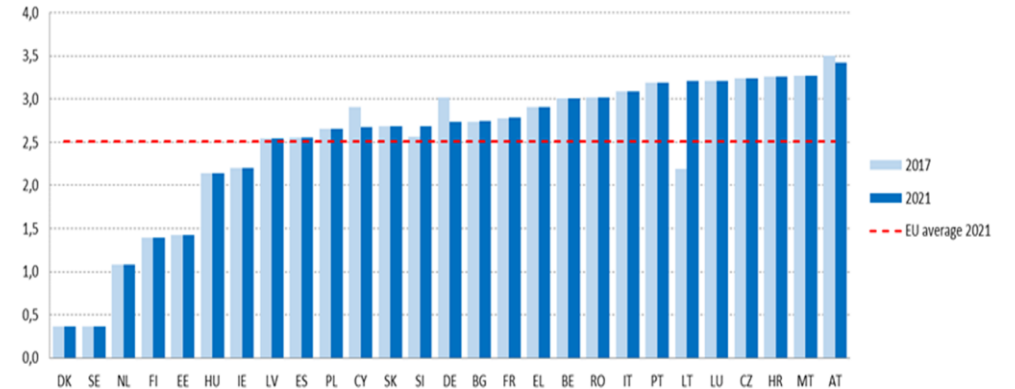
Analytical work to support the efforts for improving the regulatory environment

- Intensive analytical work in the last decade
- Current / Recent studies
 - *Competition and its economic outcomes in selected business services professions in the EU*
 - *Study on the impact of regulatory environment on digital automation in professional services*
 - *Behavioral studies*
- Mapping and assessment of legal and administrative barriers in the services sector
 - <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2873/690757>
 - Estimation of the economic impact of removing the barriers



Updating the Reform Recommendations for Regulation in Professional Services (SWD(2021) 185 final)

- The Reform Recommendations
- The Restrictiveness Indicator
 - 7 professions/sectors (**architects**; civil engineers; **accountants/ tax advisers**; lawyers; patent/trademark agents; real estate agents; tourist guides)
 - Restrictions analyzed (regulatory approach; qualification requirements; other entry restrictions; exercise requirements)
- Not much progress following the 2017 reform recommendations



Improving the regulatory and competitive environment in the Single market for services

- Monitoring and dialogue with MSs and stakeholders
- Recovery and Resilience Facility
- European Semester
- Enforcement actions
- Initiatives under the Updated Industrial Strategy
 - Full enforcement of Services Directive
 - Standards for key business services
 - Common form in an electronic format for the declaration of posting of workers

Thank you for your attention!



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.