How do citizens engage with the government on new regulations? How do governments assess the possible impact of these regulations? And how accessible are these laws and regulations after their enactment?

Global Indicators of Regulatory Governance

This project is based on the idea that transparency and accountability matter in government actions.

Citizen access to the rulemaking process is central to the creation of a business environment in which investors plan and invest. Greater levels of consultation are associated with a higher quality of regulation. The graphs below illustrate the need for improved transparency in policymaking.

Countries that publicly share draft texts of proposed business regulations

- High income: 81%
- Upper middle income: 67%
- Lower middle income: 53%
- Low income: 31%

Agencies that solicit comments on proposed regulations

- OECD high income: 97%
- Europe & Central Asia: 84%
- East Asia & Pacific: 64%
- Latin America & Caribbean: 63%
- South Asia: 57%
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 52%
- Middle East & North Africa: 45%

The project presents data for 186 economies (46 in Sub-Saharan Africa, 31 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 34 in the OECD high-income group, 23 in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 25 in East Asia and the Pacific, 20 in the Middle East and North Africa, and 7 in South Asia). The regulatory practices of the European Union are also measured.

The data cover six aspects of good regulatory practices:

- Transparency of rulemaking
- Accessing laws and regulations
- Public consultation
- Ex-post review
- Impact assessments
- Challenging regulations

For each area covered, the project captures details on how the activity is conducted — for example via a unified website or via public meetings — and the scope of regulations affected. Government officials and private sector experts based in each country provide the data. Respondents are asked to report on actual practice, not only what is required by law.

The data presented here were collected from September 2017 to April 2018. They will be updated regularly to capture changes and evolutions in practice.

To learn more about the project or become an affiliated expert, please write to us at rulemaking@worldbank.org

Analysis and data are also available on the website, rulemaking.worldbank.org

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