Romania: Lessons in Public Policy Setting

*Breakout Session A: Strengthening Public Policy Processes*

*Presented by*

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General Secretariat of the Government

Main functions

- Preparing the weekly Government meeting
- Ensuring the interministerial coordination and the coordination of several regulatory agencies and authorities
- Designing and implementing the Better Regulation strategy
THE STORY

Directorate for Policies and Priorities
Coordination

Strategy Coordination
Public Policy Coordination
Results Analysis
Priority Implementation
THE STORY

History

- 2003 – Establishing the Public Policy Unit
- 2005 – First Impact Assessment standards and requirements
- 2012 – The baseline measurement of the administrative costs followed by a simplification process
- 2015 – Revised methodology for Impact Assessment
- 2015 – 2019 – Focus on implementation and support to ministries
Challenges (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laws (new and revisions)</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>1459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinances (during Parliament vacancy)</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Ordinances</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Decisions</td>
<td>1138</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>997</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>946</td>
<td>5247</td>
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1669 147 1464 137 1371 7359
THE STORY

Challenges (2)

- Ad-hoc decision making process
- Weak link between policies/regulations and the budget
- Lack of experties for doing impact assessment and evaluations in house
- Monitoring and evaluation of policies is not done systematically
**Annual Working Government Plan**

| Roadmap of the Romanian Government – a tool for annual planning of the regulatory process at central government level |
| Aims at improving the predictability of the decisional making process and the discipline of the initiators in preparing the consultation, the endorsement and the adoption process of the normative acts |
| Web portal, where representatives from the central public administration, with responsibilities in planning the legislative initiatives, introduce, according to a specific methodology, data/files necessary for AWGP implementation |
| New development – allows planning in advance the impact assessment studies |
Coordination of Strategies

- Develops the coordination and methodological framework for the development and implementation of government strategies
- Provides support to the ministries in producing strategies
- Validates strategies produced and submitted for approval to the Government
- Evaluates the correlation between strategies, Prime Minister’s priorities and strategic documents owned by Romania (Government Programme, National Reform Programme etc.)
- Inventory of governmental strategies published on the GSG webpage
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Planning</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assists and coordinates ministries in developing institutional strategic plans</td>
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<td>Manages the IT system – where the ministries upload their objectives and targets of PSI and budget allocations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitors PSIs implementation and contributes to their annual update</td>
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THE STORY

Regulatory Impact Assessment

- Provides trainings and methodological support to the ministries in producing impact studies
- Contributes to improving the regulatory environment for businesses by elaborating and implementing "smart regulation" policies, including measures to reduce administrative costs
- Monitors the compliance with legal provisions on the preliminary regulatory impact assessment submitted to the Government for approval
- Currently developing a quality control mechanism of regulations
- Manages Romania RIA community
- Strategic partnership with the World Bank and the European Commission!
IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS

Regulatory Impact Assessment

- Apprenticeship
- Social Housing
- Food safety
- Development of the school after school program
- Emergency medicine recruitment system
- Smart metering
Romania RIA Community

- **RATIONIS SEMPER!**
- Forum of discussions between members of the Community
- Database of public policy documents and other documents relevant to the Community's area of interest
- Thematic semi-annual/annual events and meetings attended by members of the Community
- Exchanges of data, knowledge and ideas between members of the Community
IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS

Romania RIA Community

Community values

- objectivity
- transparency
- responsibility

integrity

respect and care for society

trust
IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS

Romania RIA Community - APP
IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS

Simplification and digitization: The Romanian approach

[Image of a cartoon showing简化 and digitization process]
LESSONS LEARNED

Simplify then digitize

• Digitizing without first simplifying means digitizing the bureaucracy

• Simplification starts with the analysis of the processes and with the impact of the processes on citizens and businesses

• Standardization needs to happen before digitization otherwise the same things would be done in several ways digitally

• Therefore we ran and are currently running several projects on process analysis, impact assessment and standardization
LESSONS LEARNED

Once only principle

One stop shop

Life events and non life events

Single gateway

Big data

Interoperability

Open data

BUILDING EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE
LESSONS LEARNED

Simplification and Digitization in Action

- One stop shop
  - the single access point for public services in digital format
  - SPV - Virtual Private Space
  - ghiseul.ro - the single web-based payment point for taxes, fines and tariffs is the payment companion of PCUe

- Life events and non life events - unified architecture for public administration system and digitized services

- Interoperability tools - interconnection of National Trade Register Office with member states trade registers

- On line registries - Trade Register, Land Register etc.

- Big data & Open data - data.gov.ro, the open data portal with over 1500 data sets

- Cloud project- Setting up a government cloud and migrating all applications to it
THANK YOU!

Visit

Questions?
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